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**Map Series No. XVI**  
**PUNJAB-HARYANA REGION:**  
**MALE-FEMALE DIFFERENTIAL INDEX OF MATRIC/SECONDARY**  
**EDUCATED POPULATION, 2011**

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In continuation of Map Series XV devoted to spatial pattern of matric/secondary level educated persons, the present series portrays the gender disparity in the same in the study region. Using district level data, the male-female differential in matric/secondary educated population has been calculated and its spatial pattern has been depicted (Fig.1). The study region has displayed an average index of 0.18, while the corresponding figure for the country has been 0.13. Within study region, Punjab sub-region has been found better placed with index value of 0.13 which has been in tune with the national average. Haryana sub-region on the other hand, has relatively higher index value of 0.21. It indicates that gender-disparity in Punjab sub-region by now has narrowed down significantly, while Haryana sub-region might take a few decades to bring this index significantly down.

It would be pertinent to understand the pace and progress of literacy transition in the country. It may be heartening to note that in recent decades, the country has witnessed an accelerated literacy transition and the study region is no exception. This accelerated literacy transition impacted the pace of narrowing down of gender disparity, specifically in comparatively progressive states in the country including study region. Such an accelerated literacy transition has been facilitated by general breaking up of barriers of

religion, caste, sex, power of purse etc. in the field of education. It tempts one to believe that literacy in the study region has reached take-off stage but for dampening effect of selective in-migration from states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh etc. generally of uneducated families for general/farm labour.

Male-female differential in matric/secondary educated population in any area is determined by a host of historical, cultural, socio-economic and demographic factors. Historically, Punjab-Haryana region has been the march land of invaders from north-west forcing numerous restrictions on female's mobility; culturally, the Jats (both Sikh and Hindu), who predominate the region, have been unforthcoming about their females working on the farm; socio-economically, on the contrary, female children among the lower classes work as domestic help that keeps them away from schools especially beyond primary level; and demographically, in-migration of illiterate families from other states too widened the male-female differential in matric/secondary education in the region.

Fig.1 displays the regional pattern of male-female differential index of secondary level educated population in the Punjab-Haryana region. Higher the index, greater is the gender disparity in education and vice-versa. The highest index of 0.4 has been found only in Mewat district of Haryana which has a

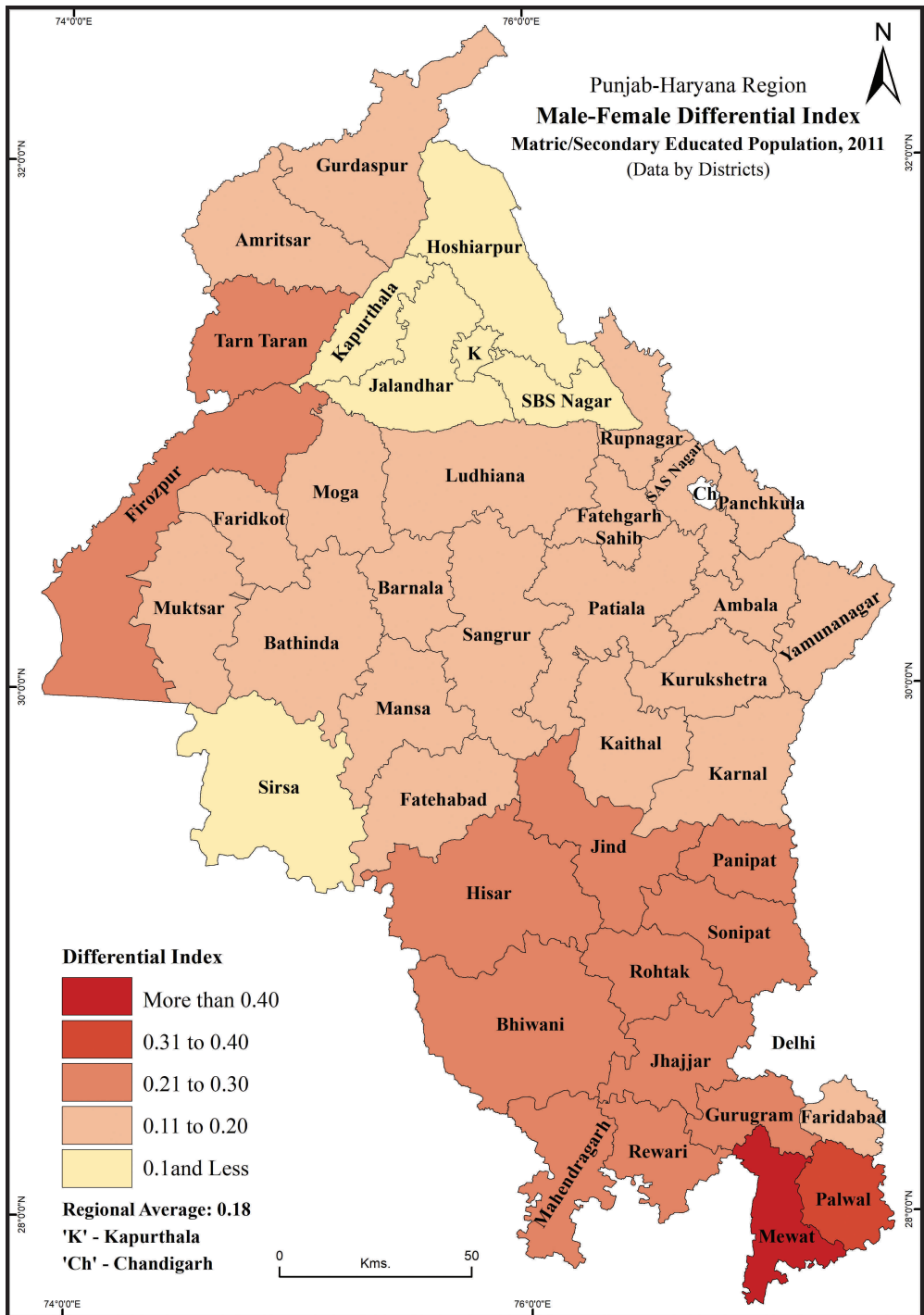


Fig. 1

significant concentration of Muslim population, among whom women are generally illiterate, especially in backward areas. The adjacent district of Palwal, where too Muslim population has been increasing in recent decades, has also recorded relatively high male-female differential index of more than 0.3. Fortunately, there has been no district with such a high male-female differential index in Punjab as that of Mewat and Palwal districts in Haryana sub-region. District of Tarntarn and Ferozpur in Punjab and ten districts of southern Haryana have displayed a male-female differential index ranging between 0.2 and 0.3. Much larger number of districts (14) of Punjab and (8) districts from Haryana sub-region have male-female differential index ranging between 0.1 and 0.2. These covered most of the northern Haryana and southern Punjab. Four districts of Bist Doab (Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur and SBS Nagar) and Sirsa district of Haryana together displayed lowest male-female differential index of 0.1 or less. Bist Doab of Punjab has been a traditional area of emigration to far and wide all around the world, which has for long time been the recipient of large remittances from these foreign settled Punjabis that have been used for development of social infrastructure (schools,

hospitals etc.) in these areas. Sirsa in Haryana has recently witnessed emergence of defence establishments. Male-female differential in matric/secondary educated population is lowest among defence personnel irrespective of the rank. Thus, male-female differential in matric/secondary educated population and its spatial pattern in the study region has been the product of factors like: its location on the historic route of invaders from the north-west, dominance of Jat population (both Sikh and Hindu) who in the past had refrained from allowing their females to work outside homes; long tradition of emigration of educated males to western countries in search of greener pastures; continuous inflow of remittances to such areas that encouraged emigration further; upcoming of defence establishments roping in of educated families in pockets along western international border (especially Sirsa district of Haryana); recent inflow of illiterate families of in-migrating labour in selected areas; and in-migration of Muslim families, whose females have been generally illiterate, to selected pockets.

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