

**Status of Educational Attainment in Rural India: After 64<sup>th</sup> Years Independence**<sup>1</sup>Ravinder, <sup>2</sup>Krishan Kumar and <sup>3</sup>Madhu<sup>1</sup>Student, Distance Education in Political Science of Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak (Haryana)<sup>2</sup>Student, Department of Commerce, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (Haryana)<sup>3</sup>Department of Political Science, Singhania University, Pachheri Badi, Jhunjhunu-333515, Rajasthan (India)<sup>1</sup>Email - [rsdpekuk@gmail.com](mailto:rsdpekuk@gmail.com), [karamvir47@gmail.com](mailto:karamvir47@gmail.com); Phone no. +91-9355332650

**Abstract:** Attainment of the various types of educational level in rural settlement has highlighted of after 64<sup>th</sup> independence India which presents secondary data on different levels of school education and higher education. Most of the data in the census of India for year 2011 on second thoughts selected educational statistics: 2011-12, MHRD, govt. of India. The present study is recorded that about one third rural persons in India are illiterate. In the bargain only 3.14 percent higher educated (graduate and above degree) in the country. Indian education system is as one of the largest in the world. This issues are significant for the country, because higher education as a powerful tool to build a knowledge-based information society of the 21st Century.

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**Keywords:** Educational Level, Attainment, Higher Education, Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe.

**Introduction:**

Literacy and level of education are basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a society. Literacy forms an important input in overall development of individuals supporting them to comprehend their social, political and cultural environment. Higher levels of education and literacy lead to a greater awareness and also contributes in improvement of economic and social conditions. Education is almost every aspect of development effort, be it population control, health, hygiene, environmental degradation control, employment of weaker sections of the society. Education parameters have an equal weightage in the Human Development Index as well (Singh, 2011; Census of India).

Education is the vehicle of knowledge, self-preservation and success. Education tries to develop three aspects: physique, mentality and character (Indrani, 2012). India's education system, as one of the world's largest, has been working institutions 759,686 primary schools, 365,902 upper primary, 117,006 secondary, 64,398 higher secondary schools, 35,539 collage (public and private) and 700 total degree-granting institutions (central/state/deemed university and institution of national importance). India's higher education system is the third largest in the world, next to the United States and China. The importance of education, India has enacted right to education to ensure free and compulsory Education for children in the age group 6- 14 years. Article 46 of the Constitution states, that it is promoting with special care the education and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the

scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The main governing body at the tertiary level is the University Grants Commission, which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps coordinate between the centre and the state (Singh, 2011; 8<sup>th</sup> AISES, 2009; RTE Act, 2009; UGC, 2003).

The Indian education system is presently facing several issues and challenges. Education is a continuous process. It pacts with over growing man in ever growing all type of society. The growth of the economy and development of a country is depending upon the education system of that particular country. About one fourth persons in India are illiterate. Higher education (graduate and above) in the country are 6.53 percent. It is spatial variation in various types of educational level in the country across region, rural-urban, gender and social groups (schedule castes and schedule tribes) (Sreenivasulu, 2013, census of India, 2011).

The scheduled castes constitute around 18.32 per cent and the schedule tribe's account for 11.04 percent of the Indian population today. The schedule castes were deprived of their economic rights. So they remained poor and dependent upon others. The problems associated with the poverty of SCs are following material deprivation, landlessness, educational backwardness, employment and government service (sweepers, watchman, pion and agricultural labourer), health and nutrition etc. On account of the practice of untouchability traditionally the schedule castes had suffer from the following types of disability no physical contract, ban on the use of common well and tanks and prohibited from

entering the temple etc. schedule tribes are those communities outside the caste system of our society. They are live in hills, forest, coastal and desert areas and even on islands. They are own culture and social organization and own political system which adopted Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity. The traditional economy of tribal is characterized by gathering, hunting, fishing, shifting cultivation and agriculture. As far as, schedule castes and schedule tribes a number of poverty alleviation and welfare programmes have been launched by the government, but they are still backward educationally and economically.

The paper assesses the level of education in rural India. The purpose to study the level of education that the general people, scheduled caste (SC) and scheduled tribe (ST) have attained, using states as the unit of analysis in most cases.

#### **Objective:**

The main objective of this study is describing the current status of education at different levels in rural India across the region (as unit state wise) and social groups (general, schedule caste and schedule tribe).

#### **Database and Research Methodology:**

This study is based on secondary data. It is collected by Census of India, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Govt. of India, 2011. The spatial variations in the educational attainment of general people (including of all people) and social groups as for schedule caste (SC) and schedule tribes (ST) have been studied at state wise in rural India. It is included 28 major states in India (combine Andhra Pradesh and Talangana). Educational attainment is key variable of measure of development and quality of life in the people.

The objective will be met by collecting data on the aspects broadly various level of education. According to Census of India, 2011 have made a meaningful classification of educational levels into eight categories. These categories include: 1. people with no literacy skills (no school); b. people with literacy skills but below primary level (vary from a few months to four years); c. primary level of schooling (five years complete in school); d. middle level of schooling (three years in addition to primary); e. secondary level of schooling (normally attainment of matriculation); f. higher secondary education (two years with matriculation); g. graduation and above (first three yearly college degree and above degree) h. other specify (include as non-technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree, technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree and unclassified). It has been pointed out that the purpose is the analysis of illiteracy and to examine different levels of education.

#### **Profile of the study Area:**

India is located in South Asia. It is second ranks in the world in terms of population and seventh in terms of geographical area. India has a democratic and federal system of government with 29 states and 7 union territories. As per the 2011 census, India is total population stand at 1,21,08,54,977 which is 17.2 percent population in the world. It became one of the poorest in the world by the end of the colonial era in 1947 when India became independent. The economy of India is the seventh-largest economy in the world measured by nominal GDP. India also topped the World Bank's growth outlook for 2015-16 for the first time with the economy having grown 7.6% in 2015-16 and expected to grow 8.0%+ in 2016-17. While this policy helped to lay the foundation for industrialization and technological change, national income growth remained low at about 3-4 per cent per annum for several decades. The long-term growth prospective of the Indian economy is positive due to its young population, corresponding low dependency ratio, healthy savings and investment rates, and increasing integration into the global economy. The Indian economy has the potential to become the world's 3rd-largest economy by the next decade, and one of the two largest economies by mid-century. And the outlook for short-term growth is also good as according to the IMF, the Indian economy is the "optimistic spot" in the global landscape. But about 27 percent persons in India are illiterate. Today, about 59 percent people in the country are illiterate and completed grade 5. Graduate and above stage of education is also known as higher education in India. This, only 6.53 percent people in the country are across school education (completed higher education). Educational attainment in India is the worst of the 21st century.

#### **Social Fabric in Rural India:**

As per the 2011 census, India is rural population stand at 712425987 which is 68.84 percent population in the country. India is village's country in the world. The largest rural population in India is about 90 percent in Himachal Pradesh while the least rural population is about 38 percent in Goa state. It is large variations in the country. SC population in rural India is 18.32 percent in the total population while ST population is 11.04 percent respectively. As per as combined SC and ST population in the study area is 29.36 percent in the total population. About one third population is living this type's social group in rural India. These populations are can face up important role in development in the country. The largest SC population in the study area is 36.70 percent in Punjab state followed by West Bengal (27.58 percent), Himachal Pradesh (25.67 percent), Uttar Pradesh (22.66 percent) and Haryana (22.21 percent). These states are four located in northern India and one West

Bengal state located in north-east. However the largest ST population in rural India is 96.60 percent Mizoram state followed by Nagaland (92.84 percent),

Meghalaya (89.83 percent), Arunachal Pradesh (74 percent) and Manipur (52.36 percent). These states are located in north-east (table 1).

**Table 1. Demographic Characteristics in Rural India: 2011**

States	Rural population (percent)	SC population (percent)	ST population (percent)	Combined SC and ST population
India	68.84	18.32	11.04	29.36
Jammu Kashmir	72.79	8.56	14.84	23.40
Himachal Pradesh	89.96	25.67	6.00	31.67
Punjab	62.51	36.70	*	36.70
Uttarakhand	69.45	20.85	3.86	24.71
Haryana	65.21	22.21	*	22.21
Rajashathan	75.11	18.34	16.41	34.75
Uttar Pradesh	77.72	22.66	0.64	23.30
Bihar	88.70	16.12	1.38	17.50
Sikkim	75.03	4.32	36.46	40.78
Arunachal Pradesh	77.33	*	74.00	74.00
Nagaland	71.03	*	92.84	92.84
Manipur	69.79	2.38	52.36	54.74
Mizoram	48.49	0.06	96.60	96.66
Tripura	73.82	16.38	40.35	56.73
Meghalaya	79.92	0.52	89.83	90.35
Assam	85.92	6.95	13.89	20.84
West Bengal	68.11	27.58	7.74	35.32
Jharkhand	75.95	12.33	31.42	43.75
Odissa	83.32	17.69	24.81	42.50
Chhattisgarh	76.76	12.67	36.60	49.27
Madaya Pradesh	72.37	15.66	26.24	41.90
Gujarat	57.42	6.66	22.54	29.20
Maharashtra	54.77	12.16	14.18	26.34
Andhra Pradesh	66.51	19.16	9.05	28.21
Karnataka	61.43	19.70	9.01	28.71
Goa	37.83	1.72	15.81	17.53
Kerala	52.28	10.50	2.45	12.95
Tamilnadu	51.55	25.26	1.72	26.98

Source: Census of India, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Govt. of India, 2011.

#### **Current Literacy Position in Rural India:**

According to the Census 2011, In India about 71 percent persons in rural area is literate. The literacy rates for rural population are 97.31 percent the highest in Kerala state. Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh occupy the top five positions in literacy. The bottom position nine (9) States have recorded less than 70 percent rural Literacy rate (table 2).

Schedule castes (SC) population in rural area is 65.65 percent literacy rate in the country. Tripura is the state with highest literacy rate at 94.05 percent followed by Kerala (91.59 percent), Goa (90.79 percent), Mizoram (82.75 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (80.37) while Bihar with the lowest literacy

rate at just 50.75 percent followed by Jharkhand (55.36 percent) and Rajashthan (59.83 percent) (table 2).

As far as, schedule castes (ST) population in the study area is 60.04 percent literate. The largest literate in Goa state is 86.82 percent. Goa, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and Nagaland occupy the top five positions in literacy. While the least in Andhra Pradesh is 50.39 percent. The bottom position eleven (11) States have recorded less than 60 percent rural Literacy rate (table 2).

#### **Educational Level in Rural India:**

This study of the purpose is the analysis of illiteracy and to examine different levels of education in rural India. Table 3 shows the attainment of

educational levels for general population in terms of rural area. It shows that 32.23 percent rural persons in the country are illiterate. About one third rural persons in India are illiterate. Attainment of below primary in the country has been founded 15.39 percent. As for about 48 percent (nearly half persons) rural persons in the country are illiterate and below primary educated. As far as, attainment of primary schools (complete grade 5) is 18.28 percent persons. On the other hand, attainment of upper primary schools (complete grade 8) rural persons in the study area are 12.68 percent, 8.57 percent persons complete secondary (grade 10) and 5.71 percent complete higher secondary (grade

12) respectively. Unfortunately, only 3.14 percent people are graduate and above degree in the country.

In the bargain, the larger variations state wise in the country are attainment of education. Table 3 presented that the largest illiterate persons in Bihar state is 40.22 percent and 16.50 percent persons below primary schools (not completed primary schools). Bihar state is deplorable educational situation in the country. It noted that Bihar is Bimaru state in the country. Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan occupy the top five positions illiterate states in the country. The least illiterate rural persons in India are 7.02 percent in Kerala.

**Table 2: Literacy rate in rural India: 2011**

States	Rural literate population (percent)	SC literate population (percent)	ST literate population (percent)
<b>India</b>	<b>70.98</b>	<b>65.65</b>	<b>60.04</b>
Jammu Kashmir	64.70	69.76	50.75
Himachal Pradesh	84.02	80.37	75.23
Punjab	73.68	65.06	*
Uttarakhand	77.94	74.57	74.13
Haryana	73.06	67.27	*
Rajashathan	64.39	59.83	54.50
Uttar Pradesh	68.42	62.37	57.26
Bihar	63.33	50.75	53.66
Sikkim	82.32	77.35	80.78
Arunachal Pradesh	61.77	*	62.25
Nagaland	79.78	*	80.51
Manipur	77.09	75.61	75.20
Mizoram	85.78	82.75	86.15
Tripura	90.05	94.05	84.24
Meghalaya	73.40	63.79	74.53
Assam	72.83	79.39	74.58
West Bengal	74.33	69.78	58.79
Jharkhand	64.08	55.36	58.37
Odissa	72.46	70.18	53.21
Chhattisgarh	67.69	70.42	59.35
Madaya Pradesh	66.84	65.70	51.41
Gujarat	75.96	78.73	65.87
Maharashtra	81.62	80.18	68.69
Andhra Pradesh	64.15	61.97	50.39
Karnataka	73.57	64.30	63.31
Goa	95.00	90.79	86.82
Kerala	97.31	91.59	77.67
Tamilnadu	76.78	72.91	54.04

Source: Census of India, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Govt. of India, C - Series/ C-10: Population Attending Educational Institutions by Age, Sex And Type of Educational Institution – 2011.

Notes: Literate and literate without educational level for 2011 relate to the population aged 7 years and above.

\*Not population this types

**Table 3: Educational level in Rural India: 2011**

States	Illiteracy	below primary	primary	upper primary	secondary	higher secondary	graduate and above	other specific
<b>India</b>	<b>32.23</b>	<b>15.39</b>	<b>18.28</b>	<b>12.68</b>	<b>8.57</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>0.78</b>
Jammu Kashmir	36.82	10.16	13.30	16.54	11.81	5.93	3.38	0.54
Himachal Pradesh	18.15	10.24	19.79	13.83	18.47	10.52	5.78	1.04
Punjab	28.58	9.44	19.18	12.76	15.86	8.01	2.99	0.91
Uttarakhand	23.69	12.63	19.16	17.46	11.09	7.45	6.39	0.50
Haryana	28.58	12.10	18.73	12.59	13.80	7.66	3.97	0.92
Rajasthan	38.56	14.74	18.70	12.16	6.48	3.26	2.62	0.53
Uttar Pradesh	34.54	13.49	17.19	14.05	8.26	5.56	3.57	0.39
Bihar	40.22	16.50	15.63	9.17	7.97	3.92	2.47	0.56
Sikkim	21.05	23.62	22.09	12.00	8.36	5.24	3.57	0.70
Arunachal Pradesh	40.06	14.55	16.22	11.53	7.41	4.88	3.09	0.43
Nagaland	24.65	16.39	20.65	17.18	8.13	4.76	3.36	0.44
Manipur	26.60	10.42	14.31	18.42	12.41	7.88	5.93	0.33
Mizoram	15.90	28.91	24.81	17.42	5.48	3.54	2.06	0.20
Tripura	15.10	24.69	22.77	17.62	5.93	6.32	2.05	0.38
Meghalaya	30.08	28.04	17.44	10.68	5.08	3.42	1.46	0.32
Assam	30.66	17.94	16.75	15.79	4.95	7.97	2.24	0.21
West Bengal	27.87	22.02	19.55	15.02	5.09	5.33	2.58	0.35
Jharkhand	38.89	16.66	18.17	10.65	6.91	3.60	2.01	0.15
Odisha	29.78	16.93	21.59	14.49	7.66	3.78	2.96	0.56
Chhattisgarh	34.01	17.89	19.61	14.64	5.84	3.98	2.02	0.31
Madhya Pradesh	36.06	16.91	19.99	13.24	5.36	3.32	1.89	0.33
Gujarat	28.29	18.54	21.08	11.28	8.75	4.23	2.24	1.34
Maharashtra	22.99	18.40	17.52	12.68	11.87	7.15	3.73	1.05
Andhra Pradesh	39.55	10.52	18.24	7.31	10.13	5.61	3.83	1.10
Karnataka	31.27	14.32	18.37	9.84	8.09	8.93	2.98	1.36
Goa	13.35	13.75	14.62	14.71	14.00	11.42	6.96	2.85
Kerala	7.02	15.49	17.43	17.32	12.95	15.55	6.59	3.33
Tamilnadu	26.46	9.20	20.19	15.07	11.69	7.73	4.02	2.41

Source: Census of India, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Govt. of India, C - Series/ C-10: Population Attending Educational Institutions by Age, Sex And Type of Educational Institution – 2011.

Others Specify\* Include as Non-Technical Diploma or Certificate not Equal to Degree, Technical Diploma or Certificate not Equal to Degree and Unclassified.

Attainment of primary schools (completed grade 5) in rural population in the study area is the largest 24.81 percent in Mizoram state followed by Tripura (22.77 percent), Sikkim (22.09 percent), Gujarat (21.08 percent) and Nagaland (20.65 percent) which

attainment of below primary is Mizoram (28.91 percent), Tripura (24.69 percent), Sikkim (23.62 percent), Gujarat (18.54 percent) and Nagaland (16.39 percent) respectively. It may be noted that Mizoram state is above 50 percent population completed only

grade 5 or below grade 5. Mizoram is second largest literate state in the country. Mizoram is located in north-east and Tripura, Sikkim and Nagaland located in north-east.

Graduate and above stage of education is also known as higher education in India. The largest Percentage attending graduate and above education in Goa state are 6.96 percent persons followed by Kerala (6.59 percent) and Uttarakhand (6.39 percent). It may note that Goa and Kerala are located in western coastal in the country and Uttarakhand located in Himalayas range. Goa is first position in per-capita income in the country and Kerala is first position in literacy rate. The lowest attainment of graduate and above rural population in Meghalaya has recorded 1.46 percent followed by Madhya Pradesh (1.89 percent). The bottom position Fifteen (15) states have recorded below national average graduate and above persons in India. Education is one of the most important things in the world. Without it our youth would have no guidance in a very difficult world. It is point out that in India are regional differentials in different types of education level. Rural India is the worst situation in higher education level.

Table 4 reveals that the 37.15 percent of SC population in India are illiterate. It noted that schedule castes population are about 5 percent more illiterate compare general population in rural area. As far as attainment of below primary education in SC population is 15.83 percent. About 53 percent people of SC in rural area has illiterate and below primary in the country. Additionally 18.39 percent SC population has completed Primary education (grade 5). About 71 SC populations have not cross primary schools in rural India. Unfortunately, SC population in rural area of the country is attending graduate and above education (higher education) accounted for 2.04 per cent of the total SC population in Census 2011.

As far as the larger variations state wise in the country are attainment of education level in rural area.

Table 4 presented that the largest 52.34 percent SC population in Bihar state is illiterate while the least 12.79 percent in Kerala respectively. It may be noted that Bihar is economically backward state (Bimaru state) in the country. As per as Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh state more than 40 percent SC people are illiterate. Rajasthan is located in western (Thar Desert), Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand in Northern (Ganga plain) and Andhra Pradesh in southern India.

Furthermore, the largest 31.11 percent SC population in Sikkim are not completed grade 5 (below primary) while the least 9.24 percent in Tamilnadu respectively. As far as about one fourth (24.74 percent) SC population in Tripura are completed grade 5 (primary education) and 28.10 percent people in same state are not completed grade 5 (below primary) in the country. Tripura is third largest literate state in India.

Moreover, attainment of secondary education (completed grade 10) in SC population by state wise in India are the largest 15.35 percent in Himachal Pradesh while the least 3.97 percent in West Bengal in terms rural area. As far as, SC population in rural area completed grade 12 (higher secondary education) are the largest 11.74 percent in Kerala while the least 1.92 percent in Bihar. It may be noted that Bihar is worst education situation in the country. So that here is involve many problems as poor, unemployment and overpopulation. Bihar is largest density in India.

As far as, schedule caste's education, particularly at higher levels (completed graduate and above) in terms of state wise in rural India is the largest 7.19 percent persons in Manipur while the least 0.94 percent in Bihar respectively. It is large variation in higher education level. Fourteen (14) states in higher education in the country are below national average. It important noted that Meghalaya is located in north-east and about 70 percent forest area of total geographical area.

**Table 4: Educational Levels of SCs Population in Rural India: 2011**

States	Illiteracy	below primary	primary	upper primary	secondary	higher secondary	graduate and above	other specific
India	37.15	15.83	18.39	12.22	6.69	4.23	2.04	0.64
Jammu Kashmir	31.73	10.92	17.07	20.20	11.90	4.65	1.69	0.34
Himachal Pradesh	21.67	12.18	22.89	14.22	15.35	7.83	3.06	0.76
Punjab	37.02	11.34	21.09	11.47	10.58	4.65	1.20	0.57
Uttarakhand	26.88	14.93	22.19	19.00	7.90	4.07	3.21	0.37
Haryana	34.25	14.75	22.08	11.45	8.95	4.49	1.82	0.69
Rajasthan	42.83	16.27	19.10	10.34	4.43	2.15	1.76	0.47
Uttar Pradesh	40.20	14.14	17.50	13.76	5.93	3.53	2.10	0.28
Bihar	52.34	17.51	13.31	6.35	4.14	1.92	0.94	0.38
Sikkim	25.65	31.11	22.50	9.11	4.27	2.56	1.35	0.45
Manipur	27.55	12.64	13.17	16.31	11.97	7.65	7.19	0.38
Mizoram	18.04	16.86	13.33	21.96	14.90	10.20	1.96	1.96
Tripura	10.90	28.10	24.70	17.97	5.02	6.20	1.79	0.35
Meghalaya	38.86	20.83	15.32	10.19	5.41	4.88	1.65	0.21
Assam	24.34	20.70	20.52	17.87	4.45	6.73	1.49	0.17
West Bengal	32.47	22.69	19.31	13.40	3.97	3.84	1.72	0.35
Jharkhand	47.28	17.38	16.94	8.13	4.35	2.21	1.02	0.05
Odisha	31.95	19.08	22.36	14.44	5.53	2.65	1.47	0.41
Chhattisgarh	31.03	19.26	19.70	15.27	6.41	4.40	2.17	0.29
Madhya Pradesh	37.28	17.65	20.73	13.00	4.33	2.47	1.27	0.30
Gujarat	24.82	17.92	21.94	13.82	9.10	4.81	2.50	1.53
Maharashtra	24.21	19.05	17.03	13.32	10.72	7.08	3.28	0.91
Andhra Pradesh	41.35	10.56	17.91	7.70	9.25	5.51	3.18	1.22
Karnataka	39.56	14.28	16.80	9.46	5.99	6.97	2.13	0.97
Goa	18.59	14.93	16.55	16.63	10.78	7.40	3.58	2.15
Kerala	12.79	15.54	17.82	20.59	11.70	11.74	3.38	2.06
Tamilnadu	30.09	9.24	19.23	15.24	11.31	6.67	3.13	2.11

**Source:** Census of India, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Govt. of India, C - Series/ C-10: Population Attending Educational Institutions by Age, Sex And Type of Educational Institution – 2011.

Others Specify\* Include as Non-Technical Diploma or Certificate not Equal to Degree, Technical Diploma or Certificate not Equal to Degree and Unclassified.

The study is primarily concerned with inequalities in various types of education level in rural area by general, by social groups (like as schedule caste and schedule tribe) in India. The recent data from the census of India clearly that the general population better education compare to SC population and SC population better education compare to ST population in India are various types of education. The worst education situation in schedule tribe is compare to schedule caste and general population in rural area (table 5).

Table 5 presented that the about 43 percent schedule tribe (ST) persons in rural area are illiterate in India which 17.44 percent persons has not completed grade 5 (below primary education)

respectively. About 60 ST populations in the country have not completed primary education (grade 5). As far as, 16.56 percent ST population has completed Primary education (grade 5). Third-fourth ST population has not above primary education on second thought illiterate. Unfortunately, ST population in rural area of the country is attending graduate and above education (higher education) accounted for 1.33 per cent of the total ST population.

The state wise analyses of the educational status in rural area by schedule tribe population are in India. Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh state more 50 percent or half ST populations are illiterate. While, Mizoram only 15.52 percent population is illiterate. It may be noted that Mizoram

is the largest (96.60 percent) ST population and second largest literacy rate in India. But Mizoram about 29 percent people are not complete grade 5 (below primary education).

As far as, the largest attainment of secondary education (complete grade 10) ST population in rural area are 10.19 percent in Goa and attainment of higher secondary education (complete grade 12) is 8.48 percent in Himachal Pradesh respectively. As far as, both education levels in Madhya Pradesh is the least in

the country. Like this, graduate and above educated in schedule tribe in terms of rural area are the largest 5.76 percent in Uttarakhand while the least 0.58 percent in Odissa respectively. Nine (9) states are graduate and above educated persons below national average in the country. It is important note that higher educations in India in terms of rural area by general population, by SC population and by ST population are worst condition.

**Table 5: Educational Levels of STs Population in Rural India: 2011**

States	Illiteracy	below primary	primary	upper primary	secondary	higher secondary	graduate and above	and other specific
India	43.11	17.44	16.56	10.05	4.74	3.07	1.33	0.53
Jammu Kashmir	50.86	11.64	13.12	12.19	5.97	2.87	1.24	0.50
Himachal Pradesh	27.04	11.21	20.25	11.92	13.83	8.48	4.26	0.74
Uttarakhand	27.61	12.40	19.70	17.25	9.14	5.99	5.76	0.40
Rajasthan	48.27	15.07	15.75	9.22	4.03	2.15	2.16	0.58
Uttar Pradesh	45.52	14.74	16.10	10.15	5.60	3.34	1.44	0.35
Bihar	49.68	17.16	14.62	7.24	4.56	2.03	0.86	0.50
Sikkim	22.52	25.20	22.61	11.64	6.67	4.28	2.95	0.83
Arunachal Pradesh	39.63	14.04	16.62	12.23	7.38	4.92	2.92	0.37
Nagaland	23.96	16.46	21.12	17.60	7.98	4.66	3.31	0.44
Manipur	29.03	10.20	15.51	16.36	11.41	7.91	5.07	0.28
Mizoram	15.52	29.08	25.10	17.61	5.34	3.47	2.02	0.19
Tripura	21.56	24.22	21.40	15.83	5.79	4.10	0.88	0.43
Meghalaya	29.02	29.09	17.84	10.80	4.93	3.15	1.29	0.33
Assam	29.05	15.15	16.79	18.24	6.83	8.39	1.71	0.18
West Bengal	43.32	21.56	15.85	10.52	2.92	2.55	0.84	0.34
Jharkhand	44.78	16.09	16.69	9.67	5.37	2.94	1.25	0.08
Odissa	48.92	17.34	16.94	8.99	3.34	1.50	0.58	0.28
Chhatisgarh	42.43	17.15	18.04	12.66	3.88	2.65	1.12	0.29
Madhya Pradesh	50.68	18.11	16.53	7.96	2.35	1.31	0.60	0.37
Gujarat	38.71	18.04	16.92	9.44	6.14	3.53	1.42	1.22
Maharashtra	36.79	22.11	15.14	9.34	5.86	3.28	1.09	0.90
Andhra Pradesh	53.12	11.06	14.35	5.80	5.63	3.60	2.11	0.81
Karnataka	41.01	15.21	16.99	8.59	5.40	6.07	1.55	0.87
Goa	21.61	15.12	15.18	17.84	10.19	6.94	2.69	2.01
Kerala	25.95	19.28	19.58	14.95	7.03	6.62	1.79	1.17
Tamilnadu	48.68	9.84	17.35	10.16	5.94	3.05	1.14	1.11

Source: Census of India, Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Govt. of India, C - Series/ C-10: Population Attending Educational Institutions by Age, Sex And Type of Educational Institution – 2011.

Others Specify\* Include as Non-Technical Diploma or Certificate not Equal to Degree, Technical Diploma or Certificate not Equal to Degree and Unclassified.

#### Reasons for not attending:

Educational attainment is determined by gross enrolment ratio (GER) and dropout rate (DR) due to

low GER and high DR than lower educational standard of people. It may be observed from the gross enrolment rate table 6 that every level of education



registered a phenomenal decline in primary to higher secondary in the years 2011-12. The GER at primary level shows a see-saw picture as it was 89.5 percent in 2011-12. Its position is 79.8 percent at upper primary, 68.8 percent at secondary and 65.8 percent at higher secondary respectively. Whereas in India, the GER at primary level is 106.5 percent 82 percent at upper primary, 66.6 percent at secondary and 45.9 percent at

higher secondary. The enrolment picture in schedule caste appears somewhat better the gross enrolment ratio (CER) than general categories for the various levels of schooling are considered. The larger gap at GER in the both is from primary to higher secondary level. It shown as less than half GER at higher secondary level is compare to primary level.

**Table 6: Gross Enrolment Ratio in Rural India: by General, SC and ST (2011-12)**

Types of schools	Gross Enrolment Ratio		
	General	SC	ST
Primary	106.5	122.6	116.7
Upper primary	82.0	90.5	75.5
Secondary	66.6	73.7	53.8
Higher secondary	45.9	48.2	32.3

Sources: Selected educational statistics: 2011-12, MHRD, GOI, New Delhi; and Education in India, MHRD, GOI

The dropout is a critical indicator reflecting lack of educational development and inability of children to complete a specific level of education. Number of children dropouts in India is not small in all groups general, schedule caste and schedule tribe. The number of children who drop out without completing the full school cycle remains a formidable challenge. Dropout rate for class I to X at general category has 50.3 percent, at SC category 55.3 percent and ST category 65.90 percent in 2011-12. Moreover, the dropout rate at primary level (grade 1 to 5) has recorded 22.3 percent in the country. The dropout rate in SCs at primary level in the country is 23.5 percent while 35.3 percent in STs respectively (table 7).

The dropout rate (DR) picture in schedule castes (SCs) is equal position compare to general categories for the various levels of schooling in the country. But its position in STs is worst condition compare to SC and general category. The study shows that the big problem of school education in India is poor enrolment grade 6 to 12 and early drop out in all types of education levels (grade 1 to 10).

**Table 7: Dropout Rate in India: by General, SC and ST (2011-12)**

Types of schools	Dropout Rate		
	General	SC	ST
Primary (I - V)	22.3	23.5	35.3
Primary to upper primary (I - VIII)	40.8	40.2	57.2
Primary to secondary (I - X)	50.3	55.3	65.9

Sources: Selected educational statistics: 2011-12, MHRD, GOI, New Delhi; and Education in India, MHRD, GOI

### Conclusions:

Education the new challenge in the country is at the beginning of the twenty first century. Besides, challenges in education are no longer only nation centric. According to census of India 2011, only 3.14 percent higher educated people (graduate and above degree) in rural India. Into the bargain, 32.23 percent rural persons in the country are illiterate. As far as about 48 percent (nearly half persons) rural area in the country are illiterate or below primary educated. It is true that enhancing community access to higher education is still important in the country.

However, the major task the Indian education system is to bring equity in access of education across the social groups (schedule caste and schedule tribe) of the country. In rural area 37.15 percent of SC populations in India are illiterate. It noted that schedule castes population are about 5 percent more illiterate and schedule tribe about 11 percent more illiterate compare general population in rural area respectively. Unfortunately, SC population in rural area of the country is attending graduate and above education (higher education) accounted for 2.04 per cent of the total SC population and schedule tribes accounted for 1.33 per cent of the total ST population. The recent data from the census of India clearly that the general population better education compare to SC population and SC population better education compare to ST population in India are various types of education. In rural are the worst education situation in the country across the general, schedule caste and schedule tribe. Today, India is rural population stand at 712425987 which is 68.84 percent population in the country (census of India, 2011).

The situation is worse in rural area where the declines gross enrollment ratio upper primary education towards higher secondary education (grade

6 to 12) and the high dropout rate grade 1 to 10 are the major reasons of the education problem in India.

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