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RURAL URBAN LITERACY DISPARITY – A STUDY IN DHUBRIDISTRICT, ASSAM

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Abstract

Literacy is necessary indicator of human development of a region. Literacy is very important for the development of culture, socio-economic infrastructure of any region. The present study examines rural urban disparities of literacy in Dhubri district by using Sopher's modified formula. For the present study secondary data has been collected from census of India 2011. The present paper is an attempt to study the rural urban disparity of population in Dhubri district. The present study also compares the rural urban along with male-female literacy level of the Dhubri district. The rural urban literacy differences as well as male female literacy differences are highly variable throughout the district. In the present study urban literacy is high whether rural literacy is low. The findings of the study show that among the nine circles of the study area Agamoni is the highest literacy rate.

Introduction

Literacy is one of the good indicator by which it can be measure the backwardness and forwardness development of a region. Literacy rate also enhances human's capability of building good economic infrastructures. Good literacy rate always indicates development of a region whether the less literacy rate always indicates underdeveloped of any region. Literacy is one of the important key for socialization and it also provides ability to give own identity. Literacy also plays important role for the eradication of the poverty of an area.

For socio-economic development of area literacy is one of the important components. According to Khan (2004) there is an empirical correlation between life expectancy and literacy. Literacy is also one of the important components of HDI (Human Development Index). Literacy may be defined as the ability to read and write a simple meaning in any language (Hassan, 2005). According to Chandna (1980), literacy is very essential for eradicating poverty and mental isolation, friendly international relations. R.C Chandna in his study found that in developing countries urban literacy rate is significantly higher than rural literacy.

“Literacy is the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, compute and use printed and written material associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in an individual to achieve their goal, to develop their knowledge and potential and to participate fully in their community and wider society” (UNESCO). In the present paper Dhubri district has been taken for showing the rural urban disparities of literacy. In Dhubri district literacy rate is very low among the other districts of Assam. The literacy rate in rural area is very low in comparison to the urban areas in Dhubri district.

Study Area

Dhubri district is situated in the western part of Assam. The district is bounded by Kokrajhar in the north, Bongaigaon in the east, Bangladesh and Meghalaya in the south and West Bengal and Bangladesh in the west. The study area extends from 25°25' to 26°24' North latitudes 89°42' to 90°29' East longitudes. The district has a total area of about 2176 sq km. The river Brahmaputra flows through the district from east to west. Champabati, Gangadhar, Gadadhar, Jinjiram etc. are some tributaries of Brahmaputra. There are nine revenue circles in the district. About 58.34% people are literates, 55.25% are from rural area and 82.28% from urban area. In comparison to rural urban literacy level urban literacy rate is highest in the district.

Objectives

The following are the main objectives of the present research work

1. To examine the disparity between rural and urban literacy in Morigaon District.
2. To examine the gender wise male female disparity of literacy in Dhubri district.

Database and Methodology

The data regarding the present paper has been collected from secondary sources. The secondary data has been collected from Census of India (2011). For the measurement of rural urban disparity in literacy of people in Dhubri district Sopher's disparity index (1974) which is modified by Kundu and Rao (1983) has been used.

$$Ds = \log (X2/X1) + \log (200-X1)/ (200- X2)$$

Here X1 =Considered for rural literacy rate

X2 = Considered for urban literacy rate

Findings and Discussion

To represent the male female literacy disparity Sopher's disparity index has been used. According to 2011 census literacy rate of Dhubri district is 58.34%. The literacy rate is 55.25% in rural areas and 82.28% in urban areas. In rural areas literacy rate is low in comparison to the urban areas. In rural areas Bagribari(pt) is the lowest literacy rate with 38.58%; on the other hand Agamoni circle is the highest literacy rate with 68.27%. On the other hand Dhubri (pt) is the highest literacy rate which is 86.04% in urban areas.

Table 1: Rural Urban literacy rate of Dhubri district, 2011

Name of the Circle	Total(%)	Rural(%)	Urban(%)	Disparity Index
Gossaigaon	60.94	60.94	No urban population	No Index
Agamoni	68.27	68.27	No urban population	No Index
Golakganj	66.76	66.14	79.75	0.098
Dhubri(pt)	63.97	56.62	86.04	0.200
Bagribari(pt)	42.96	38.58	85.85	0.366
Bilasipara(pt)	58.51	54.26	79.91	0.186
Chapar(pt)	60.43	56.78	80.3	0.168
South Salmara	51.76	51.76	No urban population	No Index
Mankachar	49.97	47.77	71.94	0.194
District (Dhubri)	58.34	55.25	82.28	0.191

Source: Census of India, 2011

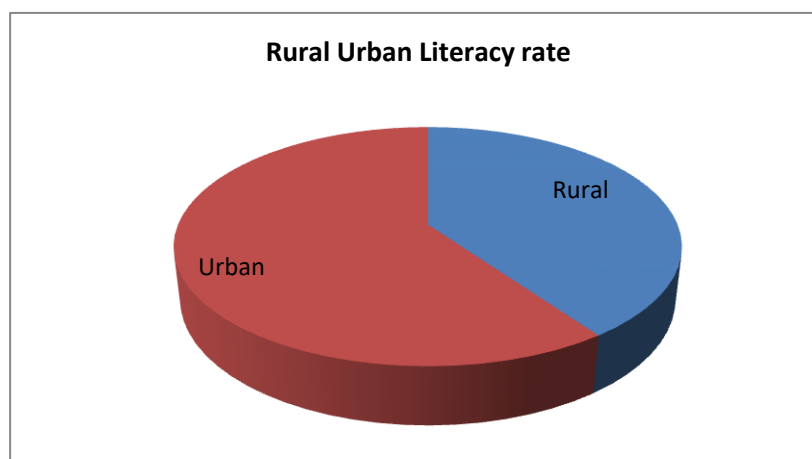


Table 2: Literacy rate of people in Dhemaji District (2011)

Category	Literacy rate (%)	Name of the circles
High	Above 65	Agamoni, Golakganj
Moderte	55-65	Gossaigaon, Dhubri(pt),Bilasipara(pt), Chapar(pt)
Low	Below 55	South Salmara, Mankachar, Bagribari

Source: Census of India, 2011

From the table 2 it has been seen that Agamoni and Golakganj has high level of literacy rate which is above 65 whether Gossaigaon, Dhubri, Bilasipara&Chapar ranges from 55-65. Again South Salmara, Mankachar, Bagribari have low level of literacy rate which is below 55.

Table 3: Male female disparity of literacy of rural areas of Dhubri district

Name of the Circle	Rural	Male	Female	Male Female disparity index
Gossaigaon	60.94	66.20	55.40	0.093
Agamoni	68.27	74.11	62	0.094
Golakganj	66.14	71.85	60.65	0.090
Dhubri(pt)	56.62	61.46	51.44	0.092
Bagribari(pt)	38.58	42.21	34.75	0.098
Bilasipara(pt)	54.26	58.55	49.72	0.086
Chapar(pt)	56.78	61.49	51.92	0.089
South Salmara	51.76	56.52	46.76	0.097
Mankachar	47.77	51.74	43.68	0.088
Total	55.25	60.02	50.21	0.093

Source: Census of India, 2011

In Dhubri district male literacy rate is higher in rural areas (74.11%) than female literacy (62%). In rural areas male literacy is highest in Agamoni circle followed by Golakganj(71.85%), Gossaigaon (66.20%), , Chapar(pt) (61.49%), Dhubri (pt) (61.46%). Bagribari (pt) is the lowest literacy rate which is 42.21%. On the other hand female literacy is highest in Agamoni circle and lowest in and Bagribari (pt). The rural male female disparity is highest in Bagribari (pt) (0.098).

Table 4: Male female disparity of literacy of urban areas of Dhubri district

Name of the Circle	Urban	Male	Female	Male Female disparity index
Golakganj	79.75	85.46	73.63	0.083
Dhubri(pt)	86.04	90.52	81.39	0.065
Bagribari(pt)	85.85	90.53	80.79	0.068
Bilasipara(pt)	79.91	85.23	74.35	0.077
Chapar(pt)	80.30	85.63	74.86	0.076
Mankachar	71.94	76.33	67.49	0.070
Total	82.28	87.07	77.30	0.070

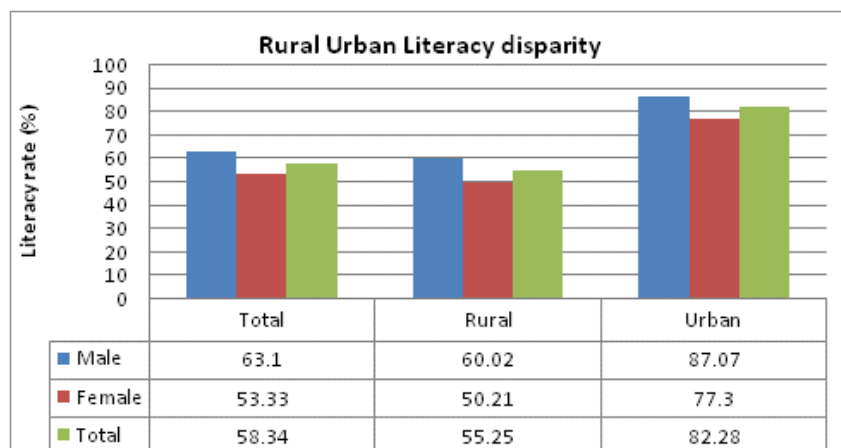
Source: Census of India, 2011

In urban areas male literacy is higher in Bagribari (pt) 90.53% followed by 90.52% in Dhubri (pt), 85.63% in Chapar(pt), 85.46% in Golakganj. On the other hand female literacy is highest in Dhubri(pt) 81.39% and lowest in Mankachar 67.49%. Male female disparity of literacy is highest in Golakganj 0.083 while it is lowest in Dhubri (pt) 0.065.

Table 5: Rural Urban Literacy disparity of Dhubri District

Gender	Literacy rate(%)			
	Total	Rural	Urban	Rural Urban disparity
Male	63.10	60.02	87.07	27.05
Female	53.33	50.21	77.30	27.09
Total	58.34	55.25	82.28	27.03

Source: Census of India, 2011



Rural urban disparity of literacy in Dhubri District is 27.03% whether male rural urban literacy disparity is 27.05% and rural urban female disparity rate is 27.09%. From the above bar graph it is clear that rural literacy both male female is lower than urban male female literacy.

Conclusion

There is a wide range of literacy disparity in rural urban areas along with male female of Dhubri district. The rural urban literacy variation indicates that urban areas are higher as compare to the rural areas of the district. In the present study male female urban literacy disparity is lower than male female rural literacy. From the above discussion it is clear that in rural areas female literacy rate is very poor than male literacy. The rural areas having low level of literacy rate should be given attention so that they may come up at par with urban areas.

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