

# Educational Gender Disparity in Rajasthan

## An Analytical Study on Women Education

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper attempts to analyze gender disparity in the field of education in Rajasthan. After many years of independence, It is observed that women are still lagging behind to men in sphere of education. The main reason is the social customs and traditions affect the women education in Rajasthan. This study is based on census 2001 and data is analyzed by ranking and coefficient of variations. This study concluded that variations have been observed in male and female literacy rate in various districts of Rajasthan. It is further observed that along with gender disparity, the regional disparity is also observed in Rajasthan with respect to women education. In terms of education, rural women are far behind to urban women in Rajasthan.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Gender disparity is inextricably bound up with power relation. It refers to psychological, social and cultural difference of inequality between women and men. Gender is one of the most important dimensions of inequality, although it was neglected in the study of stratification for a long time. Although there are no societies in which women have more power than men, there are significant variations in how women's and man's roles are valued within society. According to Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), "Equality between Women and men is a matter of human right and condition for social justice and is also necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace". Education has been playing a very significant role in changing and emancipating the position and status of women in society. In modern times, education has attained immense importance as a source of status mobility and consequent social justice. Education is the key that opens the door in life, which is essential for reducing gender disparity. The National Committee on the Status of Women (1975) accepted that poverty plays a major role in the attitude to girl's education especially for people below

subistence level. Certain other background factors are believed to affect enrolment and dropout rates in school, and are believed to be magnified in the case of girls. Ramachandran and Saihjee (2002), in a study of District Primary Education Programmes (DPEP), found general household characteristics like income, cost, occupation and educational level of parents, continue to determine access, attendance, completion and learning achievement.

The Present study takes into account the gender disparity in Rajasthan with respect to education. Rajasthan with a geographical area of 3.42 lakh sq. kms. is the largest state in India. It is situated in the northwestern part of the country. The position of education was very worst in Rajasthan after independence. The main reason of this was divided in many *Ryasats*, So working system and management of education was totally separate from each other. The literacy rate was only 8.5 percent during the integration (1949) period in Rajasthan. The male literacy was 14 percent and female literacy was 3 percent that time. The number of educational institutions were only 6062 during integration period. The State Government took lot of step for overall

development in Rajasthan is too much lower than other state till now. The level of female education is very low than male, the social customs of women education is being improved after indipendence. The female literacy percentage in Rajasthan was the lowest among the states in 1981 and 1991. The female literacy rate has been more than doubled during 1991-2001 from 20.44 percent to 44.34 percent. Likewise, male literacy has also risen from 54.99 percent to 76.46 percent respectively.

According to 2001 census, the total education person were 280.86 lakhs in which educated male were 182.79 lakhs and educated female were 98.06 lakhs in Rajasthan . Thus, the total literacy ratge of Rajasthan was 61.03 percent in which female literacy was 44.34 percent and male literacy was 76.46 percent. Whereas the total literacy rate of India was 65.38 percent in which male literacy rate was 75.85 percent female literacy rate was 54.46 percent, Thus, the female literacy in Rajasthan is less than the national female literacy rate. The female literacy (44.34 percent) is very less than the male literacy rate (76.44%) in the state. Due to this, the total literacy rate has been found only 61.03 percent. In rural area, the female literacy rate (37.74%) was very less than male literacy rate (72.96%). Other side, the female literacy (65.42%) was less than male literacy (87.10%) also in urban area. Thus, the female literacy has been increased in rural area as well as urban area of Rajasthan, but the female literacy rate (37.74%) in rural area is less than the female literacy (65.42%) of urban area. Therefore, the regional disparity is also found in Rajasthan. Gender disparity has been found in Rajasthan either rural or urban, but the gender disparity has been found more in rural area than urban area. The main reason of this is the attitude of society which is gradually changing towards the female education in rural area but so many facilities are available for women educatin in urban

area. Therefore, the gender disparity is being reduced in urban area.

## 2. BARRIERS TO WOMEN EDUCATION

There are seceral reasons for low level of female literacy in Rajasthan which are as follows: *First*, although school attendacne is free, the cost of books, uniforms and transportations to school can be too much for poor families. Poor families are also more likely to keep girls at home to care for younger siblings or to work in family enterprises. *Second*, if a family has to choose between ducationg a son or daughter because of financial, typically the son will be chosen because daughter will eventually live with their husbands and families, and the parents will not benefit directly from their educaiton. *Third*, also dauther with higher level of educaiton will likely have higher dowry expenses as they will want comparably educated husband *Fourth*, lack of adequate schoool facilities. *Fifth*, lack of female teachers is another potential barrier to girl's education Girl's are more likely to attend school and have higher academic achievement.

## 3. DISTRICT-WISE GENDER DISPARITY IN RAJASTHAN

The section analysed the gender disprity in total, rural and urban area of state in respect to women education. The district-wise literacy rate has been shown in Table-1.

*Total Area* - The highest (61.25%) female literacy rate has been found in Kota and the lowest (27.53 %) in Jalore and highest (86.61%) male literacy rate has been found in Jhunjhunu and lowest (60.25%) in Banswara district (Table-1). Thus, the maximum percent of female literacy (61.25%) is very less than the maximum percent of male literacy (86.61%). The female literacy rate has been found very less than male literacy rate in every district of

state. This shows the gender disparity in respect to education. Therefore, lot of affords have to be done to improve female literacy rate. The female literacy rate has been found in the range of 30 to 50 % in most of district of Rajasthan. Thus, the percent of female literacy rate is found very little in Rajasthan . In five districts of Rajasthan, the female literacy rate has been found in the range of 50 to 60 percent. The female literacy rate has been found more than 60% in Kota and Jhunjhunu whereas is below than 30% in Jalore and Banswara district. Thus, Jalore and Banswara districts are very poor in women educaiton than other district of state. The male literacy rate has been found in the range of 70 to 80 percent in most of districts of Rajasthan. This is found more than 80% is seven districts and less than 70% in five districts of the state. The male literacy has been found less in Banswara. Dungapur and Jalore districts than other districts. Thus, both male and female literacy rates have been found very less in Banswara and Jalore districts, but the percentage of female literacy rate is very less than male literacy rate in these district. This shows that the gender disparity have been found more in these districts than other districts. The rank of female literacy rate and male literacy rate has been found equal in six district. The rank of female literacy has been found less than male literacy in 15 districts whereas the rank of female literacy rate has been found more in 11 districts. This shows that gender disparity vary from district of district. Only 9 districts are higher peositon in female literacy from the average rate of female literacy (44.34%) of the state<sup>4</sup> where 23 districts are below. The female literacy has been found more than average female literacy rate (54.46%) of India in 4 district of Rajasthan. These districts are Kota (61.25%), Jhunjhunu (60.10%), Sikar (56.71%), and Jaipur l(56.18%). other side, 13 district are higher position in male literacy rate from the average male literacy rate (76.46%) of state (Table-1) The male

literacy rate has been found more than average of national male literacy rate (75.85%). This shows that the coefficient of variations in female literacy and male literacy rate has been found 20.82% and 8.14% respectively. This shows that variations in female literacy rate are higher than the male literacy rate in various districts of Rajasthan.

*Rural Area* - The highest (59.80%) female literacy rate has been found in Jhunjhuna district and the lowest (23.78%) in Banswara district and the higher (86.36%) male literacy rate has been found in Jhunjhuna district and lowest (57.49%) in Banswara district. This shows than both male and female literacy rates are maxumum in Jhunjhunu district but the female litereacy rate is very less than male literacy rate. On the other hand, both male and female literacy rates are less in Banswara district, but female literacy rate is very less from male literacy rate. This shows that more gender disparity has been found in rural area of Rajasthan (Ta ble-1). No district in the state, where female literacy is greater than male literacy rate.

Consequently, the total literacy rate hax been found very less than literacy rate in every district of state. The female literacy rate has been found in the range of 30 to 40% in 12 district and below 30% in ten districts. It was found more than 50% in five districts. Therefore, these districts are better position in female literacy rate than other districts, whereas Banswara (23.78%), Jodhpur (25.10%), and Tonk (25.62%) districts are in worst condition in female literacy compared to other districts. In other hand, the male literacy ratge has been found between 70 to 80% in most of the district of rural area (census 2001). This has been found between 60 to 70% in 11 district and more than 80% in four districts. This shows that in this district both male and female literacy rate have been found equal in four districts. Though, ranks are equal but the

difference is present between male and female literacy rate. That has been shown in Table-1. The rank of female literacy rate has been found less than rank of male literacy. This shows gender disparity can be removed by few efforts as discussed earlier.

In all districts of Rajasthan, only 14 districts, female literacy is higher than the average of female literacy (37.74%) in rural area of state, whereas the female literacy rate has been found more than average female literacy rate of state in 7 district. Other side, the female literacy rate has been found more in Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts than average female literacy rate (54.46%) of India. On the point of view, male literacy in 14 districts are higher position from the average male literacy rate (72.96%) in rural area of Rajasthan, whereas the male literacy rate has been found more than the average male literacy rate (76.46%) of state in 9 district (Table-1). Both male and female literacy rate has been found greater in rural area of Jhunjhunu district but the female literacy rate (59.80%) is very less than male literacy rates have been found very less but the female literacy rate (23.78%) has been found very less male literacy rate. Thus, more gender disparity found in these districts in the field of education. Thus, more gender disparity found in ruual area of Rajasthan. Therefore, lot of efforts are needed for reducing the gender disparity in rural area. Table-2 shows that the co-efficient of variations in female literacy and male literacy has been found 25.50% and 9.5% respectively in rural area of Rajasthan. Thus, variations in female literacy is higher than the male literacy in various districts of Rajasthan.

Urban Area - The highest (78.29%) female literacy rate has been found in Udaipur district and the lowest (47.97%) in Jalore district and the highest (93.35%) male literacy has been found in Udaipur district and the lowest (78.35%) in Dholpur district. Thus, the highest female literacy (78.29%) is very less from the highest (93.35%) male literacy. It can

be seen that female literacy rate has been found very less male literacy rate in every district of Rajasthan. The female literacy rate has been found in the range of 60 to 70% in most of the districts of Rajasthan. This was found more than 70% in six districts. Thus, these districts are better in female literacy rate than other district. The literacy rate has been found very less in Banswara district but both male literacy (77.03%) and female literacy (92.13%) have been found more in urban area of Rajasthan. In other hand, the male literacy has been found between 80 to 90% in most districts of urban area. This has been found more than 90% in 8 districts of Rajasthan.

Thus, except Dholpur district (78.35%) the all other districts of Rajasthan are the best position in male literacy rate in urban area. The rank of female and male literacy has been found equal in Udaipur and Banswara districts. The rank of female literacy rate was found less than male literacy rate in 18 districts and more than male literacy rate was found in 12 districts of Rajasthan. The female literaacy rate has been found greater than the average of female literacy (65.42%) rate of urban area in 12 districts and remaining 20 districts have been found below than this average rate of leteracy.

The female literacy rate has been found more than average of female literacy (44.34%) rate in urban area of each district. Thus, the status of women educaiton is being improved in urban area of each district. Thus the status of women education is being impoved in urban area of Rajasthan and the female literacy rate has been found below from the national average rate (54.46%) of female literacy obnly in Jalore district. Karoli (54.64%) and (54.48%) are approximately equal to the average of national female literacy. The male literacy rate has been found more than the average of male literacy rate in uraban area of Rajasthan in 15 districts. No



**Table 1**  
**District wise Literacy Rate in Rural and Urban Area of Rajasthan 2001 (Percent)**

S.No.	District	Literacy Rate (Total)						Literacy Rate (Rural)						Literacy Rate (Urban)					
		Person	Male	Rank	Female	Rank	Person	Male	Rank	Female	Rank	Person	Male	Rank	Female	Rank			
1	Ganganagar	64.84	75.49	15	52.69	7	72	17	47.27	6	85.34	25	68.54	10					
2	Hanumanagar	65.72	77.41	11	52.71	6	75.97	10	50.01	5	83	28	63.4	15					
3	Bikaner	57.54	70.78	26	42.55	15	61.92	31	28.83	25	85.38	24	65.62	12					
4	Churu	66.97	79.52	9	53.87	5	78.63	8	51.45	3	81.71	30	59.95	24					
5	Jhunjhunu	73.61	86.61	1	60.1	2	86.36	1	59.8	1	87.51	14	61.28	20					
6	Alwar	65.06	78.91	10	43.95	11	76.54	9	39.16	13	91.5	3	71.24	4					
7	Bharatpur	64.24	81.39	5	44.12	10	79.95	6	39.62	11	87.08	15	61.47	19					
8	Dholpur	60.77	75.85	14	42.36	16	75.29	11	39.37	12	78.35	32	54.87	29					
9	Karauli	64.59	80.93	6	45.44	9	80.45	4	43.84	8	83.81	26	54.65	30					
10	Swainadhapur	57.34	76.75	13	35.44	26	74.13	13	29.69	24	87.54	13	59.17	25					
11	Dausa	62.75	80.37	7	43.15	14	79.19	7	40.83	10	90.12	8	62.54	16					
12	Jaipur	70.63	83.58	4	56.18	4	79.96	5	44.42	7	87.03	16	67.89	11					
13	Sikar	71.10	85.2	3	56.4	3	84.74	2	55.7	2	86.91	17	60.6	22					
14	Nagour	58.26	75.33	16	40.45	18	73.66	14	37.58	15	83.06	27	54.48	31					
15	Jodhpur	57.38	73.86	20	39.18	20	66.94	25	25.1	31	86.12	20	65.28	13					
16	Jaisalmer	51.4	66.89	29	32.25	29	63.09	29	27.45	27	85.7	21	58.33	26					
17	Banmer	59.65	73.64	21	43.91	12	72.15	16	42.43	9	90.52	7	61.54	18					
18	Jalore	46.51	65.1	31	27.53	32	63.52	28	25.88	29	82.61	29	47.97	32					
19	Sirohi	54.39	70.58	27	37.37	23	65.94	26	31.47	22	89.76	10	64.44	14					
20	Pali	54.92	73.06	22	36.7	24	69.39	21	31.76	21	85.4	23	55.27	28					
21	Ajmer	65.09	79.96	8	49.1	8	72.6	15	32.72	19	89.89	9	72.58	3					
22	Tonk	52.39	71.25	25	32.3	28	68.48	23	25.62	30	81.65	31	56.89	27					
23	Bundi	55.8	72.17	23	37.76	22	68.99	22	32.41	20	85.53	22	60.15	23					
24	Bhilwara	51.19	68.12	28	33.47	27	62.85	30	26.09	28	86.81	18	62.29	17					
25	Rajasmand	55.82	74.05	19	37.89	21	71.23	19	33.22	18	91.11	4	69.24	7					
26	Udaipur	59.26	74.47	17	43.71	13	69.52	20	35.46	17	93.35	1	78.29	1					
27	Dungarpur	48.32	66.19	30	31.22	30	64.12	27	28.19	26	89.25	12	69.03	9					
28	Banswara	44.32	60.24	32	27.86	31	57.49	32	23.78	32	92.13	2	77.03	2					
29	Chittorgarh	54.37	71.82	24	36.45	25	67.91	24	29.98	23	91.06	5	70.19	6					
30	Kota	74.45	86.25	2	61.25	1	82.56	3	50.6	4	89.29	11	70.3	5					
31	Baran	60.37	76.86	12	42.18	17	74.81	12	38.21	14	86.77	19	61.11	21					
32	Jhalawar	57.98	74.29	18	40.39	19	71.46	18	35.51	16	90.58	6	69.09	8					
	<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>61.03</b>	<b>76.46</b>		<b>44.34</b>		<b>72.96</b>		<b>37.74</b>		<b>87.1</b>		<b>65.42</b>						

Source: Census of India 2001, Rajasthan, Provisional Population Totals, Paper 2 of 2001, Directorate of Census Operations

**Table 2**  
**Coefficient of Variations in Education in Various Districts of Rajasthan (in percent)**

Area	Female	Male
Total	20.82	8.14
Rural	25.50	9.50
Urban	10.65	4.05

district has been found where male literacy was less than the average of male literacy (76.46%) in Rajasthan. Thus, the female literacy rate was found more in urban area than male literacy rate in urban area of every district in Rajasthan. Therefore, lot of efforts are needed to improve the status of women education in urban area. Table-2 shows that the coefficient of variations in female and male literacy rate has been found 10.65% and 4.05% respectively in urban area of Rajasthan. Thus, variations in female literacy rate is higher than the male literacy rate in various districts of Rajasthan.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

It concluded that gender disparity has been found in various districts of Rajasthan. No district in Rajasthan was found where female literacy rate was higher than male literacy rate. But the position of female literacy rate is good in some districts of Rajasthan than the average literacy rate of Rajasthan and India. The total literacy rate has been found higher in Kota and Jhunjhunu districts due to female literacy rate. Thus, the programmes executed by the government play an important role to increase the female education. The female literacy rate has been found good in Udaipur and Banswara districts in Urban area and Jhunjhunu district in rural area. But the highest (59.80%) female literacy rate in rural area of Jhunjhunu district is less than the first 20th rank of female literacy (61.28%) in urban area. The female literacy rate has been found less in rural area of Banaware district than urban area, which indicates the regional disparity, in Rajasthan. Banswara, Jalore, Barmer, Dungarpur, districts are backward in female education than other district. Gender disparity in the field of education shows the

lack of awareness in society female education in Banswara, Jalore and Dungarpur districts. The main reason of this is the higher population density of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Lack of education facilities is also responsible for the below level of education. Variations in female literacy rate has been found greater than the male literacy rate either rural area or urban area but this has been found more in rural area. It indicates that rural women are far behind from urban women in context to education.

Thus, the census results in Rajasthan shows that the programmes implemented and Central Government for appreciation to women education has positive impact. Therefore, government can play a vital role in growth of female education. Gender disparity is being reduced due to the change in social attitude.

However, with a view to reducing gender disparity in female education the following suggestions are recommended: (i) NGO's should actively participate in providing women education (ii) Geographical area should be identified where women literacy is comparatively low in order to formulate good strategy to improve the same (iii) It is important to recognize those social causes, which lay behind the low female literacy then strategic planning is needed to remove away these causes (iv) Policies cannot be implemented in full spirits, unless and until organized system is improved. (v) There is need to increase the number of female teachers, which positively affects the women education (vi) Healthy environment should be created in rural area for women education and social attitude should be changed in perspective to women education.

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## **The Journal of Meerut University History Alummi (MUHA)**

*A Half Yearly Research Journal of History*

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**JOURNAL OF  
COMMERCE  
& TRADE**