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The Present Scenario of Gender Literacy Rate of Two Mountain Regions: A Comparative Case Study of Munnar and Lava, India

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Abstract

The present work is mainly focused on comparative study between two mountain places in south India and north-east India. This research also based on primary data survey but it is a micro level random sample. Educational scenario of India is different from one place to another place. Education system and rate of literacy are also depending on government policy in a particular place. But other socio-economic functions like poverty, political stability, family standardise are also responsible. In India maximum literacy out of total found in Kerala and West Bengal is another important state for increasing literacy rate. So, the study area Munnar and Lava are also significant. Munnar and Lava are two hilly regions, natural environment and source of income more over same but literacy rate and sex wise education distribution show different results.

Key Words: Literacy rate, Education, Random sampling, Munnar, Lava.

Introduction: Education is the fundamental right of human in our country. It is the effective element for well society. Education makes an important role for country development and social development. In every stage, every purpose educated man is also different and valuable. Now-a-days, the scenario of education and literacy conditions in India mainly effective in some states and territory; Kerala, Lakshadweep and Tripura are one of them. Kerala is one of the most effective states for education development in India by 'Kerala model'. On the other side, in the present day, West Bengal shows their increasing literacy development line. Education scenario of a plain land region and mountain region are also different from surrounding. Socio-economic status is the main causes for this differentiation. Education development is part of social status and it is depend on Social inequalities like social background (Raymond Boudon, 1974). Munnar (Kerala) and Lava (West Bengal) are two most mountain regions in India. Those are important for their natural beauty and specially are tea garden. Educational system and stander of education are mostly significant in these two places. State government of Kerala and West Bengal were make own education policy for development of education systems. Central and state government's responsibility is the key factor to increase the total number of institutions (Kumar Krishna, 2008). Kerala's education system and its quality are more significant. Education system of Kerala is not only quantitative it is more qualitative (George 1999). Economic condition is an indicator of education system; employment is one of them. The correlation between employment and education is positive (Smith 2000, Varghese 1988; etc.). But sometimes some Kerala's researchers indicated there is no relation between Kerala's employment and education (Oommen, 1993). Teaching of Children at mountain region is very challenging and educating the tribal children is more challenging from plain land (Sahu J, 2013). In India, the maximum cases, educated parents make a role for their child educational needs and child's

academic success help for their further higher education (Epstein, 2001). Culture, economy, language and other social functions also help increasing student's education (Monzo and Rueda, 2001). Socio-economic conditions of Mountain region are not better than plain. Natural hazard like land slide is a common problem. Socio-economic status is the influencing factors for educational success of any stage (Rubinson, 1990). Education scenarios between two mountain regions are different. This paper is mainly concentrated education and literacy conditions of these two places by primary survey.

Study Area: Two main study area of this work are Munnar, Idukki districts, Kerala and Lava, Darjeeling districts, West Bengal. Geographical location of Munnar is 10°04'45"-10°05'58" latitude and 77°02'40"-77°03'45" longitude and Lava is 27°05'14.4" to 27°05'12.08" latitude and 88°39'39.61" to 88°39'44.55" Longitude. Natural beauty and tourism are special characters of these two places. Economy mainly depends on tea garden. The average altitude of Munnar is 1700 metre and Lava is 2138 metre from mean sea level. Tamil and Malayalam are main language at Munnar residents but Tibetan culture is speciality for Lava's residents. Mainly mountain climate is effective over the residents. Political stability of Munnar is very well but in monsoon, landslide makes an important role for transportation and communication. After 2000, 'Gorkhaland issues' is a major political problem for Lava. These are also related over education system and rate of literacy persons.

Research Objectives:

1. Comparative study of education scenario between two mountain regions of India's two different states by primary survey.
2. Main problem of different literacy rate for these regions.

Methodology: The methodology of this work mainly based on three different stages. For pre-field stage make a proper questioners for primary data collection and secondary data are also collected. Census of India (census report), block map collection, different previous literature reviews are mainly secondary data sources. For field stage, house hold survey and primary data collection for education scenario are best way for this research. This is a micro study of two areas but data collected by random survey. Survey mainly was done at Munnar (Kerala) in 2013 and Lava (West Bengal) in 2015 because the locations of the study area are also different places. Primary survey was most difficult for this type of work. After field stage, raw data mainly arranged and classify by different statistical ways. In this stage, IBM SPSS statistics 22 was used for graphical purpose. Programs was used mainly Microsoft Word document 2010 and Microsoft Excel 2010.

Results: Education is most fundamental rights of every people and it is most effective tools for human development. But in India lots of disparities indicate lower literacy rate in our country. Kerala is different from these types of problem. Lower regional disparities of Kerala are more significant for their increasing literacy rate. Regional disparities and poverty are essential problem of West Bengal. About 56 houses were surveyed in Munnar, Kerala and 136 houses were surveyed in Lava, West Bengal. From field experiences, education scenario was well of this two places but primary data provides different literacy rate and information. Here different level of education were Illiterate, Primary education (up to eight class), Secondary and higher secondary education (eight class to twelve class), Graduate and post graduate. In Munnar, about 56 houses of the 245 people interviewed. Secondary educated persons were majority of this place. 144 people were received secondary and higher secondary education, 40 people were received primary education, 27 people were received graduate, 10 people were received post graduate and 24 Illiterate out of total interviewed. The percentage of education level about 245 were 58.78% secondary educated,

16.33% primary education, 11.02% graduate, 4.08% post graduate and 9.80% Illiterate. Sex wise education scenario of munnar is different. Literacy of female people is increasing from male people. About 144 secondary educated persons 68 were male and 76 were female. In this case 58.78% were female and 47.22% were male people. 21(52.50%) were male and 19 (47.50%) people were female about total primary educated persons. 40.74% male and 59.26% female were graduate about of total graduate persons. Post graduate were more over same in this region but literate mainly male were dominant (54.17%) (table-1).

Table-1. Scenario of literacy in different education level at Munnar, Kerala

Education Level	Male	Female	Total	% of Male to total in each	% of female to total in each	% of Total to total	% of Male to total	% of female to total
Illiteracy	13	11	24	56.17	45.83	9.8	5.31	4.48
Primary Education	21	19	40	52.5	47.5	16.33	8.57	7.76
Secondary & higher secondary Education	68	76	144	47.22	52.78	58.76	27.75	31.03
Graduate	11	16	27	40.74	59.26	11.02	4.49	6.53
Post Graduate	5	5	10	50	50	4.09	2.04	2.04

(Source: Primary Data, 2013).

Institutions in this area were mainly under the Kerala government and education facilities are very well by ‘Kerala Model’. On the other side Lava, about 113 houses surveyed and 386 people interviewed. About total surveyed 158 (40.93%) people were secondary and higher secondary educated which 99 (62.58%) were male and 59 (37.34%) were female. 94 (24.35%) about of 386 people received primary education. Sex wise primary educated is 50 (53.19%) male and 44 (46.81%) female. 92 (23.83%) people were illiterate people and 42 (10.89%) people were received higher educated out of total surveyed (Table-2).

Table-2. Scenario of literacy in different education level at Lava, West Bengal

Education Level	Male	Female	Total	% of Male to total in each	% of female to total in each	% of Total to total	% of Male to total	% of female to total
Illiteracy	40	52	92	43.48	56.52	23.83	10.36	13.47
Primary Education	44	50	94	46.81	53.19	24.36	11.4	12.95
Secondary & higher secondary Education	99	59	158	62.66	37.34	40.93	25.65	15.29
Graduate	22	9	31	70.97	29.03	8.03	5.7	2.33

Post Graduate	7	4	11	63.64	36.36	2.85	1.81	1.04
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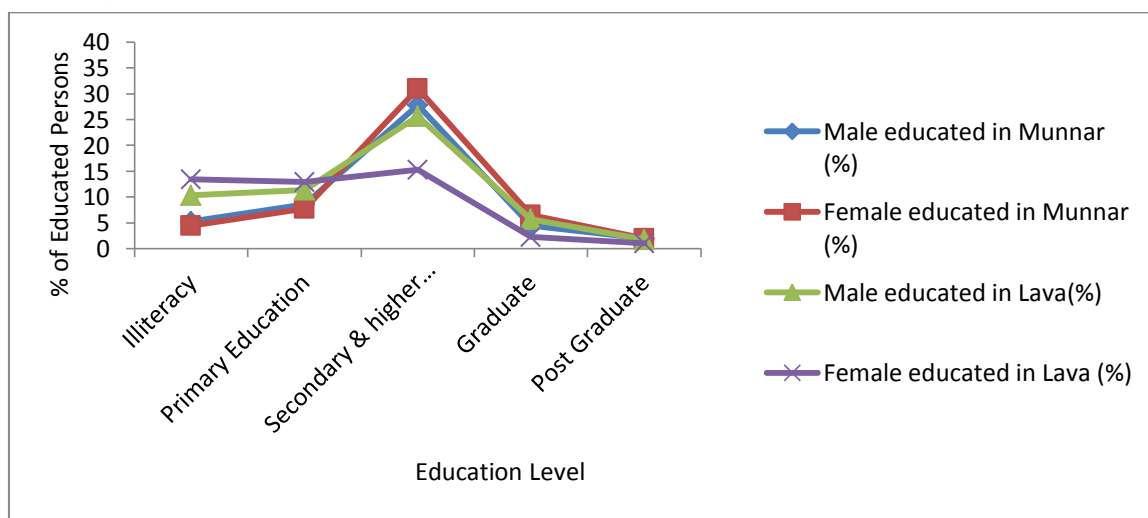
(Source: Primary Data, 2015).

Table-3. Sex wise literacy in different education level at Lava and Munnar

Education Level	Male educated in Munnar (%)	Female educated in Munnar (%)	Male educated in Lava (%)	Female educated in Lava (%)
Illiteracy	5.31	4.48	10.36	13.47
Primary Education	8.57	7.76	11.4	12.95
Secondary & higher secondary Education	27.75	31.03	25.65	15.29
Graduate	4.49	6.53	5.7	2.33
Post Graduate	2.04	2.04	1.81	1.04

(Source: Primary Data, 2013 & 2015).

Fig-1. Scenario of Sex wise literacy rate in different education level at study areas



All over the education scenario and literacy rate of these two places were different. Sex wise education scenario is most significant (table-3 & fig-1). Literacy rate of Munnar is very high from Lava. 9.80% persons were illiterate at Munnar and 23.83% were illiterate at Lava. Kerala is one of the most important states where lower gender inequities in school level to higher education level. But gender diversity on education system is an important scenario at Lava. Here male educated persons were increasing from female (table-4 & 7) (fig-2 & 5). Disparities of male and female educated were large at Lava town but Munnar indicated lower disparity.

Table-4. Cumulative % of Male and Total educated persons at Lava, West Bengal

Rank	% distribution of male educated	% distribution of total educated	cumulative % of distribution of male educated	cumulative % of distribution of total educated
Graduate	10.38	8.03	10.38	8.03
Post Graduate	3.3	2.85	13.68	10.88
Secondary & higher secondary Education	46.7	40.93	60.38	51.81
Primary Education	20.76	24.35	81.14	76.16
Illiteracy	18.86	23.83	100	100

(Source: Primary Data, 2015).

Fig-2. Disparity of Male educated Persons from Equal distribution line at Lava, West Bengal

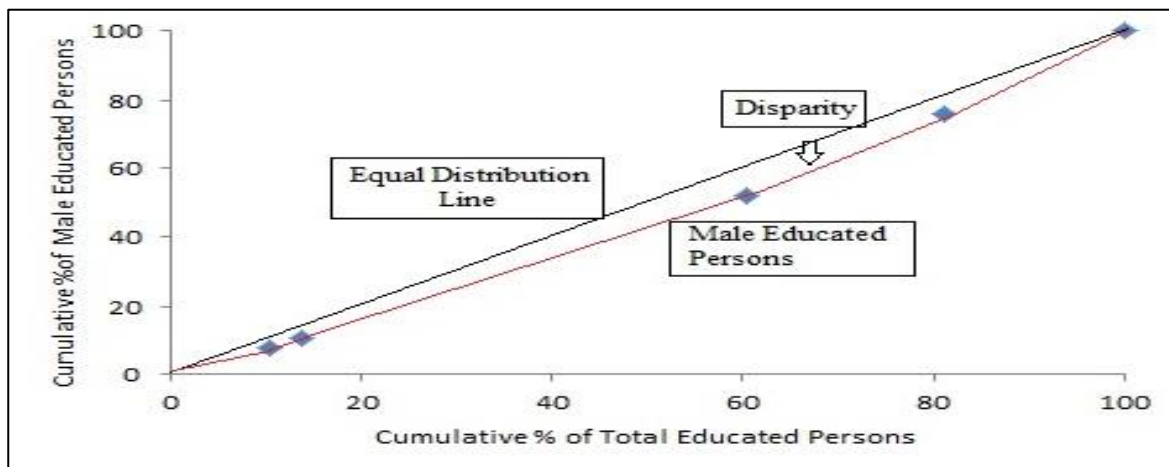


Table-4. Cumulative % of Female and Total educated persons at Lava, West Bengal

Rank	% distribution of female educated	% distribution of total educated	cumulative % of distribution of female educated	cumulative % of distribution of total educated
Illiteracy	29.89	8.03	29.89	8.03
Primary Education	28.74	2.85	58.63	10.88
Secondary & higher secondary Education	33.91	40.93	92.54	51.81
Post Graduate	2.3	24.35	95.84	76.16

Graduate	5.16	23.83	100	100
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Source: Primary Data, 2015).

Fig-3. Disparity of Female educated Persons from Equal distribution line at Lava, West Bengal

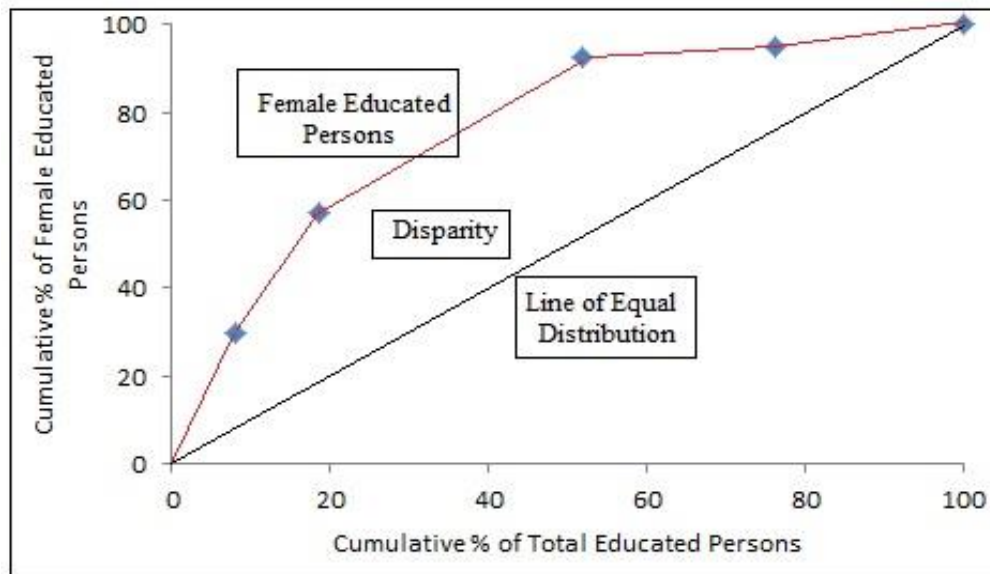


Table-5. Cumulative % of Male and Total educated persons at Munnar, Kerala

Rank	% distribution of male educated	% distribution of total educated	cumulative % of distribution of male educated	cumulative % of distribution of total educated
Illiteracy	11.02	9.8	11.02	9.8
Primary Education	17.8	16.33	28.82	26.13
Post Graduate	4.24	4.08	33.06	30.21
Secondary & higher secondary Education	57.62	58.77	90.68	88.98
Graduate	9.32	11.02	100	100

(Source: Primary Data, 2013).

Fig-4. Disparity of Male educated Persons from Equal distribution line at Munnar, Kerala

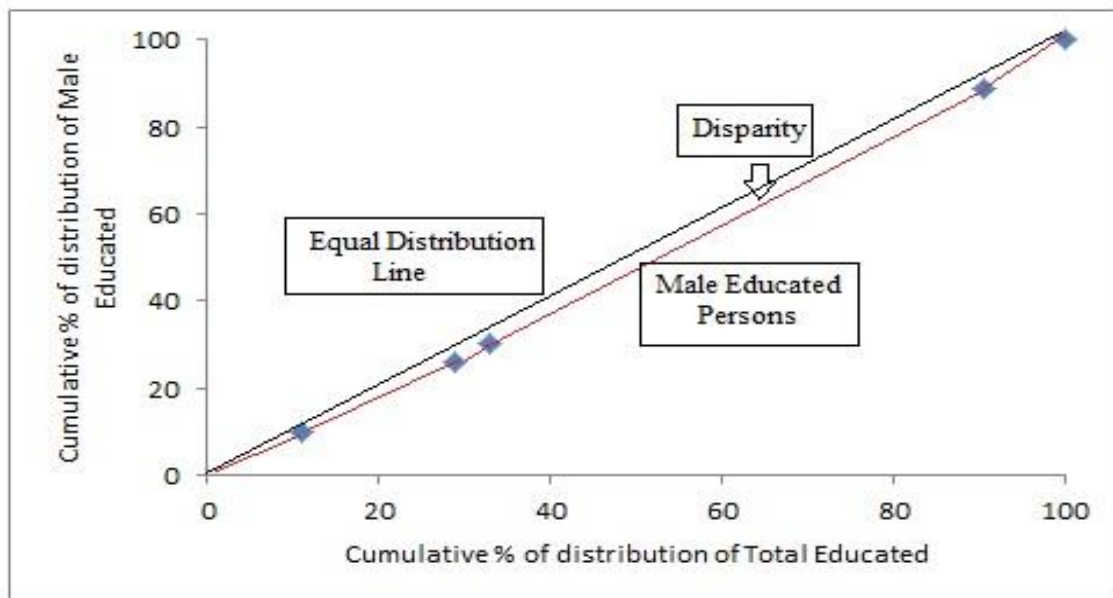
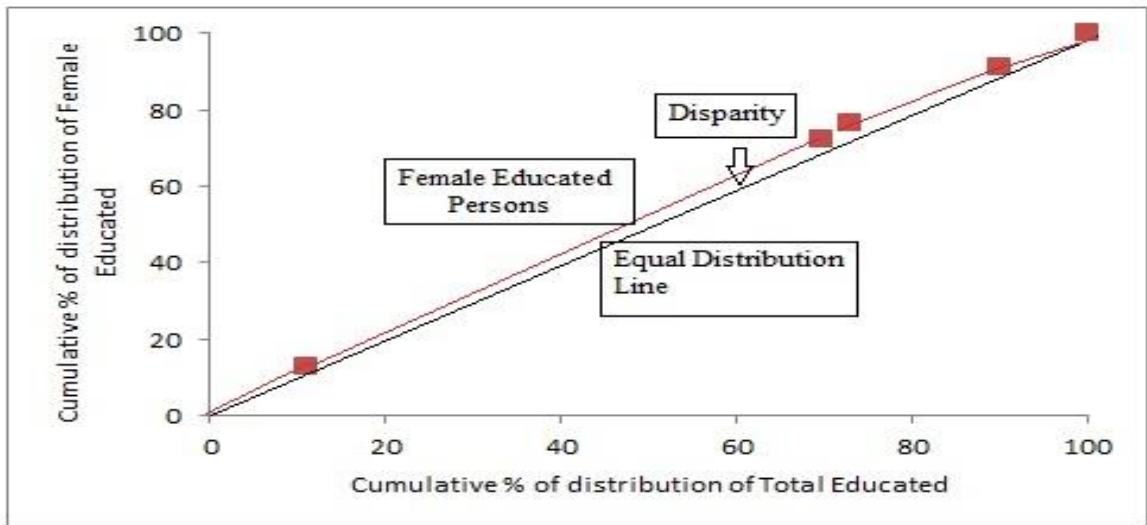


Table-6. Cumulative % of Female and Total educated persons at Munnar, Kerala

Rank	% distribution of female educated	% distribution of total educated	cumulative % of distribution of male educated	cumulative % of distribution of total educated
Graduate	12.6	11.02	12.6	11.02
Secondary & higher secondary Education	59.84	58.77	72.44	69.79
Post Graduate	3.94	4.08	76.38	73.08
Primary Education	14.96	16.33	91.34	90.2
Illiteracy	8.66	9.8	100	100

(Source: Primary Data, 2013).

Fig-5. Disparity of Female educated Persons from Equal distribution line at Munnar, Kerala



Government responsibility of mountain region for education development is positively different from Munnar to Lava. Regional disparity like government facilities are eventually distributed in Kerala. But the main educational problem of Munnar is poverty and natural hazard in rainy season. Monthly income of major family was not sufficient and it is also negative effect factor for 100% literacy. Lower literacy rate at Lava is different things. Political instability is main problem for Lava’s education. After 2005, ‘Gorkhaland’ issue influences over local resident. Political strike stopped their essential life. So, sometimes education system is affected by this type of problem. Plain land and mountain region disparity are another problem for education development.

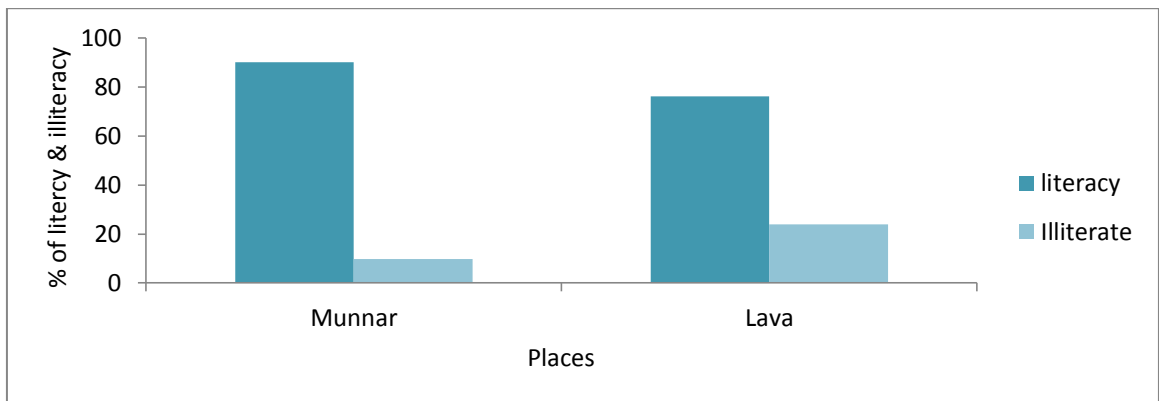


Fig-6. Education scenario at Munnar and Lava.

Conclusion: 93.91% population were educated in Kerala (Census of India, 2011) and Munnar shows 90.20% literacy. Munnar is a hilly area and its education scenario is very well. But Lava provides 76.17% educated persons (fig-6). It is largely lower than the total literacy rate of Kerala. Sex wise literacy rate is different Munnar to Lava, female educated persons were dominating at Munnar but Male literacy is majority at Lava. Number of institution is another important figure in Mountain region. Local government at Munnar helps for this type of social development. From my Volume-II, Issue-III November 2015

field observation the residents of Munnar were active for sent their children in primary school and female responsibility of Munnaris very positive for higher education participation from Lava.

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