

## Changing Trend of Literacy: A Case Study of Rohtas District, Bihar

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**Introduction:**-Literacy is a term that has been used by different countries of the world differently. In India, according to the Census of India, “a person who can both read and write with understanding in any language is treated as literate for the purpose of census”. A person who can merely read but cannot write is not literate. It is not necessary that a person who is literate should have received any formal education or should have passed any minimum education standard. Ability to merely sign once name is not adequate to qualify a person as literate. In the earlier census till 1971, all children of the age of four years and less were treated as illiterate. However, since 1981, the population aged seven years and above is to be classified as literates of illiterates.<sup>1</sup> “All those persons who can both read and write a simple message with understanding in any language are classified as literate” a definition proposed by the UN population commission.<sup>2</sup> Again, Out of the important indicators social development is the level of literacy and educational attainment. Education is an important variable affecting demographic behaviour concerning, marriage, fertility, mortality, migration as well as participation in the labourer force. Again, in a number of research study a clear-cut relationship has been established between the education level of women and their fertility. The age of females at marriage is another demographic variable which is influenced by the level of education attainment. Even infant mortality is found to be affected by the educational attainment of the mother.<sup>3</sup>

The finding of the fertility and family planning survey, conducted in greater Bombay in 1966 by the International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS), provide research evidence for many of these relationships.<sup>4</sup> The study of literacy is an essential part of the population geography. Literacy influences not only the migration of population but also fertility, mortality, economic pattern etc. For a population Geographer, literacy is that quality of population which is fairly relative index of the

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socio-economic development of an area.<sup>5</sup> Literacy and education are requisites for any countries economic progress and social progress.

**Objective of the study:** -The objective of the present study is to analyse the literacy of the population of Rohtas district of Bihar. The literacy of Rohtas district have maximum in percent with compare to all districts of Bihar State. This characteristic makes it unique in all the state together. The purpose of the study to analyse the causes of high literacy rate in the district.

**Methodology:** -The present study is based on secondary data. In the study area total 19 sample village have been selected from each 19 blocks of Rohtas district i.e. Narwar (Kochas), Bhanpur (Dinara), Dibhiya (Kargahar), Maudiha (Nokha), Mahuari (Rajpur), Shankarpur (Nasriganj), Majhauri (Sanjhaul), Ghosiyakhurd (Bikramganj), Surajpura (Suryapura), Khairahi (Dawath), Kusi (Karakat), Bararhi (Akorhi Gola), Hurka (Dehri), Mokar (Sasaram), Jaraha (Tilouthu), Akbarpur (Rohtas), Konar (Sheosagar), Semari (Chenari), Shahpur (Nauhata). Secondary data have been obtained from census of India record.

**Study Area:** -Rohtas district is situated in the south western part of Bihar, it is a district of Patna division. It covers an area of 3839.26 sq. km and has a population of 2959918 persons according to 2011 census. In western part of the district, Kaimur district is situated. It is bounded by river son in the east, bordering Jharkhand state and Utter Pradesh state in the south, Buxar district and Bhojpur district in north and Aurangabad district and Jahanabad district in east. It lies between 24<sup>0</sup> 39' North latitude to 25 39' North latitude and 83 40' East longitude to 84 20' East longitude. The district has three sub-division namely Sasaram, Bikramganj and Dehri, 19 development blocks, 38 police station and 1695 inhabitant villages. It has six towns namely Koath, Bikramganj, Nasriganj, Nokha, Sasaram and Dehri.

**Finding:** -The literacy rate of the population of Rohtas District is the highest, among all district of Bihar and also higher than national level. In fact, it is the only district of Bihar where the literacy rate of female is higher among all districts. In 2011 census the total literacy of India was 73%, in Bihar, 61.80%, but in Rohtas district it occurred 73.40%.

As regard the literacy level of Rohtas district, it is comparatively moderate or higher than that in the state of Bihar. In 2011, 73.40% of the population of Rohtas District is literate as compared to the average 61.80% literacy in the state of Bihar. Similarly, male (82.88%) and female

(62.97%) literacy of the district is higher than literacy in the state of Bihar. Also, the level of literacy of this district is higher than that in India, where 73% of total population is literate.

During 1981 to 2011 the level of literacy of this District has increased continuously, which is shown in table 3.14.

**Table 3.14**  
**Growth of Literacy 1981-2011**

Census Year	Level of Literacy		
	Rohtas District	Bihar	India
1981	30.55	32.32	43.57
1991	48.52	37.49	52.21
2001	61.29	47.53	64.84
2011	73.40	61.80	73

Source:- Census of India

This table shows that the level of literacy of Rohtas district has increased continuously since 1981. Only 33.55% of the total population of this district was literate in 1981, but the level increased to 48.52% in 1991, 62.36% in 2001 and 73.40% in 2011. In 1981 the level of literacy of this district was lower than that of India (43.57) and Bihar (32.32). But in 1991 the level of literacy was higher than Bihar state (37.49) but lower than that in India (52.21). Again, Simultaneously the level of literacy of this district in 2001 was higher than Bihar but lower than that in India. But in 2011 this district (73.40) has experienced higher level of literacy than that of Bihar (61.80) and India (73).

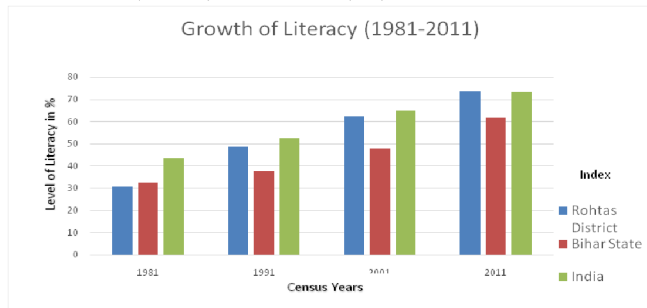


Fig. 3.3

In the study area the level of literacy varies from one block to another block which is shown in table 3.15. In 1991 the level of literacy in Rohats district differs from one block to another block. In 1991 there were only 13 blocks in comparison to 2001, which had 19 blocks. The total level of literacy in 1991 had been 61.89%. Karakat had the highest of 67.32% literate persons. Also, Bikramganj (67.08), Dawath (66.85),

Nasriganj (66.50), Dehri (64.22), Karahagar (63.38), Nokha (63.35), Dinara (61.32) and Sheosagar (61.04) recorded more than 60% level of literacy. Rest of the blocks had recorded lowest rate of literacy. In all blocks, Nauhatta (46.78) had recorded lowest rate of literacy. When we come to male and female literacy rate there had been adifference from one block to another blocks. In 1991, the total female literacy recorded was only 26.18%, while the total male literacy had recorded was45.18% in Rohtas district. When we come to blocks, Nauhatta had recorded lowest female literacy that is only 15.45%.

**Table:3.15**  
**Rohtas district: Block Wise Literacy 1991-2011**

Sl. N.	Name of Block	1991			2001			2011		
		% of Total Literate Popu.	% of Male Literate	% of Female Literate	% of Total Literate Popu.	% of Male Literate	% of Female Literate	% of Total Literate Popu.	% of Male Literate	% of Female Literate
1	Kochas	-	-	-	60.16	73.82	44.79	75.24	83.82	65.87
2	Dinara	61.32	44.72	25.87	58.77	74.12	41.76	71.43	81.52	60.49
3	Kargahar	63.38	47.62	29.67	61.83	75.91	46.00	75.92	84.82	66.11
4	Nokha	63.35	46.59	27.78	59.00	73.60	42.83	72.90	82.87	61.92
5	Rajpur	-	-	-	59.83	75.88	42.32	75.99	85.89	65.16
6	Nasriganj	66.50	48.68	28.79	60.40	75.44	44.06	72.47	83.02	61.06
7	Sanjhauri	-	-	-	64.31	79.65	47.27	76.47	86.71	65.30
8	Bikramganj	67.08	48.82	28.62	64.45	79.04	48.31	74.90	84.29	64.48
9	Suryapura	-	-	-	56.75	73.04	39.30	72.06	82.98	60.13
10	Dawath	66.85	48.47	27.78	59.73	74.98	43.13	71.13	82.22	59.29
11	Karakat	67.32	49.57	29.12	61.15	77.31	43.65	73.94	85.26	61.61
12	Akorhi Gola	-	-	-	60.83	75.73	44.24	72.33	83.13	60.54
13	Dehri	64.22	47.34	28.07	69.46	81.31	56.02	77.70	86.11	68.41
14	Sasaram	59.82	43.88	25.52	66.63	77.43	54.37	75.13	82.35	67.19
15	Tilouthu	-	-	-	58.19	71.98	43.02	70.99	80.77	60.22
16	Rohtas	58.37	43.72	26.38	56.58	69.54	42.03	66.41	76.24	55.96
17	Sheosagar	61.04	43.96	24.34	59.60	74.23	43.39	71.79	81.42	61.37
18	Chenari	58.56	41.95	22.98	55.78	69.70	40.15	70.80	80.41	60.34
19	Nauhatta	46.78	31.98	15.45	45.49	60.66	25.94	63.07	74.05	51.03
	Total	61.89	45.18	26.18	61.29	75.31	45.71	73.37	82.88	62.97

Source: - Census of India

In 2001, again the level of literacy of the district as well as all blocks increased sharply the district recorded 62.29% literacy in this census. The four blocks such as Dehri (69.46), Sasaram (66.63), Bikramganj(64.45), and Sanjhauli (64.31) recorded comparatively high level of literacy. Among them Dehri topped the list with 69.46% literates. Again, in this census Nauhatta block was least (45.49%) literates. Rohtas (56.58) and Chenari (55.78) were also poor in the level of literacy.

As stated earlier the district improved much in the level of literacy in 2011 census during which more than 73% or two third of the population were categorise as literate. Also, all blocks had higher literacy rate than that of Bihar state. But there was a variation between all blocks. Some blocks such as sanjhauli (76.46), Rajpur (75.99), Kargahar (75.92), Kochas (75.24) and Sasaram (75.13) recorded comparatively high level of literacy and Nauhatta (63.07) was least literate in the district.

Also, there were variation in the level of literacy in all sample villages which is shown in table 3.16.

Table – 3.16

Rohtas district: Sample Village wise Literacy 2001-2011

Sl. N.	Name of Block	Name of Village	2001			2011		
			% of Total Literate Population	% of Male Literate	% of Female Literate	% of Total Literate Population	% of Male Literate	% of Female Literate
1	Kochas	Narwar	51.87	68.38	32.45	74.30	81.93	66.04
2	Dinara	Bhanpur	50.40	65.83	33.32	68.88	80.48	56.38
3	Kargahar	Dibhiya	72.30	85.61	56.82	80.69	88.87	71.81
4	Nokha	Maudiha	50.47	65.89	34.05	69.33	79.07	58.94
5	Rajpur	Mahuari	67.70	83.33	48.51	80.90	87.42	73.41
6	Nasriganj	Shankarpur	61.32	76.16	45.71	71.20	84.15	57.94
7	Sanjhauli	Majhauli	62.82	76.76	46.76	75.18	86.37	62.33
8	Bikramganj	Ghosiyakhurd	68.60	82.72	52.06	79.14	92.79	65.39
9	Suryapura	Surajpura	56.49	70.98	40.09	72.24	81.51	61.78
10	Dawath	Khairahi	69.54	78.02	60.63	82.82	93.00	73.52
11	Karakat	Kusi	62.99	78.64	45.98	78.98	89.84	66.42
12	Akorhi Gola	Bararhi	57.03	69.24	43.27	70.98	79.25	62.14
13	Dehri	Hurka	68.66	80.89	54.19	74.77	83.64	65.21
14	Sasaram	Mokar	68.06	80.66	54.40	77.77	86.29	67.82
15	Tilouthu	Jaraha	63.58	75.62	50.15	81.22	90.75	71.49
16	Rohtas	Akbarpur	71.59	78.04	64.40	78.70	82.34	74.78
17	Sheosagar	Konar	62.75	74.36	48.98	80.34	88.37	71.79
18	Chenari	Semari	57.25	72.41	41.05	41.80	55.00	28.17
19	Nauhatta	Shahpur	55.49	72.67	37.71	68.26	80.76	55.26

Source:- Census of India

In 2001 some sample villages such as Dibhiya (72.30, Kargahar), Akbarpur (71.59, Rohtas), Khairahi (69.54, Dawath), Hurka(68.66, Dehri), Ghosiyakhurd (68.60, Bikramganj) and Mokar (68.06, Sasaram) village recorded higher rate of literacy the least literate sample village was Bhanpur (50.40, Dinara) in 2001 census. Remaining sample villages had either moderate or low rate of literacy. Also, the least female literacy was recoded in Narwar village.

Again, during 2011 census literacy of all sample villages increased sharply. Some village such as Khairahi (82.82, Dawath), Jaraha (81.22, Tilouthu), Mahuari (80.90, Rajpur), Dibhiya (80.69, Kargahar), and Konar (80.34, Sheosagar) recorded very high level of literacy. All villages recorded more than 80% of literacy in 2011 census. Again, Ghosiyakhurd (79.14), Kusi (78.98, Karakat), Akbarpur (78.70, Rohtas), Mokar (77.77, Sasaram), Majhaul (75.18, Sanjhauli), Hurka (74.77, Dehri), Narwar (74.30, Kochas), Surajpura (72.24, Suryapura), Shankarpur (71.20, Nasriganj) and Bararhi (70.98, Akorhi Gola) recorded comparatively high level of literacy. Remaining sample villages had moderate and low level of literacy. Also, in 2011 census Semri village recorded very low female literacy i.e. 28.17%.

**Conclusion:-**The analysis of the impact of literacy shows, almost all blocks of the district have more than 70% of literacy. When we come to male and female literacy it has also higher in present the data shows almost all block have more than 80% of male literacy and more than 60% of female literacy. This shows people of the study area is very aware about education. But due to lack of job opportunities people from this study area migrate to other part of the country and abroad for better opportunities and life style.

**Reference: -**

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