



## Geographical Analysis of Shirurtahsil's Literacy, Pune District, Ms

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### ABSTRACT

*Literacy is one of the demographic characteristics which determines the rate of fertility, size of family, attitude about the female child, level of human resource development, socio-economic condition etc. It is the one of the determinants of eradicating poverty reduction, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development.*

*By taking into consideration the importance of literacy and its characteristics, an attempt has been made to analyze the circle-wise effective literacy, sex-wise literacy and literacy pattern in Shirur Tahsil of Pune District. The circle has been taken as a unit for analysis. For the detail analysis of literacy, 117 villages and 6 circles of this tahsil have been studied by applying the 1991, 2001 and 2011 census data from Town and Village Directory of Pune District. MS-Excel was applied to process and represent the data. ArcGIS was employed to prepare the base map and thematic maps of the study area.*

*The study has observed that in Shirurtahsil, the effective literacy was recorded only 68.15 percent in 1991 and it reached upto 82.37 percent in 2011. It showed 26 percent remarkable positive growth during the last two decades due to the development of educational facilities, transportation, agricultural and economic development etc.*

**KEYWORDS :** Literacy, literacy pattern, Effective Literacy and Sex-wise literacy.

### Introduction:

Any person above the age of seven years, who can read and write in any language is treated as literate (Husain, 2011). It increases one's knowledge and understanding against exploitation, injustice and help in decision-making and getting better employment opportunities and plays a crucial role in socio-economic well-being. It is essential for poverty reduction, mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy (Godase, 2014). The quality of population can be judged from the level of literacy. Poor literacy hinders economic development and in case of females even retards the progress of family planning programmes (Tiwari, 2006). It increases one's knowledge and understanding against exploitation, injustice and help in decision-making and getting better employment opportunities and plays a crucial role in socio-economic well-being.

### Study Area:

Shirur Tahsil of Pune District is selected for the present research work. Shirur tahsil occupies eastern place in Pune district of Maharashtra State. It lies entirely in the Ghodnadiand Bhima basin and extends between 18 05' N to 19 0 02' N latitude and 74 0 01' E to 74 0 57' E longitudes, comprising an area of 1651.30 sq. km. The study area is included in Survey of India Topographic Index Numbers 47J/1, 47J/2, 47J/5, 47J/6, 47J/10 and 47J/11 on 1 : 50,000.

This tahsil is confined by Ahmadnagar District to east and north-east, Shirurtahsil to west, Ambegaontahsil to north-west and Haveli tahsil to South. Shirurtahsil is divided into

six circles, namely Pabal, Shirur, Takali-Haji, TalegaonDhamdhere, Nharava and Vadgaon-Rasai and covering 117 villages. In 2011 Shirurtahsil had 3,85,414 population as per 2011 census. Shirur is the administrative headquarter of Shirurtahsil and it is only 67 km from Pune, 55 km from Ahmadnagar and well connected by Major State Highway (MSH) 5.

### Objective:

To examine circle-wise effective literacy of Shirurtahsil of Pune District from the year 1991 to 2011.

To assess the Spatio-temporal changes in effective literacy pattern of Shirurtahsil.

### Database and Methodology:

Present research work is based on secondary data sources. Literacy data of 117 villages was obtained from the Census data of 1991, 2001 and 2011 and Pune District socio-economic statistical abstract of 2001 and 2013. MS-Excel was applied to process, analyze and represent this data. High, moderate and low literacy patterns were examined in detail. ArcGIS software was applied to prepare the base maps and thematic maps.

### Discussion:

Literacy has been defined as the ability both to read and write with understanding in any language of children who are above six years of age. It reflects the socio-economic cultural set up of a community. From the demographic point of view, literacy rate and level of educational development are regarded as key variables affecting fertility, mortality and migration (Patil, 2014). It is the heart of basic education for all and essential for eradicating, poverty reduction, mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy (Singh, 2013). It is considered as one of the most important social aspects of any society's development, especially of rural areas and it denotes essential criterion of human development. It is measured by using literacy rate, which are percentages of literate people.

### Literacy of Shirur Tahsil:

As per literacy data of 2011, Shirurtahsil ranked 9th in Pune District. The level of literacy varies from village to village, circle to circle and from rural to urban area. The Effective Literacy Rate is the ratio of the total literate population and the population ageing between 7 years and above which is expressed in percentage. Table no. 1 shows the circle-wise effective literacy rate during the last two decades.

**Fig. no. 1: Location Map of Shirurtahsil**



**Circle-wise Effective Literacy of ShirurTahsil :**

The quality of education, social development, wealth of a region can be understood by understanding the literacy ratio (Wagh, 2013).It is observed that from 1991 to 2011, the rate of literacy is continuously increasing in all the circles of ShirurTahsil. In 1991, ShirurTahsil's effective literacy were 68.15 percent while those were reached to 82.37 percent in 2011. The rate of effective literacy was increased by 14.22 percent from 1991 to 2011.

The lowest literacy rate was observed in Takali Haji Circle (47.53 percent) in 1991 and 66.48 percent in 2001 and followed by Pabal Circle (52.22 percent in 1991 and 72.03 percent in 2001). High distribution of schedule tribe population, agro-based economy, religious background, low standard of living, less development of means of transportation and communication and limited number of educational and technological institutions are the main causes of low rate of literacy in these circles. However the highest growth was recorded in Takali Haji circle in literacy and it was by 18.95 percent in the first decade while during the span of two decades the growth was 29.85 percent.

**Table No.1: Circle-wise Effective Literacy of ShirurTahsil (Year 1991-2011)**

Circles	Effective Literacy (ER) in Percent			Circles	Effective Literacy (ER) in Percent		
	1991	2001	2011		1991	2001	2011
Takali Haji	47.53	66.48	77.38	Nhawara	60.31	69.58	80.10
Pabal	55.22	72.03	79.23	VadgaonRasai	56.16	71.97	79.88
Shirur	116.07	79.69	84.74	ShirurTahsil	68.15	74.00	82.37
Talegaon Dhamdhere	63.18	77.76	86.38				

(Source:Population Census of Pune District 1991,2001 and 2011 and computed by researcher)

Shirur circle had highest effective literacy in 1991 and 2001 and TalegaonDhamdhere circle had the highest effective literacy in 2011 (86.38 percent). Concentration of more urban population, availability of educational and technical institutions, road transportation facilities are the main determinants of high literacy. Shirur circle had the lowest growth in literacy during the decade 2001 to 2011 and the negative change was observed in the first decade and during the two decades.

**Sex-wise Effective Literacy:**

Swami Vivekananda: "Soul has no sex; it is neither male nor female. It is only in the body that sex exists, and the man who desires to reach the spirit cannot at the same time hold sex distinctions". The best thermometer to the progress of a nation is its treatment of its women." Women education plays a vital role in certain reproductive decisions such as marriage timing, fertility and contraceptive use. The female literacy rate expresses the rate and magnitude of development. Literacy attainment is a part of large societal change and needs to be placed in proper perspectives (Bano, 2012).

The sex-wise percentage ratio of literate persons in total population is shown in Fig. no. 4 which reveals that the number of literate males is more as compared to females in Shirur Tahsil and all the circles of Shirur Tahsil during 1991 to 2011. The effective literacy of male was 84.77 percent while the female literacy was approximately 50 percent in 1991. The notable increase in effective literacy rate was recorded in case of female and it was 49.92 percent in 1991 and reached to 75.16 percent in 2011.

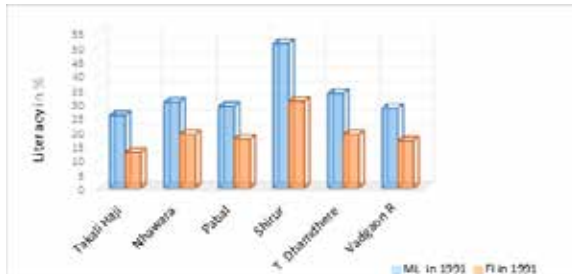
**Table No. 4:Sex-wise Percentage Ratio of Effective Literacy**

Circle	Effective Literacy in 1991		Effective Literacy in 2001		Effective Literacy in 2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Takali Haji	63.79	31.40	79.11	53.79	85.90	68.66
Pabal	69.82	40.97	82.96	58.04	87.75	70.50
Shirur	142.24	85.10	86.68	66.29	90.13	78.80

TalegaonDhamdhere	76.86	48.05	87.12	67.03	91.83	80.25
Nhawara	74.64	46.12	80.46	58.16	88.01	71.70
VadgaonRasai	69.23	39.66	81.91	61.52	86.76	72.47
ShirurTahsil	84.77	49.92	83.82	61.86	89.05	75.16

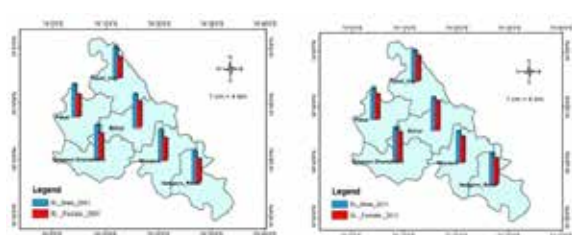
(Source : Population Census of Pune District 1991,2001 and 2011 and computed by researcher)

**Fig. No. 4 :Sex-wise Percentage Ratio of Literacy in 1991**



In 1991 and 2001, the highest literate males and females were observed in Shirur circle and followed by TalegaonDhamdhere circle whereas in 2011, TalegaonDhamdhere stood first in male and female literacy and Shirur Circle ranked second. In case of effective literacy, Shirur circle had the highest male and female literacy in 1991 but TalegaonDhamdhere circle recorded highest male and female literacy in 2001 and 2011. The recent development of transportation network and communication has added a new dimension to the process of propagation of female literacy and education in these circles. Both these circles interact more with nearby educational and technological institutes and urban areas.

**Fig. No. 2 :ShirurTahsil - Sex-wise Effective Literacy (EL) in 2001**



The lowest effective literacy was recorded in Takali Haji Circle during study period. It is observed that women are granted low status in comparison to men. Particularly in rural area the expenditure of girls education is not thinking the future investment whereas the expenditure of marriage is considered as a responsibility. Due to early marriage system, dowry system, low status in the society, females are not allowed to migrate for their higher education and they remain confined to four walls of the house only.

**Spatial Pattern of Literacy:**

Effective literacy is taken into consideration while grouping the literacy pattern. Circle-wise effective literacy is classified into low, moderate and high literacy categories. Literacy pattern depicts the favourable factors of literacy development and the overall development of the Shirur Tahsil.

**Low Literacy Rate from 1991 to 2011:**

The circles having less than 60 percent literacy are included in low literacy pattern. In 1991, Takali Haji, Pabal and VadgaonRasai circles had less than 60 percent literacy because of the poor transportation and educational facilities. It is observed due to the dominance of rural area, poor access of educational facilities, prejudices against the females' education and females' mobility for education, the low status granted to the females, lack of educational institutions for the females, prevalence of early marriage, lack of education awareness, low standard of living etc. In 2001 and 2011, no one circle had included in low literacy pattern.

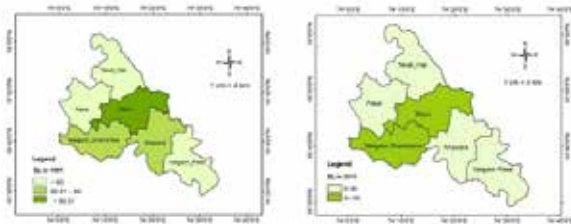
**Moderate Literacy Rate from 1991 to 2011:**

The Circles which recorded the literacy rate between 61 to 80 percent were contained into the moderate literacy rate. Table No. 4 specifies that in 1991 the overall literacy of

**Table No. 4: Circle-wise Literacy Pattern of ShirurTahsil**

Literacy %	Pattern	1991	2001	2011
<60	Low Literacy	Takali Haji, Pabal, VadaonRasai	Nil	Nil
61-80	Moderate Literacy	ShirurTahsil, TalegaonDhamdhare, Nhawara	Takali Haji, Pabal, Shirur, TalegaonDhamdhare, Nhawara, VadaonRasai, ShirurTahsil	Takali Haji, Pabal, VadaonRasai
>80	High Literacy	Shirur	-	Shirur, Nhawara, TalegaonDhamdhare, ShirurTahsil

**Fig. No. 5 :ShirurTahsil -Effective Literacy (EL) Pattern in 1991 and 2011**



ShirurTahsil ranges between this categories in 1991. Among the circles, TalegaonDhamdhare and Nhawara circles had moderate literacy. Saradwadi, Faradwadi, Burunjwadi, Pimple Khalsa, Kohakdwadi, Mukhai, Pabal, RanjangaonGanpati, NimgaonBhogi and Shirur villages detected moderate literacy.

In 2001, all the circles of ShirurTahsil and ShirurTahsil were involved in this category. Takali Haji, Pabal and VadaonRasai shows the positive growth in literacy but the literacy rate was same in 2011. Shirur circle indicates the negative change and it was included from high literacy class to moderate literacy class in 2001.

**High Literacy Rate from 1991 to 2011:**

The circles which have more than 80 percent literacy were mentioned in high literacy category. TalegaonDhamdhare and Nhawara Circles showed the high literacy rate in 2011. Kondhapuri, RanjangaonGanapati, Saradwadi, KoregaonBhima, Shikrapur and TalegaonDhamdhare villages are well connected by MSH 5 and top villages in literacy. The availability of Management and professional famous educational institutions, road transport services promote to change the attitude of education in local people.

**Conclusion:**

As per 2011 census data, Shirur Tahsil ranked 9th in literacy in Pune District. The effective literacy was 68.15 percent in 1991 and extended upto 82.37 percent in 2011.

It is the result of attainment of compulsory and free school education up to age 14 years, and the reduction of drop-out rates.

The lowest literacy was observed in Takali Haji circle during the study period but the highest growth of literacy was in the same circle while the highest literacy was recorded in Shirur Circle during the first decade and in 2011 it was seen in TalegaonDhamdhare circle.

In 2001 and 2011, low rate of literacy was not observed in any circle of the study area whereas Shirur was the only one circle of high literacy in 1991 but Shirur, Nhawara and TalegaonDhamdhare circles were included in high literacy rate in 2011.

The rate of literacy is comparatively is higher among males than females. Rural area, early marriage system, low status of females, traditions and customs affect the literacy rate of female.

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