

Educational Levels of Muslims and Their Work Participation in Selected States of India

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ABSTRACT After the submission of Sachar Committee report, several studies have undertaken data based analysis of the socio-economic and educational conditions of Muslims in India. The present paper aims to analyse the state wise educational levels of Muslims and their work participation in the selected states of India. It also aims to identify the relationship between the educational levels of muslims and their work participation rates. The state level published data has been obtained from census of India, 2001. The results have revealed that educational status of Muslims in selected states of India is not satisfactory and needs special attention. It is found that more than half i.e., 53.95 per cent of the total population of the Muslims in India is illiterate with 17.48 per cent literate people just for the name sake only. Technical education or higher education is meager among the muslim people. The results also show that work participation rates of Muslims are not only low but their share as main workers is also very low. From the results, it is also clear that levels of education of Muslims bear relationship with their work participation rates in selected states of India. The general pattern of relationship reported that the variables, which have generally direct relationship with, work participation rate and main work participation rate have indirect relationship with marginal work participation rate. The study leads to a broad conclusion that below primary or primary literates does not have any relationship with either main work participation rate or marginal work participation rate.

Key Words

Educational Levels, Work Participation, Muslims, Selected States, India

I. INTRODUCTION

Muslims, the largest minority community in the country, constituting 13.4 per cent (Census of India, 2001) of the population, are seriously lagging behind in terms of most of the human development indicators. While the perception of deprivation is widespread among muslims, there has been no systematic effort since independence to analyse the condition of religious minorities in the country (Sachar Committee Report, 2006)¹. Sachar Committee report was probably the first attempt to analyse in India using large scale empirical

data. Today, globally Muslims show the lowest literacy rate.

<http://www.islamfortoday.com/syed07.htm>².

Studies on human cognitive development have established that literacy enhances the critical faculties of individuals and enables them to reflect on the existential reality in which they have been placed (Katiyar, 2008)³. Education not only provides profound knowledge and expertise but is supposed to play a broad spectrum role in developing social, cultural and moral values in an individual. It gives right direction to desires, emotions and outward behavior of individuals which reflects in the total personality (Dayal, 2008)⁴. Education is a vital factor in the social transformation of a society and its economic amelioration (Sachchidananda, 1977)⁵. Thus education of any community with no exception to Muslims will not only be helpful for their development but also for the development of the whole nation. Studies on the sources of economic growth demonstrate persuasively that education plays a major role as a factor in rise of output per worker. Most of the studies on educational levels have been attempted with references to literacy by sex and residence (Gosal, 1979)⁶, (Mathur, 1988)⁷, (Gupta and Kothari, 1990)⁸ and (Tripathi, 1993)⁹. The growth and spread of literacy level, its distribution, causes and historical consequences have been studied in the context of demographic, social and economic situation of Uttar Pradesh (Siddiqui, 1977)¹⁰ and (Singh, 1979)¹¹. Some of the studies also dealt with such correlates as working population and the results of these were found to be inversely related to each other (Acharya, 1984)¹², (Singh, 1986)¹³. The educational disparity in India is linked with socio-economic conditions (Raza and Aggarwal, 1986)¹⁴, (Nuna, 1989)¹⁵ and (Pcione, 1997)¹⁶. The interstate disparities in educational development in India have been analysed by (Tilak, 1979)¹⁷, (Redy, 1985)¹⁸, (Zaidi, 1986)¹⁹, (Mehta, 1990)²⁰ and (Malhotra, 1999)²¹. The study of inter-district inequalities in terms of literacy and educational development has been attempted by (Saradmoni, 1981)²² and (Dash, 1993)²³. Educational attainment by gender has done by (Doughal, 2000)²⁴. The relationship between education and work participation has been analysed by (Siddiqui and Naseer, 2004)²⁵. The relationship between education and regional/economic development has been examined by Dube and Mishra (1981)²⁶, Chaudhary and Nair (1981)²⁷.

But perhaps there is no such macro level study which deals with levels of education and work participation of Muslims in India. Therefore, in this paper an attempt has been made to visualize the levels of education of Muslims and its impacts on their work participation, taking India as a case study and selected states as units of analysis. States are selected on the basis of per centage share of muslim’s population to the total population. If the muslim population contributes more than 10 per cent then the state’s population then only the state is selected otherwise it is declined.

2. OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of this research paper are as follows:

- a. To analyse the state wise educational levels of the Muslims in selected states of India.
- b. To analyse work participation rates of the Muslims in selected states of India.
- c. To show relationship between educational levels of Muslims with their work participation rates in the selected states of India.

3. DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The entire study is based upon the secondary sources of data which have been collected from Census of India publications, New Delhi. Apart from it GIS Arc Veiw is used for making concerned maps and SPSS is used for analyzing the data.

i. Simple Percentage Method

This method is mainly used for obtaining levels of education and work participation rates from the absolute figures of workers. This calculation has also provided the base for the application of higher statistical techniques, like Karl Pearson’s Correlation Co-efficient (r), Student ‘t’ test.

ii Multiple Correlation Coefficients

It measures the degree of linear association among all the variables both dependent variables namely, total work participation rate of muslims (y_1), (main work participation rate of muslims (y_2), (marginal work participation rate of muslims (y_3) and independent variables namely, percent of muslim unclassified literates (x_1), per cent of primary muslim literates (x_2), per cent of secondary muslim literates (x_3), per cent of muslim technical and non technical diploma holders (x_4), Per cent of muslim graduate and above (x_5). It is always greater than any simple correlation expressing the degree of

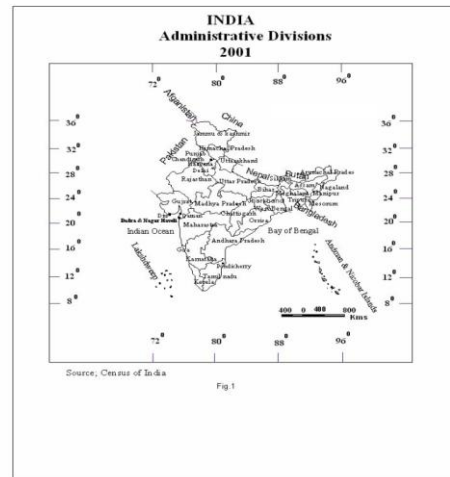
linear association between the dependent variable y_1, \dots, y_3 any of the independent variables (x_1, \dots, x_5).

iii. Student t-test

T-test is applied to find out the determinants which are significant at 1 percent and 5 per cent levels of significance.

STUDY AREA

1. India is lying between $8^\circ 4'$ and $37^\circ 6'$ North latitudes and $68^\circ 7'$ and $97^\circ 25'$ East. longitudes. It is bounded by Pakistan and Afganistan in the North West, China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north, Mayanmar and Bangladesh in the east. It covers an area of 32,87,263 Km². India is the seventh largest country in terms of area, while in terms of population it ranks second. According to 2001 census, the country has been divided into twenty eight states and seven union territories.



Educational levels of Muslims in Selected States of India

Education plays a pivotal role for human resource development and in turn helpful for long term economic growth . Education is not just a social amenity; it is the foundation of socio-economic development of a country. Ensuring quality school education to all is the foundation upon which any further advances towards a knowledge society must be based (<http://www.knowledgecommission.gov.in/recommendations/school.asp>)²⁸. Thus, the importance of education cann’t be denied when socio-economic development of any region is talked about (Butool, F. 2013)²⁹. The present paper aimed at analyzing the educational levels of Muslims in the selected

states of India (as one of its objectives). It was observed that more than half of the total Muslim Population i.e., 53.95 per cent is illiterate with 17.48 per cent literate people just for the name sake only. Apart from it, 21.18 per cent people have completed their primary education only, whereas, the percent share of secondary literates among the Muslims is only 7.44 per cent. The Muslims with technical and non technical diploma courses are only 0.19 per cent and in the higher studies their share is only 1.73 per cent. (Tab1). Apart from it majority of the muslim literate people are either literate without any educational level (17.49 per cent) or they are primary literates (21.19 per cent). Technical education or higher education is meager among the muslims. Thus

Table 1 State wise Levels of Education among the Muslims, India. 2001

i.e., 2.56 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir and

Administrative Divisions	Unclassified Literates	Primary Literates	Secondary Literates	Technical and Non technical Diploma Holders	Graduates and above	Literacy Rate	Ratio of Muslims to total Population
INDIA	17.489	21.187	7.446	0.198	1.728	48.05	13.43
Jammu & kashmir	10.93	16.985	9.496	0.039	2.558	40.01	66.97
Uttar Pradesh	15.229	16.146	4.996	0.088	1.355	37.81	18.5
Bihar	13.741	12.91	4.471	0.151	1.479	32.75	16.53
Assam	15.961	15.108	5.646	0.055	1.093	37.86	30.92
West Bengal	23.711	18.248	3.768	0.029	0.964	46.72	25.25
Jharkhand	17.382	17.903	6.62	0.122	1.779	43.81	13.85
Lakshdweep	25.151	36.406	8.83	1.204	1.164	72.75	95.47
Kerela	19.311	41.641	12.676	0.716	1.628	75.97	24.7

Source; Census of India, Tab C-9, 2001

lowest (0.96 per cent) in West Bengal.

can be safely not only the level of education is low among the muslim but its quality is also poor. It is also revealed from the table that literacy rate among muslims varies from 75.97 per cent in Kerala to 37.81 per cent in the state of Bihar in the selected states of India in 2001. Apart from it, primary literacy rate varies from 41.64 per cent in Kerala to 12.91 per cent in Bihar whereas secondary literacy rate is also highest in Kerela i.e., 12.67 per cent and lowest in West Bengal i.e., 3.77 . However technical education among the Muslims is less 1 percent in all the selected states of India. Higher education is highest in Jammu and Kashmir

Work Participation of Muslims in Selected States of India

Work participation is one of the most significant features of the population of a nation as it has multilateral involvement in the economic production and planning. It provides information about the human resources and the nature and extent of their utilization. (Chandna and Sidhu, 1980)³⁰. The socio-economic development of any region or any society is related to the degree of work participation and the proportion of workers in

different sectors of economy. Work participation rate of Muslims in India is 31.33 per cent, whereas, it is 39.1 per cent for the whole population of India. Among the Muslims 24.81 per cent

Table 2 Work Participation of Muslims in Selected States and Union Territories of India, 2001

Administrative Divisions	Work Participation Rate (Y ₁)	Per cent of Main Workers (y ₂)	Per cent of Marginal Workers (y ₃)	Ratio of Muslims to Total Population
INDIA	31.331	24.812	6.519	13.43
Jammu & kashmir	35.067	23.099	11.967	66.97
Uttar Pradesh	29.148	22.030	7.118	18.50
Bihar	30.887	23.555	7.333	16.53
Assam	29.098	23.134	5.964	30.92
West Bengal	32.886	25.962	6.924	25.25
Jharkhand	31.553	20.679	10.873	13.85
Lakshdweep	22.987	16.946	6.041	95.47
Kerela	23.249	18.675	4.573	24.70

Source; Census of India, Tab- B2, 2001

people are main workers and rest of them i.e., 6.08 per cent people are marginal workers. Work participation rate of Muslims is highest, in Jammu and Kashmir (35.06 per cent), whereas, it is lowest in Lakshdweep i.e., 22.98 per cent. Contrary to it, Lakshdweep exhibits highest percentage of Muslims in the nation with only 22.98 per cent of work participation. Main workers are highest in West Bengal i.e., 25.96 per cent and lowest in Lakshdweep i.e., 16.94 per cent. Marginal workers are highest in Jammu & Kashmir i.e., 11.96 per cent and lowest 4.57 per cent in Kerela. It is also clear from the table that work participation rate is highest in Jammu and Kashmir 35.06 per cent and lowest 22.98 per cent in Lakshdweep.

Education and Work Participation

The earlier works on education and work participation have shown that level of education and nature of work participation are closely

associated (Butool, F, 2010)³¹. It is also observed that education has helped in employment mobility. After getting education, people are able to get respectable and even highly paid jobs. Lack of education inhibits people from mobility of any kind.

Table 3 Results of Correlation (r) between Work participation Rates of Muslims (Total, Main and

Variables	Definition	Total Work Participation Rate Y_1	Main Work Participation Rate Y_2	Marginal Work Participation Rate Y_3
X ₁	Per cent of Unclassified Muslim Literates	.168	.198	-.066
X ₂	Per cent of Primary Muslim Literates	-.070	.107	-.480**
X ₃	Per cent of Secondary Muslim Literates	-.112	.072	-.504**
X ₄	Per cent of Muslim Technical and Non Technical Diploma Holders	.523*	-.024	-.431**
X ₅	Per cent of Muslim Graduates and Above	-.439**	.451*	-.389*
X ₆	Total Work Participation Rate	-	.933**	.268
X ₇	Main Work Participation Rate	.933**	-	-.097
X ₈	Marginal Work Participation Rate	.268	-.097	-

Marginal) and Other Selected Variables of Educational Levels, India, 2001

**Significance at 1 Per cent Level

*Significance at 5 Per cent Level

Muslims-who unlike dalits, are not protected by job reservation-suffered from considerable access disadvantage in terms of obtaining regular employment, even after abstracting from their low educational level (Basant, R. 2012)³². In the present investigation a relationship has been sought between levels of education and work participation rates among the muslims in selected states of India. This is done to obtain a rational hypothesis of relationship between the variables of levels of education and that of work participation rates. A simple association between the variables of work participation and levels of education have been computed and listed with the assumption that linear relationship existed in all the cases. The general pattern of relationship showed that the variables which generally have a direct relationship with work participation rate and main work participation rate have indirect relationship with marginal work participation rate. The results are shown in the table. 3. It was found that out of all the variables, the coefficients of correlation of three variables recorded a highly significant relationship with Y_1 (Total Work Participation Rate of Muslims). One among them, X₄ (Per cent of Muslim Technical and Non Technical Diploma Holders) is satisfying 95 percent level of confidence and bore indirect

relationship. However, X₅ (Per cent of Muslim Graduates and Above) and X₇ (Per cent of Main Workers Among the Muslims) were found to be significant at 99 percent level of confidence with positive and negative relationships respectively. Out of all selected variable only two (X₅ and X₇) bore significant relationship with Y_2 (Main Work Participation Rate). Both of them were found to be significant at 99 percent level of confidence and bore positive relationship.

For the dependent variable Y_3 (Marginal Work Participation Rate) four independent variables (X₂, X₃, X₄ and X₅) recorded significant relationship and all of them bore indirect relationship. Among these significant variables, only X₅ was satisfying 99 percent level of confidence, whereas, the other three variables namely, X₂ (Per cent of Primary Muslim Literates), X₃ (Per cent of Secondary Muslim Literates) and X₄ (Per cent of Muslim Technical and Non Technical Diploma Holders) were found to have significant relationship at 95 per cent level of confidence. The above discussion led to conclude that Muslim population with educational level below primary or primary literates does not have any relationship with either main work participation rate or marginal work participation rate.

4. CONCLUSION

Thus, it can safely be said that the educational levels of Muslims in India is not satisfactory and needs special focus and attention. It is clear from the Tab 1 that more than half i.e., 53.95 per cent of the total population of the Muslims in India is illiterate with 17.48 per cent literate people just for the name sake only. Technical education or higher education is also meager among the Muslim population.

2. Work participation rate of Muslims is not only low but their share as main workers is also lesser in the selected states of India (Tab 2). It is also clear that levels of education of Muslims bear relationship with their work participation rate in India. The general pattern of relationship led to conclude that the variables, which have generally direct relationship with work participation rate and main work participation rate have indirect relationship with marginal work participation rate (Tab 3). The study leads to a broad conclusion that the educational levels below primary or primary level do not have any relationship with either main work participation rate or marginal work participation rate.

5. Acknowledgements

The second author express her thank to UGC for supporting her research work

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