



**DISPARITIES IN LITERACY RATE OF DALITS IN KARNATAKA –
AN INTER- DISTRICT LEVEL ANALYSIS**

Mohammed Ashfaq Ahamed, Ph. D. Research Scholar, Department of Economics,
Karnatak University, Dharwad,

Abstract

Though the Karnataka state is striving towards achieving universal literacy at a faster pace, but still 35% of the Scheduled Castes population and 38% of the Scheduled Tribes population is still illiterate. The following article has analysed the trends and pattern of literacy rates of Dalits with regard to regions and gender in Karnataka. Statistical and analytical methods such as Averages, Percentages, Range, Disparity Indices and Co-efficient of Variation are employed in the study. It is found that the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in the state is far behind the benchmark goal of 85% by the Planning Commission. This is a cause of concern. The female SCs and STs are quite worse off when compared to male SCs and STs. The inter-district variations are also quite wider in their case. Further the literacy rate of female SCs and STs across northern backward districts have not crossed 50 per cent. This is one of major challenge that the State should address on a priority concern. Twelfth Plan proposes that efforts will be made for providing functional literacy with special focus to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other disadvantageous groups for keeping track with the objective of Inclusive Growth. It will go long way in sustaining the Dalits improvement in the growth process. Once the literacy rate of female Dalits is improved, it will help them to utilize better economic opportunities and enhance their capabilities, there-by leading to socio-economic empowerment.

Key Words: Literacy Rate, Dalits, Gender Disparity, Regional Disparity



Scholarly Research Journal's is licensed Based on a work at www.srjis.com 4.194, 2013 SJIF©
SRJIS 2014

Introduction: Education serves as an important contributing factor which helps in social and economic development of any community. Further, it is also the major component of Human Development. It has also been looked upon that the benefits of educational programmes have been shared disproportionately by the advantaged and the disadvantaged sections of population*. In any state, the progress of educational development will have to be analysed with the objective of

* Disadvantaged sections of the population are the neglected masses among the population. They are lagging behind in the growth process. They mainly constitute females, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and Minorities.

achieving inclusive growth so that the disadvantaged sections of the population get their due benefits in order to overcome the constraints imposed on them. Literacy Rate is one of the important indicators which signify the educational status of any community. Though the state is striving towards achieving universal literacy at a faster pace, but still 35% of the Scheduled Castes population and 38% of the Scheduled Tribes population is still illiterate. (As per Census 2011).

Several researchers and scholars have undertaken studies aiming at assessing and addressing the educational disparities with regard to literacy rates across states of India. **McDougall (2000), Ghosh (2003), Ghosh (2011)** have analysed the regional, gender and social disparities in terms of literacy rate in India using correlation and co-efficient of variation. They all found that the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribes was lower. It was also found that female literacy is subjected to deep regional and sub-regional variations and therefore there is a need to bring a shift in recent educational policies towards decentralized education programmes. Across Karnataka, the educational disparities in terms of literacy rates was studied by **Nanjundappa (2002), Panchmukhi (2005); Yadav (2005); Azim (2005); Rao D.J (2008); Lingaraju (2012); Suresha and Mylrapa (2013)**. All these studies have analysed literacy rates with regard to regions, gender and social groups. They found that female literacy rate was quite lower than the male. Further there was perceptible gap between the State's literacy rate and the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. Unfortunately, despite having the capacity to benefit from education, they are not in a position to truly enlarge their choices. No doubt that these studies have focused on disparities in literacy rates in India and Karnataka since times immemorial, but in the wake of inclusive growth by the 11th and 12th Plan and in the light of recent census survey, it becomes necessary to provide an comprehensive picture of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes who have been disadvantaged in the growth process with regard to their attainment of literacy rates. **Therefore the following study aims at analyzing the trends and pattern of literacy rates of Dalits with regard to regions and gender in Karnataka.**

Database and Methodology: The following study has analyzed the trends across two census years i.e., 2001 and 2011. It is collected and consolidated mainly from the "Socio-Cultural Tables (C8-Series) of Census of India of year 2001" and "Primary Census Abstract of Census of India of year 2011". Further the study uses statistical and analytical methods such as Averages, Percentages, Range, Disparity Indices and Co-efficient of Variation. Under the Disparity Indices, the study has used Gender Disparity Index (GDI) and Regional Disparity Index (RDI). GDI is arrived by dividing the Female literacy rate with Male literacy rate and RDI is arrived by dividing Rural Literacy rate with the Urban Literacy Rate.

Hypotheses of the Study: The study aims to test the following three hypotheses. They are:-

1. The inter-district variation across Scheduled Tribes is quite higher than the inter-district variation among Scheduled Caste in terms of literacy rate.
2. The inter-district variation across female SCs is

wider than the inter-district variation among male SCs. 3. The inter-district variation across female STs is wider than the inter-district variation among male STs.

Results and Discussion: Literacy rate is an important indicator which signifies the educational development of any state or community. It enhances the personality development of the individual and develops a sense of civic responsibility in them. It also contributes to improve the quality of life. Table 1 provides the literacy scenario in Karnataka with regard to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. In Karnataka, the overall literacy rate of the population in the age group of 7 years and above has increased from 56.04 per cent in 1991 to that of 75.60 per cent in 2011, with an improvement of 19.56 per cent. During 2001, it increased by 11 per cent points and in 2011, it further increased by 8.56 per cent points. The literacy rate among Scheduled Caste population in Karnataka during 2001 was 52.87 per cent. It has improved by 12.46 per cent points during the period 2001-2011. In the year 2011, the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste stood at 65.33 %. Disparity Index is also calculated in order to know the disparity level of Dalits literacy rate to the State's literacy rate. The disparity level of Scheduled Caste in terms of literacy rate stood at 0.79, indicating that still 0.21 level of parity is to be achieved. But gradually over the years, the disparity index has improved, reaching it closer to parity. In 2011, it stood at 0.86. Therefore over the period 2001-2011, there has been improvement of around 0.07 per cent points in disparity index of Scheduled Caste's literacy rate. The Gender Disparity Index (GDI) has improved by 0.11 per cent points and the Regional Disparity Index (RDI) has seen an improvement by 0.10 per cent points.

Table 1 :Growth in Literacy rates of Dalits in Karnataka

Particulars	Years	Total	Rural	Urban	Male	Female	GDI	RDI
Total	2001	67.04	59.30	80.60	76.29	57.45	0.75	0.74
	2011	75.60	68.86	86.21	82.85	68.13	0.82	0.80
	Progress	8.56	9.56	5.61	6.56	10.68	0.07	0.06
SC	2001	52.87	47.25	69.27	63.75	41.72	0.65	0.68
	2011	65.33	60.44	77.43	74.03	56.58	0.76	0.78
	Progress	12.46	13.19	8.15	10.28	14.86	0.11	0.10
ST	2001	48.27	45.26	64.57	59.66	36.57	0.61	0.70
	2011	62.08	58.99	74.82	71.14	52.98	0.74	0.79
	Progress	13.81	13.74	10.26	11.48	16.41	0.13	0.09
Disparity Index of SC*	2001	0.79	0.80	0.86	0.84	0.73		
	2011	0.86	0.88	0.90	0.89	0.83		
	Progress	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.06	0.10		
Disparity Index of ST*	2001	0.72	0.76	0.80	0.78	0.64		
	2011	0.82	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.78		
	Progress	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.08	0.14		

*Note: *Disparity Index is calculated by dividing the Dalits literacy rate to the State's literacy rate*

Source: Derived from Socio-cultural Tables (C8-Series) of Census of India, 2001 and

Primary Census Abstract of Census of India, 2011

Among Scheduled tribe population, the literacy rate improved by 13.81 per cent points during the period 2001-2011 i.e., from 48.27 per cent in 2001 to 62.08 per cent in 2011. The disparity level of Scheduled Tribes in terms of literacy rate stood at 0.72, indicating that still 0.28 level of parity is to be achieved. But gradually over the years, the disparity index has improved. In 2011, it stood at 0.82 slightly lower than the disparity index of Scheduled Caste. Over the period 2001-2011, there has been improvement of around 0.10 per cent points in disparity index of Scheduled Tribe's literacy rate. The Gender Disparity Index (GDI) has improved by 0.13 per cent points, slightly higher than that of Scheduled Caste's GDI, whereas the Regional Disparity Index (RDI) has seen an improvement by 0.09 per cent points. The highlighting feature noticed is that "Though the literacy rate of STs is quite lower than that of SCs, but the improvement in literacy rates of STs is higher when compared to SC across rural, urban, male and female dimensions."

The Eleventh Plan Approach Paper of Planning Commission had suggested a benchmark of 85% literacy rate across states to be achieved by the plan end. If we compare the literacy rate of Dalits with the goal of literacy rate as proposed in the 11th Plan Approach Paper, it seems that the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe is far behind the goal. Still 19.67 per cent points across Scheduled Castes and 22.92 per cent points across Scheduled Tribes needs to be gained. Further, the State's literacy rate itself has not yet achieved the benchmark of literacy rate. This is a cause of concern.

Inter-district Variations in Literacy rate of Dalits

Table 2 presents the inter-district variations in literacy rate of Dalits. During 2001, the literacy rate of SC across districts varied from the highest rate of 70.23 per cent recorded in Bangalore Urban district to that of lowest rate of 38.76 per cent seen in Raichur district, indicating a gap of 31.47 points. Further in 2011, the literacy rate varied from the highest rate of 78.56 per cent in Udupi and Bangalore Urban district to that of the lowest rate of 43.30 per cent in Yadgir district, indicating an increase in the gap by 3.79 points in 2011 over 2001. Majority of the northern districts which are identified as backward districts by Nanjundappa Committee Report (2002) had literacy rate lower than 50 per cent in 2001. But however, the situation improved and was better-off in the year 2011 with the enhancement of literacy rates. Among these districts, Koppal district recorded highest increase by 20.97 per cent points. The only district which is lagging behind is Yadgir district where the literacy rate is still below 50 per cent. The literacy rate of STs across districts varied from the highest rate of 72.95 per cent recorded in Dakshina Kannada district to that of lowest rate of 29.01 per cent seen in Raichur district, indicating a gap of 43.93 points. Further in 2011, the literacy rate varied from the highest rate of 81.49 per cent in Dakshina Kannada district to that of the lowest rate of 43.56

per cent in Yadgir district, indicating decrease in the gap by 6 points in 2011 over 2001. This is noteworthy achievement as compared with that of SC, where the gap across the highest and lowest literacy rate has widened over the years. Most of northern district had literacy rate lower than 50 per cent in 2001. Even some of the southern districts namely Kodagu, Mysore, Kolar and Chamrajnagar too had comparatively lower literacy rates. But however in 2011, the literacy rates of STs across district enhanced in a positive manner. But still the literacy rates in Raichur and Yadgir districts needs to be drastically improved, as the literacy rate is still below 50 per cent. The highest increase in the literacy rates of STs was recorded in Gulbarga district (24.04 points), followed by Koppal district with 18.85 points of improvement. Further none of the districts of Karnataka with regard to SCs and STs has attained the 85 per cent of benchmark literacy rate as proposed by the Eleventh Plan Approach Paper of Planning Commission.

Table 2: Inter-district Variations in Literacy rate of Dalits

Districts	Scheduled Caste			Scheduled Tribe		
	2001	2011	Progress	2001	2011	Progress
Belgaum	55.57	67.79	12.22	43.72	59.51	15.79
Bagalkot	42.44	58.94	16.50	42.87	58.43	15.56
Bijapur	47.16	59.63	12.47	46.19	62.26	16.07
Bidar	52.37	63.40	11.03	48.68	61.54	12.86
Raichur	38.76	53.44	14.68	29.01	44.41	15.40
Koppal	38.78	59.75	20.97	42.11	60.96	18.85
Gadag	48.45	62.91	14.46	57.73	69.35	11.62
Dharwad	61.19	73.46	12.27	54.46	68.29	13.83
Uttara Kannada	65.45	77.08	11.62	62.74	71.89	9.15
Haveri	50.25	65.55	15.30	58.67	71.21	12.54
Bellary	42.31	58.60	16.29	41.12	55.86	14.74
Chitradurga	52.75	66.17	13.41	53.93	66.78	12.84
Davanagere	49.96	63.66	13.71	54.11	67.18	13.07
Shimoga	56.78	68.36	11.59	62.11	71.58	9.47
Udupi	70.13	78.56	8.43	69.62	78.10	8.47
Chikmagalur	54.58	67.62	13.04	58.84	69.72	10.88
Tumkur	54.33	66.23	11.90	59.69	70.01	10.32
Bangalore Urban	70.23	78.56	8.33	72.83	81.13	8.30
Mandya	55.92	66.76	10.83	54.63	64.97	10.33
Hassan	53.61	66.51	12.89	56.43	69.62	13.19
Dakshina Kannada	66.14	75.90	9.77	72.95	81.49	8.54
Kodagu	64.93	72.70	7.77	40.37	55.48	15.11
Mysore	53.98	66.59	12.62	46.35	60.92	14.57
Chamarajanagar	49.94	61.64	11.70	41.53	54.99	13.46
Gulbarga	39.05	54.99	15.94	32.40	56.44	24.04
Yadgir		43.30			43.56	
Kolar	52.98	70.64	17.66	47.80	63.61	15.82
Chikkaballapura		59.70			61.40	
Bangalore Rural	55.35	68.64	13.29	56.22	71.79	15.57
Ramanagara		64.38			57.88	
KARNATAKA	52.87	65.33	12.46	48.27	62.08	13.82
CV*	16.69	11.81		21.49	14.12	

*Note: * refers to Co-efficient of variation across districts*

Source: Derived from Socio-cultural Tables (C8-Series) of Census of India, 2001 and

Primary Census Abstract of Census of India, 2011

One of the hypothesis stating that the inter-district variation across Scheduled Tribes is quite higher than the inter-district variation among Scheduled Caste in terms of literacy rate can be validated with the help of Co-efficient of Variation (See Table 2). It reveals that the value of CV in 2001 among SCs stood at 16.69 percent, lower than the CV value across ST which stood at 21.49 per cent quite higher by 4.81 points as against SCs. The similar trend was observed in 2011. During this period also the value of CV among STs stood at 14.12 per cent, higher by 2.32 points, when compared to the value of CV across SCs. Therefore the hypothesis stands accepted.

Inter-district Variations in Literacy rate of Scheduled Caste across Gender

Table 3 presents the inter-district variations in literacy rate of Scheduled Caste across Gender. There is considerable improvement across districts in attainment of literacy rate of SC males during 2011. It varied from the highest rate of 84.19 per cent in Bangalore Urban to that of lowest rate of 54.52 per cent in Yadgir district, with a gap of around 29.67 points. Districts which recorded more than 80 per cent but lesser than the benchmark of 85 per cent are Dharwad, Uttar Kannada, Udupi, Bangalore Urban and Dakshina Kannada. The condition is quite severe in case of SC Females. During 2001, most of northern backward districts had literacy rate lower than 30 per cent. Their condition is still worse off in 2011 because their literacy rate has not exceeded 50 per cent. The highest literacy rate across these backward districts is recorded in Koppal district with 48.95 per cent, an increase of 23.34 points over 2001. Gender Disparity Index (GDI) is calculated in order to know the gender parity in terms of literacy rate of Dalits. Table 3 reveals that most of the southern districts have performed well in terms of improving their GDI. In 2011, the GDI across southern districts have crossed 0.80 points. The highest GDI is seen in Udupi with 0.87 points. The GDI across northern backward districts has stood lesser than 0.70 points, with lowest GDI recorded in Yadgir district.

The hypothesis stating “The inter-district variations across female SCs are wider than the inter-district variation among male SCs” is validated with the help of Co-efficient of Variation (See Table 3). It reveals that during 2001, the value of CV across districts in case of female SCs stood at 25.02 per cent indicating wider disparity. Further it was higher when compared to the value of CV across districts in respect of male SCs (11.76 per cent). During 2011, the similar trend was observed. Though the inter-district variations got reduced, but the variation in case of female SCs (16.43 per cent) is higher than male SCs (8.65 per cent). Therefore the hypothesis stands accepted

Table 3: Inter-district Variations in Literacy rate of Scheduled Caste across Gender

	Male			Female			Gender Disparity Index		
	2001	2011	Progress	2001	2011	Progress	2001	2011	Progress
Belgaum	69.30	78.35	9.05	41.63	57.25	15.62	0.60	0.73	0.13
Bagalkot	56.61	70.76	14.16	28.75	47.44	18.69	0.51	0.67	0.16
Bijapur	61.72	71.83	10.11	31.95	46.90	14.95	0.52	0.65	0.14
Bidar	63.85	72.47	8.62	40.22	53.90	13.68	0.63	0.74	0.11
Raichur	51.37	65.11	13.73	26.09	41.91	15.82	0.51	0.64	0.14
Koppal	52.02	70.65	18.62	25.62	48.95	23.34	0.49	0.69	0.20
Gadag	62.74	73.89	11.15	33.69	51.82	18.14	0.54	0.70	0.16
Dharwad	72.76	81.74	8.98	49.26	65.19	15.92	0.68	0.80	0.12
Uttara Kannada	75.24	84.10	8.87	55.55	70.18	14.64	0.74	0.83	0.10
Haveri	62.75	74.40	11.65	36.94	56.37	19.43	0.59	0.76	0.17
Bellary	55.47	69.37	13.90	29.04	47.89	18.84	0.52	0.69	0.17
Chitradurga	64.05	74.76	10.71	40.92	57.40	16.48	0.64	0.77	0.13
Davanagere	61.25	72.55	11.30	38.16	54.64	16.47	0.62	0.75	0.13
Shimoga	66.92	76.18	9.26	46.40	60.63	14.23	0.69	0.80	0.10
Udupi	77.72	84.18	6.46	62.81	73.22	10.41	0.81	0.87	0.06
Chikmagalur	64.43	75.28	10.86	44.76	60.20	15.44	0.69	0.80	0.10
Tumkur	64.91	74.76	9.85	43.39	57.65	14.26	0.67	0.77	0.10
Bangalore Urban	78.12	84.19	6.07	61.98	72.77	10.80	0.79	0.86	0.07
Mandya	65.64	74.74	9.10	46.25	58.95	12.69	0.70	0.79	0.08
Hassan	64.20	74.57	10.37	43.14	58.72	15.58	0.67	0.79	0.12
Dakshina Kannada	73.89	82.34	8.46	58.36	69.63	11.27	0.79	0.85	0.06
Kodagu	73.49	79.80	6.30	56.56	66.02	9.45	0.77	0.83	0.06
Mysore	62.15	72.84	10.69	45.52	60.32	14.80	0.73	0.83	0.10
Chamarajanagar	57.32	67.34	10.03	42.22	55.85	13.63	0.74	0.83	0.09
Gulbarga	50.65	65.52	14.86	27.02	44.14	17.12	0.53	0.67	0.14
Yadgir		54.52	54.52		32.05	32.05		0.59	
Kolar	63.70	78.47	14.76	42.09	62.87	20.77	0.66	0.80	0.14
Chikkaballapura		68.12	68.12		51.18	51.18		0.75	
Bangalore Rural	65.80	76.73	10.93	44.56	60.47	15.91	0.68	0.79	0.11
Ramanagara		72.89	72.89		55.77	55.77		0.77	
KARNATAKA	63.75	74.03	10.28	41.72	56.58	14.86	0.65	0.76	0.11
CV*	11.76	8.65		25.02	16.43				

*Note: * refers to Co-efficient of variation across districts*

Source: Derived from Socio-cultural Tables (C8-Series) of Census of India, 2001 and Primary Census Abstract of Census of India, 2011

Inter-district Variations in Literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes across Gender

Table 4 presents the inter-district variations in literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes across Gender. There is considerable improvement across districts in attainment of literacy rate of both ST males and females during 2011. It varied from the highest rate of 87.41 per cent in Dakshina Kannada to that of lowest rate of 54.52 per cent in Yadgir district, with a gap of around 32.90 points. The gap is a matter of concern as it is quite wider. In case of female STs, it was quite higher at 43.28 points, with highest literacy rate seen in Bangalore Urban (75.93 per cent) and lowest rate recorded in Yadgir district (32.65 per cent). It is quite worse off when compared to SC Females. During 2001, most of northern backward districts had literacy rate lower than 30 per cent. Their condition is still worse off

in 2011 because their literacy rate has not exceeded 50 per cent. The highest literacy rate across these backward districts is recorded in Koppal district with 49.69 per cent, an increase of 23.21 points over 2001. Table 4 also reveals that most of the southern districts have performed well in terms of improving their GDI. In 2011, the GDI across southern districts have crossed 0.80 points. The highest GDI is seen in Dakshina Kannada with 0.87 points. On the contrary, The GDI across northern backward districts has stood lesser than 0.70 points, with lowest GDI recorded in Raichur and Yadgir districts.

Table 4: Inter-district Variations in Literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes across Gender

	Male			Female			Gender Disparity Index		
	2001	2011	Progress	2001	2011	Progress	2001	2011	Progress
	Belgaum	57.75	70.82	13.07	29.50	48.28	18.79	0.51	0.68
Bagalkot	57.32	69.85	12.53	28.49	47.20	18.70	0.50	0.68	0.18
Bijapur	59.68	73.11	13.43	31.88	51.14	19.26	0.53	0.70	0.17
Bidar	61.09	70.88	9.79	35.61	51.93	16.32	0.58	0.73	0.15
Raichur	41.05	55.79	14.73	16.91	33.33	16.41	0.41	0.60	0.19
Koppal	57.55	72.08	14.54	26.48	49.69	23.21	0.46	0.69	0.23
Gadag	72.89	79.96	7.06	42.08	58.68	16.60	0.58	0.73	0.16
Dharwad	66.27	76.91	10.65	41.95	59.54	17.59	0.63	0.77	0.14
Uttara Kannada	71.79	78.94	7.15	53.61	64.83	11.22	0.75	0.82	0.07
Haveri	71.34	79.86	8.52	45.16	62.21	17.05	0.63	0.78	0.15
Bellary	53.39	66.30	12.91	28.75	45.50	16.75	0.54	0.69	0.15
Chitradurga	65.76	76.04	10.28	41.54	57.34	15.80	0.63	0.75	0.12
Davanagere	64.78	75.36	10.59	42.98	58.86	15.89	0.66	0.78	0.12
Shimoga	71.45	78.22	6.78	52.51	64.98	12.47	0.73	0.83	0.10
Udupi	76.70	83.97	7.27	62.78	72.34	9.56	0.82	0.86	0.04
Chikmagalur	68.21	76.86	8.65	49.44	62.89	13.44	0.72	0.82	0.09
Tumkur	70.25	78.28	8.03	48.70	61.68	12.98	0.69	0.79	0.09
Bangalore Urban	80.11	85.88	5.77	64.80	75.93	11.12	0.81	0.88	0.08
Mandya	63.68	71.89	8.21	45.42	57.99	12.57	0.71	0.81	0.09
Hassan	67.25	77.57	10.32	45.56	61.76	16.20	0.68	0.80	0.12
Dakshina Kannada	80.20	87.41	7.22	65.69	75.64	9.95	0.82	0.87	0.05
Kodagu	46.12	60.01	13.89	34.61	51.10	16.50	0.75	0.85	0.10
Mysore	55.09	67.99	12.90	37.47	53.92	16.45	0.68	0.79	0.11
Chamarajanagar	50.24	62.11	11.86	32.77	48.11	15.34	0.65	0.77	0.12
Gulbarga	43.82	66.82	23.00	20.77	46.02	25.25	0.47	0.69	0.21
Yadgir		54.52	54.52		32.65	32.65		0.60	
Kolar	59.07	72.24	13.17	36.23	54.76	18.53	0.61	0.76	0.14
Chikkaballapura		69.87	69.87		52.71	52.71		0.75	
Bangalore Rural	65.94	79.67	13.72	46.03	63.48	17.44	0.70	0.80	0.10
Ramanagara		64.57	64.57		50.95	50.95		0.79	
KARNATAKA	59.66	71.14	11.48	36.57	52.98	16.41	0.61	0.74	0.13
CV*	16.47	11.19		30.45	18.40				

*Note: * refers to Co-efficient of variation across districts*

Source: Derived from Socio-cultural Tables (C8-Series) of Census of India, 2001 and Primary Census Abstract of Census of India, 2011

The hypothesis stating “The inter-district variations across female STs are wider than the inter-district variation among male STs” is validated with the help of Co-efficient of Variation (See Table 4). It reveals that during 2001, the value of CV across districts in case of female STs stood at

30.45 per cent indicating wider disparity. Further it was higher when compared to the value of CV across districts in respect of male STs (16.47 per cent). During 2011, the similar trend was observed. Though the inter-district variations got reduced, but the variation in case of female STs (18.40 per cent) is higher than male STs (11.19 per cent). Therefore the hypothesis stands accepted.

Concluding Remarks

The following study has particularly aimed at analyzing the trends and pattern of literacy rates of Dalits with regard to regions and gender in Karnataka. It is found that the literacy rate of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in the state is far behind the benchmark goal of 85% by the Planning Commission. Further, the State's literacy rate itself has also not yet achieved the benchmark of literacy rate. This is a cause of concern. Through the analysis it is found that female SCs and STs are quite worse off when compared to male SCs and STs. The inter-district variations are also quite wider in their case. Further the literacy rate of female SCs and STs across northern backward districts have not crossed 50 per cent. This is one of major challenge that the State should address on a priority concern. Twelfth Plan proposes that efforts will be made for providing functional literacy with special focus to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other disadvantageous groups for keeping track with the objective of Inclusive Growth. It will go long way in sustaining the Dalits improvement in the growth process. Once the literacy rate of female Dalits is improved, it will help them to utilize better economic opportunities and enhance their capabilities, there-by leading to socio-economic empowerment.

References

- Azim, Shaukath (2005), "Literacy Growth Disparities in Karnataka", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XL No.16, pp 1647-1649
- Ghosh, Arun Kumar (2003), "Female Literacy and Social Development", *Social Change*, Vol 33 No.4, pp 65-72, Sage Publications
- Ghosh, M. (2011). "Regional Disparities in Education, Health and Human Development in India", *Indian Journal of Human Development*, Vol.5, No.1, pp 5 – 29.
- GOI (2001), "Socio-Cultural Tables- C8 Series", Census of India Document, Government of India, New Delhi
- GOI (2011), "Primary Census Abstract of SC and ST", Census of India Document, Government of India, New Delhi
- Lingaraju, M (2012), "Universal Literacy: A Dream or a Reality?", *Paper presented in International Conference on Education, Applied Sciences and Management*, Dubai, pp 112-116
- McDougall, Lori (2000), "Gender Gap in Literacy Rate in Uttar Pradesh – Questions for Decentralised Educational Planning" , *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 35 No.19, pp 1649-1658

Nanjundappa, D.M (2002), “Report of the High Power Committee for Redressal of Regional Imbalances in Karnataka”, Planning Department, Government of Karnataka

Panchamukhi, P.R (2005), “Literacy and Education”, Karnataka Human Development Report, Planning Department, Government of Karnataka, pp 95-127

Rao, Jagannath D (2008), “A Comprehensive Study of the Progress of Education in Karnataka”, UBS Publisher’s Distributors, New Delhi

Suresha, R and Mylarappa B.C (2013), “Literacy and Education System in Karnataka”, *Journal of Continuing Education and Professional Development*, pp 1-14, Columbia Publishers

Yadav, Manohar (2005), “Status of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka”, Karnataka Human Development Report, Planning Department, Government of Karnataka, pp 209-253

