

punjab geographer



A DOUBLE BLIND PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL OF APG AND KSS-ISPER INDIA

VOLUME 18

ISSN: 0973-3485

OCTOBER 2022



Map Series No. XV
PUNJAB-HARYANA REGION: MATRIC/SECONDARY LEVEL
EDUCATED POPULATION, 2011

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Prior to the skills of reading and writing, the societies could be classified as being in pre-literate state. The transition from pre-literate cultures seems to have begun during the fourth millennium BC (an era concurring with our Vedic period) through a gradual transition from pictography to the use of alphabets (Golden Hilda, 1960). After the advent of dual skills of reading and writing, the relevance of literacy to the socio-cultural advancement enhanced significantly. It is in this context that literacy is considered fairly reliable index of socio-cultural and economic advancement (Chandna, 2021). Various studies have established from time to time that matriculation/secondary level of education is the most critical level of education in these respects. That is why, for the present Map Series, Matriculation/Secondary level education has been taken up.

Census of India publishes data with education level spread over 10 categories such as (i) without any educational level; (ii) below primary level; (iii) primary level; (iv) middle; (v) matriculation/secondary; (vi) higher secondary; (vii) technical diploma/certificate holders; (viii) non-technical diploma/ certificate holders; (ix) graduates and above; and (x) unclassified level of education. The scope of present Map Series has however been restricted to matriculation/secondary level of education.

Three maps have been prepared to depict spatial patterns of matriculate persons

(Fig. 1), males (Fig. 2), and females (Fig. 3) in Punjab and Haryana region. The region had 20.91 per cent of its literates having completed their matriculation or secondary level of education. Punjab sub-region had 22.38 per cent literates in this category and Haryana sub-region had 19.43 per cent. However, these figures compare well with national figure of 13.87 per cent. It would not be out of place to mention probable dropouts who may include literates without any level of education, below primary level literates and unclassified educated. While in India, 24.24 per cent of literates were in this group of probable dropouts, the figure for study region was 14.83 per cent. The corresponding figures for Punjab and Haryana sub-regions were 15.17 and 17.48 per cent, respectively. Though male-female breakup of such dropouts is not available, it would not be risky to presume higher proportion of dropouts among females in comparison to their male counterparts because one in three girls works as domestic help, one in every four girls gets married before 18th year of age, girls in the family are preferred as caretaker of children at home while both their parents go out for work/labour etc. Above all, in Indian set up, boys from a family have been preferred to be sent to schools in comparison to girls when the choice has to be made due to socio-cultural and economic factors.

Indian literacy, therefore, has historically been characterised by sharp differences in

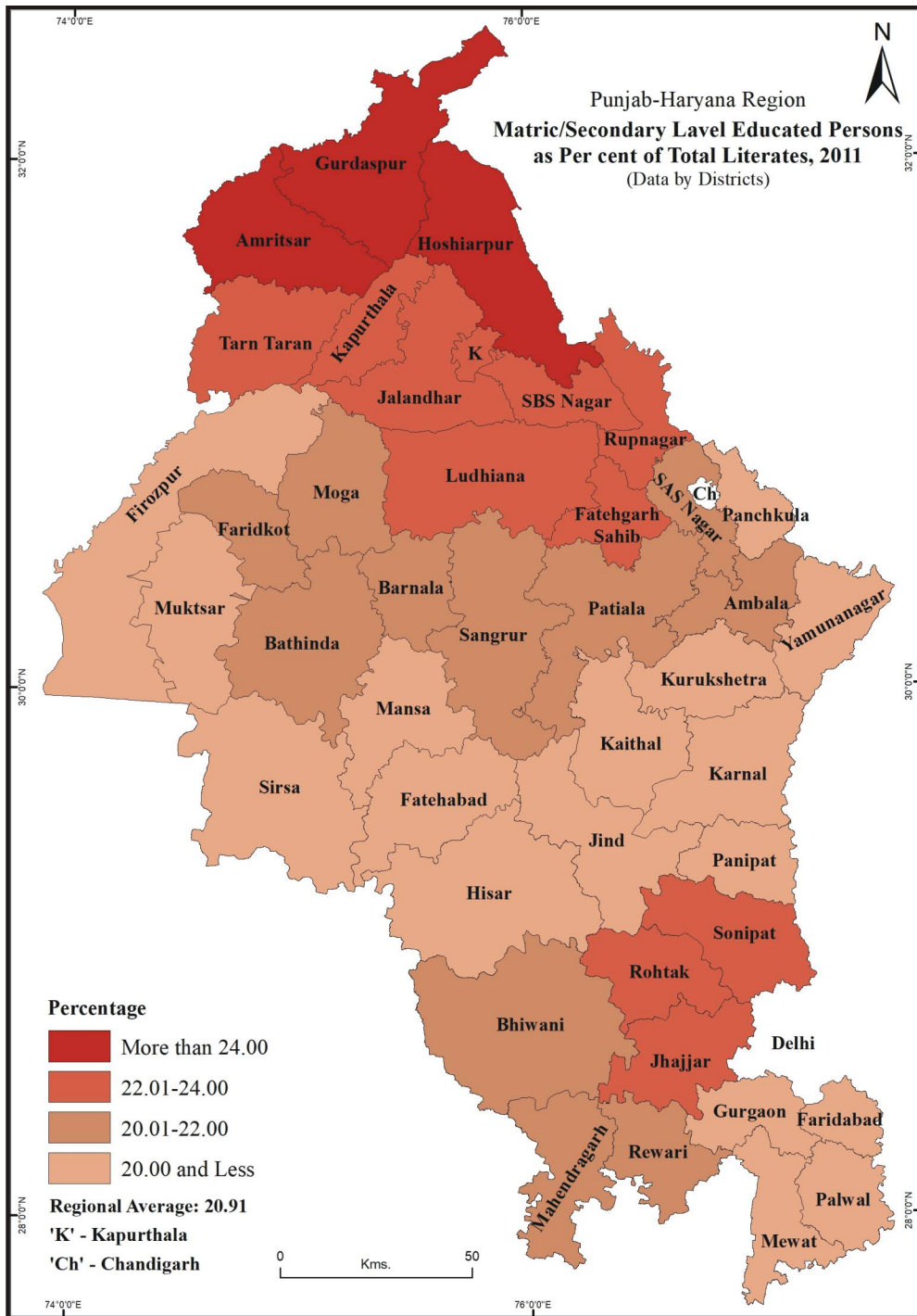


Fig. 1

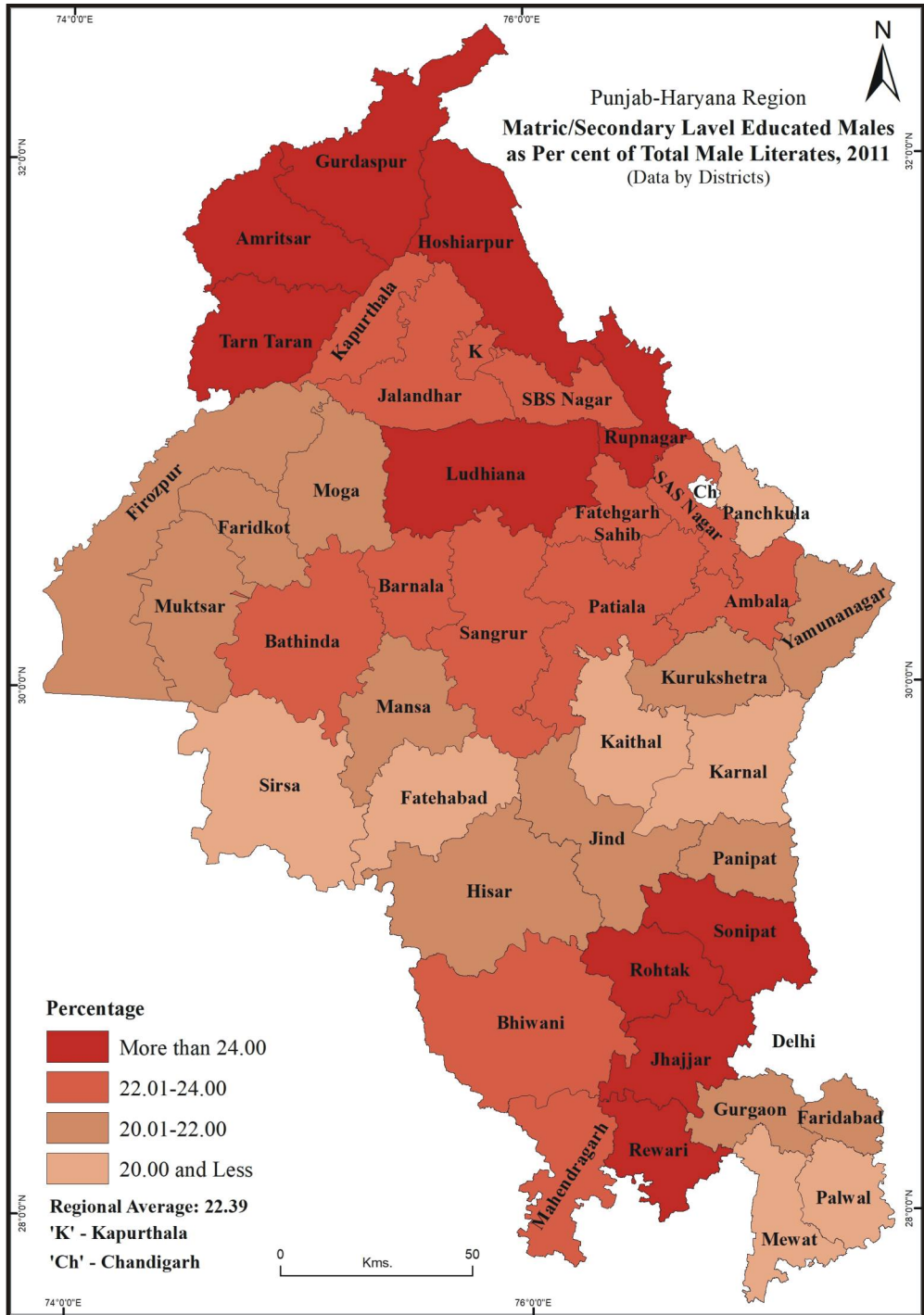


Fig. 2

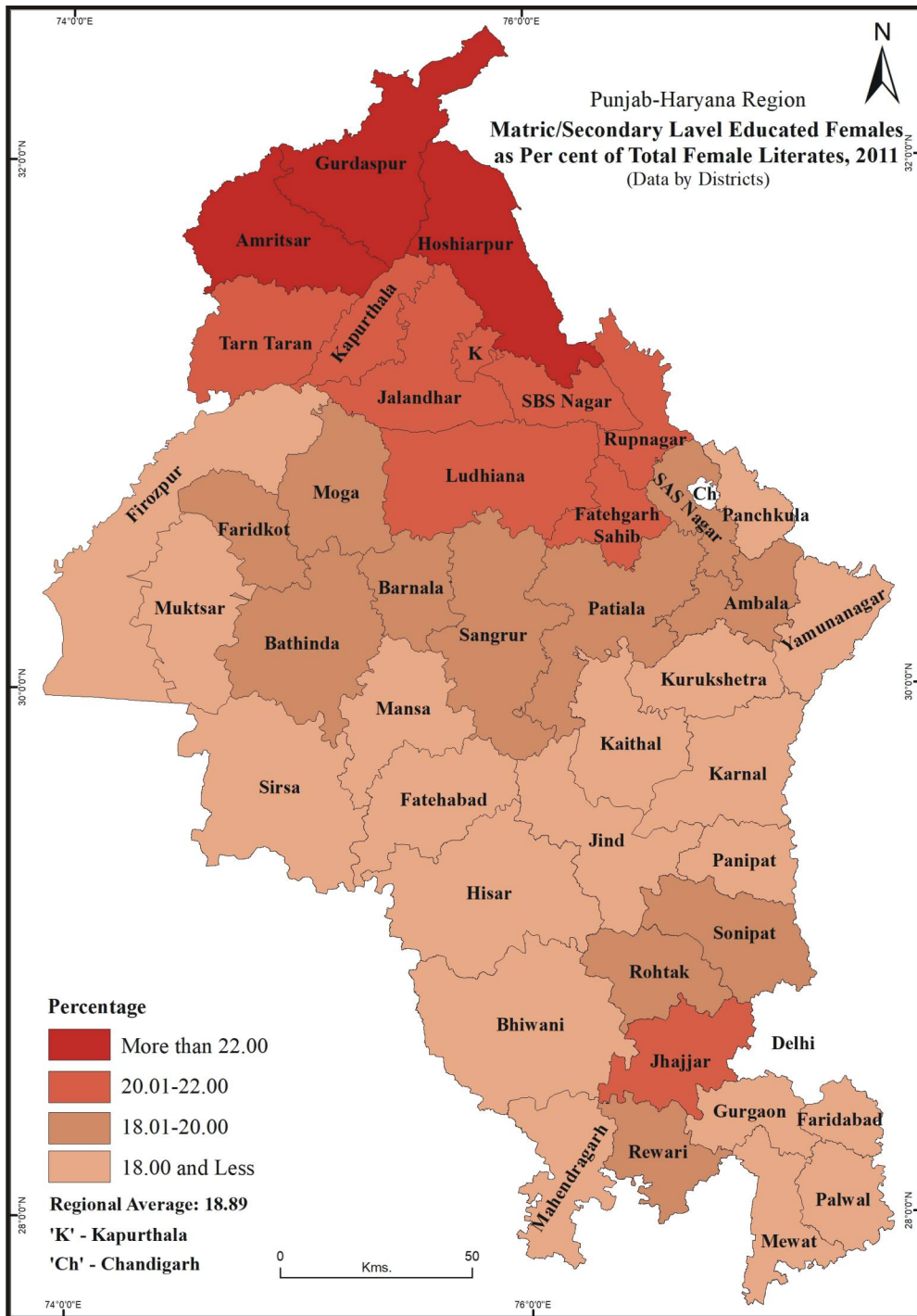


Fig. 3

male and female literacy due to prejudices against female's education, prevalence of low age at marriage, and Indian custom of moving the bride from her parents' home to the groom's house. While, 22.39 per cent of males in the study region were matriculate, the figure for females was 18.89 per cent. However, in the Punjab sub-region 23.67 per cent males and 20.72 per cent females were matriculates. In Haryana sub-region, the corresponding figures were 21.08 per cent (males) and 17.06 per cent (females), respectively. Nevertheless, all these figures were a shade better in comparison to national figures of 14.67 per cent (males) and 12.82 per cent (females).

What emerges from these maps is that (i) Gurdaspur (25.62 per cent) in Punjab and Jhajjar (23.99 per cent) in Haryana had highest proportion of matriculates among literates while Ferozepur (19.01 per cent) in Punjab and Mewat (19.47 per cent) in Haryana displayed the lowest proportion of matriculates among literates; (ii) the proportion of matriculates among literates was, by and large, higher in Punjab in comparison to Haryana. Punjab had three districts with more than 24 per cent of matriculates among its literates, while Haryana had none; (iii) similar was the situation in case of males with this critical level of education as in Punjab six districts showed more than 24 per cent of their males as matriculates whereas, in Haryana, there were only three such districts; (iv) in case of females, there was no district in the entire region with more than 24 per cent of female matriculates among its literates; (v) at the other end of the scale were the districts with less than 20 per cent of their literates as matriculates including Ferozepur, Muktsar, Mansa in Punjab and Mewat, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Palwal, Kaithal, Panchkula, Karnal, Gurgaon, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, Faridabad, Jind,

Hisar and Panipat in Haryana; (vi) similar pattern could be observed in case of both the males and females as well; (vii) Mewat district, having fairly large concentration of Muslims, displayed the lowest proportion of matriculates among literate males (10.81 per cent) and females (6.61 per cent).

Such a spatial pattern of matriculates in the study region reveals that areas that had exposure to other progressive areas in India or abroad; or were the traditional areas of out-migration/emigration for reasons of better opportunities; or were traditional areas of exposure through recruitment to armed forces; or were located close to the job markets in national capital of Delhi or regional capital of Chandigarh, all displayed higher proportion of matriculation level of education. By comparison, areas having considerable concentration of Muslim population or those which were located far away from national/regional capitals had low proportion of matriculates. Above all, the in-migration of uneducated workers to the areas having large cropped areas under labour intensive crops, in specific, seems to have affected the proportion of matriculates in such agricultural belts.

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