

“A STUDY ON LITERACY IN INDIA”

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Introduction:

Literacy in India is a key for socio-economic progress, and the Indian literacy rate has grown to 74.00% (2011 figure) from 12% at the end of British rule in 1947. Although this was a greater than six fold improvement, the level is below the world average literacy rate of 84%. Despite government programs, India's literacy rate increased only "sluggishly". The 2011 census indicated a 2001–2011 decadal literacy growth of 9.2%, which is slower than the growth seen during the previous decade. An old 1990 study estimated that it would take until 2060 for India to achieve universal literacy at then-current rate of progress.

There is a wide gender disparity in the literacy rate in India: effective literacy rates (age 7 and above) in 2011 were 82.14% for men and 65.46% for women. The low female literacy rate has had a dramatically negative impact on family planning and population stabilization efforts in India. Studies have indicated that female literacy is a strong predictor of the use of contraception among married Indian couples, even when women do not otherwise have economic independence. The census provided a positive indication that growth in female literacy rates (11.8%) was substantially faster than in male literacy rates (6.9%) in the 2001–2011 decadal period, which means the gender gap appears to be narrowing.

Objective of the Study:

- To study the literacy rate in India

India's literacy rate is an important aspect of its social and educational landscape. Here is an overview of the literacy rate in India:

Definition of Literacy: In India, literacy is defined as the ability of individuals aged seven years and above to read and write with understanding in any language. The definition includes both basic literacy skills and a level of comprehension.

Literacy Rate Trends: Over the years, India has made significant progress in improving its literacy rate. According to the latest available data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) of India, the overall literacy rate in India for the year 2017-18 was estimated to be 77.7%. This represented an increase from the previous estimate of 74.0% in 2011-12.

Gender Disparity: Gender disparity in literacy rates has been a notable concern in India. Historically, there has been a significant gap between male and female literacy rates. However, the gender gap has been gradually decreasing over the years. As per the 2017-18 estimates, the male literacy rate stood at 84.7%, while the female literacy rate was 70.3%.

Regional Variations: Literacy rates in India vary across different states and union territories. Some states have achieved high literacy rates, while others continue to face challenges. States such as Kerala, Mizoram, and Lakshadweep have traditionally reported higher literacy rates, while states like Bihar, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have lower literacy rates. Factors such as access to education, socio-economic conditions, and cultural factors contribute to these regional variations.

Government Initiatives: The Indian government has implemented several initiatives to promote literacy and education across the country. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), launched in 2001, aims to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) are also government initiatives focused on improving literacy rates and educational opportunities.

Challenges and Efforts: Despite progress, India still faces challenges in achieving universal literacy. Some of the key challenges include access to quality education in rural and remote areas, inadequate infrastructure and resources, socio-economic disparities, and cultural barriers. Efforts are being made to address these challenges through policies, investments in education, teacher training programs, and awareness campaigns.

Importance of Literacy: Literacy plays a crucial role in individual empowerment, economic development, and social progress. It enables individuals to access information, participate in economic activities, make informed decisions, and engage in civic and democratic processes. Higher literacy rates are associated with improved healthcare outcomes, reduced poverty, and overall societal well-being.

It is important to note that the literacy rate is a dynamic indicator that can change over time. The government and various stakeholders continue to work towards improving literacy rates and ensuring quality education for all in India.

Scope & Limitation of the Study:

With so many factors playing a role in India's illiteracy issue, there is no single solution that can bring about immediate change. But there are some small steps that can pave the way for higher literacy rates:

Free education

Flexible schedules

Vocational training

Raising awareness among underprivileged societies Empowering

educated teachers.

India's literacy rate continues to be below the global average, despite concentrated and prolonged efforts. Illiteracy is poisonous for the development of any country. It can result in other bigger issues like unemployment, population burst, poverty, etc. It is one of the main issues India has had to deal with since independence. Efforts made by NGOs and the government have resulted in a

slight drop in the illiteracy rate in India. But although we're making some progress, it's not enough. There are still so many things we can do to help eradicate illiteracy in our country.

You may think that it's not your problem. But the bigger picture remains that a high illiteracy rate holds a nation back from making progress. It is affecting all of us in ways that we can't even imagine. We all need to come together to help underprivileged children get better education because they are our country's future.

Not only the government, but every literate person needs to accept the eradication of illiteracy as a personal goal. Each and every contribution by a literate person can make a contribution to eradicate the menace. One of the initiatives is "Teach India", whose aim is to provide a platform to educated Indians to provide assistance in basic education to the unprivileged children.

As in the words of Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Research Methods & Design:

Types of data

Primary Data

The primary data is new the information which is not used it will mainly consist of the questionnaire and observation

Secondary Data

Secondary data is already published data. It is the data which is funded or collected by someone else before and presently used by further research work. Secondary data for the base of the project I collected from Newspapers, Books & through internet.

Reference:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literacy_in_India#:~:text=Presently%20Tripura%20has%20the%20third,2011%20census%2C%20was%2074.04%20percent.

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/literacy-in-india-the-gender-and-age-dimension-57150/>