

# Literacy Growth in Rohtas District : 2001-2011

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**Abstract-**Literacy is considered to be the first step towards education because literacy generally refers to the minimum level of educational skills. Education act as instrument of social change. The main aim of the paper is to examine progress of literacy during the last decades and highlight the regional aspect literacy. The present study is primarily based secondary data. Data for the present study is have been collected from District Census Handbook of 2001 and 2011. With the help of standard deviation method the four categories of literacy regional variation are formulated. it can be conclude that high rates of literacy are surely characteristics of areas of high degree of urbanization, diversified economy, agricultural prosperity and tradition of emigration

**Introduction-**Literacy must be viewed in the context immense potential for bringing about transformation in the quality of human life. Its impact on bringing about paradigm shift in the direction a society progresses can never be overestimated – be it economic, social or political. Development in educational attainment means increase in literacy level or quality of literacy. It should be clearly noted that educational development and literacy rate improvement are key factors influencing the demographic variables like fertility, mortality, migration etc. education promotes quality of life, particularly with regards to life expectancy, infant mortality, learning and nutritional levels

**Previous Work-**Nath (2001) draws attention to lowest literacy rate in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which together have about ¼th population of the country. Also having large number of illiteracy, the progress is increasing literacy has been noteworthy, resulting in phenomenal growth of the print media – weekly and daily newspapers, magazines and books, films and television serials, all in regional languages.

Mehta (1995) focused on patterns and correlates of tribal literacy in India. Physical and economic distance to school as well as

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lack of opportunity for schooling in mother tongue were found to be the main deterrent in the way of tribal literacy in the economy.

## Objective

The main objectives of the study are to:

1. Examine progress of literacy during the last decades.
2. Highlight the regional aspect literacy.

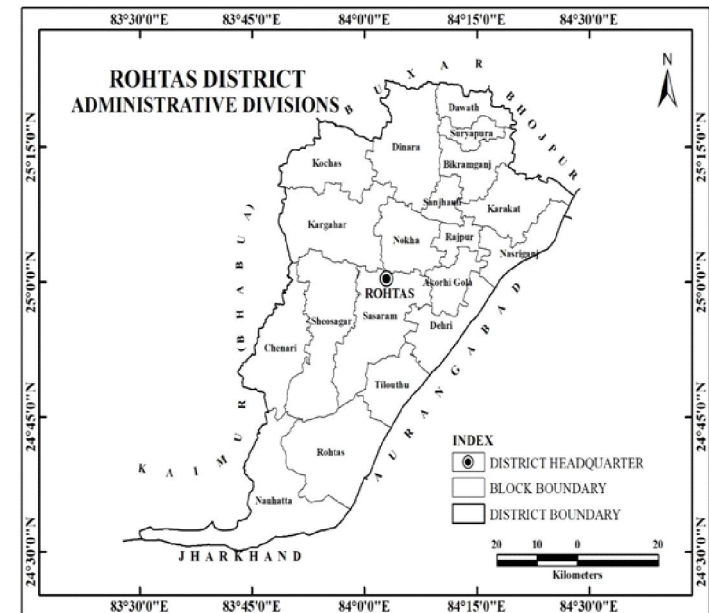
## Parameters

Literacy rate computed by census of India.

## Data Methodology

The present study is primarily based secondary data. Data for the present study is have been collected from District Census Handbook of 2001 and 2011. With the help of standard deviation method the four categories of literacy regional variation are formulated. Literacy is calculated with the help of below mentioned formula:

1. Crude Literacy Rate =  $\frac{\text{Total Literate Population} \times 100}{\text{Total Population}}$
2. Effective Literacy Rate =  $\frac{\text{Number of Literates} \times 100}{\text{Population Age 7 +}}$



**Study Area-**Rohtas district lies in south western part of Bihar. Latitudinal and Longitudinal extent of Rohtas is 24°30' to 25°25'N and 83°3' to 85°25'E respectively. Total area of Rohtas district is 3839 square kilometer and according to 2011 census its population is 2962593. Total

population of Kargahar and Dinara are 225082 and 225468 respectively. The soil of Rohtas is very fertile because its large part is covered by alluvium soil. Approximately 43.9% of the area is covered by old alluvium reddish yellow, 35.3% is covered by old alluvium grey grayish yellow and 18.9% of the land is new alluvium. It has annual rainfall of 808.9mm. There 19 blocks in Rohtas district and in only 9 blocks urban population is found Dawath, Bikramganj, Nasriganj, Nokha, Chenari, Sasaram, Dehri, Tilouthu and Rohtas.

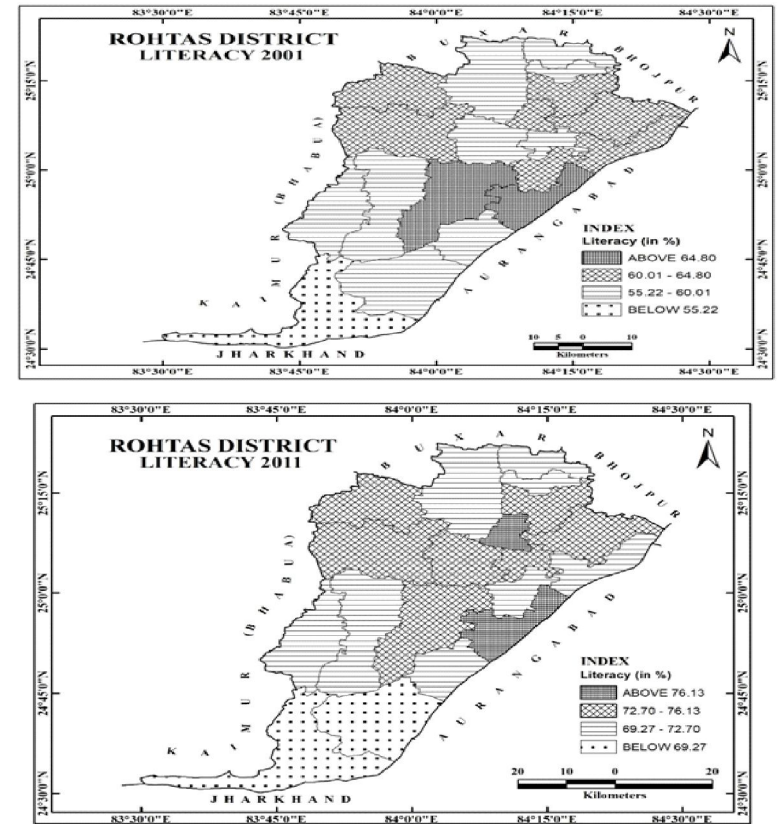
**Result and Discussion**

**Decadal Literacy Growth 2001-2011-** It can be clearly be clearly observed from the table no 1 that blocks which are economically developed have below 10% of low percentage of literacy growth like Dehri and Sasaram. Block which are moderately developed have moderate percentage of literacy growth like Sheosagar, Chenari, Kochas, Nasriganj, Karakat, Kargahar and Nokha. There are some blocks which were newly formed in 2001 like Suryapur and Rajpur high percentage of literacy growth in 2011. There some blocks which have unfavorable physiographical location consequently they are the most underdeveloped blocks of Rohtas like Nauhatta and Tilouthu. Therefore we can say that in the last decade high growth of literacy is witnessed in Rohtas district.

Block	Literacy Rate In 2001	2011	Growth
Kochas	60.16	75.24	15.08
Dinara	58.77	71.43	12.66
Dawath	59.73	71.13	11.4
Suryapura	56.75	72.06	15.31
Bikramganj	64.45	74.9	10.45
Karakat	61.15	73.94	12.79
Nasriganj	60.4	72.47	12.07
Rajpur	59.82	75.99	16.17
Sanjhauri	64.31	76.47	12.16
Nokha	59	72.9	13.9
Kargahar	61.83	75.92	14.09
Chenari	55.78	70.8	15.02
Nauhatta	45.49	63.07	17.58
Sheosagar	59.6	71.79	12.19
Sasaram	66.63	75.13	8.5
Akorhigola	60.83	72.33	11.5
Dehri	69.46	77.7	8.24
Tilouthu	58.19	70.99	12.8
Rohtas Block	56.58	66.41	9.83

Sources: Census of Rohtas 2011 and 2001.

Map No. 2



**Spatial Pattern of Literacy: Rohtas**

India is such a country which has diverse cultural, political and historical background due to that areal variation in literacy can be expected. Although numerous conscious efforts have been made to spread literacy and education in all parts of the country and among all the section of the society during the last decade, disparities in literacy is still very high in the present decade, among areas, towns and villages, and two sexes.

For the purpose of discussing spatial disparities of literacy in Rohtas district, blocks are arranged into four categories with the help of mean and Standard deviation as shown in Map No - 2 These categories are as follows:

1. **Area of moderately high literacy**
2. **Area of moderate literacy**
3. **Area of moderately low literacy**
4. **Area of extremely low literacy**

**Area of moderately high literacy** – Dehri and Sanjhauli are the two blocks of Rohtas which comes in the category of Moderately High Literacy Region. The literacy rate of Dehri (77.7%) is above the average literacy rate of Bihar (61.80%). Literacy has the positive co relation with urbanization. Dehri has the highest urban population in Rohtas during the decade of 2011. These are factors which are responsible for high literacy in Dehri such as one of the urban centre of Rohtas, industrial centre, good agriculture supported by irrigational facilities and mineral resource like stone chips industry.

**Area of moderate literacy**– In this category all those blocks come whose literacy rate ranges between 72.70% - 76.13%. in this category basically seven blocks of Rohtas is included i.e. Kargahar, Kochas, Nokha, Sasaram, akorhigola, Bikramganj and Karakat. Sasaram is the one of the highly literate block of Rohtas and it is because of its development. Sasaram is the head quarter of Rohtas and it has all the pull factors. Kargahar, Kochas, Dinara, Nokha, and Bikramganj are agriculturally prosperous region of Rohtas. These blocks are also the part of rice bowl region of Bihar. Economically these are developed region of Rohtas.

**Area of moderately low literacy** – Approximately 50% of the blocks of Rohtas comes under this category i.e. Dawath, chenari, Suryapura, sheosagar, Dinara, Tilouthu, Rajpur and Nasriganj. Chenari and sheosagar are the two block which belongs to transitional zone between lowest literate and highest literate region Rohtas. The physiographical location of Chenari and Tilouthu are also not favorable because these are dry belt and forested region. Less educational infrastructure facilities are found in these region and illiterate population of schedule caste and schedule tribe lives in this region.

**Area of extremely low literacy** – In this category all those blocks are included whose literacy rate is extremely low like Rohtas block which has only 66.41 % of literacy rate and Nauhatta follows Rohtas block with 63.07% of literacy rate. These two blocks are the most backward blocks of Rohtas district. There are many reasons which are responsible for its backwardness like these blocks have forest region and hilly region

which obstruct the path of development, unavailability of basic infrastructure due to region is not geographically supportive. Another most important reason for its low literacy is that here large number of disadvantage social group like schedule tribe and schedule caste population lives.

**Conclusion**– From the above data discussion it can be conclude that high rates of literacy are surely characteristics of areas of high degree of urbanization, diversified economy, agricultural prosperity and tradition of emigration. Moreover those regions whose physiographical location is not favorable has low literacy rate. The growth percentage of literacy is more observed in the least developed blocks of Rohtas and low growth is found in high literate blocks of Rohtas like Dehri and Sasaram.

#### **Recommendation**

1. Government should more focus on the development of those regions which do not have favorable physiographical situation not like plateau, hilly, forested and crime affected area.
2. Government should concentrate on adult education and formulate some motivational programs for the upliftment of adult education.
3. Regional development programs should design for schedule caste and schedule tribe population.
4. For the attainment of zero gender gap in literacy, the government need to analyze the data comprehensively and focus on schedule caste and schedule tribe inhabited region. The government has to take special initiatives like opening of schools in each habitation in remote and tribal areas, special incentives schemes should be given to schedule caste and schedule tribe girls for the reduction of gender gap in literacy.

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