



Gender Disparities in Literacy Pattern in the Malaprabha Command Area, Karnataka State- a geographical approach

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ABSTRACT

Literacy and Education are reasonably good qualitative indicators and plays a very crucial role in the social and economic development of a country. Spread and diffusion of literacy is positively associated with the essential traits of today's civilization such as, modernization, industrialization, urbanization, communication, trade and commerce. The present paper is an attempt to analyze the gender disparities in the literacy patterns in the Malaprabha Command Area, Karnataka State. India is one of the developing nation of the world, of which the study area is part, are characterized not only by low literacy rates but also by a great disparity in the literacy pattern between male and female, and between rural and urban, a disparity in consonance with differences in necessity, prosperity and opportunity to become literate. Equally striking are the gender disparities in literacy and literacy disparities itself. This study based upon the secondary sources of data, though the study area is a natural region, the taluka/ tehsils has been taken as unit of study. The findings suggest that there is undoubtedly significant disparities between male and female literacy pattern in the Malaprabha Command Area. These disparities existed at all level but at village level it's even higher than the female rural literacy rate in the study area. The general reasons for this are; backwardness of area, poverty, lack of awareness, conservative mindedness, lack of opportunities and male dominated social setup.

KEYWORDS : Gender Disparities, Rural & Urban, Literacy Pattern, Population Distribution, Development.

Introduction:

Literacy and Education are reasonably good qualitative indicators of development and plays a very crucial role in the social and economic development of a country. Spread and diffusion of literacy is positively associated with the essential traits of today's civilization such as, modernization, industrialization, urbanization, communication, trade and commerce. Literacy is one of the important demographic elements, which is a good measure of human process towards modernization. It is also the social characteristics and forms a significant input in the overall development of individuals enabling them to comprehend their economic, social, political and cultural environment better and respond to it properly.

Higher levels of literacy and education lead to greater awareness and also contribute in improvement of overall conditions. It acts as catalyst of social upliftment enhancing the returns on investments made in almost every aspect of development effort, be it population control, health, hygiene, environmental degradation control, empowerment of women and weaker sections of the society. Lack of literacy on the other hand acts as a break on the social advancement, economic progress and political maturity of a society. Thus, literacy is that qualitative attribute of population which is a fairly reliable index of socio-economic development of an area.

The Indian Census defines, a person aged seven and above, who can both read, write and understanding in any language, is treated as literate. Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write at least a simple message in any language. India is a developing nation of the world, of which the study area is part, are characterized not only by low literacy rates but also by a great disparity in the literacy pattern between male and female, and between rural and urban, a disparity in consonance with differences in necessity, prosperity and opportunity to become literate. The gender disparities in literacy rates are alarming. Thus gender disparity in literacy is conspicuous. In India, male literacy is higher than female literacy. The male and female disparities in literacy pattern continued to be unacceptably high. Despite progress in female education over the past five decades, the vast majority of women have remained illiterate. The National Policy of Education, 1986 has set down some guidelines to bridge the gender discrimination.

The disparity between male and female literacy is a sensitive indicator of social discrimination. The gender gap in education occurs when there are systematic differences in schooling levels between men and women. It is a useful appraisal for providing facts of the inequalities that exists between the genders in terms of access to school. At the same time,

the rural urban disparities in literacy pattern are essentially a function of the different rates of change taking place in villages and towns. The pace of the process depends on the intensity of interaction between the two elements i.e. gender and literacy or locality and literacy.

This problem has attracted attention of many scholars from different sciences resulting in a voluminous and diverse literature from various perspectives. Some of the important contributions are by Zachariah (1962), Krishna and Chandna (1974), Gurumurthy (1976), Siddiqui (1977), Mishra (1980), Ahmed and Nuna (1986), Sagar (1990), Ali (1995), Siddiqui and Naseer (2004) Kaushik (2011) and others. But perhaps there is no particular study on gender disparities in literacy pattern at taluka level. Keeping these observations in view, in the present study, an attempt has been made to analyze the gender disparities in literacy pattern in Malaprabha Command Area, Karnataka State.

Objectives:

The paper is pursued with the following objectives:

- To find out the taluka level variations in the total literacy rate, rural and urban literacy rate in Malaprabha Command Area.
- To highlight level of gender disparities in the total literacy rate, rural and urban literacy rate in study area.
- To make the comparative analysis of the distribution of population and literacy pattern in span of two time scale i.e. 2001 and 2011.
- Finally suggest some suitable measures which can help to reduce gender disparities in literacy pattern.

Data Base and Methodology:

The present study is mainly based on the secondary sources of data. Data for the present analysis has been obtained mainly from District Census C. D. of Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag and Bagalkot districts, of 2001 and 2011 Census from Directorate of Census Operations, Bangalore Karnataka State; besides this, data were also collected from various government offices in the districts. Presently the taluka has been considered as the smallest unit of analysis. To achieve the objectives mentioned above the relevant method of quantitative analysis has been employed. For the identification of taluka level literacy rate and gender disparities in total, rural and urban literacy rate raw data is converted into the percentage and after that, with the help of values of mean and standard deviation all the talukas are arranged into three categories of high, medium and low grade areas. At last results were presented with of suitable diagrams.

Study Area and its Geographical Personality:

The Command Area Development Authority, Malprabha Command

Area Project, Belgaum has come into existence under the provision of Karnataka Command Area Development Act, 1974 for the comprehensive and systematic development of the Area covered by the Malaprabha Major Irrigation Project.

The Malaprabha Command Area of Karnataka state is located in the northern part of state and is one of the major irrigation projects playing a very important role in extending irrigation benefits to area consisting 9 talukas of Belgaum, Bagalkot, Dharwad and Gadag districts. The command area lies between 15° 24' 02" to 16° 36' 19" N. latitudes and 74° 26' 43" to 75° 56' 33" E. longitudes, covering 2, 20, 028 ha of land, out of which 74,043 ha in Belgaum 23,979 ha in Bagalkot and 41,638 ha in Dharwad and 80,368 ha in Gadag District [Fig.No:1]. The command area is positioned in eastern Deccan/Karnataka plateau, which forms part of transition and dry agro-climatic zones of the state and receive monsoon rainfall as same as our nation with slight variations. Droughts and famines are part of life of people in the study region. Deep black cotton soils are ubiquitous in command area. Jowar besides other drought-resistant inferior small millet crops is a traditionally predominant crop. The Command area accounts 2.39 million persons, out of which 1.21 million populations (50.6%) are males and 1.18 million population (49.4%) females (Census, 2011). As per 2011 census figures, only 23.54 percent population living in urban centers, total literacy rate of the command area is 72.53 percent which is below the state average (75.60%) and also the national average (74.04%). Male literacy rate is 82.63percent and female literacy rate is 62.26percent.



Fig.No:1

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Total Literacy Rate 2011 & 2001:

As per Census 2011, the total literacy rate in the Malaprabha Command Area stands at 72.53 percent (61.95% in 2001), which is about 2.97 per-

cent (4.69% in 2001) lower than the literacy rate of Karnataka (75.60%) state and nearly 1.41 percent (2.85% in 2001) lower than the literacy rate of India (74.04%) in the same census. In 2011 male literacy rate is 82.63 percent (75.46% in 2001); where as female literacy rate is 62.26 percent (48.10% in 2001). Table No; 1 presents the taluka wise literacy rates, disparity in literacy level and decadal differences in literacy rates by sex in Malaprabha Command Area according to 2001 and 2011 census[Fig No: 2 & 3]. Naragund (81.62%) taluka tops the first rank in respect of total literacy rate and male (93.46%) literacy rate followed by Gadag (78.88%) taluka. The distribution of male literacy rate ranges between as high as 93.46 percent in Naragund taluka to as low as 77.53 percent in Ramadurga taluka. In respect of female literacy rate Gadag (70.84%) taluka ranks first followed by Naragund (69.50%) taluka. Ramadurga (66.36%) taluka which has returned less than 67 percent total literacy rate and less than 55 percent female literacy (54.94%) rate ranks last among the talukas of command area.

Decadal Differences in Literacy Rates:

The Table No; 1 also gives the decadal differences in the literacy rates of 2001 and 2011. In terms of total decadal differences in literacy rate for the command area is 10.58 percent, which is above the state (8.96%) and national average (8.69%). Out of nine talukas in command area, six talukas have decadal differences in literacy rate above the average of the study area and three talukas below the study area. Naragund taluka has the highest decadal differences in literacy rate of 17.54 percent followed by 12.10 percent in Saundatti taluka. Gadag taluka has the lowest decadal differences in literacy rate of 7.44 percent.

FIG NO:2 LITERACY RATES & DISPARITY IN LITERACY RATES IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA, [RURAL & URBAN] KARNATAKA AND INDIA, 2001-2011

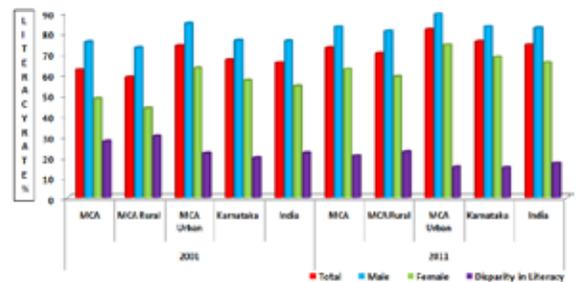
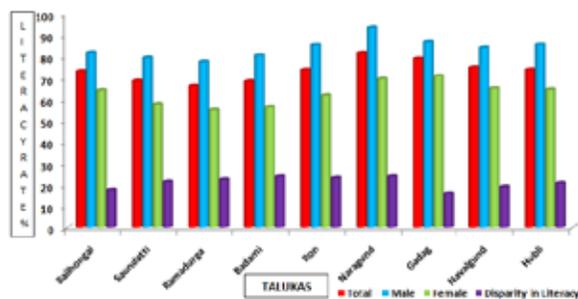


TABLE NO: 1 LITERACY RATES, DISPARITY & DECADAL DIFFERENCES IN LITERACY RATES BY SEX IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA, KARNATAKA & INDIA: 2001-2011

Talukas	2001				2011				Decadal Differences in Literacy Rates %		
	Literacy %		Gap in Literacy (3 - 4)	Total Literacy %	Literacy %		Gap in Literacy (7 - 8)	Total Literacy %	Male (7 - 3)	Female (8 - 4)	Total (10 - 6)
	Male	Female			Male	Female					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bailhongal	75.13	50.77	24.36	63.09	81.80	64.14	17.66	73.03	6.67	13.37	9.94
Saundatti	70.47	42.21	28.26	56.54	79.33	57.69	21.64	68.64	8.86	15.48	12.10
Ramadurga	69.75	40.40	29.35	55.22	77.53	54.94	22.59	66.36	7.78	14.55	11.14
Badami	71.67	41.10	30.27	56.37	80.34	56.43	23.91	68.43	8.67	15.33	12.06
Ron	79.43	48.16	31.27	63.86	85.25	61.94	23.31	73.62	5.82	13.78	9.76
Naragund	78.41	49.18	29.23	64.08	93.46	69.50	23.96	81.62	15.05	20.32	17.54
Gadag	82.64	59.86	22.78	71.44	86.89	70.84	16.05	78.88	4.25	10.98	7.44
Navalagund	77.19	49.96	27.23	63.89	84.02	64.99	19.03	74.67	6.83	15.03	10.78
Hubli	75.54	49.93	25.61	63.09	85.53	64.49	21.04	73.68	9.99	14.56	10.59
Total	75.46	48.10	27.36	61.95	82.63	62.26	20.37	72.53	7.17	14.16	10.58
Karnataka	76.10	56.87	19.23	66.64	82.85	68.13	14.72	75.60	6.75	11.26	8.96
India	75.85	54.16	21.69	65.35	82.14	65.46	16.68	74.04	6.29	11.30	8.69

Source: District Census Handbooks (2001) & Census Abstracts of Karnataka State, 2011

FIG NO: 3 TOTAL LITERACY RATES & DISPARITY IN LITERACY RATES BY SEX IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA; 2011



Gender Disparities in Total Literacy Rate:

The Table No; 1 presents the gender based disparity in literacy and decadal difference in literacy rates by sex for 2001-2011. It is quite evident from the table that the gender disparity in literacy rate between 2001 and 2011 censuses had narrowed down over the period of ten years in all the talukas of study area. It may be observed from the table that the decadal difference in literacy rate depicts high among female compared to male in all the talukas of the study area.

Gender disparity in total literate rate is 20.37 percent during 2011 in Malaprabha Command Area, which is 5.65 percent lower than Karnataka state (14.72%) and 3.69 percent lower than India (16.68%). Gender disparity is not homogeneous at the taluka level [Fig No: 3]. It is low as 16.05 percent in Gadag taluka to as high 23.96 percent in Naragund taluka. With the help of statistical techniques mean and standard deviation all the talukas of study area are divided in to three categories. High grade (22 percent and above) is noted in four talukas. All these talukas are formed one high grade region in the north-eastern part of study area. They are namely Naragund (23.96%), Badami (23.9%),

Ron (23.31%) and Ramadurga (22.59 %). Saundatti (21.64%), Hubli (21.04%) and Navalgund (19.03%) talukas are observed in the Medium grade (18 to 22 percent) and form a region, located in north, western and central part of the study area. two talukas are noted in the Low grade (below 18 percent) and these talukas are located in two different direction. One such a taluka Bailhongal (17.66%) is in the northwestern direction and Gadag (16.05%) taluka in south eastern part of study area.

Rural Literacy Rate 2011 & 2001:

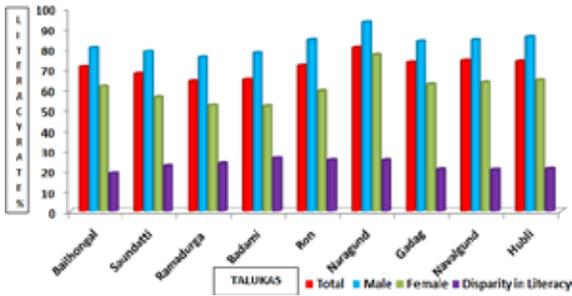
As per Census 2011, the rural literacy rate of command area is 69.76 percent (58.19% in 2001), the male literacy rate is 80.71 percent (72.61% in 2001), and female literacy rate is 58.55 percent (43.30% in 2001). Rural literacy rate ranges between 80.47 percent in Naragund taluka to 63.98 percent in Ramadurga taluka in the Malaprabha Command Area in 2011. Male literacy rate is 80.71 percent in the Command Area. The highest percentage of rural male literacy rate is registered in Naragund taluka (92.79%) followed by Hubli taluka (85.53%), and the lowest observed in Ramadurga taluka (75.64%). Table No; 2, emphasizes the average rural female literacy rate in 2011 is 58.55 percent (43.30% in 2001) more than the male literacy rate. It is quite surprising that out of nine talukas, only five talukas have crossed the 60 percent mark in the rural female literacy rate in 2011, where as in 2001, none of the taluka has crossed even the 50 percent mark in the rural female rate. As shown in Fig No: 4 high percentage of rural female literacy rate is noted in Naragund (67.69%) taluka on the other side low percentage mark in Badami (51.55%) taluka.

In terms of decadal differences in rural literacy rate for the command area is 11.57 percent. Out of nine talukas in command area, four talukas have decadal differences in literacy rate above the average of the study area and five talukas below the study area. Naragund taluka has the highest decadal differences in literacy rate of 17.02 percent followed by 14.50% in Badami taluka. Gadag taluka has the lowest decadal differences in literacy rate of 9.84 percent. Compared to the male (8.10%), female (15.25%) decadal differences in literacy rate is high in study area.

TABLE NO: 2 RURL LITERACY RATES, DISPARITY & DECADAL DIFFERENCES IN LITERACY RATES BY SEX IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA: 2001-2011

Talukas	2001				2011				Decadal Differences in Literacy Rates %		
	Literacy %		Gap in Literacy (3 - 4)	Total Literacy %	Literacy %		Gap in Literacy (7 - 8)	Total Literacy %	Male (7 - 3)	Female (8 - 4)	Total (10 - 6)
	Male	Female			Male	Female					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bailhongal	73.41	48.17	25.24	60.97	80.37	61.52	18.85	71.04	6.96	13.35	10.07
Saundatti	69.06	39.88	29.18	54.67	78.56	56.13	22.43	67.49	9.50	16.25	12.87
Ramadurga	66.78	36.17	30.61	51.63	75.64	52.01	23.63	63.98	8.86	15.84	12.35
Badami	66.58	33.89	32.69	50.19	77.69	51.55	26.14	64.69	11.11	17.66	14.50
Ron	77.83	44.80	33.03	61.35	84.16	59.05	25.11	71.67	6.33	14.25	10.32
Naragund	78.83	47.41	31.42	63.45	92.79	67.69	25.10	80.47	13.96	20.28	17.02
Gadag	77.25	48.75	28.50	63.27	83.43	62.58	20.85	73.11	6.18	13.83	9.84
Navalagund	77.07	48.43	28.64	63.10	84.11	63.46	20.65	74.03	7.04	15.03	10.93
Hubli	75.54	49.93	25.61	63.09	85.53	64.49	21.04	73.68	9.99	14.56	10.59
Total	72.61	43.30	29.21	58.19	80.71	58.55	22.16	69.76	8.10	15.25	11.57

FIG NO:4 RURAL LITERACY RATE & DISPARITY IN LITERACY RATE BY SEX IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA, 2011



Gender Disparities in Rural Literacy Rate:

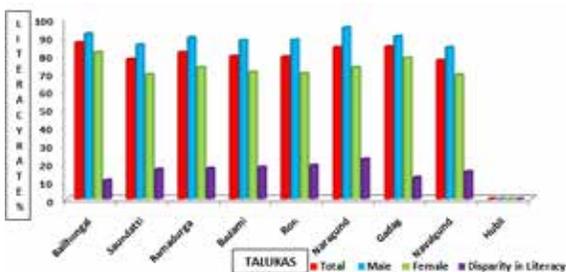
The average of gender disparity in rural literacy rate is noted 22.16 percent in command area. This is lower than the gender disparity rate (29.21%) registered in the previous decade. This disparity is not equal in all talukas of the command area. It is highest in Badami taluka (26.14 %) and lowest in Bailhongal taluka (18.85%). Three talukas are noted in High grade (25 percent and above) of gender disparity in rural

TABLE NO: 3 URBAN LITERACY RATES, DISPARITY & DECADAL DIFFERENCES IN LITERACY RATES BY SEX IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA: 2001-2011

Talukas	2001				2011				Decadal Differences in Literacy Rates %		
	Literacy %		Gap in Literacy (3 - 4)	Total Literacy %	Literacy %		Gap in Literacy (7 - 8)	Total Literacy %	Male (7 - 3)	Female (8 - 4)	Total (10 - 6)
	Male	Female			Male	Female					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bailhongal	87.07	69.12	17.95	78.17	91.51	81.16	10.35	86.27	4.44	12.04	8.10
Saundatti	80.30	58.60	21.70	69.65	85.15	69.01	16.14	77.06	4.85	10.41	7.41
Ramadurga	84.73	61.58	23.15	73.22	89.49	72.79	16.70	81.10	4.76	11.21	7.88
Badami	85.27	60.66	24.61	73.02	87.95	70.20	17.75	79.05	2.68	9.54	6.03
Ron	83.72	57.32	26.40	70.67	88.17	69.46	18.71	78.75	4.45	12.14	8.08
Naragund	77.62	52.41	25.21	65.24	94.72	72.74	21.98	83.73	17.10	20.33	18.49
Gadag	87.45	69.88	17.57	78.84	90.09	78.24	11.85	84.13	2.64	8.36	5.29
Navalagund	77.52	54.09	23.43	66.02	83.79	68.88	14.91	76.36	6.27	14.79	10.34
Hubli	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	84.38	62.83	21.55	73.45	88.91	73.96	14.95	81.40	10.93	11.13	7.95

The Command area experiences the decadal differences in urban literacy rate at about 7.95 percent in 2011. Decadal differences in urban literacy rate ranges between 18.49 percent in Naragund taluka to 5.29 percent in Gadag taluka in the Malaprabha Command Area in 2011. Out of nine talukas five talukas have the decadal differences rate above the average of study area.

FIG NO: 5 URBAN LITERACY RATES & DISPARITY IN LITERACY RATES BY SEX IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA, 2011



Gender Disparities in Urban Literacy Rate:

The average of gender disparity in urban literacy rate is noted 14.95

literacy rate. The spatial distribution of these talukas is located in the north-eastern part including Badami (26.14%), Ron (25.11%) and Naragund (25.10%) and form a region. The talukas of Medium grade (22 to 25 percent) consist of Ramadurga (23.63%) and Saundatti (22.43%) talukas formed a region in northern part of command area. the remaining four talukas namely Hubli (21.04%), Gadag (20.85%), Navalagund (20.65%), and Bailhongal (18.85%) are observed in Low grade (below 22 percent). All these talukas are marked in western and southern part of the study area.

Urban Literacy Rate 2011 & 2001:

The urban literacy rate is 81.40 percent in command area during 2011, whereas it was 73.45 percent in 2001 census. Highest percentage of urban literacy rate manifested in Bailhongal taluka (86.27%) followed by Gadag taluka (84.13%) where as lowest percentage is marked in Navalagund taluka (76.36%). Table no; 3 illustrate urban literacy rates disparity and decadal differences in literacy rates of Malaprabha Command Area for 2001 and 2011. In 2011 male urban literacy rate and female urban literacy rate is observed 88.91 percent (84.38% in 2001) and 73.96 percent (62.83% in 2001) respectively. Male urban literacy rate ranges between 94.72 percent in Naragund taluka to 83.79 percent in Navalagund taluka where as female literacy rate ranges between 81.16 in Bailhongal taluka to 68.88 percent in Navalagund taluka[Fig No: 5].

percent in command area, and this is also lower than the urban literacy rate (21.55%) recorded in 2001. All the talukas are grouped into three categories of High (20 percent and above), Medium (15 - 20 percent) and Low (below 15 percent) grade. Naragund (21.98%) is only one taluka in the command area marked with high grade of gender disparity and a formed a region in the central part of the command area. Medium grade in gender disparity is observed in four talukas and formed a region in the north and eastern part of the area. talukas of medium grade are arranged in descending order of their percentages as Ron (18.71%), Badami (17.75%), Ramadurga (16.70 %) and Saundatti (16.14 %). As shown in Fig No: 8, low grade in gender disparity noted in the Navalagund (14.91%), Gadag (11.85%) and Bailhongal (10.35%) and Navalagund situated in centre, Gadag and Bailhongal in opposite direction of the study area.

Distribution of Population and Literates by Literates Rate:

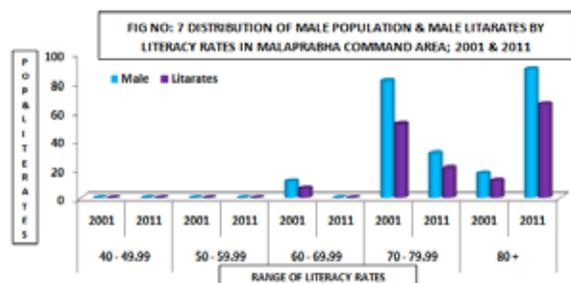
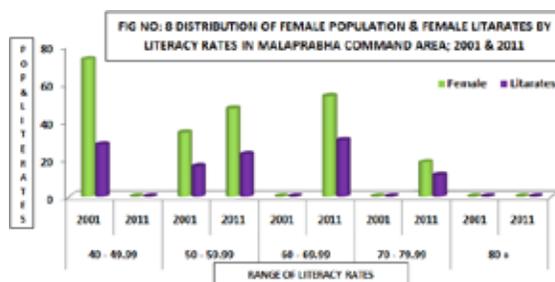
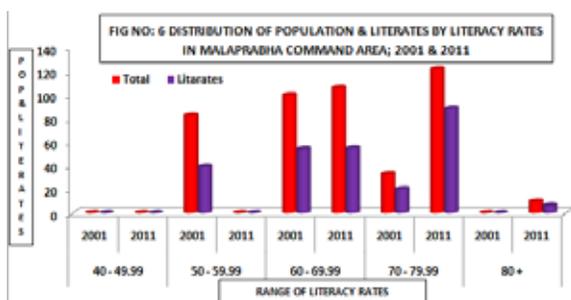
The comparable analysis of the distribution of population and literates by literacy rates in Malaprabha Command Area of the 2001 and 2011 censuses have been presented in the Table No; 4. As per the figures of 2011 census, numbers of talukas falling under different ranges of literacy rate as given in the table have remarkably changed during the decade. None of the talukas in the study area has below the 60 percent literacy rate, where as in 2001, three talukas had fallen under below the 60 percent rate and none of the taluka was under the range of 80

+ literacy rate in the study area. The three talukas namely Saundatti, Ramdugra and Badami that fall in the range of 60 – 69.99 percent rate of literacy during 2011. These talukas have the 44.59 percent of total population and 36.57 percent of total literates of the command area. Five talukas in the command area have literacy rate above the 70 per-

cent, more than 51 percent of total population and 59 percent of total literate habitats in this range of talukas. Naragund is the only taluka that falls in the range of 80 + percent rate and having the 4.21 percent of total population and 4.35 percent of total literates during 2011.

TABLE NO: 4 DISTRIBUTIONS OF POPULATION AND LITERATES BY LITERACY RATES IN MALAPRABHA COMMAND AREA AND KARNATAKA STATE: 2001-2011 SHARE OF TALUKAS

Range of Literacy Rate	No of Talukas	2001				No of Talukas	2011			
		Population		Literates			Population		Literates	
		Absolute	%	Absolute	%		Absolute	%	Absolute	%
Total	9	2164678	100	1139878	100	9	2388524	100	1499618	100
40 – 49.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 – 59.99	3	831029	38.39	391669	34.36	-	-	-	-	-
60 – 69.99	5	1001638	46.27	542872	47.63	3	1064978	44.59	548405	36.57
70 – 79.99	1	332011	15.34	205337	18.01	5	1222923	51.20	885920	59.08
80 +	-	-	-	-	-	1	100623	04.21	65293	04.35
Male										
Total	9	1098130	100	702796	100	9	1207211	100	861091	100
40 – 49.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 – 59.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60 – 69.99	1	115286	10.50	66941	09.53	-	-	-	-	-
70 – 79.99	7	813957	74.12	515109	73.29	2	309665	25.65	207926	24.15
80 +	1	168887	15.38	120746	17.18	7	897546	74.35	653165	75.85
Female										
Total	9	1066548	100	437082	100	9	1181313	100	638527	100
40 – 49.99	7	727945	68.25	276436	63.25	-	-	-	-	-
50 – 59.99	2	338603	31.75	160646	36.75	3	465903	39.44	226082	35.41
60 – 69.99	-	-	-	-	-	5	532724	45.10	297967	46.66
70 – 79.99	-	-	-	-	-	1	182686	15.46	114478	17.93
80 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



With regard to males, seven talukas can be proud of having more than 80 + range of literacy rate, with more than 75 percent total male population and male literates. Naragund is the evidence of highest rate of literacy (93.46%) among the above seven talukas of command area. However, the scenario is not so remarkable in case of females. Except Gadag (70.84%) taluka, there are eight talukas, which have less than 70 percent female literacy rate, but in 2001, out of nine talukas, seven talukas falling below the 50 percent rate and remaining two talukas falling below the 60 percent literacy rate. Share of population and literates in less than 70 percent range have 84.54 percent of female population and 82.07 percent female literates in command area [Fig No:6 to 8].

CONCLUSION:

The analysis clearly indicates that there is an undoubtedly significant wide range of variations and narrowed down over the period of ten years in gender disparities in literacy rate between 2001 and 2011 censuses among the talukas of Malaprabha Command Area. It is also observed from the analysis that the decadal difference in literacy rate depicts high among female compared to male in all the talukas of the study area. The observations further added that the gender disparities in the western and southeastern talukas are relatively low as compared to the northern and eastern talukas of command area.

Gender disparities in total literacy rate is 20.37 percent (27.36% in 2001), where as in rural area is 22.16 percent (29.21% in 2001) and in urban area is 14.95 percent (21.55% in 2001) in Malaprabha Command Area during 2011. At the taluka level about 24 percent of variant is marked in gender disparity in literacy. In high grade talukas namely Naragund, Badami, Ron and Ramdurga the disparities in literacy rate is problematic. Especially in Naragund taluka the gap in total literacy rate is 23.96 percent followed by Badami taluka (23.91%) and gap in urban literacy rate is 21.98 percent followed by Ron taluka (18.71%), in Badami taluka the gap in rural literacy rate is 26.14 percent followed by Ron taluka (25.11%) in the study area. All these talukas witnessed in high percentage of gender gap in total, rural and urban literacy rate. Gadag taluka is noted in low grade of gender gap in total literacy rate and where as Bailhongal is noted in low grade of gender gap in rural and urban literacy rate.

To execute these gender disparities in literacy in Malaprabha Command Area proper educational opportunities should be provided more at village level than the urban centers. For further narrowing of disparities in literacy rate in especially rural areas, the need is to provide transport, free education, strong security of girls and bank loan

facilities etc. Create a learning environs where women demand knowledge and information, empowering themselves to change their lives. Literacy campaigns have heightened social awareness among women regarding the importance of education, both for themselves as well as for their children. A time frame should be set to eliminate the existing gap between gender, first by ensuring universal and equal access to and completion of primary education by all girls. Only then we can stop social discrimination and economic exploitation of nearly half of our population and fulfill the concept of social justice and achieve social and economic development of society. We sum up the paper in following citation **EDUCATION** connotes;

Eliminate the existing gender
Disparities in literacy rate
Urgently needs to
Create
Ample facilities of learning environs with
Time frame and
Integrated educational
Opportunities need to be provided
Not only to the urban centers but also to the rural areas.

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