



CONCENTRATION OF LITERACY IN MALDA DISTRICT: LOCATION QUOTIENT ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Literacy is considered as an important indicator for socio-economic development and human development in a region. Low literacy is a major issue in Malda District which seriously hampered socio-economic development and human development in the district. This work attempts to analyze the concentration of literacy in Malda District, based on secondary data which has been obtained from the Census of India (2011) and District Census Hand Book (2011) of Malda District. Location Quotient technique is applied to determine the results. This paper finds low concentration of literacy in Harischandrapur-I, Harischandrapur-II and Kaliachak-III blocks in Malda District.

KEYWORDS : Literacy, Concentration, Location Quotient, Malda District.

INTRODUCTION

According to Census of India (2011), a person of seven years and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language is taken as Literate. UNESCO defines literacy 'as the ability to identify, understands, interpret, create, communicate and compute using printed and written materials'. The total population of Malda district as per 2011 Census is 3988845 of which 2051541 are male population and 1937304 are female population. According to the Census of India 2011, the literacy rate of Malda district is 61.73 percent which is much lower than state average of 77.08 percent and the national average of 74.04 percent. As per the 2011 Census, the highest literacy rate in Malda district is found in Bamangola block (68.09 percent) which is also much lower than the state average (77.08 percent) and the national average (74.04 percent). In this research paper, an attempt has been made to analyze the concentration of literacy in Malda district and identify the regions of low concentration of literacy in the district.

Objectives

- To find out the concentration of literacy in Malda District.
- To find out the concentration of male literacy in Malda District.
- To find out the concentration of female literacy in Malda District.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study focuses on the concentration of literacy in Malda district which is entirely based on secondary data. The required data is obtained from the Census of India (2011) and District Census Hand Book (2011) of Malda District. Location quotient technique has been applied to determine the concentration of literacy in Malda district. The formula is:

$$LQ = \frac{Lr / Pr}{Ln / Pn}$$

Where,

- Lr = Number of literate persons in the block
- Pr = Total population of the block
- Ln = Number of literate persons in the district
- Pn = Total population of the district

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Concentration of Literates:

This section describes the concentration pattern of literates in the Malda district in 2011.

Table 1. Concentration of Literates in Malda District (2011)

Name of the Block	Total Population (Pr)	Literates (Lr)	LQ
Harischandrapur-I	199493	88591	0.849
Harischandrapur-II	251345	112698	0.857
Chanchal-I	204740	115746	1.081
Chanchal-II	205333	99129	0.923
Ratua-I	275388	138137	0.959
Ratua-II	202080	95915	0.907
Gazole	343830	189014	1.051
Bamangola	143906	86891	1.154
Habibpur	210699	108136	0.981
Old Malda	156365	80614	0.985
English Bazar	274627	148061	1.031

Manikchak	269813	130874	0.927
Kaliachak-I	392517	213041	1.038
Kaliachak-II	210105	114031	1.038
Kaliachak-III	359071	159712	0.850
Malda District	3988845	2086432	-

Source: Calculated by author based on DCHB, Malda (2011)

It has been observed from table-1 that the LQ values of Bamangola (1.154), Chanchal-I (1.081), Gazole (1.051), Kaliachak-I (1.038), Kaliachak-II (1.038), English Bazar (1.031) blocks are greater than 1.0 which indicates high concentration of literates. Moderate concentration of literates is found in Old Malda (0.985), Habibpur (0.981), Ratua-I (0.959), Manikchak (0.927), Chanchal-II (0.923), Ratua-II (0.907) blocks where LQ values are 0.9 to 1.0. The LQ values of Harischandrapur-I (0.849), Kaliachak-III (0.850), Harischandrapur-II (0.857) blocks are less than 0.9 which denotes low concentration of literates.

Concentration of Male Literates:

This section expresses the concentration pattern of male literates in the Malda district in 2011.

Table 2. Concentration of Male Literates in Malda District (2011)

Name of the Block	Male Population (Pr)	Male Literates (Lr)	LQ
Harischandrapur-I	103183	50196	0.866
Harischandrapur-II	130367	61732	0.843
Chanchal-I	105014	62693	1.063
Chanchal-II	105374	53185	0.899
Ratua-I	142183	76280	0.955
Ratua-II	102962	50738	0.878
Gazole	174536	106217	1.084
Bamangola	74071	49639	1.193
Habibpur	106757	62033	1.035
Old Malda	80108	45278	1.006
English Bazar	140932	80848	1.022
Manikchak	139593	75340	0.961
Kaliachak-I	200451	113570	1.009
Kaliachak-II	107553	62701	1.038
Kaliachak-III	184213	90816	0.878
Malda District	2051541	1152019	-

Source: Calculated by author based on DCHB, Malda (2011)

It has been shown from table-2 that the LQ values of Bamangola (1.193), Gazole (1.084), Chanchal-I (1.063), Kaliachak-II (1.038), Habibpur (1.035), English Bazar (1.022), Kaliachak-I (1.009), Old Malda (1.006) blocks are greater than 1.0 which indicates high concentration of male literates. Moderate concentration of male literates is found in Manikchak (0.961), Ratua-I (0.955) blocks where LQ values of 0.9 to 1.0. The LQ values of Harischandrapur-II (0.843), Harischandrapur-I (0.866), Kaliachak-III (0.878), Ratua-II (0.878), Chanchal-II (0.899) blocks are less than 0.9 which denotes low concentration of male literates.

Concentration of Female Literates:

This section shows the concentration pattern of female literates in the Malda district in 2011.

Table 3. Concentration of Female Literates in Malda District (2011)

Name of the Block	Female Population (Pr)	Female Literates (Lr)	LQ
Harischandrapur-I	96310	38395	0.827
Harischandrapur-II	120978	50966	0.873
Chanchal-I	99726	53053	1.103
Chanchal-II	99959	45944	0.953
Ratua-I	133205	61857	0.962
Ratua-II	99118	45177	0.945
Gazole	169294	82797	1.014
Bamangola	69835	37252	1.106
Habibpur	103942	46103	0.920
Old Malda	76257	35336	0.961
English Bazar	133695	67213	1.042
Manikchak	130220	55534	0.884
Kaliachak-I	192066	99471	1.074
Kaliachak-II	102552	51330	1.041
Kaliachak-III	174858	68896	0.817
Malda District	1937304	934413	-

Source: Calculated by author based on DCHB, Malda (2011)

It has been observed from table-3 that the LQ values of Bamangola (1.106), Chanchal-I (1.103), Kaliachak-I (1.074), English Bazar (1.042), Kaliachak-II (1.041), Gazole (1.014) blocks are greater than 1.0 which indicates high concentration of female literates. Moderate concentration of female literates is found in Ratua-I (0.962), Old Malda (0.961), Chanchal-II (0.953), Ratua-II (0.945), Habibpur (0.920) blocks where LQ values are 0.9 to 1.0. Low concentration of female literates is found in Kaliachak-III (0.817), Harischandrapur-I (0.827), Harischandrapur-II (0.873), Manikchak (0.884) blocks where LQ values are less than 0.9.

CONCLUSION

The overall analysis of the present study reveals that the low concentration of literacy in Malda district is found in Harischandrapur-I, Harischandrapur-II and Kaliachak-III blocks. The reason behind it is the lack of educational institutions, lack of educational facilities, poverty, low student teacher ratio and low socio-economic conditions. Finally, increasing public awareness about the negative impacts of low concentration of literacy and implementation of effective education policies by the Government of India can improve the concentration scenario of literacy in the Malda district.

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