

## Disparity in Literacy According to the Social Groups in Pratapgarh District (Rajasthan)

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### Abstract:-

Education is the main basis of socio – economic development of any region, without it the progress of that region can not be imagined. Education creates humanistic outlook in people through development of logical thinking, Understanding of values and scientific thinking, due to which people move forward on a new path of development by abandoning orthodox beliefs, traditions and superstitions. Education is the medium that inspires people to move from the dark ages towards the light of progress. The word 'literacy' means the ability to read and write. This paper is an attempt to analyze the status of literacy. In the presented research paper, on the basis of 2011 census data, an attempt has been made to analyze the disparity in literacy according to social groups in 153 gram panchayats of Pratapgarh district.

### Introduction:-

In modern times, in the new concept of human development, education has been recognized as a major dimension of human development. People's participation in education reflects the political freedom, fundamental rights and access to resources of the citizens of that country. That is, the country whose citizens have more participation in education, the citizens of that country will have more access to political freedom, fundamental rights and resources. Giving constitutional status to education in our country, it has been described as a fundamental right of children. In Article 21A of the Constitution of the country, education has been described as a fundamental right of children and in 51A (k) as a fundamental duty of parents. Also, making elementary education free and compulsory for boys and girls up to 6-14 years of age, parents and governments will make this education available to their boys and girls up to 6-14 years under any circumstances. This is also mentioned in the constitution. Literacy refers to the ability to read, write and use it. UNESCO defines literacy as the ability to recognize, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with different contexts.

In this paper, an attempt has been made to find out the disparities of literacy in Pratapgarh district. Pratapgarh district has been taken as the study area. Schedule tribe population is high here and literacy is low. Literacy percentage is very low in some blocks and for educational development it is important to find out which areas have low literacy percentage.

### Objectives:-

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1. To find out the spatial variation in literacy.
2. To find out the inequality according to the social class.

**Study Area:-**

Pratapgarh district is the newest district in the state of Rajasthan. It came into existence on 26 January 2008 as the 33rd district of Rajasthan and the study area is the entire Pratapgarh district with a geographical area of 4448.9 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 8,67,848 with a population density of 165.72 persons per sq km. During the period from 2001 to 2011, the growth of population is 22.84 per cent as compared to the growth of population of the state i.e. 21.3 per cent which is relatively higher. Out of the total main workers, 89.1 per cent are engaged in agriculture and allied activities and only 3.9 per cent workers are engaged in manufacturing activities. The literacy population of the district is 55.3 percent and female literacy is only 41.1 percent. This is a tribal dominated area. 64.36 percent of the population belongs to the Scheduled Tribe population, this district is very rich in terms of natural resources. Pratapgarh district consists of five blocks- Arnod, Chhoti Saddi, Dhariabad, Pipalkhut and Pratapgarh. There are 153 gram panchayats in these five blocks.

**Research Method:-**

The data of 153 Gram Panchayats of Pratapgarh district has been collected from various government organizations and India Census-2011. Tables and map are used for data presentation. Cartographic techniques have been used for map making.

**Literacy: An Overview:-**

Literacy is the key to socioeconomic progress in India and the Indian literacy rate has increased from 12 percent in 1947 to 74 percent in 2011. This level of literacy is below the world average literacy rate of 84 percent. There is a wide gender disparity in the literacy rate in India, with the effective literacy rate (age 7 and above) in 2011 being 82.14 per cent for males and 65.46 per cent for females. In 2011, the literacy rate of Rajasthan was 66.11 percent. The male literacy rate was 79.19 percent and the female literacy was 52.12 percent, according to the 2011 census the highest literacy rates are in the cities of Kota, Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Alwar with literacy rates between 70 to 77 percent and the lowest among cities The literacy rate is of Jalore, Sirohi, Pratapgarh, Banswara and Barmer where the literacy rate is 54 to 57 percent. In 2011, the literacy rate of Pratapgarh district is 55.37, in which the literacy rate of males has been done among 153 gram panchayats. There are wide regional disparities and backwardness in literacy levels in the district.

**Block wise literacy rate in the study area:-**

In the presented research paper, the literacy rate has been analyzed according to social class among 153 gram panchayats of 5 blocks of Pratapgarh district. Table numbers (1) and (2) clearly show the disparities in literacy among different blocks according to social group. The total population literacy is divided into three categories, two blocks Dhariyavad and Peepalkhont come in the category of less than 45 percent literacy, Arnod block comes in the middle class with 45-60 percent literacy. Chhoti Saddi and Pratapgarh have more than 60 percent literacy.

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Table 1: Social Groupwise literacy rate 2011

Blocks Name	Social-Groupwise Literacy Rate			Average/ Total
	Scheduled caste	Scheduled Tribe	General	
Dhariyabad	51.27	36.63	72.63	43.69
Piplekhunt	46.13	43.58	63.39	44.33
Chhoti Sadri	65.56	46.21	75.69	63.98
Pratapgarh	68.75	50.25	78.92	65.62
Arnod	62.14	51.38	76.86	59.24
Total	58.77	45.61	73.50	55.37

Table 2: Social category wise literacy rate in the district.

Social class	Category Wise Literacy Rate		
	Low	Middle	High
Scheduled caste	< 40	40-60	> 60
	Piplekhunt	Dhariyavad	Arnod] Pratapgarh, Chhoti Sadri
Scheduled Tribe	< 40	40-50	> 50
	Dhariyavad	Piplekhunt] Chhoti Sadri	Arnod] Pratapgarh
General	< 65	65-75	> 75
	Piplekhunt	Dhariyavad	Chhoti sadri, Pratapgarh, Arnod
Average	< 45	45-60	> 60
	Piplekhunt, Dhariyavad	Arnod	Chhoti Sadri, Pratapgarh

**Disparities in the literacy rate according to the social class among the blocks of the district:-**

Table no. 1 and 2 clearly show the disparity in literacy among blocks in Pratapgarh district according to social class, the social groups mainly include Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled caste and General Category.

**Scheduled Castes:** As of 2011 census, Pipalkhunt tehsil had the lowest literacy rate of less than 40 percent. The literacy rate was high i.e. more than 60 percent in Chhoti Sadri, Pratapgarh and Arnod blocks while the literacy rate in Dhariawad ranged between 40 to 60 percent.

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**Scheduled Tribes:** With respect to Scheduled Tribes literacy rate, in Dhariyavad Block the literacy rate is less than 40%. There is Chhote Saadi and Pipalkhunt blocks which comes in between range 40 to 50 percent, while Literacy rate in Pratapgarh and Arnod blocks is more than 50 percent

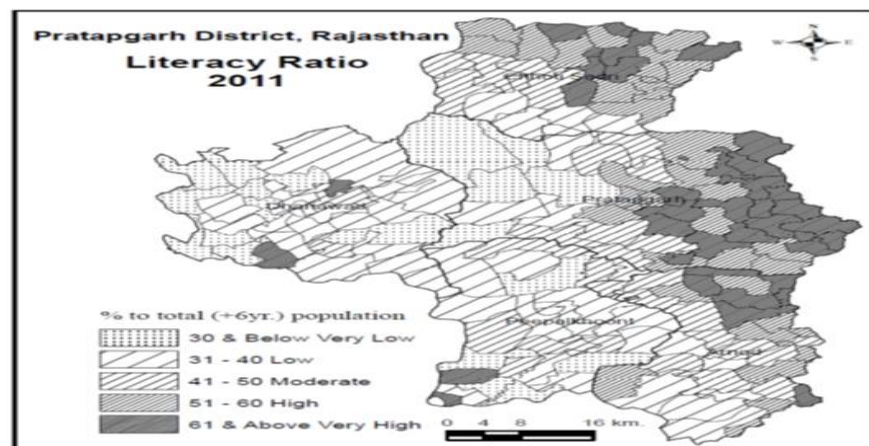
**General:** Apart from SC and ST, literacy rate in general caste is also classified into three parts, below 65 percent comes in Pipalkhunt block, between 65 to 75 percent comes in Dhariawad block, Pratapgarh , Arnod and Chhote Sadri block have literacy above 75 percent.

**Gram Panchayat wise average literacy rate:**

It is clear from Table no 3 and map no 1 that there is wide variation in the literacy rate of 153 Gram Panchayats of the district. Average literacy is classified into five categories, very low, low, medium, high and very high.

**Table no 3: Total Literacy Rate 2011**

Blocks Name	Average Literacy Rate@Total no.of Gram Panchayats					Total Gram Panchayats
	< 30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	
Arnod	0	6	10	8	6	30
Chhote Sadri	0	4	5	10	6	25
Dharyavad	10	16	2	0	2	30
Piplekhunt	5	12	6	0	1	24
Pratapgarh	5	3	7	12	17	44
Total District	20	41	30	30	32	153



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Out of 30 Gram Panchayats of Dhariyavad Block, literacy rate is less than 50 percent in 28 Gram Panchayats and literacy rate is more than 50 percent in only 2 Gram Panchayats. Whereas, out of 44 gram panchayats of Pratapgarh, the literacy rate is more than 50 percent in 29 gram panchayats.

It is clearly known from the map that the literacy is more than 50 percent in the eastern region of Pratapgarh district and less than 50 percent in the gram panchayats of the western region.

**Factors responsible for low literacy rate in different panchayat samities:-**

1. **Geographical location-** Pratapgarh district is a district dominated by Scheduled Tribes, in which most of the families reside on the mountains as separate families. In this situation, due to the lack of contact of the people of this area with the society, the expected results have not been achieved.
2. **Social reasons-** The social structure of the tribal area is such that both women and men of the tribes are engaged in agriculture, labor, animal husbandry, due to which they lose interest in education. Drug addiction is also a major social problem in the region.
3. **Economic reason-** There is a lack of employment sources in this area. For livelihood, the population depends on labor and agriculture. Agriculture is dependent on the monsoon due to insufficient sources of irrigation and the area under cultivation is very small, as a result of which the yield is also not sufficient.
4. **Lack of means of transport-** There is a lack of means of transport in Pratapgarh district, which is a major reason for the isolation of the residents of this area. The population of this region has its own culture.
5. **Migration-** The eastern border of this district is meeting with the state border of Madhya Pradesh, due to which the people of this area are migrating towards Madhya Pradesh for the purpose of employment.

**Efforts to be made to increase the literacy rate-**

To increase the literacy rate, the following efforts can be made in various Panchayat Samitis of Pratapgarh district.

1. A plan should be made to educate the illiterate through B.Ed trainee.
2. The scheme of awareness of education should be made successful by giving remuneration to the campaigners who promote education.
3. District employment oriented program is being organized in Pratapgarh where a large number of women laborers are working. To educate them, responsibility should be given to the motivators of these education centers, who should do education work at work place for one hour.
4. It should be made mandatory for the promoters of education centers to educate 10 illiterates every month.

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**Conclusion-**

As a conclusion, there is a spatial variation in literacy in Pratapgarh district, which is due to the above reasons. According to the proposed suggestion to increase literacy, if planning and implementation are done, it is certain that this variation will end in future and the percentage of literacy will also increase in the entire district.

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