INTER-STATE DISPARITIES IN LITERACY RATE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT
Higher level of literacy is an important condition for developing countries to achieve required level of development and to survive in present globalised world. This paper is an attempt to analyze interstate disparities (Total Persons, Males and Females) and Male Female gap in India’s literacy rates (for the twenty eight States and seven Union Territories of India), with the help of Censuses conducted during 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 years. To study disparities, measures of dispersion (standard deviation and coefficient of variation) and decadal differences have been used. The paper concludes that, in broader sense, the average literacy rates for Total Persons, Males and Females for States/UTs is increasing and interstate/UTs variations in literacy rates are reducing over time, although not equally for males and females. The average Male Female Gap in literacy rate is declining continuously. The change in female literacy rate in different states is more responsible for narrowing down the interstate disparities in literacy rates than change in male literacy rates.

KEY WORDS: Female Literacy Rate, Interstate Disparities, Male Literacy Rate, Male Female Gap in Literacy Rate, Total Persons Literacy Rate.

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