

Spatio-Temporal Variation of Male-Female Disparity in Literacy: A Geographical Analysis of Awadh Region, U.P, INDIA

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ABSTRACT: It has been considered that Human Resource Development is an important and reliable indicator of development and necessary conditions and helps the people in maintaining the social mobility in achieving the growth of wealth, prosperity, exaltation and also in enjoying the life of peace and comforts by liberating them from poverty, illiteracy, illness and other socio-economic hurdles. Participation of women and men are equally in the development process but the fruits of development are not equally distributed among both. Even marginalization of women is done by confining their spheres and not recognizing it. This has critical implications for women in expansion and utility of their capabilities in the fullest way. In several regions she faces differently this discrimination to access and avail the resources. Awadh region is an ancient land with a rich and varied cultural heritage considered as a mosaic of Ganga-Jamuna tahjeeb (culture) of the largest population sharing state of the India i.e. Uttar Pradesh. As literacy is a one of the very important measures of any region's human resource development. So the present paper intends to study on the Gender disparity present in the literacy level of the Awadh Region of Uttar Pradesh. For this Gender related Educational Development Index has been formulated on the lines of Human Development Index (HDI) of UNDP to measure the disparity level. Both spatial as well as temporal dimensions are proposed to be analyzed and illustrate. The district wise census data for last two census i.e. 2001-2011 is used to measure the GEDI.

Keywords: *Gender, Educational Development Index and Awadh Region*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Literacy level represents the quality of population. It is an important indicator of socio-economic transformation and political consciousness. The high literacy rate is one of the important indices of highly developed economy. The UNDP in its Human Development Report 1990 pointed out that literacy is a person's first step in learning and knowledge building due to it literacy indicators were essential for measurement of Human Development. As a matter of fact, literacy and education attainment together symbolize the quality of human society. It is viewed as necessary and basic ingredient of economic and social development planning. 2017 theme for women in the changing world of work: Planet 50 by 2030 trying to build for the effective implementation of the new sustainable Development Goals. Objective of the goal no. four and five direct ensure inclusive and quality education for all women and girls and achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Literacy attainment is a part of large societal change, and needs to be placed in proper perspective. Otherwise the regional distortions as well as gender discriminations will not be obliterated even as general literacy rises (Raju, 1993). Its relevance is more pervading for a region like Uttar Pradesh, which continues to remain one of the backward states of the Indian Union. Although a number of works have been done on gender issues in Geography (Kumar, 1994) but comparatively little has been done on the geography of female literacy in India. So the role of education in individual functional development is well recognized. Female education is known to result in greater benefits to the family. Large educational differences between male and female tend to sustain and perpetuate gender inequality within family and in society at large. Saikia and Bhagwati (2002) interpreted the spatial variations and sex disparity in the pattern of literacy in the rural of Bibrugarh district of Assom. Hazra (1997) compared the performance of major regions in female literacy of the world, and highlighted low position in the South Asian countries realm in this regard. Describing the pattern of female literacy in India, the author pointed out that vicious circle of female illiteracy in India, the author works have also been done in this field (Raju, 1993; Agrawal, 1995; Kar and Sharma, 1994). But so far as the work on gender related educational development index (GEDI) is connected, Joshi has done has two important works

(2001; 2003), based on census data, but her work provide some conceptual and methodological insides in gender disparity in spatial and temporal perspective. She has developed a cartographic expression called ISOGEDI (lines joining places of equal GEDI), to account for the distribution of the GEDI value on the map employing a cartographic and quantitative technique. Nevertheless, this empirical methodological foundation is yet to pick up pace in the contemporary research methodology in India, particularly in the field of geography.

Male- Female literacy is closely related and this seems to vary similarly across an area. In depth study of data reveals a wider male-female differential in terms of literacy in the Awadh region. Social factors as patriarchy, lack of accessibility, low mobility are positively correlated with lower female literacy. Economically, the poverty and low level of participation of female in the economically productive activities in the region accounts for wider disparity in the male-female literacy rates.

An analysis of such discordance between male and female literacy in different districts of Awadh region has been attempted in this paper. For this Gender Related Educational Development Index (GEDI) has been formulated on lines of Human Development Index (HDI) of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is a measure of male-female disparity present in the educational development or attainment of both the sexes. Census statistics of 2001 and 2011 have been used for computation of GEDI value.

II. STUDY AREA

Awadh is an ancient land with a rich and varied cultural heritage. It is located between 25°34' and 28°06' North latitude and 80°10' and 83°05' east longitude. Eastern side is bounded by Middle Ganga Plain and western side bounded by approximately Rohaikhhand plain, northern and southern side bounded by Nepal Terai region and lower Ganga, Yamuna doab respectively. History and legend have contributed to lend it glory and splendor and fill its history with spectacular facts of adventure, altruism, religious fervor, social advancement and cultural efflorescence. From times immemorial Awadh has vibrated with the hub of battles, melody of ballad songs and the spiritual outpourings of the sages and saints as well as epic and scriptures unfolding the wisdom and the knowledge accumulated in its ancient past.

Awadh Known in British historical texts as 'Oudh' or 'Oude' all derived from Ayodhya before the effect of Mughal rule. It is a region in the modern Indian state of UP and a small area of Nepal's Province 5 which was before Indian Independence known as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Awadh is the pride of India for staging the episodes of Lord Rama's life, the mysterious connected with the concepts and the religious system of Hinduism. Awadh has perhaps been derived was the ancient capital of the region which was associated with the sanctity of the three rivers Ganga, Ghagra and Gomati. The land is further characterized by the growth of Pali and Awadhi language, the unique contribution of Malik Muhammad Jaisi and Tulsidas whose impact on literature and folk-lore popular songs and music has been profound and abiding. Awadh was established as one of the twelve original subahs (top level imperial provinces) under 16th century Mughal emperor Akbar and became a hereditary tributary polity around 1722 AD with Faizabad as its initial capital and Saadat Ali Khan as its first Subadar Nawab and progenitor of a dynasty of Nawabs of Awadh. Later its capital moved to Lucknow, also the station of the British resident, which will serve as the present day capital of U.P. Awadh is situated in the heavily populated heart of the Indo Gangatic Plain and is known for its rich alluvial soils. It receives its name from Ayodhya the capital of the ancient kingdom of Kosala, which was nearly co-extensive with present day Awadh. It was taken by Muslim invaders in the 12th century and became part of the Mughal Empire in the 16th century. As the Mughal Empire declined sequentially Awadh grew stronger and more independent.

In the recent times the region of Awadh geographically includes the fifteen districts of Bahraich, Ambedkar Nagar, Faizabad, Hardoi, Sitapur, Unnao, Barabanki, Balrampur, Shraswati, Sultanpur, Khiri, Unnao, Rai Bareli, Pratapgarh and Lucknow, etc. This entire region of Awadh is considered to be the centre of Ganga-Jamuni culture. Awadh tried to evolve a different cultural style which in many ways was typical of its own. It is a period in which new forms of music, poetry, architecture and folk came to the fore and reached its pinnacle. The entire region of Awadh is important, but the two capital cities, Faizabad and Lucknow were special in many respects in sustaining the cultural ethos of the region. Sham-e-Awadh is a famous term popular for glorious evenings in Awadh capitals Faizabad and later in Lucknow even today the evening of Lucknow is unique just as Varanasi is famous for its morning as Subah-e- Banaras. Many of famous buildings were made on bank of Gomati in time of Nawabs. It can view its architectural beauty taking a trip in river Gomati in evening time. Awadhi cuisine is primarily from Lucknow and its environs. Awadh has been greatly influenced by Mughal cooking techniques and the cuisine of Lucknow bears similarities to those of Kashmir, Punjab and Hyderabad, and the city is famous for its Nawabi foods. Awadh region mainly divided in Awadh Terai, Awadh plain north (Hardoi Lakhimpur plain) and Awadh plain south (Lucknow basin) and Sarupar plain. Its climate is moderately extreme type. The average range of temperature is about 32.64°C. This plain is having sub humid climate with scorching hot summers and dry winters. Because of cultural aesthetic it happens to be the first choice of residence in and around cities. According to 2011 census, the population of the Awadh region is 45.76 million.

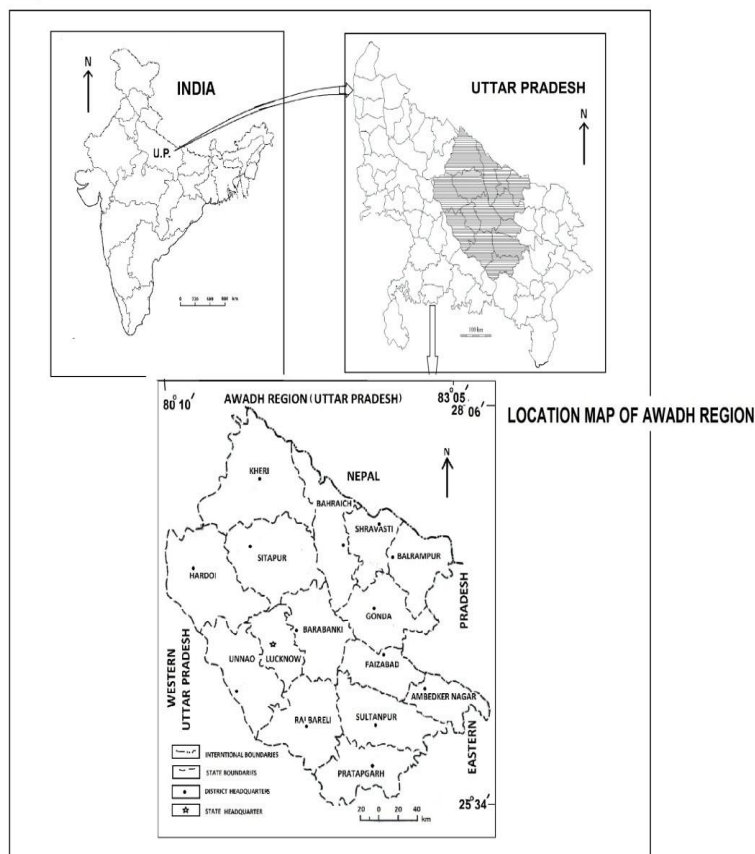


FIG: 1

III. METHODOLOGY

The Methodology is mainly based on UNDP HDR framework, however it has been modified according to availability of the data. The GEDI calculation is based on harmonic mean of female and male achievements. GEDI value of 1.0 reflects a maximum achievement with perfect gender equality (Joshi, 2003). But hardly any society appears to active such as a value. The minimum value of GEDI is 0. Value of GEDI decreases as the disparity between men and women increases.

The methodology adopted for computation of GEDI is:

$$GEDI = 1 / (FP/FL + MP/ML)$$

Where FP and MP are female and male population share of the total population respectively and FL and ML indicates female and male literacy rate (index) respectively.

SPATIAL VARIATION OF GEDI IN AWADH REGION:

The district of Awadh region reveals wider areal variations in the Gedi value. Spatially, in northern, north eastern and south eastern district show a relatively lower value while the southwestern districts reveal a comparatively higher value (Table no. 3).

In 2001 there were no district in Awadh region which has Gedi value more than 0.3 including the Lucknow district which includes the state capital. The lowest value was observed in the north eastern district of Shravasti where the Gedi value was very low i.e. 0.1. This is very close to minimum value of Gedi (0). Therefore it indicates a very high disparity present in the male-female literacy level in the Shravasti district. Relatively lower value (0.1 to 0.2) was also observed in the northern and north western district of Awadh region comprising Sitapur, Hardoi, Bahraich, Balrampur, Gonda and Bahraich as shown in table no 1. Their poor Gedi value may be attributed to the rural character and the dominance of agricultural laborers, besides other factors, such as lack of educational infrastructure, physical hindrance and low awareness are playing an important role in this aspect.

Table no.1: Gender Differential of Awadh Region in Literacy (2001)

Sl. No.	Districts	Literacy 2001						
		Female Population	Female literacy	FP/FL	Male population	Male Literacy	MP/ML	GEDI
1	KHIRI	458321	119264	3.843	519413	265227	1.958	0.172
2	HARDOI	1364775	365374	3.735	1626218	832005	1.955	0.176
3	SITAPUR	1678287	461221	3.639	1941374	943222	2.058	0.176
4	BAHRAICH	1105721	197290	5.605	1275351	468536	2.722	0.120
5	UNNAO	1277815	436391	2.928	1422509	778699	1.827	0.210
6	LUCKNOW	1715517	879065	1.952	1932317	1250877	1.545	0.286
7	BARABANKI	1256660	345276	3.640	1416921	677728	2.091	0.175
8	SHRAVASTI	544475	79987	6.807	631916	238366	2.651	0.106
9	RAI BARELI	1400105	449049	3.118	1472230	810498	1.816	0.203
10	SULTANPUR	1591013	527914	3.014	1623819	920508	1.764	0.209
11	PRATAPGARH	1368226	465530	2.939	1362948	812741	1.677	0.217
12	BALRAMPUR	794411	136893	5.803	887939	327694	2.710	0.117
13	GONDA	1314485	286050	4.595	1451101	663292	2.188	0.147
14	FAIZABAD	1011456	348910	2.899	1077472	611451	1.762	0.215
15	AMBEDKER NAGAR	1001923	367485	2.726	1024953	587052	1.746	0.224

Source: Census of India 2001

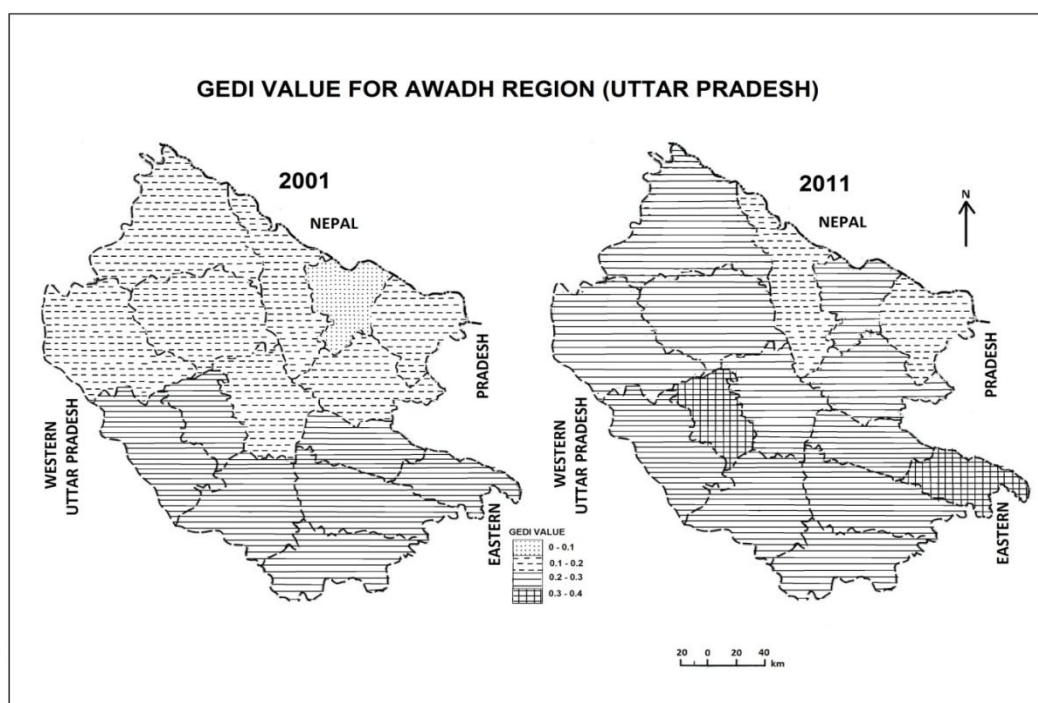


Fig. 2: Gedi Value For Awadh Region

Another category of Gedi value (0.2-0.3) was observed in the southern district as Unnao, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Faizabad and Ambedker Nagar. The districts have higher level of urbanization, and have more educational facilities which may have encouraged comparatively little better status of education. Awadh region average increased 0.26 in 2011, which is relatively a medium value. It can be said that gender gap in literacy has decreased by about 36.34 percent in a period of a decade in Awadh region. However the same trend of lower Gedi value has been observed in north part compare to southern part of Awadh region. In 2011, most of the districts have recorded a Gedi value between 0.1 to 0.2 i.e still comparatively lower to median value. The Gedi value of Lucknow in 2011 is 0.34, a change of 21.4percent over a decade from 2001. The preceding analysis on spatial variations of Gedi value in Awadh region is pointed on various physical, social, economic and cultural divide in terms of literacy level in the central part of U.P. The northern part of Awadh region displaying comparatively lower picture of equality in literacy due to low process of infrastructural development.

Table no.2: Gender Differential of Awadh Region in Literacy (2011)

Sl. No.	Districts	Literacy 2011						
		Female Population	Female literacy	FP/FL	Male population	Male Literacy	MP/ML	GEDI
1	KHIRI	1898056	796887	2.382	2123187	1237157	1.716	0.244
2	HARDOI	1901403	847014	2.245	2191442	1374587	1.594	0.260
3	SITAPUR	2108728	886031	2.380	2375264	1397702	1.699	0.245
4	BAHRAICH	1643847	520083	3.161	1843884	878285	2.099	0.190
5	UNNAO	1478280	720521	2.052	1630087	1053063	1.548	0.278
6	LUCKNOW	2195362	1384820	1.585	2394476	1742440	1.374	0.338
7	BARABANKI	1553626	681940	2.278	1707073	1010518	1.689	0.252
8	SHRAVASTI	523464	146613	3.570	593897	276700	2.146	0.175
9	RAI BARELI	1653017	799878	2.067	1752542	1165965	1.503	0.280
10	SULTANPUR	1882531	939654	2.003	1914586	1300248	1.472	0.288
11	PRATAPGARH	1603056	810178	1.979	1606085	1121381	1.432	0.293
12	BALRAMPUR	1033944	323414	3.197	1114721	544943	2.046	0.191
13	GONDA	1646773	645813	2.550	1787146	1034181	1.728	0.234
14	FAIZABAD	1211368	612562	1.978	1259628	838339	1.503	0.287
15	AMBEDKER NAGAR	1185478	640263	1.852	1212410	846676	1.432	0.305

Source: Census of India 2011

Temporal Variations:

The overall difference recorded a very negligible share i.e 0.81 change from 2001 to 2011 i.e a 36.16 % change over the previous decade. This is not a considerable change when we are talking about digital India. The ground reality is very noticeable state like Bihar, U.P which is still at the bottom of the literacy level in the Indian Union. Maximum change among the districts of Awadh region was recorded by Shravasti where it was shown to have increased to 0.175 in 2011 from 0.106 of 2001. There is another district Balrampur which is also shown more than 60% change in Gedi from its last decade. A moderate change ranging from 40 to 60 percent has been observed in Khiri, Hardoi, Bahraich, Barabanki, and Gonda . whereas 20 to 40 percent change has been observed in Sitapur, Rai Bareli, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Faizabad and Ambedker Nagar. The lowest change of just 18.18 percent was recorded in lucknow during 2001 to 2011(table 3). Though the overall status of Gedi of Awadh region is overcast and the districts with comparatively higher Gedi value have recorded a lower percentage of change whereas areas with a lower Gedi value shown greater improvements in Gedi value over the decades (2001-2011) as shown in fig. 3.

Table no.3: Temporal Variation in GEDI Value for Awadh Region

Sl. No.	Districts	Gender Educational Development Index of Awadh Region		
		2001	2011	Change in %
1	KHIRI	0.172	0.244	41.86
2	HARDOI	0.176	0.260	47.73
3	SITAPUR	0.176	0.245	39.20
4	BAHRAICH	0.120	0.190	58.33
5	UNNAO	0.210	0.278	32.38
6	LUCKNOW	0.286	0.338	18.18
7	BARABANKI	0.175	0.252	44.00
8	SHRAVASTI	0.106	0.175	65.09
9	RAI BARELI	0.203	0.280	37.93
10	SULTANPUR	0.209	0.288	37.80
11	PRATAPGARH	0.217	0.293	35.02
12	BALRAMPUR	0.117	0.191	63.25
13	GONDA	0.147	0.234	59.18
14	FAIZABAD	0.215	0.287	33.49
15	AMBEDKER NAGAR	0.224	0.305	36.41

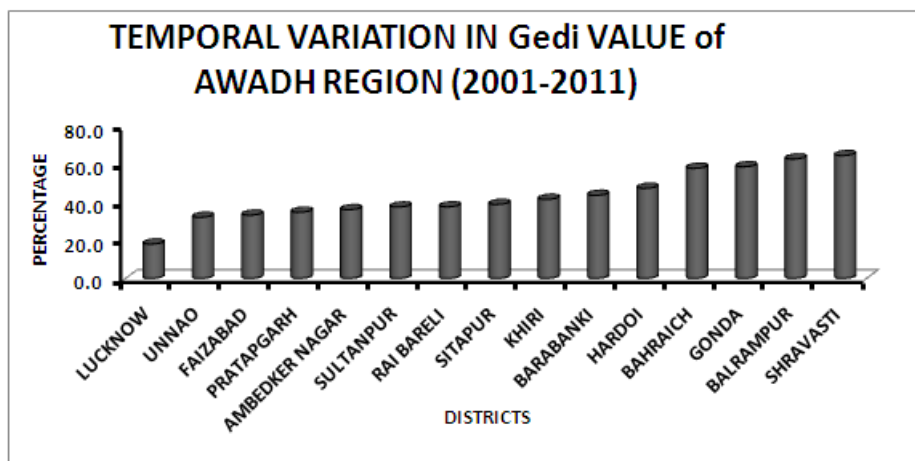


Fig. 3

IV. CONCLUSION

The level of literacy is still very low in the Awadh Region, nevertheless the pace of improvement indicates that literacy seems to be spreading across the districts. There is a vast gap which to be covered by all the districts. More so in urban areas the task is comparatively accessible but importantly the rural and remote areas of the districts have to be chalked out for the betterment. Really the districts need a tremendous push in this sector as it has a multifaceted role in the development of a society. It alters an individual, community and nation's perception, aspiration as well as the ability and means to attain it. So no doubt it is an important pre-condition for sustainable economic growth and plays a critical facilitative role in the demographic, social, cultural, economic and political transition of a society.

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