

# Urban and Rural Literacy in Punjab and Haryana: A Comparative Current Scenario and Changes during the Last Four Decades

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**Abstract:** *The study examines the trend of literacy and gap between urban-rural literacy (1971-2011) in comparative mode among Punjab, Haryana and India. The study also analysis the spatial pattern of literacy as well as disparity between urban-rural literacy at district level between Punjab and Haryana and reveals that Punjab has recorded almost highest total and rural literacy as well as lowest gap between urban-rural literacy during the entire time period while India has recorded highest gap between urban-rural literacy as well as lowest total and rural literacy after 1971. Haryana was backward in literacy at all levels (total, urban and rural) up to 1971 but after this period, Haryana has recorded much progress. Rural literacy in Haryana is remaining highest during 2011 census while total literacy is recorded almost same to Punjab at same time. Gap between urban-rural literacy is decreased up to significant level however; it is still high; 11 per cent in Punjab and Haryana as well as 16 per cent at national level. Mewat district of Haryana and Mansa district of Punjab are very backward in literacy almost all levels. Palwal, Kaithal, Fatehabad and Sirsa districts of Haryana as well as almost western and southern districts of Punjab, contain low literacy.*

**Keywords:** Comparative Trend of Literacy and Gap between Urban-Rural Literacy, Spatial Pattern and Disparity in Literacy by Residence

## 1. Introduction

According to Indian census, literacy is defined as the ability of people to read and write a simple message in any language with some understanding. It is not mandatory that to be treated as a literate, a person should have received any formal education or acquired any minimum educational standard. Literacy status can be acquired through adult literacy classes or by attending any non-formal education system. Persons who are unfortunately blind and read in Braille are also treated as literates. From 1991 census, children below seven years are ignored when working out literacy rate in the country and the population aged seven years and above only would be classified as literate or illiterate. The proportion of literate persons in a population is known as literacy level and the process of dissemination of literacy among the people in a society known as literacy transition. Literacy is related to all type of development which prepares the individual for full participation in a rapidly changing social and economic order. Better literate person is more likely to secure qualitative employment, more earnings, long and healthy life, cleaner and sustainable environment. An overall progress in literacy is necessary in a country, equally important is its distributional spread in all its areas – towns and villages, social classes and the two sexes (Gosal, 1979). The status of literacy is varied significantly across different regions and different communities depending on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics as well as on the magnitude and direction of modernization, urbanization and industrialization. In this context, the study examines the status of literacy between Punjab and Haryana in comparative mode.

## 2. Study Area

Punjab and Haryana states are located on the north-western side of Indian Union. Punjab consists 20 districts and

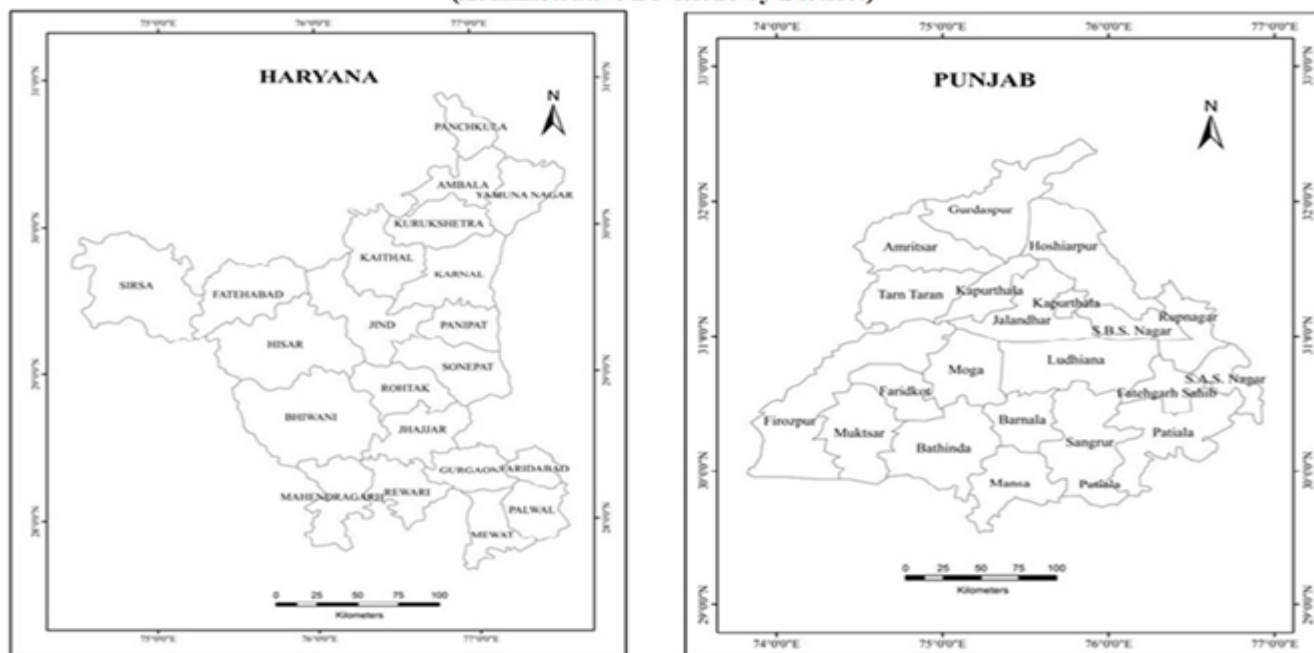
Haryana has 21 districts at the time of census (2011) enumeration. Punjab is extended from 29° 30' north to 32° 32' north latitudes and 73° 55' east to 76° 50' east longitudes while Haryana is stretched from 27° 39' north to 30° 55' 5'' north latitudes and 74° 27' 8" east to 77° 36' 5" east longitudes. The west frontier of Punjab is connected with the boundary of eastern Pakistan while the Ravi, before running into Pakistan, is now the most western river of the Indian Punjab. Jammu & Kashmir is located in north of Punjab. Himachal Pradesh is situated in north-east of Punjab while Haryana is situated in the east of Punjab. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh is situated in the east of Haryana while Haryana adjoining with national capital. Rajasthan is located in south of Punjab and Haryana. Geographically, Ghaggar river makes the south-west boundary of Haryana which divides Punjab from Haryana. Siwalik hills are situated in north Haryana. River Yamuna flows in east of Haryana which separates Uttar Pradesh from Haryana. Arawali hills are situated in south Haryana.

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**Administrative Maps of Study Area  
(Administrative Divisions by District)**



Source: Census of India: 2011

**Figure 1**

### 3. Objectives of the Study

- To examine comparative trend of literacy (1971-2011) at the levels of total, urban and rural as well as gap between urban-rural literacy among Punjab, Haryana and India.
- To represent the comparative spatial pattern of literacy at district level between Punjab and Haryana.
- To identify disparity between urban-rural literacy at district level.

### 4. Data and Methodology

In this study, data have collected from Census of India 1971, Social and Cultural Tables, Series 1, Part II- C (ii). Census of India 1981, Social and Cultural Tables, Series (1), Part IV-A. Census of India 1991, Socio-Cultural Tables, Vol. – 2, Series (1), Part IV, A-C Series. Census of India 2001, Social and Cultural Tables, Table C- 8. Census of India 2011, Provisional population Totals, Paper 1 and 2. for showing

trend of literacy and gap between urban-rural literacy as well as spatial pattern of literacy and disparity between urban-rural literacy at district level.

It is notable that literacy rates for 1971 census are related to population aged five years and above while the literacy rates for the 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 censuses are related to population aged seven years and above. Data have been analyzed keeping state and district as a unit of observation. Requisite maps have been drawn with the help of Arc GIS software. To measure disparity between urban-rural literacy; following formula has been used –

$$\text{URLDI} = (\text{ULR} - \text{RLR}) / \text{TLR}$$

Here,

URLDI = urban-rural literacy differential index

ULR = urban literacy rate

RLR = rural literacy rate

TLR = total literacy rate

**Table 1**

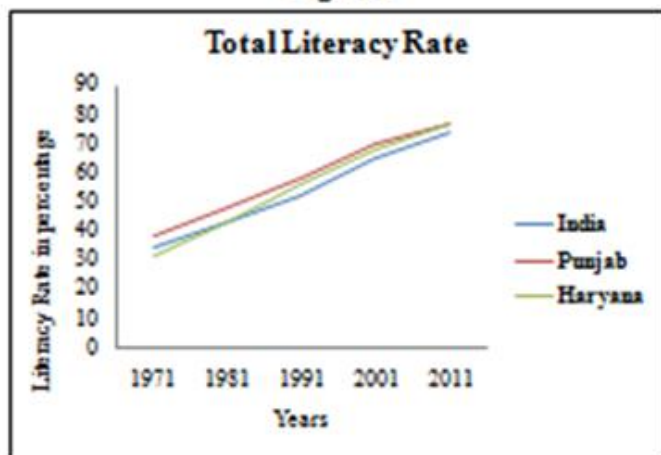
Literacy Rate and Gap in Literacy by Residence						
State and Country	Literacy Rate and Gap in Literacy by Residence	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011
India	Total	34.45	43.57	52.21	64.84	74.04
	Urban	60.22	67.23	73.08	79.92	84.98
	Rural	27.89	36.01	44.69	58.74	68.91
	<b>Gap between Urban- Rural Literacy Rate</b>	<b>32.33</b>	<b>31.22</b>	<b>28.39</b>	<b>21.18</b>	<b>16.07</b>
Punjab	Total	38.69	48.17	58.51	69.65	76.68
	Urban	59.97	64.96	72.08	79.1	83.7
	Rural	32.02	41.73	52.77	64.72	72.45
	<b>Gap between Urban- Rural Literacy Rate</b>	<b>27.95</b>	<b>23.23</b>	<b>19.31</b>	<b>14.38</b>	<b>11.25</b>
Haryana	Total	31.91	43.88	55.85	67.91	76.64
	Urban	58.89	66.83	73.66	79.16	83.83
	Rural	25.92	41.1	49.85	63.19	72.74
	<b>Gap between Urban- Rural Literacy Rate</b>	<b>32.97</b>	<b>25.73</b>	<b>23.81</b>	<b>15.97</b>	<b>11.09</b>

Source: Census of India 1971, Social and Cultural Tables, Series 1, Part II - C (ii).  
 Census of India 1981 Social and Cultural Tables, Series (1), Part IV- A.  
 Census of India 1991, Socio-Cultural Tables, Vol. - 2, Series (1), Part IV, A-C Series.  
 Census of India 2001, Social and Cultural Tables, Table C-8.

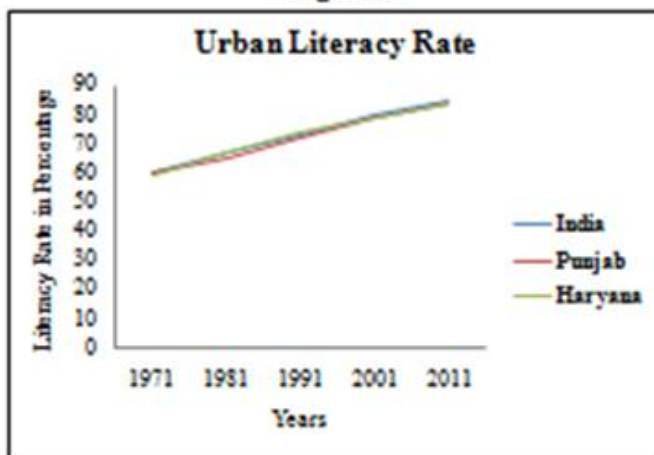
Census of India 2011, Provisional population Totals, Paper 1 and 2.

Note: literacy rates for 1971 census are related to population aged five years and above while the literacy rates for the 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 censuses are related to the population aged seven years and above.

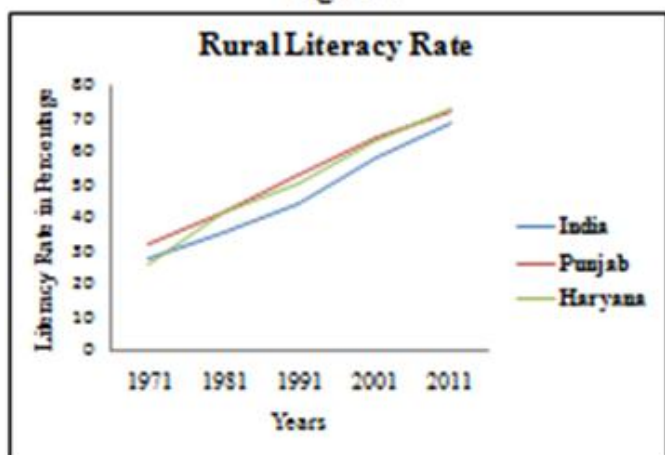
**Figure 2**



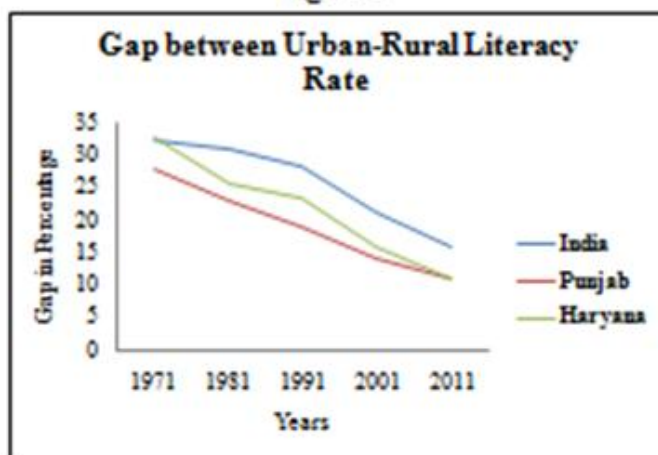
**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**



### Trend of Literacy

Punjab has recorded highest total literacy during the entire time period (1971 to 2011). After 1971; it is remaining lowest in India. In Punjab; it has increased almost 38 per cent, from 38.69 per cent to 76.68 per cent. In Haryana; it has increased almost 45 per cent, from 31.91 per cent to 76.64 per cent while in India; it has increased almost 40 per cent, from 34.45 per cent to 74.04 per cent.

Urban literacy in India is remaining almost highest during the entire time period. After 1971; it is remaining lowest in Punjab however; during the last two decades, it is remaining almost same to Haryana. In India; it has increased almost 25 per cent, from 60.22 per cent to 84.98 per cent. In Haryana; it has increased almost 25 per cent, from 58.89 per cent to 83.83 per cent while in Punjab; it has increased almost 24 per cent, from 59.97 per cent to 83.70 per cent.

Rural literacy in Punjab is remaining almost highest during the entire time period while after 1971; it is remaining lowest in India. In Punjab; it has increased 40 per cent, from 32.02 per cent to 72.45 per cent. In Haryana; it has increased almost 47 per cent, from 25.92 per cent to 72.74 per cent while in India; it has increased 41 per cent, from 27.89 per cent to 68.91 per cent.

Gap between urban-rural literacy is remaining almost lowest in Punjab during the entire time period while it was highest in Haryana during the 1971 census but after this, it is remaining highest in India. In Punjab; it has decreased almost 17 per cent, from 27.95 per cent to 11.25 per cent. In Haryana; it has decreased almost 22 per cent, from 32.97 per cent to 11.09 per cent while in India; it has decreased 16 per cent, from 32.33 per cent to 16.07 per cent.

**Table 2**

<b>Literacy Rate and Disparity in Literacy by Residence in Haryana : 2011</b>				
State/Districts	Total Literacy Rate	Urban Literacy Rate	Rural Literacy Rate	Value of Urban-Rural Literacy Differential Index
<b>Haryana</b>	<b>76.64</b>	<b>83.83</b>	<b>72.74</b>	<b>0.14</b>
Panchkula	83.44	88.25	77.45	0.13
Ambala	82.89	88.15	78.64	0.11
Yamunanagar	78.93	85.04	74.96	0.13
Kurukshetra	76.7	84.87	73.3	0.15
Kaithal	70.56	78.52	68.29	0.15
Karnal	76.44	83.94	73.1	0.14
Panipat	77.46	81.37	74.09	0.09
Sonapat	80.83	86.02	78.53	0.09
Jind	72.73	81.37	70.16	0.15
Fatehabad	69.13	79.22	66.73	0.18
Sirsa	70.35	80.77	66.9	0.2
Hisar	73.24	80.08	70.02	0.14
Bhiwani	76.74	82.91	75.2	0.1
Rohtak	80.37	83.56	78.03	0.07
Jhajjar	80.83	86.42	78.92	0.09
Mahendragarh	78.87	83.8	78.04	0.07
Rewari	82.23	86.13	80.87	0.06
Gurgaon	84.44	85.94	81.1	0.06
Mewat	56.14	71.78	54.01	0.32
Faridabad	83.04	84.87	75.72	0.11
Palwal	70.32	78.3	67.87	0.15

Source: census of India 2011, Provisional population Totals, paper 1 and 2.

#### Literacy and Disparity between Urban-Rural Literacy

Total literacy rate in Haryana varies from 56.14 per cent in Mewat to 84.44 per cent in Gurgaon while in Punjab; it varies from 62.78 per cent in Mansa to 85.43 per cent in Hoshiarpur. Urban literacy in Haryana varies from 71.78 per cent in Mewat to 88.25 per cent in Panchkula while in Punjab; it varies from 75.39 per cent in Barnala to 88.90 per cent in S.A.S. Nagar. Rural literacy in Haryana varies from 54.01 per cent in Mewat to 81.10 per cent in Gurgaon while in Punjab; it varies from 58.99 per cent in Mansa to 84.55

per cent in Hoshiarpur. Disparity between urban-rural literacy is presented by urban-rural literacy differential index. Value of urban-rural literacy differential index in Punjab is found almost same to Haryana. Mewat district (0.32) of Haryana has recorded highest differential while S.B.S.Nagar district (0.04) of Punjab has lowest differential among the districts of both state. In Haryana; lowest differential is recorded in Rewari and Gurgaon (0.06) while Mansa district (0.28) has recorded highest differential in overall Punjab.

**Table 3**

<b>Literacy Rate and Disparity in Literacy by Residence in Punjab : 2011</b>				
State/Districts	Total Literacy Rate	Urban Literacy Rate	Rural Literacy Rate	Value of Urban-Rural Literacy Differential Index
Punjab	76.68	83.7	72.45	0.15
Gurdaspur	81.06	88	78.25	0.12
Kapurthala	80.18	85.82	77.13	0.11
Jalandhar	82.4	85.1	79.33	0.07
Hoshiarpur	85.43	88.67	84.55	0.05
S.B.S.Nagar	80.33	82.74	79.72	0.04
Fatehgarh Sahib	80.33	84.33	78.56	0.07
Ludhiana	82.54	84.83	79.26	0.07
Moga	71.55	80.39	69.04	0.16
Firozpur	69.85	79.77	66.08	0.2
Muktsar	66.79	77.02	62.82	0.21
Faridkot	70.65	79.29	65.95	0.19
Bathinda	69.57	80.8	63.31	0.25
Mansa	62.78	76.82	58.99	0.28
Patiala	76.26	85.19	70.14	0.2
Amritsar	77.2	84.36	68.76	0.2
Tarn Taran	69.43	78.12	68.16	0.14
Rupnagar	83.28	87.04	81.95	0.06
S.A.S.Nagar	84.87	88.9	79.91	0.11
Sangrur	68.88	75.84	65.75	0.15
Barnala	68.9	75.39	65.89	0.14

Source: census of India 2011, Provisional population Totals, paper 1 and 2.



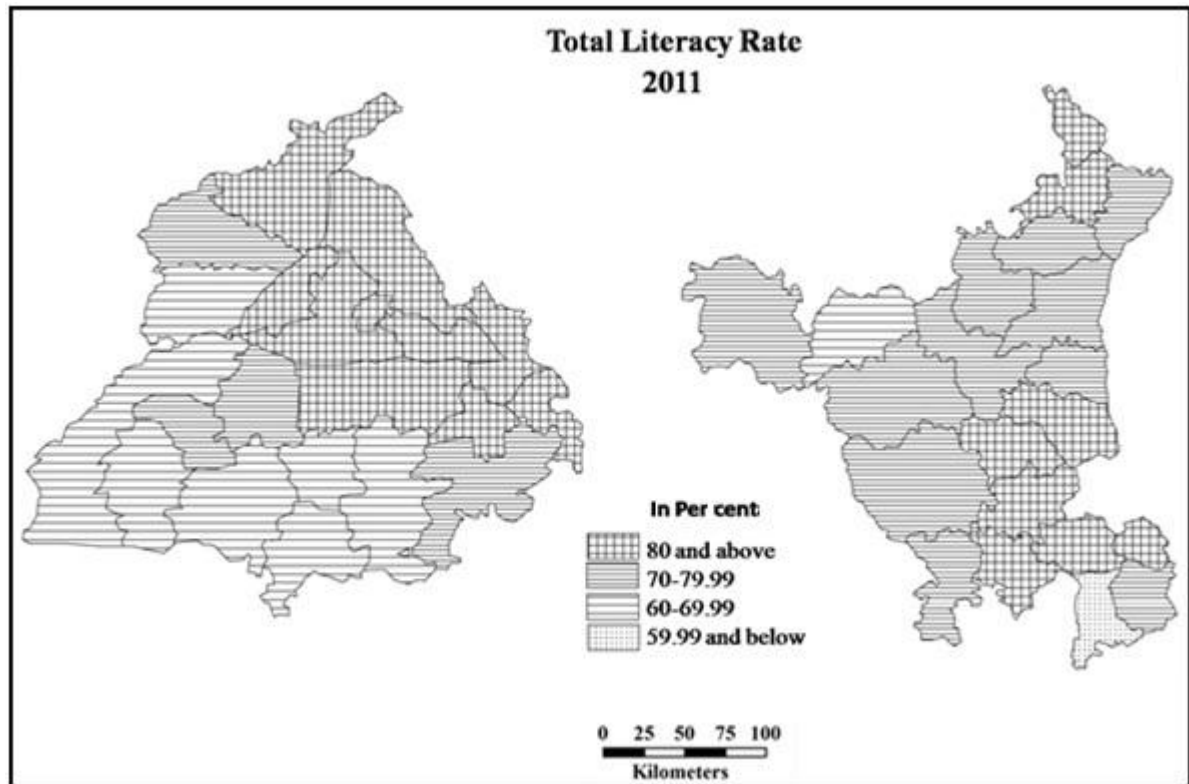


Figure 6

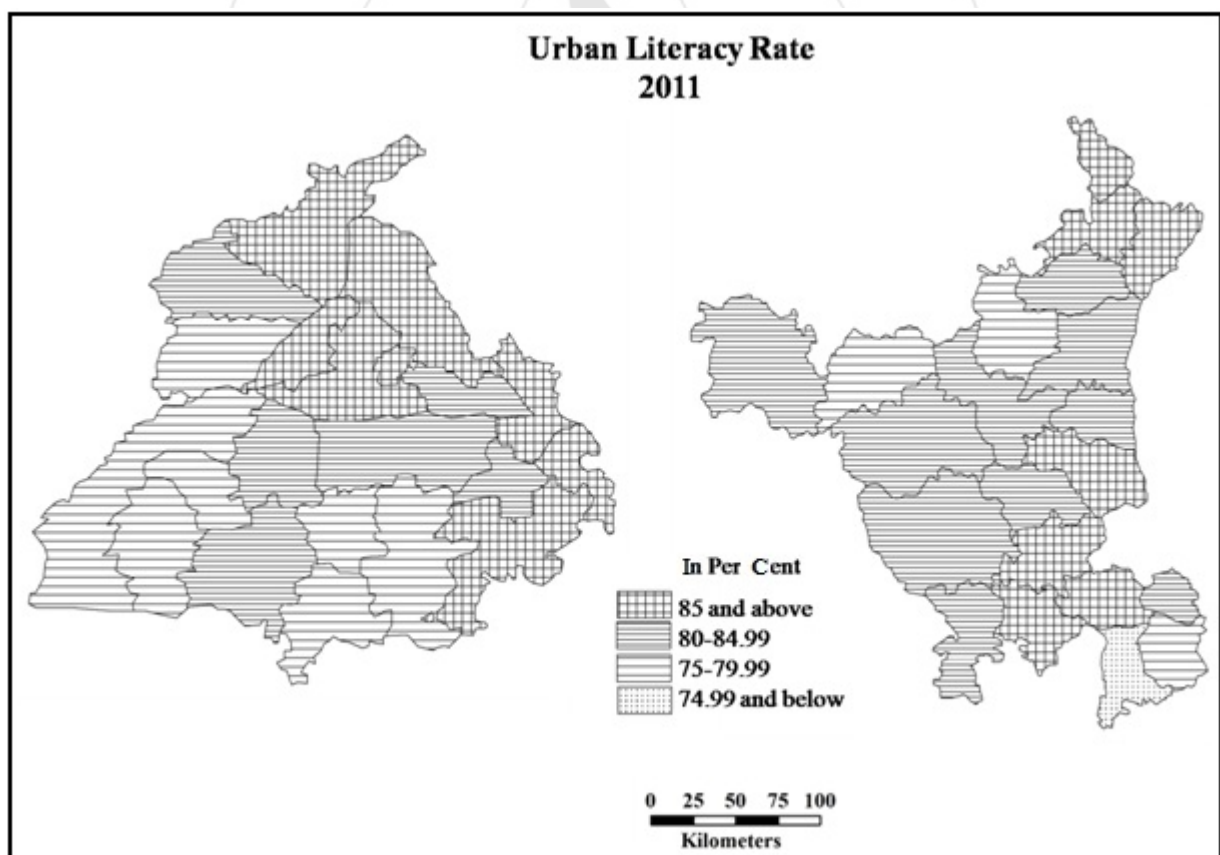


Figure 7

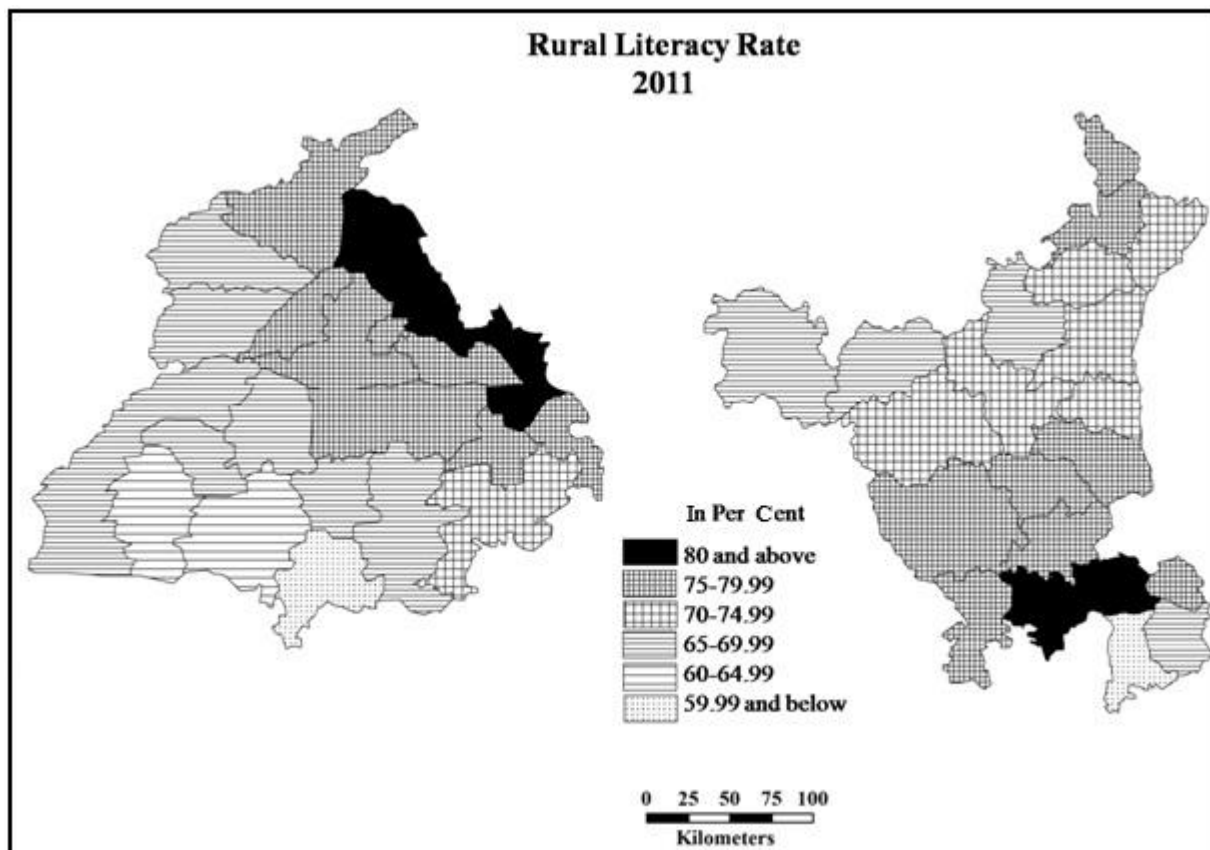


Figure 8

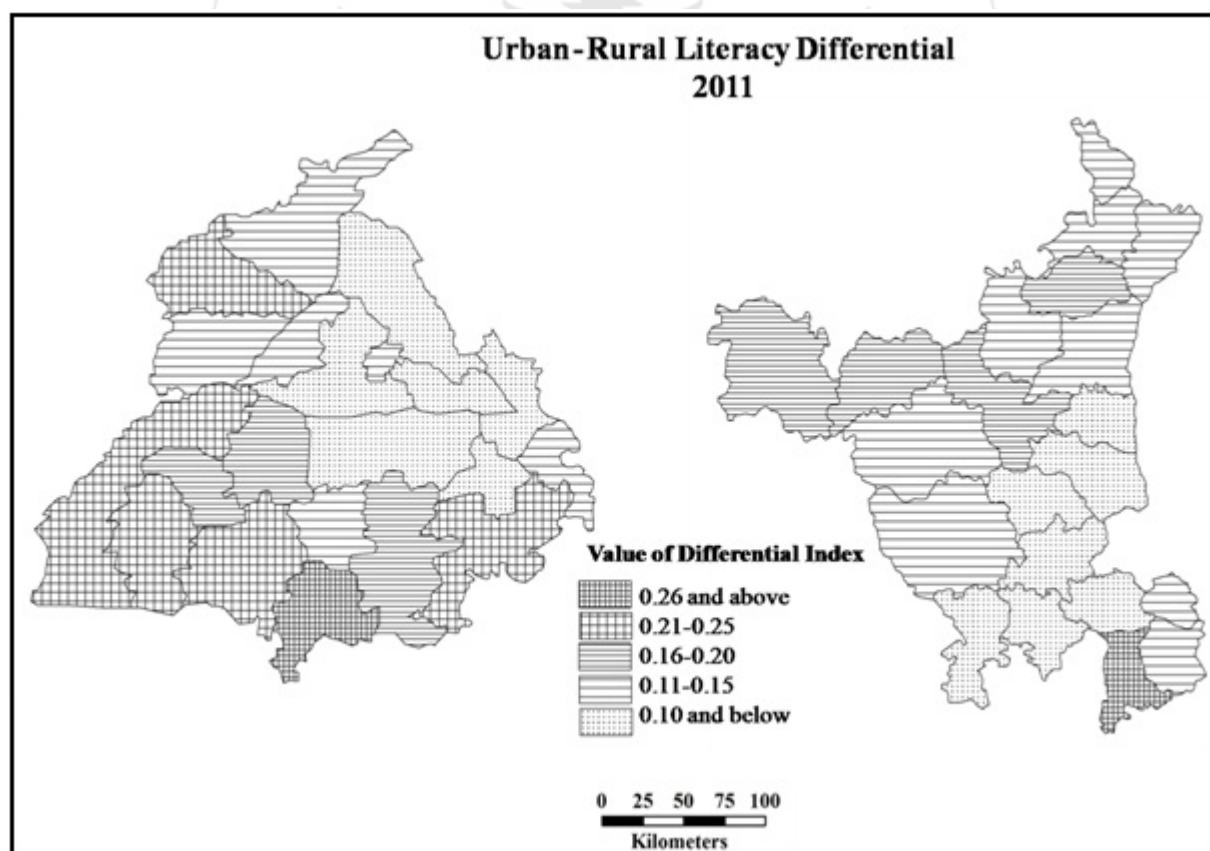


Figure 9

### Spatial Pattern of Total Literacy

Districts of Haryana which are situated near to national capital (include Ambala, Panchkula) as well as north to

south-eastern districts (exclude Patiala district) of Punjab have high literacy rate Due to effect of urbanization and industrialization; these parts are very highly literate. Except

Mewat and Fatehabad; rest part of Haryana and Amritsar, Moga, Faridkot and Patiala districts of Punjab have moderate literacy. A clear picture of districts that contain low literacy; is raised in western to southern part of Punjab. Fatehabad district of Haryana also contains low literacy while Mewat has very low literacy.

### **Spatial Pattern of Urban Literacy**

In Haryana; northern districts and almost districts which are situated around to national capital as well as northern and eastern frontier districts (include Kapurthala and Jalandhar districts) of Punjab have very high urban literacy. Except Kaithal, Fatehabad, Mewat and Palwal; rest part of Haryana as well as central districts (include Amritsar, Bathinda) of Punjab have high literacy. Kaithal, Fatehabad and Palwal districts of Haryana as well as western and southern districts of Punjab contain moderate literacy while Mewat district of Haryana contains low literacy.

### **Spatial Pattern of Rural Literacy**

Rewari and Gurgaon districts of Haryana as well as Hoshiarpur and Rupnagar districts of Punjab have recorded very high literacy. North to south-east part (except Patiala) of Punjab as well as Ambala, Panchkula and south part of Haryana (except Mewat and Palwal) also contain high literacy. Northern side half part of Haryana (include Palwal) and entire western and southern districts of Punjab (except Mansa, Bathinda and Muktsar) contain moderate literacy. Muktsar and Bathinda districts of Punjab have low literacy while Mewat district of Haryana and Mansa district of Punjab contain very low literacy.

### **Spatial Pattern of Urban-Rural Literacy Differential**

Disparity between urban-rural literacy is presented by Urban-Rural Literacy Differential Index. Mewat district of Haryana and Mansa district of Punjab have recorded very high differential while south-west part of Punjab (include Amritsar and Patiala) contains high differential. Moga, Faridkot and Sangrur districts of Punjab as well as Fatehabad, Sirsa, Jind and Kurukshetra districts of Haryana have moderate differential. Almost northern districts of Haryana (include Bhiwani, Hisar, Faridabad and Palwal) as well as Gurdaspur, Tarn – Taran, Kapurthala, S.A.S. Nagar and Barnala districts of Punjab contain low differential. Entire central and north-east part of Punjab as well as districts of Haryana which are situated around to national capital (include Rewari and Mahendragarh) have very low differential. So, Haryana has minor better situation than Punjab

## **5. Conclusion**

Punjab has recorded almost highest total and rural literacy as well as lowest gap between urban-rural literacy during the entire time period while India has recorded highest gap between urban-rural literacy as well as lowest total and rural literacy after 1971.

Urban literacy in India is remaining almost highest during the entire time period. After 1971, it is recorded lowest in Punjab however; during the last two decades, it is remaining almost same to Haryana.

Haryana was backward in literacy at all levels (total, urban and rural) up to 1971 but after this period, Haryana has recorded much progress. Rural literacy in Haryana is remaining highest during 2011 census while total literacy is recorded almost same to Punjab at same time.

Gap between urban-rural literacy is decreased up to significant level however; it is still high; 11 per cent in Punjab and Haryana as well as 16 per cent at national level.

Districts of Haryana which are situated around to national capital (include Ambala and Panchkula) as well as Districts of Punjab which are situated north to south-east side (except Patiala district) have high literacy almost all levels.

Mewat district of Haryana and Mansa district of Punjab are very backward in literacy almost all levels while Palwal, Kaithal, Fatehabad and Sirsa districts of Haryana as well as almost western and southern districts of Punjab, contain low literacy.

Value of urban-rural literacy differential index is found almost same in Punjab and Haryana. Very high disparity between urban-rural literacy is found in Mewat district of Haryana and Mansa district of Punjab. Almost entire western and southern districts of Punjab contain high differential while central and north-eastern part of Punjab as well as districts of Haryana which are situated around to national capital (include Rewari and Mahendragarh) have very low differential.

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### Author Profile



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