

Literacy Status and Trend among Scheduled Castes of West Bengal: A Community Level Analysis

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Abstract: Education acts as a driving force for a nation's development. India is a land of various races, religions and cultures. The Scheduled Castes (SC) is comparatively backward in occupationally, educationally and other sectors. According to Census 2011, about 16.6% of India's total population is comprised of Scheduled Caste population in which the state of West Bengal shares 10.7%. West Bengal is the third state to be ranked by proportion of Scheduled Castes population which comprise 23.5% of its total population. The present work investigates the literacy status among the Scheduled Castes of West Bengal in respect of community, sex and spatial pattern i.e. rural and urban. Data for the present study has been extracted from secondary sources. The result shows 69.4% of overall literacy rate of Scheduled Castes in West Bengal with low literacy rate among women (61.2%) than men (77.2%). Literacy rate of SC population residing in rural areas of West Bengal was 67.5% and those residing in urban areas were 76.7%. Sunri (Excluding Saha) community shows highest literacy rate (86.3%) and Musahar community shows lowest literacy rate (24.4%). Overall an increase of 17.6% has been observed in the literacy rate of the SC from 2001 to 2011. Age-sex distribution of effective literacy rate shows decreasing trend of literacy rate with advancement of age. There is an increasing trend of literacy rate from 1961 to 2011, but there is a large gender gap. West Bengal ranks 20th in the list from high to low literacy rate but is higher than the national average (66.1%). Emphasis should be given to those communities having literacy rate lower than the State average. Community specific awareness programme may be formulated to uplift their literacy status.

Key words: Literacy, decadal growth, rural, urban, Scheduled Castes

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I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a multiple process which boosts in developing and promoting social, economic, health, cultural and other consciousness among human beings. Percentage of literates vitally indicates developmental stage of a nation. India, being a home to heterogeneous people, constitutes people with different social classes. Thus, to plan India's economy it is important to enlighten even the weaker sections by raising their standard of living and bringing light of education among them. The 1901 census of India classified some groups of people as "Unclean Castes". They were believed to be impure and polluted. In the year 1935, the British Government in India, for the first time prepared a list of castes, which are referred to as Scheduled Castes (Chouhan, 2013). Constitutionally, a section of India's such weaker population has been categorised under the category termed Scheduled Castes vide Government of India Act 1935. People scheduled to such castes in India faces age old suffering from both cultural and social discrimination. During British rule in India they were even forbidden from education. They have suffered from untouchability and its consequences. Though after India got her independence and special schools were set up for education of Scheduled Caste people, but still lower degree of literacy is present in them. They are yet to get a momentum in education (Mendelsohn, 1986). According to 2011 census, the Scheduled Castes comprise about 16.6% of India's population among which 18.5% resides in rural and 12.6% be located in urban. The overall literacy rate of these Scheduled Castes in India is 66.1%, which is lower than the national average of literacy rate of overall population i.e. 74% (Census 2011). The state of West Bengal has the second highest Scheduled Castes population with 60 communities comprising 2,14,63,270 total population which makes 10.7% of total Scheduled Castes population of India. Among this 1,10,03,304 are male and 1,04,59,966 are female (Census 2011). West Bengal is the third state to be ranked by proportion of Scheduled Castes population which comprise 23.5% of its total population (Census 2011).

Literacy has been remarked as a fundamental skill to make informed decision; it empowers active participation in enriching global community (Stromquist, 2005). Thus, the present work investigates the literacy status among the Scheduled Castes of West Bengal in respect of community, sex and spatial pattern i.e. rural and urban. It also compares the growth (change) in literacy status over last decade (2001 – 2011). It also showcases single age wise literacy status of both male and female of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal.

II. METHODOLOGY:

The present study is based on secondary data being extracted from Census of India, Office of the Registrar General of India, 2001 and 2011 for the state of West Bengal. Single age wise effective literacy rate has been calculated by dividing number of literates of each age (7 years onwards) by population of corresponding ages and multiplying it with 100. All statistical analyses were performed by using Microsoft excel 2007. Effective literacy rate and literacy growth rate were computed based on following formulae:

$$\text{Effective Literacy Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Literate persons aged 7 and above}}{\text{Population aged 7 and above}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Literacy Growth Rate} = \frac{\text{Present Literacy Rate} - \text{Previous Literacy Rate}}{\text{Previous Literacy Rate}} \times 100$$

III. RESULT:

According to Census 2011, the distribution of effective literacy rate of Scheduled Castes population of West Bengal is presented in *table 1*. Overall effective literacy rate of all the Scheduled Castes of West Bengal was 69.4%, among which Sunri (Excluding Saha) caste community shows highest literacy rate (86.3%) and lowest literacy rate was found among Musahar community (24.4%). Overall, male effective literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population of West Bengal was 77.2%. Highest male literacy rate was observed among Sunri (Excluding Saha) community (93.5%) and lowest male literacy was found among Musahar community (30.3%). Overall female literacy rate of Scheduled Castes population of West Bengal was 61.2%. Similar to male, highest and lowest female literacy rate was also found among Sunri (excluding Saha) community (78.6%) and Musahar community (18.9%). Now coming to spatial arena of their residence, overall effective literacy rate of Scheduled Caste population residing in rural areas of West Bengal was 67.5% among which highest literacy rate was found in Sunri (Excluding Saha) community (84.8%). Lowest was found among Musahar community (21.3%). Overall literacy rate of male population of Scheduled Caste community of rural West Bengal was 75.7%. Highest literacy rate was found among Bantar community with 94.4%. Lowest rural male literacy rate was found among Musahar community (27.2%). Overall female literacy rate belonging to rural Scheduled Caste population of West Bengal was 58.9%. Females from Sunri (Excluding Saha) community shows highest literacy rate (75.3%) followed by rural females of Lalbegi community (74.5%). Now the overall literacy rate of those Scheduled Caste population residing in urban west Bengal was 76.7% with highest in Sunri (Excluding Saha) community (92.2%) followed by Bahelia (89.7%). Lowest literacy rate was found among Musahar community with 39.1%. Overall literacy rate of urban male population of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal was 83.1%. Highest urban male literacy rate was found among Sunri (Excluding Saha) community (95.5%) followed by Dabgar community (94.7%). Lowest literacy rate was found among Musahar urban males (44.8%) followed by Bhuiya (54.3%). Overall literacy rate of urban female population of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal was 70.0%. Highest urban female literacy rate was found among Sunri (Excluding Saha) community (88.5%) followed by Bahelia community (84.8%). Lowest literacy rate was found among Musahar urban females (33.1%).

According to 2001 Census, the distribution of effective literacy rate of Scheduled Castes population of West Bengal is presented in *table 2*. Overall effective literacy rate was 59.0% in which male shares 70.5% and female shares 46.9%. The Konwar community shows maximum literacy rate in overall population (82.9%) and also in their female literacy (76.0%). Among males, Sunri (Excluding Saha) community has the highest literacy (92.6%). The Musahar community lies at the bottom (15.3%), overall, 20.6% of male and only 9.5% of female was literate. Situation of literacy among those SC population residing in rural areas shows 57.1% overall, 69.1% of male and 44.5% of female literacy rate. Konwar (83.3%) has the maximum overall literacy rate along with highest rural female (76.5%) literacy rate. Among the Scheduled castes rural males, Sunri (Excluding Saha) community has the highest literacy (91.9%). The Musahar community residing in countryside ranks least with 12.4% overall, 17.4% of male and 6.9% of female literacy rate. For those population living in urban areas, 68.9%, 77.76% and 59.5% are the overall, male and female literacy rate respectively. The Sunri (Excluding Saha) community shows highest urban literacy rate with 90.6% overall, 95.6% of male and 85.1% of female literacy rate.

Table 3 shows overall decadal literacy growth from 2001 to 2011 among the Scheduled Castes of West Bengal along with those habituating in rural and urban areas. Overall an increase of 17.6% has been observed in the literacy rate of the Scheduled caste. Highest effective literacy growth was observed among Bantar community (118.5%) and on the other hand, Konwar community shows a decline of 0.1% in their literacy rate. Scheduled Caste population with rural background has 18.3% increment in their literacy rate, with Bantar (185.4%) to have highest growth and Nat on the other hand to face a decline of 20.7% in their literacy rate. An increase of 11.1% among the Scheduled Caste population residing in urban areas can be noticed with Nat having the highest growth of 38.6% in their literacy and Dabgar to face a fall of 1.1% of literacy rate among their urban residents.

Overall, 9.5% increase in literacy rate can be seen in Scheduled Caste males among which Bantar community shows maximum growth (102.9%) followed by Dabgar community (80.4%). Konwars has degraded by 1.6% in their male literacy. Overall, 9.5% literacy growth can be seen among the rural males of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal. Rural males from Bantar show maximum growth with an increase of 183.3% followed by Dabgar community (127.5%). The Nat caste community has a 24.5% decline in the literacy rate of their males residing in rural areas. Overall, 6.8% literacy growth can be seen among the urban males of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal. Interestingly, the Nat community which shows a negative growth in their rural males have achieved maximum increase of literacy rate with 34.4% among their urban males followed by males from Bhuiya community (22.9%). The Doai community has a 6.4% decline in the literacy rate of their males residing in urban areas.

Overall, 30.5% growth has been noticed among the Scheduled Caste females of West Bengal. Maximum growth has been seen among Dabgar and Bantar with 164.4% and 157.6% growth in the literacy rate of their females. Lowest literacy growth has been noted in the Konwar community (1.9%). Overall, 32.5% literacy growth can be seen among the rural females of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal. Rural females from Bantar and Dabgar community show maximum growth with 248.6% and 217.6% increase respectively in their literacy rate. Females from the Nat community residing in rural areas have decline of 16.6% in their literacy rate. Overall, 17.6% literacy growth can be seen among the urban females of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal. Highest growth has been noticed among urban females from Bind (60.3%) and Bhuiya (53.5%) communities. Sunri (Excluding Saha) has a decline of 4.0% in their literacy rate of females residing in urban areas.

Figure 1 presented age-sex distribution of effective literacy rate among Scheduled Castes of West Bengal. Overall literacy rate of Scheduled Castes population of West Bengal is 69.4%. As expected, it was observed that the male had higher literacy rate in all ages than females. Population belonging to age of 7 to 14 years shows 90.9% of literacy rate with male (91.4%) and female (90.4%). Those belonging to the working age group of 15 to 60 years have 67.4% of overall literacy rate with male (75.6%) and female (58.5%). The old age population aging above 60 years have 36.5% of literacy rate with 56.8% among male and just 17.6% among female. This shows a decreasing trend of literacy rate with advancement of age. Figure 2 shows the literacy trend among Scheduled Caste population of West Bengal from 1961 to 2011. Overall literacy rate for 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, and 2011 of Scheduled Castes population in west Bengal was 10.3%, 33.2%, 40.9%, 42.2%, 59.0%, and 69.4% respectively. There is an increasing trend of literacy rate over the 50 years, but there is a large gender gap. State wise literacy rate of Scheduled Castes of India according to Census 2011 has been shown in Figure 3. West Bengal (69.4%) ranks 20th in the list from high to low literacy rate but is higher than the national average (66.1%).

IV. DISCUSSION:

Overall literacy rate of Scheduled Castes population of West Bengal is 69.4% which is lower than its literacy rate of overall population which is 77.1% (Census 2011). Literacy is an important parameter and has an equal weightage in human development. India, being a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-linguistic country must emphasis on everyone's education (Jana, 2018). The situation of Scheduled Castes, one of the largest socially segregated groups, and specifically their women, in India, needs special attention. They are people known as untouchables or outcastes who experience violence, discrimination and social exclusion on a daily basis. The traditional taboos are the same for Dalit men and women. However, women have to deal with them more often. Scheduled Castes women are discriminated against not only by people of higher castes, but also within their own communities. They still lag far behind in their educational, social, economic and caste status. They are the victims of a variety of social, religious, economic and cultural exploitations. Despite reservations for Scheduled Castes, 75% of the girls' face dropout in primary school (National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 2000). While the literacy rate of Scheduled Castes has risen from 54.7% to 66.1%, it is still low when compared to that of the total population, which has risen from 64.8% to 74.4% between 2001 to 2011 (Census 2011). Literacy rate of Scheduled Caste Women is even lower (NCSC Report, 2016). The present study shows lowest literacy rate for Scheduled Caste women of West Bengal. Reasons for which may be poverty, or to get rid of humiliation and isolation, family environment, institutional facilities, institutional

climate and government facilities (Das & Halder, 2018). This low or mere literacy leads them through various adverse damages. Many research studies have established a negative relationship between the educational level of women and fertility. Education affects the age of marriage of females which in turn affects infant mortality (Chouhan, 2013). Education can be the only way through which these women can escape the vicious cycle of poverty, and domination. If Dalits are provided good education then education itself may lead to upward mobility (Benjamin, 2008). Education can lead them to know about their basic human rights can also help to raise their voice against abuse and exploitation.

Despite many policies and beneficial schemes taken up by the Government, these weaker sections are still lagging behind in education. Among 60 Scheduled Caste communities of West Bengal 34 are lying below the state average of literacy rate. Thus, community specific awareness programme is in need for their betterment.

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Figure 1. Age-sex distribution of effective literacy rate among Scheduled Castes of West Bengal

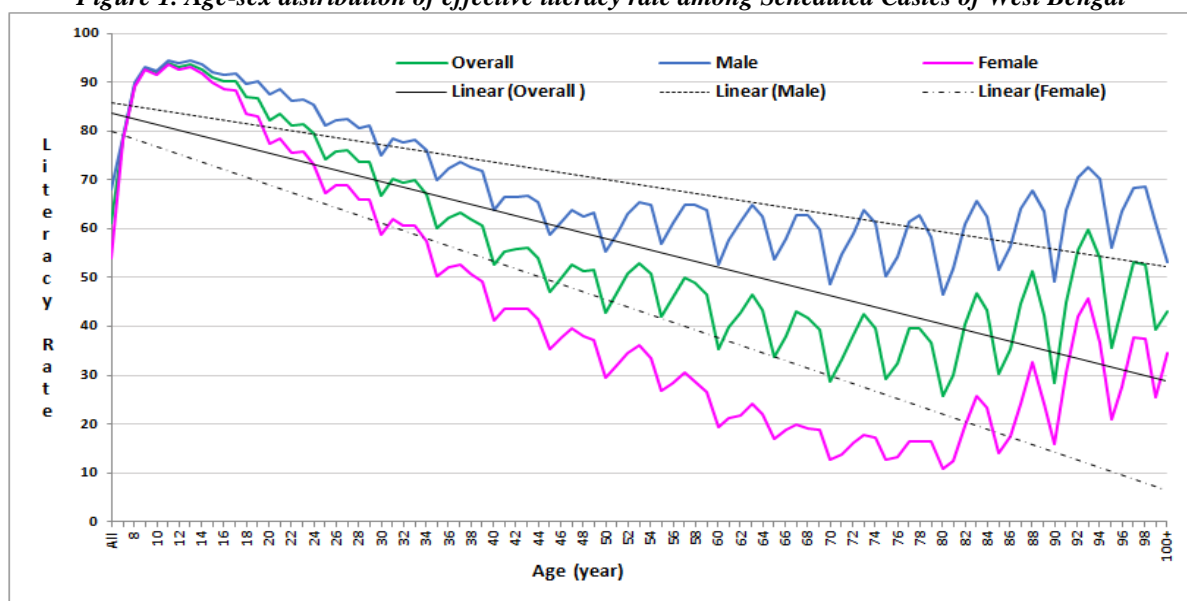


Table 1. Distribution of effective literacy rate of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal, 2011

SC Community	Overall			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All Scheduled Castes	69.4	77.2	61.2	67.5	75.7	58.9	76.7	83.1	70.0
Bagdi, Duley	61.4	70.3	52.3	60.7	69.8	51.5	67.2	74.7	59.7
Bahelia	70.4	74.6	65.7	68.3	72.5	63.7	89.7	94.1	84.9
Baiti	76.8	82.0	71.2	74.0	79.4	68.2	84.2	88.7	79.3
Bantar	72.4	87.5	55.9	73.7	94.4	55.0	71.8	84.8	56.4
Bauri	50.5	62.1	38.8	48.4	60.1	36.6	58.9	70.2	47.5
Beldar	58.0	69.3	46.0	52.3	63.8	40.2	73.4	83.8	62.0
Bhogta	58.7	70.4	46.7	58.1	69.9	45.9	76.5	81.8	70.5
Bhuimali	68.3	74.0	62.2	63.8	69.7	57.6	80.9	86.0	75.5
Bhuiya	54.9	65.6	43.8	57.5	68.7	46.1	45.1	54.3	35.3
Bind	48.6	56.6	40.1	45.2	53.6	36.3	62.8	68.8	56.2
Chamar, Charmakar, Mochi, Muchi, Rabidas, Ruidas, Rishi	60.0	68.2	51.4	57.3	65.4	48.9	68.6	76.8	59.3
Chaupal	53.0	62.6	41.8	51.2	61.0	40.0	77.3	83.2	69.4
Dabgar	71.8	80.9	62.5	60.8	67.2	53.1	81.7	94.7	69.8
Damai (Nepali)	78.3	86.4	70.6	73.5	83.4	64.0	87.9	92.8	83.4
Dhoba, Dhobi	80.7	87.2	73.7	78.7	86.0	71.1	84.2	89.4	78.5
Doai	65.7	72.9	58.3	65.2	72.6	57.5	70.7	75.7	66.0
Dom, Dhangad	59.0	68.5	49.2	57.8	67.3	48.0	63.1	72.8	53.2
Dosadh, Dusadh, Dhari, Dharhi	69.4	77.9	59.6	59.6	67.1	51.3	73.4	82.2	63.1
Ghasi	40.0	50.8	29.4	37.1	48.0	26.1	56.0	66.6	46.5
Gonrhi	67.7	73.2	61.5	54.2	61.0	46.6	81.7	85.8	77.0
Halalkhor	80.8	88.0	72.7	71.6	80.3	61.5	82.2	89.2	74.4
Hari, Mehtar, Mehtor, Bhangi, Balmiki	62.4	71.0	53.5	60.1	68.5	51.3	68.4	77.6	59.2
Jalia Kaibartta	73.0	79.5	66.1	70.1	77.1	62.5	80.9	85.8	75.6
Jhalo Malo, Malo	71.5	76.7	65.9	69.5	74.8	63.8	75.4	80.5	69.9
Kadar	78.1	85.7	70.3	78.7	86.4	70.7	69.7	75.0	64.7
Kami (Nepali)	79.1	87.1	71.4	75.0	84.6	65.8	88.1	92.7	83.9
Kandra	81.8	89.4	73.9	81.6	89.3	73.6	86.0	91.2	80.3
Kanjar	72.0	76.1	68.0	69.7	73.1	66.5	80.5	86.1	74.4
Kaora	66.2	73.9	58.2	64.1	72.3	55.5	71.3	77.9	64.5
Karenga, Koranga	67.6	75.2	59.9	67.0	74.7	59.3	73.1	80.2	65.9
Kaur	65.4	74.3	55.5	63.2	72.8	52.2	75.4	80.6	69.8
Keot, Keyot	68.9	77.7	59.4	67.4	76.4	57.7	73.5	81.7	64.5
Khaira	55.2	66.5	43.9	54.9	66.2	43.6	61.4	72.7	50.4
Khatik	74.4	80.8	67.2	72.9	79.8	65.8	74.5	80.9	67.3
Koch	52.5	60.8	43.7	51.7	60.1	42.7	77.1	81.3	73.2
Konai	63.0	69.7	55.9	61.8	68.5	54.7	73.4	80.0	66.4
Konwar	82.9	87.7	77.5	80.0	86.1	73.4	85.7	89.2	81.6
Kotal	70.0	77.4	62.3	69.8	77.3	61.9	74.0	79.2	68.6
Kurariar	64.2	70.6	57.3	62.9	69.4	55.8	69.6	76.0	63.3

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Lalbegi	85.6	92.1	78.2	81.6	87.3	74.5	87.1	94.0	79.5
Lohar	59.1	69.7	48.2	57.3	68.1	46.2	72.6	81.2	63.6
Mahar	63.2	72.3	53.8	60.4	69.7	50.8	78.4	85.9	70.5
Mal	54.4	63.4	45.2	53.1	62.2	43.8	67.9	75.9	59.8
Mallah	65.8	74.4	56.2	59.7	69.1	49.4	74.2	81.6	65.8
Musahar	24.4	30.3	18.2	21.3	27.2	15.1	39.2	44.9	33.2
Namasudra	79.5	85.1	73.6	77.5	83.4	71.1	83.9	88.7	79.0
Nat	64.8	70.6	57.9	46.5	52.1	39.5	83.8	90.5	76.1
Nuniya	65.7	73.7	56.6	59.3	67.9	50.0	72.3	79.5	63.8
Paliya	64.3	72.1	56.0	63.9	71.8	55.5	80.5	84.5	76.4
Pan, Sawasi	72.3	81.7	62.7	71.4	81.1	61.3	82.0	87.5	76.5
Pasi	72.6	80.8	63.3	68.8	77.1	59.5	73.5	81.6	64.1
Patni	73.9	79.6	67.8	71.2	77.2	64.9	81.2	86.2	75.9
Pod, Poundra	79.8	87.1	71.9	78.8	86.6	70.5	83.8	89.2	78.0
Rajbanshi	70.7	78.3	62.5	70.1	78.0	61.8	74.5	80.8	67.9
Rajwar	59.7	71.2	47.5	58.9	70.4	46.9	65.2	76.8	52.5
Sarki (Nepali)	72.6	81.2	64.4	69.3	79.3	59.7	80.7	85.7	75.9
Sunri (Excluding Saha)	86.3	93.5	78.6	84.4	92.8	75.3	92.2	95.5	88.5
Tiyar	71.9	79.4	64.0	71.5	79.1	63.3	75.8	81.4	69.9
Turi	53.7	63.2	43.7	49.0	58.3	39.6	61.1	71.1	50.5
Chain (in Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia and Dakshin Dinajpur districts)	62.1	69.1	54.7	62.0	69.0	54.6	63.0	69.9	55.6

Table 2. Distribution of effective literacy rate of Scheduled Castes of West Bengal, 2001

SC community	Overall			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All Scheduled Castes	59.0	70.5	46.9	57.1	69.1	44.5	69.0	77.8	59.5
Bagdi etc.	47.7	60.4	34.8	46.9	59.8	33.8	58.2	69.0	47.3
Bahelia	59.6	67.2	51.4	58.5	66.0	50.3	70.1	78.8	61.0
Baiti	68.8	77.1	60.4	65.8	74.7	56.7	81.5	87.0	76.0
Bantar	33.1	43.1	21.7	25.8	33.3	17.3	66.1	86.4	42.0
Bauri	37.5	51.8	22.7	35.3	49.8	20.4	47.2	61.0	33.2
Beldar	39.8	53.3	25.2	29.8	44.1	14.9	64.9	74.8	53.1
Bhogta	47.9	64.5	30.7	47.5	64.2	30.2	67.5	77.1	55.1
Bhuimali	57.1	65.9	48.1	52.9	62.1	43.1	74.0	81.0	67.0
Bhuiya	42.1	56.3	27.2	44.3	59.8	28.3	34.2	44.1	23.0
Bind	35.0	46.8	22.2	32.9	44.6	20.3	48.6	60.3	35.1
Chamar, Charmakar, Mochi, Muchi, Rabidas, Ruidas, Rishi	47.0	58.6	34.1	43.6	55.3	31.3	58.0	68.3	44.5
Chaupal	43.2	56.2	29.0	42.2	55.4	28.0	72.4	81.0	62.5
Dabgar	34.5	44.8	23.6	22.2	29.6	15.2	82.6	92.9	66.7
Damai (Nepali)	69.8	80.7	59.4	64.0	76.8	51.7	83.8	90.2	77.9
Dhoba etc.	73.9	83.5	63.6	71.4	82.1	60.2	79.0	86.3	71.0
Doai	60.1	71.6	47.8	58.7	70.5	46.1	70.7	80.9	60.5

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Dom etc.	46.0	58.9	32.6	44.9	57.9	31.4	50.2	62.7	37.1
Dosadh etc.	59.6	70.7	45.8	52.7	65.6	38.1	62.7	72.8	49.6
Ghasi	30.5	43.3	17.5	26.9	39.3	14.4	45.4	60.4	30.4
Gonrhi	56.1	64.8	46.5	47.4	56.1	37.9	73.4	81.9	63.9
Halalkhor	68.7	80.1	57.0	67.9	80.4	56.9	68.8	80.1	57.0
Hari etc.	49.5	61.7	36.8	46.7	59.0	34.0	56.7	68.7	44.3
Jalia Kaibartta	64.9	74.4	54.8	61.5	72.0	50.5	75.0	82.0	67.7
Jhalo Malo etc.	60.3	68.4	51.8	57.6	65.8	48.8	68.5	76.1	60.5
Kadar	69.7	81.8	57.5	70.4	82.6	58.2	56.6	68.1	45.0
Kami (Nepali)	68.8	79.7	58.3	64.2	76.5	52.5	83.7	90.0	77.6
Kandra	72.2	84.9	59.0	72.0	84.8	58.7	76.9	86.2	66.4
Kanjar	65.4	74.3	56.5	61.2	72.6	48.9	68.5	75.8	61.8
Kaora	53.0	64.9	40.6	51.0	63.4	38.0	62.8	72.2	53.1
Karenga etc.	54.8	66.7	43.0	54.0	65.9	42.1	66.5	77.7	55.2
Kaur	52.2	65.1	37.6	49.0	62.6	33.9	73.5	81.5	63.8
Keot etc.	58.8	72.0	44.3	56.5	70.1	41.9	66.8	78.5	53.2
Khaira	42.3	58.0	26.4	41.9	57.7	25.8	51.7	63.0	40.2
Khatik	69.0	79.0	57.6	57.3	70.3	43.8	70.5	80.0	59.5
Koch	43.0	54.5	31.0	42.0	53.8	29.8	73.6	80.4	67.1
Konai	49.7	60.1	38.4	47.8	58.3	36.5	71.5	81.6	60.8
Konwar	83.0	89.1	76.0	83.3	89.6	76.5	82.2	88.3	75.0
Kotal	59.7	71.1	47.6	59.1	70.6	47.0	72.4	81.5	61.6
Kurariar	56.7	66.3	45.6	54.2	63.6	44.0	65.8	75.0	52.5
Lalbegi	67.2	78.2	54.3	56.9	70.8	42.7	75.1	83.4	64.4
Lohar	46.5	61.1	31.3	44.6	59.6	29.1	62.3	73.4	49.9
Mahar	52.6	65.6	38.6	48.0	61.7	33.3	70.6	80.8	59.5
Mal	39.6	51.9	26.8	38.3	50.7	25.4	58.1	69.0	46.8
Mallah	53.9	66.3	39.6	47.2	60.6	32.6	64.3	74.9	51.4
Musahar	15.3	20.6	9.5	12.4	17.4	6.9	37.7	45.9	29.2
Namasudra	71.9	80.6	62.8	69.7	78.9	59.9	78.7	85.7	71.3
Nat	59.3	68.5	49.2	58.7	69.1	47.4	60.5	67.4	53.3
Nuniya	54.2	65.4	41.2	47.8	58.7	35.8	62.3	73.3	48.5
Paliya	50.3	63.6	36.4	50.0	63.4	35.9	62.0	69.8	53.2
Pan etc.	61.0	75.1	46.6	60.4	74.8	45.7	70.5	79.0	60.5
Pasi	64.1	74.7	50.8	59.0	70.2	46.0	65.3	75.6	51.9
Patni	64.5	74.1	54.5	61.5	71.8	50.7	78.2	84.3	71.7
Pod etc.	72.1	83.5	59.9	71.1	82.9	58.2	80.0	87.5	72.1
Rajbanshi	60.1	72.3	47.3	59.5	72.0	46.3	67.2	76.1	57.9
Rajwar	46.4	62.7	29.2	45.2	61.7	28.0	55.9	69.8	39.3
Sarki (Nepali)	62.5	73.6	51.7	57.8	70.2	46.0	77.6	84.1	70.9
Sunri (Excluding Saha)	82.5	92.8	71.4	80.1	91.9	67.5	90.6	95.6	85.1
Tiyar	62.1	73.5	50.1	61.3	72.9	49.0	74.5	82.7	65.9
Turi	40.6	52.4	28.2	35.3	47.1	22.8	50.8	62.4	38.4

Table 3. Decadal growth (2001 to 2011) of effective literacy rate among Scheduled Caste of West Bengal

SC Community	Literacy growth (%)								
	Overall			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All Schedule Castes	17.6	9.5	30.6	18.3	9.6	32.6	11.2	6.8	17.7
Bagdi, Duley	28.7	16.3	50.6	29.4	16.7	52.2	15.4	8.2	26.3
Bahelia	18.0	11.0	27.9	16.8	9.9	26.6	27.9	19.4	39.0
Baiti	11.6	6.5	17.9	12.4	6.4	20.3	3.2	2.0	4.3
Bantar	118.5	102.9	157.7	185.5	183.3	217.6	8.6	-1.9	34.3
Bauri	34.8	19.8	70.7	37.2	20.6	79.3	24.6	15.1	43.3
Beldar	45.8	30.0	82.2	75.8	44.7	170.2	13.1	12.0	16.7
Bhogta	22.6	9.2	52.1	22.3	9.0	51.7	13.3	6.0	27.9
Bhuimali	19.5	12.4	29.5	20.8	12.3	33.4	9.4	6.3	12.7
Bhuiya	30.3	16.5	61.4	29.9	14.9	63.2	31.7	23.0	53.6
Bind	38.9	20.8	80.6	37.5	20.1	78.9	29.2	14.0	60.3
Chamar, Charmakar, Mochi, Muchi, Rabidas, Ruidas, Rishi	27.8	16.4	50.5	31.5	18.2	56.5	18.2	12.5	33.2
Chaupal	22.9	11.4	44.4	21.4	10.1	43.0	6.7	2.7	11.0
Dabgar	108.1	80.4	164.4	173.4	127.6	248.7	-1.1	2.0	4.8
Damai (Nepali)	12.1	7.0	18.8	14.8	8.5	23.9	4.8	2.9	7.2
Dhoba, Dhobi	9.2	4.5	15.8	10.3	4.8	18.1	6.5	3.5	10.6
Doai	9.4	1.7	22.0	11.0	3.0	24.6	0.0	-6.5	9.1
Dom, Dhangad	28.1	16.3	50.9	28.6	16.2	53.0	25.6	16.1	43.2
Dosadh, Dusadh, Dhari, Dharhi	16.5	10.2	30.1	13.0	2.2	34.6	17.1	13.0	27.2
Ghasi	31.4	17.2	68.0	38.0	22.4	81.6	23.4	10.3	52.7
Gonrhi	20.8	13.0	32.4	14.5	8.7	23.2	11.3	4.7	20.5
Halalkhor	17.5	9.9	27.5	5.5	-0.2	8.2	19.5	11.5	30.4
Hari, Mehtar, Mehtor, Bhangi, Balmiki	26.1	15.1	45.3	28.7	16.2	50.9	20.8	13.0	33.9
Jalia Kaibartta	12.6	6.8	20.7	13.9	7.2	23.9	7.8	4.8	11.6
Jhalo Malo, Malo	18.5	12.1	27.4	20.8	13.6	30.9	10.0	5.8	15.5
Kadar	12.0	4.7	22.3	11.7	4.6	21.6	23.3	10.2	43.9
Kami (Nepali)	14.9	9.3	22.5	16.8	10.6	25.3	5.3	3.0	8.1
Kandra	13.4	5.3	25.3	13.4	5.3	25.4	11.8	5.8	21.0
Kanjar	10.2	2.3	20.4	13.8	0.8	35.8	17.6	13.5	20.4
Kaora	24.9	13.9	43.3	25.8	14.1	46.2	13.5	7.9	21.5
Karenga, Koranga	23.3	12.7	39.4	24.2	13.4	40.9	9.8	3.2	19.4
Kaur	25.5	14.1	47.9	28.9	16.3	54.0	2.6	-1.0	9.3
Keot, Keyot	17.3	7.9	34.2	19.2	8.9	37.9	10.0	4.1	21.3
Khaira	30.5	14.7	66.5	31.1	14.7	69.1	18.8	15.5	25.4
Khatik	7.9	2.3	16.7	27.2	13.5	50.3	5.8	1.1	13.2
Koch	22.3	11.4	41.1	23.0	11.8	43.0	4.9	1.1	9.1
Konai	26.9	15.8	45.6	29.4	17.4	50.0	2.6	-2.0	9.2
Konwar	-0.1	-1.6	1.9	-4.0	-3.9	-4.1	4.2	1.1	8.8

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Kotal	17.2	8.8	30.8	18.1	9.5	31.8	2.2	-2.8	11.4
Kurariar	13.2	6.5	25.7	16.0	9.1	26.7	5.9	1.3	20.7
Lalbegi	27.5	17.8	44.1	43.3	23.4	74.4	15.9	12.6	23.4
Lohar	27.0	14.0	54.1	28.4	14.4	58.6	16.6	10.6	27.5
Mahar	20.1	10.1	39.4	25.8	13.0	52.6	11.1	6.3	18.6
Mal	37.3	22.0	68.4	38.9	22.7	72.7	16.9	10.0	27.7
Mallah	22.1	12.2	41.8	26.4	14.1	51.5	15.4	9.0	28.1
Musahar	60.0	46.8	92.2	72.4	56.2	118.5	3.8	-2.1	13.5
Namasudra	10.6	5.6	17.3	11.2	5.8	18.7	6.7	3.5	10.7
Nat	9.3	2.9	17.5	-20.8	-24.6	-16.7	38.6	34.4	42.9
Nuniya	21.3	12.8	37.6	24.2	15.7	39.7	16.0	8.5	31.6
Paliya	27.8	13.4	54.0	27.9	13.3	54.6	29.8	21.1	43.4
Pan, Sawasi	18.6	8.8	34.8	18.2	8.4	34.2	16.4	10.7	26.4
Pasi	13.3	8.2	24.6	16.7	9.8	29.3	12.6	7.9	23.4
Patni	14.5	7.5	24.5	15.8	7.5	28.1	3.9	2.3	5.8
Pod, Poundra	10.6	4.4	20.1	11.0	4.4	21.0	4.7	2.0	8.2
Rajbanshi	17.5	8.3	32.3	17.8	8.3	33.3	10.9	6.3	17.3
Rajwar	28.6	13.5	63.0	30.2	14.0	67.5	16.6	10.0	33.5
Sarki (Nepali)	16.2	10.3	24.4	20.0	13.0	29.6	3.9	2.0	7.0
Sunri (Excluding Saha)	4.7	0.8	10.1	5.3	1.0	11.6	1.7	-0.1	4.0
Tiyar	15.8	7.9	27.8	16.6	8.5	29.3	1.7	-1.6	6.0
Turi	32.2	20.7	55.2	39.0	23.6	73.3	20.3	14.0	31.4

Figure 2. Literacy trend among Scheduled Castes population of West Bengal from 1961 to 2011

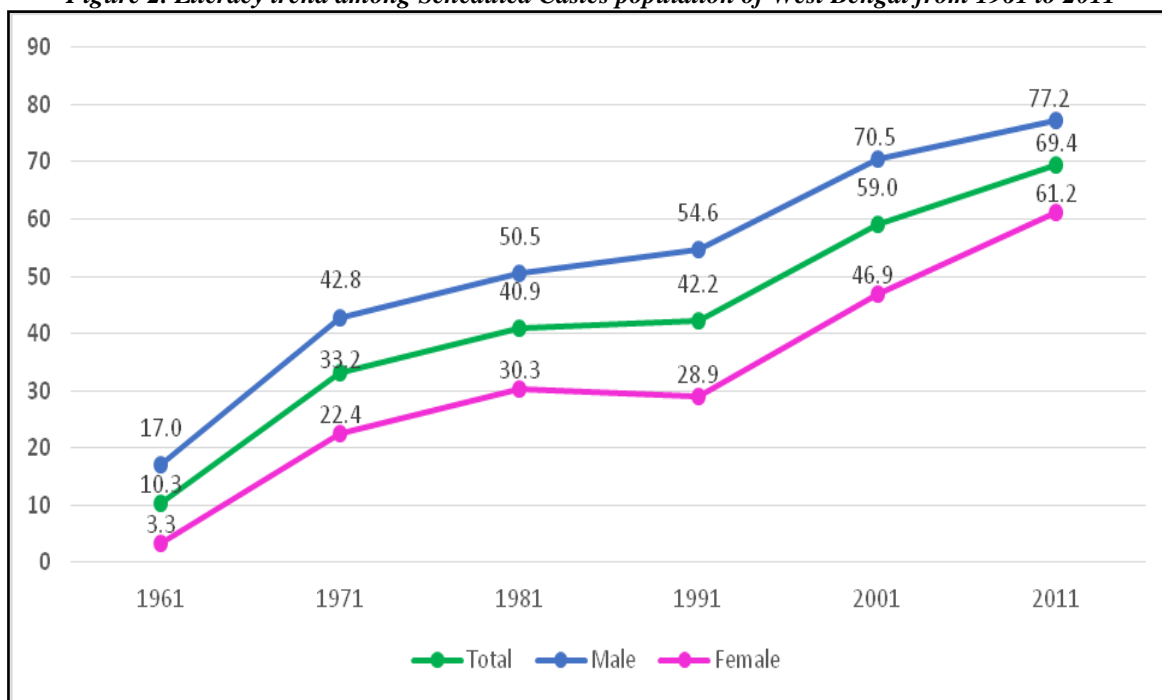
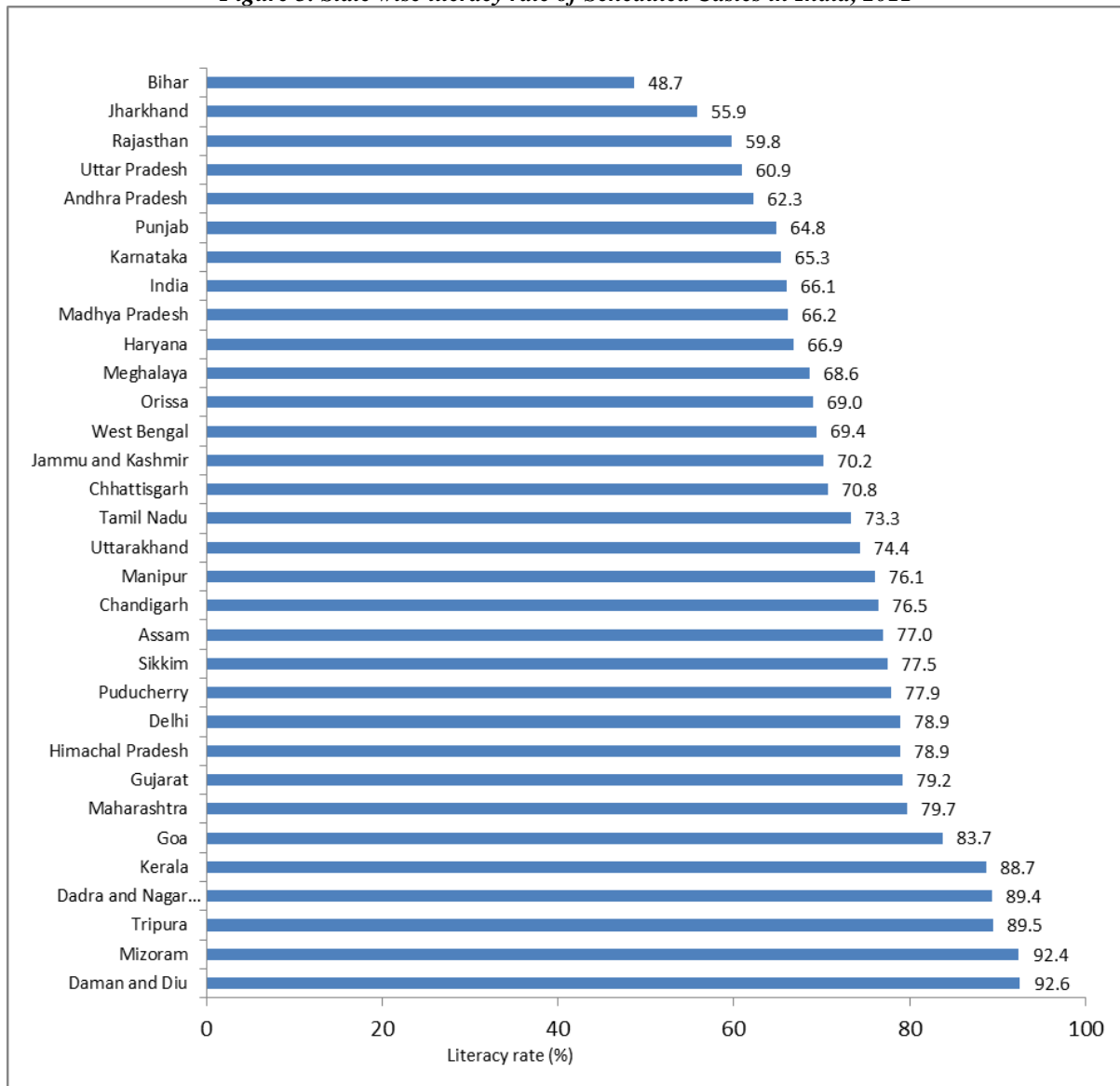


Figure 3. State wise literacy rate of Scheduled Castes in India, 2011



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