



CONCENTRATION OF LITERACY IN WEST BENGAL: LOCATION QUOTIENT ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT Literacy is considered as a very important indicator for socio-economic and human development in a nation. Literacy plays a crucial role in socio-economic development and human development in a region. This research work attempts to analyze the concentration of literacy in West Bengal, based on secondary data which has been collected from Census of India (2011) and statistical abstract of West Bengal. Location quotient technique has been applied to determine the results. This research work finds low concentration of literacy in Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Purulia and Murshidabad districts in West Bengal.

KEYWORDS : Literacy, Concentration, West Bengal, Location Quotient.

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 West Bengal as per 2011 census is 91276115 of which 46809027 are males and 44467088 are females. According to Census of India (2011), the literacy rate of West Bengal is 76.26 percent, while the highest literacy rate of the country is found in Kerala (93.91 percent). In this research work, an attempt has been made to analyze the concentration of literacy in West Bengal and identify the regions of low concentration of literacy in the state.

Objectives

1. To find out the concentration of literacy in West Bengal.
2. To find out the concentration of male literacy in West Bengal.
3. To find out the concentration of female literacy in West Bengal.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study focuses on the concentration of literacy in West Bengal, which is entirely based on secondary data sources. The required data is obtained from Census of India (2011) and statistical abstract of West Bengal. Location quotient technique has been used to determine the concentration of literacy in West Bengal. The formula is:

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

Where,

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

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Concentration of Literates: This section describes the concentration pattern of literates in West Bengal in 2011.

Table 1: Concentration of Literacy in West Bengal (2011)

Name of the Districts	Total Population (Pr)	Literates (Lr)	LQ
Bankura	3596674	2232992	0.921
Burdwan	7717563	5247208	1.001
Birbhum	3502404	2158447	0.914
Dakshin Dinajpur	1676276	1083685	0.959
Darjeeling	1846823	1315585	1.057
Howrah	4850029	3605206	1.103
Hooghly	5519145	4078388	1.096
Jalpaiguri	3872846	2498780	0.957
Koch Bihar	2819086	1850504	0.974
Kolkata	4496694	3588137	1.184
Malda	3988845	2086432	0.776
Murshidabad	7103807	4055834	0.847
Nadia	5167600	3480555	0.999
North 24 Parganas	10009781	7608693	1.127
Paschim Medinipur	5913457	4078412	1.023
Purba Medinipur	5095875	3923194	1.142

Purulia	2930115	1624905	0.823
South 24 Parganas	8161961	5531657	1.005
Uttar Dinajpur	3007134	1489667	0.735
West Bengal	91276115	61538281	-

Source: Calculated by author based on Census of India 2011.

It has been observed from Table 1 that the LQ values of Kolkata (1.184), Purba Medinipur (1.142), North 24 Parganas (1.127), Howrah (1.103), Hooghly (1.096) Darjeeling (1.057), Paschim Medinipur (1.023), South 24 Parganas (1.005), Burdwan (1.001) districts are greater than 1.0 which indicates high concentration of literates. The LQ values of Nadia (0.999), Koch Bihar (0.974), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.959), Jalpaiguri (0.957), Bankura (0.921), Birbhum (0.914) districts are 0.9 to 1.0 which denotes moderate concentration of literates. Low concentration of literates is found in Uttar Dinajpur (0.735), Malda (0.776), Purulia (0.823), Murshidabad (0.847) districts where LQ values are less than 0.9.

Concentration of Male Literates: This section shows the concentration pattern of male literates in West Bengal in 2011.

Table 2: Concentration of Male Literacy in West Bengal (2011)

Name of the Districts	Male Population (Pr)	Male Literates (Lr)	LQ
Bankura	1838095	1299337	0.978
Burdwan	3966889	2918040	1.018
Birbhum	1790920	1201481	0.929
Dakshin Dinajpur	857199	596474	0.963
Darjeeling	937259	717673	1.060
Howrah	2500819	1942824	1.075
Hooghly	2814653	2211777	1.088
Jalpaiguri	1983064	1396622	0.975
Koch Bihar	1451542	1028733	0.981
Kolkata	2356766	1926915	1.132
Malda	2051541	1152019	0.777
Murshidabad	3627564	2177187	0.831
Nadia	2653768	1878866	0.980
North 24 Parganas	5119389	4056046	1.097
Paschim Medinipur	3007885	2266913	1.043
Purba Medinipur	2629834	2149073	1.131
Purulia	1496996	1002058	0.926
South 24 Parganas	4173778	3043277	1.009
Uttar Dinajpur	1551066	853495	0.762
West Bengal	46809027	33818810	-

Source: Calculated by author based on Census of India 2011.

It has been observed from Table 2 the LQ values of Kolkata (1.132), Purba Medinipur (1.131), North 24 Parganas (1.097), Hooghly (1.088), Howrah (1.075), Darjeeling (1.060), Paschim Medinipur (1.043), Burdwan (1.018), South 24 Parganas (1.009) districts are greater than 1.0 which indicates high concentration of male literates. The LQ values of Koch Bihar (0.981), Nadia (0.980), Bankura (0.978), Jalpaiguri (0.975), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.963), Birbhum (0.929), Purulia (0.926) districts are 0.9 to 1.0 which denotes moderate concentration of male literates. Low concentration of male literates is

found in Uttar Dinajpur (0.762), Malda (0.777), Murshidabad (0.831) districts where LQ values are less than 0.9.

Concentration of Female Literates: This section expresses the concentration pattern of female literates in West Bengal in 2011.

Table 3: Concentration of Female Literacy in West Bengal (2011)

Name of the Districts	Female Population (Pr)	Female Literates (Lr)	LQ
Bankura	1758579	933655	0.852
Burdwan	3750674	2329168	0.996
Birbhum	1711484	956966	0.897
Dakshin Dinajpur	819077	487211	0.954
Darjeeling	909564	597912	1.054
Howrah	2349210	1662382	1.135
Hooghly	2704492	1866611	1.107
Jalpaiguri	1889782	1102158	0.936
Koch Bihar	1367544	821771	0.964
Kolkata	2139928	1661222	1.245
Malda	1937304	934413	0.774
Murshidabad	3476243	1878647	0.867
Nadia	2513832	1601689	1.022
North 24 Parganas	4890392	3552647	1.165
Paschim Medinipur	2905572	1811499	1.000
Purba Medinipur	2466041	1774121	1.154
Purulia	1433119	622847	0.697
South 24 Parganas	3988183	2488380	1.001
Uttar Dinajpur	1456068	636172	0.701
West Bengal	44467088	27719471	-

Source: Calculated by author based on Census of India 2011.

It has been shown from Table 3 that the LQ values of Kolkata (1.245), North 24 Parganas (1.165), Purba Medinipur (1.154), Howrah (1.135), Hooghly (1.107), Darjeeling (1.054), Nadia (1.022), South 24 Parganas (1.001) districts are greater than 1.0 which indicates high concentration of female literates. The LQ values of Paschim Medinipur (1.000), Burdwan (0.996), Koch Bihar (0.964), Dakshin Dinajpur (0.954), Jalpaiguri (0.936) districts are 0.9 to 1.0 which denotes moderate concentration of female literates. Low concentration of female literates is found in Purulia (0.697), Uttar Dinajpur (0.701), Malda (0.774), Bankura (0.852), Murshidabad (0.867), Birbhum (0.897) where LQ values are less than 0.9.

CONCLUSION

The overall analysis of this study reveals that the low concentration of literacy in West Bengal is found in Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Purulia and Murshidabad districts. The main reasons behind that the lack of educational institutions, low student teacher ratio, poverty, unemployment and low socio-economic conditions. Finally it can be said that increasing public awareness regarding the negative impacts of low literacy and implementation of an effective education policy by the Government of India can improve the scenario of literacy in West Bengal.

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