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"Factors affecting Literacy in Madhubani' district : A Geographical Study."

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Abstract:-

Literacy in an index of socio cultural and economic advancement of a region. It also reflects the political maturity of society. Degree of the literacy is the basic parameter for measuring the educational status. Literacy acts as a tool for eradicating poverty and mental isolating. It helps in cultivating peaceful and friendly international relations. Any investment on education therefore brands prosperity and social prestige to an area. Literacy also determines other attributes of population. i.e. fertility, mortality, occupational structure of population etc. Illiteracy on the other hand is a great obstractato the economic and socio-cultural growth of a region. It takes away dignity from man and develops ignorance, poverty and mental isolation. It retards social advancement, economic growth and political maturity in a region. As such it becomes a matter of prime importance for population geographers to study the level and standard of literacy in research district Madhubani in Bihar.

The discussion show that Literacy influences other demographic attendees like fertility, mortality, economic patterns, social, concessions and per capita income in an area. The economic development and political conseiousness in Kerala and west Bengal are closely linked with the high literacy rate in those states.

Keywords : - Madhubani, Literacy, Variation, demographic etc.

Introduction -

Madhubani district with population 44.9 Lakh is Bihar's the 4th must populous district located in the state Bihar in India. Total geographical area of Madhubani district is 3501 km^2 and it is the 5th biggest district by area in

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the state. It is locate at North Latitude from 26^{o} to $26^{o}40^{'}$ North Latitude and West Longitude from $58^{o}21^{'}$ to $86^{o}45^{'}$ east Longitude.

The concept of litercecy refers minimum Level of Literacy Skill. The definition of Literacy varies from country to country. In some countries the length of schooling has been considered at a basis for distinguishing between literates and illiterates. But Triwartha thinks that the length of schooling cannot be valid basis for the measurement of educational level. According to him the ability to read and write one's name in the language of his country can not be valid criteria for defending a literate. The population commission of United Nations includes those persons under literates who have ability to both read and write a simple massage with understanding in any language. The Indian census has adopted the definition suggested by the population commission of United Nations.

Factors Affecting Literacy :-

There is a direct and positive correlation between the literacy transition and economic transformation. It is difficult to say whether Literacy is dependent upon economic transformation is dependent upon Literacy transformation. The literacy rate in region is the outcome of a number of historical as well as socio-political and economic facrors. Prominent among them are –

(i) Cost of education
(ii) Type of economy
(iii) Political/Ideological background
(iv) Degree of Urbanisation
(v) Standard of living
(vi) Degree of development of means of transport and communication
(vii) Stage of technological advancement
(viii) Medium of instruction
(ix) Religious background
(x) Prejudices against female mobility and education
(xi) Status of woman in the society
(xii) General value system
(xiii) Availability of education intuitions and

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(xiv) Public policies

The Low level of literacy in the less developed oriental and tropical countries can be explained in term of the historical and political perspective of the area most of these in less developed countries were colonies of the big colonies powers of the temperate latitudes during the colonial period. Those Colonial powers were not interested in the social development of their colonies similarly. The research district Madhubani has been long governed by feudal rulers; Low literacy rates can be witnessed.

The economy of an area is well reflected in the literacy rates the types of economy is considered to be the most dominant determinant of literacy pattern in an area. The different in the literacy rates between the agricultural and industrial nations is related to the differences in the economic conditions. As the Industrial areas have basically non-agricultural economy, the Acquisition of minimum literacy skill is perquisite in the industrial areas. In agricultural area where agricultural pursuits predominant no special skill is required.

The willingness and ability of people to learn seems to be two most dominant literacy levels in an area. The ability to earn depends upon the environment of the family. The incitement of family includes income level, education of parents, housing condition, numbers of children in the house hold etc. In well educated family with better income and less number of children the Literacy rate will be high to seem research district Madhubani.

Next important determinant of literacy rate is true degree of urbanisation Urban areas have relatively higher literacy rate the surrounding rural areas. The employment opportunities available in the urban areas requires literacy and education as a pre-requisite. Besides, better facilities of education are available in the urban in comparison to the rural areas. As Madhubani, Jhanjharpur, Jainagar, Benipati Literacy rate in high other than rural areas.

The Stage of Technological advancement shows positive correlation with the literacy rate. In technologically advantage nations such as in most of the most European and North American countries, the literacy

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state in higher than the less development countries, where technological advancement is still in its infancy stage.

The recent advance next and improvement in the means of transport and communication have a new dimension in the expansion of literacy and education. The developed means of transport brings remote rural areas into close contact with advance urban and industrial area. The improved means of transport and communication cultivate awareness among people in the rural people in the rural society's towards education and the rural people start making use of educational institution. which are located in urban areas. Thus there is positive correlation between literacy state and the degree of the transport and communication in research district Madhibani. Sandeep University is established in Madhubani district due to transport and communication.

Apart from the above factors. Some demographic characteristics. Such as ethnographic structure status of women in family Public Polices etc. Determine the variations in the literacy rate. In the Christian communities the literacy rate relatively higher than other ethnic groups. In those communities where oral worship is prevalent the literacy rate is lower than those communications where reading of religious books is part of religions tenets. As for example, Islamic word where a Muslim must read koransharif.

The status of woman in the society are another important factor determining literacy rate in the area. Woman constitutes about 50 percent of the total population. Hence any discrimination between men and women in the matter of their status can adversity affect literacy rate. There is positive correlation between the status of women in the society and the literacy rate. In those society where woman are not provided equal right or status where woman are nor provided equal right or status, the family literacy rate is relatively equal right or status the female literacy rate is relatively lower. The low female literacy rate ultimately adversely affects the general literacy rate. The literacy rate is relatively higher in Christian communities because they provide equal status to both men and women. In closed Muslim societies equal right is not provided to women. Hence there is low literacy rate among Muslim communities.

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The availability of educational facilities also play vital rate in literacy transition in an area. Positive correction is found between the availability of education faculties and literacy rate. High literacy rate is found in those areas where the number of person per educational institution is high.

Public Polices formulated by government, such as free and compulsory education campaign against illiteracy. Bihar has been significantly influenced by the policies of their respective government. The adult literacy programme adopted by the government of India after independence has played vital role in eradicating mass illiteracy. Now days there are many programme are running in this district for eradicating mass illiteracy As-Kanya Utthan Yojna, Pricycle and Poshak, Topper beneficiary plan, opening new school, college and university etc.

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