

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF SCHEDULED CASTE WOMEN IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Literacy enables holistic development in an individual and empowers the individual to actively participate in a rapidly changing society and economy. Education is equally necessary for both men and women, because a healthy and educated society is made by both of them together. The scheduled castes continue to suffer discrimination based on their status in the caste system that places them in the bottom of social and economic hierarchy. Especially the women who have to face furthermore discrimination and have deplorable living conditions. Modern education system is able to completely remove the issue of illiteracy and equality among different gender, caste, religion and tribe. This paper aims to present the educational level of women belonging to the Scheduled Castes in Haryana and Punjab. Through the paper, the difference between the total female literacy rate and the literacy rate of scheduled caste women in both the states is also shown. Enrolment trend in higher education and level of higher education have been discussed.

Keywords: *Holistic Development, Society and Economy, Social and Economic Hierarchy.*

Introduction

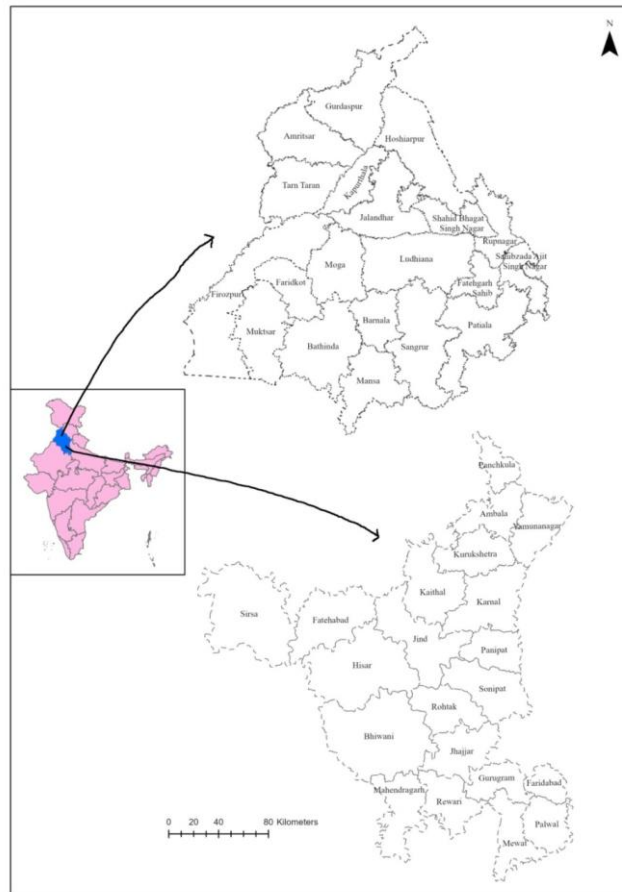
Education is a very vital tool to improve and upgrade the social and economic conditions of the Scheduled castes population. Literacy rate is very important indicator that determines the progress of both society as well as the individual. "A comparison between the literacy levels between the general population and scheduled castes population indicates that in spite of all the constitutional guarantee and recommendations from different commissions to improve the literacy levels among the scheduled caste population there is still a considerable gap" (Pandey, 1986). "The women especially among these scheduled castes are doubly disadvantaged for the fact that they are women and belong to scheduled castes" (Dunn, 1993). Modern education system is able to completely remove the issue of illiteracy and equality among different caste, religion and tribe. Education serves to develop the mind of the people at a higher level and helps in removing all the discrimination among the people in the society. It helps us to develop the understanding to understand every aspect of life. It also helps us to understand all human rights, social rights, duties and obligations towards the country.

Both men and women from scheduled castes community have limited access to education and resources. Lack of adequate infrastructure and resources, secondary status of women and poverty compelling students to drop out of schools have been the prime factors responsible for low literacy levels among the scheduled castes women. At national level scheduled caste women literacy rate was 56.46 which is lower than total women literacy rate i.e., 64.63. But women literacy both in case of total women as well as scheduled caste women are less than their counterpart. It is clear to show that opportunity of women to get education is not as easy as their counterpart in India. Highest scheduled caste women literacy rate found in Mizoram state i.e., 91 percent and lowest scheduled caste women literacy rate was found in Bihar state i.e., 38.5 percent.

Study Area

Punjab and Haryana are located in the north-western region of India. Punjab extends from the latitudes 29.30° North to 32.32° North and longitudes 73.55° East to 76.50° East. Haryana state forms the north-western part of India lies between 27° 39' 0" to 30° 55' 5" north latitudes and 74° 36' 5" E to 77° 36' 5" east longitudes.

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Punjab and Haryana together have a population of 53.1 million which account for 4.4 percent of the total population of India. Punjab consists of twenty districts while Haryana has twenty-one districts as per census (2011). Haryana was carved out of the former state of east Punjab on 1st November 1966 on linguistic bases. State capital of both states Punjab and Haryana is Chandigarh. The spatial pattern of scheduled caste is not uniform in all the states. The scheduled castes comprise about 16.6 percent of the Indian population (Census 2011), Punjab (31.9 percent), Himachal Pradesh (25.2 percent), West Bengal (23.5 percent), Uttar Pradesh (20.7 percent), and Haryana (20.2 percent).

Source of Data and Research Methodology

The research work based on secondary data to analyses the educational level of scheduled caste women. The data have been taken from the various government department of like Census of India; Directorate of Census Operations, Statistical Abstract; Punjab and Haryana, Statistics of School Education, All India Survey of Higher Education, MHRD etc.

The data, thus collected, are processed and analysed using quantitative techniques – simple percentage and other standard statistical measures. This analysis is supplemented by diagrams and maps, adopting choropleth method so as to have meaningful expositions of the regional pattern.

Objective

- To study the spatial pattern of literacy rate of women population.
- To analyze the difference between the total women literacy rate and scheduled caste women literacy rate.
- To analyze the trend of enrollment rate in higher education.
- To compare the education level of women belonging to Scheduled Castes of Haryana and Punjab.

Literacy Rate of Women Population in Punjab and Haryana

The level of literacy of women in any society decides that how is the condition of women in any society. On the contrary, in a society where there is a high level of literacy rate among women, the standard of living of women will be high and they will get the right to lead a respectable life in society. Therefore, to improve the standard of living of women and for their right to live a dignified life, women must be educated more and more because only an educated woman can be conscious and aware of her rights. And can firmly face the evils spread in society.

Table 1. Literacy Rate of Total Women Population and Scheduled Caste Women Population in Punjab and Haryana, 2011

Districts of Punjab	Women Literacy Rate		Districts of Haryana	Women Literacy Rate	
	Total	SC		Total	SC
Gurdaspur	74.85	66.34	Panchkula	75.99	63.6
Kapurthala	74.63	65.3	Ambala	75.5	65.28
Jalandhar	78.48	70.97	Yamunanagar	71.38	64.58
Hoshiarpur	80.31	76.84	Kurukshetra	68.84	58.64
Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar	73.93	70.96	Kaithal	59.24	48.94
Fatehgarh Sahib	74.8	65.66	Karnal	66.82	55.78
Ludhiana	77.88	65.99	Panipat	67	57.91
Moga	66.48	50.14	Sonapat	69.8	60.45
Ferozpur	61.69	47.05	Jind	60.76	51.89
Muktsar	59.24	43.58	Fatehabad	58.87	46.62
Faridkot	63.91	48.54	Sirsa	60.4	47.02
Bathinda	61.94	47.01	Hisar	62.25	51.98
Mansa	55.68	43.42	Bhiwani	63.54	56
Patiala	69.8	54.88	Rohtak	71.72	60
Amritsar	71.96	52.83	Jhajjar	70.73	63.47
Tarn Taran	61.85	44.57	Mahendragarh	64.57	60.43
Rupnagar	76.42	71.37	Rewari	69.57	63.53
S.A.S. Nagar	79.18	69.52	Gurgaon	77.98	66.09
Sangrur	62.17	50.81	Mewat	36.6	54.87
Barnala	63.57	50.14	Faridabad	73.84	57.92
			Palwal	54.23	51.36
Punjab	70.73	58.39	Haryana	65.94	56.65

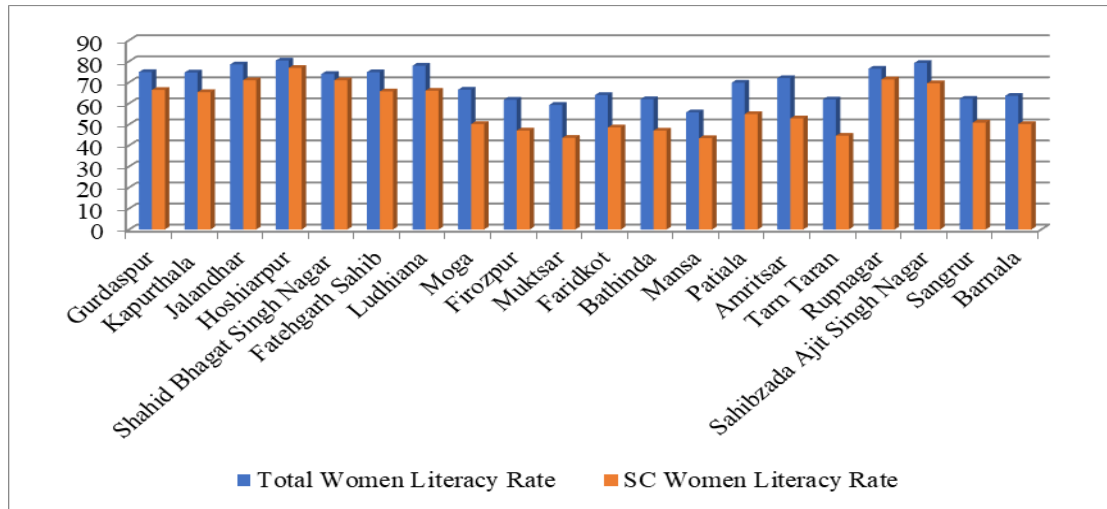
Source: Census of India, 2011

Spatial Pattern of Literacy Rate among Total Women and Scheduled Caste Women in Punjab

Table 1 revealed, the Literacy rate of total women population was 70.73 percent, which is higher than the national average i.e., 64.63 percent according to the census of India. It laid between 55.68 percent to 80.31 percent at the district level. Highest literacy rate among women population was found in Hoshiarpur district and Mansa had the lowest rate of literacy among the total women population. The northern and eastern parts of the state had high literacy rate than the south and south-western part of the state.

Table 1 revealed that the overall literacy rate in scheduled caste women population in Punjab was 58.39 percent with the literacy levels ranged from 43.42 percent to 76.84 percent at the district level. The highest literacy level among scheduled castes population had been found in the district of Hoshiarpur which had a literacy rate of 76.84 percent. On the other hand, Mansa district had the lowest literacy rate (43.42 percent) among the scheduled caste women population. The neighbouring districts of Hoshiarpur including Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, and Gurdaspur had high literacy rates among all districts of Punjab. The northern part of Punjab had comparatively higher literacy among the scheduled caste women population. On the other hand, the districts located in the vicinity of Mansa comprising of Ferozpur, Muktsar, Faridkot, Bathinda, and Muktsar, and Tarn Taran had lower literacy level among the scheduled castes women population. Eleven districts of Punjab had a low literacy rate than the state average.

Comparative Analysis of Female Literacy Rate among Total Women Population and Scheduled Caste Women Population

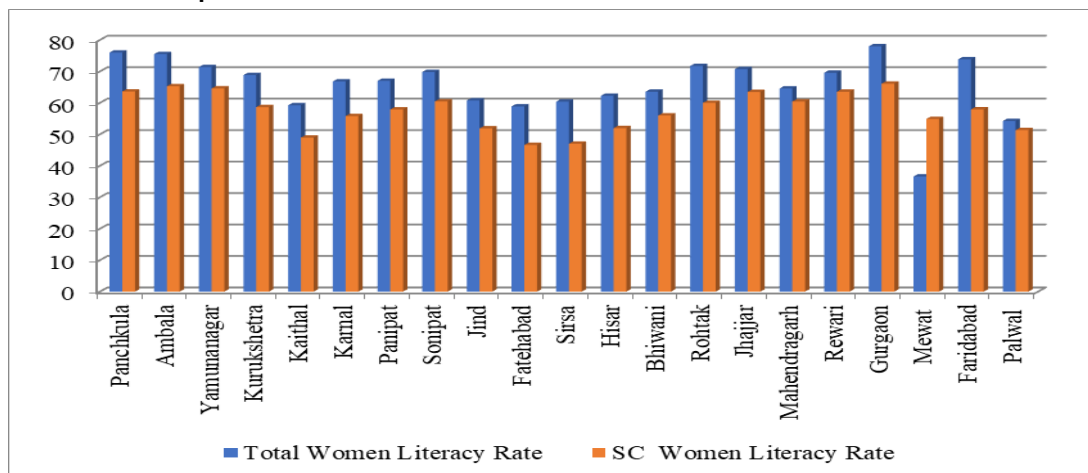


In Punjab, there was a significant difference between the literacy rate of total women population and scheduled caste women population. Total women literacy rate was around 11 points higher than the scheduled caste women literacy rate. The district with top and bottom ranks are the same in Punjab, which were Hoshiarpur and Mansa. Each district had higher literacy rate of total women population than the scheduled caste women literacy rate.

Spatial Pattern of Literacy Rate among Total Women and Scheduled Caste Women in Haryana

Table 1 revealed that the literacy rate of total women population in Haryana was 65.94 percent. It ranged from 36.60 percent to 77.98 percent at the district level. Gurgaon had the highest women literacy rate and Mewat had the lowest literacy rate. Surprisingly, both are neighbouring districts, one had at top rank and the other one had bottom. Twelve districts out of twenty-one districts had a higher literacy rate than the state average. Literacy rate among the scheduled caste women population in Haryana was 56.65 percent and the literacy rate varied from 46.62 percent to 66.09 percent across the districts of Haryana. Gurgaon district had the highest literacy rate of 66.09 percent among the scheduled caste women population, whereas Sirsa had the lowest literacy rate of 47.02 percent. The districts of Fatehabad, Sirsa, and Kaithal had very low rate of literacy in scheduled caste women population of Haryana which was less than 50 percent. The central and western districts of Haryana also exhibit low literacy levels in the scheduled caste women population of Haryana.

Comparative Analysis of Female Literacy Rate among Total Women Population and Scheduled Caste Women Population



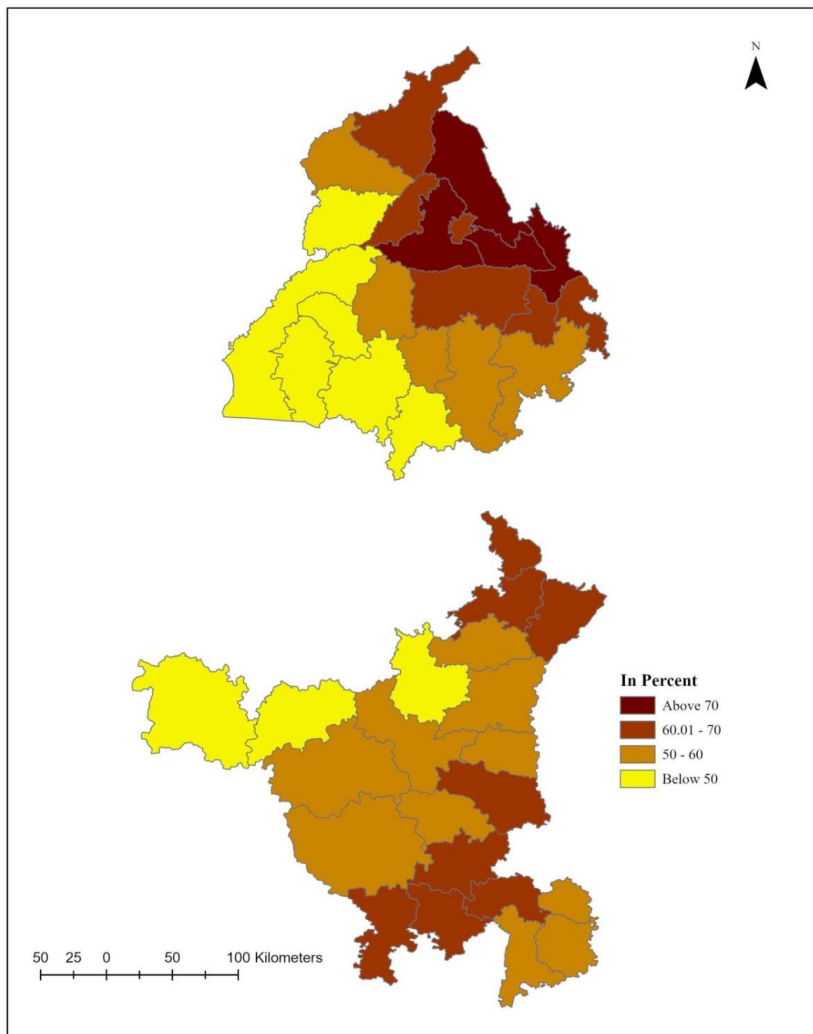
In Haryana, the total women literacy rate was higher than the scheduled caste women literacy rate. Difference between both was around 11 points at the state level. Here, only one district (Mewat) which had scheduled caste women literacy was higher than the total women literacy rate because the high proportion of Muslim population and the literacy among Muslim women was less than the scheduled caste women and total women literacy.

Comparative Analysis of Literacy Rate among Scheduled Caste Women in Punjab and Haryana

Literacy rate is a very important indicator to show the status and empowerment of women and especially women belonging to the weaker section of the society. In Punjab, the literacy rate was 58.39 percent and in Haryana, it was 56.65 percent. It means the literacy rate of scheduled caste women was higher in Punjab than Haryana with a little gap.

Low Literacy Rate (below 50 Percent) Six districts situated in south and western part of Punjab had low literacy rate. In Haryana Kaithal, Fatehabad and Sirsa were found in this category.

Fig 4.21 : Literacy Rate of Scheduled Caste Women in Punjab and Haryana, 2011



Source: Census of India, 2011

Moderate Literacy Rate (50 to 60 percent) Five districts come under this category from Punjab. Four districts were situated in the south-eastern part and one Amritsar was situated in the north part. In Haryana, 10 districts were found in this category named Kurukshetra, Karnal, Panipat, Jind, Hisar, Bhiwani, Rohtak, Faridabad, Palwal and Mewat.

High Literacy Rate (60.01 to 70 percent) Five districts namely Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib and SAS Nagar were found in this category. In Haryana, eight districts come under this category. Three districts were situated in northern part and the other was situated in the national capital region and southern part of the state.

Very High Literacy Rate (above 70 percent) In Punjab, four districts were found in this category. These districts were Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, SBS Nagar and Rupnagar. Not a single district in Haryana comes under this category of a very high literacy rate.

Education Levels of Scheduled Caste Women in Punjab and Haryana

Table 2 showed the educational level of scheduled caste women in Punjab and Haryana. Here three educational parameters are taken to show the educational status i.e., graduates, post graduates and technical degree. Higher education is a great need in this era of competition. Literacy level in scheduled caste is found to be lower than all other category, due to which enrolment in Higher education is also very low.

Table 2: Higher Education among Scheduled Caste Women in Punjab and Haryana

Districts of Punjab	Graduate	P.G.	Eng./ Tech.	Districts of Haryana	Graduate	P.G.	Eng./ Tech.
Gurdaspur	3.05	0.85	0.34	Panchkula	4.94	1.45	0.36
Kapurthala	2.94	0.69	0.25	Ambala	3.06	0.95	0.15
Jalandhar	4.24	1.13	0.31	Yamunanagar	2.63	0.78	0.13
Hoshiarpur	4.35	1.28	0.32	Kurukshetra	2.92	1.12	0.22
Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar	3.41	0.92	0.25	Kaithal	1.22	0.39	0.05
Fatehgarh Sahib	2.21	0.62	0.16	Karnal	1.96	0.63	0.12
Ludhiana	3.33	1.01	0.20	Panipat	2.09	0.62	0.16
Moga	0.85	0.24	0.06	Sonipat	2.66	0.78	0.19
Firozpur	0.82	0.22	0.06	Jind	1.45	0.43	0.06
Muksar	1.05	0.29	0.06	Fatehabad	0.87	0.24	0.04
Faridkot	1.44	0.39	0.10	Sirsa	1.02	0.32	0.05
Bathinda	1.54	0.41	0.17	Hisar	1.73	0.54	0.13
Mansa	0.78	0.25	0.05	Bhiwani	2.23	0.70	0.10
Patiala	2.36	0.67	0.18	Rohtak	3.30	1.26	0.19
Amritsar	1.51	0.38	0.12	Jhajjar	3.01	0.89	0.16
Tarn Taran	0.39	0.11	0.03	Mahendragarh	2.65	0.88	0.10
Rupnagar	3.76	1.12	0.30	Rewari	2.88	0.87	0.09
Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar	5.28	1.49	0.41	Gurgaon	3.97	1.11	0.24
Sangrur	1.47	0.47	0.10	Mewat	0.92	0.18	0.01
Barnala	1.07	0.32	0.10	Faridabad	2.84	0.70	0.19
				Palwal	1.42	0.38	0.08
Punjab	2.40	0.67	0.18	Haryana	2.25	0.69	0.13

Source: Calculated by researcher based on data obtained from Census of India, 2011

Spatial Pattern of Educational Levels among Scheduled Caste Women (aged 15 and above) in Punjab and Haryana

Table 3 showed that, in Punjab, 2.40 percent scheduled caste women were attaining the higher education up to graduates, 0.67 percent up to post graduates and only 0.18 percent of scheduled caste women were attaining the engineering and technical education.

At district level graduates degree holders among scheduled caste women were ranged from 0.39 percent to 5.28 percent. Highest graduates among scheduled caste women were found in SAS Nagar and lowest was found in Tarn Taran district. On the other hand, highest postgraduates were found in SAS Nagar (1.49 percent) and lowest was found in Tarn Taran district i.e., 0.11 percent. In case of engineering and technical degree all districts in Punjab had below one percent of scheduled caste women attaining technical degree.

2.25 percent of scheduled caste women were attaining the graduates degree in Haryana and 0.69 percent had postgraduates degree and only 0.13 percent had engineering and technical degree.

Highest graduates among scheduled caste were found in Panchkula district 4.94 percent and Fatehabad had the lowest position. In case of postgraduate top ranking of Panchkula district and lowest ranking in Fatehabad district. There was the same picture in case of engineering and technical degree.

There was the almost same situation of higher education among scheduled caste women in Punjab and Haryana. The difference between both states was very minor. In the case of higher education, the condition of scheduled caste women of Haryana and Punjab was not so good, very few scheduled caste women can get higher education and in today's time, it is difficult to enjoy a good status without higher education. And without higher education women empowerment is not possible.

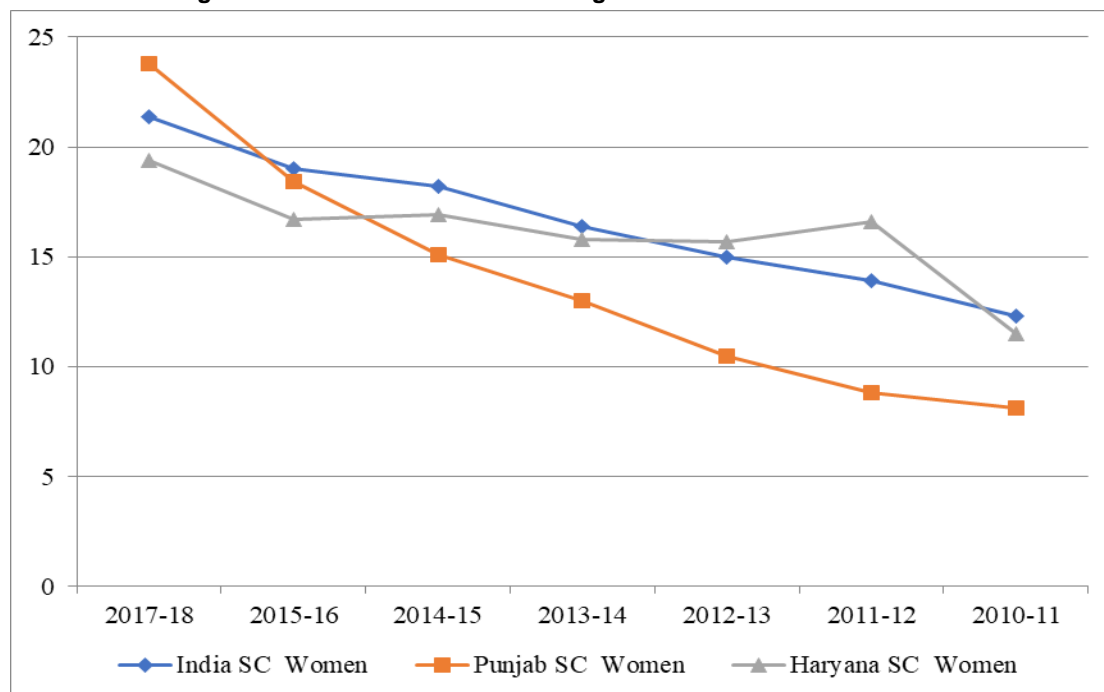
Table 3. Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education (AISHE 2017-18)

Years	India		Punjab		Haryana	
	Total Women	SC Women	Total Women	SC Women	Total Women	SC Women
2017-18	25.4	21.4	33.6	23.8	30.7	19.4
2015-16	23.5	19	28.5	18.4	26.4	16.7
2014-15	23.2	18.2	28.4	15.1	27.5	16.9
2013-14	22	16.4	27.4	13	25.9	15.8
2012-13	20.1	15	25.6	10.5	26.6	15.7
2011-12	19.4	13.9	23.6	8.8	27.7	16.6
2010-11	17.9	12.3	14.5	8.1	20.7	11.5

Source: AISHE, 2017-18

Table 3 presented the gross enrolment ratio in higher education among total girls and scheduled caste girls in Punjab and Haryana as well as national level. It revealed that the enrolment ratio among total girls population was higher than the scheduled caste girls at the state and national level. Despite several programs being run by the government to promote education among scheduled caste, the enrolment of scheduled caste women in higher education was low. From 2010-2011 to 2014-15 the enrolment ratio of scheduled caste girls in Haryana was higher in comparison with that of Punjab but after that, the situation was opposite, after that the enrolment ratio of scheduled caste women in Punjab was higher than that of Haryana. On this basis, it can be said that the increase in the enrolment ratio of scheduled caste girls students in higher education in Haryana had decreased compared to Punjab. Between 2010-11 to 2017-18, the increase in scheduled caste girls enrolment was 15.7 percent in Punjab, 7.9 percent in Haryana and 9.1 percent at national level. Increase in scheduled caste girls enrolment in higher education was higher in Punjab than Haryana and national level.

Fig. 5 : Gross Enrolment Ratio among Scheduled Caste Girl Students



Source: Based on Table 3

Conclusion

Haryana and Punjab are both developed states but in spite of this, when we assess the education level of women belonging to Scheduled Castes, the situation is quite disappointing. In both the states, the scheduled caste women literacy rate is less than the total female literacy rate and the same situation is also at the district level except in Mewat district. Although the scheduled caste women literacy

rate in Punjab is slightly better than Haryana. The situation in both the states is almost the same in education and the participation of SC women in higher education is very less. The increase in the enrolment ratio of scheduled caste women in higher education in Punjab is higher than that of Haryana. On the other hand, as the level of education is increasing, the dropout rate is also increasing, which definitely shows the backwardness of women. Today, higher education is very necessary to lead a respectable life in the society, despite other schemes being run by the government, there is no significant increase in the participation of scheduled caste women in higher education.

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