

## GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF LITERACY RATE CHANGES IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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### Abstract-

Literacy is one of the vital indicators of social and economic development. As per 2011 census literacy has been defined as a person who can both read, write and understanding in any language. Literacy rate in any region shows the level of development.

An attempt has been made to examine variation in literacy pattern of the Ahmednagar district. For that data of literacy rate (in percentage) in Ahmednagar district has been considered. The present research entirely based on secondary data which is acquired from Socio-economic Handbook of Ahmednagar District for the year 1991, 2001 and 2011. The period selected for research is of 30 years (1991 to 2011). The present study reveals that there are spatio-temporal variations in literacy rate. Talukawise highest literacy rate found in the Ahmednagar tehsil (86.35%) and minimum literacy rate found in Jamkhed Tehsil (72.62%). From 1991 to 2001, the overall literacy rate in the district has changed from 32.14 %. In 2001 and 3.75% in 2011 it may due to growing awareness of the importance of education and literacy programs. To examine variation in literacy pattern is the main aim of the research. This significant knowledge about variation in literacy pattern is useful for understanding human progress towards modernization.

**Keywords-** Literacy Rate, Spatio-temporal Variation, Soaial Awareness

### Introduction-

Literacy is one of the vital indicators of social and economic development. As per 2011 census literacy has been defined as a person who can both read, write and understanding in any language. Literacy rate in any region shows the level of development. A high level of literacy rate is an important factor in the process of modernizations (Pawar S.N, 2013). Literacy also influences fertility, mortality, and economic composition of the population of a region. (Todakari G. & Suryawanshi S.P, 2012). As per census of Ahmednagar district 2001 Talukawise highest literacy rate found in the Ahmednagar tehsil (86.35%) and minimum literacy rate found in Jamkhed Tehsil (72.62%). From 1991 to 2001, the overall literacy rate in the district has changed from 32.14 %. In 2001 and 3.75% in 2011 it may due to growing awareness of the importance of education and literacy programs. To examine variation in literacy pattern is the main aim of the research. This significant knowledge about variation in literacy pattern is useful for understanding human progress towards modernization.

### Study Area-

Ahmednagar is the largest district in the Maharashtra state having 5.66% of the area of the state. Ahmednagar district is situated partly in Upper Godavari basin and partly in the Bhima and Sina river basin. Ahmednagar district is located in the somewhat central part of Maharashtra lying between 18<sup>0</sup> 2' North to 19<sup>0</sup> 9' North latitude and 73<sup>0</sup> 9' East to 75<sup>0</sup> 5' East longitudes. The district is bounded to the north by Nashik district, on the north-east by Aurangabad, to the east by Beed and Osmanabad, to the south by Solapur and on the south-west by Thana district. It leads the state in co-operative movements. It is in western Maharashtra but considered as gateway to 'Marathwada' and 'vidarbha' region. The district is also located in the centre of the triangle connecting Pune, Aurangabad and Nashik. Geographical area of the district is 17412 sq. km which is 5.60% of the total area of the Maharashtra. The population as per 1991 census is 4040642 out of which 3236945 is rural and 803697 is urban population. As per 2011, it becomes 4543083 out of 3630012 rural and 913071 urban population. The area of the district is distributed among 14 sub divisions (Tahsil) for the administrative purpose. Physiography is one of the dominant parameter of physical environment. The district includes the sahyadri and its three eastward offshoots

i) Kalsubai-Adala range in the north, ii) Baleshwar range in the middle, iii) Harichandragad range in the south. The vast Ahmednagar plateau in the middle running with a north-west, south-eastern trend and the river basins of the 'Godavari' and 'Bhima' on either sides of the plateau. Therefore district can be divided into three broad physiographic divisions- i) Western Hilly region. ii) Plateau region. iii) River Basins and plains.

The district lies on the elevated tableland of the Deccan which has a general slope from west to east. Only the western corner of the district touches the sahyadries.

#### Material and methods-

The present study mostly relies on the secondary data. All the population characteristics collected through District Statistical Department Of Ahmednagar District as well as Census handbook of the Ahmednagar District. The Collected data analyzed by statistical and cartographic techniques. The actual decadewise literacy rate changes obtained by dividing the difference between two decades. In order to calculate the literacy rate changes following formula is used.

In which,

LR= Literacy Rate

L = Number of literate persons P = Total Population

For Literacy rate changes following formula is used

In which

LRC= Literacy Rate of Current Year LRP= Literacy Rate of Previous Year based on the above formula decadewise literacy rate changes have been calculated. It all information summarize and analyzed with the help of graphs.

$$LR = \frac{L}{P} * 10$$

$$LRC - LRP$$

#### Result and discussion-

The percentages of literates to the total population for the year 1991, 2001 and 2011 have been calculated for spatio-temporal variation in tehsil wise pattern of Ahmednagar district.

Table No.1. Percentage of literates and literacy changes

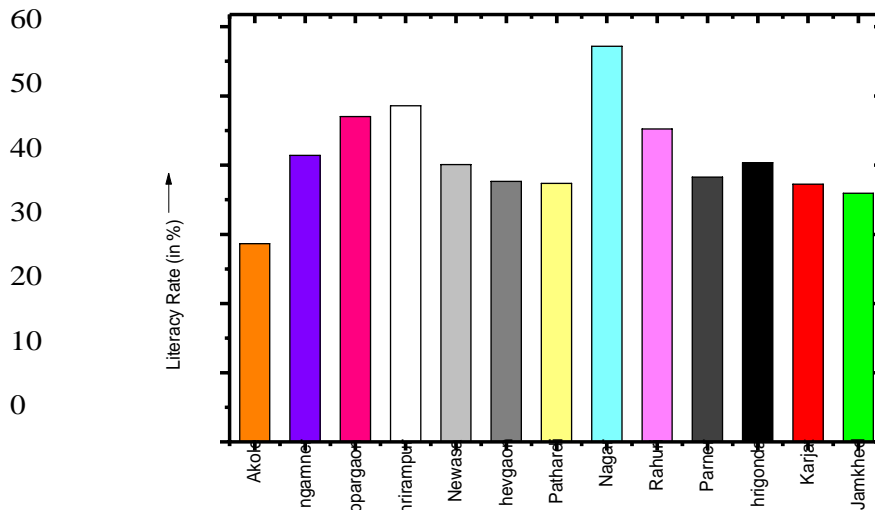
Sr. No.	Name of the Tehsil	Literacy Rate			Actual Growth (In %)	
		1991	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	Akole	28.63	69.95	74.86	41.32	4.9
2	Sangamner	41.37	75.46	79.96	34.12	4.5
3	Kopargaon	46.99	74.63	79.84	27.64	5.21
4	Rahata	--	78.25	82.07	78.25	3.82
5	Shrirampur	48.58	77.96	82.12	29.38	4.16
6	Newasa	40.09	73.83	78.51	33.74	4.68
7	Shevgaon	37.64	70.05	73.94	32.41	3.89
8	Pathardi	37.35	70.43	74.74	33.08	4.31
9	Nagar	57.18	84.64	86.35	27.46	1.71
10	Rahuri	45.21	75.59	79.74	30.38	4.51
11	Parner	38.27	71.51	75.64	33.24	3.53
12	Shrigonda	40.34	73.44	76.25	33.10	2.81
13	Karjat	37.24	71.22	74.11	33.98	2.89
14	Jamkhed	35.91	67.79	72.62	33.88	4.83
	Total	43.16	75.30	79.05	32.14	3.75

(Source- Socio-economic Abstract for 1991,2001 & 2011)

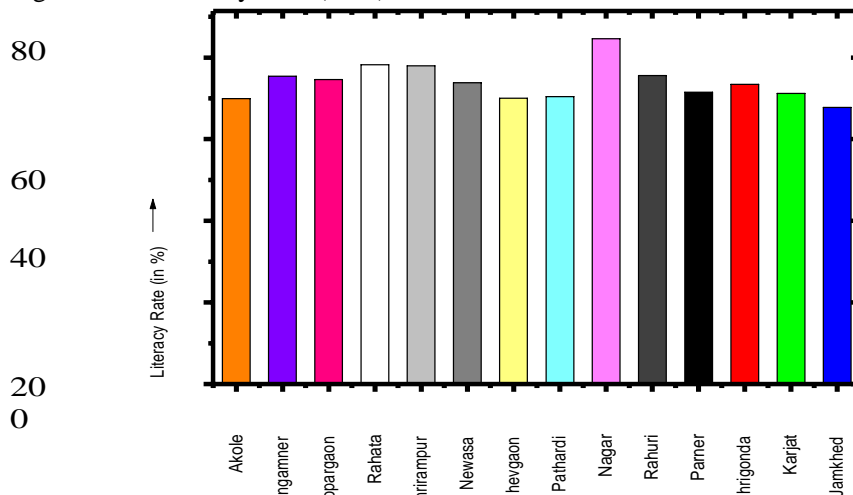
**Literacy pattern in 1991-** A study of taluka wise and decade wise literacy in Ahmednagar district reveals that the percentage of total literacy in Ahmednagar district was 43.16 in 1991. It all depicted in figure No. 1. Considering the taluka wise literacy in the district in this decade, it is noticed that Rahata taluka did not exist then but was included in Shirampur taluka. At that time the literacy rate of Rahata taluka is 0%. The lowest literacy rate in this decade is Akole (28.63) followed by Jamkhed taluka with a literacy rate of 35.91. The highest literacy rate in the same decade is found in Nagar taluka (57.18) . As Nagar is the district headquarters, educational

facilities are available here. According to the 2001 census, a study of the literacy rate in Ahmednagar district shows that the overall literacy rate in the district has increased to 75.30 per cent

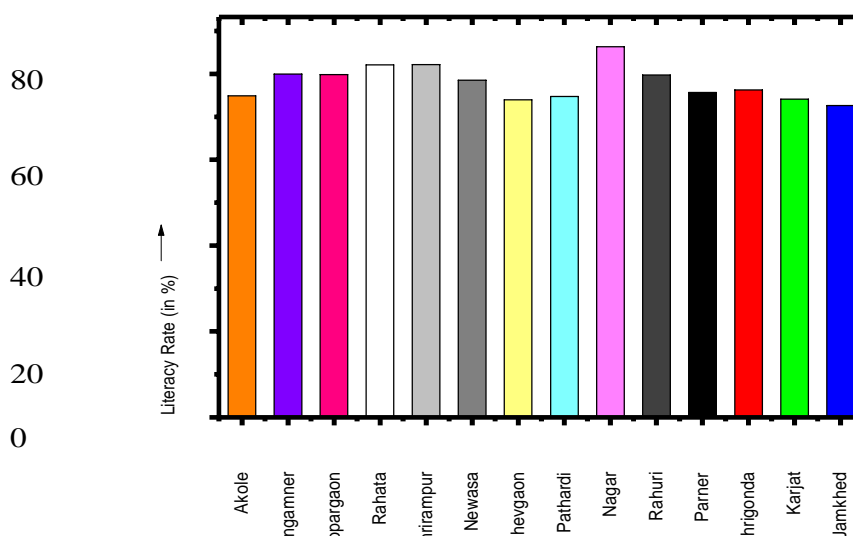
Figure No.1 Literacy Rate (in %) in 1991



**Literacy pattern in 2001-** According to the 2001 census, Nagar taluka has the highest literacy rate of 84.64 percent. The lowest is 69 in Akole taluka. According to the 1991 census, the literacy rate in Nagar taluka increased by 27.46 per cent in 2001. In Akole taluka, the literacy rate has increased from 41 to 32 per cent. This is because there is a growing awareness of the importance of education and literacy programs  
 Figure No.2 Literacy Rate (in %) in 2001



**Literacy pattern in 2011-** According to the 2011 census, the overall literacy rate in the district is 79.05 per cent. Considering this decade, Nagar taluka has the highest literacy rate of 86.35 % (Figure No.3) of the population. Akole taluka has the lowest literacy rate of 74.86 %.  
 Figure No.3 Literacy Rate (in %) in 2011



**Literacy Rate changes from 1991 to 2001-**

Considering the decade-long increase or change in literacy of the population in Ahmednagar district, it is noticed that it is constantly changing. From 1991 to 2001, the overall literacy rate in the district has changed from 32.14 %. Rahata taluka has the highest literacy rate of 78.25 %. Because these talukas have been created in this decade and a large number of educational services have been created in this taluka. So the percentage has increased. The lowest change in literacy rate is 27.46 %

**Literacy Rate changes from 2001 to 2011-**

From 2001 to 2011, the growth rate of population literacy rate was 3.75 per cent. In the same decade, the highest population literacy rate change was 5.21% in Kopargaontaluka and the lowest was 1.71% in Nagar taluka.

Figure No.4. Literacy Rate changes from 1991 to 2001-

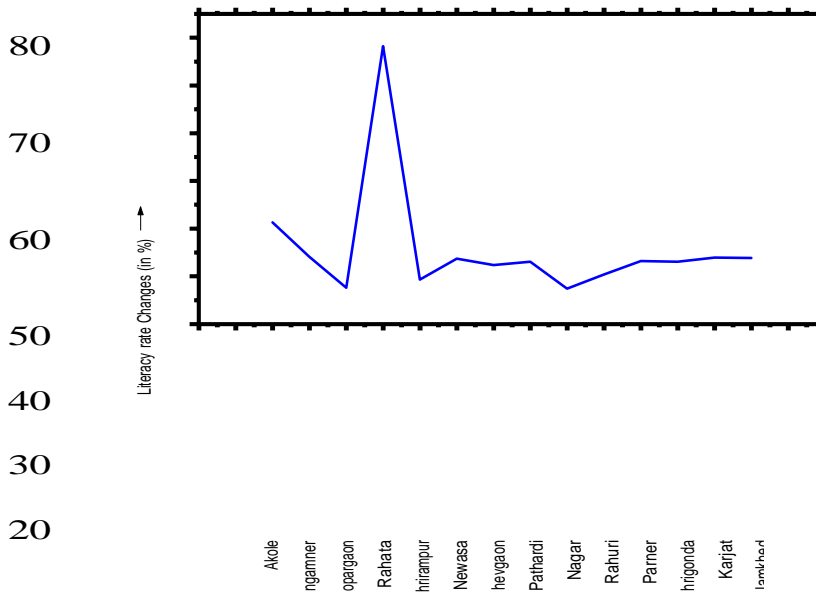
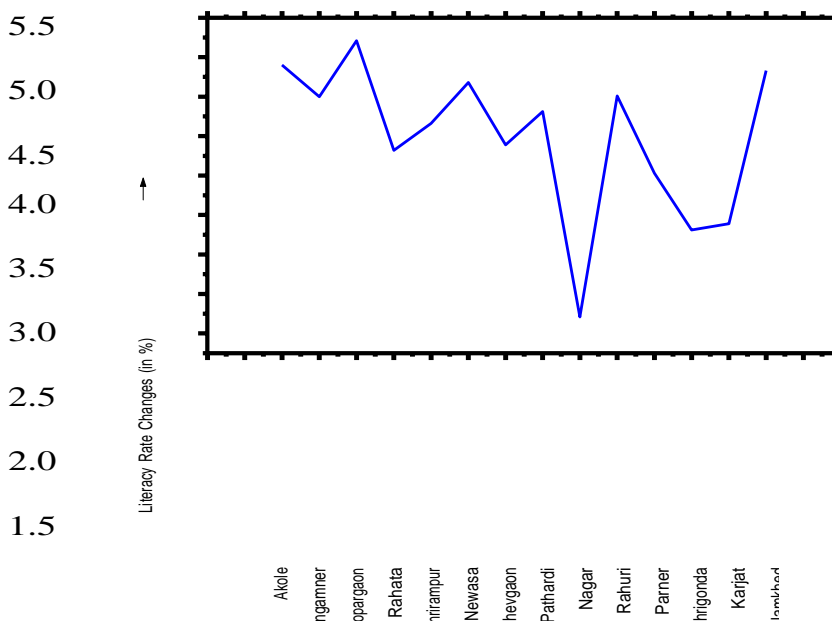


Figure No.5. Literacy Rate changes from 2001 to 2011-



**Conclusion-** The period selected for research is of 30 years (1991 to 2011). The present study reveals that there are spatio-temporal variations in literacy rate. Talukawise highest literacy rate found in the Ahmednagar tehsil (86.35%) and minimum literacy rate found in Jamkhed Tehsil (72.62%). From 1991 to

2001, the overall literacy rate in the district has changed from 32.14 %. In 2001 and 3.75% in 2011 it may be due to growing awareness of the importance of education and literacy programs. It has been also seen that there are variation in literacy rate according to rural and urban areas. For increasing the literacy rate free education, special schemes for education, Night school for labours and social awareness are needed.

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