Measuring Zone-Wise Total Literacy Rate of Scheduled Caste in Udaipur City

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Abstract: This study examines the zone-wise distribution of the Scheduled Caste (SC) population and their literacy rates in Udaipur city, Rajasthan, based on 2011 census data. With a total population of 4.5 lakh, 10.48% of Udaipur's residents belong to SC communities. The paper identifies disparities in SC population density and literacy levels across five municipal zones, highlighting zone 5 as having the highest SC population (31.08%) and literacy rate (25%), while zone 2 has the lowest in both categories. Through a comparative zone-wise analysis, the study emphasizes the need for targeted educational policies and local development planning for SC upliftment in urban settings.

Keywords: *Scheduled Caste, Udaipur City, Literacy Rate, Zone-wise Analysis, Census 2011, Social Inclusion, Urban Education*

I. INTRODUCTION

This geographical study analysis the geographical location for the city of lakes at Udaipur. Udaipur, a major city in southern Rajasthan, serves as the administrative hub of the Girwa sub-district and is governed by a municipal council. As per the 2011 Census, the city spans a compact geographical area of 57 km² and houses a dense urban population of approximately 4.5 lakh people, with a population density of 7925 persons per km². Within this demographic framework, Scheduled Castes (SCs) form a significant minority, comprising 10.48% of the total population. These communities—such as Harijans, Meghwals, Mochis, Khatiks, and Regars—are traditionally marginalized and have historically faced limited access to education, especially in urban centers.

The city is divided into 55 wards, which are grouped into five municipal zones. The SC population is unevenly distributed across these zones, with Zone 5 having the highest SC concentration and Zone 2 the least. Likewise, literacy levels among the SC population vary zone-wise, revealing disparities in educational access and social development within the same urban ecosystem. This paper aims to measure and analyze the zone-wise total literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste population in Udaipur using Census 2011 data. Through this study, we seek to identify spatial educational inequalities and provide data-driven insights for inclusive educational and urban policy formulation.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ravindranath (2010) Ravindranath emphasizes that literacy is a foundational element for social empowerment, especially for historically oppressed communities such as Scheduled Castes. His study shows that despite urban advantages like proximity to schools and availability of resources, SCs often remain at the lower end of educational attainment. He attributes this to the continuing impact of caste-based social barriers and economic constraints. The paper underscores the necessity of localized educational interventions.

Deshpande (2012) Deshpande's research explores affirmative action and social equity in India's urban educational landscape. She notes that SC populations, even in cities, encounter systemic exclusion from quality education due to socio-economic vulnerabilities. Her work stresses the importance of not treating urban areas as inherently inclusive and calls for micro-level assessment like ward- or zone-wise literacy mapping to identify pockets of deprivation. This directly supports the scope of the present study in Udaipur.

Sharma and Dubey (2015) Sharma and Dubey's regional analysis of Rajasthan reveals that literacy disparities among SCs are not only rural but also distinctly visible in urban settings. Their findings highlight that cities like Udaipur show zone-wise literacy differences due to varied socio-economic development, migration patterns, and resource allocation. The authors recommend spatial data analysis to inform local governance for better resource targeting. Their work validates the methodology employed in this paper.

Thorat and Newman (2009) Thorat and Newman discuss the structural and institutional discrimination that continues to limit access to education for Scheduled Castes. Their book presents empirical evidence of economic and educational exclusion even within well-resourced urban institutions. They advocate for place-based analysis to identify and address urban caste inequalities. This perspective is crucial in understanding how spatial segregation in cities affects SC literacy, as explored in the Udaipur case.

Census of India (2011) The Primary Census Abstract (PCA) data of 2011 remains the most reliable and comprehensive source for demographic and educational statistics at micro-levels such as zones and wards. The PCA includes detailed information on caste, gender, and literacy, enabling precise zone-wise assessments. It highlights that SCs, though urbanized, still exhibit lower literacy rates compared to the general population. The present study relies on this source for empirical analysis of SC literacy in Udaipur.

Jodhka, S. S. (2010) Jodhka explores the dynamics of caste-based exclusion in urban India and emphasizes that caste, though often perceived as rural, remains deeply embedded in city spaces. His research highlights that Scheduled Caste communities, especially recent migrants, often settle in lower-income urban zones with inadequate access to quality education. He recommends spatially disaggregated policy responses to improve literacy and inclusion in urban contexts.

Nambissan, G. B. (2009) Nambissan's study focuses on the educational experiences of marginalized children in Indian cities. She argues that public schooling systems often fail SC students due to cultural insensitivity, language barriers, and poor infrastructure. Her work points to the need for targeted interventions in urban schooling environments where literacy rates are affected by caste-linked disadvantage, reinforcing the value of zone-wise analysis.

Tilak, J. B. G. (2013) Tilak investigates regional and social disparities in education in India, showing that urban averages often conceal deep intra-urban inequities, especially affecting SC and ST groups. He argues that literacy rates among SCs are strongly linked to public investment in education and localized socio-economic development. This supports the need to study literacy not just city-wide but zone-wise for more effective policy responses.

Srivastava, R. (2014) Srivastava examines the intersection of caste, migration, and urban informal employment, which influences the educational outcomes of SC populations in cities. He notes that families engaged in low-wage work often deprioritize education, leading to stagnant literacy growth in specific urban pockets. His findings support the present study's focus on Udaipur's ward-based and zone-wise disparities in SC literacy.

Mehta, A. C. (2016) Mehta's research on educational development indicators shows that disaggregated data—by social group, gender, and geography—is essential for diagnosing educational inequalities. He argues that Scheduled Castes in urban India benefit unevenly from literacy initiatives due to disparities in school access, awareness, and resource allocation. This emphasizes the importance of analyzing SC literacy in zones like those in Udaipur to design targeted strategies.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is a **descriptive and quantitative** study based on **secondary data** sourced from the **Primary Census Abstract (PCA), Directorate of Census Operations, Rajasthan (2011)**. The city of Udaipur is divided into five administrative zones comprising 55 municipal wards. The study uses census data to calculate and compare the percentage of Scheduled Caste population and their literacy rates across these zones. Zone-wise figures are assessed in terms of total SC population, male-female distribution, and respective literacy rates. Descriptive statistics and comparative analysis were applied to identify patterns, variations, and gaps in literacy among SCs across different city zones.
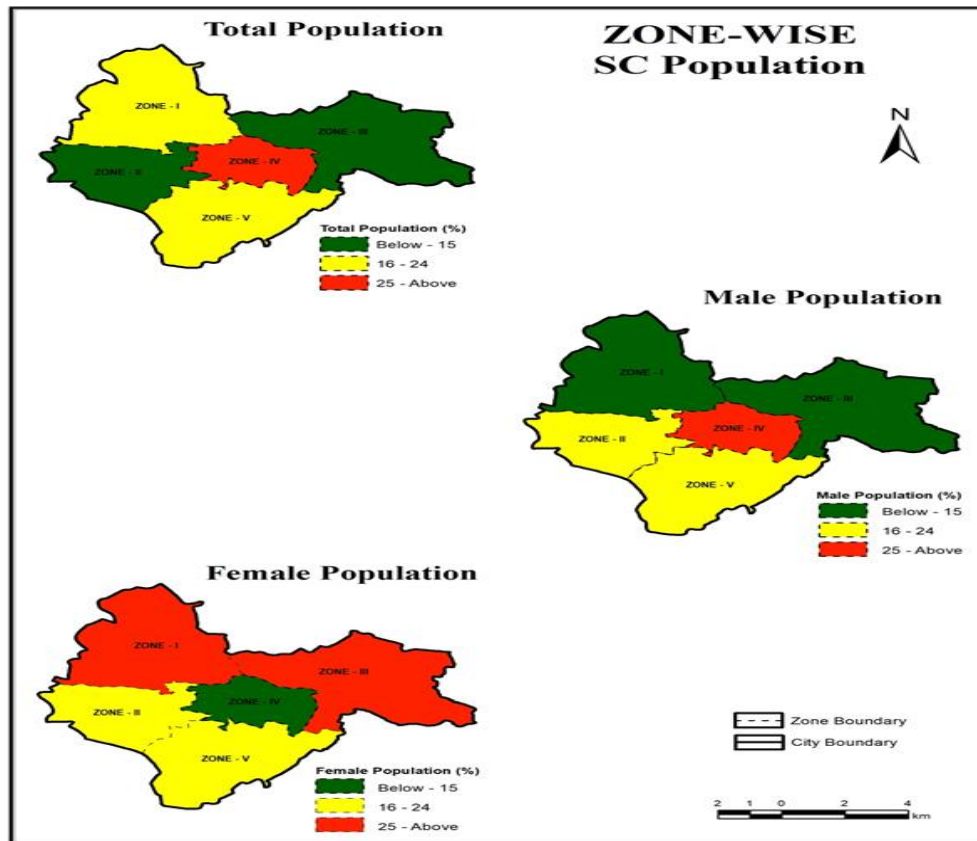
Data Analysis

Udaipur municipal council with population of 4.5 lakh is Girwa sub district. Only municipal council located in Girwa sub district. The total geographical area of Udaipur municipal council is 57 km^2. Population density of the city is 7925 persons per km^2. Acoording to 2011 census the total population 451100 among them 2.3 lakh (52%) are male and about 2.2 lakh (48%) are females. 10.48 % of the whole population are from scheduled caste. There are 55 wards in the city among them Udaipur ward No.33 (Sundarwas, Dhebar colony, Khempura, Rajiv Nagar etc.) Is the most scheduled caste (Harijans, Meghwal, Khatiks, Mochi, Regar etc.) populous ward with population 3418 and Udaipur ward no. 25 is the least schedule caste populous ward with population of 54 respectively.

Table - 1: Zone-wise total Schedule Caste Population (2011) in percent

Zone Number	Total SC Population	SC Population Percentage	Total Male SC	Male SC Percentage	Total Female SC	Female SC Percentage
Zone1	9436	19.95	4835	19.67	4601	20.25
Zone2	4707	9.95	2428	9.88	2279	10.03
Zone3	11397	24.09	5961	24.25	5436	23.92
Zone4	7067	14.94	3636	14.79	3431	15.10
Zone5	14701	31.08	7726	31.42	6975	30.70

Source: PCA-Directorate of Census operations 2011

According to the data provided in the of table given above and map 3.1 the zone-wise Scheduled Caste population in Udaipur is maximum in zone 5 with maximum 31%. And zone-wise population is minimum in zone 2 with 10%. And 31% population is followed by 24%, 20% and 15%. The zone-wise male Scheduled Caste population in Udaipur is maximum in zone5 with maximum 31%. And zone-wise population is minimum in zone2 with 10%. And 31% population is followed by 24%, 20% and 15%. The zone-wise female Scheduled Caste population in Udaipur is maximum in zone5 with maximum 31%. And zone-wise population is minimum in zone 2 with 10%. And 31% population is followed by 24%, 20% and 15%.

Map 3.1 : Zone wise Total Scheduled Caste Population, 2011.

TOTAL SCHEDULED CASTE MALE AND FEMALE LITERACY RATE OF UDAIPUR CITY

Table-2 : Zone-wise total Literacy rate (Year 2011) in Percent

Zone Number	Total Literate Population	Population Percentage	Male Literate	Male Percentage	Female Literate	Female Percentage
Zone1	71056	20%	38204	19%	32852	20%
Zone2	60712	17%	32591	17%	28121	17%
Zone3	78908	22%	43501	22%	35407	21%
Zone4	59456	16%	32288	16%	27168	16%
Zone5	91366	25%	50175	26%	41191	25%

Source: PCA-Directorate of Census operations 2011

A look at the above table which shows that the zone-wise literacy rate in Udaipur is maximum in zone 5 with maximum 25%. And zone-wise population is minimum in zone2 with 16%. The difference between two zones is only 9%. 31% population is followed by 24%, 20% and 15%. Hence literacy statistics is approximately equal in all zones according to table. The zone-wise male literacy statistics in Udaipur is maximum in zone5 with maximum 26%. And zone-wise population is minimum in zone4 with 16%. The difference between two zone is only 10% and 26% population is followed by 22%, 19% and 17%. Hence literacy statistics is approximately equal in all zone according to table. The zone-wise female literacy statistics in Udaipur is maximum in zone5 with maximum 25%. And zone-wise population is minimum in zone4 with 16%. The difference between two zones is only 9%. And 25% population is followed by 21%, 20% and 17%. Hence literacy statistics is approximately equal in all zones according to table.

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals significant zone-wise disparities in the distribution and literacy levels of the Scheduled Caste (SC) population in Udaipur city, as per the 2011 Census. Zone 5 emerged as the most SC-populous and literate area, whereas Zone 2 recorded the lowest figures in both categories. Although the overall literacy rates among SCs appear fairly distributed, a closer examination shows consistent gaps in male and female literacy across zones. These disparities are not merely numerical but reflect deeper socio-economic and infrastructural variations within the urban fabric of Udaipur. The findings underscore the importance of adopting zone-specific educational policies, resource allocation, and awareness initiatives to uplift SC communities in urban areas. Addressing these localized gaps will not only enhance overall literacy but also contribute to equitable urban development and social inclusion in Udaipur.

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