

Social development in Haryana: A regional analysis

Dr. Anju Bala

Assistant Professor in Geography, Govt. P.G. College for Women, Rohtak, Haryana, India

Abstract

Development is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Some of its major dimensions include level of urbanization, level of literacy, sex-ratio and level of work force. After formation of state in 1966, Haryana has made enormous strides towards the progress. Economic scenario of Haryana has changed a lot but, the level of social development is not high. The levels of literacy, sex ratio and urbanization are not according to the economic level. In Haryana, the progress of socio-economic development is not uniform. Some districts like Panchkula, Ambala, Gurgaon, Faridabad show higher status in terms of literacy, urbanization while sex ratio is low in these districts. On contrast, Mahendergarh, Mewat display lower levels of literacy and urbanization in spite of higher sex ratio. The present study examines the existing variability in social development and identifying the indicators responsible for the diversity in development.

Keywords: development, literacy, sex ratio, work force, urbanization

Introduction

Although economic growth in the sense of expanding gross national product and other related variables is one of the major fundamental input to the overall development process, the basic objective of the development should focus on the expansion of human capabilities. The state has achieved rapid growth in social and economic indicators, even after that there exist disparities in social development indicators in case of literacy, sex -ratio and urbanization. The position of women in Haryana is no better than their counter parts. The ratio of female to male population in Haryana is worse. Female feticide is perhaps one of the worst forms of violence against women where a woman is denied her most basic and fundamental right. A strong culture of patriarchy through institutions such as khap panchayats has kept its people from embracing cosmopolitanism. In literacy and level of urbanization, state still lags behind in spite of economic prosperity. The present study deals with variables of social development in spatial context in Haryana.

Objectives

The main objectives of the present study are:

1. To analyze the spatial patterns of urbanization in Haryana
2. To analyze sex ratio in Haryana.

3. To examine the literacy rates in Haryana.

4. To analyze the decadal growth rate in Haryana

Data base and Methodology

The present study is entirely based on secondary data. The required data has been collected from Primary Census Abstracts of Haryana State, various census publications of India. For representation of data, tables and maps are used. Arc GIS software has been used to prepare maps.

Study Area

Haryana is a state in northwest India between 27° 37' to 30° 35' latitudes and between 74 ° 28' to 77 ° 36' longitudes and with an altitude between 700 to 3600 feet above sea level. It was carved out of the Indian state of Punjab on 1st Nov. 1966. It is bounded by Uttar Pradesh in east, Punjab in west, Himachal Pradesh in north and Rajasthan in south (Map 1). Haryana state stretches for about 44212 square kilometers with 1.37 percent of total geographical area and less than 2 percent of India's total population. A large area of state is included in National Capital Region (N.C.R.). Chandigarh, a union territory, is the capital of Haryana. There are 21 districts, 74 sub districts, 80 statutory towns, 74 census towns and 6841 villages. In 2011, Haryana had 23353081 persons having 13505130 males and 11847951 females.

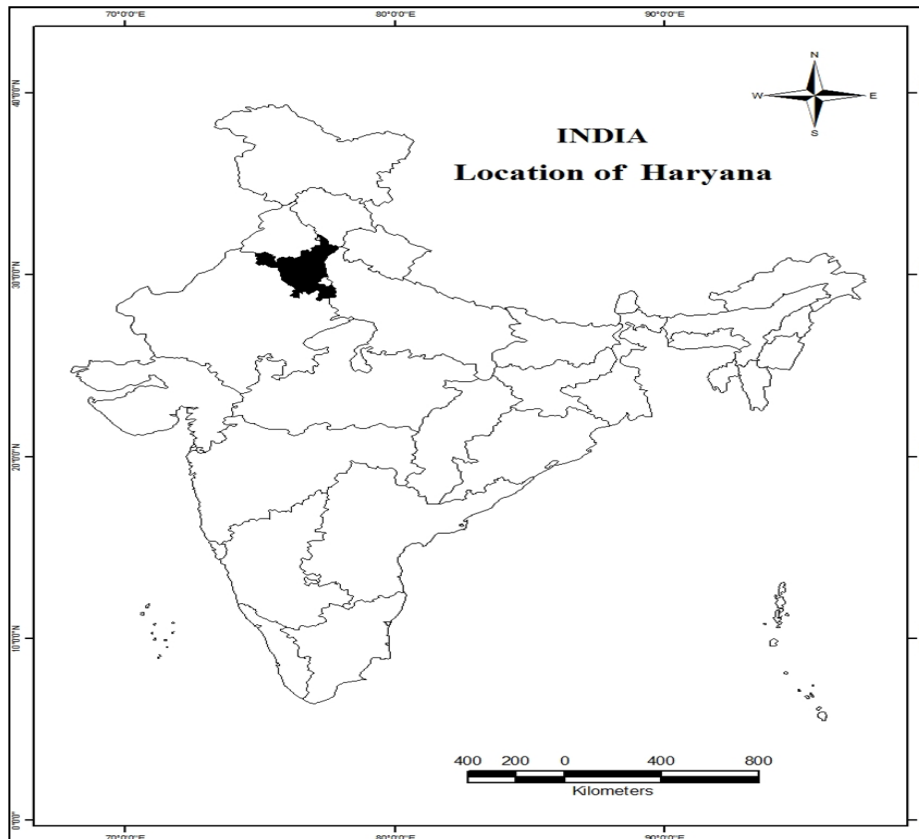


Fig 1: Map - 1

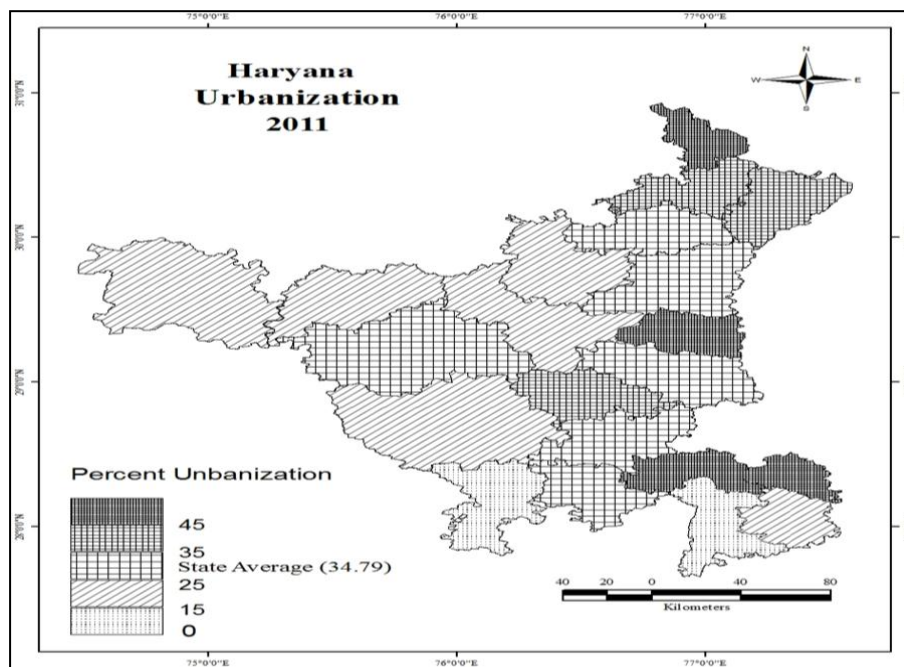


Fig 2: Map 2

Table 1: Haryana: Sex Ratio, decadal growth rate, level of urbanization and literacy, 2011

State/Districts	Sex Ratio	Decadal population growth rate (%)	% of urban population to total population	Literacy (%)
Haryana	877	19.90	34.79	65.94
Ambala	870	19.32	44.38	75.5
Panchkula	882	12.06	54.87	75.99
Yamunanagar	877	16.56	38.94	71.38
Kurukshetra	889	16.81	28.93	68.84
Kaithal	880	13.39	21.97	59.24

Karnal	886	18.22	30.27	66.82
Panipat	861	24.33	45.97	67.00
Sonepat	853	15.71	30.52	69.80
Jind	870	11.95	22.82	60.76
Fatehabad	903	16.79	19.05	58.87
Sirsa	896	15.98	24.75	60.40
Hisar	871	13.38	31.73	62.25
Bhiwani	884	14.32	19.80	49.24
Rohtak	868	12.61	42.02	71.72
Jhajjar	861	8.73	25.39	70.73
Mahendergarh	894	13.43	14.43	64.57
Rewari	898	13.43	25.82	69.57
Gurgaon	853	73.93	68.82	77.98
Mewat	906	37.04	11.38	36.60
Faridabad	871	31.75	79.44	73.84
Palwal	879	25.49	22.65	54.23

Source: Census of India 2011, Primary Census Abstract, Haryana, Directorate of Census operation, Haryana, Chandigarh.

Urbanization in Haryana

Haryana has been predominantly rural state whose most population is engaged in agricultural activities. The partition of country in 1947 increased the process of urbanization in Haryana because a large number of refugees came to Indian Punjab and settled in towns (camps) and urban population of Haryana reached to 17.22 percent in 1961. Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) also promoted process of urbanization by developing new residential and industrial sectors in Panchkula, Ambala, Pipli, Shahabad in Kurukshetra, Kundli, Murthal, Manesar in Sonapat. This high urban growth rate has been result of development of agriculture due to green revolution and starting of mandi towns due to agricultural surplus. In 2001, about 28.92 percent population lived in urban areas and reached to 34.79 percent in 2011 census. About 70 percent of state's urban population is in eastern part while only 30 percent urban population is in western part. In eastern part, high urbanization is along G.T. road (NH1) from Ambala to Delhi on association with high degree of diversification of economy, agricultural prosperity, high developed transportation facilities etc. Among districts, Faridabad is most urbanized district (79.44percent) followed by Gurgaon (68.82 percent), Panchkula (54.87 percent), Panipat (45.47 percent) due to industrial development, strategic location, administrative function and close proximity to NCR Old cantonments, Maruti Udog Ltd in Gurgaon, Ford, Hero- Honda and Escort groups of industries in Faridabad, National Fertilizer Ltd, oil refinery and woolen industry in Pan pat have been helpful In Rohtak, Maharshi Dayanand University and PGIMS. On the other hand, Mewat district is least urbanized (11.38percent) due to low industrial development, unfavorable climatic conditions and poor connectivity to roads. Out of total 21 districts, 7 districts are above the state average while 14 districts have urbanization level below state average (34.79 percent). Districts having moderate category are Kurukshetra, Karnal, Sonapat, Jhajjar, Rewari and Hisar. Fatehabad, Sirsa, Kaithal, Jind, Bhiwani, Mahendergarh, Mewat and Palwal have very low level of urbanization related to very poor agricultural and industrial development, socio-cultural backwardness, peripheral location, poor infrastructural facilities and having low male and female literacy.

Sex ratio in Haryana

The sex ratio is usually defined as number of females per thousand males. After the formation of state in 1966, the sex ratio of Haryana was 867 females per thousand males in 1971 that reached to 861 females per thousand males in 2001, the lowest sex ratio among all the states of India. In 2011, although Haryana has shown an increase in sex ratio and it has reached to 877 females per thousand males, still, it is lowest in Indian states. The mortality rate of the girl child is increasing (Bhardwaj, 2010). Low sex ratio in Haryana is mostly because of killing of girl child in rural and illiterate communities and the low status of women (Singh, 1998). People give preference to sons for a number of economic, social and religious reasons including financial support, property inheritance, dowry, family lineage, prestige and power, birth and death rituals and beliefs about religious duties. This discrimination has given way to female foeticide with the advent of prenatal sex determination techniques (Hassan, 2005) ^[3]. In 2011 census, the sex ratio for rural areas was 880 in contrast to urban areas. i.e. 871. Spatially, highest sex ratio is found in Mewat (906) followed by Fatehabad (902), Rewari (897), Sirsa (895) and Mahendergarh (Table1). Mewat has highest sex ratio, although, it is backward and almost district is rural. Literacy rate is also low (56.14 percent) as compared average (76.64 percent). Fatehabad, Mahendergarh also display higher sex ratio in spite of lower literacy (Map 3).

Literacy in Haryana

Literacy is essential for social construction, improvement in quality of life and preparation of manpower for development. It influences other attributes of population such as fertility, mortality and mobility. There is a strong correlation between literacy and life expectancy (Khan, 2004). The census of India defines a person literate who can read and write with understanding in any language. Children below six years are considered as illiterate. The total literacy rate was 25.71% in 1971 which increased to 37.13 percent in 1981, 55.85% in 1991 and has reached to 68.59 % in 2001 census. In the latest census (2011), Haryana ranks 15 th position in India with 76.64 percent literacy rate. As compared to economic status, the low level of literacy is associated with prejudices against females, less educational facilities, poverty, low status of

women. The attitude of people towards education is governed by the value system of society. A large proportion of population is engaged in agricultural activities for which education is not a necessity. Literacy rate in Haryana varies from 84.44 % in Gurgaon to 56.14 % in Mewat. Highest literacy rate is found in Gurgaon (84.44%) followed by Panchkula (83.44%), Faridabad (83.04%), Ambala (82.89%), Rewari (82.23%) in

association with highest degree of urbanization, high status of females, better economic conditions and developed means of transportation and industrial development. On contrast, Mewat display lowest literacy rate (56.14%). Faridabad (69.13%), Palwal (70.32%), Sirsa (70.35%), Kaithal (70.56%), Jind (72.73%) also display low literacy on account of backward economy and less socio- economic development etc.

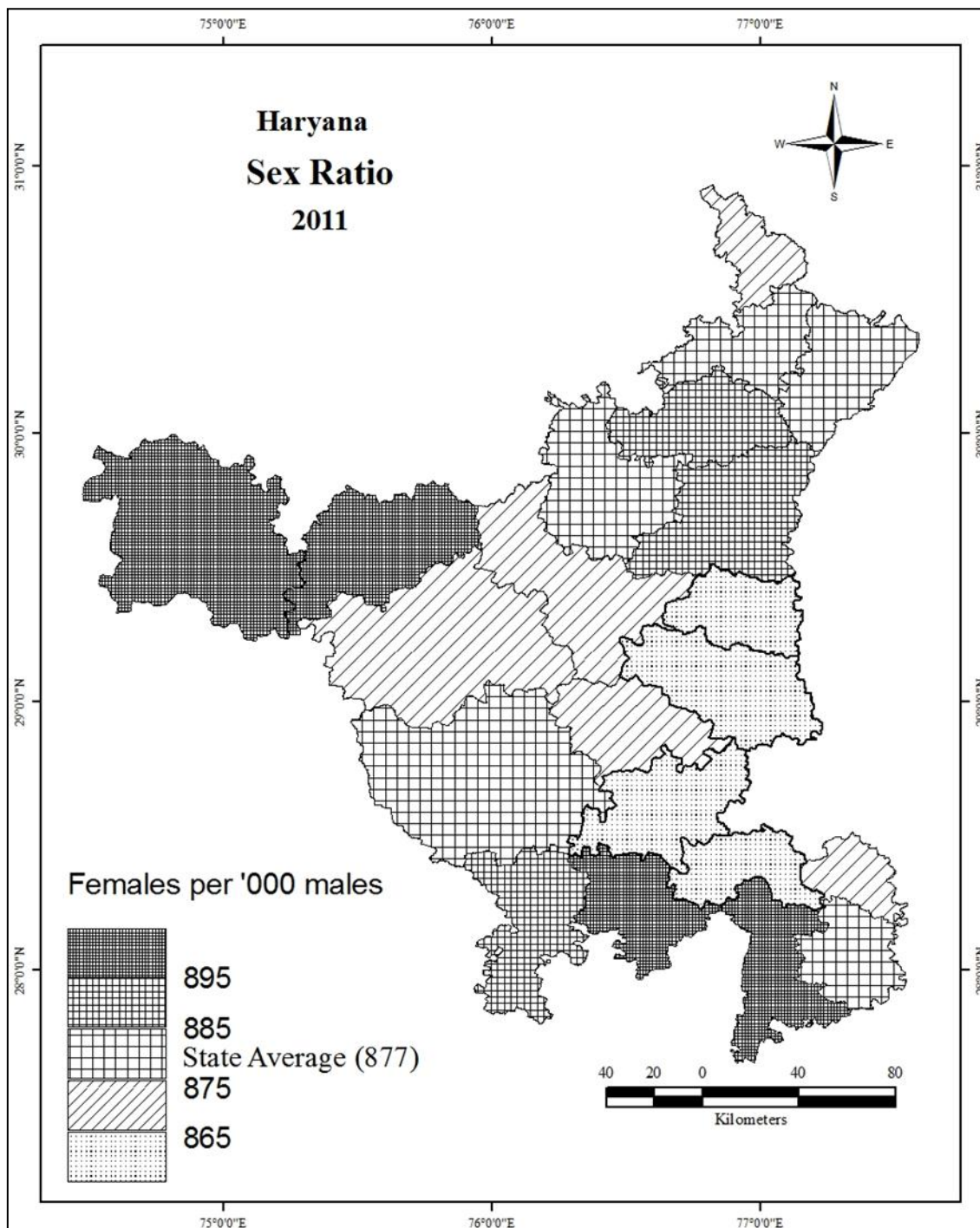


Fig 3: Map-3

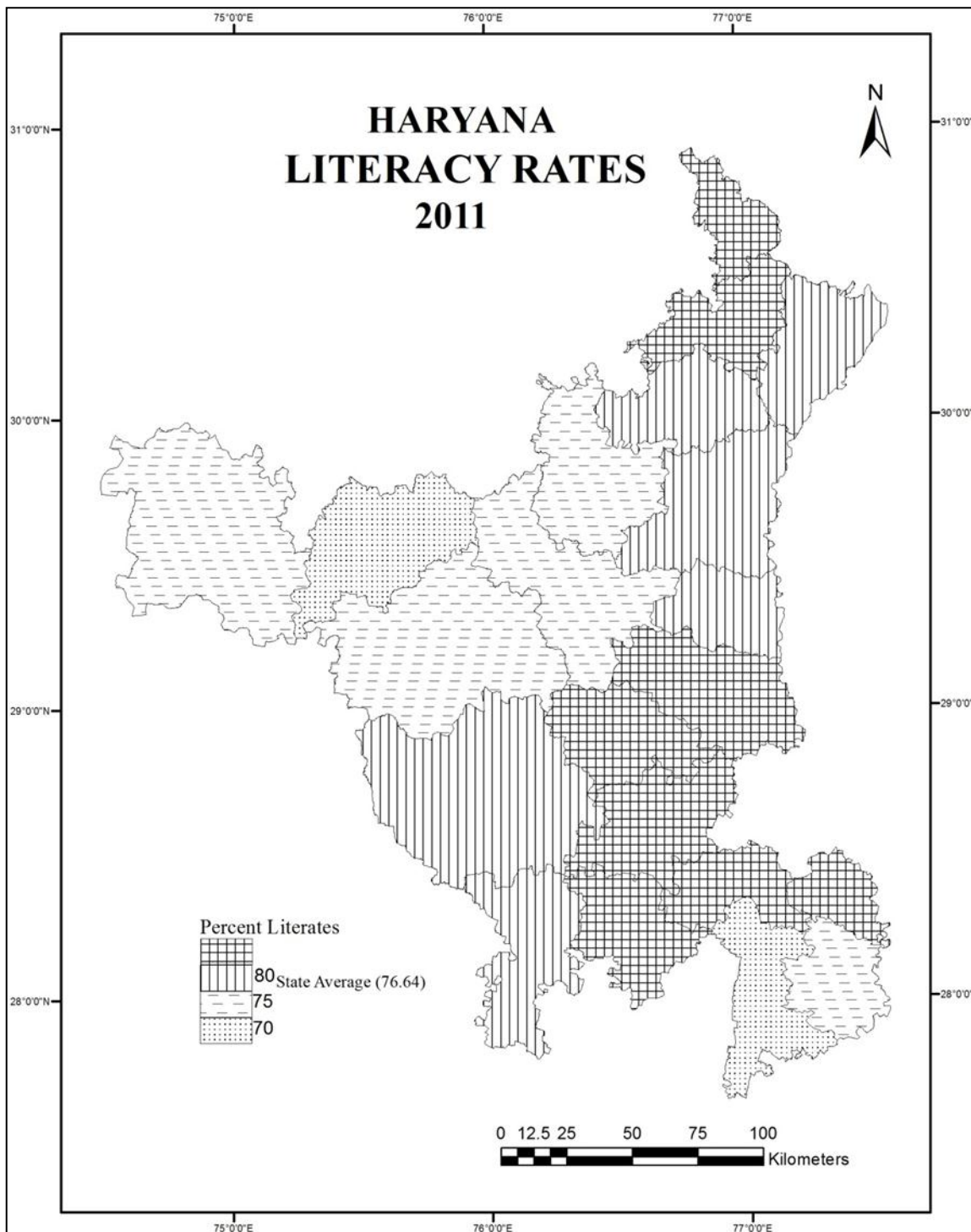


Fig 4: Map 4

The size of landholding is large. By contrast, high literacy rates are in Faridabad, Gurgaon, Yamunanagar (78.93%), Panipat (77.46%), Bhiwani (76.44%), and Kurukshetra (76.70%) show moderate literacy rate (Map 4).

Gender differentials in literacy rates exist in total population as well as in urban and rural areas. In 2011, the male literacy rate is 85.38 percent while female literacy is 66.77 percent. The inequality in literacy by sex is the outcome of traditional prejudices against female education. To the minds of many parents, allowing girls to go schools creates an unnecessary risk that may later

damage the marriage-bargaining process. However, the conditions are changing and female literacy is making a considerable progress. Urban - rural differential in literacy emanates from the differences in the type of economy, degree of concentration of educational institutions, status granted to the females and the migratory patterns of the two areas (Chandna, 2011) [1]. In 2011 census, urban areas display 83.83 % literacy in comparison to 72.74 % literates in rural areas due to the lack of job opportunities in rural areas which lead to the migration of literates from rural to urban areas (Hassan, 2005) [3]. Other factors include the concentration of

scheduled castes and scheduled tribe population among whom school enrollment is low and dropout rates are high.

Decadal population growth rates in Haryana

The growth of population is related to economic and social development. The distribution and growth of population is directly or indirectly controlled by physical, socio-cultural, economic and political factors (Chandana, 2011). Decadal growth rate is a vital part of census operation. It gives an overview of the percentage of total population growth rate in particular decade. In 2011

census, India showed a decadal growth rate of 17.64 % that is lower than Pakistan (22.09%) (Chandana,2011). This shift in the economy from an agricultural based economy to industrial based economy shows an increase in per capita income of the state and improvement in the living standard of the people (Shyrook, 1976) [6]. This improvement shows its effects on the demographic aspect of the state. At the time of formation of Haryana state in 1966, the decadal growth rate was 32.22 % that showed a declining trend in the next decades and reached to 28.75 % in 1971-81,27.41 % in 1981-91 and 28.06 % in 1991-2001. In the last decade (2001-11)

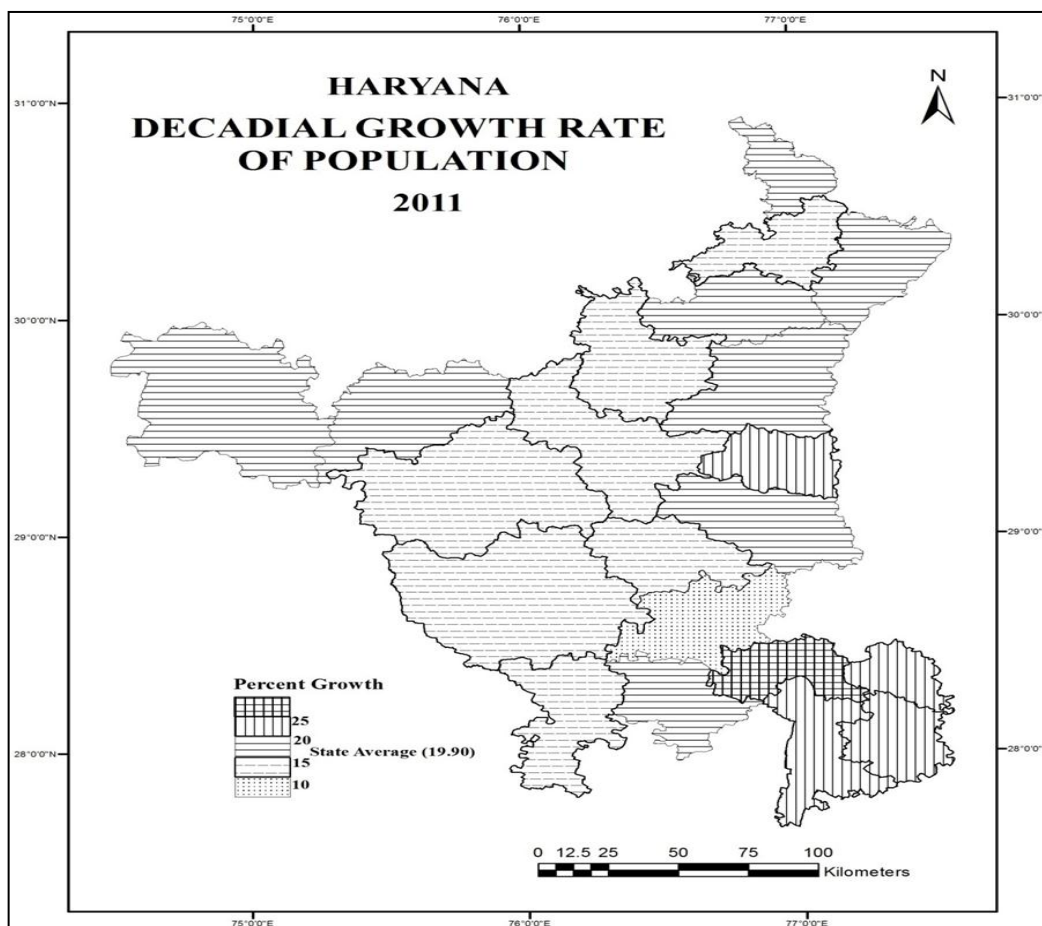


Fig 5: Map 5

decadal growth rate declined by 8.16 % and reached to 19.90 %. The factors like spread of education, availability of means of entertainment, better living standard, higher number of females in jobs have been responsible for decline in decadal population growth rate. Gurgaon (73.93%), Faridabad (31.75%), Panipat (24.33%), Palwal (25.49%) display higher decadal growth rate due to the highly diversification of economy and high degree of urbanization. On the other hand, socially and economically backward district Mewat (37.94%) displayed higher growth rate on account of higher proportion of Muslim population, low status of women, ignorance and less spread of education. Districts like Yamunanagar (16.56%), Kurukshetra (16.81%), Karnal (18.22%), Panchkula (19.32%), Panipat (24.33%) display moderate decadal growth rate (Map 5). In

Panchkula and Yamunanagar, industrial development is also high that attracts a large number of poor people to get jobs. This group has a higher population growth rate. Districts like Jhajjar (8.73%), Jind (11.95%), Ambala (12.06%), Rohtak (12.61%), Kaithal (13.38%) have low decadal population growth rate.

Conclusion

Haryana is economically very developed state due to closeness of NCR and diversification of agriculture. But in social variables such as literacy, level of urbanization, sex-ratio, position is not satisfactory. Low sex ratio in Haryana is mostly because of killing of girl child in rural and illiterate communities and the low status of women. Old social taboos, male dominated society, prejudices against females, and lack of awareness hinders social

developments. Spatially, some districts such as Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ambala, Panchkula show better condition in social development but situation in Mewat is alarming. So, there is a need to adopt policies for all-round development of society.

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