

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

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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 one's 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 or illiterates. “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. 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 labour 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.