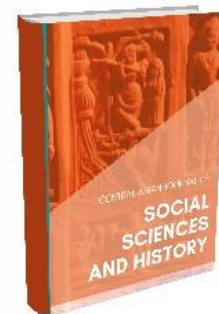




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Women Empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir: With Special Reference to Educational Status of Rural Women

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Abstract:

Education is a powerful instrument for rural women's empowerment. Educated women in Jammu and Kashmir can play an important role in the all-around development of the state. The most powerful tool that changes the position of society and nation is only women's education. Women's education spreads very slowly in past but very fast in the present period. According to the 2011 census, the total female population is 5,900,640 and the female literacy rate is 56.43 percent. At present women status education is not properly improved due to some challenges. Education improves the status of women within the family as well as in society. So, we cannot ignore the importance of women's education regarding women empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir. For every citizen, there is a need for a positive attitude towards women's education. The rural female literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir is 53.36% according to the 2011 census. This study aims to examine and analyze the status of women's education, Challenges, possibilities, and causes of increasing or decreasing female literacy rate and sex ratio of Jammu and Kashmir.

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INTRODUCTION

Women make up half of the global population and labor for two thirds of all hours worldwide. She currently owns less than a tenth of the world's wealth and earns a third of its total income. It means that they are the largest excluded group in practically all respects. They are treated as second-class citizens in all spheres of life, neglected, and ignored. In the history of human progress, women have had an equal impact as men. The status of jobs and work carried out by women in society is the predictor of the oval development of a country. The country's social, economic, and political growth would

stagnate without women's inclusion in national activities. The most northern state of India is Jammu and Kashmir. After the partition, it turned into a conflicted area between India and Pakistan, causing in significant losses of human life, government assets, and public property. Because of this, the state is now the focus of concern for the entire globe. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are dealing with many issues and are being denied their rights, especially the women who are the most vulnerable and impacted group in society. Over the past two decades, discrimination against women has gotten worse in the state because of the social, economic, and political circumstances. Women have not been fairly represented in the political and socioeconomic structures. Such prejudice has taken away their freedoms of speech, access to education, and employment prospects, all of which have a negative impact on human development and their well-being. Women's lives in the state have undergone significant upheaval, leaving them to passively observe the quickly changing socio-economic environment. Particularly in the context of armed conflict and militancy, these shifts have produced indicators of exclusivity that have caused identity problems. Women in the state undergo traumatic episodes of persistent depression, which leave them physically and emotionally unwell in addition to deep embarrassment and abuse. Like many other Indian countries, Jammu & Kashmir has rituals and traditions that bind women, who are also in charge of taking care of their families and rearing their children.

Women Empowerment

The Oxford American Dictionary defines "empowerment" as "to make (someone) stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights." The empowerment of women is very important for the growth of the culture. Empowerment implies that individuals who acquire the freedom to freely think and act, exercise choice and fulfill their power as full and fair members of society, opportunity. The enhancement of women's empowerment and sovereignty is their political, social, and economic, and health status is a status that is, a highly significant end. It is, moreover, necessary for accomplishing sustainable development. Women's Empowerment in the 21st century is of great concern, at every level in national or international. Efforts to empower women as a phenomenon are not an entirely new activity. In almost all cultures, it has been present throughout history. It is gradually coming out in public, what might be called new. It is shifted and reshaped for the welfare of women and their development. It is debated, recorded, and critically assessed. The empowerment of women starts with the knowledge-perceptions of herself and her rights, her capacity, her ability, awareness of how she is influenced by gender and socio-cultural and political forces. Women's empowerment is the cornerstone of the threefold goal of equity, growth, and social justice. The definition of empowerment of women implies emancipating women from the vicious grips of discrimination based on social, economic, political, particularly caste and gender. It means giving women the right to make life decisions. Empowering women is to make them autonomous by setting aside all the social and family restrictions in all fields of mind, thinking, rights, decisions, etc. It has also been recognized and agreed that at the governing, non-governmental, and individual levels, sincere dedication, and efforts must be made by each nation. Efforts to empowering women as a phenomenon are not an entirely new activity. In almost all cultures, it has been there throughout history. What could be called fresh is coming out more and more in public. It is shifted and reshaped for the welfare of women and their development. It is being debated, registered, and critically assessed.

Empowerment of women refers to growing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender, or economic intensity of women's people and societies. The empowerment of women in India depends heavily on many different variables, including geographical (urban/ rural) status, social status, and age.

Women's Education in Jammu and Kashmir

The state's rural women's education system, like that for women nationwide, was unhappy and depressing. In the traditional society of Kashmir, women experienced generalized oppression, inequality, and discrimination. Women were only allowed to handle domestic matters and were barred from going to school. People were highly traditional, and women's education needs were not acknowledged. It was the missionaries who first tried to educate Kashmiri women. Between 1893 and 1895, the Church Missionary Society opened a school for women. Conservatives were quite hostile toward this school because it created doubt in their minds. They feared that impure ideas from other nations may poison their schoolgirls' minds and mislead them. Few female students attended the school, and their parents were worried because the general population was firmly against them. The drive and dedication of the missionary women who founded the organization inspired parents to enroll their daughters in this institution. According to the 2011 census, the total population of Jammu and Kashmir is 12,541,302, with male and female populations of 6,640,662 and 5,900,640 respectively. In 2001, the total population was 10,143,700, with males accounting for 5,360,926 and females accounting for 4,782,774. In this decade, overall population growth was 23.64 percent, compared to 29.04 percent in the previous decade. In 2011, Jammu and Kashmir accounted for 1.04 percent of India's population.

Rural women Education in Jammu and Kashmir

Despite of the fact that both the central and state governments are devoted to providing education to children in Jammu and Kashmir, there are still many obstacles in the way of universalizing education in the state, which has been riven by strife for the past 24 years. According to Census 2011, the female literacy rate in Jammu & Kashmir is 58 percent. Jammu and Kashmir, along with Rajasthan (52.7 percent), Bihar (53.3 percent), Jharkhand (56.2 percent), Uttar Pradesh (59.3 percent), Arunachal Pradesh (59.6 percent), and Andhra Pradesh, has one of the lowest female literacy rates in India, at 58 percent (59.7 percent). There is a significant disparity between male and female literacy rates. District Ramban has the lowest literacy rate at 56.90 percent, with male literacy at 71.97 percent and female literacy at only 40.04 percent. The literacy rate in Jammu district is 83.98 percent, with 89.77 percent of males and 77.41 percent of females being literate. District Ramban has the lowest female literacy rate of 40.04 percent, while Jammu has the highest female literacy rate of 77.41 percent. There are seven districts in which the female literacy rate is below 50%. There is also a significant disparity between male and female literacy rates. Many programmes have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir to increase enrolment and decrease female dropouts, including the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a flagship programme aimed at achieving the objectives of Universalization of Elementary Education, retention, and bridging all gender and social gaps, which strives to secure the right to quality basic education for all children aged 6 to 14. Apart from UEE and Universal Retention like the rest of the country, this policy is being implemented in the state of Jammu and Kashmir to boost Gross Enrolment Ratio. One of the most significant aspects of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is girls' education. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan understands that promoting girls' education necessitates reforms in both the educational system and cultural norms and attitudes. A two-pronged gender strategy has thus been adopted: on the one hand, to make the education system responsive to the needs of girls through

targeted interventions that serve as a pull factor to improve girls' access and retention in schools, and on the other hand, to generate community demand for girl education through training and mobilization.

Objectives of the study

- To highlights the problems and challenges of women's empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir.
- To explore rural women empowerment through educational status.
- To explore the educational status of rural women in Jammu and Kashmir.

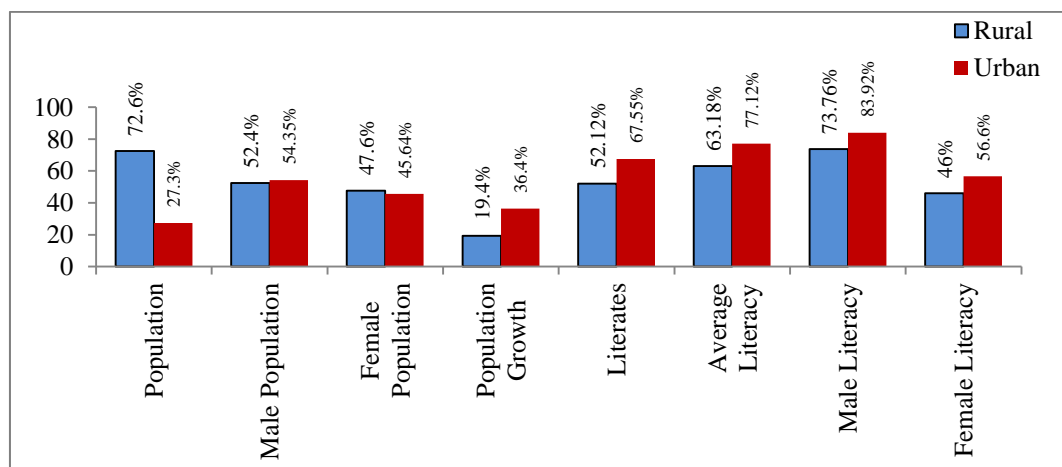
Methodology

This research paper on “women empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir: with special reference to rural educational status and attainments” The study is based on the secondary source of data. The data is gathered from different sources like, census, books, journals, newspapers, magazines, reports, and other publication sources. The female education status in Jammu and Kashmir is examined based on female literacy rate of rural and urban. The status of female education in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir compared with year wise data.

Result and discussion

Education status of women and empowerment through education. After the analysis of rural women in Jammu and Kashmir. The reason behind less empowerment of rural women is the lack of education, lack of awareness, male dominated society and some internal problems like domestic violence as well as decision making at family level. Education is the most important need for women empowerment, but the rural women do not adequate proper education because of financial assistance mostly women belong to below poverty line so rural women do not acquire proper education. The distribution of Rural and urban female literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir.

Figure 1. Rural and Urban Population of Jammu and Kashmir According to 2011 Census.



Source: Census 2011

Above figure Shows that the urban and rural female literacy rate. Out of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir state 72.62 % live in rural villages while rest. Males and females were 4,774,477 and

4,333,583, respectively, in real numbers. The total population of the Jammu and Kashmir State rural areas was 9,108,060. For this decade (2001-2011), the population growth rate was 72.62 percent. The female sex ratio per 1000 males was 908 in rural regions of Jammu and Kashmir State, while 865 girls per 1000 boys were the same for the child (0-6 age). 1,593,008 children (0-6) in Jammu and Kashmir live in rural areas. 17.49 percent of the total rural population is made up of girls. Literacy rates for males and females were 73.76 percent and 46.00 percent in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The average literacy rate for rural areas in Jammu and Kashmir was 63.18 percent. In rural areas, the total literate population was 4,747,950.

S.No.	Table 1. Data on literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir									
	Districts	Total rural and urban			Rural			Urban		
		Male	Female	total	Male	female	Total	Male	female	total
1	Kupwara	56.1	28.7	43.2	55.3	28.0	42.4	73.5	46.6	62.8
2-3	Baramulla +Bandipura	57.1	32.3	45.4	54.3	29.0	42.3	70.3	48.5	60.3
4-5	Srinagar + Ganderbal	69.6	48.1	59.8	49.9	26.1	38.7	74.4	53.9	65.1
6	Budgam	53.5	30.6	42.5	51.1	28.4	40.2	70.7	47.8	60.3
7-8	Pulwama + Shopian	60.7	37.7	49.6	58.8	36.3	47.9	75.0	50.2	63.4
9-10	Anantnag+ kulgam	57.6	34.4	46.5	54.7	31.9	43.7	73.4	49.8	62.6
11	Leh	75.6	52.7	65.3	70.6	57.9	59.9	86.0	78.3	81.8
12	Kargil	75.8	42.4	60.8	74.1	40.6	58.7	89.3	64.7	80.8
13-15	Doda+ kishtwar+ Ramban	64.0	29.9	47.9	61.7	27.1	45.2	89.4	70.0	81.3
16-17	Udhampur+Reasi	67.1	41.2	55.2	61.6	35.2	49.2	91.1	76.7	85.4
18	Poonch	65.0	36.0	51.2	62.7	33.0	48.4	93.5	80.6	88.0
19	Rajouri	69.8	44.5	58.0	67.9	42.2	55.8	91.7	76.7	85.4
20-21	Jammu + Samba	84.4	68.5	77.0	80.9	61.7	71.7	88.6	77.4	83.5
22	Kathua	75.7	54.4	65.6	73.8	51.4	63.0	86.3	72.8	80.1
	Total	66.6	43.0	55.5	61.7	36.7	49.8	80.0	82.0	71.9

Source: - Census 2001

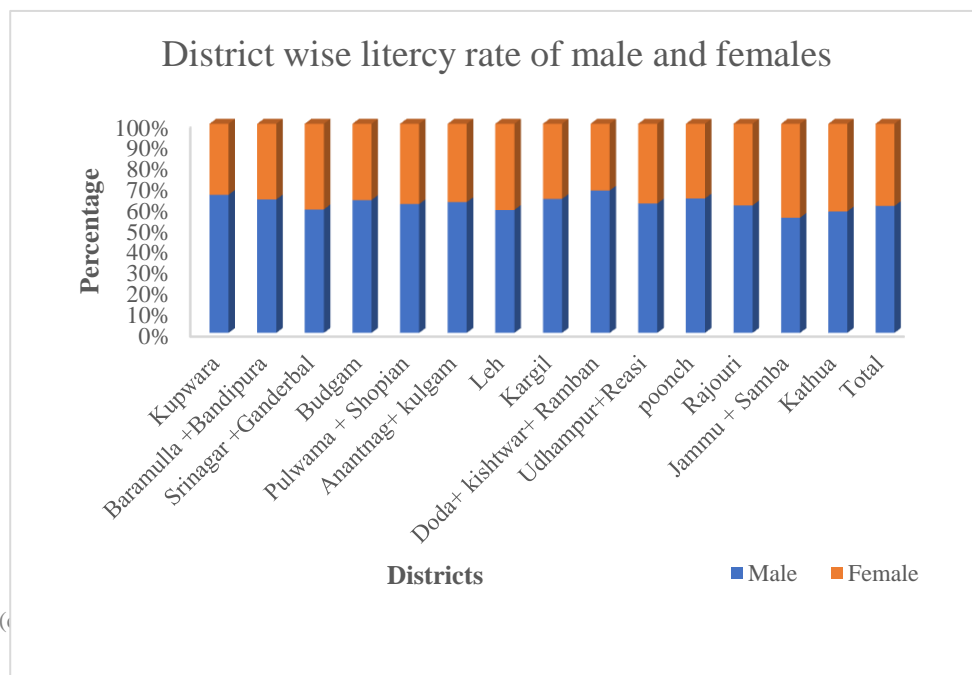


Figure 2. District wise literacy rate.

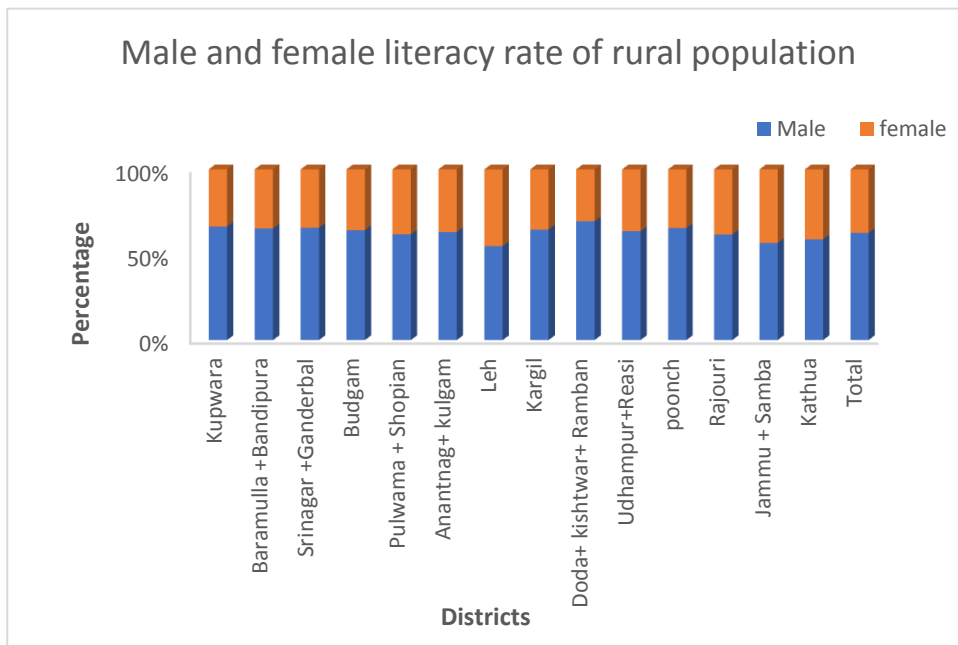


Figure 3. Male and female literacy rate of rural population.

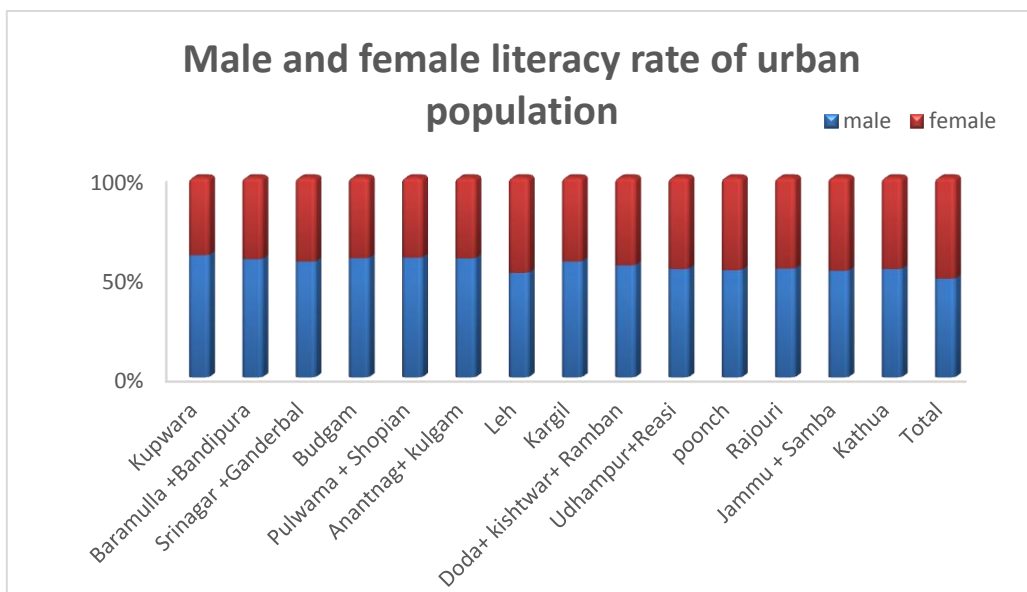


Figure 4. Male and female literacy rate of Urban population

Rural women's empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir

The patriarchal nature of Jammu and Kashmir society has kept women confined within four walls. Due to discrimination and exploitation, women in rural areas have limited access to modern communication means, a low level of education, and little social independence. Gender inequality is growing because of the current social, economic, and political turmoil. The poor participation of rural women in socioeconomic and political spheres has hampered development and undermined their right to free speech and expression, as well as their capacity to pursue education and expand employment prospects. In rural Jammu and Kashmir, factors such as domestic violence, inadequate and disorganized healthcare, a lack of decision-making authority, the weak and low status of women, a lack of information, illiteracy, ignorance, customs, and cultural practices all contribute to the empowerment of women. The state government is helping rural women take care of themselves and their families as part of its efforts to inspire them. In Jammu and Kashmir, a large percentage of the population is made up of widows and half-widows, and many women are unemployed. The state legislature passed the Safety of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) in 2010. The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), the Sher-i-Kashmir job and welfare programmes, and other initiatives were introduced by the government of Jammu and Kashmir to empower rural women. The worth of a woman's own identity for both her and society is one of the most important aspects of rural women's empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir and other regions of India. They should be aware that the only way to inspire them is through education.

Table 2. Urban and Rural Female Literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir from 1981-2011

Area	Female Literacy rate 1981	Female Literacy rate 2001	Female Literacy rate 2011
Rural	41.5	26.22	70.19
Urban	12.19	35.09	53.36
Total	18.37	41.82	49.12

Source: Census of Jammu and Kashmir, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 2001 and 2011
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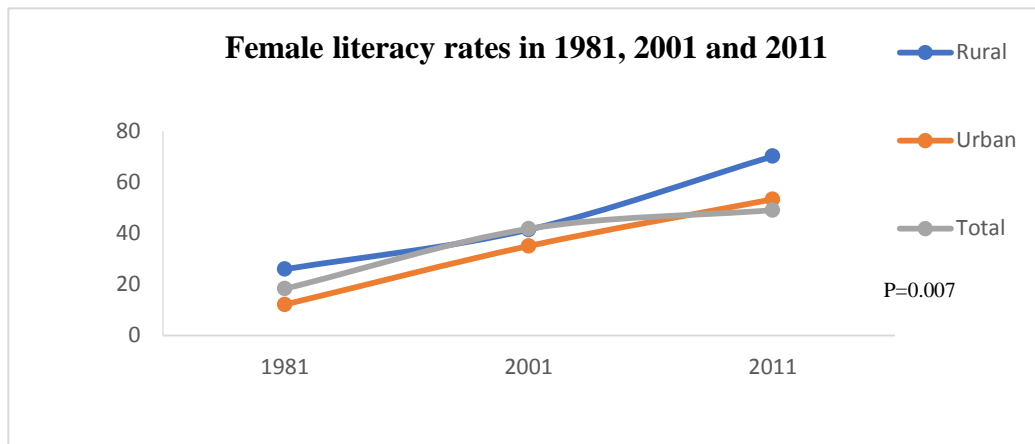


Figure 5. Trend in female literacy rate (overall, rural, and urban) from 1981 to 2011 in Jammu and Kashmir. The literacy rate has significantly increased.

This graph shows the shift in female literacy rates from 1981 to 2011. This figure compares the female literacy rates in urban and rural Jammu & Kashmir from 1981 to 2011. In 1981, the percentage of females who were literate in Jammu and Kashmir's urban areas was 41.05 percent, which was 22.68 percent higher than the overall rate, while the percentage in rural areas was 12.19 percent, which was 6.18 percent lower. In 2001, the percentage of women who were literate rose from 12.19 to 35.09 in rural regions and from 41.05 to 62.22 in urban areas. The percentage of women who were literate also rose in 2011. In the city, it is 70.19; in the country, it is 53.36.

Table 3. Female literacy Rate in Jammu and Kashmir District wise

Districts	Literacy rate (%)		
	Total	Males	Females
Kupwara	66.92	77.10	54.79
Baramula	66.93	77.35	55.01
Srinagar	71.21	78.01	63.47
Badgam	57.98	68.18	46.60
Pulwama	65.00	75.41	53.81
Anantanag	64.32	74.13	54.15
Leh	80.48	89.39	64.52
Kargil	74.49	86.73	58.05
Doda	65.97	80.36	50.34
Udhampur	69.90	79.93	58.22
Poonch	68.69	81.04	54.80
Rajauri	68.54	78.38	57.20
Jammu	83.98	89.77	77.41
Kathua	73.50	81.40	64.56
Samba	82.48	89.76	74.39
Reasi	59.42	69.93	47.55
Kishtwar	58.54	71.75	44.13
Ganderbal	59.99	70.74	47.62

Kulgam	60.35	70.59	49.74
Ramban	56.90	71.97	40.04
Shopian	62.49	71.86	52.77
Bandipore	57.82	68.41	46.24

Source: <http://censusindia.gov.in>

Figure 6. Literacy rate in Districts.

Figure 7. Male and Female Literacy rate.

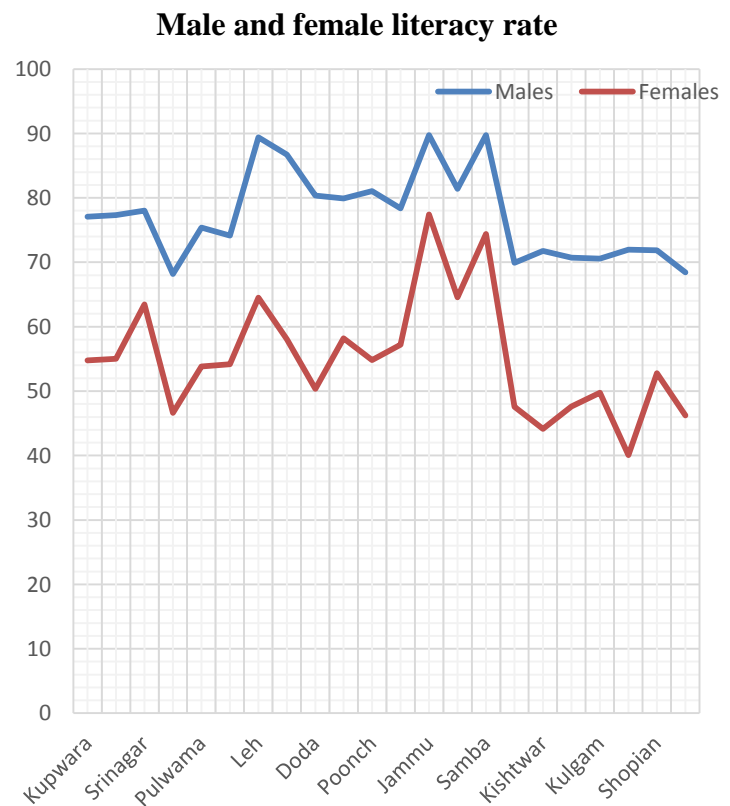
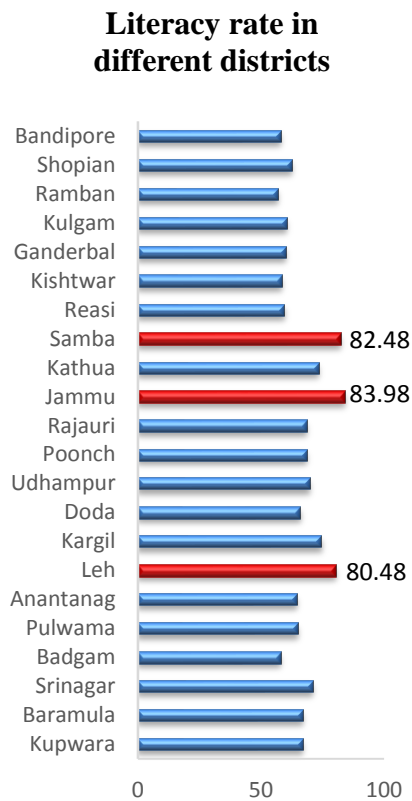


Table 4. Female literacy rate in Jammu and Kashmir from 1981 to 2011 district wise

District	Female literacy rate (1981)	Female literacy rate (2001)	Female literacy rate (2011)
Srinagar	24.66	47.97	63.47
Jammu	32.24	68.75	77.41
Anantnag	10.94	31.51	54.15
Budgam	8.02	28.14	46.60
Baramulla	9.57	31.42	55.01
Doda	7.34	28.36	55.34
Kargil	3.14	40.96	58.05
Kathua	21.25	53.92	64.56
Kupwara	4.88	26.83	54.79
Leh	12.09	50.03	64.52
Rajouri	14.32	44.14	57.20
Poonch	11.24	35.30	54.80
Pulwama	9.21	35.40	53.81
Udhampur	13.55	39.89	58.22
Bandipora	N.Est.	N.Est.	46.24
Ganderbal	N.Est.	N.Est.	47.62
Kishtwar	N.Est.	N.Est.	44.13
Kulgam	N.Est.	N.Est.	49.74
Ramban	N.Est.	N.Est.	40.04
Reasi	N.Est.	N.Est.	47.55
Samba	N.Est.	N.Est.	74.39
Shopian	N.Est.	N.Est.	52.77
Jammu and Kashmir	56.5	42.22	49.12
India	29.76	54.16	65.46

Source: Census of Jammu & Kashmir, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 2001 and 2011.

*N. Est. =New Establishment).

The above tables have shown the data of women's literate population as well as literacy rate in district wise of Jammu and Kashmir State. According to the 2011 census of India by Govt. of India. The highest literacy is Jammu district and the lowest is Ramban state.

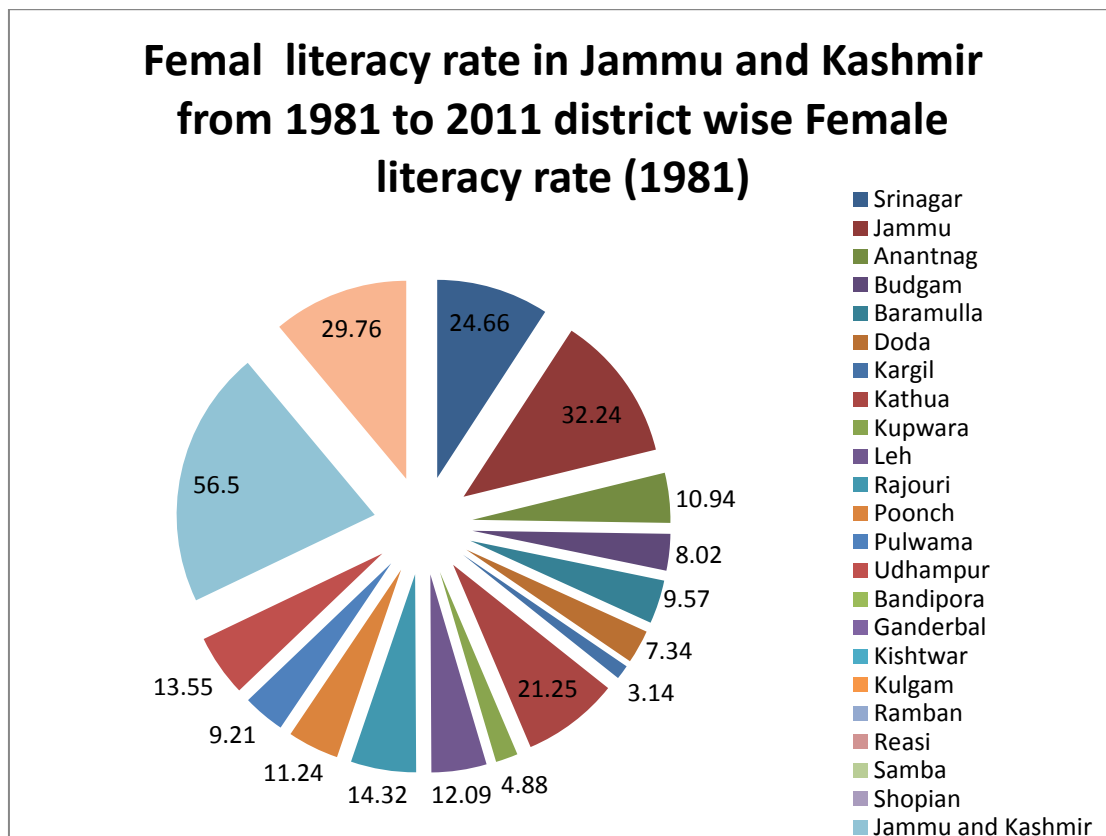


Figure 8. Female literacy rate from 1981 to 2011 District wise.

From 1981 to 2011, this table shows the female literacy rate in Jammu & Kashmir by district wise. In 1981, the maximum female literacy rate was 32.24, which was 24.26 lower than Jammu and Kashmir but 2.48 higher than India, while the lowest female literacy rate was 3.14, which was 53.36 lower than Jammu and Kashmir and 26.62 lower than India. In 2001, Jammu district had the greatest female literacy rate of 68.75 percent, which was 26.53 percent higher than Jammu and Kashmir 14.59 percent higher than India, while Kupwara district had 26.83 percent, which was 15.39 percent lower than Jammu and Kashmir and 27.33 percent lower than India. District Jammu had the highest female literacy rate of 77.41 in 2011, which was 28.29 higher than Jammu and Kashmir, followed by district Samba with 74.39, which was 25.27 higher than Jammu and Kashmir and 8.93 higher than India, and district Ramban with 40.04, which was 9.08 lower than Jammu and Kashmir and 25.42 lower than India.

CHALLENGES TO EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Some problems and Challenges in front of women empowerment.

Education: Since gaining its independence, the nation has made significant advancements in the field of education. There is a huge disparity between males and women. In India, 65.46 percent of adult women are regarded as illiterate, even though 82.14 percent of adult men are educated. The sex bias in

higher education, especially in specialized fields of study, is particularly detrimental to women in business and in obtaining positions of highest authority across all industries.

Poverty: When destitution is thought to be the biggest threat to world security, eliminating it should be a national priority on par with eliminating illiteracy. Women are mistreated as housewives because of this. **Women's Well-Being and Safety:** Women's safety and wellbeing are crucial for a country's security and play a significant role in deciding how empowered women are in that nation. On the other hand, there are some unsettling issues with maternal social insurance.

Family Inequality: In India, where the purported division of labor is employed to share the burden of housekeeping, childcare, and menial labor, household

relations exhibit sexual orientation tendency in imperceptibly little but substantial conduct.

The state and federal governments have improved women's empowerment in several ways. But for a variety of reasons, many women in the state are not fully gaining from these programmes, and as a result, they continue to be underemployed, illiterate, widows, and lacking in all facets of life.

Conclusion

At last, we conclude the rural women empowerment should through education as they important part of the society. Education would help them as well as the key role to empower the rural women's at all levels, but rural women's have faced some challenges and problems due to domestic violence, militancy problems and family pressure. The total population of Jammu and Kashmir State, around 72.79% lives in the villages of rural areas. The rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, literacy rate for female is 53.63% and the average literacy rate of rural areas was 64.97 in the State. The education status of rural women is very low in term of enrollment. To improve women's educational standing, rural women should be encouraged to participate in awareness programmes about the advantages of obtaining an education. Scholarships, free schooling, health care, and other forms of financial assistance should be provided to parents who have a girl child. More women teachers should be hired, and special allowances for volunteer women teachers working in remote regions should be provided. More education facilities are needed in the state to boost literacy rates, particularly among women.

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