

Comparative Study of Women Development in the Field of Education in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh from 2001 to 2011

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Abstract: The education community has lately realized the importance of education of women. The commitment of "Education for All" is needed to ameliorate the education status of women. This research paper mainly focuses on the Development of Women in the field of education in Maharashtra as compared to Madhya Pradesh. The female literacy in Maharashtra increased in 2011. The district of Mumbai (suburban) has the highest literacy rate as compared to the other districts in Maharashtra. Pune has shown a drastic improvement in female literacy in the last decade. Even in case of Madhya Pradesh, the literacy rate increased from 2011, whereas the female literacy rate increased from 2011. This shows that even though there is improvement in women education in Madhya Pradesh but comparatively it is lower than that of Maharashtra.

Keywords: Women Development, Literacy, Education, Comparison

Objective

The main objective of this research paper is:

1. To study the development of women in the field of education.
2. Comparison of female literacy in between two states i.e. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Hypothesis

Women development in the field of education is more in Maharashtra as compared to Madhya Pradesh.

Introduction

In today's scenario, education has become a basic necessity of life apart from *roti, kapada* and *makaan*. Education is one of those factors which is provided equally to all irrespective of religion, caste, creed, sex, area, etc. But in this male dominant society, women are not given much opportunity for self-development and growth. As said by Mahatma Gandhi, "Educate one man, you educate one person but educate one woman and you educate a whole civilization." Women education is equally important for the development of the social, economic and political aspects of our country which means the overall development of our nation. This research paper mainly

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focuses on women development in the field of education in Maharashtra as well as Madhya Pradesh. Female education inched its way through under stewardship of individual pioneers and the missionaries. It was for the first time in 1813 that the East India Company accepted responsibility for education of people. But it restricted to educational activities to men and refused to take any direct action for the education of girls and women. The strong prejudice against their education was so deeply rooted in social and religious life of the people that any attempt to educate them was sure to create a very great commotion. The company, therefore, refused to grant any financial assistance for the establishment of girls' school.

A good deal of work had to be done to change this attitude towards the education of women. The earliest modern schools for girls started under the auspices of missions for the interests of children of Christian converts only. Encouraged by the success of their attempts, the missionaries set up institutions for education of non-Christian girls and women as well. These institutions were set up in Bengal, Bombay and Madras as well. The Baptist Mission started its first school in 1819.

Research Methodology

The study is based on secondary data.

The information collected in the research report is from secondary source.

Sources of Data Collection: Books, websites, journals.

Study Region

The state of Maharashtra is located in the Deccan Plateau towards the west near the Sahyadri Ranges and is considered to be the second most densely populated state after Uttar Pradesh. It is located near the Arabian Sea near the west coast.

The state of Madhya Pradesh is also termed as the Heart of India due to its geographical location. The name itself indicates that it is the Central province of India and has Bhopal as its capital. Madhya Pradesh is the sixth largest state in India in terms of population. The Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh flows between the Vindhya and the Satpura ranges and acts as a boundary between which divides the nation into North and South India.

Data Analysis

Maharashtra is considered to be the financial capital of India. Due to this, there are many trade transactions which take place in Maharashtra, especially in Mumbai. The existing ports in Mumbai have paved a way for wider international trade transactions. Due to this, the need for education was felt and therefore the rate of education in Maharashtra has improved in the past decade and is also more as compared to Madhya Pradesh.

The data provided below is primarily based on secondary data. It studies the comparison of women development in education in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. As per the official standards set up by the government, a person is said to be literate if he/ she can read, write and understand any language. The number of educated women in Maharashtra was 26.8 million in 2001 and 36.3 million in 2011.

Table 1: Increase in the Number of Women Literacy in Maharashtra from 2001 to 2011

Year	Women Literacy Rate
2001	67%
2011	75.90%

Source: Secondary Data (www.undp.org/content/dam/...development/MHDR%20English-2012.pd)

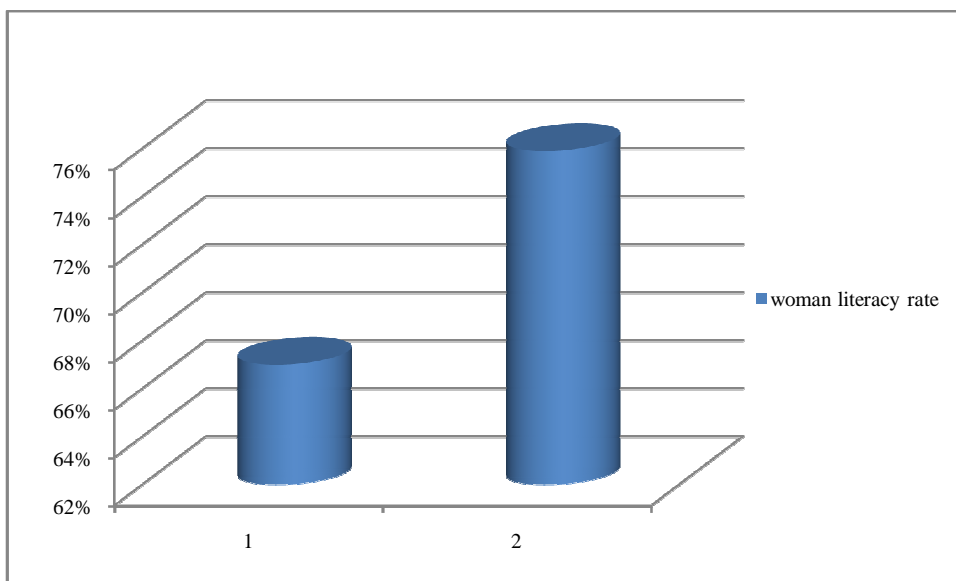


Fig. 1: Woman Literacy Rate

In case of Madhya Pradesh, Indore has the highest literacy rate as compared to rest of the districts in Madhya Pradesh out of which 10,33,371 are females. Bhopal district which is the capital city of Madhya Pradesh has the highest female literacy rate of 76.6%. The female literacy rate in Madhya Pradesh is less than that of Maharashtra which proves that Madhya Pradesh is comparatively less developed in terms of education as compared to Maharashtra.

Table 2: Increase in the Number of Women Literacy in Madhya Pradesh from 2001 to 2011

Year	Women Literacy Rate
2001	50.30%
2011	60%

Source: Secondary Data
(censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/data_files/mp/07Literacy.pdf)

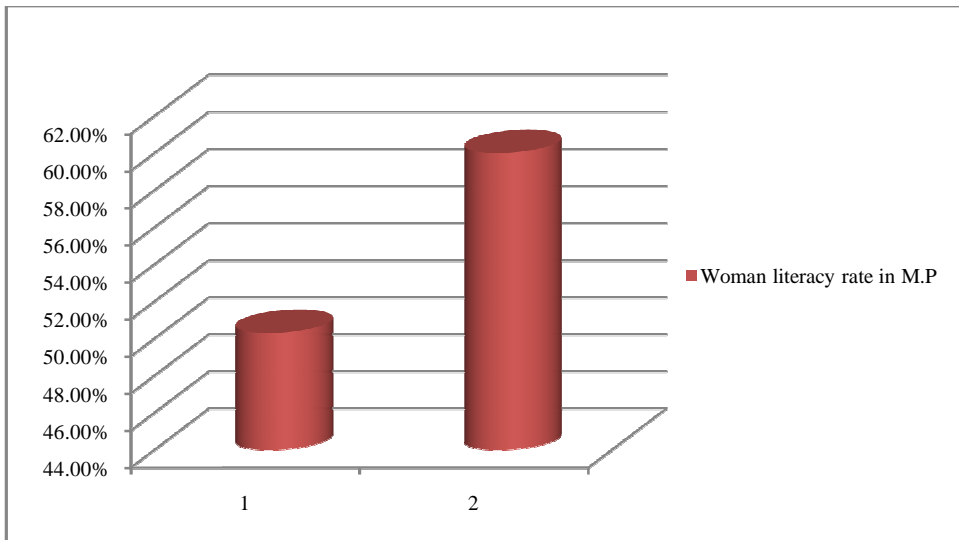


Fig. 2: Woman Literacy Rate in M.P.

Justification of Objective

Increase in growth rate of women development in education in Madhya Pradesh is more than that of Maharashtra from 2001 to 2011.

It has been observed that the increase in percentage of development of women education in Madhya Pradesh is more than that of Maharashtra. The percentage increase of women education is calculated as follows:

Percentage increase in women education =

Women literacy rate in 2011 – women literacy rate in 2001 x 100.

Women literacy rate in 2011

Percentage increase in women education in MAHARASHTRA =

$$\frac{3,62,96,706 - 2,67,80,980}{3,62,96,706} \times 100$$

$$= 26.21 \%$$

Percentage increase in women education in MADHYA PRADESH=

$$\frac{1,76,76,841 - 1,19,20,289}{1,76,76,841} \times 100$$

$$= 32.56\%$$

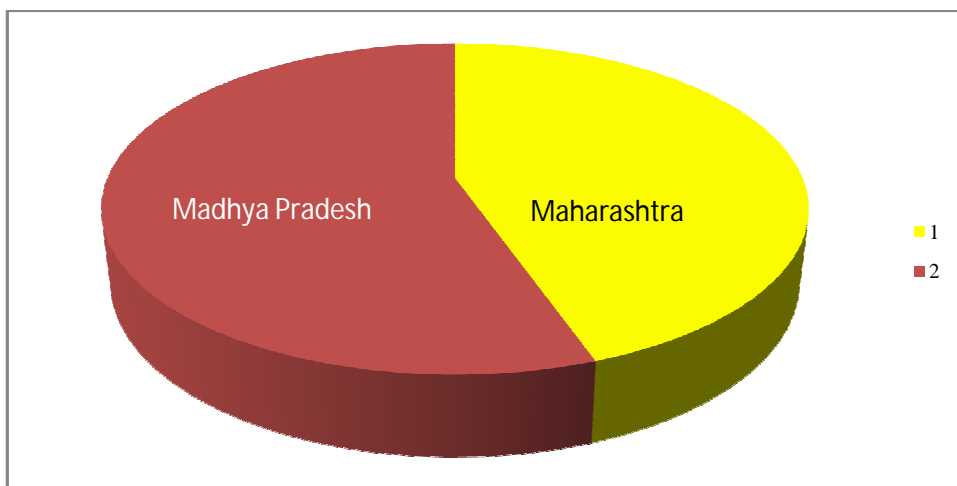


Fig. 3: Pie Diagram Showing Comparative Percentage Increase in Women Education from 2001 to 2011 in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

The percentage increase in women education in Madhya Pradesh is 32.56% and that of Maharashtra is 26.21%. This clearly indicates that the state of Madhya Pradesh has witnessed an increase in its women literacy rate as compared to that of Maharashtra during the last decade. This high amount of percentage increase is expected in underdeveloped areas because of the existence of high level of women illiteracy.

Findings

The percentage increase in women education from 2001 to 2011 is more in Madhya Pradesh than that of Maharashtra. But the number of women literates is more in Maharashtra as compared to that of Madhya Pradesh, hence women development in the field of education is more in Maharashtra as compared to Madhya Pradesh.

Government Schemes

There are various schemes introduced by the government for the development of women in the field of education.

The Government of Maharashtra has introduced various schemes in the state to improve the socio-economic situation in the country. The government has given prima facie importance for women education in the state. Reducing the gap in gender education is the main objective of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA). One of the most essential schemes initiated by the Indian government is the Beti Bachao, Beti Pado scheme in 2014. The main objective of this scheme is to prevent gender-based sex-selective elimination, ensure survival and protection of the girl child, ensure education of the girl child. Some of the other schemes related to the education of women are given below:

1. **Attendance Allowance Scheme:** This scheme was introduced by the Government of Maharashtra to reduce the dropout rate of girls in primary schools. Under this scheme, Rs.1 per day and maximum Rs. 220 in the academic year is paid to the parents of the girls studying from classes 1 to 4 who have attendance of more than 75% of working days. It includes all girls from TSP areas and those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Below Poverty Level (BPL) families in other areas. During 2013–14 about 4.91 lakh girls were benefited and an expenditure of 10.81 crore was incurred.
2. **Ahilyabai Holkar Scheme:** Under this scheme, girls from rural areas studying in classes 5–10 are provided free travel in buses run by Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation to attend school, if school facility is not available in the village. During 2013–14, about 19.50 lakh girls availed this facility and expenditure of Rs. 57.85 Crore was borne by the state government.
3. **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (KGBV):** This scheme was launched for setting up residential schools at upper primary level with an objective to ensure access and quality education for out of school girls belonging to SC, ST, OBC and minority families from Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). In 10 districts of the state, 43 KGBVs are sanctioned with capacity of 100 girls each. During 2013–14 an expenditure of Rs. 8.33 Crore was incurred and 4,202 girls were benefited.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has also introduced schemes related to the education of women. The following are the schemes:

Ladli Laxmi Yojna: This scheme was started in 2006 with an objective to lay strong foundation for girls' future through improvement in their educational and economic status and to bring about a positive change in social mindset toward the birth of a girl. Under this scheme, National Saving Certificates worth Rs. 6000 are purchased by the state government in the name of a girl every year after she is born till the amount reaches 30,000. The girl covered under the scheme is given Rs. 2,000 on getting admission in class 4, Rs. 4,000 on getting admission in class 9 and Rs. 7,500 on getting admission in class 11. She is given Rs. 200 per month during her studies in class 11 and 12.

Though the government has taken the initiative to increase women education in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the number of women literates is low as compared to male literates.

The following table shows the literacy rate of Males and Females in the year 2001.

Table 3

Particulars	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh
Male Literates	3,71,84,963	1,96,72,274
Female Literates	2,67,80,980	1,19,20,289

Secondary Data: 1) www.census2011.co.in > States

2) censusmp.nic.in/censusmp/All-PDF/6Literacy21.12.pdf

Diagram Showing Male and Female Literacy Rate in Maharashtra in 2001

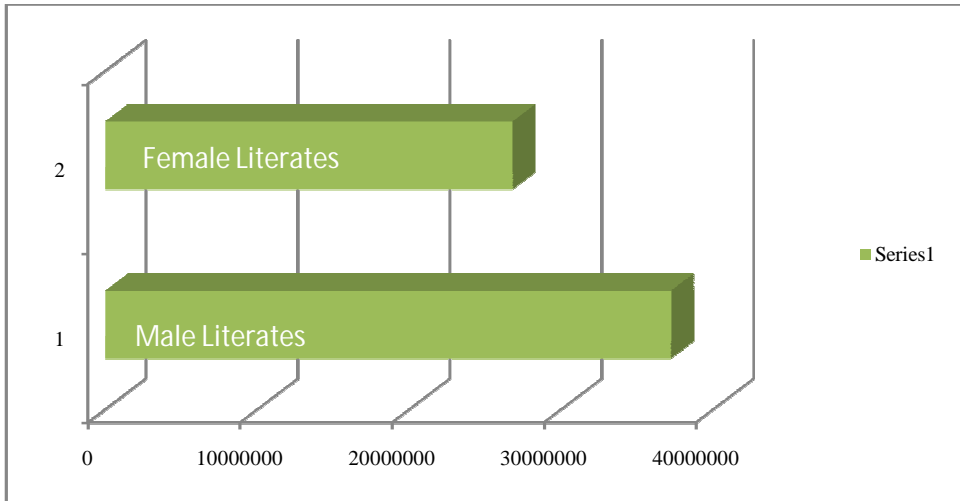


Fig. 4

Diagram Showing Male and Female Literacy Rate in Madhya Pradesh in 2001

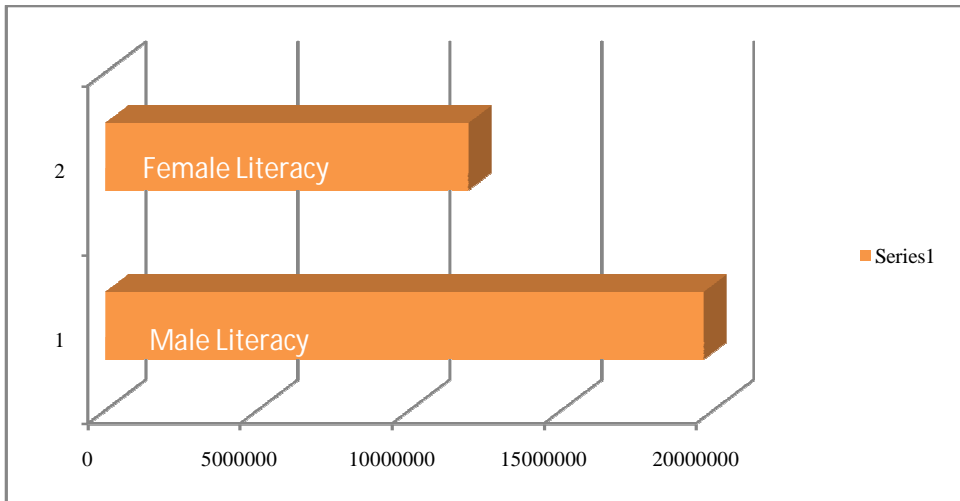


Fig. 5

The following table shows the literacy rate of Males and Females in the year 2011.

Table 4

Particulars	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh
Male Literates	4,52,57,584	2,51,74,328
Female Literates	3,62,96,706	1,76,76,841

Secondary Data: www.census2011.co.in > States

Diagram Showing Male and Female Literacy in Maharashtra in 2011

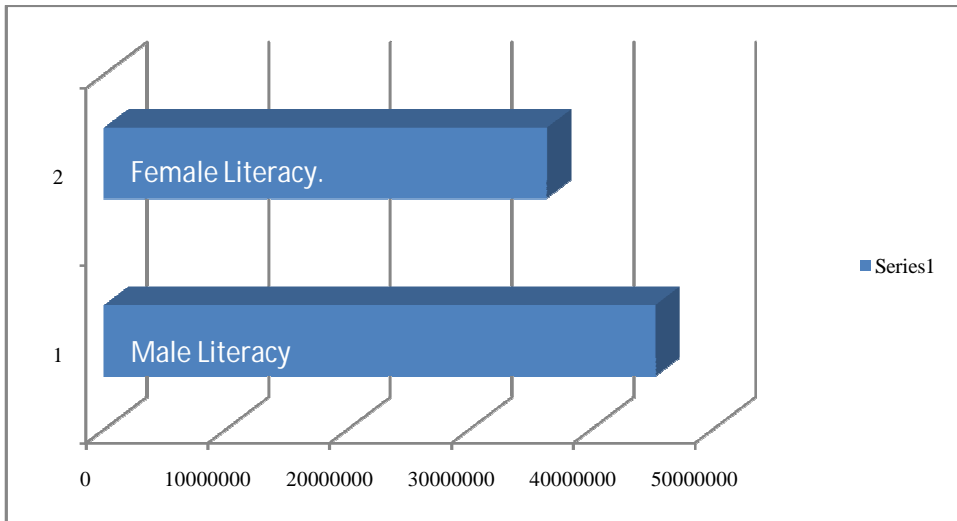


Fig. 6

Diagram Showing Male and Female Literacy in Madhya Pradesh in 2011

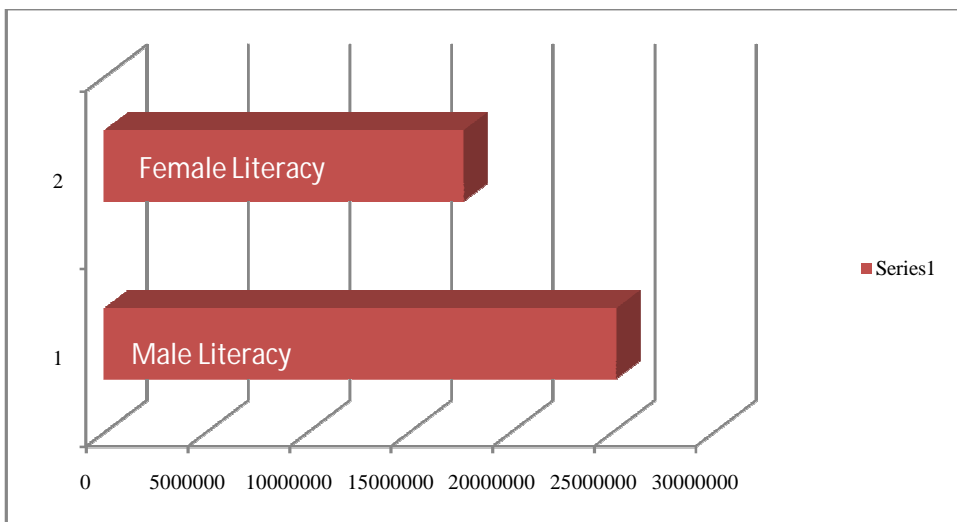


Fig. 7

It has been observed that the literacy rate has increased from 2001 to 2011. At the same time, the female literacy rate has also increased in 2011 as compared to 2001. The gap between male and female education has reduced from 2001 to 2011 but the fact is that female literacy is less than that of male literacy.

The following table shows the reduction in gap between Male and Female literacy in 2001 and 2011.

Table 5

	Maharashtra	Madhya Pradesh
2001	1,04,03,983	77,51,985
2011	89,60,878	74,97,487

Secondary Source: www.census2011.co.in > States and censusindia.gov.in/2011-prov-results/data_files/mp/07Literacy.pdf

Pie Diagram Showing Difference in Male and Female Literacy in Maharashtra in 2001 and 2011.

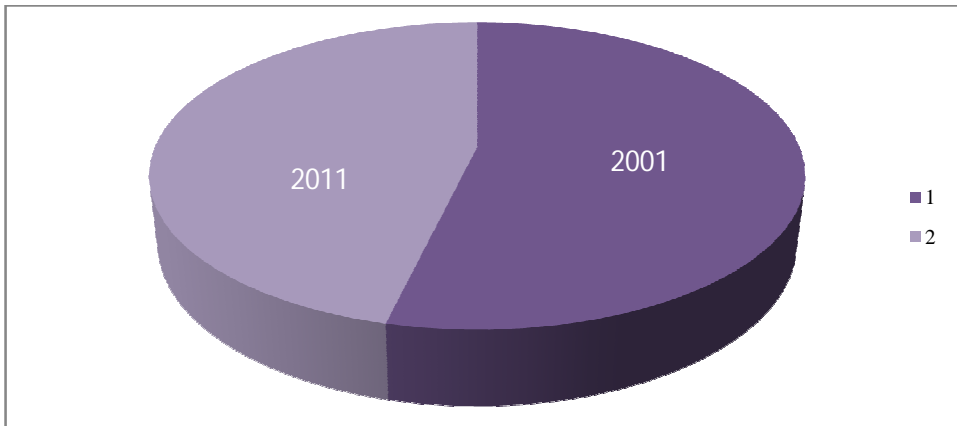


Fig. 8

Pie Diagram Showing Difference in Male and female Literacy in Madhya Pradesh 2001 and 2011.

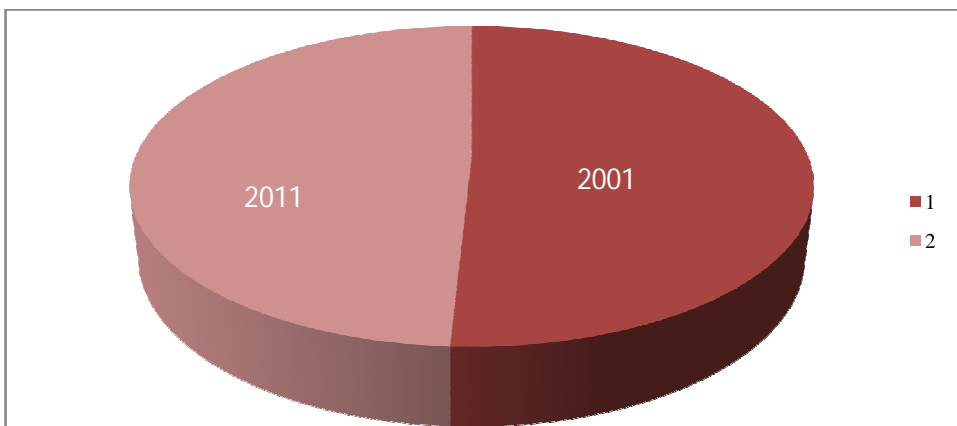


Fig. 9

Causes of Low Women Development in the Field of Education

The negative attitude of parents towards a girl child and their education is one of the major causes of low women development in India. In many Indian families, son is given more importance than a daughter. They do not consider it necessary to educate a girl child, since a girl child has to leave her parents' house and go and stay with her in-laws. They consider it as waste of money to educate a girl child.

Poverty is another cause of low rate of women education. Many families cannot afford to educate a girl child due to many economic and financial drawbacks. Though the government has introduced various schemes they are reluctant to send their daughters to school.

India being a gender segregated society, it is essential to have a female teacher especially in areas of low female literacy.

Conclusion

It has been observed that the development of women in the field of education has increased during the last decade. People are becoming aware about the importance of education, especially, women education. But, still, as compared to Maharashtra, women literacy is low in Madhya Pradesh. Hence, the hypothesis is accepted. During the last decade, the increase in literacy rate of women in Madhya Pradesh is more than that of Maharashtra.

Scope for Further Study

Due to time constraints, it was not possible to focus on the development of women in all the states of India. This research paper focuses only on the comparison of female literacy in two states. But the female literacy in all the states in India will be studied in future.

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