

SCENARIO OF PRESENT EDUCATION SYSTEM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HARYANA AND ITS NEIGHBOURING STATES

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ABSTRACT

Education has been made too easy for the students so that more and more students can enter into the scope of education system of the country. The announcements like abolishing compulsory CBSE board exams for class 10th from the session 2010-11, introduction of grading system, the passage of Right of Children to free and Compulsory Education Bill, reservation policies etc. are a few among them. Now the question arises as to what extent such efforts in the field of education have succeeded in different states of the country. Haryana is the state with a contribution of 3.7% in the total GDP of India. This present study will throw light on the education system of Haryana, with a comparative eye on its neighbouring states. An analysis of the educational achievements of these states from different angles will help the experts and the researchers to know how far we have gone in achieving our targets and what needs to be done. Along with this, a comparison of the literacy rates and literates of these states has also been made. This paper is descriptive in nature, based on the data collected from different websites of ministry as well as reports of planning commission.

KEYWORDS: Drop-out rate, Education, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Haryana, Literacy Rate.

INTRODUCTION

The present day education system in India has come a long way and the age old traditions have undergone a new makeover. Government of India is doing lots of efforts in this field so that the objective of inclusive growth can be achieved very soon by it. A great achievement of the Indian government is a big jump in the literacy rate from 18.3% in 1950-51 to 74.04% in 2010-11. Such an achievement is the result of a lot of efforts by the Indian government in the education sector. The government is improving the country's education status to enhance the standard of living of the people and also to achieve other goals like, overcoming the problem of poverty and unemployment, social equality, equal income distribution, etc. Education contributes to the individual's well being as well as the overall development of the country. Education is not only an instrument of enhancing efficiency but is also an effective tool of widening and augmenting

democratic participation and upgrading the overall quality of individual and societal life (Goel, 2008). Thus, the importance of education can't be ignored.

There has not been any fundamental change in the structure of secondary and higher education in India. If there has been any such change, then only few of the states have been affected. The period since the nineties, especially since last decade, has witnessed growth in response to the demand generated by the expansion of elementary education. Primary as well as higher education sector have also witnessed great attention of the Indian Government. The present paper has made a comparison of elementary education system of Haryana with that of its neighbouring states, like, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. Major indicators showing the achievements and failures in the education sector have been taken and data has been analysed on the basis of such factors.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present article are:

1. To compare the education system of Haryana with its neighbouring states on the basis of different indicators
2. To see the impact of achievements in education sector on literacy rates and the number of literates of these states
3. To suggest policy recommendations to improve the education scenario of the Haryana as well as other states under the study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is descriptive cum exploratory. It is primarily based on secondary data collected from various sources like national reports and economic surveys, websites etc. of state and national level departments of education. The analysis has been done on the basis of different indicators, like Gross Enrolment Ratio, Drop-out rate, Number of schools and colleges, Number of Universities, Number of persons who can read English, etc. Descriptive statistical tools like bar graphs, linear charts, etc. have been used for interpretation of the data.

SCENARIO OF EDUCATION SECTOR IN HARYANA AND ITS NEIGHBOURING STATES

Haryana has seen a tremendous change in last few decades. Government has done a lot so that more and more children can have access to the education. When compared with its neighbouring states and India as a whole, Haryana has shown a mixed picture. In some areas, it has outperformed India and other states while it has also lagged behind them in certain areas which will be clearer from the following comparative tables, based on different indicators of education system.

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO

The Gross Enrollment Ratio is a statistical measure used in the education sector to determine the number of students enrolled in school at several different grade levels (like elementary, middle school and high school). An elementary formula used by most countries to calculate the Gross Enrollment Ratio is that, the country divides the number of individuals who are actually enrolled in schools by the number of children who are of the corresponding school enrollment age. The following table shows the GER of different states in 2009-10 in different classes:

TABLE NO. 1

States/UTs	Classes I-V (6-11 years)			Classes VI-VIII (11-14 yrs)			Classes I-VIII (6-14 yrs)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Haryana	88.56	92.00	90.10	77.34	80.64	78.86	84.31	87.58	85.79
Himachal Pradesh	107.71	107.67	107.69	114.62	112.08	113.41	110.37	109.38	109.90
Punjab	108.56	107.50	108.09	93.59	89.73	91.84	102.84	100.60	101.83
Rajasthan	119.10	115.05	117.19	95.05	72.75	84.38	109.97	98.71	104.63
Uttar Pradesh	106.59	114.70	110.42	74.29	65.88	70.25	94.65	96.27	95.42
Delhi	119.86	122.54	121.10	110.82	106.95	109.01	116.31	116.35	116.33
India	115.55	115.39	115.47	84.53	78.30	81.52	103.75	101.09	102.47

(Source: Abstract of Selected Educational Statistics 2009-10 & Economic Survey 2010-11)

In the age group of 6-11 years and in 6-14 years, Delhi is at the top. In the age group of 11-14 years, HP is showing highest GER. Delhi and Rajasthan are far better in the Gross enrolment ratio in each class group. Among all the states under the study, Haryana is at the bottom in all the three age groups. This implies that all the children of this age group are not getting enrolled in the schools. This may be due to the following reasons:

1. Either the parents are not still aware of the education programs in the state, or
2. They are not interested in sending their wards to the schools.

But so far as GER of girls is concerned, it is more than that of boys in all the categories, especially in case of Haryana unlike Punjab Rajasthan and HP. The GER, higher than 100, may imply that more and more students are coming from outside the state for getting education there. For the purpose of inclusive education, this problem must be addressed by the concerned authorities. Some crucial steps need to be taken by the government because this situation may lead to a fall in literacy rate in the coming years.

DROP-OUT RATES

Drop-out rate is the proportion of children which cease to remain enrolled in the schooling system. There are a number of methods for estimating dropout rate. One of them, followed in the Selected Education Statistics (SES) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, is as follows:

- Gross dropout rates for classes (I-V) = $\{1 - (\text{Enrolment in Class V during the reference year} / \text{Enrolment in Class I four years ago})\} \times 100$.
- Gross dropout rates for classes (I-VIII) = $\{1 - (\text{Enrolment in Class VIII during the reference year} / \text{Enrolment in Class I seven years ago})\} \times 100$.

The following table shows the different drop-out rates of students in the states under study in the year 2009-10.

TABLE NO. 2

States	Classes I-V (6-11 years)			Classes VI-VIII (11-14 yrs)			Classes I-VIII (6-14 yrs)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Haryana	-1.13	-2.24	-1.64	19.59	8.10	14.37	20.17	19.46	19.84
Himachal Pradesh	0.35	1.17	0.74	1.42	3.41	2.38	22.28	18.93	20.65
Punjab	-24.59	-10.67	-18.07	-24.04	-13.43	-19.12	41.23	39.45	40.42
Rajasthan	49.11	52.11	50.51	41.19	59.68	50.32	70.52	73.42	71.64
Uttar Pradesh	42.38	41.70	42.06	50.66	55.23	52.78	29.19	15.09	23.83
Delhi	9.82	17.07	13.30	-32.61	-21.13	-27.10	-5.22	9.15	1.97
India	30.25	27.25	28.86	40.59	44.39	42.39	53.38	51.97	52.76

(Source: Abstract of Selected Educational Statistics 2009-10)

Here, Himachal Pradesh is on number one as the drop-out rate in class VI-VIII (age group of 11-14 years) is the lowest in this state. In the age group of 11-14 years, the drop-out rate is lowest in HP followed by Haryana. In Haryana and Punjab, drop-out rate even comes out negative which is largely because of the inconsistent enrolment data or some errors in the data. Rajasthan and Up are again bad performers in this category. Drop-out rate of girls in this category is less than that of boys of the same group in Haryana, while it is reverse in case of HP, Rajasthan and UP. As compared to India as a whole, Haryana has shown better performance in all the categories. Moreover, in class I-VIII, its drop-out rate is lower than Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. This shows that once students get admission into the schools, the tendency to leave schools is low in comparison to other states as well as India as a whole. In the age group of 6-11 years, HP is found to be the best performer as its drop-out rate is the lowest. Drop-out rate is very high in case of Rajasthan and UP, in this category.

TOTAL NUMBER OF RECOGNISED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

1. SCHOOL EDUCATION INSTITUTES

TABLE NO. 3

States	Board of Intermediate/ Secondary Education	Pre-Degree/ Junior Colleges/ Higher Schools	High/ Post Basic Schools	Middle/ Sr. Basic Schools	Primary/ Jr. Basic Schools	Pre-Primary/ Pre Basic Schools
Haryana	1	3,278	3,493	3,439	13,073	17
Himachal Pradesh	1	1,674	1,413	4,921	11,301	14
Punjab	1	2,380	2,741	9,110	16,954	0
Rajasthan	3	6,675	12,460	38,889	49,538	8
Uttar Pradesh	1	8,547	7,889	51,948	132,403	0
Delhi	3	1,350	474	583	2,586	50
India	48	66,917	123,726	367,745	823,162	67,822

Sources: Statistics of School Education- 2009-10; Statistics of Higher and Technical Education- 2009-10 (Abstract Provisional); Economic Survey 2010-11.

It is clear from the above statistics that, Haryana is either second or third among the neighbouring states in the school education institutes. A good number of pre-primary schools is there in the state making it second to Delhi. This may be because of the increased number of working mothers in Delhi as well as Haryana. So far as the category of primary schools is concerned, Haryana is far behind all the states except Delhi and HP. The number of schools in the state should be increased so that more and more students can get enrolled in them. In the category of higher secondary schools, UP has the largest number of institutes followed by Rajasthan and Haryana. In case of high schools, Rajasthan is at number one, while UP and Haryana are at 2nd and 3rd position. In the category of middle schools, Haryana is behind all the states except Delhi. UP has highest number of middle schools. In case of primary schools, again UP is at the top and Haryana is on the 4th position.

2. NUMBER OF COLLEGES & POLYTECHNICS

Uttar Pradesh is having maximum number of colleges when compared with other states under the study. Haryana is having the highest teacher training colleges, i.e. 447 Colleges. But this figure doesn't signify that education is being provided at a good scale in the state as there is very less scope of B.Ed. as compared to other courses. Medical colleges are also much enough which shows that the students are more keen to enter into this field. Number of other colleges should also be increased. This has been made clear with the help of table no.4:

TABLE NO. 4

States	Arts, Fine Arts, Social Science & Commerce	Engineering/Technology/Architecture	Medical	Education/Teacher Training	Others	Total Colleges
Haryana	238	154	50	447	113	1,002
Himachal Pradesh	377	14	23	82	86	582
Punjab	234	82	37	48	177	578
Rajasthan	1,135	96	54	111	214	1,610
Uttar Pradesh	2,361	212	104	128	299	3,104
Delhi	89	15	8	2	41	155
India	14,321	2,894	2,074	3,357	3,292	25,938

Sources: Statistics of School Education- 2009-10; Statistics of Higher and Technical Education- 2009-10 (Abstract Provisional); Economic Survey 2010-11.

3. DEGREE AND ABOVE LEVEL COLLEGES

Again, Uttar Pradesh is on number one in case of colleges for general education, deemed universities and polytechnics. But, Rajasthan is having the highest number of other colleges including research institutions. Haryana is having maximum colleges for professional education like BBA, MBA, and engineering institutes etc. But this number doesn't create a good number of opportunities as these colleges lack the required quality.

TABLE NO. 5

States	College for General Education	College for Professionals Education	Other (Including Research Institutions)	University/ Deemed Univ. / Inst. Of National Importance	Poly-technic
Haryana	179	520	50	10	32
Himachal Pradesh	64	11	6	5	26
Punjab	231	229	12	12	89
Rajasthan	993	261	214	22	71
Uttar Pradesh	2,050	335	147	36	163
Delhi	89	40	41	18	79
India	13,381	6,936	2,782	406	1,956

Sources: Statistics of School Education- 2009-10; Statistics of Higher and Technical Education- 2009-10 (Abstract Provisional); Economic Survey 2010-11.

It has been seen that a large number of MBA graduates are getting frustrated due to non availability of jobs in the corporate world. Their skills are not as per the requirements of the corporate world. So, there is a need to improve the quality of education rather than just increasing the number.

PERFORMANCE OF STATES OF INDIA (RURAL)

The performance of the education sector of any state or country can't be judged until the rural sector is studied on some parameters. The rural students are still not under the cover of full education due to lack of awareness, lack of parental education, poverty, lack of infrastructural facilities, etc. Thus, in this paper the rural parts of these states have also been studied from three

points of views: Children who can read English; Children who can read letters etc.; and Children who can recognise letters etc. or do airthematics.

1. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO CAN READ ENGLISH

Table no. 6 shows that the children in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh are more capable of reading English. Even they can read English sentences also. Maximum number of children of Haryana (rural) is also on the positive side of this parameter. On all these parameters, Haryana is performing better than the nation as a whole.

TABLE NO. 6

States	Capital Letters or More	Capital Letters or More	Words or More	Words or More	Sentences
	STD. I	STD. II	STD. III	STD. IV	STD. V
Haryana	65.8	86.2	47.3	60.5	43.8
Himachal Pradesh	72.5	92.4	63.5	84.5	63.3
Punjab	67.7	83.4	39.9	58.0	34.5
Rajasthan	34.6	62.1	20.9	36.1	17.8
Uttar Pradesh	34.8	58.0	16.2	27.1	14.0
All India	43.8	66.2	28.6	44.1	25.7

Source: ASER Reports for 2009: <http://asercentre.org>

2. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO CAN READ LANGUAGES

TABLE NO. 7

States	Letters or more	Words or more	Std. I level Text or More	Std. I Level Text or More	Std .II Level Text or More
	STD. I	STD. II	STD. III	STD. IV	STD. V
Haryana	76.8	64.5	55.3	71.3	65.8
Himachal Pradesh	85.0	75.4	65.7	86.0	73.2

Punjab	85.6	61.0	51.0	75.5	64.3
Rajasthan	57.1	40.1	34.4	57.2	45.0
Uttar Pradesh	56.5	41.3	31.4	51.0	37.7
All India	68.8	55.2	46.6	67.4	52.8

Source: ASER Reports for 2009: <http://asercentre.org>

There is not much difference in the reading capabilities of rural children of all the states at Std. I level, Std. II level and more. This figure has improved in last few years (ASER Reports 2008). This is a positive sign and the government should try to improve it more and more for a bright future of rural India. Haryana's position is better as compared to India as a whole but behind HP.

3. PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO CAN DO AIRTHMATIC

TABLE NO. 8

States	Recognise Nos. 1-9 or do more	Recognise Nos. 11-99 or do more	Add or do more	Subtract or do more	Do Division
	STD. I	STD. II	STD. III	STD. IV	STD. V
Haryana	77.4	66.7	53.0	68.1	54.9
Himachal Pradesh	86.4	82.5	66.1	84.4	64.1
Punjab	82.7	59.5	50.9	73.3	48.9
Rajasthan	57.2	39.4	27.1	48.2	31.5
Uttar Pradesh	54.8	36.0	20.5	36.9	21.1
All India	69.3	54.6	39.0	58.8	38.0

Source: ASER Reports for 2009: <http://asercentre.org>

Haryana is among the three states which are having a higher percentage of children than India in terms of performance of arithmetic. But, a lot needs to be done to make more and more rural children capable of doing airthmatic calculations. Here also Haryana has lagged behind HP.

LITERACY STATUS OF THE STATES**1. TOTAL NUMBER OF LITERATES (PERSONS)****TABLE NO. 9**

India/State	Total	Rural	Urban
Haryana	16,904,324	10,393,591	6,510,733
Delhi	12,763,352	300,539	12,462,813
Himachal Pradesh	5,104,506	4,533,373	571,133
Punjab	18,988,611	11,195,395	7,793,216
Rajasthan	38,970,500	26,945,543	12,024,957
Uttar Pradesh	118,423,805	88,396,557	30,027,248
India	778,454,120	493,020,878	285,433,242

Source: Rural Urban Distribution of Population - India, Census of India 2011

In case of total number of literates, Haryana is far behind UP, Rajasthan and Punjab with 2.17% contribution in total number of literates in India. Such a contribution is approximately equal to its contribution in total Indian population, i.e. 2.09%. This shows that Haryana is in the line with India in number of literates, but this figure is still very low as compared to other states. If Haryana wants to make its place better in terms of literacy, then total number of literates needs to be increased in the coming years. Although total number of literates in rural Haryana is higher than the urban areas, yet the position is quite disappointing in case of rural literates as most of the population of the state still resides in the rural areas.

2. LITERACY RATE**LITERACY RATES OF STATES AND INDIA**

The literacy rate of Haryana in 2011 has come to 76.64 which is more than the Indian literacy rate. It is higher in comparison to Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh too. The literacy rate of UP is lower in comparison to Haryana which clarifies that the total number of literates in this state are more only because of more population.

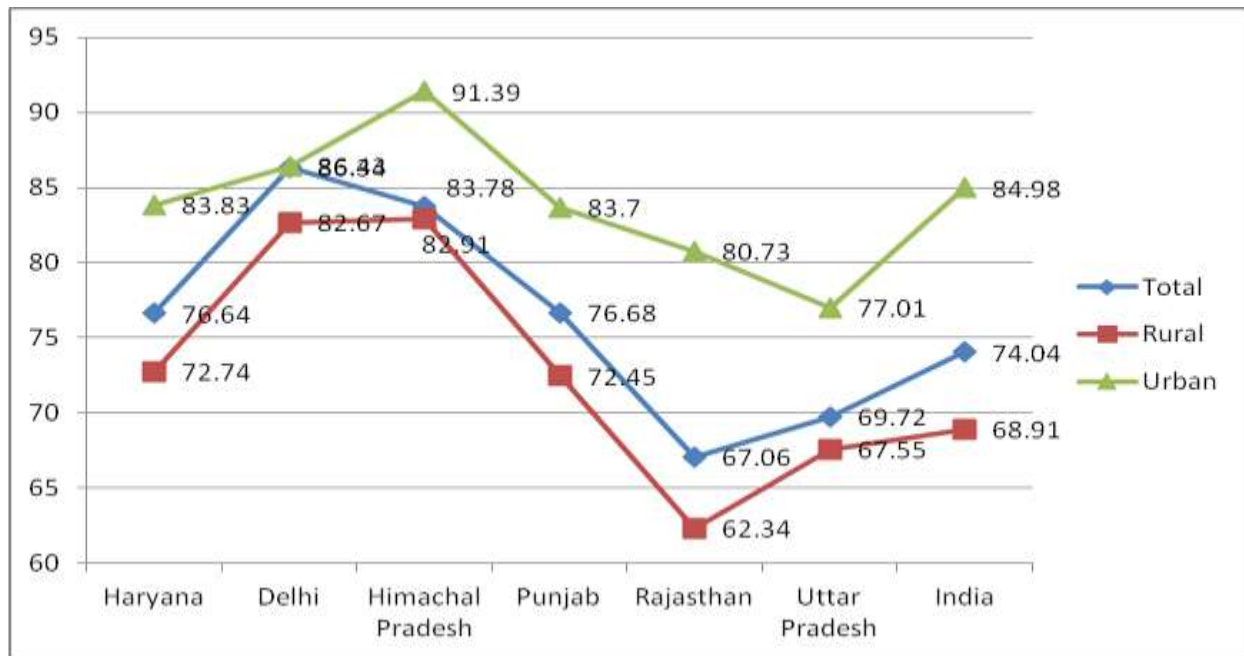


FIGURE NO. 1

Source: Rural Urban Distribution of Population - India, Census of India 2011

Highest rate is of Delhi followed by HP and Punjab. In case of the rural literacy rates HP is at the top followed by Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, and UP. Rajasthan is at the bottom of this category. In urban literacy rate also, HP is at the top while UP is at the bottom. Haryana is at the third place among the states under the study. These mixed figures show that Haryana people need to get more education related opportunities.

MALE LITERACY RATES OF STATES AND INDIA

The male urban literacy rate of Haryana is lower than that of India as a whole. In case of overall male literacy rate, Haryana is far better than Punjab, Rajasthan, UP as well as India as a whole. Again urban literacy rate is impressive as compared to the rural rate which cross checks the above given figures of total number of rural literates in the state. Delhi and HP have higher male literacy rate in general as well as in rural and urban areas as compared to Haryana.

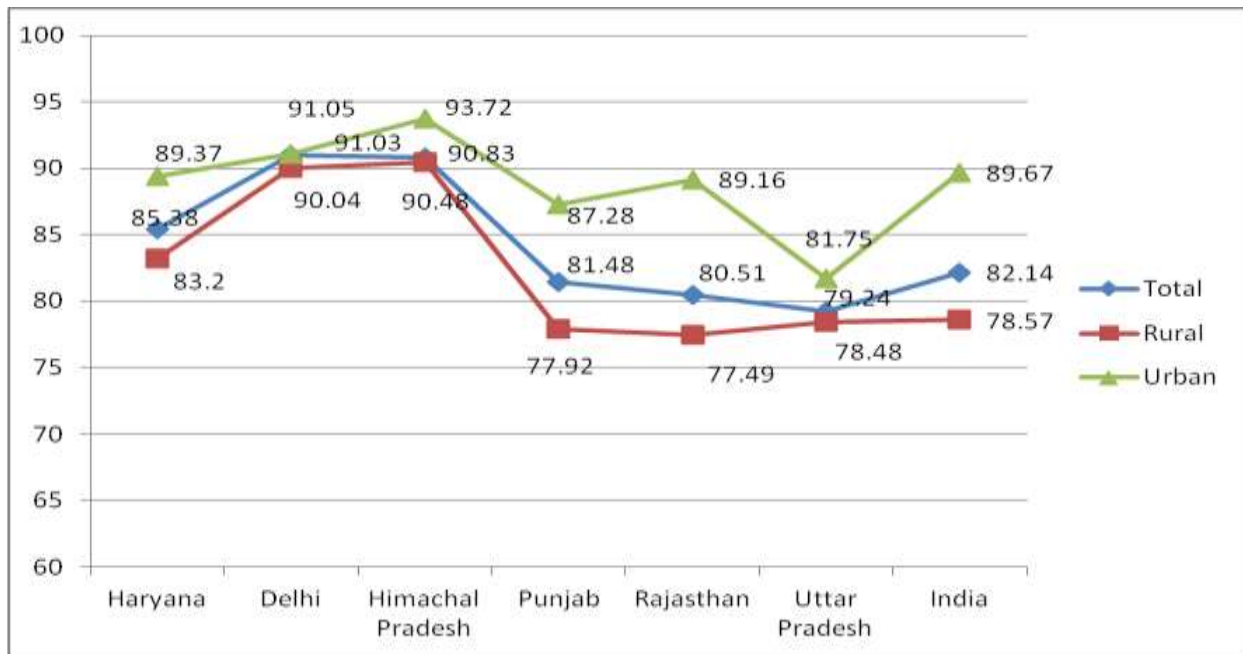


FIGURE NO. 2

Source: Rural Urban Distribution of Population - India, Census of India 2011

FEMALE LITERACY RATES OF STATES AND INDIA

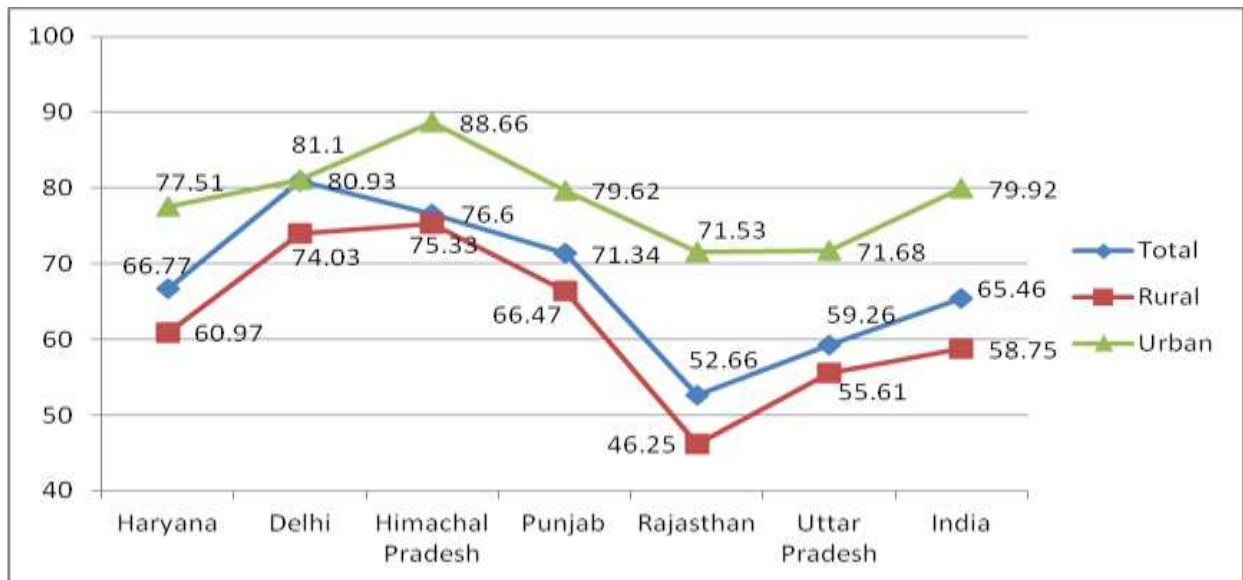


FIGURE NO. 3

Source: Rural Urban Distribution of Population - India, Census of India 2011

Female literacy rate of Haryana is very low in 2011, making it at number forth in the race of the neighbouring states. But it is again higher than the India as a whole which gives a feeling of satisfaction. Just like male urban literacy rate, female urban literacy rate of Haryana is less than the national average. Female literacy rate is lowest in Rajasthan and its inter-state difference in rural female literacy rate is more significant as compared to the urban female literacy rate. The reasons may be the belief of Rajasthan people that female education is not important and their only duty is to handle their houses. Such misconceptions should be reduced among Indian people so that overall figures can be improved. Delhi is having the highest female literacy rate but in the category of rural and urban female literacy rates, HP has shown better performance. This will be clearer from the figure no. 3:

CONCLUSIONS

Gross enrolment ratio of Haryana in the age group of 6 to 11 years is 90.10, which is less than this ratio of India as a whole and all the neighbouring states under the study. Gross enrolment ratio of girls is more than that of boys in all age groups in Haryana. In the age group of 6-14 years, except UP and Delhi, GER of girls is less than that of boys. In spite of various schemes of the government of Haryana to provide universal elementary education, the goal has not been achieved. More efforts are needed to make people aware about government schemes for free education and importance of education in everyone's life.

In the age group of 11-14 years, drop-out rate of HP is the lowest and much lesser than that of Haryana. So far as the drop-out rate is concerned in the age group of 6 to 14 years, Haryana's experience is quite satisfactory because except Delhi, where the drop-out rate is the lowest, all other states and India as a whole have higher drop-out rates than Haryana. But still there is a need to bring down the drop-out rate to zero level if we want to have universal elementary education. In all age groups, drop-out rate of girls is lower than that of boys in case of Haryana. This reveals that the girls are more interested in studies than boys.

In the context of number of recognised schools and institutes, Haryana is better than HP, Punjab and Delhi. In spite of large number of institutes, literacy rate is not very high. There is a dire need to upgrade qualitative education rather than emphasising only quantitative aspect of education. It is clear from the above tables and figures that Haryana has made commendable progress in the establishment of colleges and institutes delivering graduate and post-graduate courses. HP and Punjab are far behind Haryana. Regarding the level of education in rural areas, Haryana is above the national average as well as Rajasthan and UP. HP is ahead of Haryana in this case.

In the case of percentage of children who can read English as well as other languages and do arithmetic, HP is far ahead of Haryana. This reveals that there is something lacking in educational institutes of Haryana which is necessary for making the learning effective. There is a need for sincere and dedicated teachers to make learning effective.

The literacy rate of Haryana was less than the national average at the time of its origin (population census- 1961) but now it has become greater than the national average. This is a matter of satisfaction for the state. It is more than the literacy rates in Punjab, Rajasthan and UP.

Literacy rate of Delhi and HP is higher than that of India. Delhi, HP and Punjab are ahead of Haryana in the female literacy rate also. Female education is rather more important than the education of the men as one female can make the whole family literate. Thus, steps should be taken in this direction to improve the status of literacy rate among women, especially in the rural areas of the state.

SCOPE OF FURTHER RESEARCH

There is a need for further research to know the actual reasons for drop-outs, lower female literacy rates, less rural education level and low gross enrolment ratio in the Haryana as well as India so that remedial measures can be taken according to the requirements and level of education can be upgraded.

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ANNEXURE

LITERACY RATES

India/State	Persons			Males			Females		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Haryana	76.64	72.74	83.83	85.38	83.20	89.37	66.77	60.97	77.51
Delhi	86.34	82.67	86.43	91.03	90.04	91.05	80.93	74.03	81.10
Himachal Pradesh	83.78	82.91	91.39	90.83	90.48	93.72	76.60	75.33	88.66
Punjab	76.68	72.45	83.70	81.48	77.92	87.28	71.34	66.47	79.62
Rajasthan	67.06	62.34	80.73	80.51	77.49	89.16	52.66	46.25	71.53
Uttar Pradesh	69.72	67.55	77.01	79.24	78.48	81.75	59.26	55.61	71.68
India	74.04	68.91	84.98	82.14	78.57	89.67	65.46	58.75	79.92

Source: Rural Urban Distribution of Population - India, Census of India 2011