



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Gender Disparity In Literacy –A Case Study Of Barabanki District

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Abstract

The value of education cannot be underestimated. Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. Literacy is a fundamental human right and foundation for lifelong learning. It is important to social, human and educational development in its ability to transform lives. A literate society is core of developing a society free of poverty. As per Population Census of India 2011, Literacy rate of India has shown an improvement of almost 9.2%. It has gone up to 74.04% in 2011 from 65.38% in 2001, thus registering an increase of over 9% in last 10 years. The nation suffers from a wide gender disparity in literacy rate i.e. 82.14% for men and 65.46% for women. This study intends to bridge the gap in literacy through formulating an approach that can enhance the level of literacy of the district Barabanki and solve the problems by adopting an innovative initiative to drive economic growth.

KEYWORDS: Literacy rate, Educational development and disparity, Gender Gap and Disparity Index etc.

INTRODUCTION:

The paper examines the extent of disparity in the level of literacy of Barabanki district at block level. Demla (2019) opined that, "The spread of literacy has been quite uneven over the various blocks of the district. Literacy is the ability of learning and writing with deep understanding". According to Thakur (2020), "The Social fabric not only segregates community into strong like of caste system but also has effect on livelihood pattern at large. As elsewhere, much of the gaps in education of the state can be attributed to caste status, gender, poverty, lack of educational infrastructure and old fashioned thinking of the people". As per 2011 census of India, Barabanki has population of 3,260,699 out of which, Literate people are 1,692,458 out of which 1,010,518 are male and 681,940 are females. There was found that Literacy rate in study area was 61.75% in the year 2011 while 47.39% in 2001.

The urban Literacy rate is 69.52% according to 2011 census which is higher than rural literacy rate which is 60.84%. Likewise, male literacy rate is higher than female literacy rate. The male literacy rate is 70.27% in 2011 while 58.85% in 2001 whereas female literacy rate is 52.34% in 2011 while 34.29% in 2001.

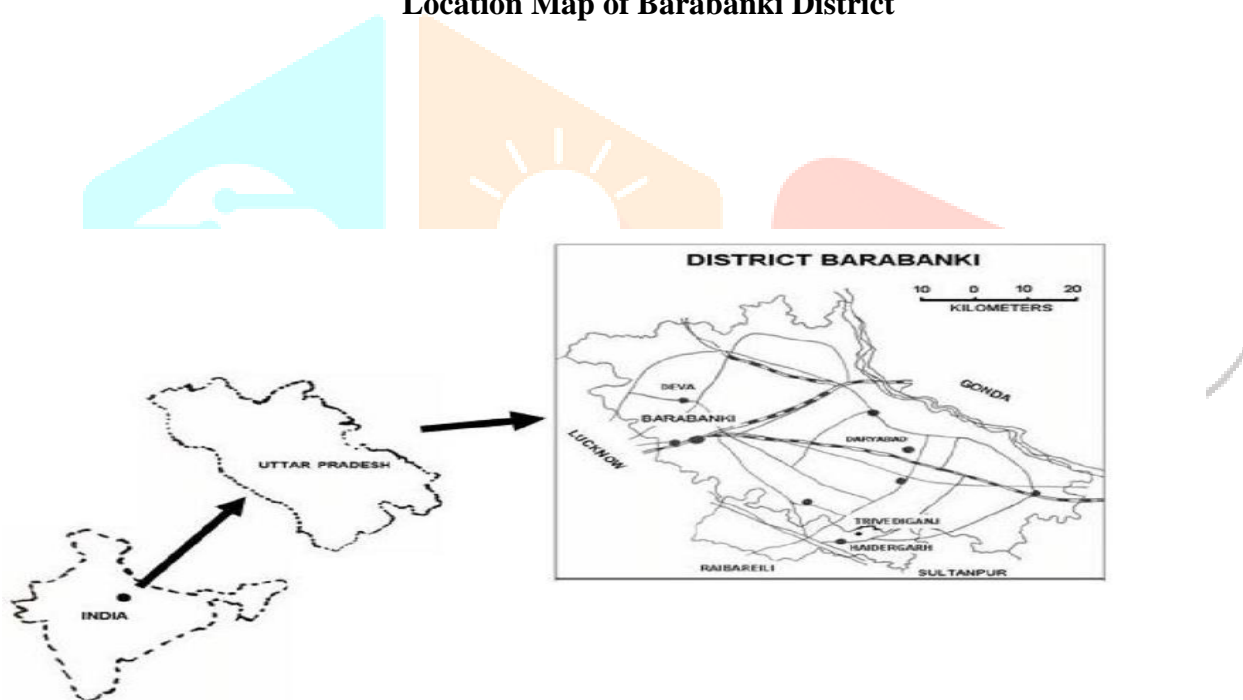
According to 2011 Census, the average literacy rate in urban areas is 69.5% and in rural areas it is 60.8% while urban male literacy rate is 74% and urban female literacy rate is 50.92%. The rural male literacy rate

for the year 2011 is 69.84% whereas rural female literacy rate is 64.56%. Therefore, disparities in literacy level exists and conditions in backward blocks still worse.

STUDY AREA:

The study area of this paper is a district of the Uttar Pradesh which is Barabanki. It is situated between 27°19' and 26°30' N latitude and 80°05' and 81°51' E longitude. The district is on the east of Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh. District Faizabad is on the East, District Sitapur in North, Districts of Gonda and Bahraich in North East, Rae Barriely district on the South and district Sultanpur on the South East. The total geographical area of Barabanki is 4402 sq km. In 2011, Barabanki had a population of 3,260,699 of which male and female were 1,707,073 and 1,553,626 respectively. There was a change of 21.96% in population compared to population as per 2001. Average literacy rate of Barabanki district in 2011 is 61.75% as compared to 61.75% of 2001. Male and Female literacy rate in 2011 are 70.27% and 52.34%. while according to 2001 census, male and female literacy rate are 58.85% and 34.29% respectively. Sex ratio of Barabanki district in 2011 is 910 while in 2001, it was 887.

Location Map of Barabanki District



(Source : <http://www.journalcra.com>)

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of this study are as follows:

1. to identify the pattern of male and female literacy of the district by blocks.
2. to evaluate the trends of gender gap of literacy by blocks during 2001-2011
3. to analyze disparity pattern in literacy by rural –urban break ups .
4. to investigate spatial pattern of overall disparity in literacy of district by blocks.
- 5 . to suggest some measures to reduce disparity in literacy of Barabanki district.

DATABASE AND METHDOLOGY:

The present study is exclusively based on secondary data collected from:

- Census of India,2001and 2011
- Annual reports of government of Uttar Pradesh
- Economic Survey of Uttar Pradesh
- Published Books
- Journal

1. Literacy rate = (Literate population /Total population aged above 7 years) x 100%

2. Sopher's Disparity Index : It is used to calculate inter-personal disparity between two groups of people and regions. Sopher's Index was modified by Kundu and Rao in 1983. Sopher's disparity Index(Sopher dis, 1974) is a technique to identify the disparity between rural-urban literacy groups by using the following formula (Biswas, 2016).

$$D_{MS} = \log (X2 /X1) + \log \{(200 - X1)/ (200 - X2)\}$$

Where,

X2 is more than X1 and is considered male

X1 is considered Female

Results and key findings:**Table 1: Literate population and literacy rate of Barabanki district(2011)**

S.No.	Blocks	Literate Population(2011)			Literacy Rate (%)		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
01	Nindaura	116487	70304	46183	60.02	68.56	50.45
02	Fatehpur	128020	75380	52640	64.41	72.54	55.51
03	Suratganj	100154	61662	38492	54.16	61.83	45.18
04	Ramnagar	94314	57085	37229	61.91	70.33	52.31
05	Dewa	104136	62702	41434	62.37	71.71	52.10
06	Banki	99305	59403	39902	66.19	75.61	55.82
07	Harakh	96374	58116	38258	63.90	73.81	53.08
08	Masauli	99050	59159	39891	62.55	71.95	52.40
09	Sidhaur	109258	66729	42529	59.85	69.49	49.14
10	Trivediganj	100085	59696	40389	65.96	75.81	55.33
11	Haidergarh	93637	56002	37635	59.70	69.42	49.40
12	Dariyabad	81397	49282	32115	58.35	67.63	48.20
13	Bani Kodar	113122	68943	44179	59.95	69.73	49.19
14	Pure Dalai	55243	33224	22019	51.48	58.70	43.42
15	Sirauli Gauspur	87961	53077	34884	58.61	67.76	48.63

Source: Census of India (2011)

India has witnessed remarkable progress in spread of literacy. Compared to nearly 18% of India's population recorded as literate in the first census after Independence. According to 2011 Census, that proportion has uplift up to 74% (Hajare & Ghurake, 2014).

Average Literacy rate of Barabanki district is 61.75% in 2011. The number of blocks having literacy rate above average literacy rate of the study are seven which are Fatehpur, Ramanagar, Dewa, Banki, Harakh, Masauli and Trivediganj while there are eight blocks of Barabanki district whose literacy rate is below average literacy rate of Barabanki and they are Nindauara, Suratganj, Pure dalai, Sirauli gauspur, Siddhaur, Haidergarh, Dariyabad and Bani kodar. Banki has the highest literacy rate which is 66.19% while Pure dalai has the lowest literacy rate which is 51.48%.

The average literacy rate of male of Barabanki is 70.27% in 2011. The number of blocks above this value are seven which are Fatehpur, Ramanagar, Dewa, Banki, Harakh, Masauli and Trivediganj. blocks fall below this value are eight viz Nindauara, Suratganj, Pure dalai, Sirauli gauspur, Siddhaur, Haidergarh, Dariyabad and Bani kodar. Trivediganj block has the highest male literacy rate which is 75.81% while Pure dalai block has the lowest male literacy rate which is 58.70%.

The literacy rate of female is 52.34% according to 2011 census of Barabanki district. The number of blocks above this female literacy rate of the study area are five which are Fatehpur, Banki, Harakh, Masauli and Trivediganj while the number of blocks fall below this value are ten which are Nindaura, Rmanagar, Surtaganj, Dewa, Sirauli gaupsur, Pure dalai, Haidergarh, Dariyabad, Siddhaur and Bani Kodar. Banki block has the highest female literacy rate with a value of 55.82% while Pure dalai block has the lowest female literacy rate which is 43.42% (Table-1).

Literacy is considered an important key to social-economic progress. It helps in eliminating gender disparity in literacy. Gender disparity prevails in almost all the sectors of life. Male female imbalance leads to educational inequality and this imbalance needs to be corrected in order to make the system correct. World Bank, noted that "No country can develop and achieve a full potential if half of its population is locked in non-remunerative, less productive and non-economic activities. Therefore, in a country where young women's education is now par with men's ignoring that half of the population isn't participating equally in economy."

Table 2 : Gender gap in Literacy of Barabanki district by Blocks(2001-2011)

S.No.	Blocks	Literacy - 2011		Gender Gap	Literacy - 2001		Gender Gap
		Male	Female		Male	Female	
01	Nindaura	68.56	50.45	17.87	54.7	29.6	25.1
02	Fatehpur	72.54	55.51	16.93	61.2	36.3	24.9
03	Suratganj	61.83	45.18	16.62	46.2	24.1	22.0
04	Ramnagar	70.33	52.31	17.99	57.3	32.5	24.8
05	Dewa	71.71	52.10	19.76	60.7	33.0	27.7
06	Banki	75.61	55.82	19.04	68.3	44.4	23.9
07	Harakh	73.81	53.08	20.94	64.6	35.0	29.6
08	Masauli	71.95	52.40	19.57	62.0	35.2	26.8
09	Sidhaur	69.49	49.14	20.24	56.6	30.3	26.3
10	Trivediganj	75.81	55.33	20.48	64.5	36.8	27.7
11	Haidergarh	69.42	49.40	20.45	53.9	28.5	25.4
12	Dariyabad	67.63	48.20	19.14	54.9	28.3	26.5
13	Bani Kodar	69.73	49.19	20.54	63.6	33.9	29.6
14	Pure Dalai	58.70	43.42	15.24	41.9	23.2	18.7
15	Sirauli Gauspur	67.76	48.63	19.13	53.7	27.6	26.1

Source : Computed by author

A report by UNICEF quoted, " Every girl and boy in India has fundamental right to quality education, an education one that helps them to achieve basic literacy and numeracy, enjoy learning without fear and feel valued and included irrespective of where they come from."There exists a wide gap between male and female literacy rate in India.

According to the laws of Manu, "Women and minorities are unfit for independence and their education is a threat to the status quo."Females are always a marginalized section of Indian society. Female literacy rate is comparatively lower than males due to several factors such as patriarchal norms, poverty and social & cultural factors etc.

Although the gender gap in literacy has decreased from 2001 to 2011, the performance of Barabanki district in narrowing down the gap is still the worst. Harakh block is having the highest gender gap in literacy whereas Pure dalai has the lowest gender gap in literacy in the year 2011 which is clearly depicting the low level of women status and their low access to education . In 2001Bani kodar also and Harakh blocks were having the highest gender gap in literacy whereas Pure dalai was having lowest gap in literacy rate(Table-2) .

Gender gap in literacy in 2001 was 18.05% which decreased to 11.42% in the year 2011 , a total fall of 6.63%. This reduction in gender gap is due to many factors viz tenth five year plan took place in 2002-2007 which mainly focused on quality of education and universal enrollment. It has been implemented in almost all the districts of Uttar Pradesh and thus it impacted the educational development in Barabanki district also.

Many other government schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(2001-2002) for imparting educational facilities like giving teachers proper training, developing infrastructure and building schools etc. For promoting education among SC/ST children, various educational schemes have been implemented like Ashram type schools, hostels and coaching centers for SC/ST, and financial support to them in the form of scholarships.

Orthodox and traditional views restraining women's sexuality is embedded in patriarchal norms. Men enjoy a greater agency which influence the women's mobility and participation in public spaces.

**Table 3 : Disparity Index of Barabanki District by rural-urban break-ups
(2001-2011)**

Blocks	Literacy-2011		Disparity index	Rural Literacy-2011		Disparity index	Urban Literacy-2011		Disparity index
	Male (X2)	Female (X1)		Male (X2)	Female (X1)		Male (X2)	Female (X1)	
1.Nindaura	68.56	50.45	0.189	33.98	21.09	0.239	-	-	-
2.Fatehpur	72.54	55.51	0.170	35.43	22.57	0.228	71.46	65.1	0.061
3.Suratganj	61.83	45.18	0.185	30.54	17.64	0.270	-	-	-
4.Ramnagar	70.33	52.31	0.184	34.55	21.24	0.244	74.7	64.88	0.093
5.Dewa	71.71	52.10	0.199	35.68	22.69	0.212	63.85	55.37	0.088
6.Banki	75.61	55.82	0.195	32.45	20.43	0.230	82.85	73.32	0.086
7.Harakh	73.81	53.08	0.209	35.49	21.44	0.254	58.84	46.44	0.139
8.Masauli	71.95	52.40	0.198	36.21	22.78	0.235	-	-	-
9.Sidhaur	69.49	49.14	0.212	32.25	18.97	0.263	61.05	46.71	0.158
10.Trivediganj	75.81	55.33	0.202	28.91	16.90	0.262	-	-	-
11.Haidergarh	69.42	49.40	0.208	24.21	14.33	0.251	71.13	57.82	0.132
12.Dariyabad	67.63	48.20	0.206	30.42	17.83	0.263	66.49	58.54	0.080
13.Bani Kodar	69.73	49.19	0.214	32.07	18.61	0.269	-	-	-
14.Pure Dalai	58.70	43.42	0.174	34.10	21.00	0.243	-	-	-
15.Sirauli Gauspur	67.76	48.63	0.202	37.69	23.52	0.241	-	-	-

Source : Computed by author

Poor quality education is leading to poor learning outcomes in India. Disparity in literacy is the educational inequalities. Gender disparity in literacy is due to the fact that females are the deprived sections of society and Indian society tend to follow patriarchal norms and parents are more scared to send their girl child to school as they believe that If women get educated, they disobey their families and husbands.

Overall disparity index value is associated with male and female literacy rate and is calculated with the help of Modified Sopher's disparity index. The average value of overall disparity index of Barabanki district for the year 2011 is 0.196. The block with highest disparity index is Bani kodar with 0.214 value and the block with the lowest disparity index is Fatehpur with the value of 0.170. The number of blocks below average value are six which are Nindaura, Fatehpur, Suratganj, Ramnagar, Banki and Pure dalai (Table-3).

Table 4: Levels of Literacy disparity index of Barabanki district by blocks (2011)

S.No.	Category	Disparity index	No. of Blocks	Name of Blocks
01	Very High	>0.200	07	Harakh, Siddhaur, Trivediganj, Haidergarh, Dariyabad, Bani kodar and Sirauli gauspur
02	High	0.196-0.200	02	Dewa and Masauli
03	Moderate	0.186-0.195	02	Banki and Nindaura
04	Low	0.175-0.185	01	Suratganj
05	Very Low	<0.175	02	Pure dalai and Fatehpur

Source-Computed by author

Overall disparity index value among the blocks of Brabanki District are grouped in five categories, Table 4 depicts that about two third blocks fall in the category of very high and high disparity index which are Harakh, Siddhaur, Trivediganj, Haidergarh, Dariyabad, Bani kodar , Sirauli gauspur Dewa and Masauli. Dewa. The gender gap in literacy is highest among these blocks because of several reasons such as females are not getting equal opportunity and access to education as compared to males, parents fear of not sending their girl child to schools, girls are denied to continue their higher studies etc.

From the above data analysis, Bani kodar block is the most backward block in terms of female education. Female are the most deprived section there in terms of their access to education. Women are not treated equally to men in the society and thus they are not allowed to get educated because of societal norms which should be modified according to the nation's need. Educating every citizen of India irrespective of gender is the need of an hour and that should be highlighted as a prime concern of the nation.

Two blocks come under the category of having moderate disparity which are Banki and Nindaura. Only three block comes under the category of very low and low disparity index. These are Suratganj, Pure dalai and Fatehpur. Fatehpur is a far more developed block of Barabanki district in terms of literacy. This is because of a variety of reasons viz quality of education is comparatively better, teachers are available, facilities for girls are available like separate provision for girls toilet, library, computers and electricity etc.

Figure 1: Overall Disparity index of Barabanki Distrit(2011)

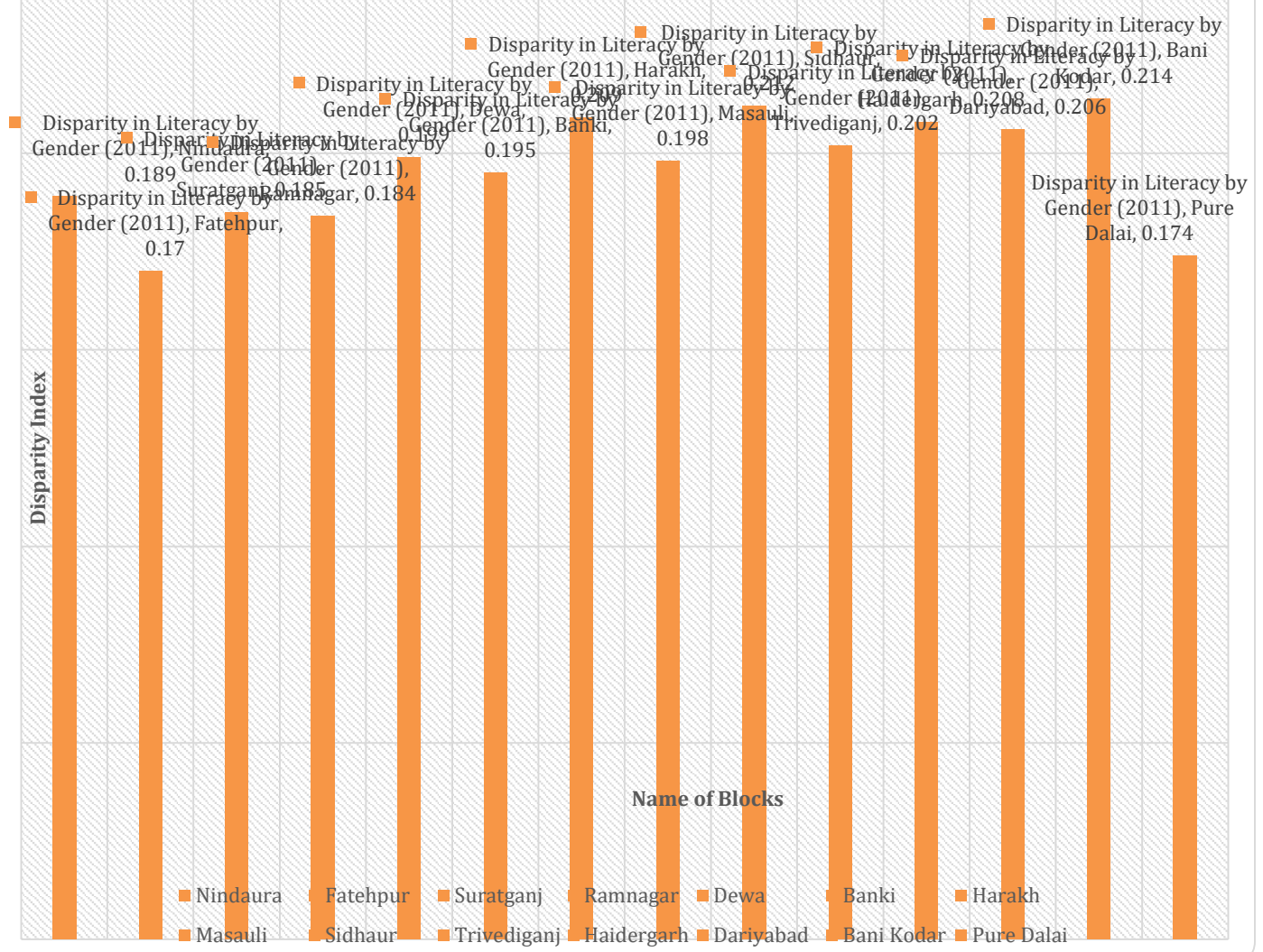


Table 5: Rural Literacy Disparity Index of Barabanki District(2011)

S.No.	Category	Range	No. of Blocks	Name of Blocks
01	Very High	>0.260	05	Siddhaur, Trivediganj, Dariyabad, Suratganj and Bani kodar
02	High	0.251-0.260	02	Harakh and Haidergarh
03	Moderate	0.241-0.250	03	Ramnagar, Pure dalai and Sirauli gauspur
04	Low	0.231-0.240	02	Nindaura and Masauli
05	Very Low	<0.230	03	Dewa, Banki and Fatehpur

Source-Computed by author

Table 3 shows that rural literacy disparity index varies 0.270 in Suratganj to 0.246 in Dewa . The average value of rural literacy disparity index of the district for the year 2011 is 0.246 . The number of blocks above average value are seven which are Harakh, Siddhaur,Trivediganj, Haidergarh, Dariyabad, Suratganj, and Bani Kodar.

In rural area very high and high category disparity index value found in seven blocks which are Siddhaur, Trivediganj, Dariyabad, Bani kodar , Suratganj ,Harakh and Haidergarh(Table-5) In rural areas, Educational infrastructure is not as advanced as in urban areas. Schools are not properly constructed, problems like water availability and electricity persist which discourage children from attending classes. The status of women is worse in rural areas because of backwardness and a narrow mindset. Parents are much more worried about their daughter's marriage than education. Women don't enjoy equal rights and opportunities in comparison to men which make them a vulnerable section there. These blocks are economically, socially and culturally backward which give rise to less awareness regarding the importance of education and hence it leads to disparity in literacy.

Only three blocks of rural area come under the category of very low and low disparity index value as these blocks are equipped with more educational facilities . Both the gender are allowed to continue their study and there is narrow gap in access to education however gender gap is not eliminated but in these blocks people are more aware and educated.

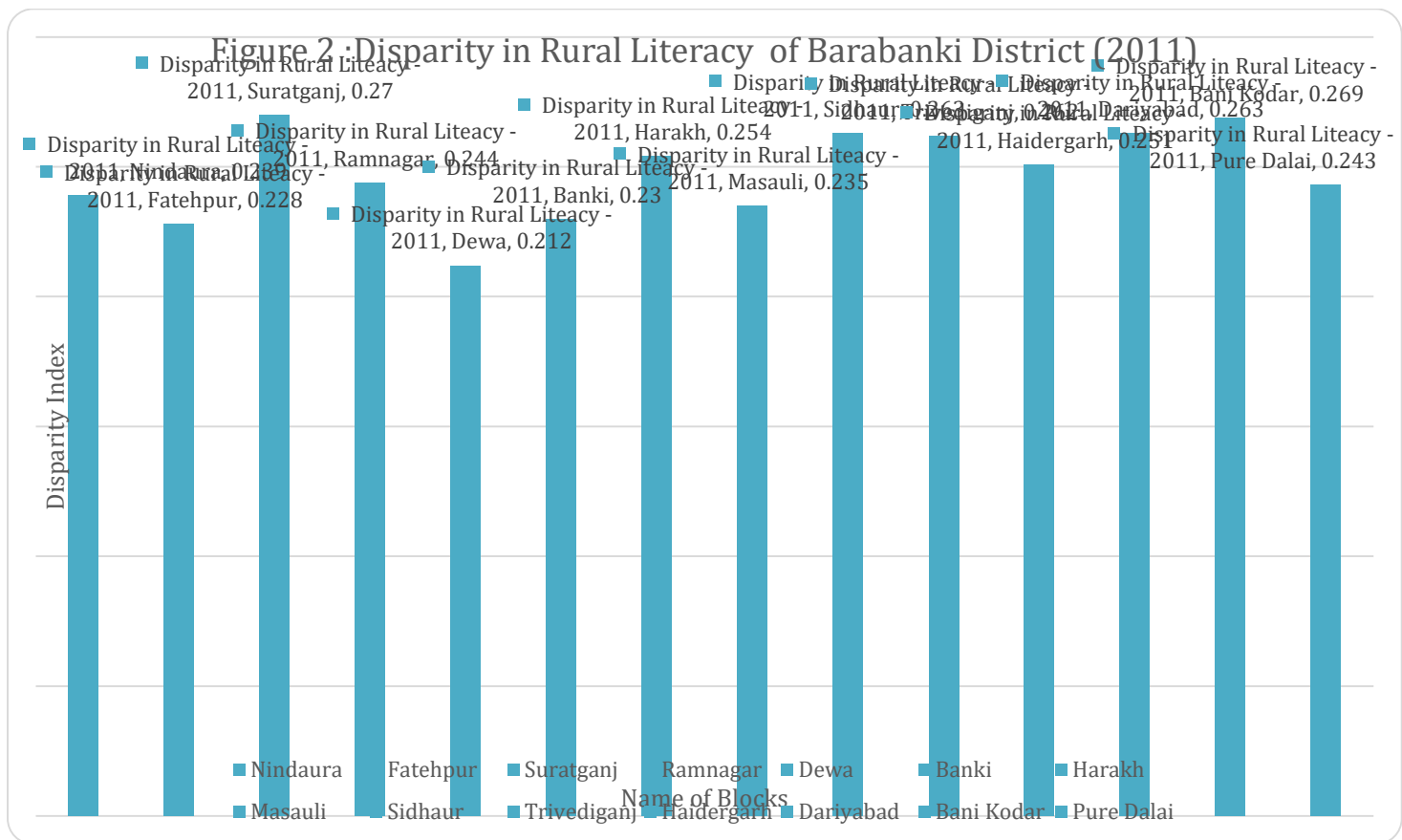


Table 6 : Urban Literacy Disparity Index of Barabanki District

S.No.	Category	Range	No. of Blocks	Name of Blocks
01	Very High	>0.150	01	Siddhaur
02	High	0.130-0.150	02	Harakh and Haidergarh
03	Moderate	0.090-0.129	01	Ramnagar
04	Low	0.070-0.089	03	Dewa, Banki and Dariyabad
05	Very Low	<0.070	01	Fatehpur

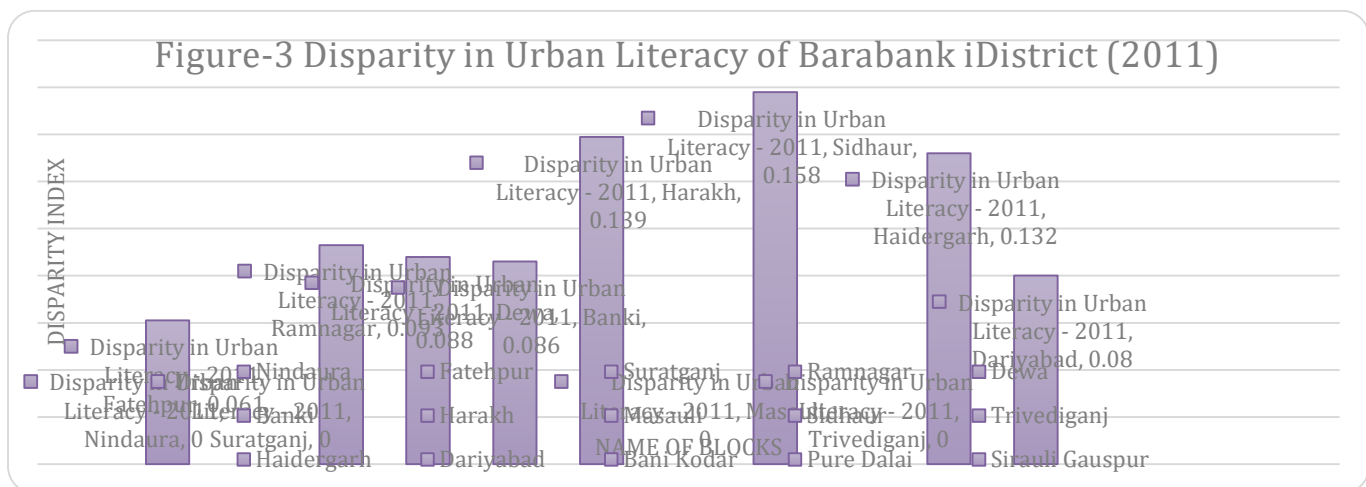
Source-computed by author

The average value of urban disparity in literacy of the year 2011 is 0.104. The block with highest disparity index is Siddhaur with 0.158 value and the block with the lowest disparity index is Fatehpur with the value of 0.061. The number of blocks below average value are five which are Harakh, Ramnagar, Dewa, Banki and Dariyabad. The number of blocks above average value are three which are Harakh, Siddhaur and Haidergarh. It is notable that six blocks Only eight blocks of Barabanki district are urban in character, the rest are totally rural in character.

Three block has the very high and high value of disparity index in urban literacy .One block comes under the category of having moderate level of disparity index which is Ramnagar with the disparity index value of 0.093. Four blocks come under the category of very low and low disparity index which are Dewa, Banki and Dariyabad and Fatehpur (Table-6).

Barabanki district is the least developed district and where most of the blocks are rural in character in which some are partially while some are totally rural. Blocks are least urbanized, lack of urban characteristics and thereby only some of the blocks are categorized as urban in nature. Disparity in Urban Literacy is low in Dewa, Banki, Dariyabad and Fatehpur which is because of the better educational facilities ,developed transport , Technology plays a vital role in transforming the educational system of today however every

household or especially girl child do not have access to smart phones and even if they have it, the problem of network connectivity is there. Low level of technological development in education prevailed in rest of the blocks and thus leads to disparity in literacy.



CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS:

Illiteracy is a poison while book is its antidote. Though education does not guarantee high status and higher positions to all people, yet without education an individual is unlikely to achieve social mobility. The Literacy rate is highest among male in comparison to females. Hazjare and Ghurake(2014) said that, "Literacy has been considered as one of the prime factors and an indicator for socio-economic development of the people of a region". There are several factors which are responsible for the uneven distribution of educational development such as lack of infrastructure, lack of qualified teachers and other factors. Disparity in Literacy is quite wide in certain blocks. According to Demala(2019), "Literacy makes humans well civilized and integrated into the process of globalization, privatization and modernization". Uttar Pradesh is one of the least developed states of India and Barabanki is one of the least developed districts of Uttar Pradesh. Overall disparity in Literacy is highest in Banikodar block while least is found in Fatehpur block. The rural urban gap in Literacy is again a challenging issue which needs to be addressed on priority basis. The highest level of disparity in rural Literacy is found in Suratganj while the lowest is found in Dewa block. All the blocks of the study area are not urban in character thereby the highest disparity in literacy is observed in Siddhaur block while the lowest is found in Fatehpur block. Some of the blocks of Barabanki district are purely rural in character. There is a visible gap between the male and female literacy in terms of their access to education. There is a wide scope of upgrading the status of literacy of the study area which requires the primary focus of the government as well as citizens.

Thakur(2020) quoted "In the recent years, there has been considerable change in the scenario due to the steps taken by the government like upgradation of schools and appointment of teachers etc. Still a lot has to be done." There is a need for children friendly learning environment where children can learn and grow. The number of opportunities in rural areas are less in comparison to urban areas. Urban areas are more developed and equipped with more educational facilities. Digital education is pivotal and lack of technological development further extends rural urban schism. To reduce disparity in literacy among rural and urban areas, facilities like mid day meal, electricity, water availability, separate toilets for boys and girls and provision of computers etc is required. There are few suggestions for upgrading the status of literacy of the study area:

1. Provide free education in all government institutions for citizens living below poverty line.
2. Support teachers financially.
3. Racial and gender discrimination should be avoided in schools. All students are equal, no matter what their religion or caste is.
4. Improvement in infrastructure development is needed.
5. Identification of backward blocks is needed as to lessen the level of high disparity prevailing there.

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