



An analysis of Growth and Achievement of Literacy in Tripura

KEYWORDS

Tripura, Literacy, Growth of literacy, Achievement

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ABSTRACT

Literacy is a key for socio-economic progress of a nation. The objective of the study is to find out the literacy growth rate and to examine the government initiatives for attaining achievement in literacy in Tripura. The process of modernization of Tripura was started for the last quarter of 19th century. Tripura has made progress in terms of increasing the primary and elementary schools, enrollment and attendance rate, adequate funding for infrastructure, recruitment of teachers and expanding literacy rate. Tripura has achieved the first position in literacy with 96.82 percent beating Kerala (93.91%). Tripura success story is attributed to the involvement of local government bodies, including Gram panchayat, NGOs and clubs under supervision of the State Literacy Mission Authority (SLMA). In Tripura, increase of female literacy is better than their male counterparts. This study explores the nature and causes of successful literacy growth in Tripura.

Education is one of the pillars of modernization and literacy growth rate is an indicator through which the educational growth can be measured partially. Literacy and education are intrinsic to human development. So literacy has always remained as area of importance. One of the declared objectives of state Government is to make all illiterate learners literate. Education is a powerful instrument of social change and often initiates upward movement in the social structure. The educational scenario of Tripura has undergone major changes over the years, results in better provision of education and better educational practices.

Tripura is a hilly state situated in the North-Eastern region of India. The third-smallest state in the country, it covers 10,491.72 sq km (4,051 sq mi) and is bordered by Bangladesh and the Indian states of Assam and Mizoram to the east. Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya was the last king of Tripura during India's Independence and the state's merger in India in 1949. In 1945, a group of educated Tribals formed an organization for mass education called the Jana Siksha Samiti. The samiti opened around 450 primary schools across the Tripura. This is arguably the first organization with in the tribals in India who took up the issue of education and brought that into the arena of public action and mobilization. However, due to the lack of proper educational infrastructure literacy rate was very negligible in Tripura. During the last few years literacy growth rate of the state has increased handsomely. At present, the literacy rate of the state is 96.82 percent. A free and compulsory education was introduced by the Government. There are 4808 Government schools in Tripura as on 30.04.2014. The present study aims to show the review of literacy growth and achievement of literacy.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To review the past scenario of literacy of Tripura.
- To assess the existing literacy rate in Tripura.
- To examine the efforts taken by the Government.

GROWTH OF LITERACY

Literacy in India grew very slowly until independence in 1947. Prior to the British era, education in Indian commenced under the supervision of a guru in Traditional school called Gurukul. In the colonial era, the Gurukul

system began to decline as the system promoted by the British began to gradually take over. In 1944, the government of British India presented a plan, called the sergeant scheme for the educational reconstruction of India. The literacy rate of India grew from 43.57 percent in 1981 to 74.04 percent in 1991.

ACHIEVEMENT IN LITERACY:

The remarkable improvement of Tripura in Literacy is shown in the following Table.

Table 1: Literacy Rates in % in Tripura and other states.

State	1991	2001	2011
Tripura	60.44	73.19	87.22
Arunachal Pradesh	41.59	54.34	66.59
Nagaland	61.65	66.59	80.11
Manipur	59.89	70.53	79.85
Mizoram	82.26	88.80	91.58
Meghalaya	49.1	62.56	75.48
Assam	52.89	63.25	73.18

Source: Economic survey, Government of India, 2012-13

Table 1 show that Tripura has increased its literacy rate by around 27 percent from 60.44 percent to 87.22 percent between 1991 and 2011. Tripura has resulted in an improvement in its rank amongst the Indian states, from 12th in 2001 to 1st position with **96.82 %**.

Gender wise literacy rate in Tripura are shown below.

Table 2: Showing the increase of female literacy rate in % of Tripura

Year	Total	Male	Female	Difference between M & F
1991	60.44	70.58	49.65	20.93
2001	73.20	81.02	64.91	16.11
2011	87.22	91.53	82.73	8.80
2014	96.82	97.93	95.71	2.22

Source: Census of India, 2011 & State Literacy mission

The literacy rate of females during the period from 1991 to 2014 the state managed to increase by **46.06%** -from 49.65 to 95.71 percent while in the case of men the increase was just **27.35%** - from 70.58 percent to 97.93 percent. In Tripura, increase of female literacy is better than their male counterparts.

District-wise literacy rates in the state are mentioned in Table 3.

Table: 3 District wise literacy rate in Tripura.

Districts	Literacy Rate in %		
	2001	2011	2014
Dhalai	60.93	84.68	96.79
North Tripura	72.99	86.91	97.50
Unakoti (New)	N A	85.72	96.07
Khowai (New)	N A	87.78	97.50
West Tripura	77.26	91.07	96.54
Sepahijala (New)	N A	84.68	96.78
South Tripura	69.90	87.90	96.87
Gomati (New)	N A	84.53	96.53

Source: State literacy mission, Tripura.

From the above table, it is seen that in 2011, there is not much disparity in terms of the literacy rate achieved across the districts of Tripura. But it is noted that the maximum increase in the literacy rate occurred in Dhalai district by 36%.

Tripura also succeeded in reducing the dropout rate at the primary and upper primary level.

Table 6: Facility- wise total no. of schools in Tripura (As per U-DISE: 2013-14)

Total no. Institution	water	Boys Toilet	Girls Toilet	Electricity	Playground	Ramps	Library	Computer
4808	4204	4505	4413	1273	2905	2381	1544	694

Source: state reports cards, District Information System for education (DISE)

Tripura has made significant improvement in the various infrastructural indices pertaining to school education.

TRIPURA LITERACY SUCCESSES:

Tripura has achieved the first position among the states of the country in literacy with 96.82 % beating Kerala (93.91%). Tripura have **executed successful programs to boost literacy rates**. Few programs have been implemented by the state government to increase literacy in the state are:

The government has tried to ensure that all children who attend Anganwadi are admitted in the primary schools in their locality. **100 percent enrollment** have completed in 10000 anganwadi centres.

In order to achieve 100% literacy, the state government had launched a time bound **Special Adult Literacy Program (SALP)** during 2009-10 to 2013-14 throughout the state

The school education department has started a special enrolment drive (**Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan or go to school Campaign**) to ensure that no children are left out of school.

The Indian Statistical institute (ISI), Kolkata an empanelled

Table 4: Dropout rate of SC & ST in Primary (I-V) and Elementary Level (I-VIII) of Tripura

Year	Primary (I-V)			Elementary (I-VIII)		
	SC	ST	Total	SC	ST	Total
2010-11	4.89	4.09	4.05	9.3	12.29	9.68
2011-12	4.07	3.70	3.61	9.49	10.25	9.05
2012-13	2.46	3.27	2.92	8.28	9.00	8.50
2013-14	2.33	3.24	2.90	7.19	8.08	7.03
2014-15	1.05	5.19	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: COHORT

From the above table, it is seen that Tripura has reduced the dropout rate in both the primary and Elementary levels significantly. It is also noteworthy that the dropout rates within the SC and STs have also witnessed significant decline.

Table 5: Percentage of Dropout rates of Tripura 2014-15

Stages of Education	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary (I-V)	3.69	3.56	3.62
Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	3.61	2.69	3.16

Source: Census 2011 and DISE 2014-15

The above table shows that in primary level and upper primary level the total dropout rate of Tripura are 3.62 and 3.16 respectively in comparison with the previous years. The total dropout rate of elementary education (I-VIII) in the year 2013-14 & 2014-15 are **2.54 & 3.46** percent respectively.

The indicators of school infrastructure are shown in the following table.

agency of Government of India, was entrusted for final evaluation of the program in August, 2013.

The state Government has constituted a **State Equivalency Examination Board (SEEB)** for its overall plan, monitoring and evaluation.

The state government has implemented the Mid-Day-Meal scheme sincerely in order to ensure that children get nutritious food in the schools.

The government has started construction of new girls and boys toilets in schools and renovation of dysfunctional girl toilet under the scheme of Swachha Vidyalaya.

The State Government has launched Equivalency program as well as Skill Development Program under the **Continuing Education Program (CEP)** Since 1st January, 2014.

LITERACY EFFORTS BY GOVERNMENT

The Tripura government has taken efforts to make people in the 15-50 age group literate, instead of the upper age of 45. Over 8250 voluntary literacy workers (VLW) are working through 8152 adult literacy centre to make the leftover unlettered people. A monitoring committee was formed in every Panchayat in order to identify each illiterate person to make them literate. Final evaluation of the neo-literate

people (10- 25years) was conducted across the state under the supervision of the (Kolkata based) Indian statistical Institute (ISI). Many government and local bodies, such as gram panchayats, Nagar panchayats, NGOs and educated unemployed volunteers have been actively involved in the literacy campaign. The national literacy rate of India according to the 2011 census was 74.04 percent. The present literacy rate of Tripura reached to 96.82 percent as on 01.01.2014. The state has a plan to start Equivalence program std. IV level by November, 2015 covering 32,318 learners along with existing Equivalence program std. III level.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the present facts and discussion it can be concluded that an acceleration in the rate of literacy growth occurred in Tripura in the 1991–2015 period. A completed primary education is a basic human right and is necessary for enjoying many other rights. Issues of improving quality of education and effective functioning of schools are involving the attention of the government at the highest levels. To build up sustainable livelihood the government is also considering financial, technical and logistical support to those who complete the literacy course and skill development training. Tremendous success of Tripura in improving the literacy rate was possible due to administrative and political initiatives involving the people of all sections. Tripura literacy rate will soon increase from the existing 96.82% to 100 % and the new-literates would become economically self-reliant in a phased manner.

SUGGESTION

State literacy mission should emphasize on attainment of 100% literacy in the state, and give importance on ongoing Mop-up program, and skill development program. For improving the quality of education, quality teaching should be provided along with other facilities such as infrastructure & training of teachers. At least 95% attendance of teachers and 85% attendance of students must be ensured. Unemployed youths should be encouraged to undergo E EL, Ed /B, Ed, M.Ed courses. Sports and physical education like Yoga, Pranayam etc may be introduced in a phased manner in all schools in consultation with youth affair and sports department.

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