Pattern of Literacy and Gender Gap in Bulandshahr District

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Abstract: *Literacy can be defined as the ability of people to read and write in a simple language, especially in mother language. Literacy is one of the most important skills when it comes to personal as well as cultural growth and development; therefore it is a key to socio-economic development in India. Importance of literacy has been increased in the present world because of the rapid change in society and the economy. However, a great disparity on the basis of gender has been seen in India as per the census 2011. The gender gap in literacy occurs when there are systematic differences in schooling level between men and women. This study is conducted in the Bulandshahr district at tehsil level. In this paper, an attempt has been made to analyze changes in literacy pattern, decadal growth rate and the gender gap in the literacy in Bulandshahr district. This paper is entirely based on secondary sources of data which are collected from different sources. Literacy rate in Bulandshahr district is 68.88 % in which female literacy rate is only 55.57 % as against the male literacy rate i.e. 80.93 %. To find out the Tehsil wise pattern of literacy, the decadal growth rate of literacy has been calculated and ranking of each tehsil has been done to identify their position in the district. The gender gap has been calculated by drawing a comparison between 2001 and 2011 census. Statistical techniques that have been used in the analysis are, location quotient technique is used for the analysis of the concentration of female literacy and Gini coefficient technique is also applied to measure the degree of inequalities in literacy in terms of gender. ArcGIS 10 software is used for preparing maps. In this study, it has been found that there is a wide gender disparity in Bulandshahr District which is 25.36 % whereas it is highest in Siana and lowest in Bulandshahr at tehsil level i.e. 28.08 % and 22.79 % respectively.*

Keywords: Literacy, Education, Gender, Growth, Disparity, Equality and Bulandshahr

1. Introduction

According to Census (2011), to a person aged seven years or more than seven who can read and write with understanding in any language is called a literate person. The importance of literacy need not be stressed. Literacy and schooling are an important factors for economic growth (Barro, 2001) and women's education is essential for future growth (Klasen, 2002: World Bank, 2001). It is even more important today because of how our economy and society are changing. Education plays an important role in creating awareness. A person , if educated can overcome vulnerability and other obstacle in the society , despite any type of drawback in the present existing education system it has empowerment value (Anand Chakaravarty, 2001). The gap between male and female literacy is a sensitive indicator of social discrimination. The construction of gender rules in any society is influenced by several factors such as customs, cultural beliefs and religion etc, most of these are largely independent of the sources of poverty or growth. over the last decades (2001-2011) female literacy in India has increased from 54.16% (2001) to 62.27% (2011) implying that more than half of the Indian women are illiterate, not knowing to read and even write their names. In Bulandshahr district the condition of women is nearly the same only 55.57% female are literates in the district and the gap between male and female literacy is very high which comes to 25.36%. This paper mainly aims to find out the interchanging patterns of literacy and gender gap in literacy among different tehsils of Bulandshahr district by comparing data of 2001 and 2011 census.

2. Objectives

1) To identify interchanging patterns of literacy.
2) To highlight the level of the gender gap in total literacy rate.
3) To find out the tehsil wise variation in the total literacy rate.
4) To find out the concentration of literacy & to measure inequalities in terms of gender.
5) Some suggestive measures to reduce the gender gap in literacy rate.

2.1 Database and methodology

Present study is quantitative in nature based on secondary source which is derived from census of India, 2001 and 2011. The literacy rate of a place is calculated based on the fact that how many among the total inhabitants are literate. A person is regarded as literate, in case, he or she is within the age group of 7 years or above and is capable of reading, writing and speaking in a particular language. For the present study, the following formula has been used to calculate literacy i.e. total percentage of the population of an area at a particular time aged seven years or above who can read and write with understanding. Here the denominator is the population aged seven years or more. In spite of this, for the analysis of the concentration of female literacy, the location quotient technique is used. Gini-coefficient is applied to measure the degree of inequalities in literacy in terms of gender. Arc-GIS 10.2 software is used for preparing maps.

Table 1: Ranking of Percent Increase of Literacy Rate (total) Among Tehsils of Bulandshahr District During 2001-2011

Tehsil	2001(Total)	2011(Total)	PI	Rank
Debai	53.6	64.97	11.37	**1**
Siana	58.9	69.7	10.8	**2**
Shikarpur	57.3	67.99	10.69	**3**
Anupshahr	57.8	67.73	9.93	**4**
Bulandshahr	61.9	70.14	8.24	**5**
Sikandrabad	63.5	71.35	7.85	**6**
Khurja	61.4	68.96	7.56	**7**

Data Source– Census of India, 2001 and 2011, Series 10, District Census Handbook Bulandshahr, Part A & B.

Discussion: Above table shows that among ranking of percentage increase (PI) of literacy (total), Debai occupied *first position* whereas Siana and Shikarpur occupied *second* and *third* position with percentage increase of literacy ranging above 10. Among percentage increase in range of 8.24 – 9.93 per cent there is two tehsils i.e. Bulandshahr and Anupshahr. Sikandrabad and Khurja with 7.85 – 7.56 per cent increase of literacy shows the *least* increase in the literacy rate.

Percentage increase of Literacy Rate (total) Among Tehsils of Bulandshahr District during 2001 – 2011
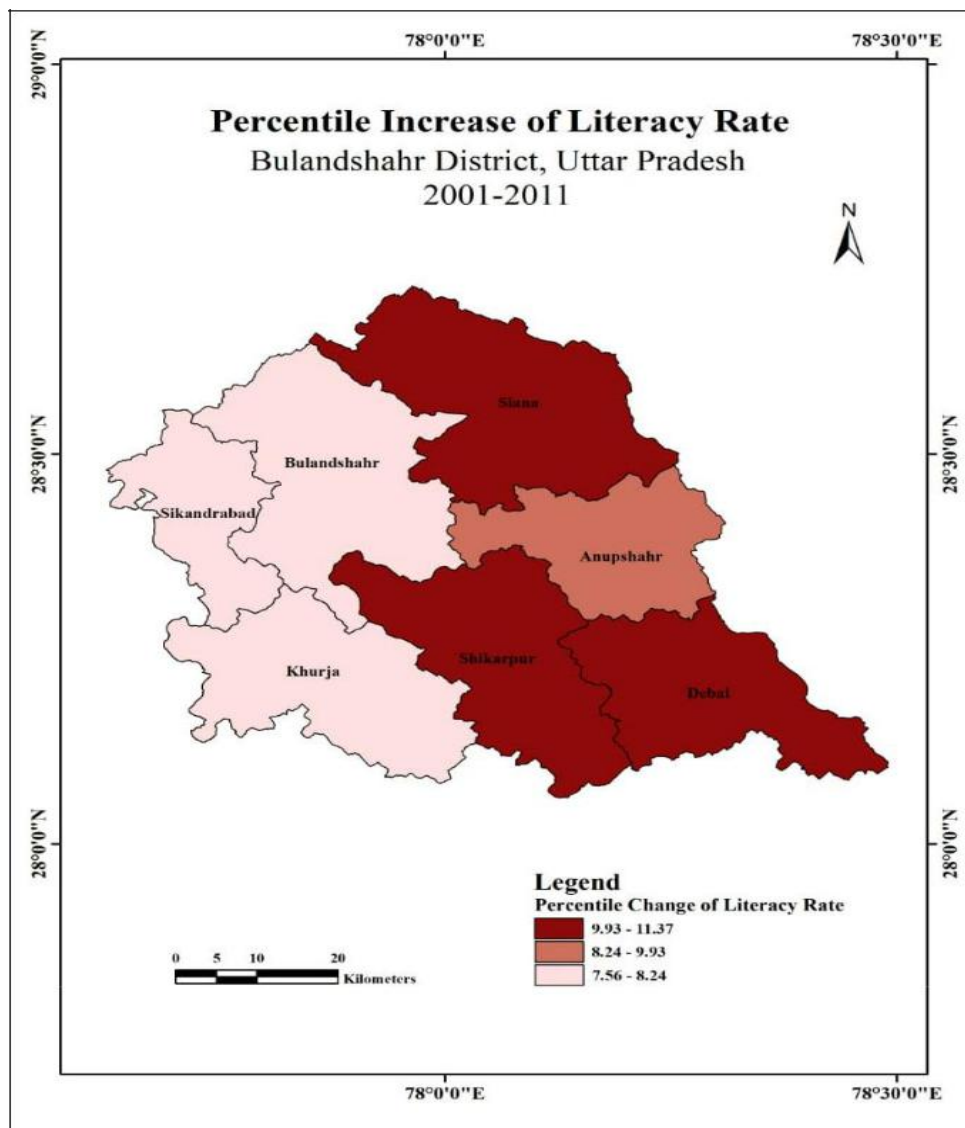

Figure I-Source: Calculated by Researcher

Table 2: Ranking of Percent Increase of Literacy Rate (male) Among Tehsils of India during 2001-2011

Tehsil	2001 (male)	2011(male)	PI	Rank
Debai	69.9	78.04	8.14	**1**
Shikarpur	72.9	80.95	8.05	**2**
Siana	75.7	83.13	7.43	**3**
Anupshahr	73.1	80.17	7.07	**4**
Sikandrabad	77.6	83	5.4	**5**
Bulandshahr	75.6	80.99	5.39	**6**
Khurja	74.7	80.02	5.32	**7**

Data Source – Census of India, 2001 and 2011, Series 10, District Census Handbook Bulandshahr, Part A & B

Discussion: Among ranking of percentage increase (PI) of literacy (male), Debai occupied the first position with 8.14 percentage increase in literacy during 2001-2011. Shikarpur witnessed spectacular growth of 8.05 per cent, ranking second at all tehsil level. Siana, Anupshahr and Sikandrabad witnessed 7.43, 7.07 and 5.4 per cent increase in male literacy occupying 3rd, 4th, and 5th position among all tehsils.

Bulandshahr and Khurja with 5.39 and 5.32 per cent increase occupies the 6th and 7th ranks.

Per cent Increase of Literacy Rate (male) among Tehsils of Bulandshahr District during 2001-2011.
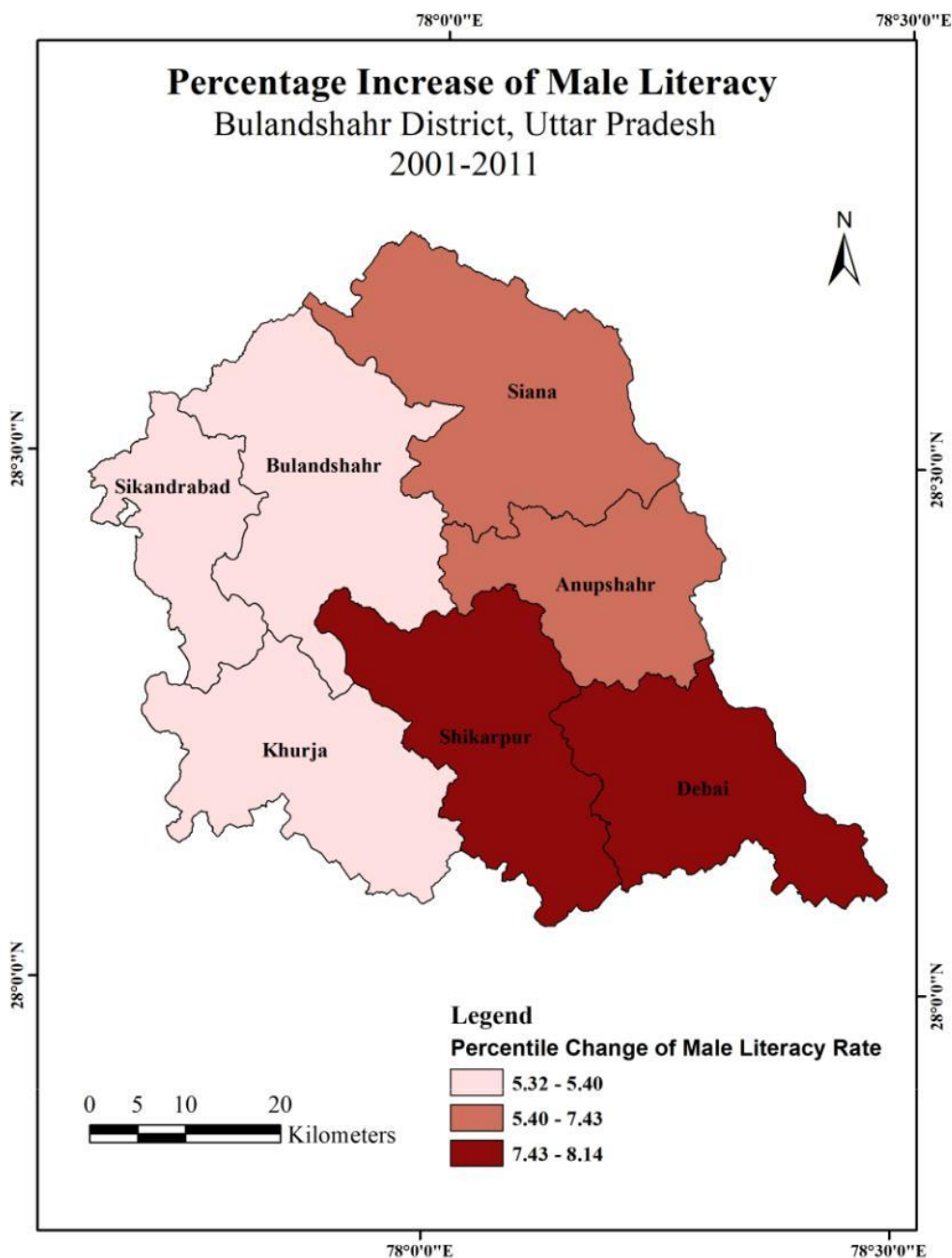

Figure II-Source: Calculated by Researcher

Table 3: Ranking of Percent Increase of Literacy Rate (female) among tehsils of Bulandshahr District 2001 – 2011

Tehsil	2001(female)	2011(female)	PI	Rank
Debai	35	50.46	15.46	**1**
Siana	40.2	55.05	14.85	**2**
Shikarpur	39.6	53.57	13.97	**3**
Anupshahr	40.8	54.03	13.23	**4**
Bulandshahr	46.4	58.2	11.8	**5**
Sikandrabad	47.1	58.33	11.23	**6**
Khurja	46.1	56.33	10.53	**7**

Data Source – Census of India, 2001 and 2011, Series 10, District Census Handbook Bulandshahr, Part A & B.

Discussion: Among ranking of percentage increase of literacy (female), again Debai has occupied the first position with 15.46 percentage increase in literacy during 2001-2011where as Siana witnessed spectacular growth of 14.85 per cent, ranking second at all tehsil level. The other tahsil like Shikarpur, Anupshahr and Bulandshahr witnessed 13.97,13.23 and 11.8 per cent increase in female literacy occupying 3rd, 4th, and 5th position among all tehsils.

Sikandrabad and Khurja being lowest with 11.23 and 10.53 per cent increase occupies 6th 7th ranks.

Table 4: Gender Gap in Literacy Rate among Tehsils of Bulandshahr District during 2001 – 2011

Tehsil	2001 (male)	2001 (female)	Gender Gap	2011 (male)	2011 (female)	Gender Gap
Siana	75.7	40.2	**35.5**	83.13	55.05	**28.08**
Debai	69.9	35	**34.9**	78.04	50.46	**27.58**
Shikarpur	72.9	39.6	**33.3**	80.95	53.57	**27.38**
Anupshahr	73.1	40.8	**32.3**	80.17	54.03	**26.14**
Sikandrabad	77.6	47.1	**30.5**	83	58.33	**24.67**
Khurja	74.7	46.1	**28.6**	80.02	56.63	**23.39**
Bulandshahr	75.6	46.4	**20.2**	80.99	58.2	**22.79**

Data Source – Census of India, 2001 and 2011, Series 10, District Census Handbook Bulandshahr, Part A & B.

Discussion: Above table depicts gender gap in literacy during 2001 and 2011, it is evident from this table that male-female difference in literacy table i.e. (Gender gap) decreased among all tehsils in Bulandshahr District during 2001 to 2011. At all district level, the gender gap in literacy declined from 31.8 per cent in 2001 to 25.36 per cent in 2011. Among all tehsils, Siana gender disparity has declined from 35.5 percent in 2001 to 28.08 percent in 2011 which is nearly 8 percent, whereas Sikandrabad 30.5 percent in 2001 to 24.67 percent in 2011 and Khurja 28.6 percent in 2001 to 23.39 percent in 2011, except in Bulandshahr tehsil which witnessed marginal increase of 20.2 percent in 2001 to 22.79 percent in 2011.

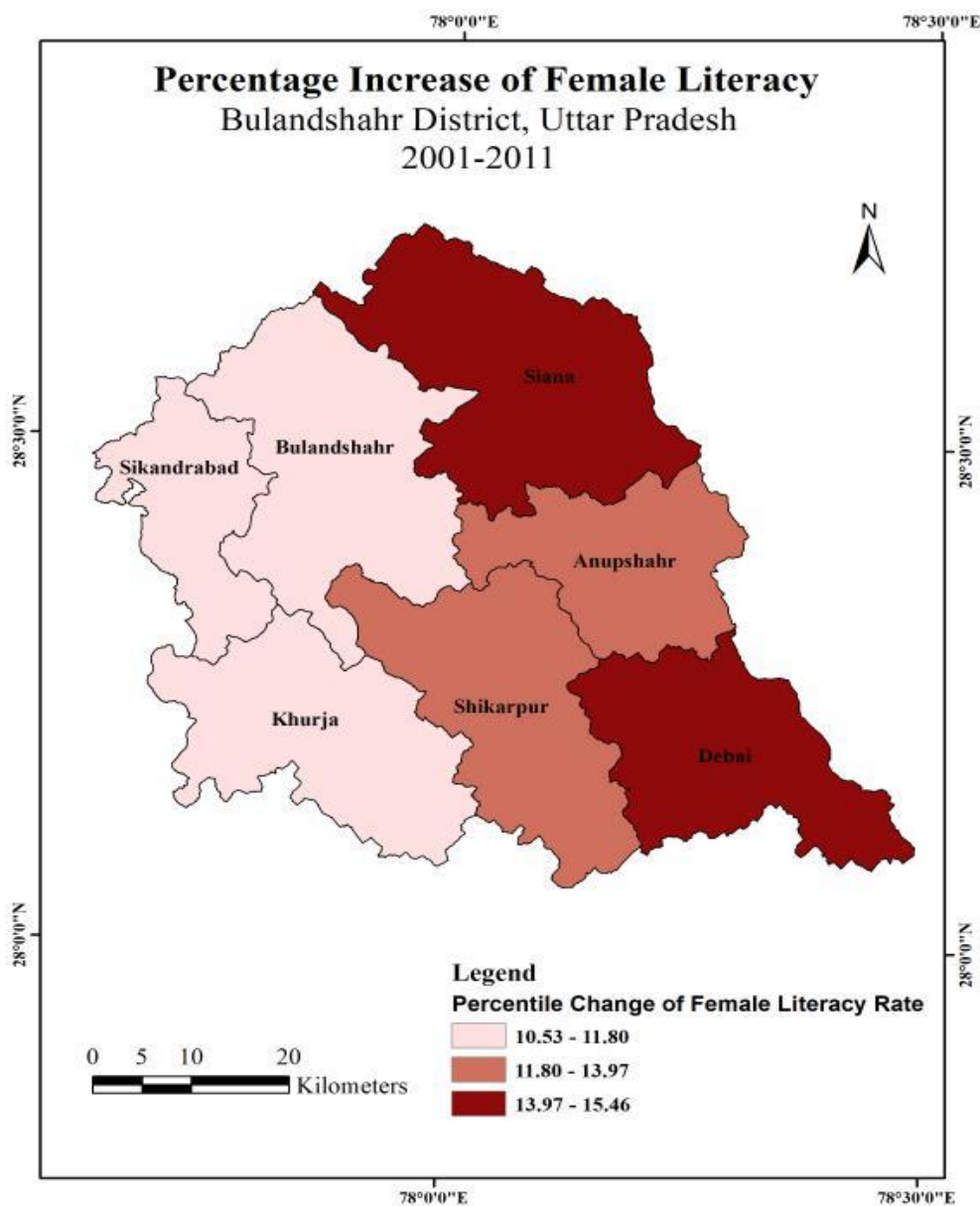**Per cent Increase of Literacy Rate (female) among Tehsils of Bulandshahr District during 2001 – 2011**

Figure III-Source: Calculated by Researcher

Gender Gap in Literacy Rate Among Tehsils of Bulandshahr District during 2001 and 2011.
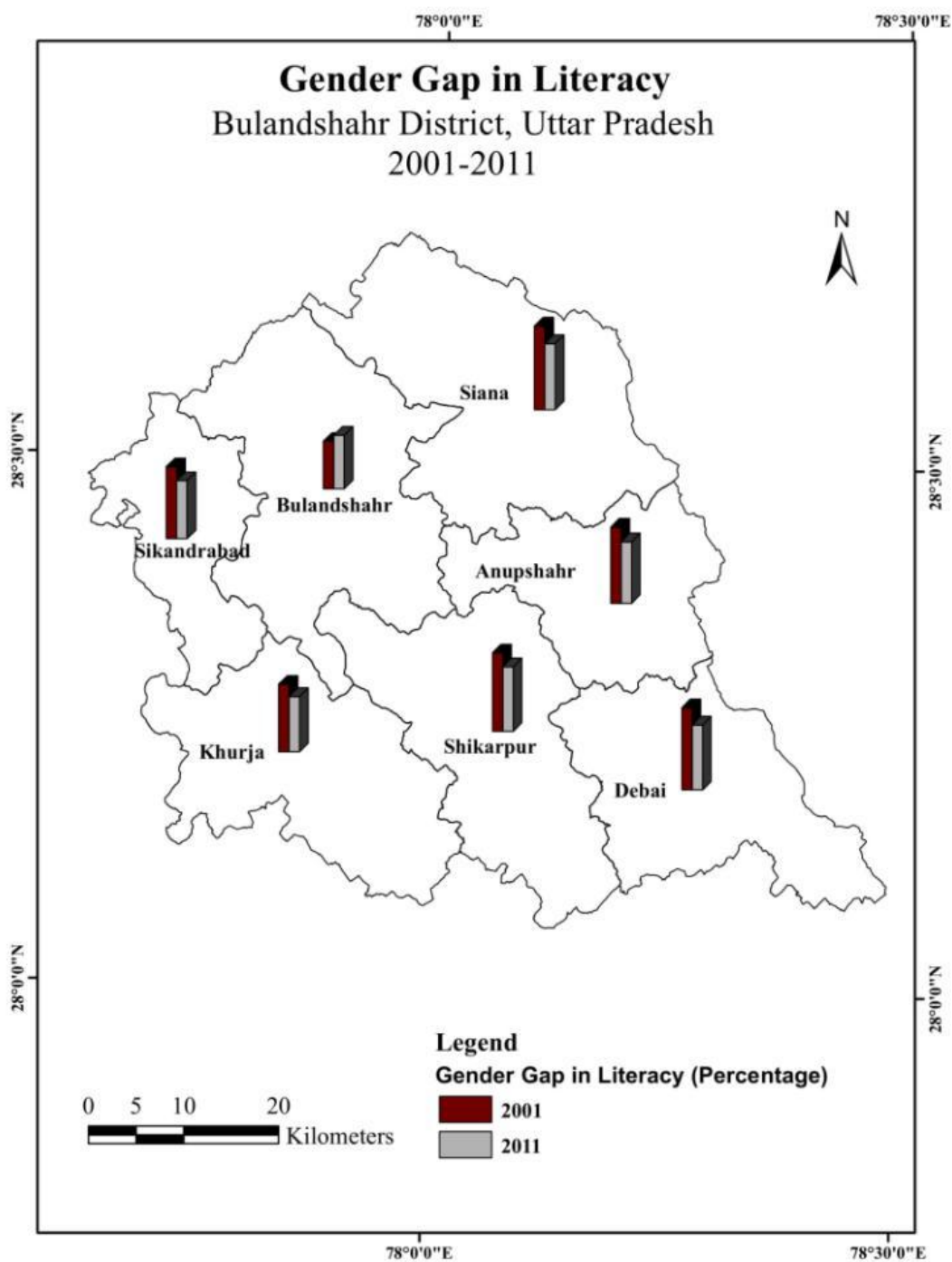
Figure IV-Source: Calculated by Researcher

Table 5: Ranking of Gender Gap in Literacy Rate among Tehsils of Bulandshahr during 2001 – 2011

Tehsil	2001	Rank	Tehsil	2011	Rank
Bulandshahr	**31.8**		**Bulandshahr**	**25.36**	
District			**District**		
Siana	**35.5**	**1**	Siana	**28.08**	**1**
Debai	**34.9**	**2**	Debai	**27.58**	**2**
Shikarpur	**33.3**	**3**	Shikarpur	**27.38**	**3**
Anupshahr	**32.3**	**4**	Anupshahr	**26.14**	**4**
Sikandrabad	**30.5**	**5**	Sikandrabad	**24.67**	**5**
Khurja	**28.6**	**6**	Khurja	**23.39**	**6**
Bulandshahr	**20.2**	**7**	Bulandshahr	**22.79**	**7**

Data Source – Census of India, 2001 and 2011, Series 10, District Census Handbook Bulandshahr, Part A & B

Discussion: Among ranking of tehsils on basis of the gender gap in literacy during 2001and 2011, it is evident from the above table that, in 2011 too Siana continued to occupy top position in terms of the gender gap in literacy with 28.08 per cent. Although, there has been overall decline in the gender gap in literacy among all tehsils and there is no variation among their ranking in 2011 as compared to 2001.

Table 6: Tehsil - wise total Literacy Rate and Female Literacy Rate of Bulandshahr District, 2011

Bulandshahr District	Total literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate	Location Quotient
	68.88	55.57	_
Sikandrabad	71.35	58.33	0.65
Bulandshahr	70.14	58.2	0.66
Siana	69.7	55.05	0.63
Anupshahr	67.73	54.03	0.64
Debai	64.97	50.46	0.62
Shikarpur	67.99	53.57	0.63
Khurja	68.96	56.63	0.66

Data Source: Census of India, 2011

3. Discussion

Table 6 shows the concentration of female literacy rates within the total literacy rates in Bulandshahr district, 2011. Location quotient technique is used to analyze the concentration of female literacy rate. It is seen from the above table, no uniformity of female literacy is found among all tehsils of Bulandshahr district. Among all tehsils, Bulandshahr and Khurja have the highest concentration (0.66) of female literacy rates, followed by Sikandrabad (0.65), Anupshahr (0.64), Siana and Shikarpur both have same (0.63). On the other hand, Debai is found to have the lowest concentration (0.62) of female literacy rates. The unequal distribution of male-female literacy gap in respect of total literacy rates is calculated to measure the inequalities among gaps in literacy where Gini's co-efficient value is 0.17.

4. Conclusion

It is evident from above results that literacy among tehsils witnessed impressive growth during 2001-2011 with the high decadal growth rate in Debai, Siana and Shikarpur brought them at top rank at district level which was due to the effort of several education programmes like U.P Basic Education Programme implemented by the government. There has been interchanging of literacy ranking among tehsils at district level during 2011 as compared to 2001. Although Debai continues to remain at the bottom in overall literacy ranking but it in terms of percentage increase of literacy, it is top in all tehsils ranking. In spite of this growth in literacy rate, the disparity in male-female literacy rate continues to persist which is a matter of serious concern. The gender gap in literacy is lower in the study area whereas it is higher in Siana at tehsil level. To fulfil the gap in gender literacy parental attitude should be changed because it has been viewed that girls despite being from the well-off families are not getting proper education as some parents give preference to boy education. The threat of rape, abduction, molestation of girls lowers the passion of parents to send their girls in schools. India being a secular country having diversity of religion with their own customs and traditions, in which most of the people believe in Parda system which becomes a great hurdle in the way of girl's education. Moreover early marriages and expecting girls to do household chores is another cause that hamper the girl education. There should be equal opportunities which create an environment where women demand knowledge and information, empowering themselves to change their lives.

A time frame should be set to eliminate the existing gap between girls and boys by firstly ensuring universal and equal access to and completion of primary education by all girls, only then we can stop social discrimination and economic exploitation of our half of the population and fulfill the concept of social justice and achieve social and economic development for society.

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