

# A study of educational status of villagers of Kamalpur village of Patiala district

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## Abstract

**Background:** The study examines the current status of education of residents of Kamalpur village of Patiala district of Punjab, India. The method employed was mixed i.e. quantitative and qualitative.

**Methods:** The research was conducted on a target population of 1489 residents of Kamalpur village. The villagers were requested to give information about their current educational status and their experiences and views regarding girls' education.

**Results:** The findings suggested that child labour or sending their wards to work to earn money is the major reason of low educational qualification. Furthermore, it was found that atrocities against girls are still prevailing in the society. Girls are not allowed to go out of the home for the study. Based on a thorough assessment of the findings in the present research the investigators are of opinion that Education to be instrumental in rising the status of education of people and removing the gender stereotyping to create an impression that girls are not inferior which is the major factor in the process of educating the girl child.

**Application:** This study will create awareness about mitigating the practice of marriage at early age for increasing the literacy rate.

**Keywords:** Girl Education, Child Labor, Kamalpur Village, Gender stereotyping, Patiala district, 3R's

## 1. Introduction

According to data of the 2011 census, 75 per cent of the people from total population aged nine years and above are literate and the 26 per cent of the people are illiterate. [1]The literacy rate increased from 55 per cent in 2001 to 75 per cent in 2011 which shows a rise of 20 percentage. The female literacy rate was significantly increased from 54 per cent in 2001 to 66 per cent in 2011. The male literacy, in comparison, rose from 76 to 82 per cent [2].

According to UNESCO (2011) about a third of world's illiterates are in india [3][4]. Despite the efforts of government, India's literacy rate is increasing at very slow pace. It is estimated that it will take about 50 years to achieve the goal of universal literacy. From 2011 census, it is clear that literacy growth rate is only 9.2% which is very less than previous years.

It has been seen that educated females act like an agent of transformation for family planning and stabilizing the population. Because educated females use more contraceptive measures than uneducated female in married Indian couples From 2001-2011 years the female literacy rates (12%) was more than male literacy rates (7%) [5]

Illiterates are those who are deprived of 3R's reading writing and arithmetic. Literacy is an indispensable tool for growth of a developing nation.[6] Unfortunately India is the house for millions of illiterate who never went to school. [7]Overpopulation, ignorance and superstitions are believed to be the reasons for illiteracy. This study was conducted to examine the current status of education of residents of Kamalpur village of Patiala district of Punjab, India

## 2. Statement of the problem

To Study the Educational status of villagers of Kamalpur village of Patiala district

### 3. Research methodology

The present research study is based on data collected through primary source. Data have been obtained from personal interviews with residents by using a structured questionnaire. About 1469 respondents representing different stake holders involved in education matters of village like parents, students, teachers and other members of society responded to the questionnaire. The questions for interaction were essentially on the views of people regarding women education and early marriage.

### 4. Validation and Reliability of instrument

For determining content validity, the questionnaire was given to the panel consisting of 10 judges. Modification on wording and improvements in questioning were made on the suggestions given by these judges.

The test-retest reliability was calculated for the present questionnaire by calculating the coefficient of correlation between two sets of scores of same individual on the questionnaire at different time intervals on a sample of 100 respondents. The test-retest reliability after one-month interval was calculated.

The correlation between the two administrations was found to be 0.75. This reliability coefficient was found to be significant at 0.01 level of significance. So, it can be inferred on the basis of reliability coefficient that questionnaire is reliable.

### 5. Data analysis

The responses obtained on the close ended items were subjected to quantitative data analysis through calculation of percentage of respondents who answered each item in a certain way. The responses obtained on open-ended items were analysed qualitatively and classified in to response categories. The questionnaire items are tallied and tabulated in tables in accordance with related issues. The percentage of respondents falling in each category was calculated.

*Table 1. Age and sex wise distribution*

Sr. No	Characteristics Age level	Respondents	%	Male	Female
1	Below 10 years	218	14.64	110	108
2	11-15 years	420	28.20	240	180
3	16-20 years	325	21.82	205	120
4	21-60 years	508	34.11	315	193
5	Above 60 years	18	1.20	010	08
2	Total	1489		880	609
	Male and Female				
	Male	880			
	Female	609			

Table 1 shows the age wise distribution of sample in the village. Above table shows that maximum population lies in the range of 21 to 60 years, which is the biggest strength of a democratic country.

*Table 2. Educational Qualification*

Sr. No.	Level of Education	Male	% age	Female	% age
1	Undergraduates	70	7.95	32	5.25
2	Senior secondary Education	120	13.63	38	6.24
3	Secondary Education	261	29.65	150	24.63
4	Primary education	128	14.54	90	14.77
5	Uneducated	301	34.20	299	49.09
	Total	880		609	

Basically 3 R's are the primary characteristic of any literacy mission. To know the educational qualification respondents were asked to write in their qualification in the language they are most likely to use. From the results of Table no. 2, it is clear that for every level of education from primary education to undergraduation female population is more disadvantaged one. As can be seen from Table 2, % age of uneducated female is quite high than male population. **About 49.09% , one half of the rural women were illiterate, compared to 34.20% men.** Further table will show the reasons of this trend.

*Table 3. Reasons for low educational Qualification of people*

Sr. No	Reasons	Male	% age	Female	% age	Total
1	Children are send to work	325	36.93	125	20.52	450
2	School of village is devoid of facilities	208	23.63	176	28.89	384
3.	No facility for higher education	220	25	188	30.87	408
4	Importance of education is not known	127	14.43	120	19.70	247
	Total	880		609		1489

Table 3 shows the reasons for low educational qualification of people. From this table, it is concluded that

- Lack of proper facilities in the schools like lack of infrastructure facilities which include inadequate furniture inadequate classrooms, improper sanitation including lack of toilet facilities. Further lack of adequate and efficient teaching staff is also one of the main factors leading illiteracy in India. There are also not appropriate no. of schools to accommodate all the students in 2012-2013. Further research shows that out of 200 government schools in northern India, 61% of the schools had no drinking water facility and 70% of schools had no toilets.
- It has been seen that irregularity of teachers in the schools also the major reason for literacy problem. In majority of government schools teacher taught ratio is 1:45. shows that average strength of teachers is not sufficient. This situation is more deteriorating in remote rural areas and urban slum areas.
- Furthermore, the expenditure allocated to education was never above 4.3% of the GDP from 1951-2002 despite the target of 6% expenditure allocated to education was by the Kothari Commission. This further complicates the literacy problem in India.
- 47% of population in India is living below poverty line which is a prime factor in abstaining the people to get the formal education. Because for this large no of population priority is to fulfill the basic needs- food, clothing and shelter not education.
- Child Labour is a major problem of India and which is an obstacle in achieving the goal of literacy in India.[8]
- Ignorance is also the another factor for low Educational Qualification of people because these people do not know the Importance of education. [9]

*Table 4 . Reasons for less education for girls*

Sr. No.	Reasons	Male	% age	Female	% age	Total
1	Early marriage	105	19.81	50	15.57	155
2	Insecurity of girls	220	41.50	105	32.71	325
3	Difficult to find match for educated girl	120	22.64	31	9.65	151
4	Girls need to learn only household activities	85	16.03	135	42.05	220
	Total	530		321		851

Table 4 shows the reasons for less education for girls. In totality, literacy among girls between age 11-80 in the northern part is not more than 30 percent, which shows that more measures to be taken to send girls to school.

- As Insecurity of girls and girls need to learn only household activities are also deterrent factors which affect the literacy rate of girls.
- Early marriage and difficult to find match for educated girl were other factors to affect girls' participation in the educational system.

## 6. Conclusion

- Child marriage or marriage of girls at early age is a curse for our society which stops the young girls from attaining education despite of their strong interest which would influence their living standards.[10] Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are set forth to help design interventions that may reduce and ultimately eliminate the practice of early marriage and lessen the misery of thousands of girls in the Kamalpur village and throughout the rest of the country.
- It was reported that enforcement of the legal age of marriage by authorities was inadequate. Focus group discussions and key informant interviews refuted the theory of poverty as a dominant factor in early marriage; many of the families practicing it are financially secure.
- In many traditional societies, parents do not support young girls' education after a certain age, especially after puberty, due to fear of pre-marital sexual relationships and unintended pregnancy. They also fear the vulnerability to sexual abuse and rape after the age of puberty. Loss of virginity is considered a disgrace for the family. Greater effort is therefore needed to create an environment supportive of girls' education, which is an important aspect of human rights. [11][12]
- Inaccessibility of schools is the major cause for girls not to attend school or discontinue their education. However, advising parents to send their daughters to school when schools are too far will not work. Making schooling for girls more accessible is very important. [13]
- Every issue in the society is linked to another, either directly or indirectly. Economic condition of the people (poverty) and preference to work rather than to study (no internal economic incentive). So children need to work and can't be spared for school.
- Lack of efforts by stakeholders to implement the educational programmes and share the knowledge is also a major reason of illiteracy.
- Due to conservative nature of society and taboos associated with the superior nature of males. Males are considered as more stronger and preferred gender over females so they were given more education. Girls are confined to be more in household activities because they are believed to get marry at early age. [8]

## 7. Educational implications

Mitigating the practice of marriage at early age should be the first priority in increasing the literacy rate. On the basis of findings of the study following educational implications may be laid down.

- a) For this in NSS programs special lectures are delivered by gynecologist to make them aware about the harmful effects of early marriage and by renowned educationist designed specifically to reduce early marriage;
- b) In Literacy rallies also students spread the awareness by raising slogans and through one to one interaction with people.

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