SPATIO – TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA

Dissertation Submitted to the Jawaharlal Nehru University
in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Award of the Degree of

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

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INDIA
1995

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21 July 1995

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled "SPATIO-TEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA" submitted by Rehana, is in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY in this university. To the best of our knowledge it has not been previously submitted for any degree of this or any other university.

We recommend this dissertation to be placed before the examiners for their consideration.

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CONTENTS
LIST OF TABLES
LIST OF FIGURES
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Rehana

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Literacy is an important component, both as an input in and an outcome of development process and enters as a basal stratum in the multilevel superstructure of subsequent educational attainment (Raju 1991 : 116).

The extent of literacy among the population of a country has thus an intimate linkage with social, political and cultural aspects of a community. It is not only an index of socio-economic conditions of a a given region but also indicate significantly the transformation of underdeveloped countries into modern urban industrial nations. Literacy, therefore, is now viewed as the catalyst of socio-economic transformation and as a means of comprehensive human resource development. Literacy denotes not merely the process of acquiring the ability of reading, writing and calculation, but it is also the process of liberation of humankind from mental shacks.

In India, literacy rates for population are provided by census. In the 1991 census, as in earlier census, literacy status of each individual was ascertained as to whether one could read and write with understanding in any of languages. A person who could read but not write was not recorded as literate. Recognizing the fact that ability to read and write with understanding is not ordinarily achieved until one had some schooling or had atleast some time to develop

these skills, it was felt by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Planning Commission that the population aged seven years and above should be recorded as literates unlike the practice till 1981 census of canvassing the question for population aged five year and above.

The 1991 census shows that 52.12 percent of population is literate. This percentage indicates that about half of India's population is still illiterate. In developed western countries literacy rates as high as 98 percent have been achieved. About 97 percent of the world's illiterates today live in less developed countries (Tilak 1980 : 32).

India's literacy performance has been good despite low literacy. However, there exists vast regional disparities in literacy and among various subgroups of population. On one hand, there is Kerala with 89.8 percent topping the list; on the other hand, Rajasthan with 31.9 percent literacy is at the lowest bottom. This unequal development in Indian literacy is due to various social, economic and political reasons. Areas which have a strong base of historical socio-economic development, infrastructure and certain political back-up generally demonstrate a high literacy level. In the present endeavour Maharashtra has been selected as a state for studying various issues pertaining to literacy.

I.2 **CHOICE OF STUDY AREA**

Today, Maharashtra is India's most urbanized State with equally good performance in the development of modern

2

education. During the British period, Bombay was a major node of colonial development, thus it acquired extraordinary significance as a centre of higher education. But British policies regarding literacy were discriminatary which led to uneven development of literacy in colonial Maharashtra. This resulted in considerable regional variation within Maharashtra even as overall literacy rates have been higher for the State. In Maharashtra there are areas which are lagging behind as compared to other areas like Marathwada and Vidarbha. These two regions are relatively backward when compared with Konkan and Deccan region which are more advanced.

Although scheduled caste have a generally low level of literacy as compared to the non-scheduled population of the State, the scheduled castes of Maharashtra have a higher proportion of literates among their population than their counterparts in the rest of India in general (Ahmed and Nuna 1986:135).

The scheduled tribes have not performed so well in comparison to scheduled castes and situation is worse if scheduled tribe literacy is compared with non-scheduled population's literacy. As elsewhere in India, literacy variation in Maharashtra is located in historical context which continue to affect the contemporary scene.

Social reform movements specially among scheduled castes have been significant in certain parts of Maharashtra. However, these movements were not as intensive

as some of the movements of trade unions, peasants association and other non-governmental organization in other parts of country such as Kerala and West Bengal. Notwithstanding this Maharashtra does not have semi-feudal, political economy as is the case with parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh (Saldanha 1995:1174).

This midway position of Maharashtra provides a useful reference period for analysis of literacy located in a given socio-economic and political context. The selection of the state of Maharashtra for the present analysis is contingent upon this reality.

I.3 **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this study are as follows:

i) To place Maharashtra's literacy performance in the overall Indian perspective and to find out the spatio - temporal variation in literacy of Maharashtra during 1961 - 1991;

ii) To observe the growth in literacy in general as well as in the various segments of the population; and

iii) To observe the gender disparities among non-scheduled, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes literacy.

I.4 **DATA BASE**

The present study is entirely based on secondary sources. In the view of the objectives of this study, the data for different indicators were drawn from the following sources:-

i)   Census of India 1961, Vol. X; Maharashtra Part II-A, General Population tables.

ii)   Census of India 1961, Vol. X, Maharashtra, Part II - C (i) Social and Cultural tables.

iii) Census of India 1971, series 11; Maharashtra, Part II - A General Population tables.

iv)   Census of India 1971, Series 11 - Maharashtra, Part II - C (ii) Social and Cultural tables.

v)   Social and cultural tables 1981, Part iv - A

vi)   Census of India 1981, series 12, Part IX (iv), Special tables for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

vii) Census of India 1991; India Series - 1, Final Population totals: Brief Analysis of Primary Census Abstract, Paper - 2 of 1992.

viii) Census of India 1991. Series - 1, Union Primary census Abstract for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Paper 1 of 1993.

ix)   Economic Intelligence service, profiles of districts, Nov. 1993, CMIE publication. (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.).

x)   Statistical Abstract of Maharashtra State, handbook of basic statistics of Maharashtra state 1985-86.

I.5 **METHODOLOGY**

For the analysis of the set objectives both quantitative and qualitative methods have been used. The qualitative methods involves the analysis of supportive evidence from literature survey and the quantitative methods

5

include the use of various statistical methods. In the following paragraphs, some of these methods are explained in greater details.

Literacy Rates:

Literacy rates for various segments of the population i.e. scheduled castes, scheduled tribes have been calculated with the help of the following formula

$$\text{Literacy rate:} \quad \frac{\text{Total literates in each group}}{\text{Total Population in that group}} \times 100$$

Literacy rates have been calculated for male-female and the rural-urban segments of the population.

In order to compute the decadal growth rate of literacy in the various districts of Maharashtra during given period of time, the following formula has been used;

$$\text{Growth rate:} \quad \frac{X2 - X1}{X1} \times 100$$

X1: Number of literates at the initial reference period.

X2: Number of literates at the terminal reference period.

Gender disparities and disparities among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes literates is measured by using the Sopher's disparity index as modified by Kundu.[1] (Kundu and Rao 1986:469) The modify formula is as follows.

$$DIK = \log X2/X1 + \log (200 - X1)/(200 - X2)$$

$$\text{where } X2 \geq X1$$

----

1. Sopher's measurement of disparity necessitates the transformation of original series into logrithmice series. If the observations X1, X2, X3, etc (indicated as percentages) are replaced by 100-X1 and 100-X2, the value of the index should become negative while its magnitude remains unchanged. Sopher's index may be expressed as :
$D_s = \text{Log.} \; X_2 / X_1 + \text{Log} (100 - X_1 / (100 - X_2)$

6

Lastly, choroplething technique has been used to depict the calculated data and to observe the respective patterns related to literacy. These maps have been done for 26 districts. It may be noted that according to 1991 census Maharashtra has 30 districts. However, the district data of 1991 have been adjusted to conform the earlier numbers of districts in order to retain comparability over time.

I.5 **SCHEME OF CHAPTERS**

This Study is organized into four chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction, conceptual and analytical framework.

Second chapter analyses overall growth rates of literacy as well as the growth rates of literacy for non - scheduled population, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes populations. This chapter deals with these aspects at district level.

The Third Chapter deals with the Indian scenario of disparities in literacy followed by an attempt to observe the region-wise temporal disparities in male - female, rural - urban, scheduled castes and scheduled tribe population over four decades starting from 1961 to 1991. This is followed by some additional observations regarding a few socio-economic parameters which are significant in explaining the observed pattern.

Finally, the fourth chapter sums up the discussion together with the findings of the study.

I.6 **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In general, the literature on the spatial aspect of literacy is not much. However, there are scholars who have tried to contribute significantly to the study of general pattern of literacy. In this section an attempt has been made to review the available studies from various sources. Although, a clear-cut classification is not always possible; an attempt has been made to classify the literature according to the focus of the study in the following manner:

a)   All India level studies.

b)   Regional/State level studies.

c)   Scheduled caste/tribe studies.

a) **All India Level Studies**

Schwartzberg (1961) has attempted an analysis of overall state-wise growth rate of literacy in India. He has concluded that the progress of literacy depends upon urbanization and the economic development of the area.

Gosal's (1964) analysis of literacy in India may be mentioned as one of the earliest studies on the subject. He found out in his study that "Literacy is positively correlated with urbanization and agriculture prosperity". He observed that coastal areas tend to have high literacy because of long contacts with overseas areas. He further stresses that west coast is more literate because it has had long and more continuous overseas contacts. He has finally attempted to correlate the literacy rate with male-female differential in literacy.

8

Tirtha's (1966) study deals with the pattern of literacy among males and females in the year 1961 in India. Social taboos like child marriage and the seclusion of women are the factors which account for low literacy, specially among females.

Gore (1972) in his book _Sociology of Education_ has given a brief note on the disparity in education among men and women. He has discussed the education for various religious groups as well as for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. He also finds out that among muslims disparity in literacy is more than any other religious groups.

Krishan and Shyam (1973) in their paper entitled, "Progress of Female Literacy in India" have attempted district level study to examine the spatial pattern and progress of female literacy in India during 1901 to 1971. This paper throws light on the fact that low female literacy corresponds to the self-contained rural life, oral worship religion, early marriage and absence of local rural schools for females. The literacy among tribal female spread due to the missionary activities. The coasts, specially the western coast and the deltaic areas have high female literacy rates. These authors pointed out that "low female literacy is related to the muslim population, non-christian, tribal areas and Hindi speaking areas" (1973:206).

Krishan and Shyam's (1974) analysis on the literacy pattern in Indian cities brings out that areas of muslim

dominance tend to have low literacy, especially among women, but authors offer no reason for this phenomenon (1974:800). They further observe that the literacy level is related to the location, function, population composition and the size of the city. According to the authors, illiteracy in Indian cities is due to the large scale migration of population from rural areas to the cities. They have taken the help of many socio-economic development indicators in order to correlate literacy with them.

In yet another paper, Krishan and Shyam (1977) have dealt with the spatial pattern of literacy and sex disparity therein India. They have, also examined the progress in literacy from 1901-1971. The high literacy rate is associated with the exposure to the external forces, social and political influences, presence of christian missionaries and per capita income. Differentials in literacy among different communities depend on their needs and opportunities for different degree of education.

Mitra (1975) has done a comparative study of literacy between 1951 and 1961. He stressed that literacy and education are concomital factor of agriculture and industrial growth. He had dealt with illiteracy on elaborate basis and discussed social factors which results in a low growth of literacy.

Premi's (1976) futuristic study is for literacy pattern in India for 1986. He assumed that the children between 5-14 years age will become literate through the school education upto 1986. The male and female literacy

will be 75 percent and 50 percent respectively for the total population. But, unfortunately estimates made by Premi did not come true and according to 1991 census only 64.2 percent male and 39.4 percent female were recorded as literate.

Tilak (1978) in his article focused on the disparities in literacy rate of various region in India. He attributed the problems of inequality in levels of literacy in India across several regions, due to the lack of presence of political will. He also points out correlation between high level of literacy rates and British links. He proposed few hypotheses such as (i) backward population has a negative relation with literacy, (ii) the low urban and rural ratios influence literacy levels negatively, and (iii) high ratio of industrial and agriculture workers positively influences the literacy rate. He, further, stresses that a sex ratio in favour of female is seen to have a positive impact on literacy.

Sopher (1980) in one of the important works brings out the sex disparity in Indian literacy. He incorporated the factors like constant links with outside near the coastal areas, christian missionaries and emigration to overseas from states like Punjab, Gujarat and Tamilnadu as explanatory variables in high literacy level. He has tried to explain gender disparities by taking religion and caste into consideration and concludes that in north India sex disparity is more. There are pockets of high disparity whereas in south Indian States there are no anomalous blocks

of very high disparity. Hindus of south Indian states are having less sex-disparity than their north Indian counterparts.

Raza and Agrawal (1984) in their paper have analyzed the spatial pattern of inequality in literacy between various social groups at various levels i.e. between scheduled castes and non-scheduled population between scheduled tribes and non-scheduled and between male and female segments of population. According to them, the disparities in educational development are due to the composite effect of distortions embedded in the system during the colonial period. They also found that high disparities are closely associated with rural literacy, cultivators, agricultural workers.

Tilak (1985) argues the fact that education contribute to economic growth and to equitable distribution of income. He has also attempted statistically to test the hypotheses that the "the role of education in economic development is significantly higher in developing countries than in developed countries and the impact also varies by levels of education". Result of this hypothesis indicated that education is a potential tool for economic growth pointing out significant relationship between economic growth and education. This observation is more valid for underdeveloped countries than the developed countries.

Nuna (1985) in his paper on the female literacy in India (1901-1981) has discussed the spatial pattern of female literacy. According to his study a high female

literacy is associated with high urbanization, economic development, agricultural prosperity and missionary activities. Tribals and Muslim have low female literacy due to prejudices against women's education.

Karlekar's (1986) study on the underdevelopment of education throws light on the general backwardness of people in India as far as literacy is concerned. She observes that educational policy appears more effective in opening new institutions than keeping children in school and the wastage continues to be observed in educational expansion.

Indira and Sujatha (1988) in their paper on female literacy for India go back to vedic period where there existed healthy tradition of women's education. In later period, the overall condition of education among women deteriorated. In contemporary context, literacy among females in one of the lowest despite the fact that a literate women can contribute more to literacy than her counterpart as she lays the foundation in a child's life.

Mathias (1988) gives a perspective of Asian women. She gives historical, social and economic reasons for the backwardness of Asian and Indian women. She focuses on the slow growth of literacy in India particularly for women and states that lack of real commitment is to be blamed for all low levels of literacy.

Zaidi (1988) has studied the sex disparities based on the Sopher's disparity index. He says that feelings regarding women's education is changing, but females are

still lagging behind males in the field of education.

Zaidi (1988) in yet another paper has examined the relationship between economic development and educational attainment of seventeen major states. The economic development is measured in terms of literacy rates. Preliminary results of this paper showed a positive relationship between economic development and the capabilities of states to undertake educational development.

Aggrawal's (1988) study focuses on the lower spread of universal literacy and mentions the fact that illiterates are still increasing at a higher rates than literates. He stresses the importance of the educational development for overall development and reduction in the number of illiterates. According to him for policy making both rural and urban variables should be taken into consideration.

Raza (1990) has described education as "deeply embedded in the social situation which may be considered to be the crucial anthropogenetic lever of social transformation" (1990:1). He stresses the very fact that education is intrinsically intertwined with the development process and this constitutes the instrumentality of the modernization of tradition. The author finds out that inherited structure of colonial education is the root cause of disparities in Indian literacy and further observes that British education pattern still exists despite planned strategies to remove inherited disparities in literacy.

Raju (1991) in her study based on the caste and gender disparities in literacy in urban India argues that

urbanization has reduced the gender disparities in all segments of population, but caste disparities still exist. She attributes low caste disparities in Maharashtra to specific social movements.

Guru's (1991) study concludes that productivity of a country is positively related to the type and extent of education and literacy level of its people. At the same time, however, he is in search for answers to low levels of education in developing countries where every year illiterates are added to already existing high numbers of illiterates.

Premi (1991) has analyzed the state level as well as district level literacy data in India based on the provisional data of 1991 census. He is of the opinion that although there has been tremendous increase in male literacy, female literacy lags far behind and despite planned inputs, regional distortions prevail.

According to Pandey (1991), high rate of literacy is found in Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra, west Bengal and lowest literacy rate is found in Rajasthan where female literacy is the lowest due to social taboos prevailing in Rajasthan since a long time.

Rama Rao and Sundarshanam (1992) have shown the development of education in Pre-British, British and the post independence periods in India. During the British period only a small number of female population could attain the high level of literacy, and scheduled caste and

scheduled tribe population were fully deprived of educational facilities.

Prakash, Gupta and Buragahain (1992) in their paper titled "Economic Growth and Literacy : An International Experience", observed that role of education in economic growth at macro level has always been recognized by economists. According to them modern theory treats education as a good investment and education is postulated to contribute both directly and indirectly to the growth of national and per capita income. International experience offers four typologies (i) highly literate countries with low per capita income are at one and of the spectrum such as Shri Lanka, Burma, China, Laos and Tanzania.
(ii) countries with high income and with low literacy rate, i.e., middle east countries.
(iii) third world countries are characterized by low literacy and low per capita income profiles, and
(iv) high income and high literacy in the countries of the developed world appears at the other end of the spectrum.

b) **Regional/State Level Studies:**

Ahmed and Nuna (1986) in their study on the inequality in literacy levels in Maharastra hold responsible the colonial period and deep rooted social taboo against scheduled castes and tribes for the inequality in literacy level. However, social movements in Maharastra have led to generally high level of literacy among scheduled castes as compared to their counterpart in other parts of India.

According to Lele (1989) regionalism gives rise to distinct identity to Maharastra. He identifies the problem of regional imbalance at the beginning of the sixth-five year plan due to differential development whereby Vidharbha and Marathwada are generally backward and western Maharastra is highly developed.

Gore (1989) in his analytically argued article about the social movements and development of the region, states that geographical environment, level of technological development and demographic situation never remain constant. They undergo change over time period. In this analysis Gore points out that educational backwardness of Marathwada resulted in social movement which ultimately led to high literacy rates among the Dalits of Maharashtra.

Prabhu and Sarkar (1992) talks about general levels of development in Maharastra based on various indicators. There are twenty indicators taken by them which relates to agriculture, industry, human resource and infrastructure. The results showed that districts with low levels of literacy are also backward in other aspects.

c) **Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Studies:**

Chitnis (1961) based his study on 1961 census for Maharashtra's scheduled castes. She points out that literacy is very low in areas with a large concentration of scheduled caste population. She states that disparity between the scheduled castes and the total population is uniformly high everywhere. This disparity is more pronounced in Bombay division and least pronounced in Nagpur division.

17

Chitnis (1972) in another paper, probing the case of scheduled castes in higher education, believes that education is expected to clear the ground for the quality of the scheduled castes. She observes that even the policy of reservation for scheduled caste student in higher education is ill-founded.

D'Souza (1980) has attempted to analyse the educational attainment of scheduled caste in Punjab. He brings out the differences in scheduled caste literacy in general and inter-caste disparities in particular whereby some castes have made a more rapid progress than few others.

Sharma (1983) observes the backwardness of tribal students in the field of education. He states that success of a tribal welfare schemes depends mainly on the need to educate the tribals to increase their literacy percentage and to inculcate an awareness in them towards their rights and duties. He says that if teachers take responsibilities on their shoulder, the academic backwardness of scheduled tribes will be reduced. He gives financial, familial and psychological reasons along with lack of encouragement and uncertainty of future mixed with low level of intelligence which culminate into low level of literacy.

Shastri (1985) in his study brings forth the fact that scheduled tribes have an overall low level of literacy. This feature is quite pronounced in areas where large chunk of tribal people are staying. He has taken Vidarbha as the study area where economic and social backwardness has

resulted in low literacy. Vidarbha with a poor agricultural based economy has disparities which are more glaring in scheduled tribes male-female segments as compared to scheduled caste and general population. He concludes that tribal educational problem is more of a social problem than that of resource endownment.

Ahmad and Nuna's (1987) paper indicate the social and economic deprivation of scheduled tribes. Concentration of tribal population in few pockets and engagement of almost everyone in the primary economic activities plus poverty leaves a bad impact on the education of tribals.

Aijaz and Monga (1988) observe that scheduled casts and scheduled tribes literacy has increased considerably over time but they are still not at par with general population. The most significant finding of this paper is that at all India level the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes literacy growth rates were higher in the three states i.e. Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, and Orissa than the general literacy growth rate.

Mishra (1988) attributes backwardness of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in educational field to the structured society on caste lines in such a way that despite all efforts for equalizing general literacy, levels remain quite low.

Dash's (1991) paper is an attempt to focus attention on the inequality in educational development of tribes in Orissa with literacy as an indicator and district as the unit of analysis. He finds that the highest variation is in

19

the case of females of both rural and urban residences and the relative deprivation of the scheduled tribe rural female population is more. The study suggest that inter and inter-district variation in education would be removed by taking into consideration the socio-economic and geographical features of the regions in the planning process.

Heredia (1992) indicate towards low economic states and socio-cultural reasons for the low literacy rates among scheduled caste population. He also finds out that the literacy level is lowest among the scheduled caste rural females.

Fig. II.1

LOCATION OF MAHARASHTRA IN INDIA

KILOMETRES
100 0 100 200 300 400

MAHARASHTRA

ARABIAN
SEA

BAY
OF
BENGAL

INDIAN   OCEAN
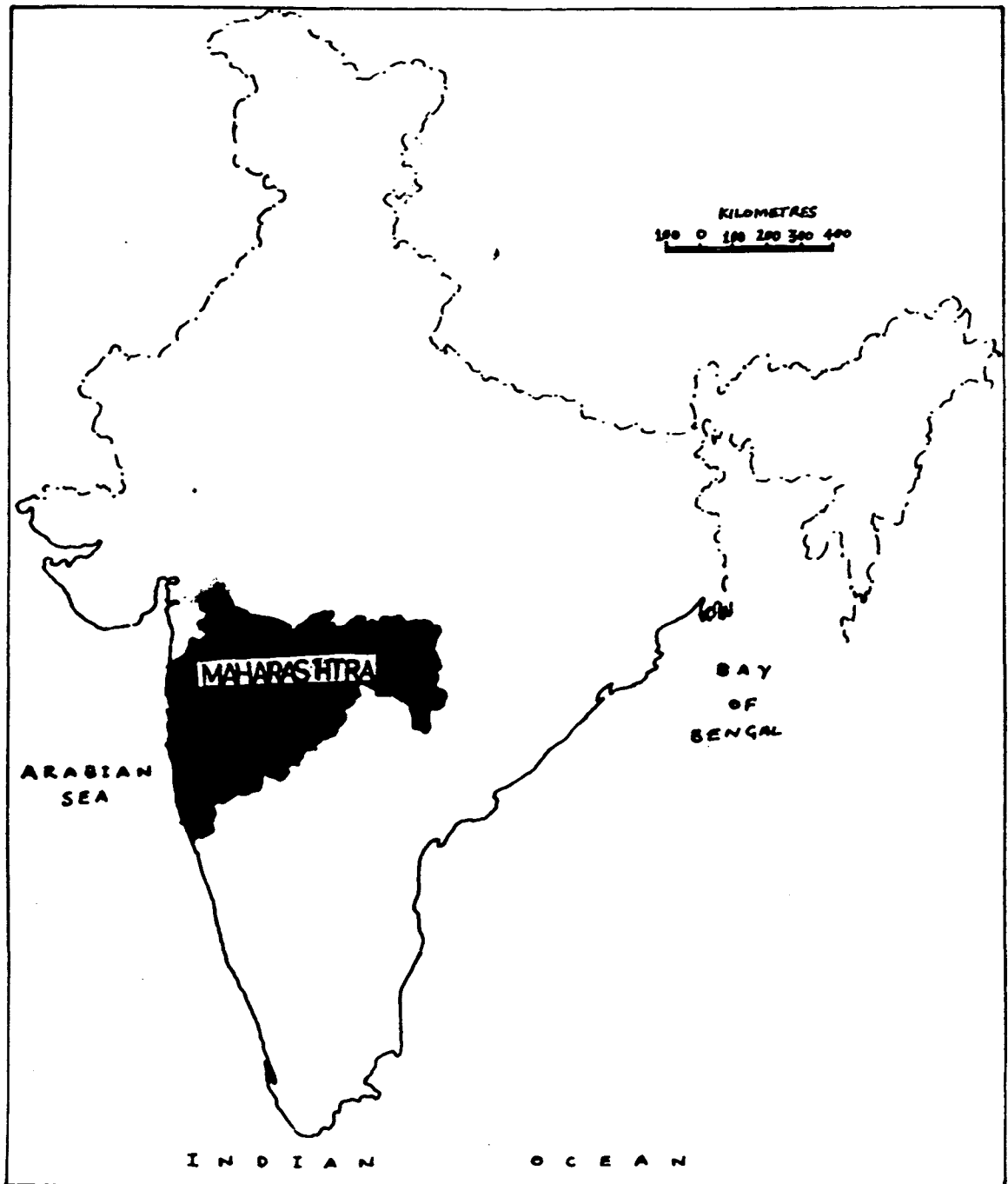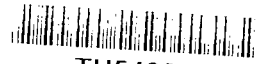
CHAPTER II

SPATIO-TEMPORAL PERFORMANCE OF LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA

II.1 INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Maharashtra is the focus for this study. The state of Maharashtra came into being on 1st May 1960 as a result of bifurcation of the composite Bombay state which had been created in 1956 by combining the old Bombay state with Saurashtra and Kutch. The Vidarbha region from old Madhya Pradesh and Marathwada from Hyderabad were united to form the state of Maharashtra.

The state of Maharashtra is situated in the west of India and spreads between 15°-45' North to 20°-00' North and 42°-45' to 80°-45' East longitudes (Fig. 1). The Arabian sea forms the western boundary whereas Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli to the north-west adore its boundaries; Madhya Pradesh is situated to the north and east and Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa are to the south of the State.

Maharashtra has a geographical area of 307, 690 Km^2 and it forms a major part of peninsular India. Maharashtra comprises of two major natural regions. Firstly, Deccan plateau which covers the large part of the state extending beyond the limits of the State. Sahyadri range runs from north to south in the west and Satpura extends west to east in the north of the State.

The other major region is the coastal low lands of Konkan which lies west of Sahydari and extends from north to south. Maharashtra has a tropical monsoon type climate

TH- 5402

MAHARASHTRA
ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES (1981)

20 0   20 40 60 80 MILES

DHULE

JALGAON

AMRAVATI

NAGPUR

BHANDARA

NASIK

BULDANA

AKOLA

WARDHA

THANE

AURANGABAD

YAVATMAL

CHANDRAPUR

AHMEDNAGER

PARBHANI

G.
BOMBAY

BID

NANDED

RAIGARH →

PUNE

OSMANABAD

SATARA

SOLAPUR

RATANAGIRI →

SANGLI

KOLHAPUR

Fig.II.2

having three different seasons i.e. rainy season (June to end of October), winter (November to February) and Summer (March to May).

It receives maximum rains from south-west monsoon. Although south-east monsoon also lashes the State, former is more important to this area. Tropical wet- evergreen type forests are found along the western ghats and south of Bombay where they thrive on rainfall above 3000 mm.(Singh 1971). Moving towards eastward further into the Vidarbha plains and hills, the vegetation tends to become denser and of wetter type.

Administratively, the state is divided into four divisions (6 in 1991) namely Bombay, Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur. These divisions have 30 districts (in 1991) with 232 tehsils, 4,833 village and 307 towns. It may be recalled that in 1991 census data for literates was collected for thirty districts. Four districts were bifurcated after 1981. The bifurcated districts are Ratanagiri, Aurangabad, Osmanabad and Chandrapur. They have been clubbed together again for comparison with earlier census count. For the purpose of map making administrative boundaries of 1981 has been used (Fig. 2).

ECONOMY

Agriculture: About 70 percent of population in the State depends on agriculture. Net irrigated area till 1991-92 was 26-40 lakh hectares. However, gross irrigated area was increased by surface irrigation. The State is an

22

important producer of oilseeds and cash crops like cotton, sugarcane and tobacco etc.

Industry: With its key location linking the northern and southern parts of the country, Maharashtra is India's industrial and economic backbone and provides opportunities galore to enterprising entrepreneur. While accounting for around ten percent of Country's area and population, it accounts for 23 percent of its total industrial output. The State offers the largest market for electronic products with Bombay in the lead.

Transport/Communication: Total length of roads in the State is 2,08,183 kms consisting of 2,959 kms national highway, 30,975 kms State highways, 61,522 kms village roads and 40,164 km unclassified roads.

Maharashtra has approximately 5,440 kms of railway route of which about 3,356 kms is broad gauge.

Language : Marathi language speakers are in absolute majority (over 50 percent) in all the districts except in Greater Bombay. (Singh 1966)

According to 1991 census scheduled castes were 7.1 percent to total population and scheduled tribes were 9.7 percent to the total population of Maharashtra. Dhule has (40.8%) the highest percentage of scheduled tribe population to its total population followed by Chandrapur (25.5%). On the other hand Solapur has (14.3%) the highest percentage of scheduled caste population to the total population, followed by Sangli (11.2%) and Bid (11.5%).

MAHARASHTRA : FOUR MAJOR REGIONS

REGIONS

- MARATHWADA
- VIDHARBHA
- DECCAN
- KONKAN

Fig.113

REGION BOUNDARY
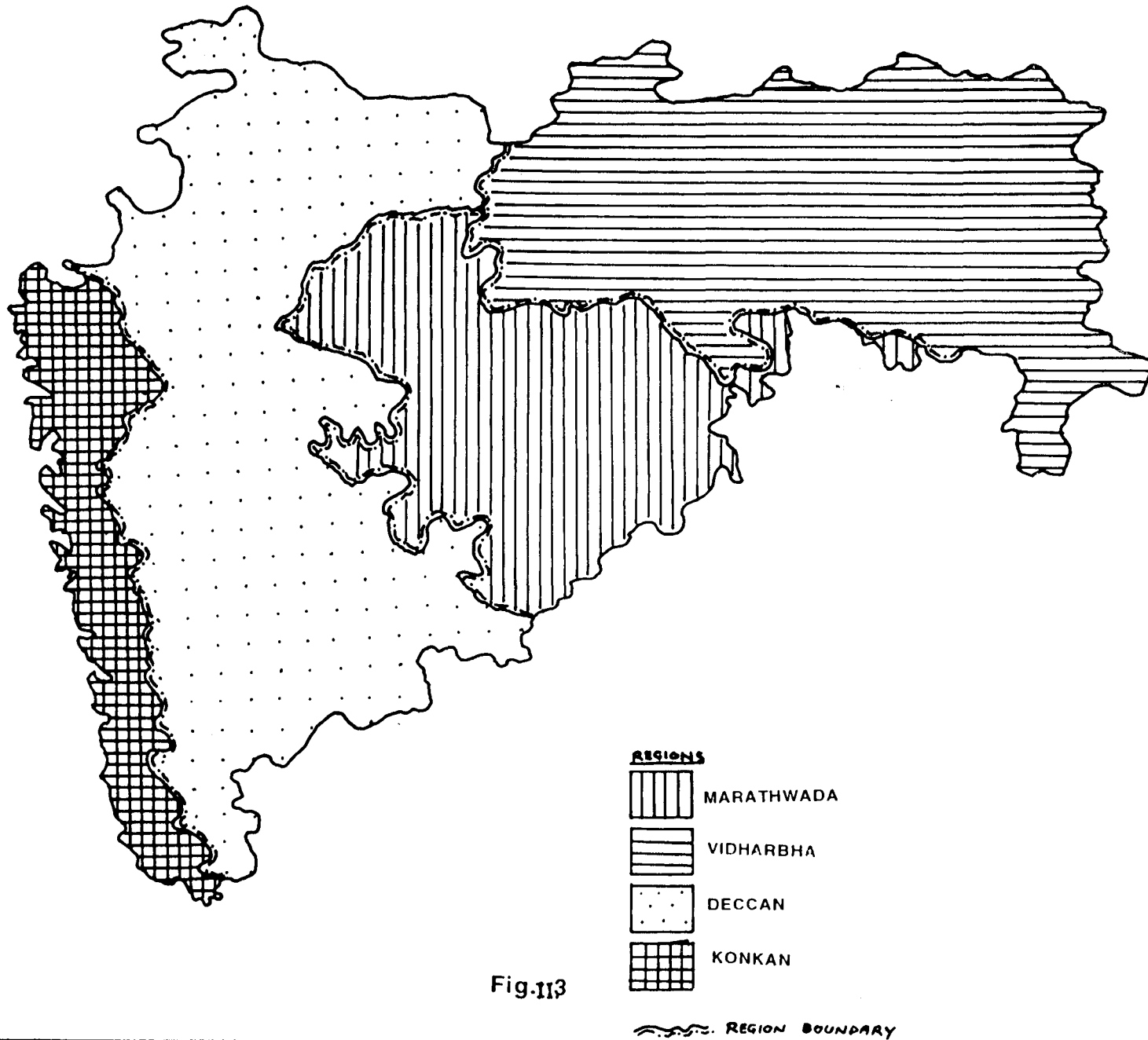
II.2 REGIONS OF MAHARASHTRA:

The Maratha country consists of four principal regions (Singh 1966:3) (Fig.3). This study has focused on these regions in order to observe the regional pattern of literacy and disparities. As such, a brief description of these four regions is in following order :

(1) The Konkan Coast

(2) Bombay Deccan

(3) Vidarbha

(4) Marathwada

Although, these regions are primarily based on physical attributes, it is quite interesting to look at them in companion with resource endownment and overall development.

Following are the districts falling under each region:

1. Konkan Coastal Region: Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Thane and Greater Bombay.

2. Bombay Deccan Region: Dhule, Jalgaon, Nasik, Ahmadnagar, Pune, Satara, Sholapur, Sangli and Kolhapur.

3. Vidarbha Region: Chandrapur, Bhandara, Nagpur, Wardha, Amravati, Akola, Yavatmal and Buldana.

4. Marathwada Region: Osmanabad, Bid, Aurangabad, Parbhani and Nanded.

All these four regions have a distinct place in the economy and politics of Maharashtra. Konkan with poor relief, leteritic soil, heavy rain and dense vegetation has poor acreage of cultivated land per capita of agricultural population. The Deccan has the highest percentage of the

irrigated area (53.0%) in the State and accounts for more than half the quantity of fertilizer, credits and the Pumpsets used in Maharashtrian agriculture (Prabhu Sarkar 1992).

Marathwada and Vidarbha's agriculture is in need of irrigation because agriculture here is mostly rainfed. Thus overall Maharashtra is a study in contrasts. On one hand there are pockets of highly developed industrialized centres and on the other hand, vast areas of agricultural backwardness like marathwada exists.

The reasons for such contrast in development are historical. The existence of a fine port in Bombay has, over a period of years, transformed the Bombay region into humming centre of industrial activity.

In contrast, region like Vidhabha, Marathwada and to a certain extent Deccan remained relatively backward. These areas lacked the enterpreneurship as well as private capital for utilizing the indigenous resources for industrialization. Agriculture remained the principal activity and like in other regions of India their development was tardy. (AERI 1973)

Due to high level of development in non-agricultural activities, the per capita income of the State works out to be significantly higher than the national average. However, if the contribution of Greater Bombay area is to be excluded, the state is as backward as a few other parts of the country (AERI 1963).

As the following analysis brings out at several places,

these socio-economic indicators of development have a direct bearing on literacy. In the following section an overview of Indian literacy and place of Maharashtra in this overall literacy has been assessed.

II.3 **LITERACY IN INDIA**

Literacy is an important indicator of development and plays a vital role in the socio-economic progress of the country. India as a developing country needs a very high literacy level for her overall development. In today's modern world where nations are possessing high level of literacy and industrialization, India still lags behind.

TABLE 1

PROGRESS OF LITERACY IN INDIA (1901-1991).

CENSUS YEAR	TOTAL LITERACY	MALE LITERACY	FEMALE LITERACY	MALE/FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY
1901	5.35	5.53	0.69	0.91
1910	9.92	10.26	1.69	0.80
1921	7.16	12.21	1.81	0.84
1931	9.50	15.59	2.93	0.75
1941	16.10	24.90	7.30	0.57
1951	16.67	24.95	7.93	0.54
1961	24.02	34.44	12.95	0.48
1971	29.46	39.45	18.72	0.38
1981	36.23	46.89	24.72	0.33
1991*	52.20	64.63	39.29	0.28

Source: Premi, M. K.-1991
Note* The literacy rates for 1991 has been calculated for the population 7 years of age.

1991 census has given us a sense of pride by indicating that 52 percent of India's population has become literate in which the male literacy level is 65.5 percent and that of female is 39.2 percent. These rates are related to the population aged 7 and above and the rate for both

sexes together show an improvement of roughly 9 percentage point over the 1981 rate of 43 percent for the same age group (Premi 1991:65).

The literacy rates were quite low till 1931. Table 1 shows that in 1941 there was a sudden jump in literacy rates from 9.5 in 1931 to 16.1 in 1941 but it remained almost at the same level 16.7 in 1951. Since then there is a monotonic increase of 7 to 8 percent points in each of the decades. The increase in female literacy has been higher as compared to males leading to considerable decline in male female disparities. (Premi 1991 : 78)

It should be noted from the available data that despite the rise in literacy both among males and female there has been an increase in absolute numbers of illiterates in the country in each of the census.

The number of illiterates increased from 334 million in 1961 to 492 million in 1991. These figures indicate illiterate aged four and above; but if population aged above 7 is taken into consideration then according to 1991 census illiterates will be only 328.88 million and literates will count as many as on 359.28 million. (Census 1991 : 62)

11.4 **INTER-STATE LITERACY PROFILES:**

The all India situation, however, conceals more than what it reveals. There are wide gaps in the levels of literacy rates when state wise figures are observed. Table 2 gives the picture of literacy rates as well as of the ranks according to these rates. A glance at the table shows that

despite an overall increase in literacy rates, the relative position of the states has not shifted much. For example, Kerala has maintained its first rank throughout the period of 1961-1991 whereas Uttar Pradesh has maintained its 13th position from 1961 to 1991. There are few exceptions, however, like Maharashtra has moved up from 4th position in 1961 to 2nd position in 1991. Most impressive progress in literacy rates has been achieved by Himachal Pradesh which moved up to 3rd rank in 1991 from 8th rank in 1961. The lowest ranks, that is 15th and 16th have been occupied by Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir respectively.

TABLE 2
STATE - WISE LITERACY RATES AND RANKS (1961-1991)

STATES	1961***	R	1971	R	1981	R	1991**	R
KERALA	46.8	1	60.4	1	70.4	1	89.8	1
TAMILNADU	31.4	2	39.4	2	46.4	3	60.6	4
GUJARAT	30.4	3	35.7	4	43.7	4	61.5	5
MAHARASHTRA	29.8	4	39.1	3	47.2	2	64.8	2
WEST BENGAL	29.2	5	33.2	6	40.9	6	57.7	7
PUNJAB	26.7	6	33.6	5	40.8	7	58.5	6
KARNATAKA	25.4	7	31.5	8	38.4	8	56.0	8
HIMACHAL P.	21.2	8	31.9	7	42.4	5	63.8	3
ORISSA	21.6	9	26.1	10	34.2	10	39.0	10
ANDHRA P.	21.2	10	24.5	11	29.9	11	44.0	12
HARYANA	19.9	11	26.8	9	36.1	9	58.8	9
BIHAR	18.4	12	19.9	14	26.2	15	38.4	14
U.P.	17.6	13	21.7	13	27.2	13	41.6	13
M.P.	17.1	14	22.1	12	27.8	12	44.2	11
RAJASTHAN	15.2	15	19.0	15	24.4	16	38.5	15
* JAMMU AND KASHMIR	11.0	16	18.6	16	26.6	14	-	-

* No census was conducted in 1991.
Source ** census of India Final Population Total: Brief Analysis of Primary Census Abstract, paper 2 of 1992. Series - 1
*** Census of India; A Handbook of Population on Statistics. 1988
Note : All other tables in this chapter has been calculated from census data collected from census of Maharashtra 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991.

The following rank correlations for male as well as female literacy show an overall pattern of temporal stability. As has been mentioned earlier, there is successive increase in the absolute levels of literacy, the relative position of various states have remained almost constant over the period under observation.

Thus rank correlations for females between successive decades are as follows r=0.90, r=0.88, r=0.95 for 1961-71, 1971-81, 1981-91 respectively. As far as males are concerned the rank correlation of their literacy rates between successive decades are also highly positively correlated. These values are r= 0.94, 0.96, 0.97 for the above stated time period.

Strong rank correlations between ranking of states over successive decades indicate towards the harsh fact that despite special inputs given to the educationally backward states, it is very difficult to overcome the traditional or historical disadvantages. Apart from governmental inputs, sustained interventions by various other agencies need to be made in favor of educationally backward major states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh (Premi 1991:69).

II.5 PROGRESS OF LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA

The discussion of all India level literacy clearly implies that India presents a case of inequitous development in the spread of Literacy. The inequity is very glaring between the privileged upper stratum of the Indian society

and the lagging groups down below. These inequalities in literacy could not be controlled despite its being the major concern in the development process (Raju 1991:114).

Maharashtra also has these problems as for as literacy is concerned. An analysis of the growth of literacy rates in different regions of Maharashtra shows that literacy was a preserve of a select few well into the 20th century (Saldanha 1995:1172). The literacy rate in Maharashtra which was 4.6 percent in 1901 rose only to 21.1 percent around the time of independence in 1951. But this growth did not spread out evenly among various sub-groups. There were gender disparities too in literacy rates among various sub-groups (Ahmed and Nuna 1986:131).

These disparities prevailed despite compulsory education of four year duration being introduced in the western Maharashtra and later extended to Vidarbha and Marathwada. With the implementation of compulsory education a large proportion of the younger generation of as large as 80 to 90 percent (age group 10 to 14), especially among males had acquired literacy (Parikh and Sinha : 1977). It is further observed that socio-economic strata which were hitherto backward in education are on the move and the pace of advance is often quite rapid. Education is making inroads among those sections of population who had in the past absolutely no background of education (Kamat 1968:128).

This general educational progress is however, not uniform everywhere, it is infact extremely uneven. Areas where schools have existed during the pre-independence

period had an early start in this respect and they are much ahead as compared to the backward areas where schools have been opened recently (Parikh and Sinha 1977).

The spread of education in Maharashtra is found to be very uneven among different socio-economic sections of the society. Progress of education among scheduled caste have been slower than non-scheduled, while scheduled tribes have had a slower pace than these two groups. So the gender disparities and inter-group disparities in literacy rates are evident throughout the districts and are sharper in districts with low literacy rates like in Marathwada (Saldanha 1995:1172).

Despite this growth of literacy has been significant during the 1961-1991 period. When Maharashtra was formed in 1960 its literacy was higher than the national average. Infact, even in 1901 literacy of erstwhile state of Bombay was higher than the national average (Ahmad and Nuna 1986: 133).

As per the census of 1951, the state of Bombay had an average literacy rate of 24.56 percent as against the national average of 16.67. The gap was, however, reduced in 1961 with the national average rising to 24.02 percent as compared to 29.82 percent for Maharashtra. The corresponding figures for 1981 was 47.02 percent for Maharashtra as against 36.12 percent for all India. In 1991, all India literacy rate was 42.14 and Maharashtra had 63.12 percent, much above the national average.

This development in literacy can be attributed to the major social movements which took place in Maharashtra and later helped in uplifting the downtrodden people by educating them. These efforts helped a lot in bringing up the overall literacy level of people in Maharashtra. Jotirao Phule in the second half of 19th century worked for lower caste's education who were most deprived section ruled over by Brahmin's dominance (O'Halion 1988).

Phule established 'Satyashodhak Samaj' in 1870 for social reforms which later became the important institution for women's education. This society firmly believed in attacking the root cause of illiteracy and ignorance by providing education to all section of society (O'Halion : 234).

During the first two decades of this century, enrollment of the children of the low casts and untouchable registered a steady increase. Thus in 1921-22 the untouchable pupils accounted for 4.59 percent of all primary school enrollment in the Bombay presidency (Ahmad and Nuna 1986:133).

During 2nd half of this century Bhaurao Patil founded 'Rayat Sikshan Sanstha' which was instrumental in the spread of primary education in and around Satara district (Kadiyal 1987).

These social reforms and institutions had great impact on the rural education as well as on urban education. The period since independence was dominated by the social reform movement led by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. The leadership

provided by Dr. Ambedkar to the backward communities of the state generated a new climate for the realization of civil rights and eventually paved the way for the spread of literacy on an unprecedented scale (Phadke 1975).

Gram Shikshan Mohim launched in 1961 and Kishan Shikshan Yojna started in the time period of fourth five - year plan have also helped in gaining the fruits of literacy (Parikh and Sinha 1977).

11.6 NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA

In this section, a brief analysis of the spatio-temporal literacy performance of non-scheduled population has been discussed. Non-scheduled population has been obtained by subtracting scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population from total population of each district.

a) Overall Non-Scheduled Literacy

In the year 1961 overall literacy figure indicates that the level of literacy for the total non-scheduled population varies from as high as 58.60 percent in Greater Bombay to as low as 16.49 percent in Bid. Greater Bombay (58.6%), Thane (41.6%), Jalgaon (36.08%), Dhule (36.2%), Pune (35.9%) and Amravati are the districts with largest percentage of non-scheduled literates in the State whereas Osmanabad (18.7%) Nanded (16.9%), Parbhani (16.5%) and Bid (16.4%) are the districts with lowest percentage of literates during 1961 (Table-3)

Another peculiar characteristic of non-scheduled literacy which can be inferred from table 3 is that although

there is a marked variation between the literacy rates of twenty-six districts within the State, there is considerable similarity between the percentage of the literates within the different districts in the same region (with the exception of Bombay). For example, in the Deccan region which includes districts of Nasik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Pune, Satara and Sangli, the total population has literacy ranging from 27 percent to 36 percent. Five districts have nearly same literacy or just one percent difference among them.

TABLE- 3
LITERACY AMONG NON-SCHEDULED 1961

STATE/DIST.	TP			TR			TU		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
MAHARASTRA	32.2	45.0	18.5	30.6	36.5	12.1	52.3	62.7	39.3
G. BOMBAY	58.6	65.1	48.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.0	65.0	48.3
THANE	41.5	54.3	27.1	31.7	46.5	16.1	55.1	64.4	43.8
RAIGARH	26.7	39.7	14.6	23.6	36.7	11.6	52.1	62.7	41.0
RATANAGIRI	28.8	42.6	17.6	26.8	40.6	15.9	50.8	61.6	39.9
NASIK	33.9	48.6	18.1	27.0	42.3	11.3	47.7	60.6	32.9
DHULE	36.2	52.1	19.6	32.5	48.9	15.6	47.9	61.9	32.5
JALGAON	36.0	51.9	19.4	32.6	48.9	15.7	47.3	61.6	31.6
AHMADNAGAR	28.5	42.0	14.4	25.3	38.8	11.4	53.1	65.9	38.7
PUNE	35.9	47.9	23.1	23.3	36.0	10.6	53.5	65.4	44.1
SATARA	34.5	48.0	21.6	32.0	45.6	19.3	55.2	60.9	42.5
SANGLI	29.0	43.0	14.3	28.2	41.1	15.3	46.9	60.8	31.7
SOLAPUR	27.0	39.2	13.9	28.7	31.9	8.7	42.0	56.0	26.6
KOLHAPUR	27.5	41.5	13.0	21.7	35.6	7.7	50.3	63.8	33.1
AURANGABAD	18.7	29.9	7.1	15.0	25.6	3.9	48.9	53.7	26.4
PARBHANI	16.5	27.0	5.6	13.6	23.4	3.5	33.6	47.2	18.8
BID	16.4	26.7	5.9	14.1	23.8	4.2	36.2	50.7	20.4
NANDED	16.9	27.5	5.9	13.8	23.8	3.6	33.3	46.9	18.6
OSMANABAD	18.7	30.1	6.8	16.4	27.3	5.0	37.0	51.8	20.8
BULDANA	27.7	42.1	12.6	24.5	38.9	9.6	44.1	58.1	28.7
AKOLA	31.8	45.5	17.2	27.8	41.9	13.1	45.9	57.9	32.2
AMRAVATI	35.6	48.1	22.1	31.4	44.0	18.2	36.7	59.0	33.0
YAVATMAL	26.4	39.1	13.2	22.9	35.4	10.1	47.5	61.0	32.8
WARDHA	30.7	43.7	17.2	25.0	37.4	12.2	49.4	63.5	34.0
NAGPUR	30.4	48.3	21.6	21.4	34.4	8.0	49.9	64.1	34.5
BHANDRA	29.0	39.9	18.1	21.6	37.2	6.2	44.4	61.8	25.9
CHANDRAPUR	19.4	31.9	16.7	17.0	29.0	4.9	44.8	61.3	26.6

TABLE 4
LITERACY AMONG NON-SCHEDULED 1971

STATE/DIST.	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
MAHARASHTRA	41.9	54.0	28.8	33.4	45.0	18.4	59.3	67.3	48.8
G. BOMBAY	62.0	67.6	54.3	0	0	0	64.7	69.5	57.3
THANE	53.2	65.4	40.0	43.7	54.8	29.4	61.1	66.4	52.4
RAIGARH	38.3	51.4	26.1	35.2	48.2	22.5	60.4	66.3	51.0
RATANGIRI	39.7	51.9	30.0	38.2	50.7	27.7	61.9	70.9	52.5
NASIK	59.2	57.9	68.9	33.7	64.9	11.9	55.6	63.4	43.9
DHULE	45.3	58.6	31.1	42.7	53.9	25.3	37.4	40.2	44.3
JALGAON	47.7	60.9	33.6	45.1	58.0	29.3	56.3	66.8	43.9
AHMADNAGAR	38.7	51.7	25.1	35.9	46.9	19.2	61.4	72.1	48.6
PUNE	46.4	58.0	33.8	34.2	45.2	20.2	62.9	71.3	53.0
SATARA	38.9	52.9	25.3	35.7	49.1	20.9	60.0	70.2	48.4
SANGLI	38.6	82.2	24.3	34.9	47.1	17.6	54.9	66.3	42.0
SOLAPUR	35.9	48.6	22.4	29.9	39.8	12.6	48.5	63.6	33.2
KOLHAPUR	36.8	51.3	21.7	30.9	44.5	11.7	57.4	68.5	44.7
AURANGABAD	29.5	43.5	14.7	25.3	39.1	9.20	50.0	61.5	36.3
PARBHANI	25.3	38.3	11.8	22.0	34.6	7.77	42.2	54.7	28.5
BID	25.2	37.5	12.3	22.9	34.9	7.18	55.5	58.6	30.5
NANDED	24.6	37.0	11.5	21.3	33.4	6.71	40.0	51.7	26.9
OSMANABAD	23.9	43.1	13.3	27.9	39.8	10.7	44.7	57.7	29.8
BULDANA	38.1	52.1	23.3	34.6	48.3	18.4	54.2	66.1	41.0
AKOLA	40.2	52.5	27.1	36.1	48.5	21.3	53.5	62.6	43.2
AMRAVATI	44.9	55.1	34.0	40.9	50.1	29.2	54.7	63.6	44.8
YAVATMAL	34.3	45.7	22.3	31.5	41.6	17.9	53.6	62.9	42.3
WARDHA	41.9	52.8	30.6	36.9	47.0	25.3	57.7	67.8	46.6
NAGPUR	45.6	56.4	33.9	32.2	41.2	19.7	56.9	66.6	46.2
BHANDARA	35.2	49.8	20.4	32.9	46.1	16.6	54.0	66.6	40.3
CHANDRAPUR	29.9	42.8	16.6	27.3	39.1	12.9	52.4	63.6	39.1

In 1971 there was ten to fifteen percent increase in literacy in most of the districts and there was a remarkable change in the relative position of literacy among the districts (table 4). In 1971 Greater Bombay (62.0%) had the highest percentage of literacy than any other district. On the other hand Osmanabad, Parbhani, Bid and Nanded had registered a good increase in literacy in 1971, specially among males. These districts were still at the lowest bottom in overall literacy scene. Nasik and Nagpur had more than 15 percent increase in literacy which was the highest in

overall literacy in 1971 (Table 4). Table 8 gives the

districts wise literacy rates of 1981. Although aggregate

literacy rates are much higher for certain districts. Grater

Bombay and Thane had the highest literacy among total non-

scheduled population.

TABLE 5
LITERACY AMONG NON-SCHEDULED 1981

	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
STATE/DIST.	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
MAHARASHTRA	50.9	62.4	38.4	41.8	55.4	28.1	65.6	73.0	56.7
G. BOMBAY	69.2	78.7	62.2	0	0	0	69.2	78.7	62.2
THANE	61.0	69.8	50.8	53.7	65.6	40.5	67.1	73.2	59.6
RAIGARH	49.9	62.7	37.8	46.5	60.2	34.0	69.4	75.9	62.2
RATANGIRI	48.4	60.6	38.7	46.6	58.9	36.9	69.8	72.4	62.3
NASIK	53.7	66.0	40.4	47.3	61.7	32.2	63.9	72.7	53.9
DHULE	53.8	66.0	40.9	50.3	63.8	36.2	61.2	70.9	50.9
JALGAON	51.7	64.8	37.9	48.4	62.4	33.6	60.9	71.1	50.0
AHMADNAGAR	46.3	59.0	32.2	43.1	57.1	28.6	66.2	75.5	55.6
PUNE	56.2	67.1	44.5	44.5	58.2	30.6	68.9	76.3	60.6
SATARA	48.8	62.0	36.4	46.0	59.7	33.5	67.7	76.2	58.5
SANGLI	48.1	60.7	35.0	44.2	57.5	30.6	62.3	72.1	51.7
SOLAPUR	42.7	55.2	29.2	36.8	49.8	23.0	56.2	68.2	43.3
KOLHAPUR	46.9	60.8	32.5	40.9	56.2	25.6	64.4	73.5	54.1
AURANGABAD	37.2	52.4	21.1	31.4	47.9	14.5	56.5	67.2	44.6
PARBHANI	31.7	46.3	16.5	27.5	42.7	11.8	49.1	60.9	36.4
BID	33.3	47.6	18.5	29.5	44.0	14.6	52.8	65.1	39.2
NANDED	32.3	46.2	17.8	27.4	41.7	12.6	50.7	62.5	37.9
OSMANABAD	37.7	51.4	23.5	34.7	48.5	20.5	53.2	65.6	39.7
BULDANA	46.3	60.3	31.7	42.8	57.6	27.4	61.3	71.6	50.2
AKOLA	49.6	61.1	37.5	46.1	59.0	32.5	59.7	67.0	51.9
AMRAVATI	53.4	65.1	40.9	53.6	62.8	43.8	63.4	69.9	56.2
YAVATMAL	43.9	55.9	31.3	39.9	52.5	26.9	62.5	70.5	52.7
WARDHA	54.5	64.3	44.2	49.8	60.3	38.9	67.4	75.1	59.0
NAGPUR	57.3	66.0	47.9	44.0	54.7	32.6	66.7	73.8	58.9
BHANDARA	45.7	59.7	31.5	42.6	57.2	28.0	64.6	70.0	53.8
CHANDRAPUR	39.8	52.2	26.8	35.9	48.8	22.6	60.3	69.4	50.2

In 1981 maximum growth in percentage literacy was

gained by districts of Deccan and Vidarbha region (table 5).

Bombay and Pune were at the topmost ranks followed by

Nasik, Dhule and Nagpur. The most remarkable increase in

literacy was experienced by Satara which had 62 percent male

36

REGION-WISE NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1961
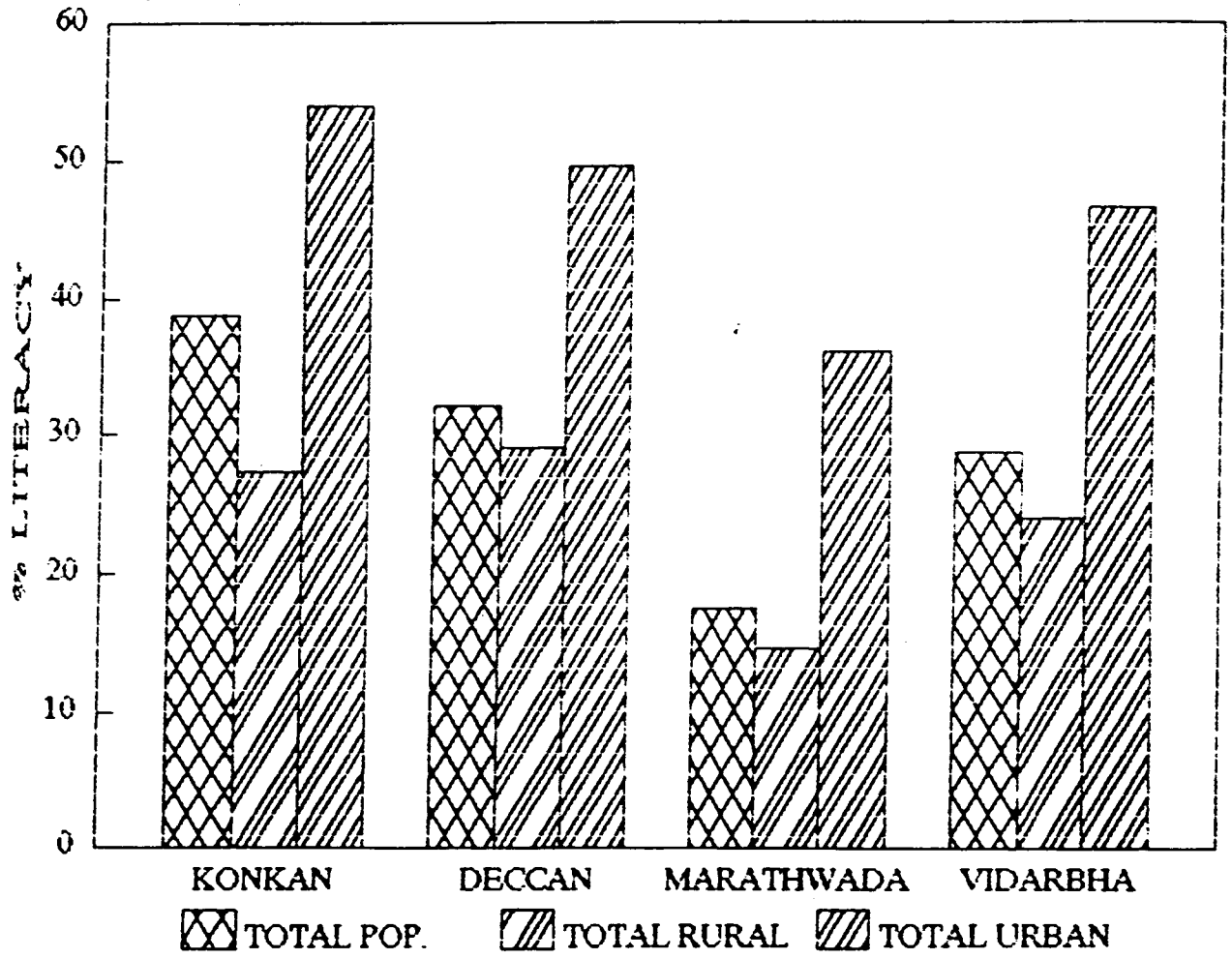
Fig. II. 4

literacy in 1981 in comparision to 48.0 precent male literacy in 1961.

Table 6
LITERACY AMONG NON-SCHEDULED 1991

STATE/DIST.	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
MAHARASHTRA	63.1	74.6	50.8	35.7	66.9	38.9	80.0	86.9	72.0
G. BOMBAY	83.0	88.1	76.7	-	-	-	83.9	88.1	76.7
THANE	63.2	71.6	53.2	41.1	52.8	29.0	80.4	85.2	73.6
RAIGARH	59.6	71.0	48.3	55.8	67.9	44.1	79.5	85.4	69.8
RATANGIRI	67.0	79.9	56.6	65.3	78.6	54.6	85.1	81.1	79.0
NASIK	57.5	71.2	43.7	46.5	59.5	33.1	77.9	85.3	69.7
DHULE	42.8	54.1	31.2	37.0	48.6	25.3	74.2	83.1	64.4
JALGAON	62.6	75.4	49.0	57.6	71.5	42.9	76.6	86.0	66.4
AHMADNAGAR	60.0	74.2	45.0	56.4	71.5	40.8	79.4	88.7	69.1
PUNE	71.3	81.7	60.1	59.9	73.8	45.5	83.4	89.7	76.3
SATARA	75.0	81.2	67.7	65.3	79.8	51.7	81.8	86.6	73.5
SANGLI	63.7	75.6	51.4	60.2	73.0	46.9	75.8	84.3	66.8
SOLAPUR	57.2	69.8	43.5	52.7	66.8	37.5	70.2	81.8	57.8
KOLHAPUR	68.6	72.9	54.9	63.5	78.4	48.4	70.2	72.2	67.9
AURANGABAD	53.4	70.1	35.5	41.2	53.1	26.0	75.2	75.5	63.6
PARBHANI	47.9	65.2	29.7	42.5	61.2	23.0	66.8	70.6	53.9
BID	50.9	67.3	33.4	46.1	63.6	27.8	60.1	65.9	59.1
NANDED	48.1	64.3	30.9	43.0	61.5	24.2	62.5	69.9	55.9
OSMANABAD	55.1	69.3	39.6	49.6	53.0	45.8	68.5	70.0	60.5
BULDANA	61.3	76.5	45.7	58.3	74.4	41.9	76.0	85.6	65.7
AKOLA	65.4	77.5	52.8	62.4	77.6	47.0	78.3	85.2	70.9
AMRAVATI	67.3	76.1	58.0	63.8	76.0	51.8	81.7	87.4	75.6
YAVATMAL	54.6	67.4	51.2	51.2	65.4	36.6	78.1	86.1	69.3
WARDHA	67.5	76.2	58.2	64.9	76.3	53.4	62.4	84.4	75.9
NAGPUR	72.8	81.0	63.7	61.1	70.4	43.0	81.2	84.4	76.3
BHANDARA	61.9	76.3	47.4	59.2	74.2	44.2	81.3	80.5	71.6
CHANDRAPUR	49.3	62.5	36.0	44.4	57.5	31.0	71.2	84.0	65.3

Table 6 shows the aggregate non-scheduled literacy for the year 1991. In 1991 Maharashtra registered a growth of almost 14 percentage points in overall literacy and this was highest among rest of the decades. Those districts which had high literacy levels from the beginning, continues to have high literacy in 1991 i.e. Greater Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Satara. Lowest non-scheduled literacy was still confined to the districts in Marathwada region. Although male literacy

37

REGION-WISE NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1971

KONKAN DECCAN MARATHWADA VIDARBHA

TOTAL POP.   TOTAL RURAL   TOTAL URBAN
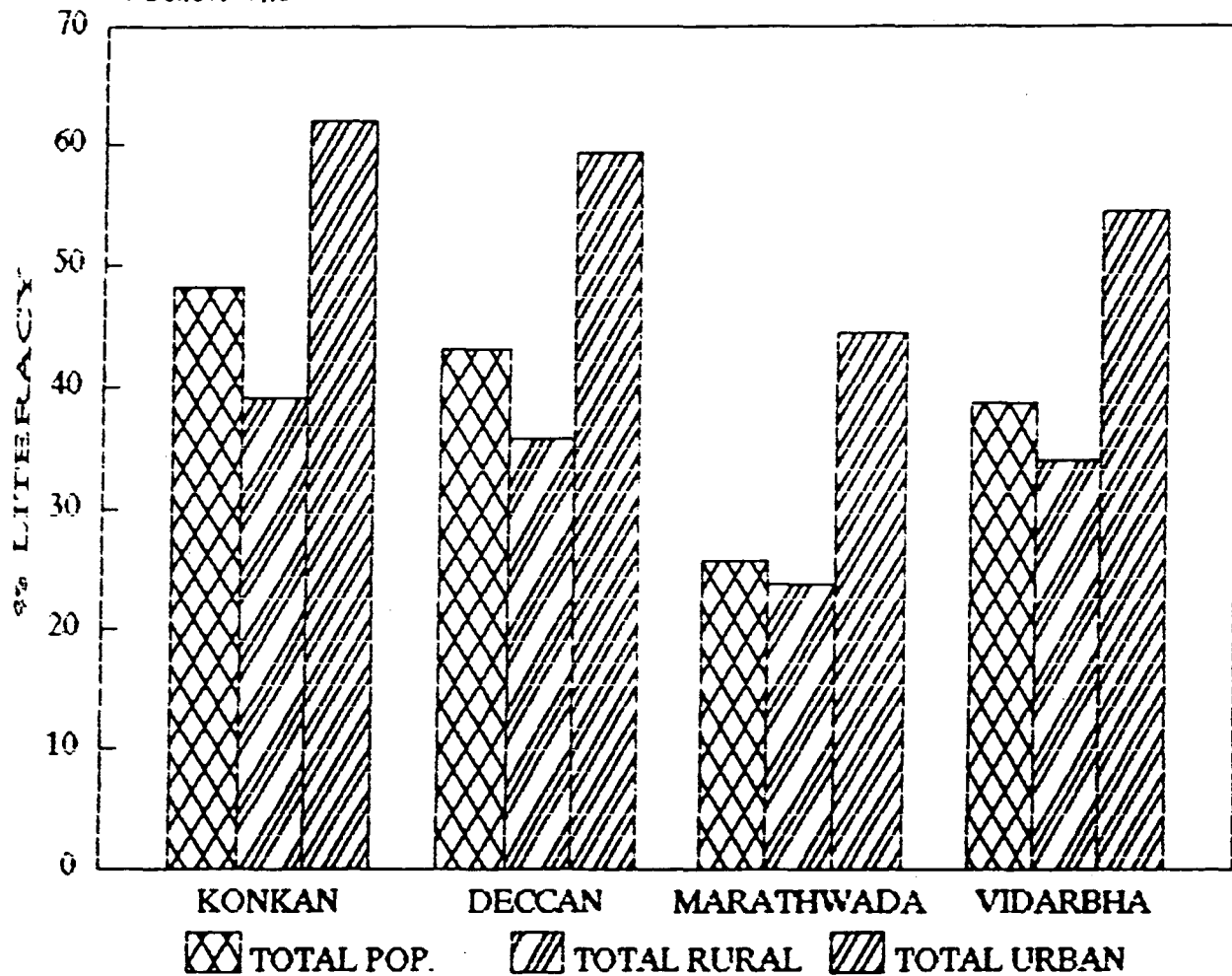
Fig. II.5

increased quite impressively, female literacy in this area did not increase at the same pace.

Region wise, literacy shows that Konkan region has registered the highest level of literacy for the overall non-scheduled literacy during all the four period. While Marathwada remains the most backward region throughout the four decades (table 7).

TABLE 7
OVERALL/URBAN/RURAL NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF MAHARASHTRA 1961-1991

	REGION	1961	1971	1981	1991
OVERALL	KONKAN	38.9	48.3	57.1	78.3
	DECCAN	32.1	43.1	49.8	74.0
	MARATHAWADA	17.4	25.6	34.4	56.8
	VIDARBHA	28.8	38.7	48.8	75.4
URBAN	KONKAN	53.9	62.0	68.8	84.0
	DECCAN	49.5	60.4	63.5	79.5
	MARTHAWADA	36.2	44.5	52.4	69.3
	VIDARBHA	46.6	54.6	63.2	80.2
RURAL	KONKAN	27.3	39.0	48.9	54.1
	DECCAN	29.2	35.8	44.5	54.4
	MARATHAWADA	14.6	23.8	30.1	42.5
	VIDARBHA	23.9	34.0	44.3	58.1

Figures for the literacy in these regions over a period of time shows a constant increase in the percentage literacy. Despite this increase literacy remain lowest in Marathwada region. This implies that even in non-scheduled literacy overall backwardness of the area mars the high literacy levels (figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7).

The lower literacy rates in Marathwada can be explained by the factor of little State support given to education. Further, female education was totally neglected as this

REGION-WISE NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1981

KONKAN   DECCAN   MARATHWADA   VIDARBHA

⊠ TOTAL POP.   ▨ TOTAL RURAL   ▨ TOTAL URBAN
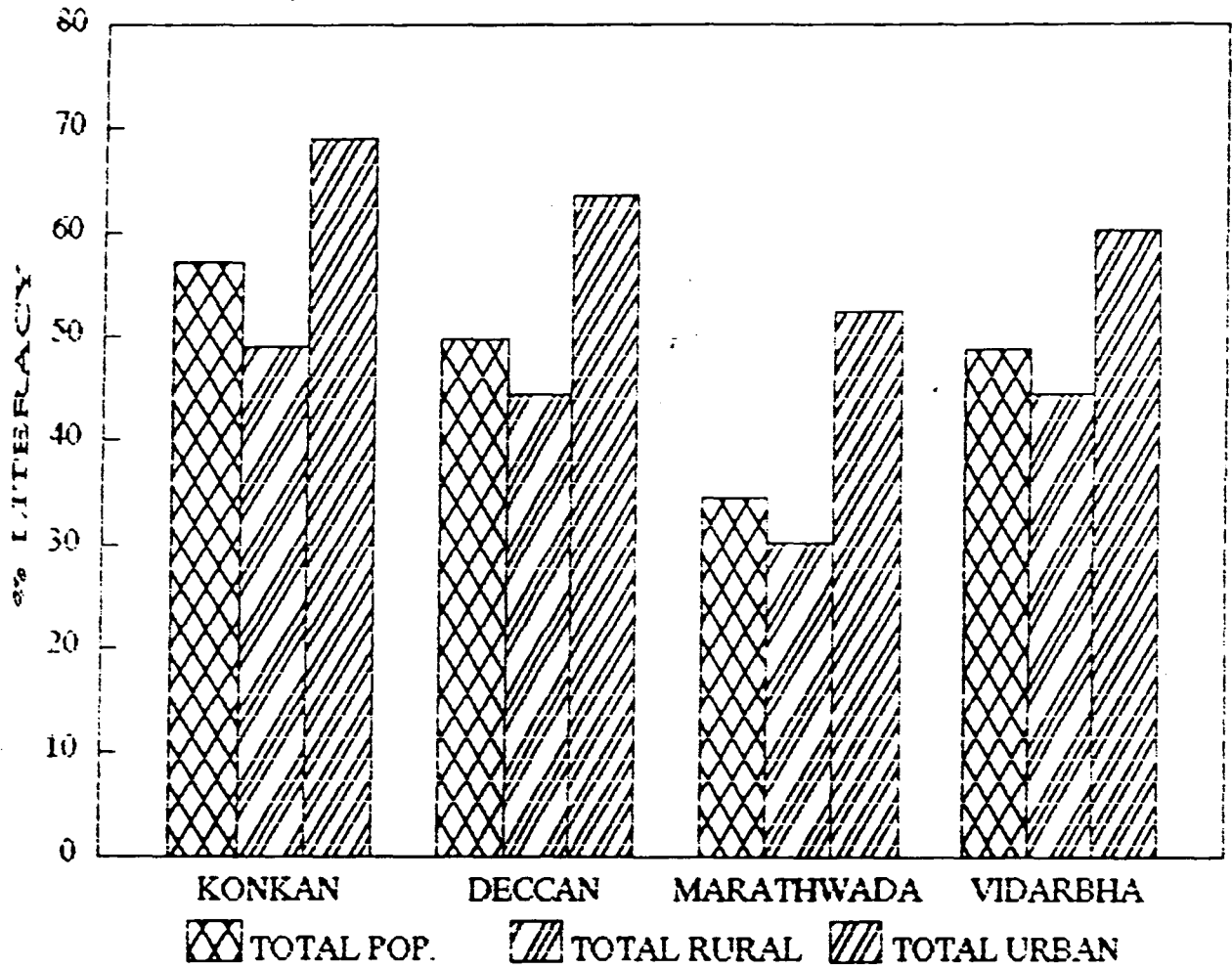
Fig. II. 6

region was the princely state of Hyderabad (Sopher 1980). It may be noted that in Marathwada region urban male literacy is also comparatively lower than other regions although more than half of its population is literate according to 1991 figures in rural areas.

b) **Urban non-scheduled Literacy:**

The level of literacy in the non-scheduled urban population in 1961 was 52.39 percent. It rose to 65.6 percent in 1981 (Table 3, 5). The district-wise breakup of literacy figures in the year 1961 shows that the size of literate population within the districts varies from 33.29 percent in Nanded to 58.8 percent in Greater Bombay. Thus there is a difference of 26.34 percent between the percentage of the most literate district and the least literate district. However, on the whole, there is not much difference between the different districts within a region. Male literacy of urban non-scheduled is everywhere higher than female literacy. Pune (65.4%), Ahmadnagar (65.4%), Greater Bombay (65.0%) and Nagpur (64.1 %) are among the top ranked district as far as Male literacy is concerned.

In contrast, Osmanabad (51.8%), Nanded (46.9%) Parbhani (47.2 %) and Nanded (50.7 %) are the districts that have the low percentage of urban male literate whereas. Marathwada region including Parbhani (18.8 %), Nanded (18.6 %) and Osmanabad (20.8 %), Bid district (20.4 %) has the lowest female literacy in contrast to Greater Bombay 48.3 percent, Pune 44.1 percent literate male.

It may be noted that in Marathwada region urban male

REGION–WISE NON–SCHEDULED LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1991
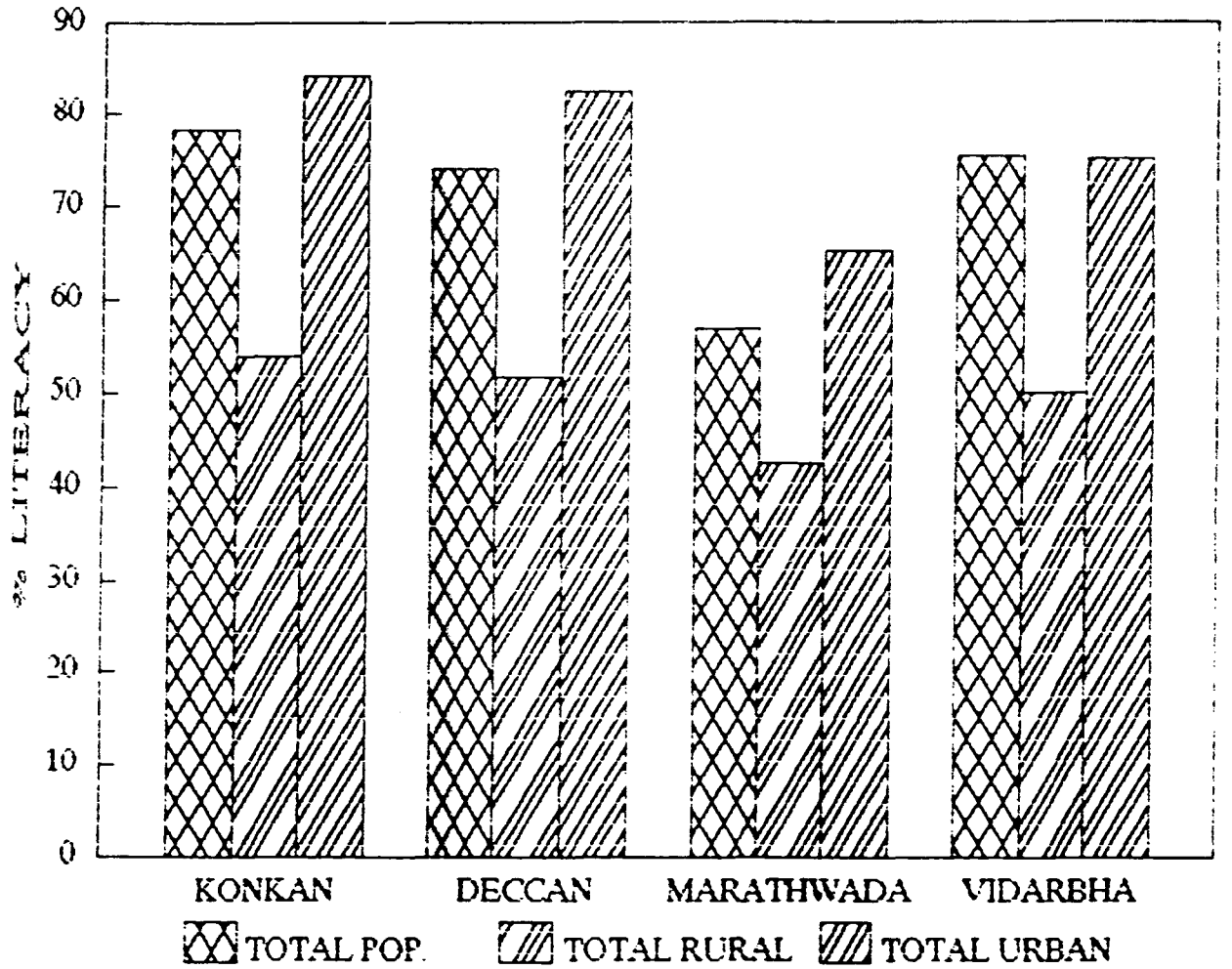
Fig. II. 7

literacy is also comparitively lower than other district although more than half of its population is literate. In urban literacy also Konkan region, with a literacy of 53.9 percent had the highest percentage of litertes while Marathwada with 36.2 percent of literates in 1961 and this position continued in all the four decades (Table 7). The lower literacy rate in Marathwada can be explained by the factor of little state support given to the education. Female education was totally neglected as this region was the princely state of Hyderabad (Sopher 1980).

c) **Rural Non-Scheduled Literacy**

The situation of literacy is worse in the rural areas as compared to urban areas.

Districtwise rural literacy ranges from 47.7 percent in Jalgaon to 13.6 percent in Parbhani. Almost sixteen districts have rural non-scheduled literacy below twenty five percent in 1961. Some of the districts with very low rural literacy in 1961 are Aurangabad (15%) Parbhani (13.60%), Nanded (13.88%) and Bid (14.19%) (Table 3).

The highest male literacy in 1961 is 48.9 percent in Dhule district while the lowest is 23.4 percent in Parbhani. In constrast to this the highest female literacy is in Satara (19.30 %) district, whereas the lowest is female literacy is in Aurangabad (3.99%) in 1961.

In 1971 rural litercy increased by ten percent points. In 1981 Maharashtra had more than half of its rural male population (55.6%) as literates. The districts which had

MAHARASHTRA
PERCENTAGE OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION
TO TOTAL DISTRICT POPULATION (1961)

% POPULATION

LESS THAN 4

4 — 6

6 — 8

MORE THAN 8
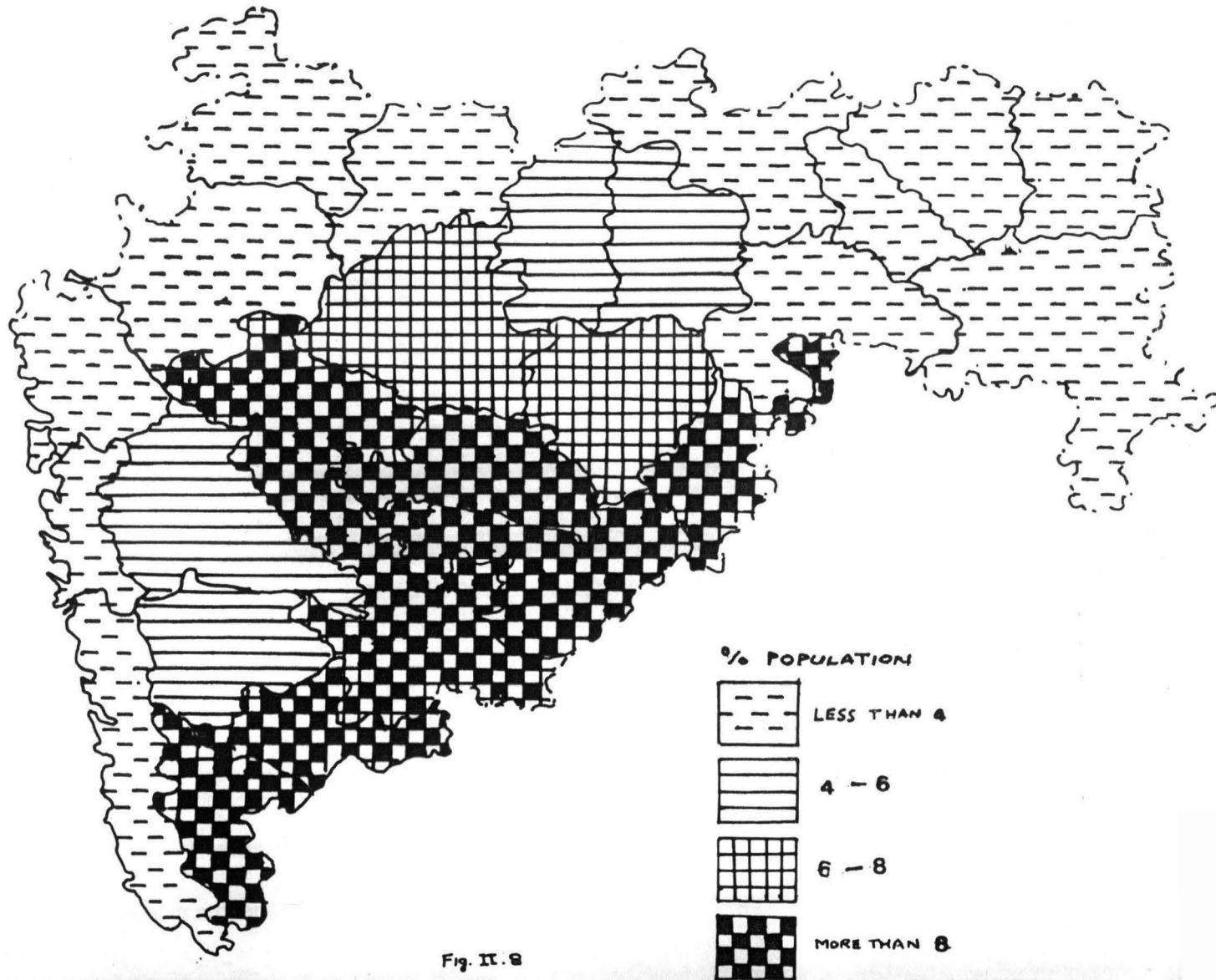
Fig. II.8

high level of literacy among non-scheduled rural population in 1981 were Thane (65.6%), Dhule (63.8%), Jalgaon (62.4%), and Raigarh (60.2%) had the highest urban non-scheduled literacy. Almost all districts falling in the Vidarbha region have high male literacy. Female literacy is not at par with the male literacy anywhere. In fact, it is well below the male literacy. In 1991 highest literacy among non-scheduled rural population was registred by districts falling in Deccan and Vidharbha region.

Rural Non-Scheduled literacy is highest in Ratanagiri in 1991. In those rural areas where elementary education has been made compulsory, they tend to have higher literacy level. In Marathwada's distrects rural literacy is low due to various reasons the most important among all is its structure of overall backwardness.

Region-wise, in the year of 1961, Deccan was the most literate region. Marathwada again emerges as the most backward region, which can be attributed to historical factor whereby very fow incentives were given to education. The low level of literacy is related to relative backwardness of agriculture which is the main occupation of the people in the region (Sopher: 152). During the four decades although considerably high literacy levels were attained by various regions, initial backwardness was still existing till terminal period 1991.

II.7 SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA

The concern in this section will be on an overall scheduled caste literacy in Maharashtra. The scheduled caste

MAHARASHTRA
PERCENTAGE OF SCHEDULED CASTE POPULATION
TO TOTAL DISTRICT POPULATION (1991)

% POPULATION

LESS THAN 8

8 - 12

12 - 16

16 - 18
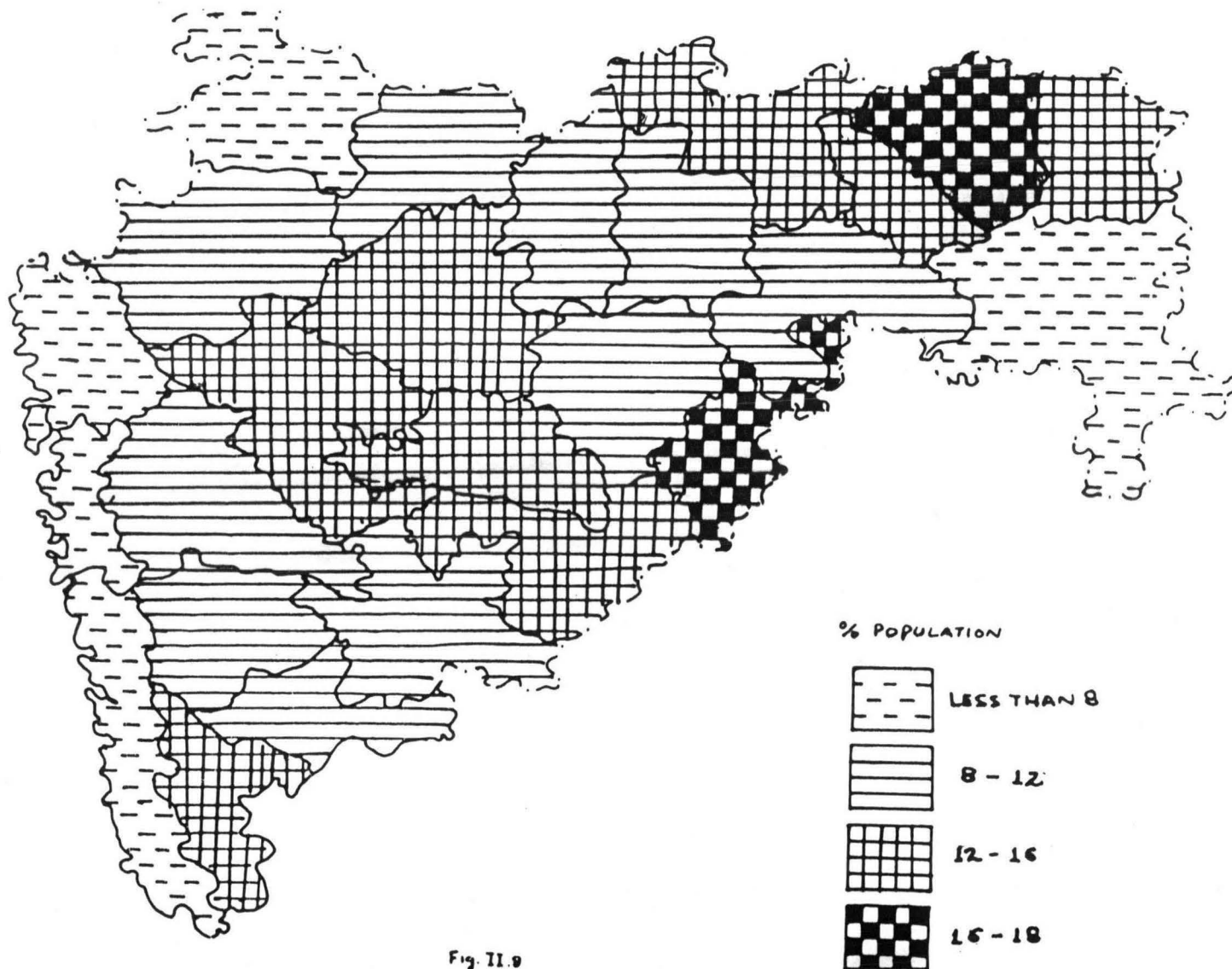
Fig. II.9

constituted 11.1 percent of Maharashtra population as per 1991 census. Where as in 1961 Maharashtra has only 5.6 percent of scheduled caste population (table 10). Maps for these terminal and initial period has been prepared as they will give a better picture of percentage increase in various districts of Maharashtra (fig.8,9).

Table 10
PERCENTAGE OF SCHEDULED CASTE/TRIBE POPULATION
TO TOTAL DISTRICT POPULATION

STATE/DISTT.	SCHEDULED CASTE				SCHEDULED TRIBE			
	1961	1971	1981	1991	1961	1971	1981	1991
MAHARASHTRA	5.6	6.0	7.1	11.1	6.0	5.8	9.2	9.7
G. BOMBAY	2.9	3.5	4.8	6.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	1.0
THANE	1.4	1.6	2.5	5.2	30.2	25.4	21.8	18.1
RAIGARH	1.3	2.1	1.6	2.7	9.0	8.9	12.7	12.8
RATANGIRI	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.9	0.1	0.5	1.5	.8
NASIK	3.7	4.1	6.2	8.4	24.4	23.6	23.5	24.2
DHULE	3.6	3.7	4.2	5.9	37.9	37.1	40.5	40.8
JALGAON	3.4	4.1	5.8	9.2	5.6	5.9	8.3	9.8
AHMADNAGAR	8.8	9.3	10.6	12.4	6.1	6.4	6.9	7.1
PUNE	4.9	5.5	7.5	11.4	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.9
SATARA	5.2	5.4	6.2	9.5	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.7
SANGALI	8.3	9.7	11.2	12.5	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.4
SOLAPUR	12.8	14.2	14.3	15.4	0.4	0.4	1.9	1.4
KOLHAPUR	11.4	11.4	12.1	12.7	0.0	0.2	1.1	0.5
AURANGABAD	6.1	5.4	6.2	13.5	1.6	1.6	3.1	3.1
PARBHANI	6.9	5.6	5.8	11.0	2.8	2.8	4.2	5.2
BID	13.5	12.5	11.5	13.4	3.0	0.3	0.9	1.1
NANDEE	11.0	9.0	11.3	18.1	5.2	4.3	10.2	11.8
OSMANABAD	13.4	15.0	15.4	17.8	2.5	5.5	2.3	2.9
BULDANA	5.3	5.4	6.2	11.5	-	-	4.4	5.1
AKOLA	4.7	4.7	5.5	11.9	-	-	6.2	7.0
AMARVATI	3.9	4.2	6.0	17.4	4.4	5.2	12.9	14.3
YAVATMAL	3.8	3.9	4.9	10.9	14.1	13.9	21.3	21.5
WARDHA	2.3	3.0	3.9	14.1	-	-	15.3	15.6
NAGPUR	3.6	4.1	7.1	18.8	-	-	13.6	13.9
BHANDRA	2.4	5.2	9.7	16.8	-	-	16.2	14.7
CHANDRAPUR	3.4	4.6	6.5	7.5	14.8	14.1	26.7	25.5

Reviewing the educational progress of the scheduled castes, D'Souza highlights two major deficiencies; first, the scheduled castes lag very much behind the rest of the population in their educational achievement and second, among

42

these castes themselves, some groups have made for more rapid progress than some other (D'Souza 1980).

In Maharashtrian society, Marathas and the Brahmins form the two strong wings of the society in which other castes are still underprivileged. There were two main problems faced by lower castes of Maharashtra i.e. untouchability and long-standing effects of discrimination suffered by them (Oommen 1977). However there are certain scheduled caste groups which are relatively better placed than others.

In Maharashtra, Mahars are one such section. They are the most numerically dominant caste and are educated while Malhars, Mangs and many other lower caste are generally deprived of educational facilities. In the following paragraphs, an attempt had been made to analyse the regional variation in scheduled caste literacy.

a) **Overall Scheduled Caste Literacy**

In 1961 overall literacy for scheduled caste in Maharashtra was only 15.78 percent and male-female literacy was 25.4 percent and 5.9 percent respectively. Among districts Greater Bombay (48.4%) had the highest male literacy with highest female literacy (23.6%) as well. Nagpur, Poona and Thane, also had considerable high literacy rates for scheduled caste, in comparision with other districts. It was registered that those districts which had highest percentage of Buddhists (scheduled caste converts) population in 1961, literacy was highest in those districts. This can be inferred that social awakening among scheduled

43

castes leads to higher literacy rates. For example in

Marathwada region Aurangabad and Prabhani had comparatively

higher literacy than other districts in the same regions in

1961 as these districts were the centre of conversion in the

region. Similarly Amravati, Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara, Akola,

Buldana and Chandrapur in Vidharba region experienced high

literacy rate due to conversion. These districts had more

than 15 percent Buddhist populatin to total district

population. In other district percentage of Buddhist

population was below ten percent (Fiske 1972:119).

Table 11
SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1961

STATE/DISTT.	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	25.4	5.7	15.7	20.6	3.5	12.1	42.1	13.9	28.7
G. BOMBAY	48.4	23.0	38.0	-	-	-	48.0	23.0	38.0
THANE	40.4	15.6	28.6	39.8	14.9	27.4	41.2	16.2	30.4
RAIGARH	33.4	7.9	21.1	30.3	6.5	18.7	45.8	14.9	31.7
RATANGIRI	26.1	5.9	15.7	24.8	5.3	14.7	43.6	15.5	30.6
NASIK	34.1	7.8	21.2	30.4	6.0	18.2	43.2	12.8	28.8
DHULE	36.1	7.8	22.0	33.7	5.5	19.7	43.5	14.8	29.4
JALGAON	32.4	6.2	19.5	29.4	4.8	17.3	42.3	10.9	26.9
AHMADNAGAR	29.2	6.3	17.9	28.1	5.6	17.0	40.6	13.5	27.7
PUNE	34.8	10.5	23.0	28.6	6.7	17.9	41.8	14.7	28.5
SATARA	37.6	12.5	25.0	34.9	11.0	22.9	45.5	21.7	34.9
SANGLI	28.8	5.6	17.4	26.9	4.8	16.0	41.5	81.7	27.2
SOLAPUR	21.8	3.6	12.9	18.6	2.5	10.7	37.1	9.5	23.8
KOLHAPUR	28.6	4.4	16.0	25.0	3.2	14.6	47.4	13.4	31.6
AURANGABAD	14.7	1.6	8.2	12.3	.8	6.6	33.1	7.5	19.5
PARBHANI	8.7	0.9	4.8	6.7	.6	3.6	26.0	3.6	14.2
BID	11.4	1.1	6.3	10.0	.9	5.3	31.7	5.2	18.8
NANDED	8.1	0.5	4.3	6.5	.3	3.4	25.8	3.5	14.8
OSMANABAD	10.6	0.9	5.8	9.6	.7	5.2	25.6	3.4	15.1
BULDANA	22.5	4.3	13.6	18.9	3.5	11.3	39.1	8.0	24.1
AKOLA	29.1	5.5	17.5	26.7	4.2	15.5	38.1	10.3	25.0
AMRAVATI	31.3	6.8	19.3	28.7	5.9	17.5	36.7	8.6	22.9
YAVATMAL	26.7	4.6	15.7	24.1	3.7	13.0	37.7	8.7	23.7
WARDHA	31.8	7.1	19.8	24.8	4.5	14.9	43.6	11.8	28.2
NAGPUR	39.7	11.6	26.1	14.5	4.8	11.3	24.6	15.6	21.6
BHANDARA	38.8	8.4	23.8	35.3	6.4	21.1	51.3	15.4	33.8
CHANDRAPUR	23.8	3.9	14.2	21.5	3.2	12.6	35.9	8.0	23.2

Despite this fact that high percentage of Buddhist population corresponds to high literacy, districts of Kokan region had the highest literacy rates among overall scheduled caste literacy. Urban nature of these district could probably explain this phenomena.

Table 12
SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY 1971

STATE/DIST.	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	37.0	12.8	25.2	32.3	9.2	21.0	50.7	24.2	38.2
G. BOMBAY	67.0	26.2	44.6	0	0	0	67.0	26.2	44.6
THANE	47.8	25.1	37.0	49.5	25.0	37.3	46.5	25.2	36.7
RAIGARH	42.3	18.4	30.4	39.0	15.8	27.4	54.5	28.7	42.1
RATANGIRI	42.3	16.5	30.4	39.0	15.8	27.4	54.5	28.7	42.1
NASIK	44.3	1.5	5.6	40.6	12.6	26.9	52.7	23.1	38.7
DHULE	43.3	15.5	29.6	40.2	12.7	26.6	52.3	24.1	39.4
JALGAON	45.9	16.4	31.5	44.0	14.9	29.7	51.5	21.2	36.9
AHMADNAGAR	39.8	14.5	27.4	38.7	13.6	26.3	50.6	24.8	38.2
PUNE	44.2	19.0	32.0	38.0	13.2	25.8	50.0	24.8	37.9
SATARA	43.1	14.1	28.6	40.6	12.0	26.2	56.6	25.7	41.6
SANGLI	39.7	13.8	26.7	38.1	11.5	25.1	47.6	20.9	34.8
SOLAPUR	33.6	9.3	21.8	30.2	7.4	19.1	48.7	18.5	30.0
KOLHAPUR	37.8	9.3	23.9	35.5	7.3	21.7	49.6	20.4	35.6
AURANGABAD	27.0	4.9	16.2	24.9	3.9	14.6	42.2	12.3	28.3
PARBHANI	19.7	4.0	12.1	17.4	3.4	10.6	34.1	8.1	21.4
BID	21.6	3.3	12.6	20.5	2.8	11.8	36.0	9.5	22.9
NANDED	17.6	2.5	10.2	16.0	2.1	9.2	34.2	7.4	21.2
OSMANABAD	24.6	5.0	15.0	23.6	4.5	14.3	37.8	11.2	24.9
BULDANA	36.9	10.1	23.9	34.3	8.6	21.7	49.4	17.5	34.3
AKOLA	38.0	13.1	25.8	36.1	11.8	24.2	44.8	17.8	31.6
AMRAVATI	41.1	16.3	29.0	38.4	14.6	26.8	46.8	20.0	33.8
YAVATMAL	38.2	13.7	26.0	35.7	11.8	23.8	49.1	21.9	35.5
WARDHA	44.1	19.7	32.4	40.9	16.9	29.3	49.3	24.7	37.7
NAGPUR	47.0	23.5	35.7	36.7	15.2	26.4	55.5	30.4	43.4
BHANDARA	53.1	22.6	30.0	51.2	21.1	36.3	61.9	29.8	46.2
CHANDRAPUR	33.3	11.8	22.7	31.3	10.6	21.1	42.9	17.8	30.9

Due to various social movements concentrated among rural as well as urban scheduled caste literacy rates went up in 1971 (table 11). Overall highest growth was registered in Greater Bombay district, specially for male literacy which increased by 19 percentage point over the decade.

45

REGION—WISE SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1961

KONKAN   DECCAN   MARATHWADA   VIDARBHA

⊠ TOTAL POP.   ▨ TOTAL RURAL   ▨ TOTAL URBAN
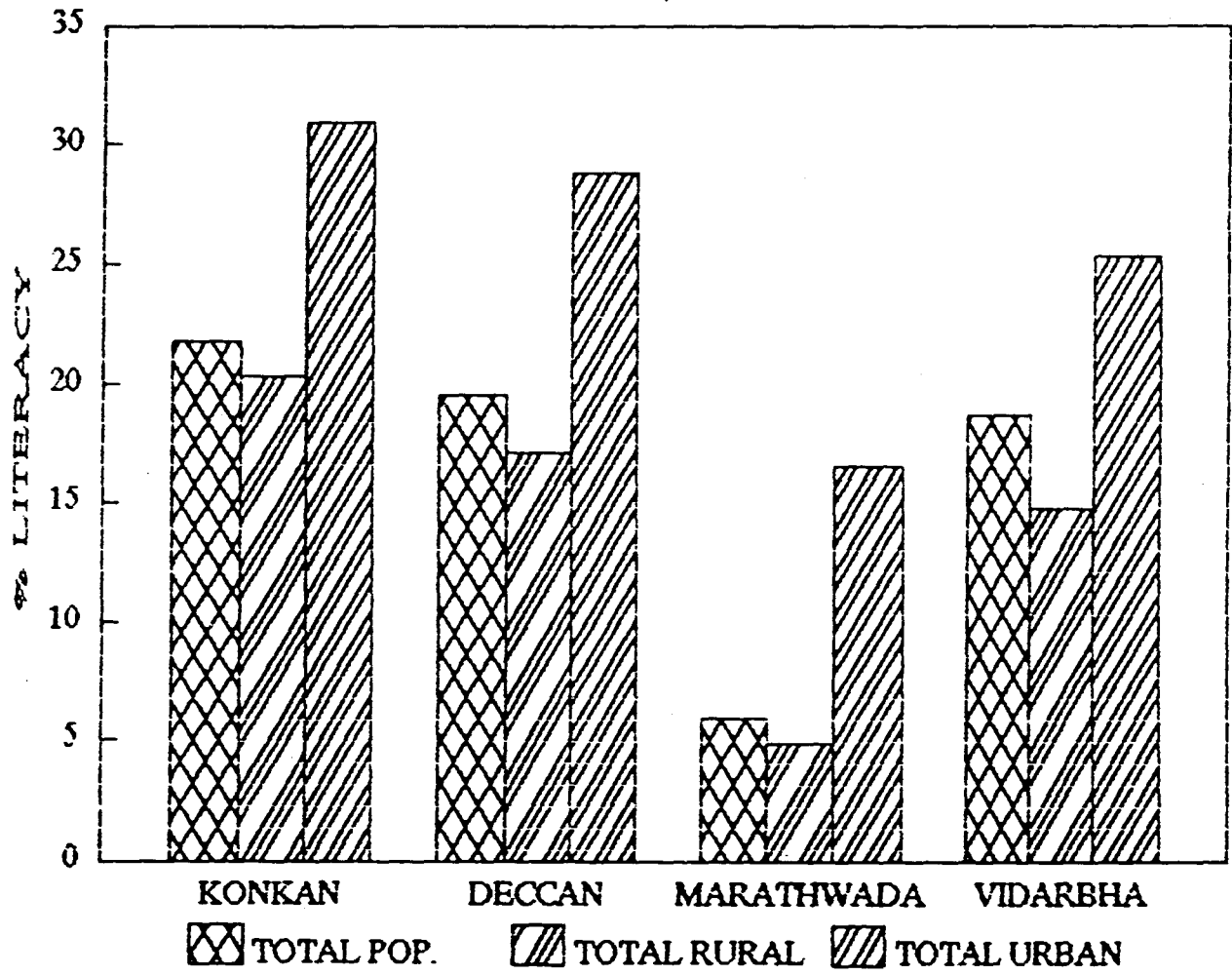
Fig. II. 10

Female literacy increased by only 4 percentage point in the same district. Similarly in most of the districts female literacy could gain an increase of only below 10 percentage points.

TABLE-13
SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASTRA 1981

STATE/DIST.	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	48.8	21.5	35.5	43.9	16.0	30.2	59.0	33.9	47.1
G. BOMBAY	60.8	38.4	50.5	0	0	0	60.8	38.4	50.5
THANE	54.0	31.9	43.7	58.1	32.1	45.6	51.9	31.8	42.6
RAIGARH	57.8	34.6	46.4	55.0	31.4	43.3	63.9	42.2	53.5
RATANGIRI	51.4	26.9	38.6	49.6	25.7	37.1	69.1	41.7	55.7
NASIK	56.0	26.9	41.8	51.2	20.4	36.0	64.0	38.1	51.6
DHULE	53.1	20.5	37.1	50.8	16.8	34.0	59.9	31.9	46.0
JALGAON	50.5	18.0	34.5	48.1	14.7	31.6	58.0	28.7	43.8
AHMADNAGAR	49.9	20.3	35.4	49.2	18.9	34.4	55.1	30.3	43.0
PUNE	54.6	27.9	41.7	50.1	20.7	35.7	57.4	32.7	45.5
SATARA	54.4	24.8	39.6	51.8	21.9	36.7	66.3	38.9	53.0
SANGLI	51.9	22.5	37.5	49.4	19.8	34.8	60.6	36.2	46.9
SOLAPUR	43.5	15.1	29.7	39.4	11.5	25.8	57.1	27.4	42.8
KOLHAPUR	50.4	18.8	35.0	48.2	15.8	32.3	58.0	30.0	44.6
AURANGABAD	37.9	9.0	23.9	34.3	6.6	20.6	52.7	20.1	37.5
PARBHANI	30.4	7.2	18.9	26.8	4.9	15.9	46.8	18.1	32.8
BID	33.5	8.5	21.1	31.7	7.2	19.6	49.5	19.8	35.1
NANDED	31.8	7.7	19.9	29.4	6.7	17.9	52.0	21.3	37.5
OSMANABAD	36.3	11.4	24.1	33.8	9.6	21.9	55.3	25.9	41.3
BULDANA	47.0	15.6	31.6	44.0	12.9	28.6	61.0	28.5	45.4
AKOLA	48.3	19.9	34.3	47.2	17.8	32.7	51.5	26.5	39.3
AMRAVATI	53.8	28.2	41.4	52.0	25.8	39.3	57.3	33.3	45.7
YAVATMAL	46.9	20.1	33.7	44.1	17.0	30.7	58.2	32.7	45.9
WARDHA	54.4	30.1	42.6	50.4	25.7	38.4	62.1	38.7	50.7
NAGPUR	56.8	34.8	46.2	48.7	25.5	37.5	63.8	42.8	53.7
BHANDARA	63.3	33.3	48.3	62.0	31.0	46.4	69.9	44.8	57.4
CHANDRAPUR	45.8	20.0	33.2	44.2	18.0	31.3	53.8	38.6	42.7

In 1971 Greater Bombay, Thane and Nagpur had the highest percentage of overall scheduled literacy (table 11). In 1971 except Nagpur, Bombay and Thane had total scheduled caste precentage below 5 percent. It was observed by Chitnis in her work "literacy is poorer in areas with a large concentration of scheduled caste population" (1974:3). This

46

REGION-WISE SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1971
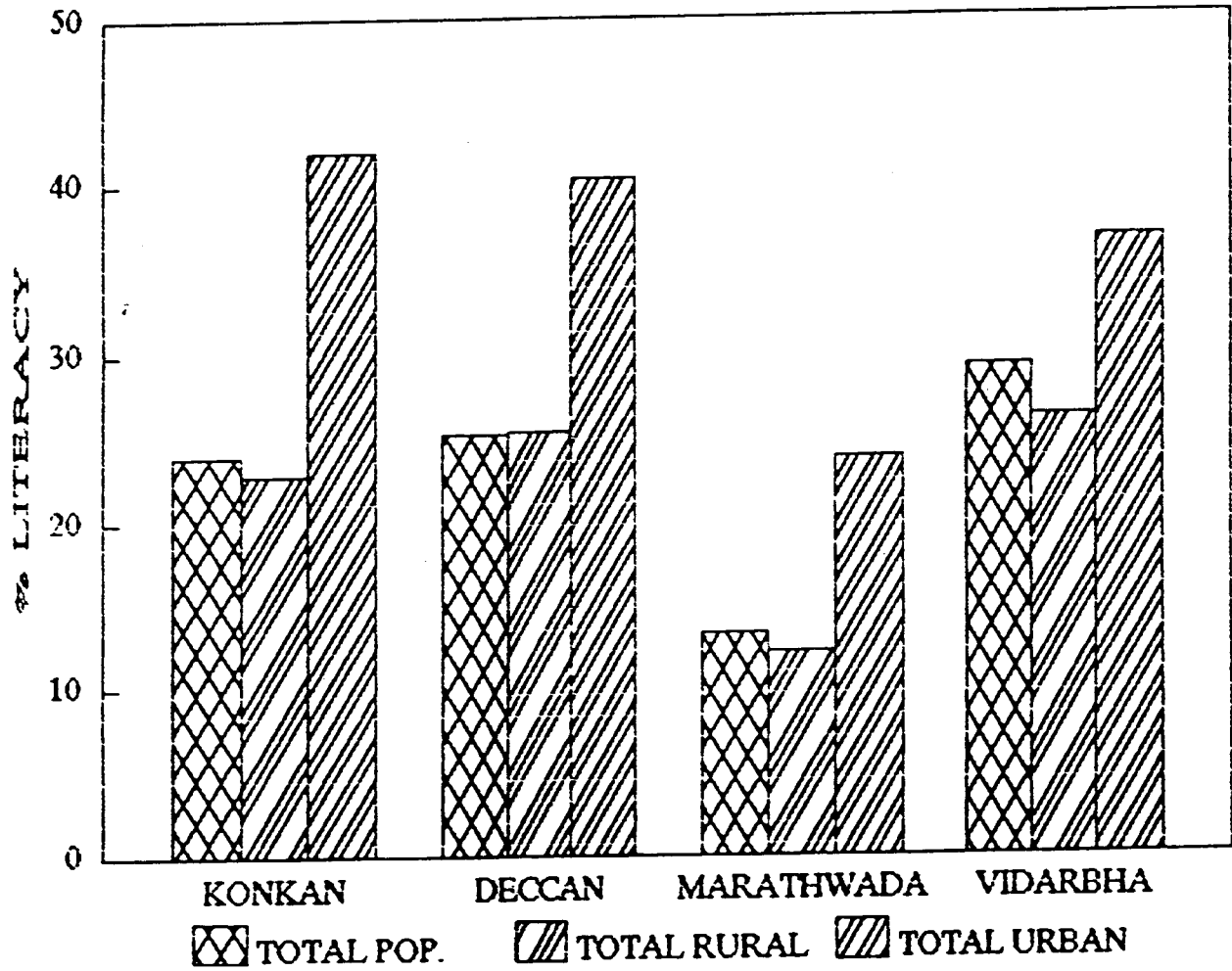
Fig. II.11

is confirmed by the persisting low literacy level in districts of Marathwada region where percentage of scheduled caste to total population varies from 6 to 15 percent. On the other hand areas having a low percentage of scheduled caste population to total population has higher levels of literacy for example in the districts of Konkan and Vidarbha region.

It was observed that the progress of scheduled caste male literacy has slow pace and scheduled casts female has a slower pace than male literacy in almost all the districts.

TABLE-14
SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASTRA (1991)

STATE/DISTT	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	71.0	42.1	56.9	66.7	34.9	51.0	69.3	54.8	67.0
G. BOMBAY	82.1	59.3	70.5	0	0	0	82.1	59.3	70.5
THANE	76.2	52.5	60.9	80.5	52.7	67.1	70.3	52.5	61.4
RAIGARH	76.7	52.8	64.7	75.4	50.0	62.5	69.6	59.8	64.5
RATANGIRI	79.2	56.6	67.2	79.0	55.2	66.2	68.5	69.4	68.9
NASIK	75.7	44.6	60.5	70.4	35.3	53.3	72.0	55.8	63.2
DHULE	73.3	37.0	55.7	71.3	31.5	51.8	78.7	51.7	65.2
JALGAON	69.8	34.0	52.3	66.4	28.1	47.6	78.4	49.4	63.9
AHMADNAGAR	66.5	35.8	51.8	64.8	33.5	49.9	74.8	48.2	61.5
PUNE	72.0	46.0	59.4	68.8	37.6	53.6	73.8	50.6	62.2
SATARA	73.6	14.1	29.1	72.1	39.6	55.8	81.4	53.9	63.0
SANGLI	68.5	39.1	54.0	66.6	36.0	51.5	74.5	49.1	62.1
SOLAPUR	70.8	29.9	49.8	57.8	24.1	41.6	74.5	44.5	65.9
KOLHAPUR	68.2	39.9	54.3	70.7	39.0	55.1	59.7	51.7	55.7
AURANGABAD	62.4	26.3	45.0	55.5	18.3	37.4	76.9	44.7	56.8
PARBHANI	55.1	19.6	37.7	50.2	15.1	33.0	73.3	36.9	55.1
BID	58.2	24.0	41.6	54.1	20.1	37.6	77.9	43.7	60.8
NANDED	56.9	23.0	40.5	46.5	19.5	34.2	74.7	40.5	57.6
OSMANABAD	69.2	36.6	52.3	67.3	33.3	48.9	79.3	39.0	59.0
BULDANA	67.9	38.5	55.0	65.3	28.2	48.9	79.0	46.7	62.7
AKOLA	71.0	45.3	59.5	53.1	35.6	45.7	75.4	50.2	62.8
AMRAVATI	73.4	54.9	65.0	53.5	46.0	50.4	77.5	57.5	62.7
YAVATMAL	71.3	46.8	59.8	55.7	40.1	48.9	78.7	56.5	64.3
WARDHA	78.6	63.4	71.6	54.4	54.1	54.3	75.1	67.4	71.4
NAGPUR	79.1	59.3	69.3	26.4	51.0	32.5	78.5	68.6	71.0
BHANDARA	74.3	54.4	69.3	83.4	52.3	67.7	75.4	67.1	71.2
CHANDRAPUR	73.6	57.8	66.7	70.5	42.1	56.5	70.9	58.8	64.4

REGION—WISE SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1981

% LITERACY

KONKAN   DECCAN   MARATHWADA   VIDARBHA

TOTAL POP.   TOTAL RURAL   TOTAL URBAN
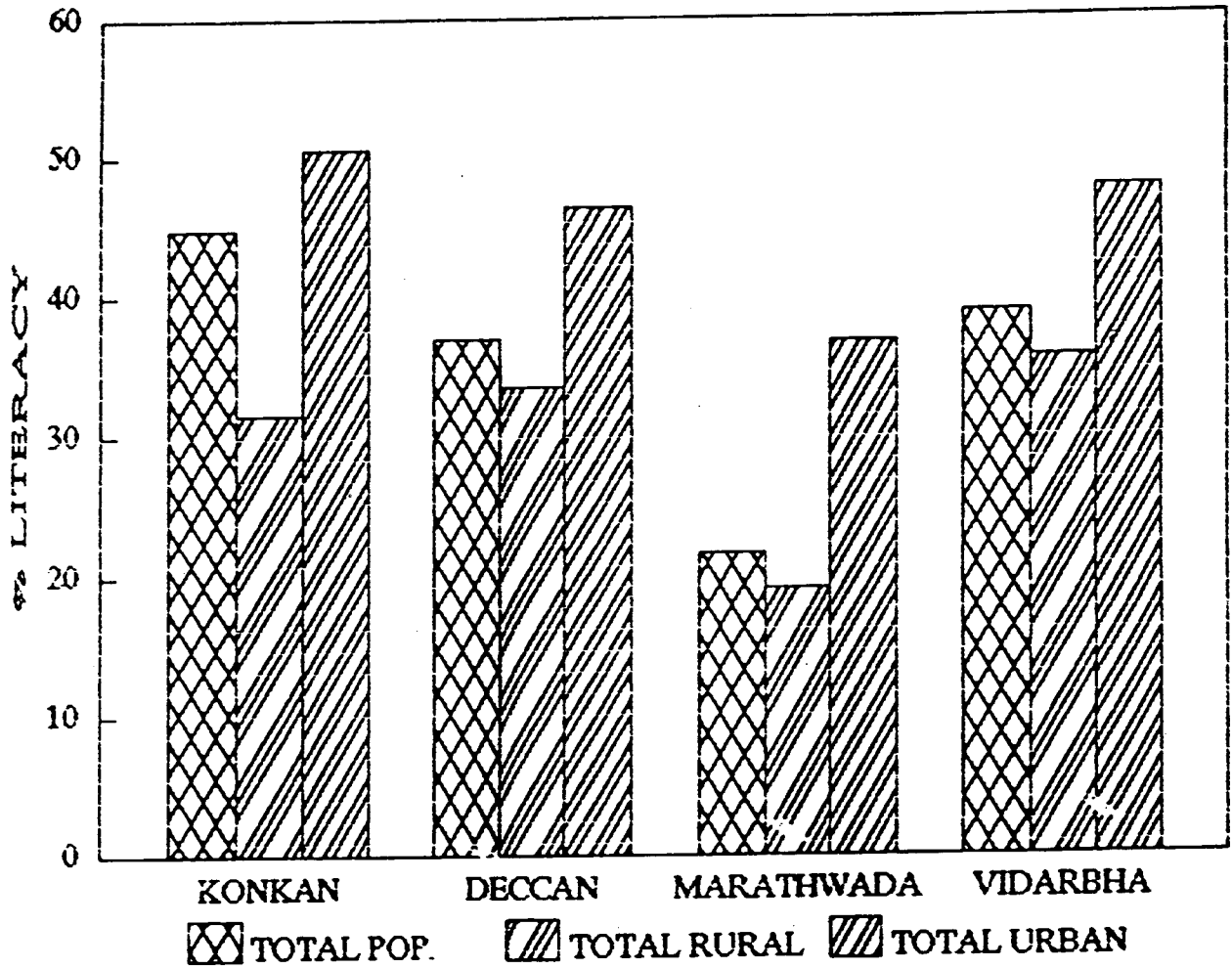
Fig. II. 12

Scheduled caste literacy has maintained its specific pattern in 1981 also for example those areas which were lagging behind from the very beginning did not improve much. Districts which were covered under various social reforms and which were urban in their nature had higher literacy. For example Nagpur, Satara, Nasik, Dhule, Wardha, Pune and Bhandara etc. tend to show higher literacy than other districts which were backward and had more rural population of scheduled caste.

TABLE-15

REGION-WISE SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASTRA (1961-1991)

YEARS		TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
	KONKAN	33.3	9.8	21.8	31.6	8.9	20.3	43.5	15.8	30.9
1961	DECCAN	31.5	7.2	19.5	28.5	5.6	17.1	42.5	13.7	28.8
	MARATHWADA	10.7	1.0	5.9	9.0	0.6	4.9	28.4	4.6	16.5
	VIDARBHA	30.5	6.5	18.7	24.3	4.5	14.7	38.4	10.8	25.3
1971	KONKAN	32.8	15.0	23.9	31.9	14.0	22.9	56.3	27.9	42.0
	DECCAN	41.3	12.5	25.2	38.4	11.7	25.3	51.2	40.9	40.3
	MARATHWADA	22.1	3.9	13.2	20.5	3.3	12.1	36.9	9.7	23.7
	VIDARBHA	41.5	16.3	29.2	38.1	13.0	26.2	50.0	22.5	36.7
1981	KONKAN	56.0	33.0	44.8	40.7	22.3	31.5	61.4	38.5	50.6
	DECCAN	51.6	21.6	36.9	48.7	17.8	33.5	59.6	32.2	46.4
	MARATHWADA	34.0	8.8	21.6	31.2	6.9	19.2	51.3	21.1	36.8
	VIDARBHA	52.0	25.2	38.9	49.1	21.7	35.6	59.7	34.7	47.6
1991	KONKAN	78.5	55.3	66.1	78.3	52.6	65.3	82.1	60.3	60.8
	DECCAN	70.9	35.6	51.9	67.7	33.9	51.1	75.3	50.5	60.4
	MARATHWADA	60.3	25.9	43.4	54.7	21.3	38.2	76.3	41.0	59.3
	VIDARBHA	74.9	52.6	64.5	51.8	43.7	50.6	80.9	59.1	70.3

Literacy rates were quite high in 1991 for scheduled caste in Maharashtra. However, nowhere they compare with the high overall non-scheduled literacy. Maharashtra had an overall 56.9 percent literacy among scheduled caste which was much above the 1961 overall scheduled caste literacy (table 14). In 1991 most of the district had male literacy

REGION—WISE SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1991
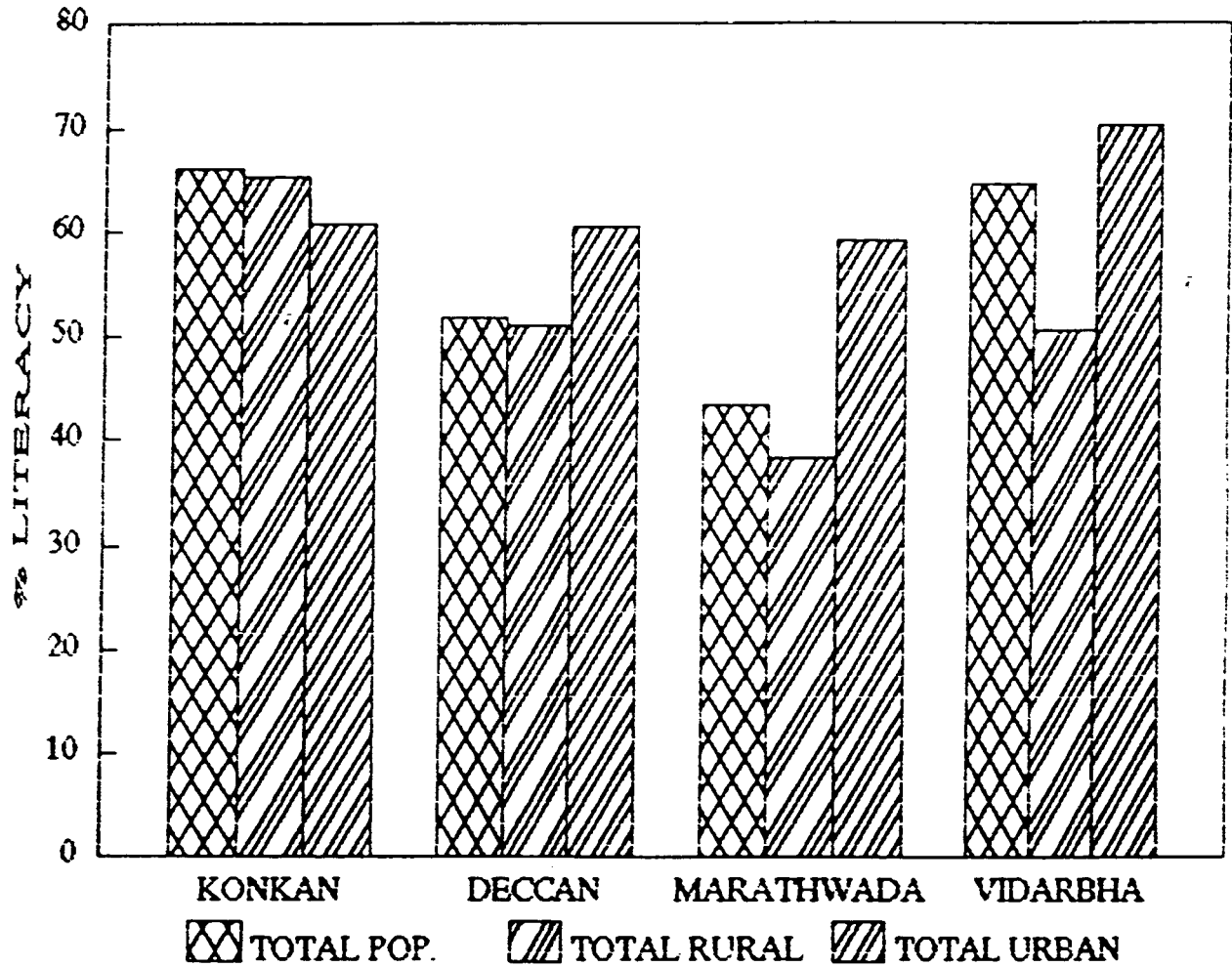
Fig. II.13

above 60 percent, highest again being in Greater Bombay
(82.1%) and lowest in Parbhani (55.1%). Districts in
Marathwada although improved there performance in terms of
overall literacy this growth in literacy has not being
capable of changing its relative position *vis-a-vis* other
regions (fig.10,11,12,13).

b) **Urban Scheduled Caste**

Urban scheduled caste literacy was below 40
percent in 1961 (table 10). Bombay, Thane and Raigarh had
the highest urban scheduled caste literacy. Here, urban
females also have higher literacy rates than their rural
counterpart. As is the case elsewhere in Marathwada urban
female literacy is lower than male literacy. However, the
gap between the two segments of population is much higher
than in other regions. In 1971 scheduled caste urban
literacy improved by less than 10 percent points. Bhandara
(46.4%) had the higher literacy rate than Bombay (44.0%) in
1971 (table 11). Those scheduled caste male who migrate to
city areas in search of better livelihood tend to have high
literacy as they get much more facilities for their children
than in rural areas. Maharastra's scheduled castes have
strong migration pattern towards city areas, where economic
activities, other than agriculture exists (Kuttykrishnan
1986). Urban literacy in 1981 was 47.1 percent for
Maharashtra, where urban male literacy was 59.0 percent and
33.0 percent for female.

Highest urban male literacy was in the following

districts Bhandara (69.9%), Ratanagiri (69.2%), Satara (66.3%), Nasik (64.0%) and Greater Bombay (60.0%). Urban female literacy was highest in Bhandara (44.8%), Nagpur (42.8%), Raigarh (42.20%) and Ratanagiri (41.7%).

Urban male scheduled caste literacy is considerably higher as almost everywhere it is more than 70 percent in 1991 (table 14). Literacy is highest in Bombay (82.1%), Bhandara (79.4%) and Nagpur (78.5%) whereas female scheduled caste literacy has the highest percentage in Nagpur (68.6%) followed by Bhandara (67.2%) in 1991.

Region-wise also Marathwada again remained at lowest rank among the four region and Konkan had the highest percentage of literacy throughout four decades (table 15).

c) **Rural Scheduled Caste Literacy**

As compared to urban, rural literacy was quite low especially among rural female. The differences between male female were considerably high except in Thane district where the difference is of only two percent. Rural female literacy in 1961 was lower than one percent in almost five districits, i.e., Aurangbad (0.8%), Parbhani (0.6%), Nanded (0.2%), Bid (0.8%), Osmanabad (0.7%) (table 10).

There was a change in the overall literacy in 1971 yet the overall rural literacy rate remained at low level compared to non-scheduled literacy level. The female literacy in districts of Marathwada was below 10 percent even after a gap of ten years (table 11).

The rural litercy among schedule caste did not change in case of males in 1981 but there was remarkable change

50

among females. The highest rural female literacy was in Thane district (32.2%) followed by Raigarh (31.4%) and Bhandara (31.0%). Rest of the districts had literacy rates below this. There is traditional bias against providing education to women and this bias is more prominent in rural areas.

Similar to urban literacy total rural scheduled caste literacy in 1991 is also considerably higher in Bhandara (67.7%), Thane (67.1%), Ratanagiri (66.2%) and Riagarh (62.5%). These districts have high male literacy rates also which is as high as 83.4 percent in Bhandara and 80.57 percent in Thane. Despite the high female literacy in urban area, it has not performed so well in rural areas. Except Konkan region (52.6%) and Vidarbha (43.2%), other two regions are quite backward in female literacy. Districtwise breakdown of rural female literacy shows that Ratanagiri (55.2%), Thane (52.7%) and Bhandara (52.3%) have the highest female literacy. Rest of the districts are mostly backward as they have lower level of literacy in 1991 (table 14).

The region wise literacy among scheduled caste in the various decades was lowest in Marathawada. Rural female literacy was less them one percent in this region whereas, urban female literacy was 4.6 percent for the year 1961. During successive decades female literacy in rural scheduled caste improved by 18 percentage point for Marathwada region. In 1971, 1981 and 1991 literacy for male-female in this region was 20.5, 31.2, 54.7 percent and 3.3, 6.9 and 21.3

MAHARASHTRA
PERCENTAGE OF SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION
TO TOTAL DISTRICT POPULATION (1961)

%. POPULATION

LESS THAN 5

5 - 10

10 - 15

MORE THAN 15

Fig. II.14   + NIL TRIBAL POPULATION IN DISTRICT.
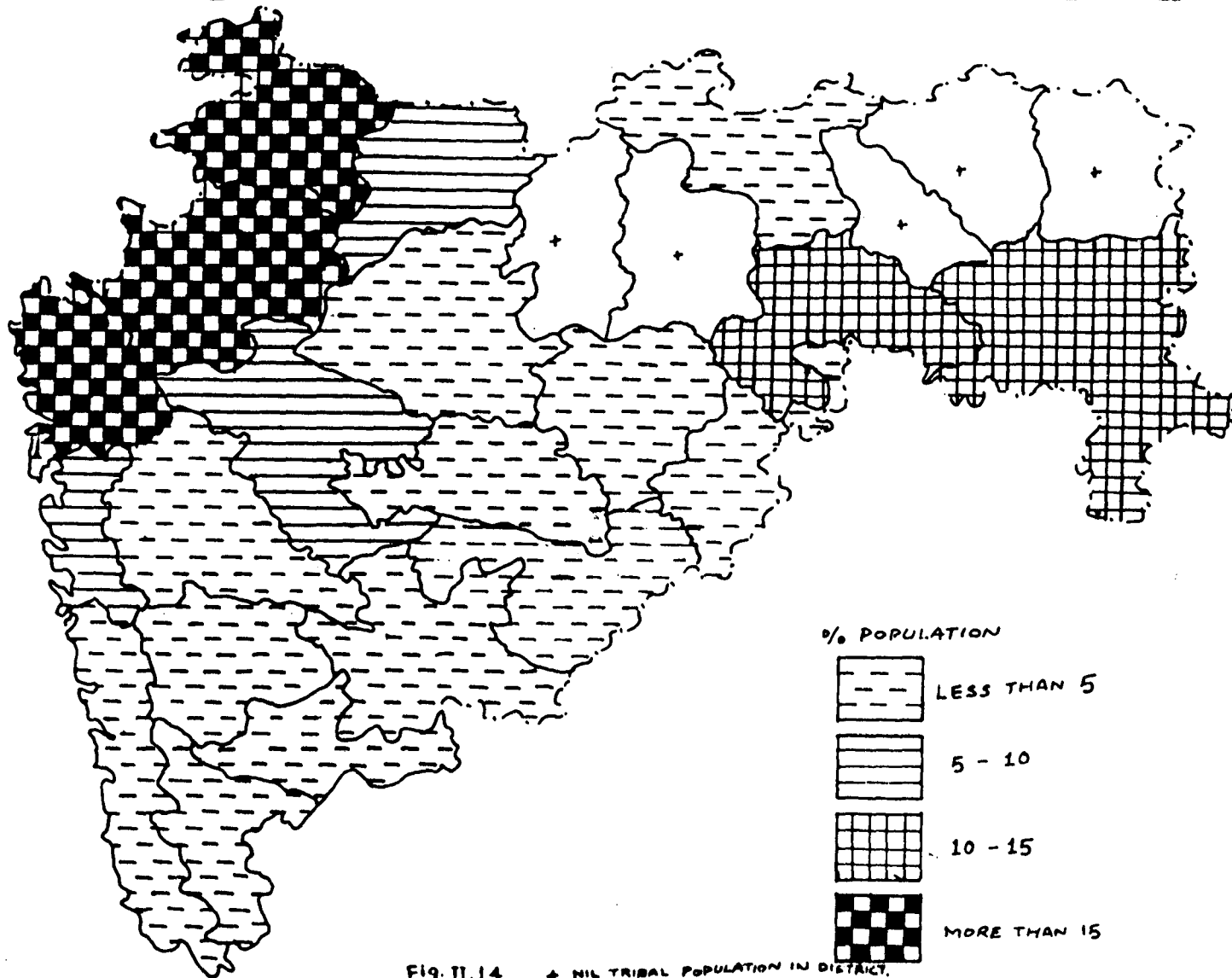
percent respectively (table 15).

II.8 SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA (1961-1991).

In 1961 Maharashtra had 6.0 percent scheduled tribes to its total population whereas in 1991, this percentage increased to 9.7 percent. In 1971 Thane had 25.54 percent of scheduled tribe population which was reduced to 18.1 percent in 1991 (table 10). Dhule has the highest percentage of scheduled tribe population. It was 37.9 percent in 1961 and it increase to 40.8 percent in 1991.

Five districts Buldana, Nagpur, Bhandara, Akola and Wardha did not have scheduled tribe population in 1961 and 1971 but in 1981 they recorded a significant presence in scheduled tribe population which could be due to migration from other areas. Figure 13 and 14 shows the percentage scheduled tribe population to the total population of the district in 1991.

As has been mentioned earlier, India at the time of independence carried on her shoulder a colossal burden of the heritage of inequalities in all faces of social development, education being no exception (Raza and Ahmad, 1990). However, a good deal of progress has been made in this field since independence. Efforts have been made to induce the lagging sector of population to formal education on a special basis. Despite this the problem of educability of scheduled tribes is a complex one. The nature of the problem is so different that it cannot be compared with the general population or even with the scheduled caste segment (Raza and Ahmad 1990:253).

52

MAHARASHTRA
PERCENTAGE OF SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION
TO TOTAL DISTRICT POPULATION (1991)

% POPULATION

LESS THAN 10

10 - 15

15 - 20

MORE THAN 20
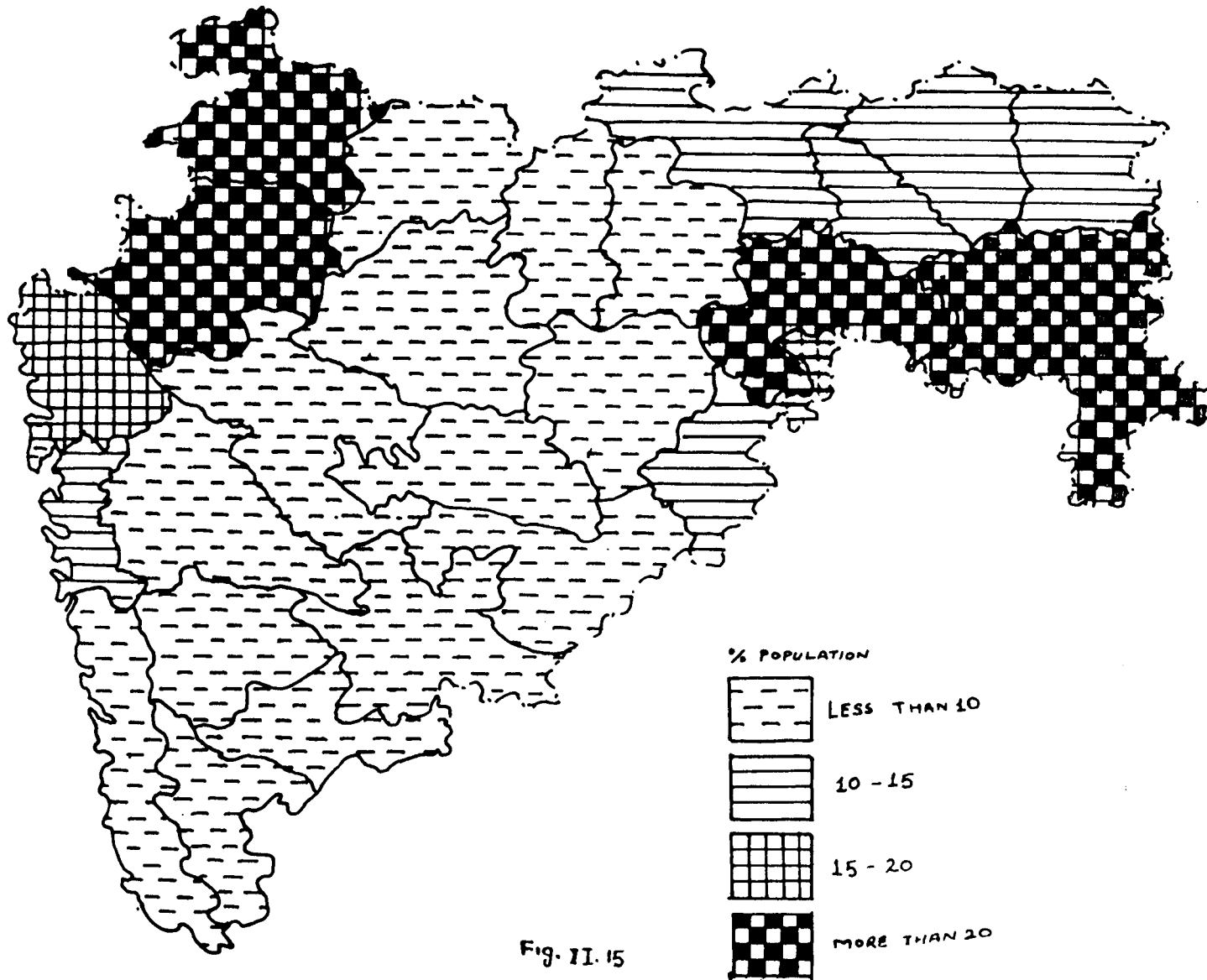
Fig. II. 15

TABLE-16
LITERACY AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBE 1961

STATE/DISTT	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	12.5	1.7	7.2	12.0	0.1	10.2	24.5	6.4	15.9
G. BOMBAY	20.0	15.0	13.5	0	0	0	20.0	5.0	13.5
THANE	10.0	11.6	5.8	9.6	1.4	5.6	19.0	7.4	13.6
RAIGARH	15.8	10.7	3.3	5.4	1.6	3.1	22.8	5.3	14.5
RATANGIRI	12.2	10.2	1.2	2.3	1.2	1.3	20.1	6.0	13.1
NASIK	12.4	2.6	7.1	11.8	1.4	6.7	28.4	6.4	17.5
DHULE	14.6	2.0	8.3	14.2	1.9	8.1	24.6	4.7	15.0
JALGAON	16.2	2.3	9.3	15.1	1.9	8.5	35.4	9.0	22.2
AHMADNAGAR	15.8	3.2	9.5	15.6	3.1	9.4	32.2	8.2	20.9
PUNE	16.3	2.0	9.3	16.2	1.9	9.2	19.6	7.3	14.2
SATARA	2.4	0.9	1.7	2.1	0.8	1.5	7.24	3.6	5.6
SANGLI	12.4	3.1	8.4	13.0	3.1	8.6	-	-	-
SOLAPUR	16.1	5.3	10.8	12.0	3.5	7.8	31.1	12.2	22.0
KOLHAPUR	30.2	3.3	17.0	26.8	2.3	14.4	44.5	9.3	29.8
AURANGABAD	6.6	0.9	3.8	6.3	0.7	3.5	20.0	10.3	15.0
PARBHANI	10.4	0.4	5.4	10.4	0.4	5.4	-	-	-
BID	5.1	1.0	3.0	5.1	1.0	3.0	-	-	-
NANDED	10.2	0.3	5.2	9.9	0.3	5.0	38.9	1.8	24.4
OSMANABAD	1.5	0.1	0.7	1.5	-	0.7	-	-	-
BULDANA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AKOLA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AMRAVATI	11.2	1.1	6.2	11.1	1.1	6.24	51.0	8.0	36.1
YAVATMAL	15.1	1.9	8.5	14.5	1.7	8.0	38.5	9.5	24.2
WARDHA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NAGPUR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BHANDRA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHANDRAPUR	10.7	0.7	5.7	10.6	0.7	5.7	25.6	3.3	15.4

By and large the spread of education among the tribal communities depends among other things, on their capacity to receive it, their stage of social evolution, ecological setting, mode of economy and their exposure to a language other than their own dialect. (Raza and Ahmed:254) The process of economic development and the pattern of interaction with the non-tribal groups in the neighborhood of the areas of tribal concentration lead to the socio - cultural transformation of the tribes.

Responses of tribes for literacy depends on their socio - cultural, economic and demographic characteristics and on the magnitude and direction of the forces of modernization, such as urbanization and industrialization (Krishan and Shyam, 1974: 277).

This implies that tribal areas which are near to some urban settlement tend to have high literacy rates. Like in Bombay scheduled tribe literacy is higher than any other place. In the present analysis development of literacy among scheduled tribe has been gauged through four decades.

a) **Overall Scheduled Tribe Literacy**

Table 16 shows that 7.21 percent of scheduled tribes were literate in Maharashtra. For the same year male and female scheduled tribe literacy was 12.5 and 1.75 percent respectively. Male scheduled tribe literacy was highest in Kolhapur and Solapur. Female literacy was well below the male literacy in these two districts, corresponding figures for two segments are 3.34 and 5.34 percent and 30.26 and 16.11 percent respectively.

In 1971, aggregate literacy rates for scheduled tribe improved a lot. But this increase was not achieved in all the districts evenly. Districts in Deccan and Konkan region witnessed much more development in literacy than districts in Marathwada region. This may be due to already existing disparities in these regions. Female literacy is at the lowest bottom in each district (table 17).

REGION-WISE SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1961
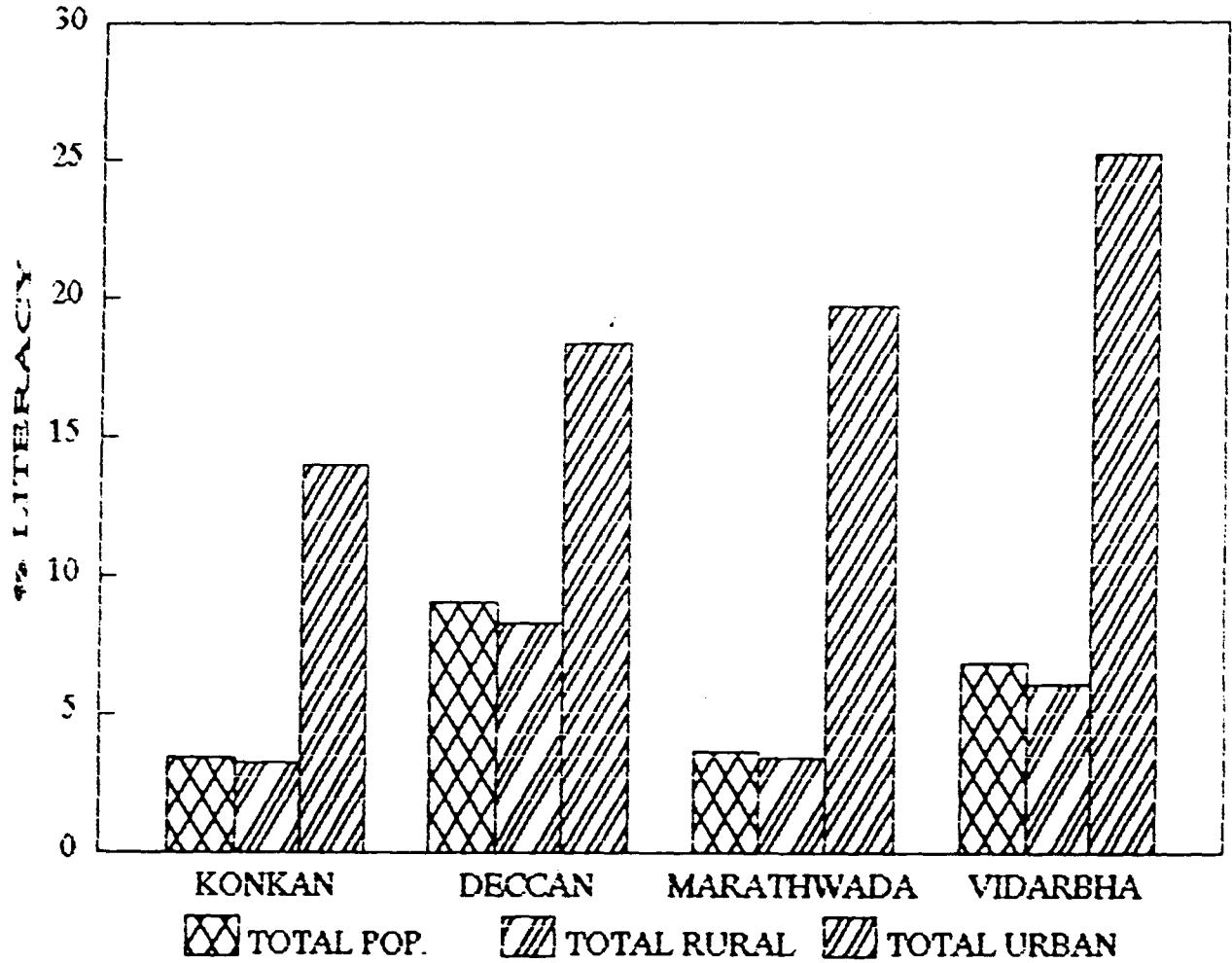
Fig II.16

TABLE-17
SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASTRA (1971)

STATE/DISTT	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	19.0	4.2	11.7	18.2	3.7	11.8	36.0	13.9	25.6
G. BOMBAY	42.0	21.2	32.7	0	0	0	42.0	21.2	32.7
THANE	15.7	2.4	9.2	15.4	2.3	8.9	26.1	8.6	17.7
RAIGARH	8.6	2.3	5.5	8.3	2.2	5.3	16.8	5.1	11.4
RATANGIRI	2.2	0.3	1.3	2.0	0.1	1.1	5.6	3.0	4.3
NASIK	19.4	4.4	12.0	18.6	4.0	11.4	33.6	10.8	22.5
DHULE	17.3	3.7	10.6	16.9	3.5	10.3	33.1	9.4	23.6
JALGAON	26.3	6.3	16.3	25.4	5.8	15.7	40.1	13.1	26.6
AHMADNAGAR	24.8	6.1	15.6	24.6	5.9	15.4	43.7	23.5	34.2
PUNE	27.9	6.2	17.3	26.4	5.4	16.2	50.3	21.2	37.6
SATARA	17.0	7.2	12.2	13.3	4.6	9.1	40.8	26.2	34.0
SANGLI	34.8	15.3	25.5	31.4	15.8	24.0	53.0	12.7	33.7
SOLAPUR	23.0	8.39	15.8	19.1	6.6	13.0	41.6	16.6	29.3
KOLHAPUR	37.5	8.5	23.8	36.0	7.5	22.4	47.9	16.7	34.1
AURANGABAD	14.1	2.0	8.2	14.0	2.0	8.1	17.4	3.3	10.0
PARBHANI	23.0	5.0	14.1	22.9	4.9	13.9	50.7	23.1	39.3
BID	9.2	1.6	5.5	9.2	1.6	5.5	25.0	50.0	33.3
NANDED	19.7	2.1	10.9	19.4	2.0	10.7	55.4	17.2	39.3
OSMANABAD	9.5	1.1	5.5	9.1	1.0	5.2	13.6	1.8	8.1
BULDANA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AKOLA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AMRAVATI	16.1	2.9	5.0	15.9	2.8	0.4	64.9	42.2	54.8
YAVATMAL	26.5	7.2	16.9	25.7	6.8	16.2	51.1	21.7	37.3
WARDHA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NAGPUR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BHANDARA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHANDRAPUR	15.7	3.1	9.5	15.6	3.1	9.5	34.5	10.8	22.5

Table 18 Shows the literacy rates for 1981. Male literacy has recorded much more growth than female literacy in percentage points. Aggregate literacy was highest in Bombay and Nagpur. Highest Male as well as female scheduled tribe literacy is also recorded in Bombay and Nagpur.

Table 19 Shows that literacy level for scheduled tribes have improved significantly in 1991. Aggregate literacy rate for Maharashtra was 36.7 percent and male-female percentage was 49.0 and 24.0 respectively. Male literacy was highest in Bombay 77.6 percent and female also had the highest percentage in Bombay 56.8 percent.

REGION-WISE SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1971

% LITERACY

KONKAN   DECCAN   MARATHWADA   VIDARBHA

TOTAL POP.   TOTAL RURAL   TOTAL URBAN
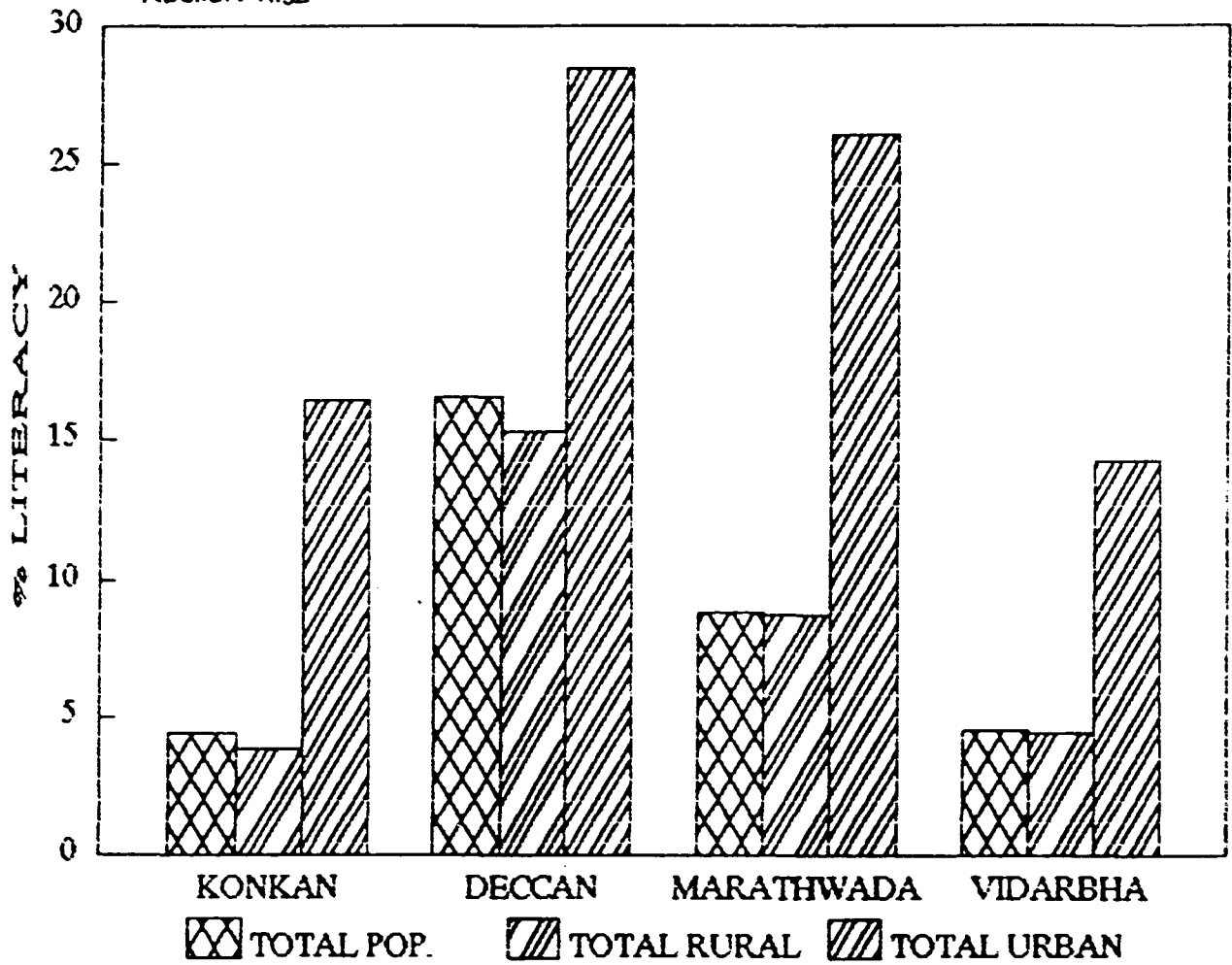
Fig. II.17

TABLE-18
SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASTRA (1981)

STATE/DISTT	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	32.3	11.9	22.2	29.1	9.3	19.3	58.9	35.1	47.5
G. BOMBAY	59.2	36.7	0	0	0	0	59.2	36.7	49.0
THANE	22.3	6.2	14.4	20.9	5.3	13.2	46.5	24.9	36.3
RAIGARH	23.3	9.3	16.4	21.6	8.4	15.0	42.3	19.9	31.4
RATANGIRI	13.5	12.6	13.0	13.1	6.7	10.0	40.9	18.0	29.3
NASIK	25.2	8.0	16.7	23.9	7.2	15.6	43.7	20.8	32.6
DHULE	23.5	6.7	15.2	22.8	6.1	14.5	44.1	20.5	32.8
JALGAON	30.5	8.9	19.9	28.4	7.1	17.9	51.4	26.8	39.8
AHMADNAGAR	26.5	7.11	16.8	25.7	6.5	16.7	51.7	25.8	39.3
PUNE	40.2	14.7	27.8	36.5	11.3	24.1	66.9	43.9	56.5
SATARA	40.0	19.1	29.6	39.2	18.6	28.9	46.5	24.2	36.2
SANGLI	54.4	25.0	40.1	52.4	23.1	38.1	64.8	36.2	51.3
SOLAPUR	44.6	17.6	31.6	39.4	13.0	26.6	58.4	30.1	44.9
KOLHAPUR	48.0	20.0	34.3	46.8	18.6	33.0	57.8	32.4	45.7
AURANGABAD	27.5	5.8	16.8	25.2	4.0	14.7	62.0	36.0	50.0
PARBHANI	28.1	5.0	16.7	26.7	3.9	15.5	53.2	26.7	40.6
BID	26.5	8.3	17.6	23.5	6.8	15.3	64.2	28.8	47.3
NANDED	33.2	7.4	20.5	32.1	6.4	19.4	44.2	16.8	30.8
OSMANABAD	35.2	10.6	23.1	33.2	9.3	21.4	55.4	25.3	41.1
BULDANA	40.3	13.2	27.1	38.6	11.6	25.4	67.7	41.3	55.3
AKOLA	46.2	20.3	33.5	44.0	17.6	31.0	68.4	47.4	58.5
AMRAVATI	34.3	16.5	25.6	30.9	13.5	22.4	63.6	43.4	53.9
YAVATMAL	35.4	12.9	24.3	33.9	11.7	22.9	61.8	36.4	49.8
WARDHA	45.1	23.9	34.7	41.6	20.7	31.4	65.7	43.0	54.7
NAGPUR	53.9	30.6	42.6	41.9	19.1	30.8	67.0	43.2	55.5
BHANDARA	48.4	17.9	33.1	46.7	16.0	31.3	68.2	40.8	54.5
CHANDRAPUR	33.0	11.2	22.2	31.6	10.1	20.9	63.6	38.1	51.3

b) Scheduled Tribe Rural Literacy

Rural scheduled tribe literacy presents much grim picture Scheduled tribe population is concentrated in rural areas of Maharashtra which leads to low of literacy due to lack of educational infrastructure.

In rural Maharashtra only 1.26 percent scheduled tribes were literate in 1961 and female literacy was not even one percent. Male literacy (12.0%) was also well below the scheduled caste literacy in the same year. Kolhapur,

REGION-WISE SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1981
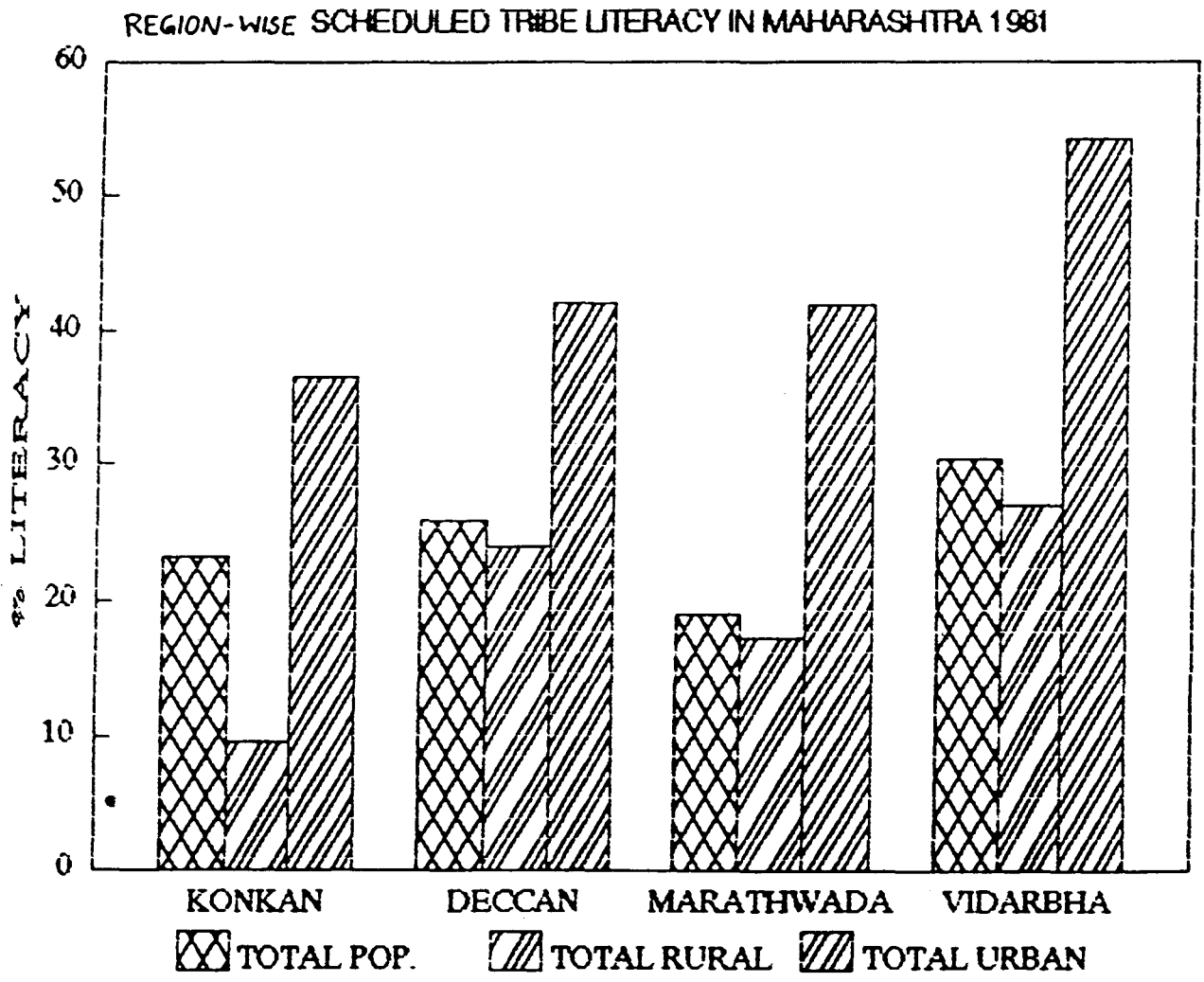
Fig. II. 18

TABLE-19
SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASTRA (1991)

STATE/DISTT	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	49.0	24.0	36.7	45.0	19.9	32.6	75.4	52.5	64.5
G. BOMBAY	77.6	56.8	68.2	0	0	0	77.6	56.8	68.2
THANE	36.8	14.5	25.8	33.1	11.3	22.3	64.3	41.6	53.7
RAIGARH	33.9	17.2	25.7	30.9	14.8	23.0	62.2	40.5	51.6
RATANGIRI	50.4	14.1	32.0	49.1	18.4	30.9	67.1	45.8	58.1
NASIK	56.6	18.2	34.6	39.1	16.4	27.8	63.4	39.4	51.8
DHULE	33.7	13.3	23.5	32.6	12.4	22.5	58.7	36.0	47.9
JALGAON	48.3	20.2	34.7	45.3	17.1	31.5	72.5	45.5	59.5
AHMADNAGAR	44.1	15.7	30.0	43.1	14.9	29.1	65.7	36.6	51.7
PUNE	57.9	29.6	44.2	52.7	24.0	38.7	80.3	56.7	69.5
SATARA	64.3	39.5	52.3	62.3	37.3	50.0	79.4	55.1	68.0
SANGLI	66.3	40.3	54.0	65.8	37.7	52.6	69.9	55.8	62.9
SOLAPUR	63.1	30.9	47.6	56.1	23.4	40.6	75.4	43.5	59.9
KOLHAPUR	64.9	45.1	56.0	76.1	44.1	60.3	77.6	52.1	65.4
AURANGABAD	47.6	16.7	32.6	43.2	11.9	27.9	67.0	52.5	60.8
PARBHANI	50.7	15.7	33.7	48.3	13.5	31.3	80.1	46.6	64.7
BID	54.1	21.1	38.3	49.1	15.5	33.1	88.8	59.7	75.0
NANDED	52.6	19.1	36.3	50.5	17.4	34.4	65.8	34.9	51.0
OSMANABAD	56.9	20.3	39.2	54.6	22.7	39.2	73.4	41.7	58.8
BULDANA	57.0	24.6	41.3	55.6	22.8	39.6	77.8	52.9	66.2
AKOLA	65.2	36.0	51.0	62.5	32.0	47.6	85.2	66.3	76.2
AMRAVATI	55.9	32.4	44.5	52.8	29.0	41.2	81.8	62.8	72.8
YAVATMAL	55.0	27.2	41.4	53.5	25.4	39.7	77.0	54.3	66.2
WARDHA	64.8	44.7	55.0	62.7	41.6	52.4	82.3	62.8	72.8
NAGPUR	73.0	50.6	62.2	62.6	38.5	50.9	83.6	63.1	73.7
BHANDARA	68.4	35.4	51.9	67.3	33.6	50.4	83.6	61.6	72.7
CHANDRAPUR	52.0	26.4	39.3	49.2	23.9	36.6	79.1	53.1	66.8

Solapur, Sangli and Satara have a high level of literacy because base of scheduled tribe literates is very less impliging that percentage of scheduled tribe population is very negligible in these districts. Dhule which had the highest percentage of scheduled tribe population has very low literacy for female 1.93 percent. For males this percentage is 14.27 which is much above if compared with female literacy in 1961. This again confirms the observation that low literacy rates are embedded in districts having the high percentage of scheduled tribe population.

REGION-WISE SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY IN MAHARASHTRA 1991
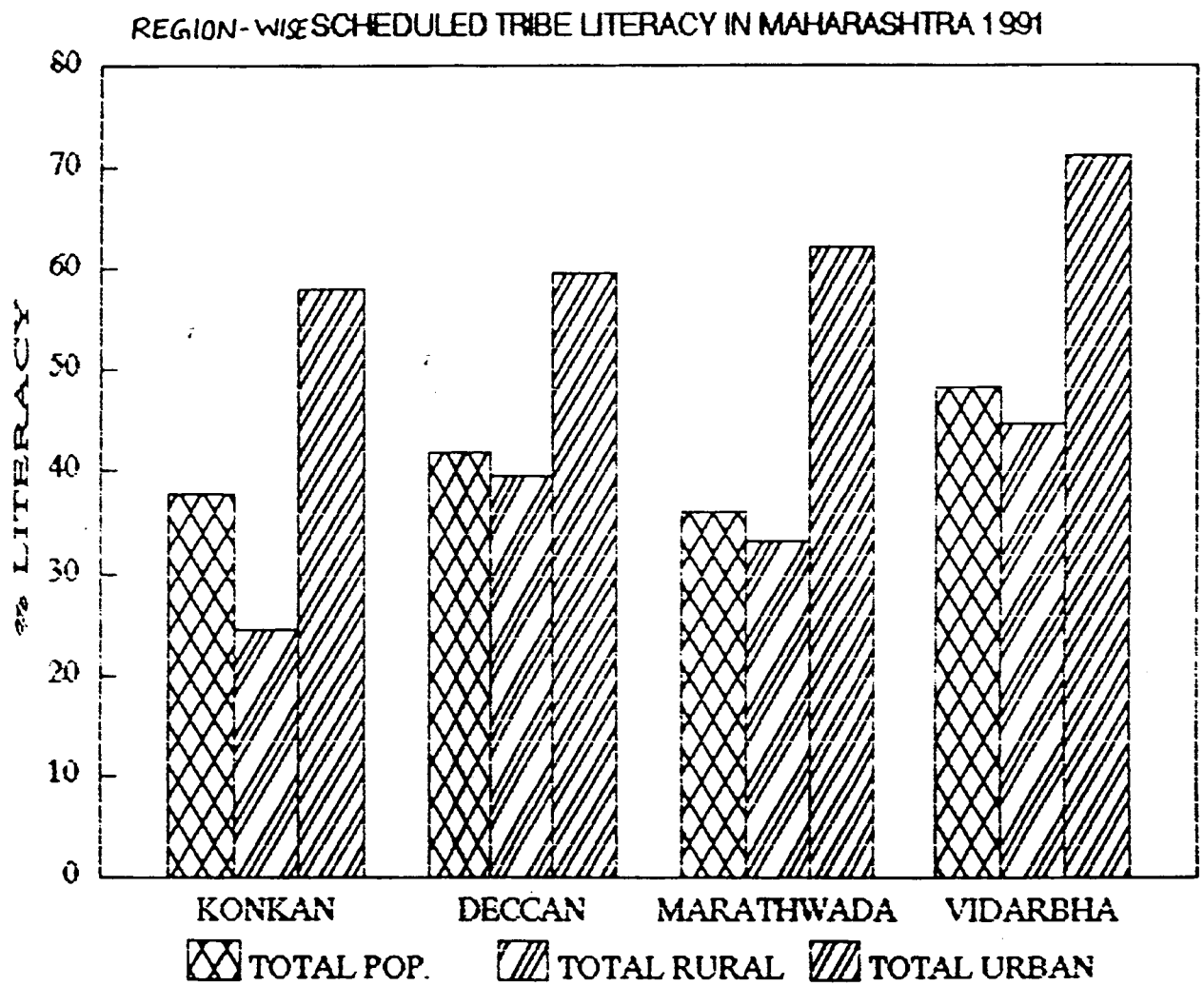
Fig. II. 19

There is a slight change in rural literacy in 1971 as compared to 1961. Rural male literacy is higher than female rural literacy. Seven districts have lower scheduled caste male literacy than Maharashtra's average for rural male literacy and rest of the district are above the state average. Ten districts are below the state average whereas female literacy is concerned. Sangli has the highest 15.89 percent, literacy among female segment of scheduled tribe in 1971.

In 1981, rural Maharashtra recorded considerably high literacy rates for scheduled tribes. Even districts located in Marathwada region recorded impressive growth in literacy. Male literacy dominated in all the districts leaving female segment far behind. Difference between the percentage of male-female segment was to the tune of 46.3 percent.

In 1991 rural scheduled tribe literacy could not get all those facilities regarding education as their urban counterpart. Rural male scheduled tribe literacy was not at all par with urban male scheduled tribe literacy. Kolhapur registered highest rural male literacy despite the fact that only 0.5 percent of scheduled tribe population resided there in 1991. Rural female literacy was relatively high (44.1%) in the same district. Otherwise, rural female literacy is generally low in majority of the district. During these four decades region-wise scheduled tribe rural literacy shows that Vidarbha and Marathwada had the lowest literacy, specially among female scheduled tribe literacy. In 1991

these literacy rates in various regions improved significantly. Marathwada surpassed the high literacy rate of Konkan region in 1991.

c) **Scheduled Tribe Urban Literacy**

Urban areas had performed comparatively better than rural area's literacy. Greater Bombay, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Kolhapur and Solapur have highest literacy level for male and female both. Nanded which lies in the backward region of Marathwada has quite high urban male literacy but female literacy is extremely low at 1.82 percent. In urban scheduled tribe male-female literacy there are wide gaps. At one end the male literacy is as high as 51.0 percent in Amravati and on the other hand we have Chandrapur's female literacy as low as 3.35 percent. Here male and female literacy was 24.56 and 6.45 percent respectively in 1961. Overall scheduled tribe literacy is highest in Nasik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar and Pune, because these areas have advantage of urban proximity. Kolhapur has an edge over other districts as it recorded 17.0 percent literacy followed by Solapur which has 10.8 percent of literacy in 1961.

Urban literacy has improved considerably in 1971. There was more than ten percent increase in total urban literacy; for urban female this percentage was 7.54. Bombay registered 20 percent increase in urban male literacy and female scheduled tribe literacy recorded 15 percent increase. Parbhani, Bid and Osmanabad districts did not have

urban scheduled tribe population in 1961 but urban areas in these districts recorded scheduled tribe population in 1971 (table 10). This may be due to the migration from rural to urban areas.

It may be recalled that unlike scheduled caste, scheduled tribes of Maharashtra did not experience any social movement for their upliftment. While the scheduled castes are territorally dispersed all over Maharashtra, the scheduled tribes are confined more or less to exclusive territorial locations. In the case of the scheduled castes the possibility of an all India movement and Pan-Indian leader such as Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was always present thus giving them territorial dispersal. Scheduled tribe did not have any such leader and their social movements were confined to few local pockets (Oomen, 1977:157). Due to these factors also scheduled tribe literacy remained at lower level than scheduled caste literacy.

Urban scheduled tribes performed better in literacy as they had much better facilities for education in urban areas. Lowest literacy among female and male scheduled tribe in urban population in Marathwada region. Vidarbha region has the highest literacy in the urban areas. Female literacy tend to be higher in urban area due to relative openness of the urban society (table 20).

II.9 GROWTH OF LITERACY AMONG NON-SCHEDULED POPULATION (1961-1971)

After tracing the spatio temporal pattern of literacy among various segments through four decades the discussion now fouces on the growth of literacy in these decades.

TABLE 20
REGION-WISE SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY 1961-91

	REGION	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
		M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
1961	KONKAN	6.0	0.8	3.5	5.8	0.7	3.3	20.9	6.3	14.0
	DECCAN	15.1	2.6	9.0	14.1	2.2	8.2	27.9	7.6	18.4
	MARATHWADA	5.8	0.7	3.6	6.6	0.6	3.5	29.4	6.0	19.7
	VIDARBHA	12.3	1.2	6.8	12.1	1.2	6.6	38.4	6.9	25.2
1971	KONKAN	6.6	1.2	4.4	6.5	1.1	3.8	22.6	9.5	16.5
	DECCAN	25.3	7.3	16.6	23.5	6.6	15.3	39.3	16.7	28.4
	MARATHWADA	15.1	2.4	8.8	14.9	2.3	8.7	32.4	19.1	26.0
	VIDARBHA	7.3	1.6	4.5	7.1	1.5	4.4	18.8	9.3	14.3
1981	KONKAN	29.6	16.2	23.2	13.9	5.1	9.5	47.2	24.9	36.5
	DECCAN	37.0	14.1	25.8	35.0	10.4	23.9	53.9	29.0	42.1
	MARATHWADA	30.1	7.4	19.0	28.1	6.1	17.3	55.8	26.0	42.0
	VIDARBHA	42.1	18.3	30.4	38.7	15.0	27.0	65.8	41.7	54.2
1991	KONKAN	47.7	25.7	37.9	37.7	14.8	24.4	67.8	46.2	57.9
	DECCAN	55.5	28.1	41.9	52.6	25.2	39.7	71.4	46.8	59.6
	MARATHWADA	52.4	18.6	36.0	49.1	16.2	33.2	65.0	45.1	52.0
	VIDARBHA	61.4	34.7	48.3	58.3	30.8	44.8	81.2	59.6	70.9

During the decade of 1961-71 highest growth rates were registered by districts of Marathwada region in all the three categories of total, rural and urban. In overall urban areas Maharashtra's non-scheduled population female have registered a higher growth in literacy than their male counterpart (table 21).

During the period of 1961-1971 highest growth rates have been recorded by Aurangabad, Parbhani, where as Osmanabad recorded a negative growth rate of 32.12 percent. Chandrapur and Buldana also registered high growth rate in literacy.

TABLE 21
GROWTH OF LITERACY AMONG NON-SCHEDULED POPULATION (1961-71)

STATE/DISTT.	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
MAHARASHTRA	66.4	54.3	98.9	73.2	87.3	130.6	59.1	55.7	76.6
G. BOMBAY	53.1	45.6	68.4	0	0	0	55.7	48.2	70.7
THANE	83.3	71.9	111.2	81.8	67.2	132.7	84.8	77.5	97.9
RAIGARH	71.9	55.6	114.0	73.9	54.9	129.9	64.5	58.8	73.8
RATANGIRI	49.8	31.7	84.7	54.2	35.6	91.6	37.0	28.7	49.8
NASIK	73.7	59.4	118.9	162.6	395.2	150.3	65.8	53.1	93.1
DHULE	55.1	41.7	99.7	53.2	39.4	107.6	60.5	49.4	84.9
JALGAON	59.3	42.7	107.1	64.1	45.0	126.9	49.4	84.9	59.3
AHMADNAGAR	74.1	59.1	120.6	79.0	61.2	142.5	55.1	49.4	65.9
PUNE	66.9	57.6	87.9	77.4	61.4	134.1	59.7	54.4	68.8
SATARA	36.0	33.8	40.7	31.4	29.6	35.6	57.9	55.8	61.6
SANGALI	63.9	50.0	107.7	61.8	46.9	116.8	69.9	60.7	90.2
SOLAPUR	58.8	48.1	90.8	74.4	59.9	130.6	40.5	32.3	59.3
KOLHAPUR	71.8	59.2	113.7	77.8	62.4	149.7	61.6	52.4	80.4
AURANGABAD	104.4	90.3	166.8	111.9	94.4	228.2	88.1	79.1	108.9
PARBHANI	97.4	82.9	170.1	103.0	87.3	212.8	83.6	70.0	121.0
BID	98.8	84.0	167.8	111.9	94.4	228.2	88.1	79.1	108.9
NANDEE	94.4	82.9	170.1	103.0	87.3	212.8	83.6	70.0	121.0
OSMANABAD	60.3	80.7	-33.1	108.0	83.1	248.2	82.0	70.8	112.6
BULDANA	63.5	47.6	119.3	66.3	48.3	140.0	55.9	44.7	81.6
AKOLA	59.2	45.1	99.0	60.4	45.5	110.0	56.6	43.9	82.4
AMARVATI	56.7	42.2	91.2	57.8	42.5	97.8	54.7	41.6	80.9
YAVATMAL	77.3	61.1	130.8	82.5	64.0	154.3	60.5	49.8	82.7
WARDHA	67.1	48.6	115.4	78.7	55.6	150.8	47.4	35.4	78.9
NAGPUR	64.3	49.6	99.7	85.6	61.9	182.4	55.8	43.7	80.1
BHANDRA	77.8	52.3	202.3	83.2	55.3	250.0	55.3	37.8	100.5
CHANDRAPUR	103.2	78.9	228.4	103.5	78.0	265.4	102.8	83.7	148.8

Table 22 shows the growth rates of literacy among non-scheduled population during 1971-81. Chandrapur district had registered quite high growth in female literacy. This higher growth may be due to more social awareness among these people for literacy.

In 1981-91 highest growth rate were recorded in Konkan region this was due to better education infrastructure which was existing in this region (Table 24). Another reason for this may be the already existing high male literecy which

gives a headstart to female literecy when it comes to growth.

TABLE-22
GROWTH IN NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY (1971-81)

STATE/DISTT	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
MAHARASHTRA	51.6	44.7	65.7	53.1	45.8	59.0	54.1	47.9	64.8
G. BOMBAY	46.4	40.9	56.1	0	0	0	46.8	40.9	56.1
THANE	82.0	73.9	98.0	68.3	59.7	47.2	96.3	98.8	105.0
RAIGARH	55.7	48.0	70.0	55.7	47.2	67.5	56.9	53.2	62.4
RATANGIRI	29.0	23.7	36.4	29.3	22.6	38.7	15.3	11.6	20.2
NASIK	52.1	44.3	70.0	78.4	84.4	36.6	53.4	48.0	62.7
DHULE	49.6	43.7	63.7	48.6	43.0	19.4	54.1	47.0	66.5
JALGAON	31.2	29.0	35.6	28.1	27.0	23.1	41.6	36.9	49.6
AHMADNAGAR	39.6	34.8	50.2	39.3	34.9	39.5	47.3	41.2	57.9
PUNE	56.6	49.2	70.5	63.3	52.8	75.7	58.1	53.0	66.2
SATARA	47.1	35.5	70.3	53.4	40.3	80.8	29.1	22.1	40.7
SANGALI	46.6	35.8	71.0	47.8	36.2	76.1	52.5	43.9	67.7
SOLAPUR	39.1	33.3	52.2	47.5	41.1	62.7	36.8	31.1	47.9
KOLHAPUR	55.3	44.0	83.1	60.2	46.6	100.5	55.0	47.6	67.8
AURANGABAD	55.1	48.5	75.9	45.0	41.3	55.4	83.2	73.5	102.4
PARBHANI	51.3	46.6	67.2	47.8	45.0	48.1	64.5	56.0	82.3
BID	54.6	47.7	76.7	45.8	40.0	67.0	80.3	69.5	103.8
NANDEE	66.2	59.1	90.8	62.0	56.3	66.6	81.3	72.5	100.0
OSMANABAD	85.9	40.0	66.9	44.3	37.6	63.8	68.4	58.3	90.8
BULDANA	45.4	39.1	59.1	47.9	42.0	63.1	42.9	35.4	56.3
AKOLA	52.5	44.8	68.3	57.7	49.6	76.4	45.6	37.9	58.0
AMARVATI	44.9	44.6	45.5	56.6	48.7	65.2	50.3	41.7	63.8
YAVATMAL	58.6	53.0	71.4	58.8	53.2	45.3	60.8	54.1	72.2
WARDHA	59.6	52.7	72.2	67.8	60.9	81.2	48.3	40.6	60.7
NAGPUR	73.8	64.7	90.2	91.5	78.0	123.4	71.7	63.9	84.4
BHANDRA	54.6	46.3	75.0	55.2	47.2	76.4	63.0	52.8	81.1
CHANDRAPUR	78.2	67.7	107.5	77.0	67.2	77.3	91.7	79.9	115.4

II.10 GROWTH OF LITERACY AMONG SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

According to the table 25, Marathwada has registered the highest growth in literacy. In Konkan literacy has witnessed considerably high growth due to educational infrastructure which is possessed by this areas from British period. Daccan and Vidarbha recorded highest growth rate due to social mobilization among scheduled castes. Soon

63

after the independence, Aurangabad became the centre of education for scheduled caste population. the scheduled caste studants from differnt parts of Maharashtra rushed to Aurangabad to take education in the college established by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Kakade 1990). Highest growth in literacy during 1981-91 decade was recorded by Aurangabad district. Lowest growth for the same period was found in Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara district.

TABLE-23
NON-SCHEDULED POPULATION'S GROWTH IN LITERACY (1981-91)

STATE/DISTT	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
MAHARASHTRA	38.3	31.4	50.8	40.3	35.2	48.0	8.1	28.4	6.4
G. BOMBAY	23.6	19.4	30.1	0	0	0	23.6	19.4	30.1
THANE	75.8	66.7	91.6	10.7	6.7	47.1	128.8	122.8	137.8
RAIGARH	42.3	35.8	52.9	38.1	30.9	281.9	59.1	56.7	62.4
RATANGIRI	33.9	28.8	40.2	35.4	29.8	53.6	24.4	20.8	29.0
NASIK	46.5	37.5	64.0	43.6	34.6	22.3	50.9	42.5	63.9
DHULE	38.4	31.6	52.5	38.7	31.4	105.5	37.5	32.2	45.6
JALGAON	32.3	25.8	44.6	29.5	22.7	25.3	38.8	35.5	37.1
AHMADNAGAR	42.3	34.9	57.0	40.1	34.6	246.0	49.6	44.2	58.1
PUNE	41.8	35.2	52.6	43.1	34.6	-31.9	40.8	35.8	48.1
SATARA	35.3	29.1	45.2	38.3	31.5	348.6	21.0	16.9	27.0
SANGALI	32.5	24.7	46.6	33.9	25.4	122.0	28.8	22.6	38.4
SOLAPUR	37.1	30.0	51.5	45.9	37.4	18.3	23.9	17.8	34.2
KOLHAPUR	47.0	35.4	69.5	51.6	36.7	80.3	42.8	41.2	45.1
AURANGABAD	60.3	49.6	88.7	54.3	43.4	31.1	71.9	64.3	84.7
PARBHANI	38.0	28.6	66.2	34.8	24.9	34.9	45.9	36.6	57.6
BID	47.2	37.7	72.6	47.0	37.0	93.9	48.0	42.2	62.0
NANDED	60.7	48.8	94.9	59.9	47.0	56.7	62.1	53.1	78.6
OSMANABAD	185.9	122.2	333.1	194.4	124.6	605.0	157.9	115.2	230.8
BULDANA	33.6	25.9	49.1	30.4	21.3	135.1	37.1	31.8	45.3
AKOLA	29.8	23.0	41.8	22.8	16.1	83.4	45.9	41.0	52.9
AMARVATI	29.6	17.7	50.6	16.4	1137	59.8	35.9	31.1	42.2
YAVATMAL	38.8	30.1	56.6	38.5	29.4	195.5	39.8	33.1	50.0
WARDHA	22.9	15.5	34.9	24.2	16.0	95.7	20.3	14.8	28.1
NAGPUR	28.7	23.2	37.5	28.1	19.6	58.0	29.0	25.2	34.6
BHANDRA	30.4	19.9	52.0	33.3	21.5	279.8	16.7	11.4	24.6
CHANDRAPUR	47.5	35.5	74.7	33.1	22.1	209.1	106.4	99.8	116.8

64

REGIONS	TOTAL			RURAL			URBAN		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
1961-71 KONKAN	64.5	51.2	94.6	166.2	150.0	156.1	60.5	53.3	73.1
DECCAN	62.2	50.2	98.6	186.9	200.1	121.6	57.8	49.4	75.3
MARATHWADA	91.0	83.8	125.6	105.9	88.5	215.6	84.6	73.0	115.4
VIDARBHA	71.1	53.1	135.7	77.2	56.4	168.9	61.0	47.5	91.1
1971-81 KONKAN	53.3	46.6	65.1	13.3	50.0	51.0	53.7	49.1	60.9
DECCAN	46.3	38.8	63.0	34.4	26.4	57.2	47.5	41.2	58.5
MARATHWADA	59.8	46.9	172.6	48.8	43.7	60.7	70.1	60.9	89.3
VIDARBHA	60.3	53.4	75.7	66.3	57.8	77.9	61.6	52.9	76.5
1981-91 KONKAN	43.9	37.7	53.4	159.0	178.1	222.1	59.0	54.9	64.8
DECCAN	39.2	31.4	53.7	40.6	31.9	109.6	37.1	30.9	45.3
MARATHWADA	52.5	42.3	79.9	78.1	55.3	164.3	59.1	51.1	73.5
VIDARBHA	32.7	23.8	49.6	28.4	19.7	125.0	41.4	36.0	49.4

Table-26 shows the districts with highest and lowest growth in literacy during the study period. Growth of literacy has been calculated for 1961-71, 1971-81 and 1981-1991.

During the years 1961-71, growth in literate population was the highest among all the decades. Rapid expansion of educational facilities may be one of the reasons which helped in obtaining high growth. Rural scheduled caste male and female had and the highest growth in literacy in Bhandara district which is in Vidarbha region. Urban scheduled caste male literacy registered highest growth percentage in Bhandara again. This could be explained by the fact that out of only 2.4 percent scheduled caste population in 1961, Bhandara had high Buddhist population (16.9%).

	SCM	SCF	SCRM	SCRF	SCUM	SCUF
1961-71 High GR	263.60	684.56	307.8	830.0	153.8	431.1
Districts's Name	Bhandara	Osmana-bad	Bhandara	Bhandara	Bhandara	Osmanabad
Lowest GR	37.2	40.4	34.8	35.0	41.8	56.9
District's Name	Raigarh	Satara	Raigarh	Satara	Satara	Satara

	SCM	SCF	SCRM	SCRF	SCUM	SCUF
1971-81 Highest GR	179.3	371.9	206.7	354.0	256.0	427.3
Districts's	Nanded	Nanded	Nagpur	Nanded	Thane	Nadanded
Lowest GR	31.2	71.6	29.4	69.1	46.3	56.7
District	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Solapur	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri

	SCM	SCF	SCRM	SCRF	SCUM	SCUF
1981-91 Highest GR	403.3	616.8	470.1	458.3	569.6	808.2
Districts's	Wardha	Auranga-bad	Wardha	Amaravti	Chandra-pur	Aurangabad
Lowest GR	40.9	96.3	46.7	88.9	10.5	87.1
District	Kolhapur	Sangli	Sangli	Ahmad-nagar	Kolhapur	Satara

	STM	STF	STRM	STRF	STUM	STUF
1961-71 Highest GR	4233.3	2137.5	3666.6	1850.0	1900.0	2900.0
Districts	Osmanabad	Sangli	Osmanabad	Sangli	Satara	Amaravati
Lowest GR	37.2	40.4	34.8	35.0	41.8	56.9
District	Raigarh	Satara	Raigarh	Satara	Satara	Satara

	STM	STF	STRM	STRF	STUM	STUF
1971-81 Highest GR	7090.0	19378.5	7000.8	18091.6	32900.0	27400.0
Districts	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	Bid	Osmanabad
Lowest GR	36.8	48.5	31.3	38.6	93.9	150.0
District	Ahmadnagar	Ahmad-nagar	Ahmadnagar	Ahmad-nagar	Nasik	Satara

	STM	STF	STRM	STRF	STUM	STUF
1981-91 Highest GR	144.6	237.9	136.7	259.5	311.9	355.2
Districts's Name	Bid	Parbhani	Bid	Parbhani	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri
Lowest GR	-29.0	-43-1	-29.6	-8.9	-45.3	-15.4
District	Sangli	Ratnagiri	Kolhapur	Sangli	Sangli	Sangli

Buddhist converts gained education through social awakening
spread by Ambedkar in late 1950's and early 1960'S. Raigarh

Mahars who were the most dominant scheduled caste and and Satara had the lowest growth in literacy during 1961-1971 in both urban and rural areas.

Among scheduled tribe, highest growth in literacy in rural areas was experienced by Sangli, Osmanabad and Satara. Amravati in urban areas experienced the highest growth in scheduled tribe female literacy.

In 1971-81, districts had changed their position. For example, Nanded recorded highest growth in rural female literacy among scheduled caste. During the same period Osmanabad registerd the highest growth in literacy among scheduled tribe males.

During 1981-1991 period mostly educationally backward district like Parbhani, Bid and Aurangabad have had the high growth rates for scheduled tribe.

Scheduled castes have had the higher growth than scheduled tribes in literacy during 1981-1991. This indicate that although scheduled tribes are gaining the benefits of special incentives of Maharshtra government scheduled castes are the real beneficiaries as they already have a good base of education in general as comapred to scheduled tribes. On the whole scheduled tribes have to go a long way to be in comparison with scheduled castes and both of them are below non-scheduled's growth in literacy.

It can be concluded from the discussion so far that traditionaly advanced areas tend to have higher literacy in each decade. Scheduled tribes and scheduled castes have low

levels of literacy because they are mostly confined to backward rural areas. Over the decades the gaps between male and female as well as rural and urban areas have declined significantly in Maharashtra. However, there still exists wide gaps between various groups.

Table 26

Growth of Literacy Among Scheduled Caste (1961-91)

		TM	TF	P	TRM	TRF	P	TUM	TUF	P
	K	50.3	135.8	67.4	46.2	129.7	62.5	80.3	178.4	103.5
1961-71	D	85.7	189.5	102.2	88.2	228.2	105.4	78.7	151.0	94.3
	M	146.9	372.5	165.6	168.8	489.4	189.5	74.4	208.0	91.1
	V	120.4	327.4	154.3	140.0	419.6	180.1	88.3	232.2	115.9
1971-81	K	106.7	150.3	120.1	54.2	88.2	64.2	148.1	186.5	160.6
	D	85.6	131.7	96.4	76.0	116.5	84.5	106.3	155.4	120.3
	M	100.8	200.5	114.5	90.3	170.2	100.2	158.0	301.9	185.7
	V	115.6	167.5	129.8	122.8	172.9	135.9	105.6	169.0	124.2
	K	140.8	195.3	154.1	79.1	120.4	93.9	161.7	211.2	179.3
1981-91	D	79.4	134.9	95.0	74.7	136.0	90.5	88.6	134.6	96.6
	M	185.2	368.7	221.5	162.9	350.3	196.0	265.6	398.2	300.6
	V	252.4	371.7	289.5	262.7	390.1	300.6	251.9	344.2	284.3

Table 27

Growth of Literacy Among Scheduled Tribe (1961-91)

		TM	TF	P	TRM	TRF	P	TUM	TUF	P
	K	95.3	201.4	104.8	84.1	125.8	88.8	71.0	148.2	83.8
1961-71	D	277.0	494.7	309.4	240.6	459.8	269.6	307.9	446.3	339.8
	M	965.2	439.8	1068.5	851.5	430.3	941.1	10.1	210.0	15.9
	V	60.0	149.9	55.3	45.7	150.0	54.8	101.1	565.4	140.7
	K	614.6	3162.5	941.9	590.4	3819.9	808.4	441.4	663.3	487.5
1971-81	D	430.8	590.8	462.6	455.3	614.2	483.2	425.9	703.0	484.6
	M	1757.3	4488.4	2029.8	168.8	4060.9	1913.9	9647.5	11014.7	8355.5
	V	137.1	320.9	166.0	116.9	257.9	138.7	1330.9	1847.0	1475.9
	K	57.2	59.9	51.4	40.2	66.9	46.8	157.5	205.3	172.7
1981-91	D	39.2	86.1	50.9	35.1	83.9	46.4	58.6	95.2	70.2
	M	97.9	185.6	113.2	91.3	189.6	106.2	136.3	196.3	154.8
	V	50.4	95.3	63.1	52.6	104.9	66.6	52.8	74.2	60.0

K : Konkan   D : Deccan   M : Marathwada   V : Vidarbha.

CHAPTER-III

DISPARITIES IN LITERACY

In contemporary India, one of the major concerns in the development process has been growth with equity, i.e., the concern that the benefits of development get evenly distributed in geographical terms so that there are no marked disparities across regions. The inter-regional parities may, however, be superfluous if disparities between various social groups and between gender within the groups are not simultaneously reduced. Raza's comment is apt in this regard "equity without growth is a stagnant cesspool wherein only misery, ignorance, obsecuratism and superstition can be equitably distributed" (Raza 1990:65). He further observes that growth without equity leads to the accentuation of the structural disequilibrium which constrains growth itself. The social concern for the two can be handled together, sustaining and sustained by each other (Raza 1990:62).

The entire question of distributive social justice then hinges upon this crucial link between growth and equity as stated by Raza these are not necessarily antagonistic to one another (Raza and Aaggrwal 1984).

However, certain regions acquire relative advantage over others in the process of human resource development. An inquiry into its spatial pattern, interregional variation and disparities within and between regions thus assumes wider implication for further probe into the realization of

'growth with equity' model. It has been argued that despite planned and concentrated efforts the regional disparities in literacy have a remarkable temporal stability (Raza 1991).

In the following section an attempt is made to evaluate this particular aspect of India's as well as Maharashtra's literacy performance.

III.1 DISPARITIES IN INDIAN LITERACY

Literacy has a direct bearing on economic and social progress of any society. In India, as various studies have pointed out, disparities in literacy are directly related to the historical legacies, administrative capabilitkesand political factors which differ from region to region.

These socio-economic conditions and historical legacies also have impact on the inequalities in male and female literacy as well as among various segments of Indian society.

Table 1 provides an overview of literacy for all India level. It also gives the accounts of literacy of various segments of Indian population for the time period of 1961 to 1991. The following inferences can be drawn from this table: (a) the disparities are declining over the four decades under observation for all segments of population as well as by rural and urban residence;

(b) in India disparities of scheduled tribes was highest in the initial period but later these gender disparities declined faster than scheduled caste gender disparities in urban areas;

(c) as far as overall disparities are concerned, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have higher disparities than non-scheduled population.

Table 1
DISPARITIES IN LITERACY 1961-91

SEGMENTS OF POPULATION	PERCENTAGE LITERACY				GENDER DISPARITY IN LITERACY			
	1961	1971	1981	1991	1961	1971	1981	1991
Total	24.0	29.4	26.1	52.2				
Male	34.4	39.4	46.1	64.1	0.48	0.38	0.33	0.30
Female	12.9	18.7	24.8	39.2				
Rural	19.0	23.7	29.5	44.5				
Male	29.0	33.7	40.6	57.8	0.58	0.46	0.41	0.35
Female	8.5	13.1	17.9	30.7				
Urban	46.9	52.4	57.1	73.0				
Male	57.5	61.2	65.5	81.0	0.29	0.22	0.19	0.15
Female	34.5	42.1	42.1	63.9				
Total SC	10.2	14.6	21.3	37.4				
Male	16.9	22.3	31.1	49.5	0.60	0.57	0.50	0.38
Female	3.2	6.4	10.9	23.7				
Rural SC	8.8	12.7	18.4	33.2				
Male	15.0	20.0	27.9	45.0	0.79	0.63	0.64	0.48
Female	2.5	5.0	8.4	19.4				
Urban Sc	21.7	28.6	36.6	55.1				
Male	32.1	39.9	47.5	66.6	0.55	0.43	0.35	0.27
Female	10.0	16.6	24.3	42.2				
Total ST	8.5	11.3	16.3	29.5				
Male	13.8	17.6	24.5	40.6	0.66	0.59	0.52	0.47
Female	3.1	4.8	8.0	18.1				
Rural ST	8.1	10.6	14.9	27.3				
Male	13.3	16.9	22.9	38.4	0.68	0.61	0.56	0.43
Female	2.9	4.3	6.8	16.0				
Urban ST	22.4	28.8	35.6	46.6				
Male	30.4	37.0	45.6	66.5	0.74	0.52	0.28	0.23
Female	13.4	19.6	27.3	45.6				

Table-2
STATE-WISE DISPARITIES IN LITERACY 1961-1991

	1961***	1971	1981	1991**
Himachal Pradesh	0.58	0.38	0.28	0.23
Karnataka	0.62	0.50	0.40	0.25
Jammu & Kashmir*	0.46	0.35	0.30	-
Kerala	0.19	0.12	0.08	0.06
Madhya Pardesh	0.64	0.52	0.46	0.38
Maharashtra	0.45	0.35	0.29	0.24
Andhra Pradesh	0.44	0.37	0.30	0.28
Orissa	0.66	0.49	0.40	0.34
Punjab	0.33	0.22	0.18	0.15
Rajasthan	0.64	0.58	0.56	0.52
Tamilnadu	0.45	0.35	0.28	0.15
Uttar Pardesh	0.63	0.52	0.50	0.42
West Bengal	0.43	0.33	0.27	0.22
Bihar	0.69	0.60	0.58	0.49
Haryana	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.27
Gujarat	0.44	0.34	0.30	0.25
INDIA	0.47	0.37	0.33	0.30

* No Census was held in 1991.
Source: ** Cesus of India, Paper 2 of 1992.
*** Census of India: A handbook of Population on statistics 1988.

A similar pattern is observed for state level data for their male-female segments also. Table 2 presents inter-state gender disparities where Kerala has the lowest gender disparity in literacy. Remarkable growth in literacy in Himachal Pradesh has led to tremendous reduction in disparity level. The states which have considerable variation in male female literacy have higher disparities like in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These inter-state disparities have gone down due to increase in male female literacy. After having a look at all India level, an attempt is now being made to observe the gender disparity behavior in Maharashtra state and to look at the inter regional and inter district gender disparities.

III.2 **GENDER DISPARITIES IN NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY**

Fast growth of literacy has been experienced by Maharashtra as brought out by discussion in chapter two. This development in literacy has led to the reduction in male-female disparities. The general observation that gender disparities reduces with an increase in literacy has been proved by the data for four decades. An increase in literacy from 29.8 percent in 1961 for total non-scheduled to 64.8 percent in 1991 has reduced the disparities which in 1961 was 0.41 reduced to 0.18 in 1991 (table 3).

Table 3

Disparities in Non-Scheduled Literacy 1961-91

	1961			1971			1981			1991		
	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U
Maharashtra	0.35	0.29	0.22	0.28	0.40	0.15	0.22	0.30	0.12	0.18	0.25	0.09
Bombay	0.10	0 -	0.14	0.11	-	0.10	0.09	-	0.09	0.07	-	0.07
Thane	0.27	0.48	0.18	0.22	0.28	0.11	0.15	0.22	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.08
Raigarh	0.41	0.51	0.20	0.30	0.34	0.12	0.23	0.26	0.10	0.18	0.20	0.10
Ratanagiri	0.35	0.42	0.20	0.25	0.27	0.14	0.21	0.21	0.11	0.16	0.17	0.08
Nasik	0.40	0.59	0.28	0.04	0.73	0.17	0.22	0.29	0.14	0.22	0.26	0.10
Dhule	0.39	0.51	0.30	0.29	0.34	0.15	0.22	0.26	0.16	0.25	0.29	0.12
Jalgaon	0.39	0.51	0.31	0.27	0.31	0.19	0.24	0.28	0.16	0.20	0.23	0.13
Ahmadnagar	0.43	0.54	0.25	0.32	0.40	0.18	0.28	0.31	0.15	0.23	0.26	0.12
Pune	0.28	0.54	0.19	0.24	0.36	0.14	0.19	0.29	0.11	0.15	0.22	0.08
Satara	0.31	0.39	0.21	0.33	0.38	0.17	0.24	0.26	0.13	0.09	0.20	0.10
Sangli	0.44	0.47	0.30	0.34	0.44	0.21	0.25	0.28	0.16	0.18	0.20	0.11
Solapur	0.42	0.58	0.34	0.35	0.51	0.29	0.29	0.35	0.21	0.22	0.26	0.16
Kolhapur	0.47	0.68	0.28	0.38	0.59	0.20	0.28	0.35	0.14	0.18	0.22	0.12
Aurangabad	0.60	0.82	0.32	0.48	0.64	0.24	0.40	0.53	0.19	0.31	0.32	0.14
Parbhani	0.65	0.84	0.41	0.52	0.66	0.29	0.46	0.57	0.23	0.35	0.44	0.18
Bid	0.63	0.76	0.41	0.49	0.70	0.29	0.42	0.49	0.23	0.32	0.37	0.17
Nanded	0.64	0.82	0.42	0.51	0.71	0.29	0.42	0.53	0.23	0.33	0.42	0.17
Osmanabad	0.62	0.74	0.41	0.58	0.58	0.30	0.35	0.38	0.23	0.25	0.05	0.15
Buldhana	0.49	0.62	0.32	0.36	0.43	0.22	0.29	0.33	0.17	0.24	0.26	0.13
Akola	0.39	0.52	0.27	0.30	0.37	0.17	0.22	0.27	0.12	0.18	0.23	0.09
Amaravati	0.30	0.40	0.27	0.22	0.24	0.16	0.21	0.17	0.11	0.13	0.18	0.08
Yavatmal	0.44	0.56	0.28	0.32	0.37	0.18	0.26	0.30	0.14	0.23	0.26	0.11
Wardha	0.37	0.50	0.29	0.25	0.28	0.17	0.17	0.20	0.12	0.13	0.17	0.08
Nagpur	0.31	0.63	0.28	0.23	0.33	0.17	0.15	0.23	0.11	0.12	0.35	0.09
Bhandara	0.65	0.79	0.39	0.40	0.45	0.23	0.29	0.32	0.16	0.22	0.24	0.12
Chandarpur	0.65	0.78	0.38	0.42	0.49	0.22	0.30	0.34	0.15	0.25	0.28	0.12

MAHARASHTRA
MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG RURAL NON-SCHEDULED POPULATION (1961)

DISPARITY INDEX

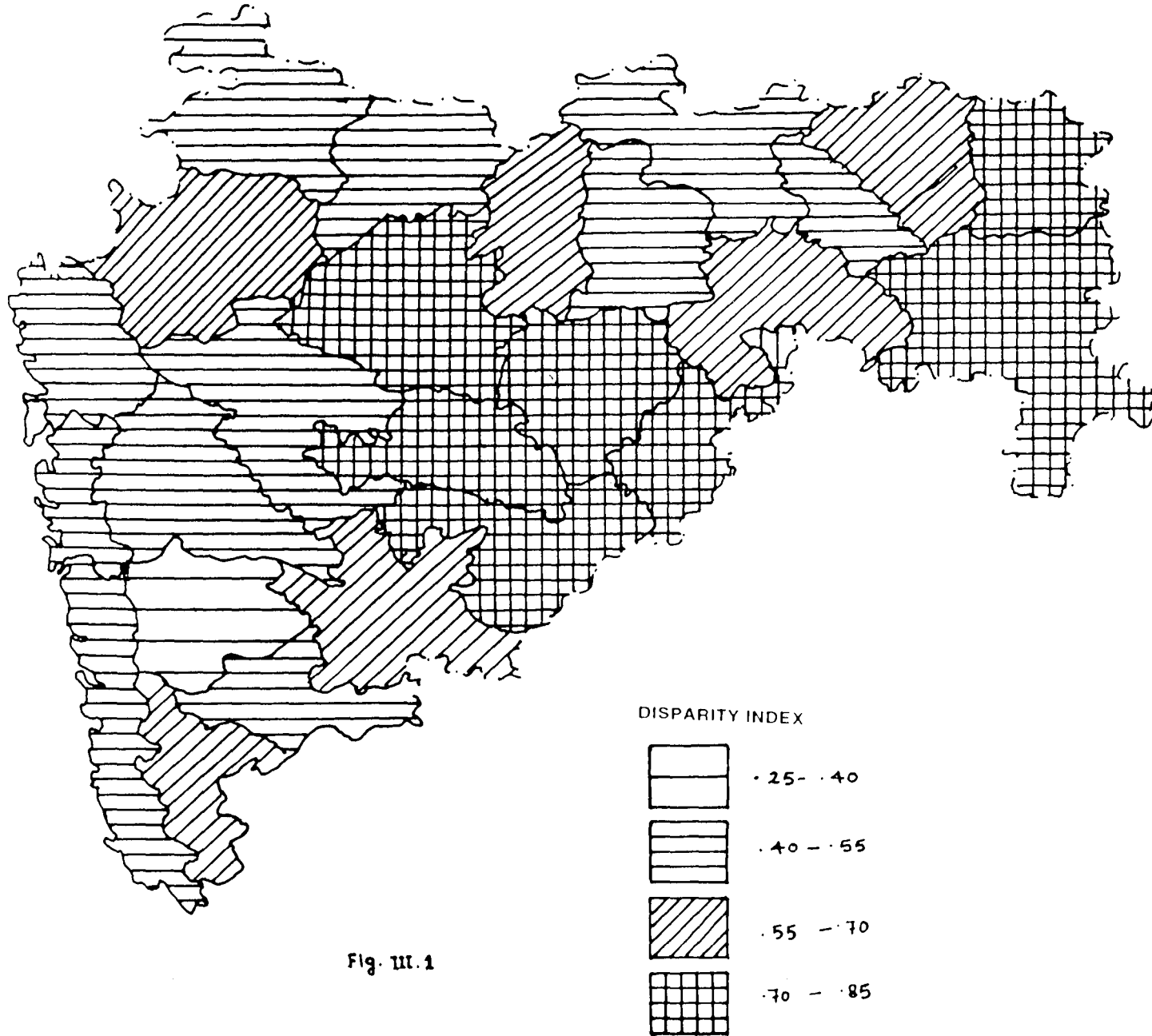|	
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Fig. III. 1

a) **Overall Gender Disparities in Non-Scheduled Literacy**

Over a period of four decades, where Maharashtra registered a tremendous growth in literacy, gender disparities in rural as well as in urban segment went down. Just like literacy shows a strong regional pattern of literacy, disparities also follow the same. In 1961 total disparities were lowest in greater Bombay, Raigarh and Amravati and highest values were in Bhandara and Chandrapur. Districts of Marathwada region had the highest disparities. In 1971 almost same pattern was followed by various districts except Bhandara and Chandrapur which moved down due to high literacy gains for the some period. Decline in disparities was highest in Marathwada region in 1981. This may be due to the fact that districts or regions which already have a high level of literacy do not show a rapid decline in disparities. Whereas region like Marathwada which has the lowest literacy in the region experience a relatively high growth of literacy resulting in the relative fast decline in disparities in comparison to areas where literacy was already high.

Overall non-scheduled literacy was quite high in 1991. Increase in male-female literacy led to further reduction in gender disparities whereas Greater Bombay registered a decline of 0.02 only, Bid experienced a decline of 0.11 points during 1981-91 decade. This clearly indicate towards the fact that backward areas will register a relatively rapid decline in gender disparities than advanced regions.

MAHARASHTRA
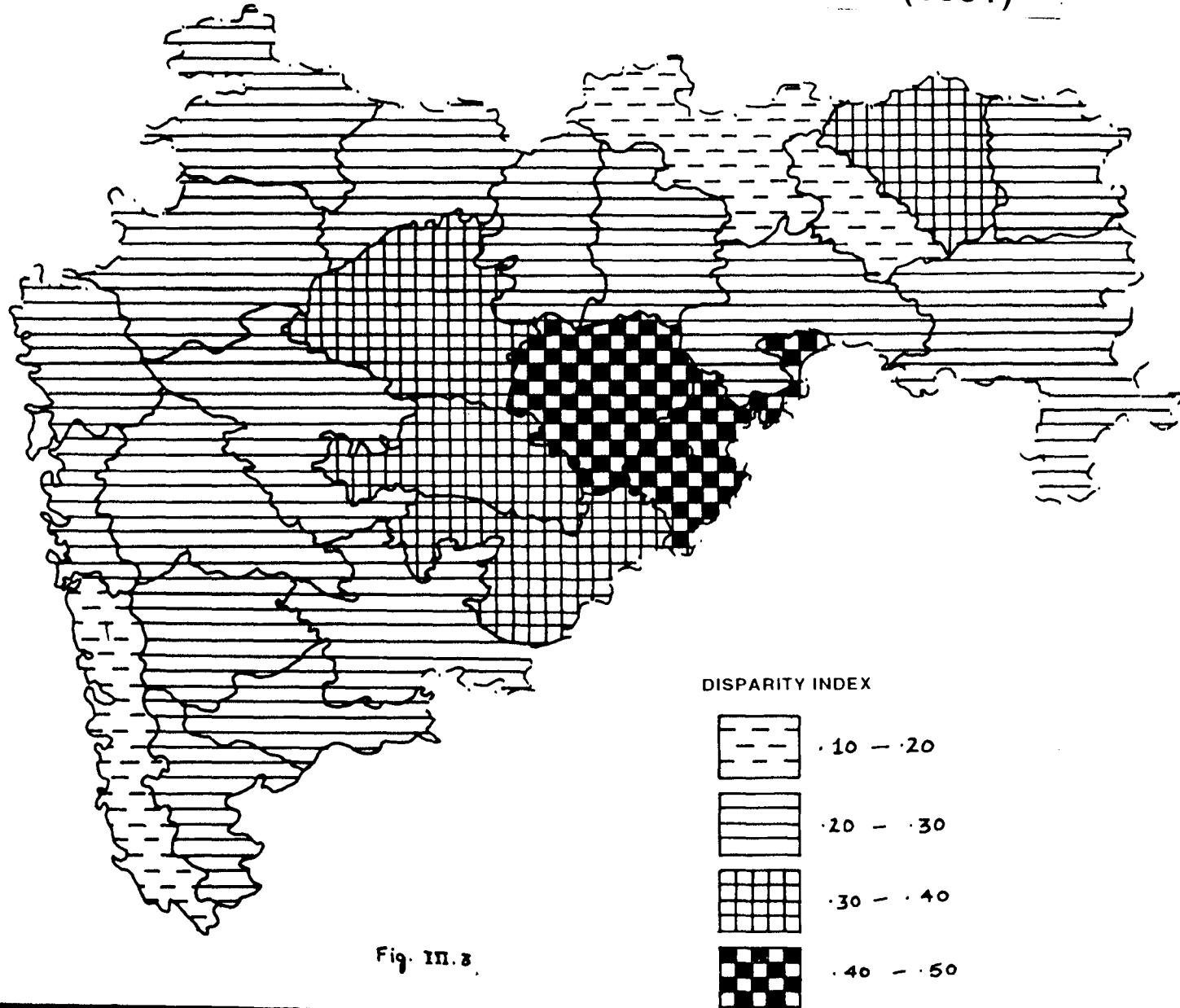## MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG RURAL NON-SCHEDULED POPULATION (1991)

DISPARITY INDEX

- ·10 — ·20
- ·20 — ·30
- ·30 — ·40
- ·40 — ·50

Fig. III.8

b) **Gender Disparities in Rural Non-Scheduled Literacy**

Rural literacy is not as high as urban literacy. There are various reasons which attribute to low rural literacy like lack of infrastructure for education. Rural areas of backward regions have lower literacy than those rural areas surrounded by urban settlement. It was observed by Parikh in his study on education among rural folks observed this aspect (1977: 495). This is true for rural areas surrounded by urban settlement of Thane and Greater Bombay. Thus, rural hinterland of urban areas are mostly influenced by these areas. Rural Konkan region which has mostly urban settlement in and around show a low disparity in literacy. In 1961 lowest disparities in rural areas were found in Konkan region compromising of Greater Bombay, Thane, Raigarh and Ratanagiri (table 3). Even Deccan had low disparities in rural literacy specially Satara and Pune. Satara's rural area had unprecedented growth in literacy due to Bhaurao Patils 'Gram Shikshan Mohim' which he started for rural masses in late 50's. Decline in rural area's disparities are more pronounced in Marathwada region during the decades of 1981 and 1991. In rural areas where ever female are more educated disparities are low as is the case with Pune, Wardha, Amravati and Ratanagiri district where female literacy in rural areas is comparatively higher than other districts. Regional pattern of disparities are very clear if one observes the same in given diagrams (fig.1,3). These maps have been made for initial and terminal period to get a better picture of change in gender disparities. Marathwada

MAHARASHTRA
MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG
URBAN NON-SCHEDULED POPULATION (1961)

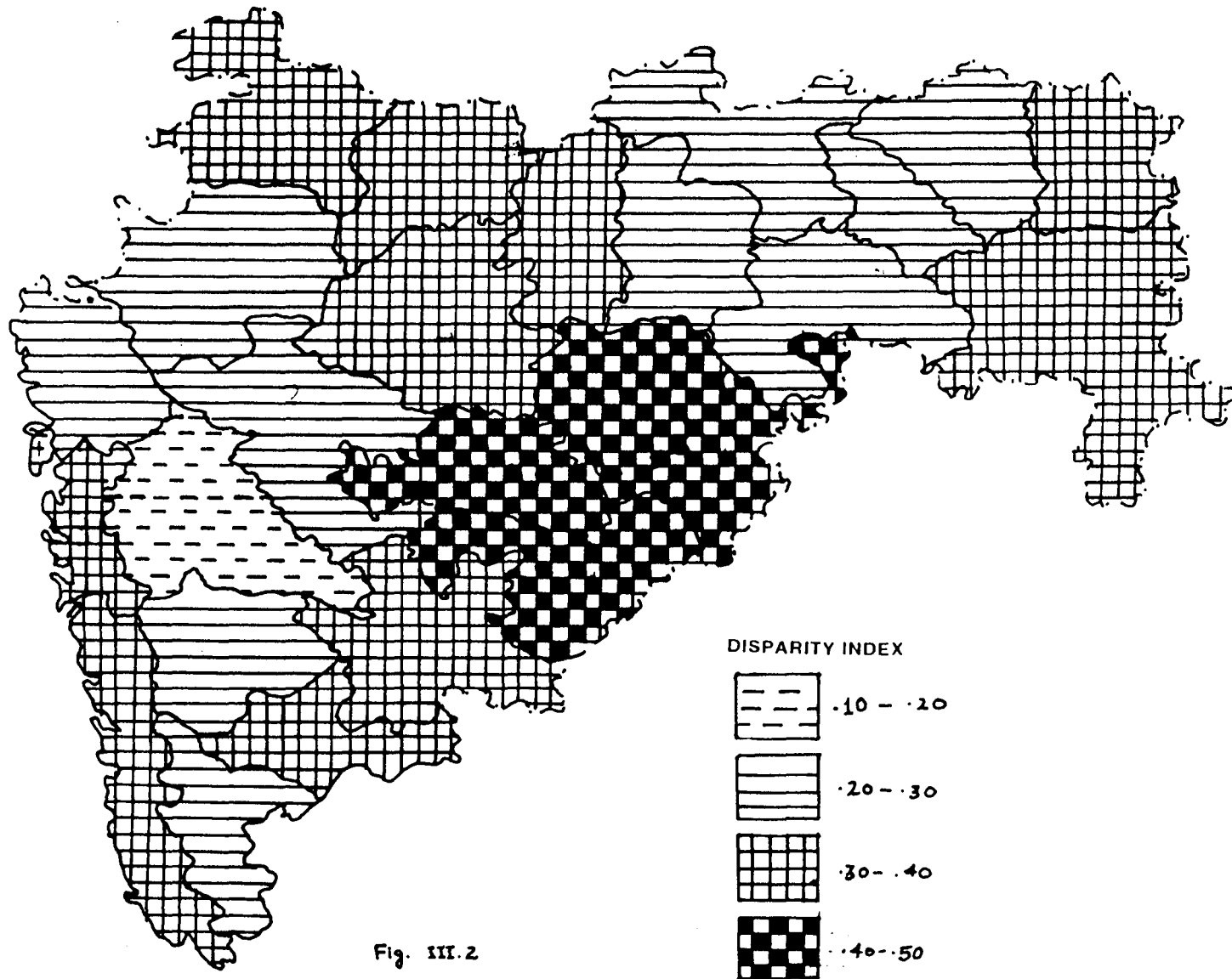Fig. III.2

DISPARITY INDEX

.10 - .20

.20 - .30

.30 - .40

.40 - .50

region had the highest rural gender disparities in 1961 and continued to have the same pattern despite an overall decline in gender disparities. Lowest rural gender disparities were confined in regions of Konkan and Deccan.

(c) **Gender Disparities in Urban Non-Scheduled Literacy**

Table 3 clearly indicates the fact that gender disparities in urban areas are the lowest if compared to overall and rural gender disparities. Urban areas have a strong base of educational facilities which caters to the need of the people quite efficiently. Like Greater Bombay, where Britishers started earliest schools always had the higher literacy than surrounding areas. Region -wise disparity is shown by table 4 which indicates that Marathwada registered the fastest reduction in urban disparities. Disparities for the region was 0.39 in 1961 and it reduced to 0.16 in 1991.

Whatever the situation be Marathwada still lags behind as far as gender disparities in literacy are concerned which further confirms the observation by Raza that disparities shows a strong regional stability' (Raza 1990:3). These stability in disparities are quite evident from the maps which shows a strong attachment to different regions (fig.2,4). This can be observed from 1961 map that urban gender disparity was lowest in Konkan. In 1991 lowest gender disparities were recorded by district of Konkan, Vidarbha and Deccan. Marathwada again had the highest gender disparities even in urban areas.

MAHARASHTRA
MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG
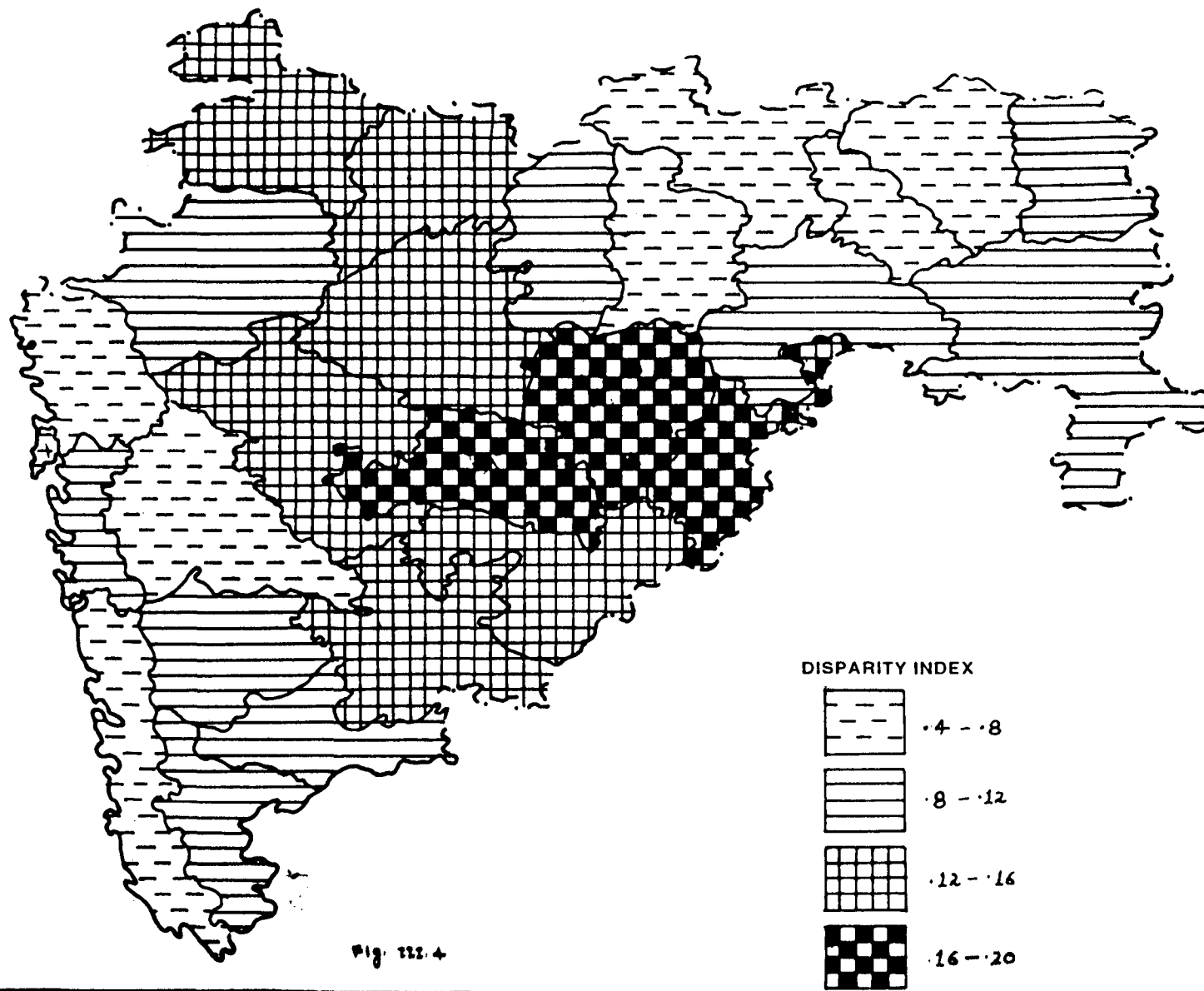## URBAN NON-SCHEDULED POPULATION (1991)

DISPARITY INDEX

- ·4 – ·8
- ·8 – ·12
- ·12 – ·16
- ·16 – ·20

Fig. III. 4

Table 4

REGION - WISE GENDER DISPARITIES IN NON-SCHEDULED LITERACY

	1961			1971			1981			1991		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
KONKAN	0.28	0.35	0.18	0.23	0.25	0.13	0.17	0.20	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.08
DECCAN	0.39	0.53	0.27	0.31	0.56	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.15	0.19	0.24	0.12
MARATHWADA	0.62	0.79	0.39	0.62	0.62	0.32	0.41	0.50	0.22	0.31	0.32	0.12
VIDARBHA	0.45	0.59	0.31	0.32	0.39	0.21	0.24	0.27	0.13	0.19	0.25	0.10

III.3 CORRELATION BETWEEN MALE-FEMALE LITERACY AND GENDER DISPARITIES AMONG OVERALL/RURAL/URBAN NON-SCHEDULED

Non-Scheduled population experienced a rapid growth in literacy during 1961-1991. Correlation worked out for total, rural and urban gender disparities show a strong correlation with non-scheduled male-female literacy. More so with female literacy indicating in general that increase in female literacy has a strong bearing on reduction in male-female disparity.

Table 5 gives the strong correlation between non-scheduled male-female literacy and total gender disparity during four decades. Although non-scheduled male correlation is negative at 5 percent significant level but non-scheduled female population shows a strong negative correlation with total disparities.[1] Over a period of time non-scheduled male had a declining trend as far as correlation is concerned. Non-scheduled female still have strong negative correlation with overall disparities implying that high female literacy

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1. Sopher also observed in his work on Indian literacy that disparity index has moderate negative correlation with male literacy (r= -0.594) and a fairly strong one with female literacy (r= -0.809).

leads to much more decline in disparities. This may be due to the fact that male literacy is already higher than female literacy and vast gaps exists between these two segments. Increase in female literacy thus will be of greater significance in reducing the disparities and gap will also be narrow between these two segments.

Table-5

Correlation between male-female literacy and gender disparity among total/rural/urban non-scheduled 1961-1991

Segments of Population	1961	1971	1981	1991
Total NS Male	-.908**	-.878**	-.890**	-.850
Total NS Female	-.828**	-.838**	-.915**	-.933**
Rural NS Male	-.221	-.363	-.414	-.611**
Rural NS Female	-.309*	-.349*	-.435*	-858**
Urban NS Male	-.763**	-.775*	-.734**	-.762*
Urban NS Female	-.981*	-.887**	-.908**	-937**

* Significant at one percent level.
** Significant at five percent level.

Rural segments of non-scheduled although show a negative correlation with rural disparities but it was not much significant for non-scheduled rural male except in 1991 when it showed a moderate negative correlation with rural disparities. Non-scheduled rural female always showed a low negative correlation with rural disparities at one percent level of significance except in 1991 where this negative correlation between non-scheduled rural female literacy and rural disparities showed a strong correlates.

Rural female literacy is more significant because an

78

increase in the rural female literacy will be more beneficial than overall literacy as low literacy levels and high disparities are embedded among rural females.

Correlation worked out for non-scheduled urban male-female literacy and gender disparities show a moderate negative correlation in case of male and a strong negative correlation in case of female literacy. The way disparities are calculated this strong negative correlation implies that it is the increase in female literacy which has a stronger bearing upon reduction in literacy disparities among male - female population.

III.4 ๅGENDER DISPARITIES IN SCHEDULED CASTE LITERACY

After probing the disparities in non-scheduled population of Maharashtra, an attempt is now made to gauge the development of literacy among the two backward segments of population and their disparities in literacy.

By now, it is clear that Maharashtra has a higher literacy level for non-scheduled population. But at the same time there exists a group of people i.e., scheduled casts who are relatively backward than non-scheduled population.

a) Overall Gender Disparities in Scheduled Castes Literacy

Table 7 gives the overall disparities among scheduled castes. Those district which have a high concentration of high disparities in literacy are Bid (13.5%), Osmanabad (13.4%), Nanded (11.0%), Solapur (12.8%), Kolhapur (11.4%) and Ahmednagar (8.8%). These districts had the highest percentage of scheduled caste population. Similarly it was

79

MAHARASHTRA
MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG
RURAL SCHEDULED CASTE (1961)

DISPARITY INDEX

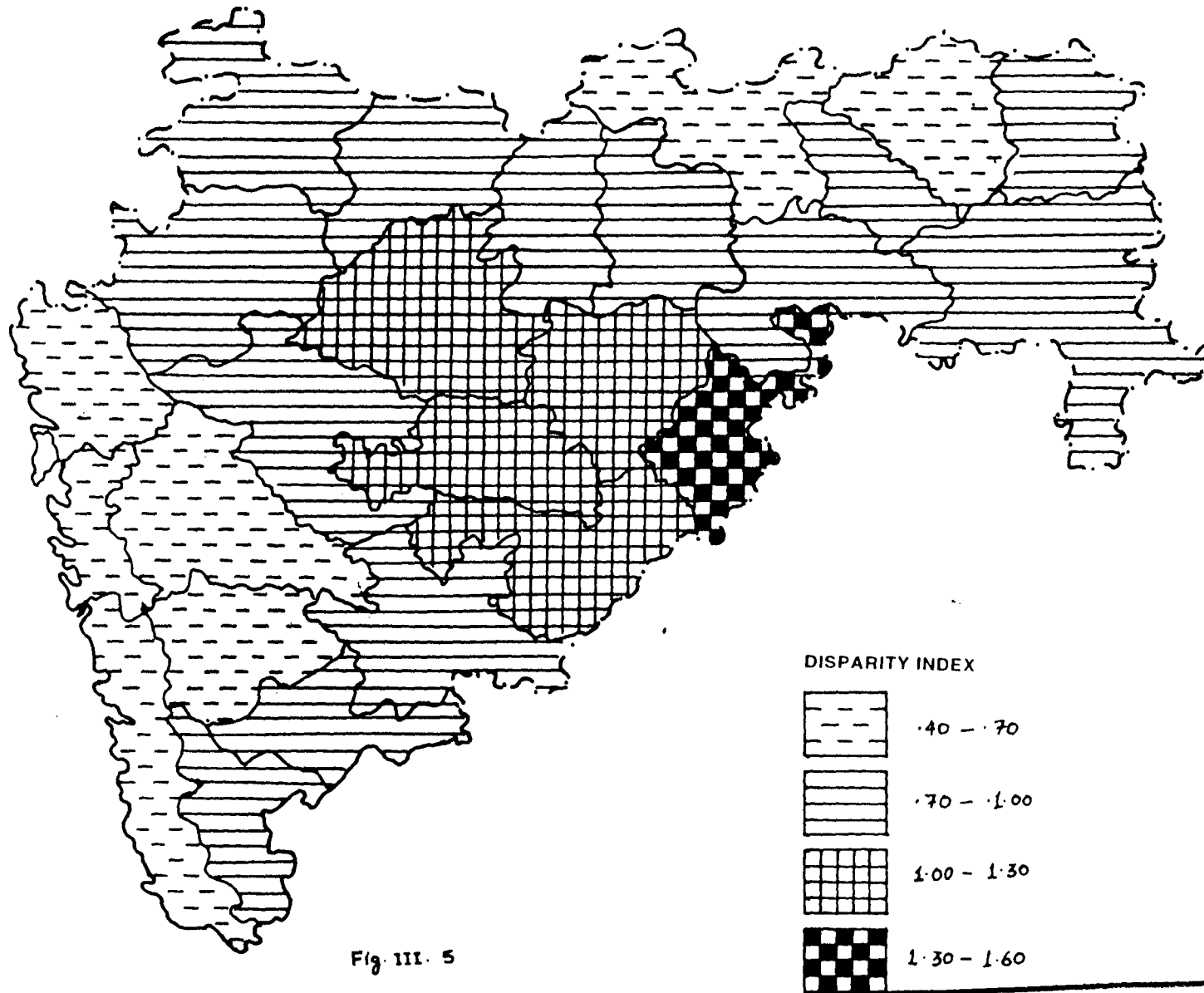|	
	·40 — ·70
	·70 — ·1·00
	1·00 — 1·30
	1·30 — 1·60

Fig. III. 5

observed that these districts had the highest disparities in
literacy also.

Table 7

Gender Disparities in Scheduled Caste Literacy (1961-91)

	1961			1971			1981			1991		
	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U
Maharashtra	0.66	0.78	0.49	0.47	0.56	0.34	0.37	0.45	0.25	0.24	0.29	0.17
Bombay	0.30	-	0.30	0.45	-	0.25	0.21	-	0.21	0.15	0	0.15
Thane	0.42	0.44	0.40	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.24	0.27	0.22	0.17	0.20	0.17
Raigarh	0.63	0.67	0.50	0.38	0.41	0.29	0.23	0.25	0.19	0.17	0.19	0.14
Ratanagiri	0.65	0.68	0.46	0.41	0.42	0.27	0.29	0.30	0.23	0.16	0.17	0.13
Nasik	0.65	0.71	0.54	1.47	0.52	0.37	0.33	0.41	0.24	0.24	0.31	0.18
Dhule	0.67	0.79	0.48	0.46	0.51	0.35	2.42	0.49	0.28	0.31	0.37	0.20
Jalgaon	0.72	0.79	0.60	0.46	0.49	0.40	0.46	0.52	0.32	0.32	0.39	0.21
Ahmadnagar	0.67	0.70	0.49	0.45	0.47	0.32	0.40	0.42	0.27	0.28	0.30	0.20
Pune	0.53	0.64	0.46	0.38	0.47	0.32	0.30	0.39	0.26	0.21	0.27	0.18
Satara	0.49	0.51	0.36	0.50	0.54	0.36	0.35	0.38	0.24	0.73	0.27	0.19
Sangli	0.72	0.76	0.56	0.50	0.53	0.37	0.37	0.41	0.29	0.26	0.28	0.19
Solapur	0.78	0.88	0.60	0.57	0.62	0.70	0.47	0.41	0.29	0.18	0.39	0.24
Kolhapur	0.81	0.90	0.56	0.62	0.70	0.40	0.47	0.54	0.33	0.39	0.39	0.24
Aurangabad	0.95	1.19	0.65	0.75	0.81	0.55	0.44	0.49	0.30	0.24	0.27	0.07
Parbhani	0.97	1.04	0.86	0.70	0.72	0.63	0.63	0.72	0.43	0.38	0.49	0.25
Bid	1.02	1.08	0.79	0.83	0.88	0.59	0.63	0.74	0.42	0.46	0.53	0.31
Nanded	1.20	1.42	0.87	0.85	0.89	0.68	0.60	0.65	0.41	0.40	0.44	0.26
Osmanabad	1.07	1.11	0.88	0.70	0.72	0.54	0.62	0.68	0.40	0.40	0.39	0.28
Buldhana	0.73	0.74	0.69	0.58	0.61	0.47	0.51	0.55	0.34	0.29	0.32	0.32
Akola	0.73	0.80	0.57	0.47	0.50	0.42	0.49	0.54	0.34	0.26	0.38	0.24
Amaravati	0.67	0.69	0.64	0.42	0.43	0.38	0.39	0.43	0.30	0.21	0.18	0.19
Yavatmal	0.77	0.82	0.64	0.46	0.49	0.36	0.29	0.31	0.25	0.14	0.08	0.14
Wardha	0.65	0.75	0.57	0.36	0.40	0.32	0.38	0.42	0.26	0.19	0.15	0.16
Nagpur	0.54	0.49	0.20	0.32	0.40	0.28	0.27	0.30	0.22	0.11	0.01	0.11
Bhandara	0.67	0.75	0.53	0.39	0.40	0.33	0.22	0.29	0.18	0.14	0.30	0.09
Chandarapur	0.79	0.83	0.66	0.46	0.48	0.04	0.29	0.31	0.20	0.20	0.22	0.14

Thane (1.4%) and Raigarh (1.3%) had the lowest
percentage of scheduled caste population which resulted into
lowest disparities in literacy during 1961. This pattern was
observed during all three decades of 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Region-wise also Marathwada emerges as the most backward
region where as Konkan was the most advanced region which had
the lowest disparities during all the four decades (table 8).

MAHARASHTRA
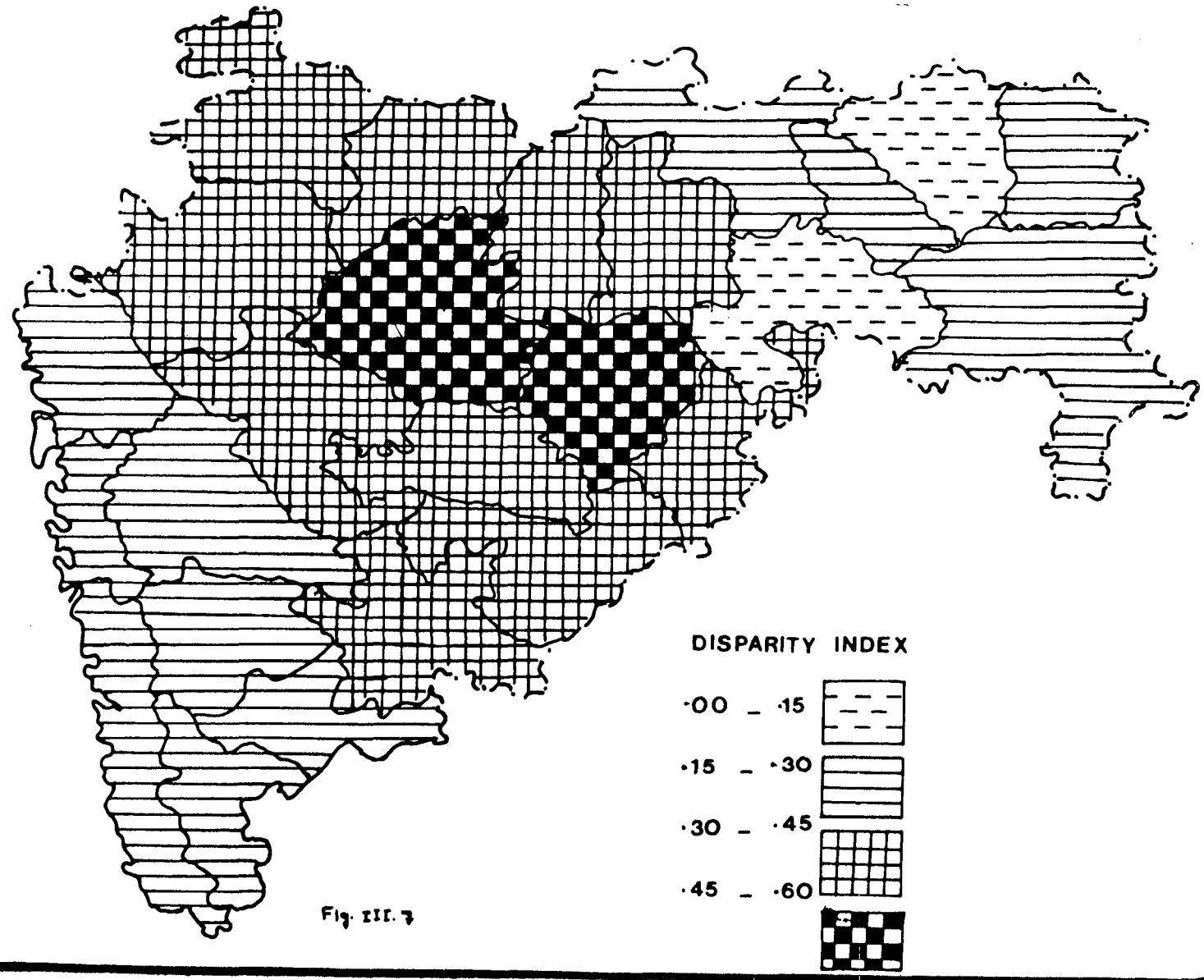## MALE-FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG RURAL SCHEDULED CASTE 1991

DISPARITY INDEX

·OO — ·15

·15 — ·30

·30 — ·45

·45 — ·60

Fig. III. 7

Table 8
REGION-WISE DISPARITIES AMONG SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE

		SCHEDULED CASTE			SCHEDULED TRIBE		
		TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN
	KONKAN	0.57	0.59	0.45	0.91	0.93	0.35
1961	DECCAN	0.67	0.74	0.51	0.74	0.78	0.49
	MARATHAWADA	1.04	1.17	0.81	0.59	0.89	0.32
	VIDHARBA	0.69	0.73	0.56	0.38	0.38	0.29
	KONKAN	0.26	0.28	0.31	0.55	0.63	0.40
1971	DECCAN	0.60	0.54	0.39	0.56	0.58	0.43
	MARATHAWADA	0.76	0.80	0.59	0.83	0.84	0.56
	VIDHARBA	0.43	0.46	0.36	0.25	0.25	0.13
	KONKAN	0.24	0.20	0.21	0.30	0.33	0.30
1981	DECCAN	0.39	0.45	0.28	0.46	0.49	0.29
	MARATHAWADA	0.60	0.67	0.40	0.63	0.69	0.34
	VIDHARBA	0.34	0.38	0.25	0.39	0.43	0.21
1991	KONKAN	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.35	0.31	0.18
	DECCAN	0.32	0.33	0.20	0.33	0.35	0.19
	MARATHAWADA	0.37	0.42	0.23	0.46	0.50	0.22
	VIDHARBA	0.19	0.20	0.17	0.31	0.36	0.15

b) **Gender Disparities in Rural Scheduled Caste Literacy**

Rural areas have high concentration of scheduled caste population which results into low literacy levels and high disparities (Chitnis 1969:14). Bid, Parbhani, Nanded, Osmanabad, Kolhapur and Solapur have a high percentage of rural scheduled caste population which yields into high disparity level. Conversely, we find that the districts that have a high level of literacy among their rural scheduled caste happens to be the districts which do not have large scheduled caste population. This is true for Thane, Nagpur, Wardha and Yavatmal. Rural disparities did not decline much for the districts in Marathwada region. Although disparities declined over the time period of four decades but they maintained their previous positions. Figure 5 and 7 shows the

MAHARASHTRA
MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG URBAN SCHEDULED CASTE (1961)

DISPARITY INDEX
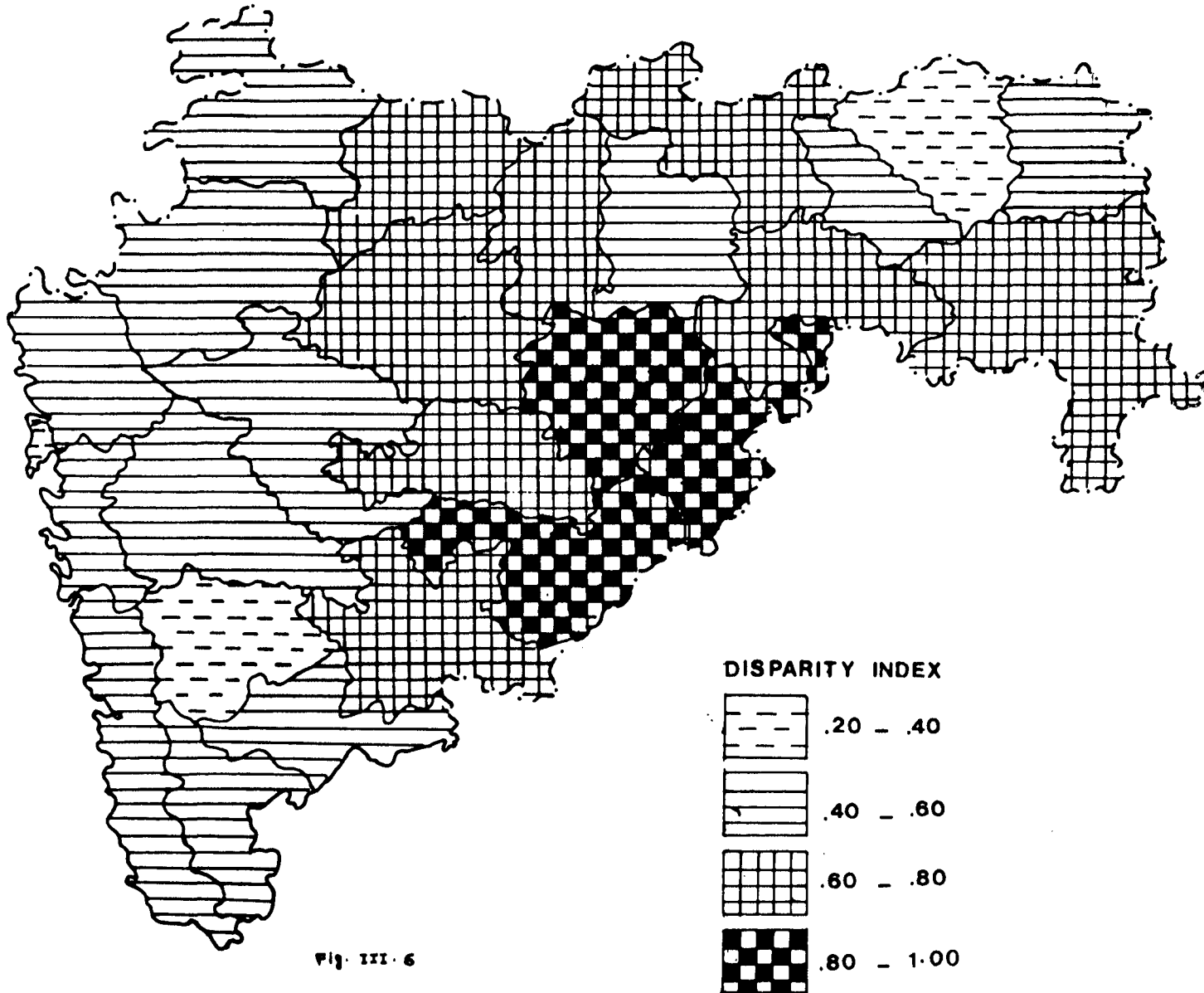
.20 — .40

.40 — .60

.60 — .80

.80 — 1·00

Fig. III. 6

concentration of scheduled caste gender disparities in Marathwada region 1961 which are persisting in 1991 also.

c) **Gender Disparities in Urban Scheduled Caste Litreracy**

It is observed that districts which have a higher general urban literacy tend to have high literacy for scheduled caste population also. Although they have a higher disparity level than non-scheduled population in urban areas, they certainly have a lower disparity level than rural scheduled caste. In Maharashtra Scheduled castes like Mahar have a higher literacy levels than other castes like Mangs, Chamars, Bhangis etc. Urban scheduled caste disparities have gone down which indicate towards the fact that in general better educational opportunities in urban areas have a strong impact on scheduled caste literacy as well. Table 9 shows that during four decades Marathwada's disparity has declined at the fastest rate than any other regions. From 0.81 in 1961 disparity points went down to 0.40 indicating a decline of almost 0.40 in Marathwda. Figures 6 and 8 indicate towards the very fact that traditionally legging behind areas like Marathwada, have highest gender disparities even in urban scheduled caste literacy.

III.5 **Correlation Between Male-Female Literacy and Gender Disparity among Total/Rural/Urban Scheduled Caste**

Total scheduled caste female literacy shows a moderate negative correlation with total disparity (Table 9). Male scheduled caste also had a negative correlation with total disparity but it was not as significant as female scheduled caste correlation in 1961.

82

MAHARASHTRA
MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG
URBAN SCHEDULED CASTE (1991)

DISPARITY INDEX

·00 — ·10

·10 - ·20

·20 - ·30

·30 - ·40
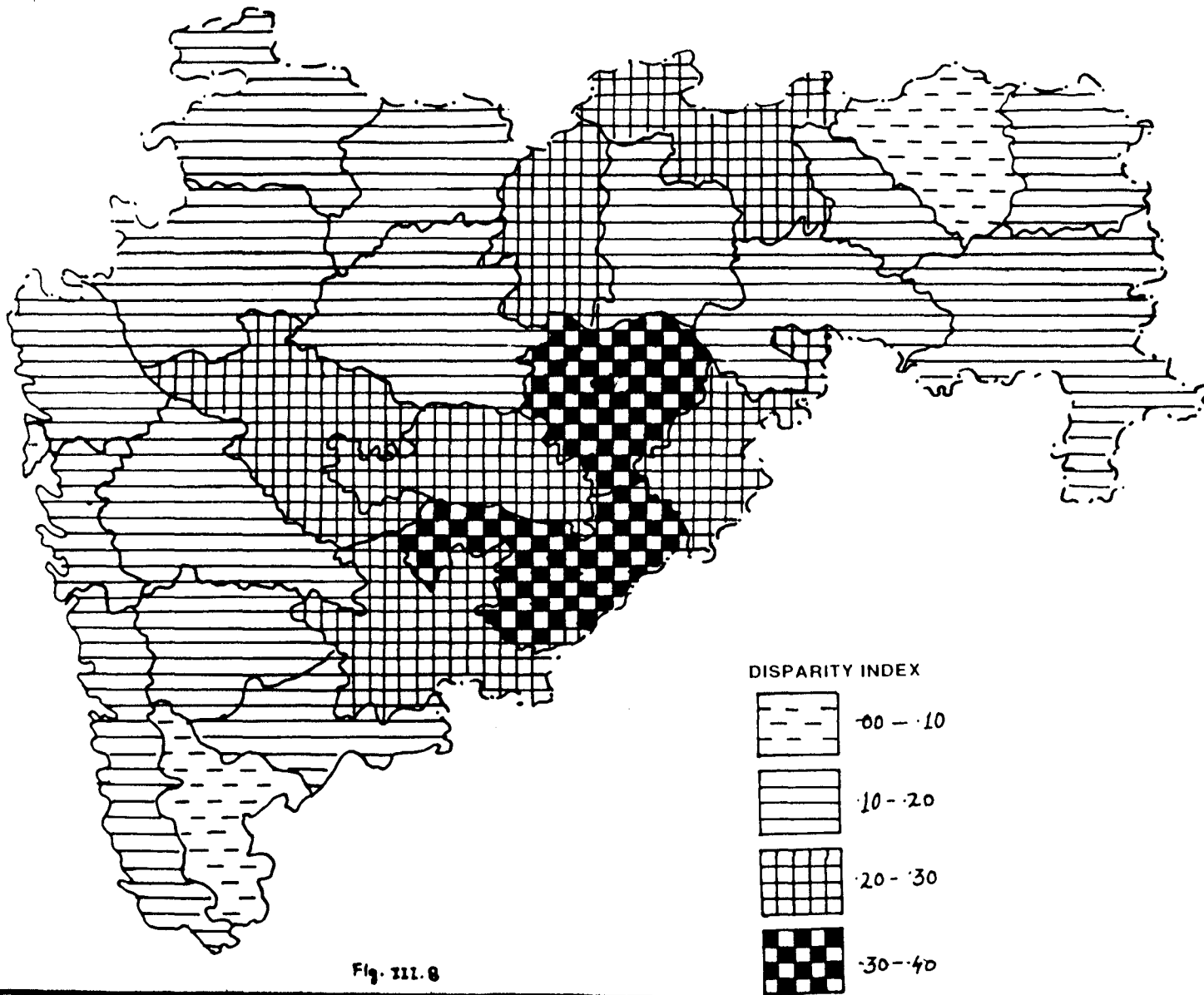
Fig. III. 8

Table 9

Correlation Between Male-Female Literacy and Gender Disparities Among Total/Rural/Urban Schduled Caste

Segments of Population	1961	1971	1981	1991
Total SC Male	-.32	-.55*	-.50**	-.54*
Total SC Female	-.49*	-.56*	-.97**	-.92**
Rural SC Male	-.27	-.27	-.12	-.17
Rural SC Female	-.48*	-.47*	-.57	-.43*
Urban SC Male	-.15	-.64**	-.70**	-.13*
Urban SC Female	-.42*	-.27*	-.93**	-.86**

* The percent significance level.
** Significant at 5 percent level.

Rural scheduled caste literacy also had negative correlation with rural gender disparities. Rural scheduled caste male literacy did not have significant correlation though it was negative whereas rural female literacy had moderate negative correlation with rural disparity.

Urban scheduled caste male literacy showed a low to moderate negative correlation with urban disparity. On the other hand urban female had moderate to high negative correlation with urban disparity. Urban female literacy rates are effected by male literacy but it is female literacy which had stronger impact on overall education.

III.6 **Gender Disparities in Scheduled Tribe Literacy**

Scheduled tribes of Maharashtra had relative low literacy level when compared with scheduled caste and non-scheduled population. Due to the lack of attention towards the education of scheduled tribe, vast gaps in the male-female literacy exists.

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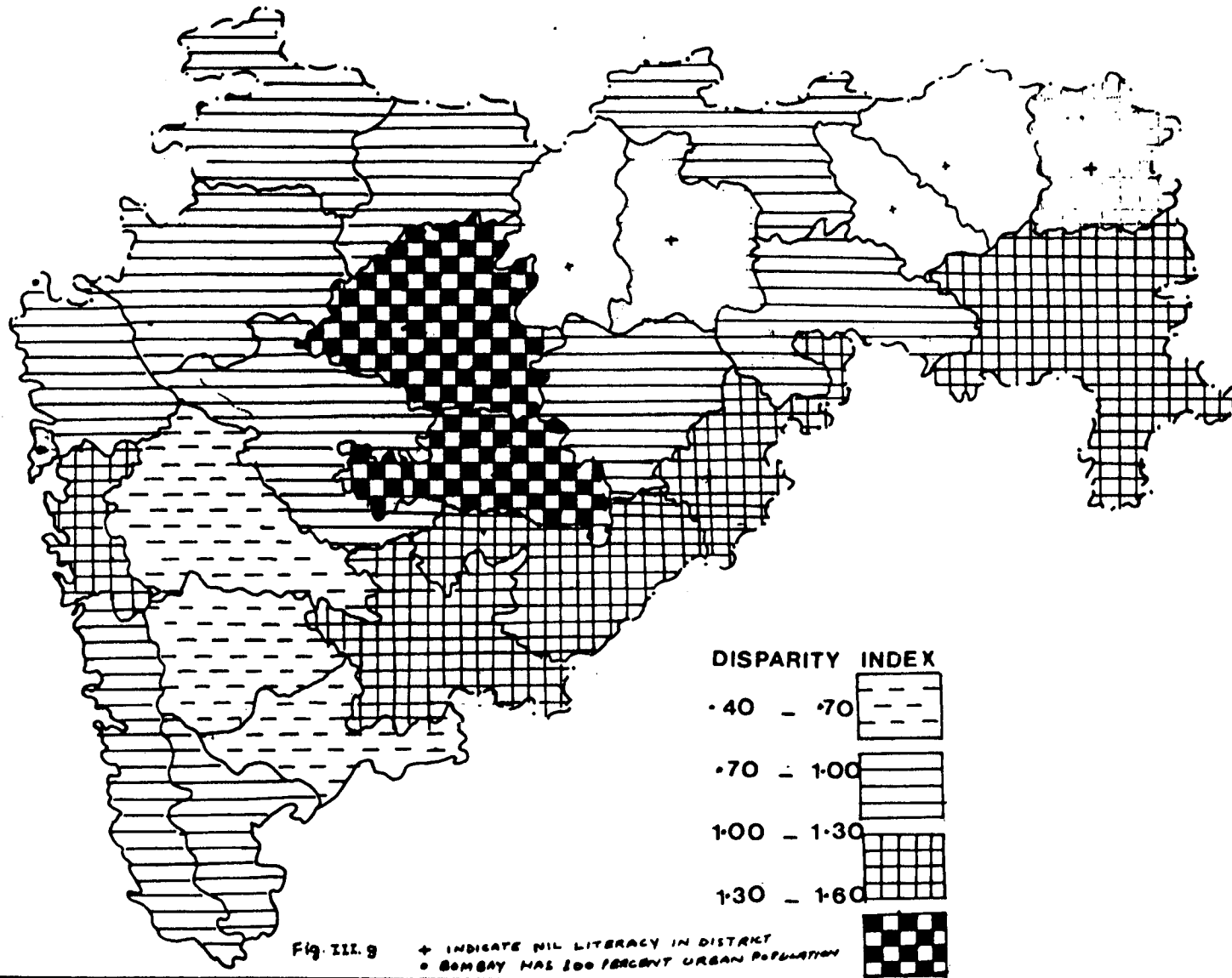## MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG RURAL SCHEDULED TRIBE (1961)

DISPARITY INDEX

·40 — ·70

·70 — 1·00

1·00 — 1·30

1·30 — 1·60

Fig. III.9   + INDICATE NIL LITERACY IN DISTRICT
○ BOMBAY HAS 100 PERCENT URBAN POPULATION

Table 10

SEX DISPARITIES IN SCHEDULED TRIBE LITERACY

	1961			1971			1981			1991		
	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U	T	R	U
Maharashtra	0.86	0.89	0.59	0.67	0.69	0.43	0.44	0.94	0.24	0.32	0.36	0.17
Bombay	0.35	-	0.28	0.31	-	0.25	0.22	-	0.22	0.15	-	0.15
Thane	0.79	0.83	0.42	0.81	0.84	0.49	0.56	0.60	0.28	0.41	0.47	0.20
Raigarh	0.89	0.91	0.64	0.58	0.58	0.53	0.40	0.42	0.34	0.30	0.33	0.20
Ratanagiri	1.06	1.06	-	0.81	1.12	0.27	0.04	0.30	0.36	0.56	0.44	0.18
Nasik	0.88	0.91	0.65	0.66	0.68	0.51	0.04	0.53	0.33	0.50	0.39	0.22
Dhule	0.87	0.88	0.72	0.68	0.69	0.50	0.56	0.58	0.34	0.41	0.43	0.22
Jalgaon	0.85	0.90	0.60	0.63	0.65	0.50	0.54	0.61	0.29	0.39	0.43	0.21
Ahmadnagar	0.70	0.70	0.60	0.62	0.63	0.28	0.58	0.60	0.31	0.46	0.47	0.26
Pune	0.91	0.93	0.43	0.66	0.70	0.31	0.44	0.52	0.19	0.30	0.35	0.16
Satara	0.42	0.43	0.31	0.38	0.47	0.21	0.33	0.33	0.29	0.22	0.23	0.17
Sangli	0.61	0.62	-	0.37	0.31	0.62	0.35	0.37	0.26	0.23	0.25	0.11
Solapur	0.49	0.54	0.42	0.45	0.47	0.41	0.41	0.49	0.30	0.32	0.39	0.25
Kolhapur	0.97	1.07	0.69	0.65	0.69	0.47	0.39	0.41	0.26	0.17	0.25	0.19
Aurangabad	0.84	0.93	0.29	0.86	0.86	0.73	0.68	0.80	0.25	0.46	0.57	0.12
Parbhani	1.40	1.40	-	0.67	0.68	0.36	0.75	0.84	0.31	0.52	0.56	0.25
Bid	0.69	0.69	-	0.75	0.76	0.32	0.51	0.55	0.36	0.42	0.51	0.19
Nanded	1.44	1.44	1.34	0.97	0.98	0.52	0.66	0.71	0.43	0.45	0.47	0.29
Osmanabad	-	-	-	0.94	0.95	0.88	0.53	0.56	0.35	0.46	0.39	0.26
Buldhana	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.49	0.53	0.23	0.38	0.40	0.18
Akola	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.37	0.41	0.17	0.27	0.30	0.12
Amaravati	0.98	0.98	0.82	0.75	0.77	0.20	0.32	0.37	0.18	0.25	0.27	0.13
Yavatmal	0.91	0.94	0.61	0.58	0.59	0.39	0.45	0.47	0.24	0.32	0.33	0.16
Wardha	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.29	0.31	0.19	0.17	0.19	0.13
Nagpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.26	0.35	0.20	0.17	0.22	0.14
Bhandara	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.44	0.47	0.23	0.30	0.31	0.14
Chandarapur	1.15	1.15	0.89	0.71	0.71	0.52	0.48	0.50	0.23	0.44	0.94	0.24

a) Overall Gender Disparities in Scheduled Tribe Literacy

In 1961 and 1971 five districts of Maharashtra did not have any scheduled tribe population. There districts were Buldana, Akola, Wardha, Nagpur and Bhandara. Scheduled caste dominated districts do not have scheduled tribe population concept of mutual exclusiveness implies in these districts. This means that those districts which have a higher percentage of scheduled caste do not have high percentage of scheduled tribe population. If we look at the disparities

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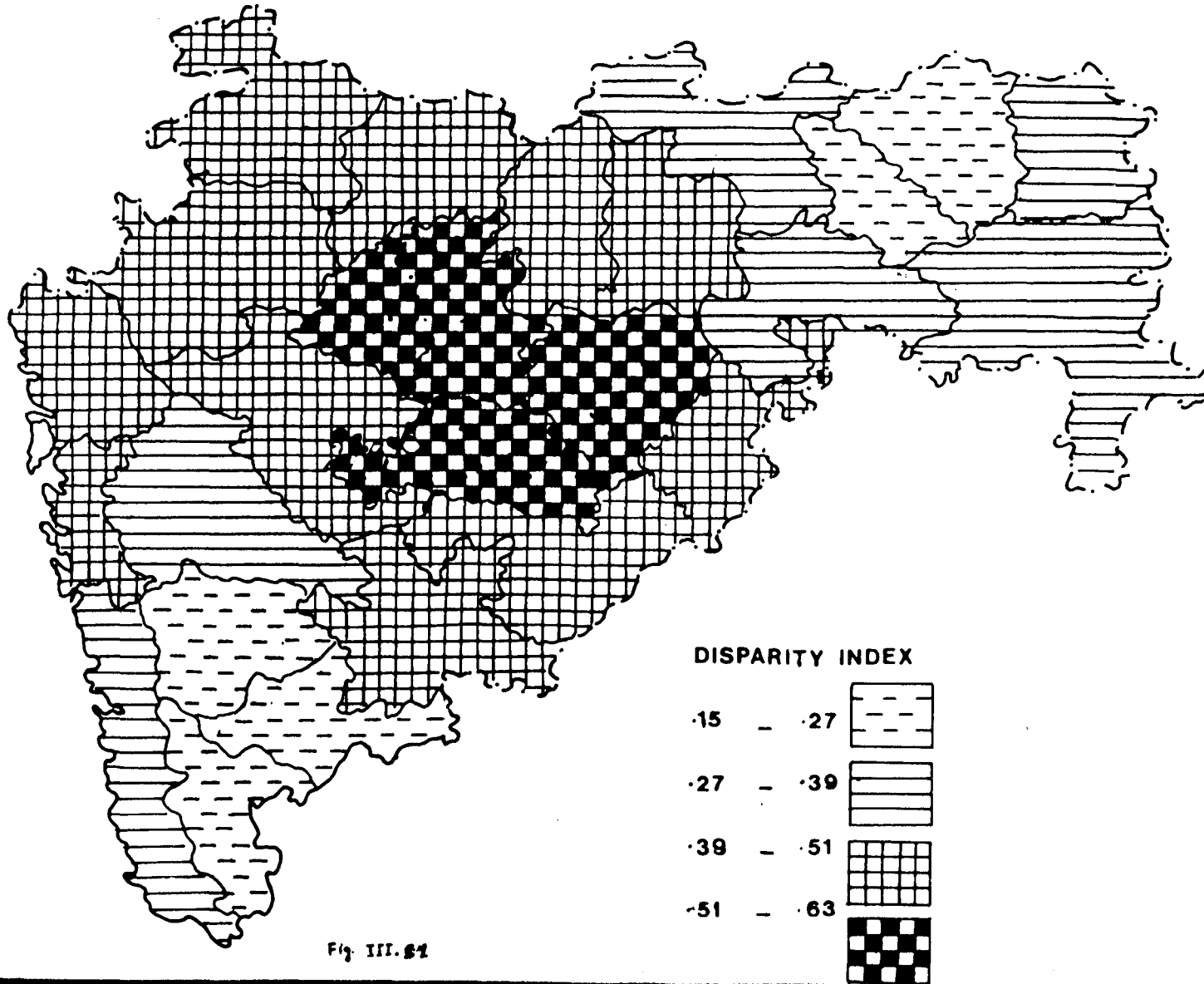## MALE - FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG RURAL SCHEDULED TRIBE (1991)

DISPARITY INDEX

·15	—	·27
·27	—	·39
·39	—	·51
·51	—	·63

Fig. III.51

they were highest in districts which were having the highest percentage of scheduled tribe population for example districts of Marathwada and Deccan in 1961. In 1971 and 1981 same pattern was found in these areas. Although in 1991 disparities were quite low among scheduled tribes but these disparities were higher than scheduled caste and non-scheduled population. This can be inferred from table 10 that scheduled tribe in advanced region have low disparity such as in Konkan and Vidarbha.

b) **Gender Disparities in Rural Scheduled Tribe Literacy**

Mostly scheduled tribe population is confined to rural areas. Marathwada and Deccan region had the highest rural disparities because rural scheduled tribes are mostly inhabiting in these areas. There is lack of interaction between scheduled tribe and surrounding area specially if they are residing in rural areas. The rural tribal literacy rates were quite high in Greater Bombay, Sangli, Kolhapur and Poona and some districts had the lowest disparities in rural literacy. These disparities may be due to lack of awareness among scheduled tribe because unlike the scheduled castes, the tribes of Maharashtra were not exposed to literacy drive in any special way (Ahmad and Nuna 1986:143). Figure 9 and 11 shows that in rural areas Marathwada had the highest gender disparities in 1961 and 1991. Most of the districts in Deccan and Vidarbha also have high disparity than Konkan which has the lowest gender disparities among rural scheduled tribe.

MAHARASHTRA
MALE-FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG
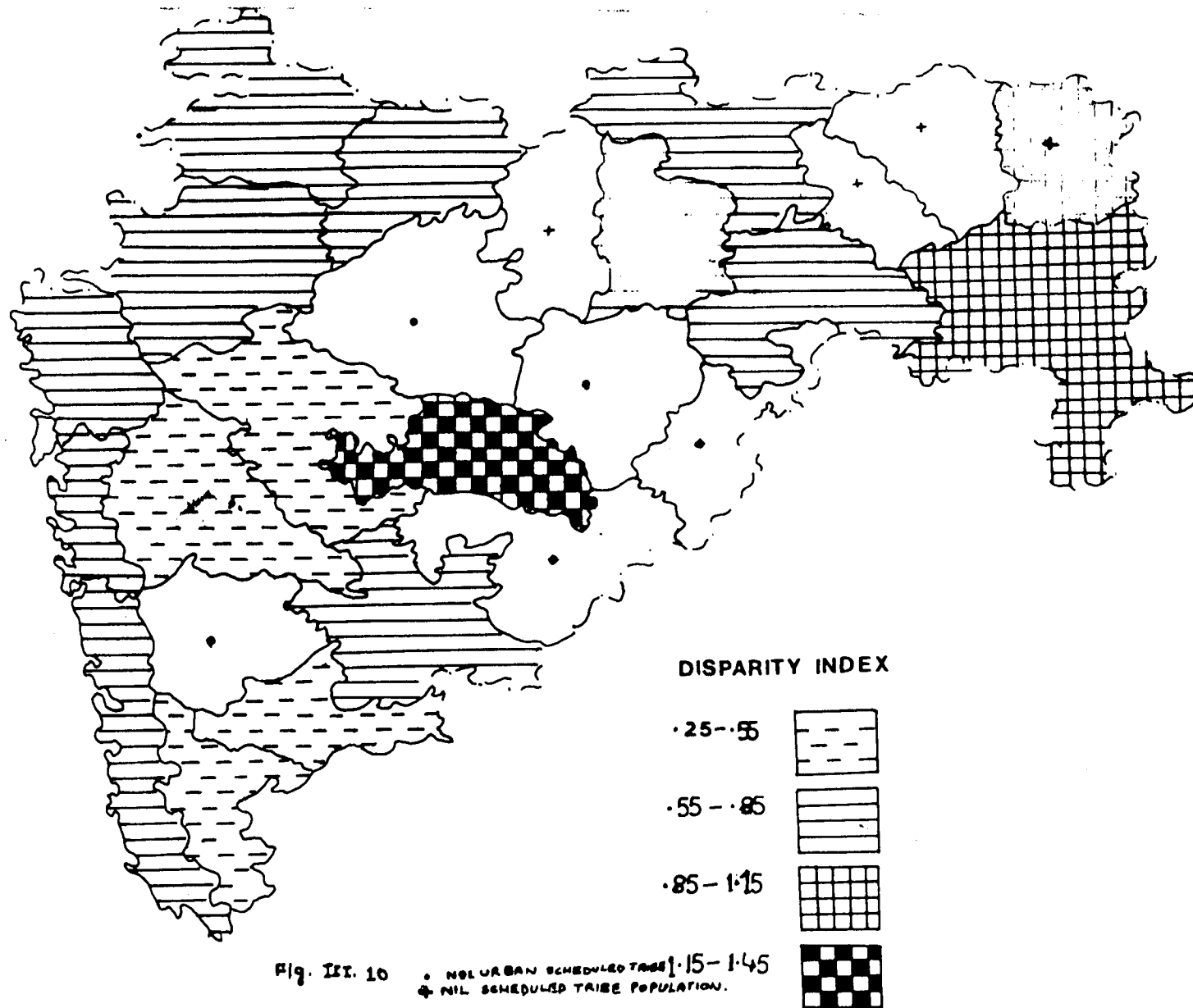## URBAN SCHEDULED TRIBE 1961

DISPARITY INDEX

·25-·55

·55-·85

·85-1·15

Fig. III. 10   • NOL URBAN SCHEDULED TRIBE 1·15-1·45
＋ NIL SCHEDULED TRIBE POPULATION.

c) Gender Disparities in Urban Scheduled Tribe Literacy

The tribal component in the urban population of Maharashtra is by and large too small to acquire significance. Kolhapur, Ratanagiri, Sangli, Sholapur and Satara had the highest scheduled tribe female and male literacy which gave them lowest disparities in the scheduled tribes. Scheduled tribe urban population remain on the fringe of the urban world where literacy has not made any inroads (Ahmad and Nuna 1986:145). This statement clearly indicate towards low literacy of urban scheduled tribe and high disparities therein. If observed region wise, disparities have tendencies to tilt towards traditionally backward areas like Marathwada, Vidarbha and Deccan in descending order. Konkan region has the lowest disparities in urban literacy (table 8). Figure 10 and 12 depict a picture of high gender disparities in Marathwada region. Urban population is negligible in most of the areas. Lowest urban gender disparities were in Deccan region. In 1991 Vidarbha and Deccan had the lowest disparities among urban scheduled castes.

III.7 Correlation Between Male-Female Literacy and Gender Disparities Total/Rural/Urban among Scheduled Caste

Scheduled tribe literacy also shows the same correlation as it showed for scheduled caste and non-scheduled population during the study period.

Total male scheduled tribe always had moderate negative correlation with disparities whereas literacy of female scheduled tribes move from low negative correlation

86

MAHARASHTRA

MALE-FEMALE DISPARITY IN LITERACY AMONG URBAN SCHEDULED TRIBE 1991

DISPARITY INDEX
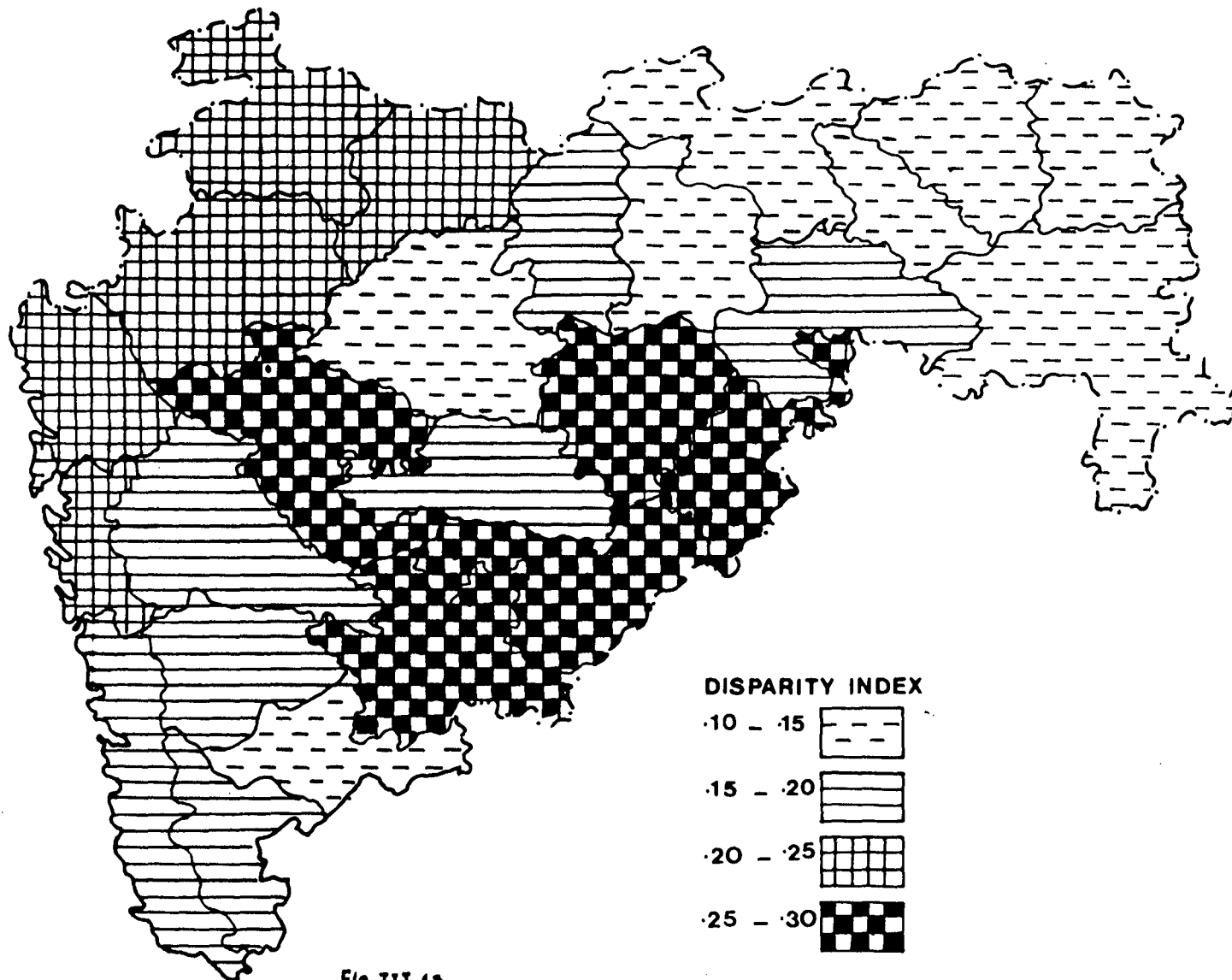
·10 — ·15

·15 — ·20

·20 — ·25

·25 — ·30

Fig. III.12

tc comparatively high negative correlation in 1991.

Table - 11
Correlation Between Male-Female Literacy and
Gender Disparities Among Total/Rural/Urban Scheduled
Tribe

Segments of Pop.	1961	1971	1981	1991
Total ST Male	-.67**	-.52*	-.34	-.61**
Total ST Female	-.38	-.21	-.71**	-.90**
Rural ST Male	-.68	-.48*	-.57	-.62
Rural ST Female	-.36	-.36	-.34	-.40
Urban ST Male	-.88**	-.76	-.77**	-.70
Urban ST Female	-.68	-.72	-.83	-.92*

* Significant at one percent level.
** Significant at five percent level.

Rural scheduled tribe males have a very low negative correlation with disparities in rural areas. Over a period of time this low negative correlation has declined further. This indicates that rural male scheduled tribe literacy does not help in reducing the disparities. The correlation between literacy for rural scheduled tribe females have increased with slight variation but in urban areas this increase has been at relatively higher rate (table 11).

Urban scheduled tribe male and female both have varied correlation with urban gender disparities. Both male and female literacy are much higher than rural literacy but they do not follow the same pattern of correlation as scheduled caste does. This can be inferred from these correlation that urban female scheduled tribe literacy can have strong impact on total literacy but impact will be stronger in case of urban female scheduled caste literacy.

This discussion has given us the total, rural, urban correlation of male-female literacy with gender disparities

MAHARASHTRA
HIERARCHY OF INEQUITIES IN LITERACY 1971

RURAL FEMALE (S.T.)

RURAL FEMALE (S.C.)

URBAN FEMALE (S.T.)

RURAL MALE (S.T.)

RURAL FEMALE (N.S.)

URBAN FEMALE (S.C.)

RURAL MALE (S.C.)

URBAN MALE (S.T.)

RURAL MALE (N.S.)

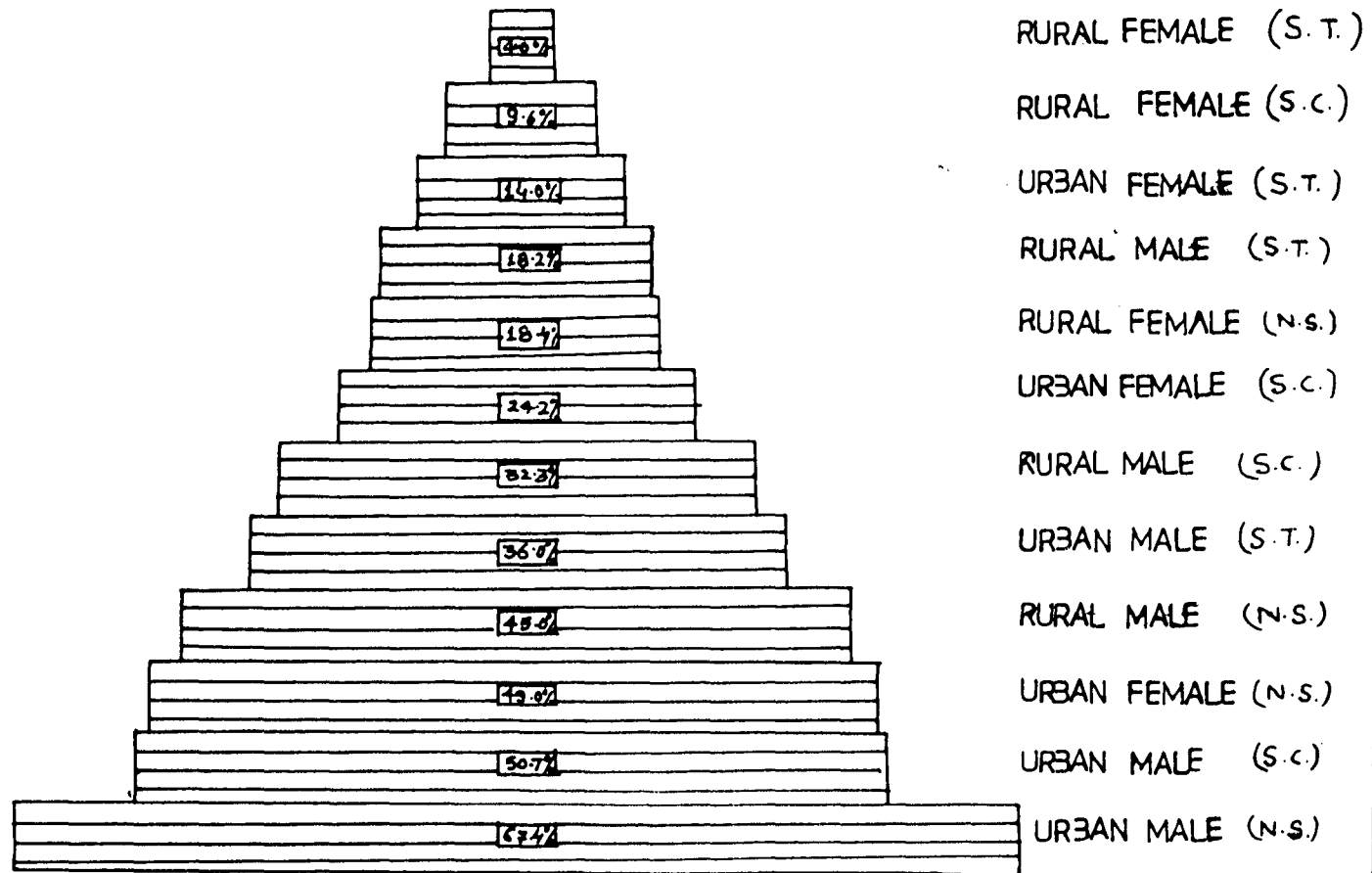URBAN FEMALE (N.S.)

URBAN MALE (S.C.)

URBAN MALE (N.S.)

Fig. III.13

among scheduled tribe. All the segments of population show a clear pattern of disparities where certain sections are more deprived than many other who are relatively better off as far as benefits of education are concerned. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes emerge as most backward communities if compared with non-scheduled population who are far ahead of them in literacy.

From the above discussion it was found out that different segments of the population tend to have a structural constitution. In this structure non-scheduled population is at the tappering end where lowest disparities exists and scheduled tribe and caste disparity are at the lowest bottom indicating high gender disparity level. This hierarchies of inequalities in literacy level had been dealt in the following section for Maharashtra for all the four decades.

III.8 **Pyramid of Inequality.**

As pointed out earlier, disparities in education seldom express themsleves highly correlated between two descreate categories. In fact, in a given societal set up there are always layers and layers of disparities. Taking the Indian literacy specifically there are disparities between males and females, between rural areas and urban areas, between scheduled groups and non - scheduled groups. (Raza and Premi 1987:13)

Females have been found to be educationally deprived compared to males but it is observed that an urban female of non-scheduled group is less deprived as compared to rural

88

MAHARASHTRA
HIERARCHY OF INEQUITIES IN LITERACY 1981

RURAL FEMALE (S.T.)

RURAL FEMALE (S.C.)

RURAL FEMALE (N.S.)

RURAL MALE (S.T.)

URBAN FEMALE (S.C.)

URBAN FEMALE (S.T.)

RURAL MALE (S.C.)

RURAL MALE (N.S.)

URBAN FEMALE (N.S.)
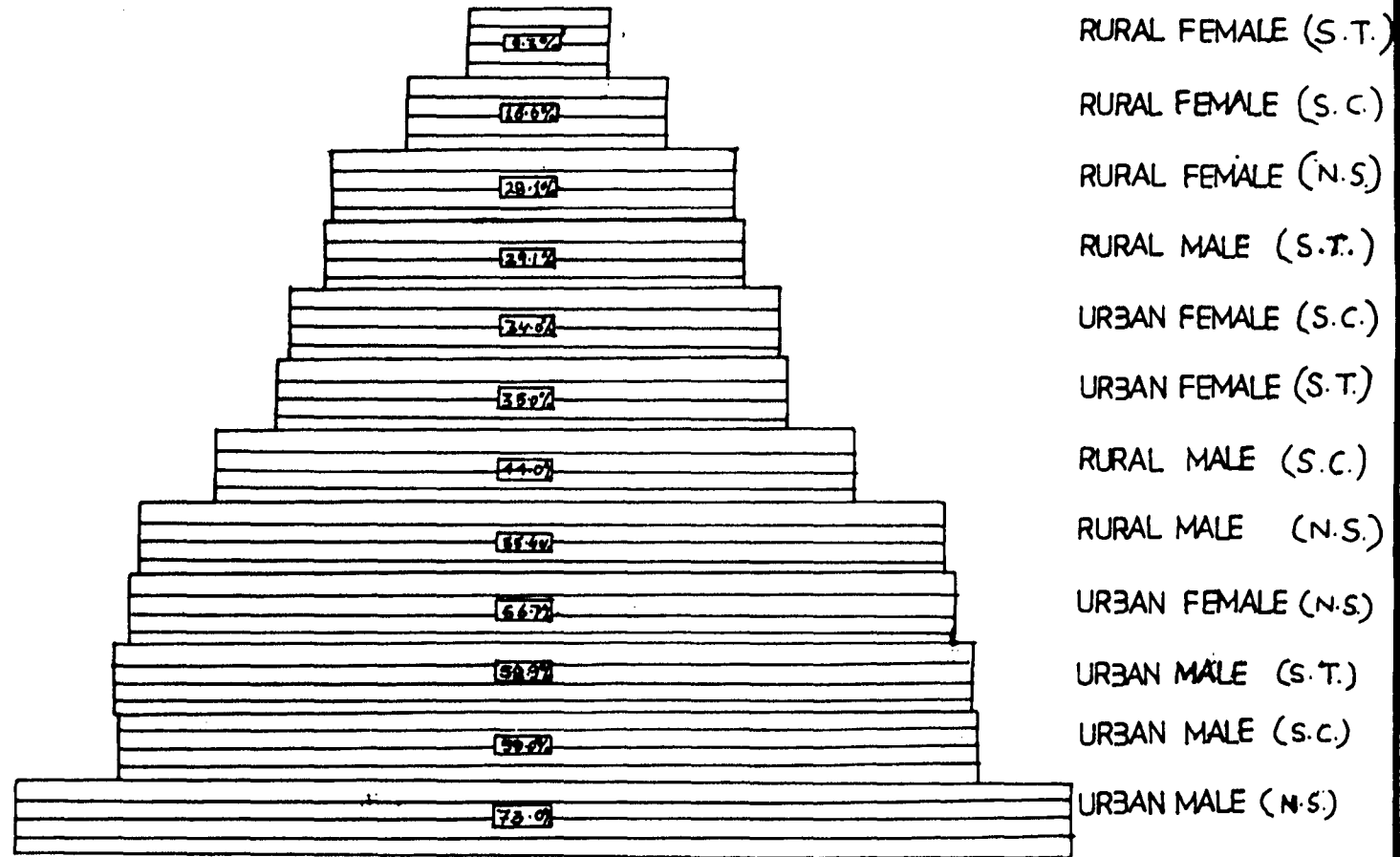
URBAN MALE (S.T.)

URBAN MALE (S.C.)

URBAN MALE (N.S.)

Fig. III. 14

scheduled tribe and scheduled caste male. To understand the system of disparities in a realistic perspective, it is necessary to know the relative deprivation of various groups in a society. This can be done by building pyramid of disparities.

In the following diagrams., taking literacy rates for 1971, 1981, 1991 as a parameter of educational development, an attempt is made to build such a pyramid for Maharashtra state (fig. 13,14,15). From various diagrams it is clear that females as a category are deprived as compared to males. Rural males are more deprived as compared to non-scheduled urban females. But more interesting revelation is that non-scheduled urban females are better than the rural males of all categories i.e., scheduled caste and scheduled tribe.

The pattern of 1961 has been followed by 1971 also. In 1971 all the previous positions have been maintained by respective sub-groups of the society. Same pattern is emerging from the pyramids of 1981 and 1991 as well. At the top of hierarchy of inequities scheduled tribe female have existed from 1961 to 1991.

The policy implications are at once clear. Any blanket formula of incentives either to the scheduled groups as a whole or for the females will not be entirely supported by equity consideration. Further, while on the one hand such a policy may help to reduce disparities among some groups other groups will remain backward (Raza and Premi 1987:15)
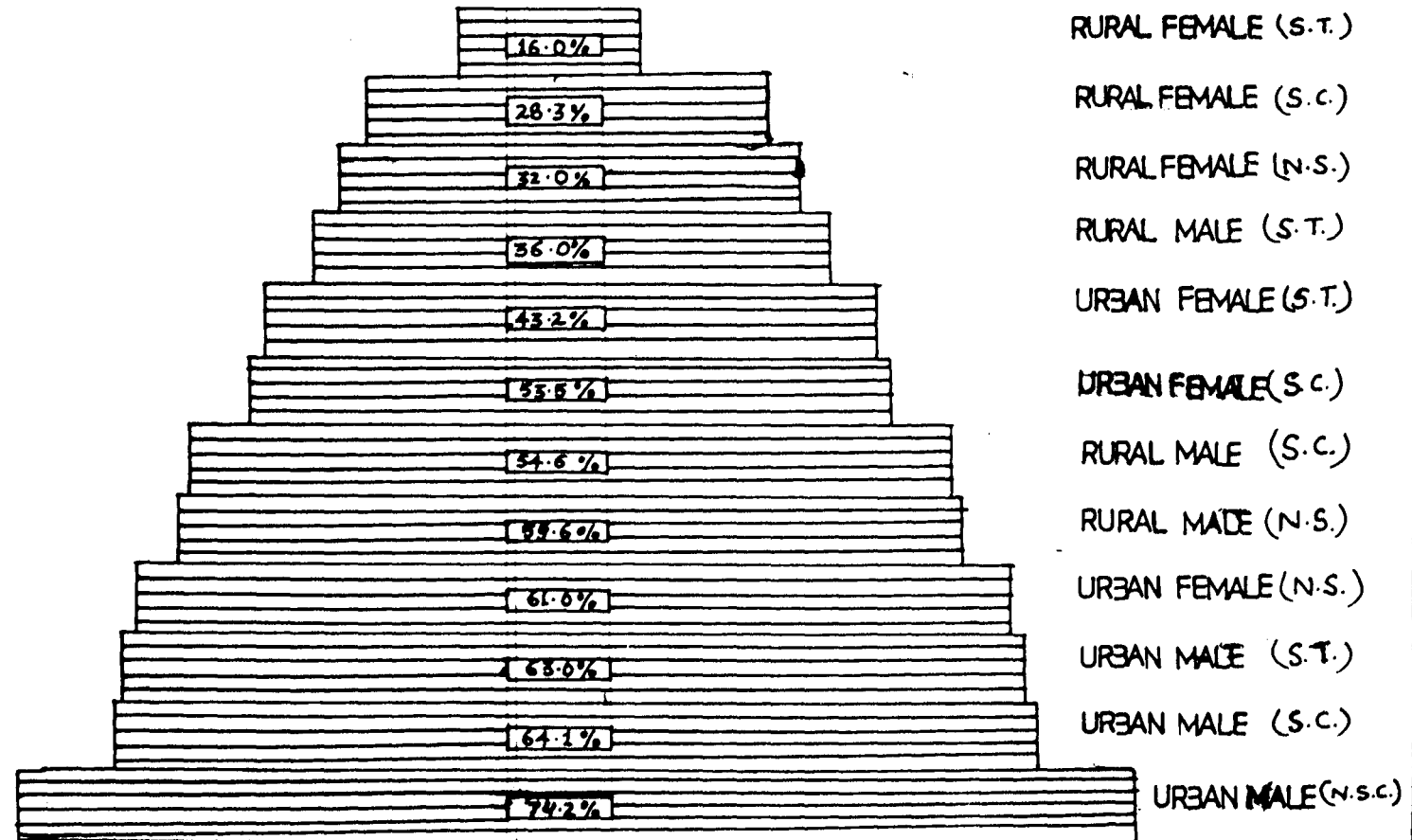
MAHARASHTRA
HIERARCHY OF INEQUITIES IN LITERACY 1991

16.0%	RURAL FEMALE (S.T.)
28.3%	RURAL FEMALE (S.C.)
32.0%	RURAL FEMALE (N.S.)
36.0%	RURAL MALE (S.T.)
43.2%	URBAN FEMALE (S.T.)
53.5%	URBAN FEMALE (S.C.)
54.6%	RURAL MALE (S.C.)
58.6%	RURAL MALE (N.S.)
61.6%	URBAN FEMALE (N.S.)
63.0%	URBAN MALE (S.T.)
64.1%	URBAN MALE (S.C.)
74.2%	URBAN MALE (N.S.C.)

Fig. III. 13

Table 12

Urban Gender-Disperities Among Various Sub-Groups of Maharashtra 1961-91

	Non S.C.				S.C.				S.T.			
	1961	71	81	91	1961	71	81	91	1961	71	81	91
Highest disparity	0.420	0.302	0.239	0.182	0.888	0.70	0.433	0.326	1.345	0.880	0.432	0.291
District	Nanded	Osmanabad	Parbhani	Parbhani	Osmanabad	Solapur	Aurangabad	Osmanbad	Nanded	Osmanbad	Nanded	Nanded
Region	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(D)	(D)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)
Lowest disparity	0.141	0.100	0.096	0.078	0.209	0.25	0.188	0.077	0.297	0.20	0.175	0.114
District	Greater Bombay	Greater Bombay	Greater Bombay	Greater Bombay	Nagpur	Greater Bombay	Nagpur	Kolhapur	Aurangabad	Amravati	Akola	Sangli
Region	(K)	(K)	(K)	(K)	(V)	(K)	(V)	(D)	(D)	(V)	(V)	(D)

Table 13

Rural Gender Disperities Among Various Sub-Groups of Maharashtra 1961-91

	Non S.C.				S.C.				S.T.			
	1961	71	81	91	1961	71	81	91	1961	71	81	91
Highest disparity	0.841	0.739	0.532	0.440	1.422	0.89	0.747	0.536	1.447	1.12	0.841	0.568
District	Parbhani	Nasik	Nanded	Parbhani	Nanded	Nanded	Parbhani	Kolhapur	Nanded	Ratnagiri	Parbhani	Parbhani
Region	(M)	(D)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(M)	(D)	(M)	(K)	(M)	(M)
Lowest disparity	0.390	0.249	0.172	0.440	0.441	0.31	0.257	0.017	0.437	0.31	0.304	0.144
District	Satara	Amravati	Amravati	Parbhani	Thane	Thane	Ranigarh	Warda	Satara	Sangli	Ratnagiri	Warda
Region	(D)	(V)	(V)	(M)	(K)	(K)	(K)	(V)	(D)	(D)	(K)	(V)

K : Konkan   D : Deccan   M : Marathwada   V : Vidarbha

Disparities have gone down and literacy has gone up over the last four decades among various subgroups as a result of the policy of protective discrimination.

III.9 **REGION-WISE HIGHEST AND LOWEST GENDER DISPARITIES AMON VARIOUS SUB GROUPS**

In urban areas highest gender disparities among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe were found in districts of Marathwada region throughout the four decade. For non-scheduled gender literacy was again the highest in Marathwada region. Lowest disparities were confined into Konkan, Deccan and Vidarbha region during 1961 to 1991.

Table 13 shows that gender disparities among various sub-groups in rural areas are confined to Marathwada region again. During 1971 Nasik which was in Deccan has the highest rural disparity among non-scheduled population. Lowest disparties in rural areas are confined to Deccan and Vidarbha in case of non-scheduled population and scheduled tribes. But lowest disparities among scheduled caste were found in the Konkan region up till 1981. In 1991 wardha which lies in Vidarbha region, recorded lowest disparities in rural literacy.

III.10 **ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:**

In this section an attempt has been made to comment on possible additional factors which might influence literacy. These observations are contingent upon studies done by various scholars and other sources.

As already has been stated, social reform movement was quite strong and widespread in Maharashtra. Strongest among

all said movements was that by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar who himself was a scheduled caste. Untouchability was a wide spread practice in Maharashtra and there untouchables were denied education by higher caste people who had all the facilities at their disposal.

Mass conversion of Mahar scheduled caste which was the most numerically dominant caste in Maharashtra led to the high literacy among them. After this conversion their social status was raised and they were not counted as scheduled castes by census. Major centres of these converts which were later called neo-Buddists were Nagpur, Poona, Bombay, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar, Dhule and Nasik district. Among all these centres of conversion, Aurangabad advanced in education very fast specially for higher education. 'Milind College of Arts and Sciences' was founded in this districts by the Buddhist society for higher education.

Percentage of neo Buddhists was highest in Akola (16.1%), Bhandara (13.0%), Nagpur (14.5%), Wardha (14.4%), Amravati (13.4%) and Parbhani (11.5%) in 1971. Literacy among non-scheduled in the following districts was not high as compared to other districts. This was due to the fact that a large chunk of mostly illiterate scheduled caste was added to non-scheduled population. But this situation changed as Mahar's attained quite high level of literacy as compared to other castes in Maharashtra in later years.

Like caste, religion of the population also affects the literacy rates. For example, areas of muslim dominance tend

tc have low literacy, especially among women who are mostly
ccnfined to homes under purdha system (Sopher 1980:198). In
Marathwada region muslim rule before reorganization was
considered as a major factor in low literacy of female by
Sopher (1980:149).

Most of the writers comment on the gap between the
levels of male and female literacy which is the result of "a
long, continued prejudice against the education of women and
also against their employment outside the home (Gosal
1974:265). This is more apt for rural female but in
Maharashtra's relatively advanced urban society this may not
be true everywhere. Degree of urbanization shows a high
correlation with literacy (Gosal 1985:272). Greater Bombay
with hundred percent urbanization has the highest literacy
rate (82.50%) according to 1991 census. Nagpur had 61.78
percent of urbanization and literacy was 73.64 percent.

On the other hand we have Nanded (21.72%), Osmanabad
(15.19%) and Bid (17.9%) with low urbanization and low
literacy of 48.1 percent, 54.1 percent and 49.82 percent
respectively (CMIE 1993). Greater Bombay (0.67%), Nagpur
(44.3%) and Thane (32.8%) have the lowest percentage of
workers in agriculture and allied activity and the highest
literacy rates whereas Osmanabad (82.7%), Parbhani (81.6%),
Bid (81.3%) and Nanded (79.3%) had the highest percentage of
workers in agriculture and allied activities. These
districts also account for the lowest literacy in
Maharashtra. Although a correlation matrix has not been
worked out, but these percentages of different indicators

can tell a lot about the literacy of an area.

Along with these factors it was found that availability of schooling influences literacy positively in all areas. Total female literacy have a strong positive correlation with availability of schooling (r= .931). Same positive correlation was found for urban male and female although it was strongly correlated with urban female literacy (r= .889) than urban male (r= .736).

These were few possible explanation in order to understand the literacy and disparities in literacy in Maharashtra within a broad framework. Along these explanations government programs can also be observed as they also effect literacy considerably.

One such programme was initiated in 1989 which was called 'Total Literacy Campaign'. In this campaign some of the most educationally backward districts were included. This campaign was launched by 'National Literacy Mission' authority of the Human Resource Ministry with the active support of voluntary organizations and local authorities. In Maharashtra, the literacy campaigns has been launched in following districts of Sindhudurg, Wardha, Latur, Nanded, and Ratnagiri. This campaign aimed at making the state totally literate by the end of Eighth Plan. Over 20 lakhs illiterates are involved in the exercise of these districts. Sindhudurg and Wardha, which completed the (rural areas) first phase, had achieved more than 90 percent literacy. While the literacy rate in Sindhudurg which was 67 percent

at the start of the campaign went upto 97 percent. In Wardha the literacy rate on completion reached at 98 percent from 60 percent.

In Sindhudurg ' Jan Shiksan Nilayam' (Post - Literacy centre) has been opened in every Gram Panchayat to retain literacy among neo-literates (Saldanha 1995:1177).

It was found that learners of backward areas tend to have more literacy during these literacy campaign than those which already have high literacy rates (Saldanha 1955:1178).

The uneven performance of learners along literacy ,is only to be expected as various causes ranging from varying intelligence and pedagogical factors relating to the teaching-learning process, to the differential impact of socio-economic conditions and organizational strategies with in different regions effect literacy in different way.

CONCLUSION

This chapter can be concluded by observing the fact that although regional disparities are going down over a period of time, they are not moving away from their regional pattern. This also proves the observation made by Raza that 'disparities in Indian literacy show a strong pattern of regional stability' (1990:3).

Marathwada which has been the most backward region tend to remain backward despite efforts by various governmental plans. Disparities in this region did not show a very high negative correlation with female literacy because of prejudice against women's education which is still having a strong hold on the mind of the people. From additional

95

information this can be inferred that good socio-economic condition like high level of urbanization high percentage of people engaged in secondary activity etc. effect literacy rate positively and effectively.

Finally, the present literacy campaign, which is going on in seven districts of Maharashtra need to cover more backward area so that the fruits of literacy could be tested by people in every nook and corner of Maharashtra.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Even a cursory overview of literature which deals with literacy in Maharashtra brings out clearly that the essential focus of these studies is two-fold. That is to study the literacy behavior of general population and scheduled castes and tribes in specific regions or in general. The purpose is to stress the deprived status of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes vis-a-vis the non-scheduled population. With the exception of few studies which have been analysed in the beginning of this study, none deals with all these aspects i.e. growth in literacy as well as disparities in literacy which have been dealt with in this study. Apart from a very detailed discussion on sptio-temporal trends in Maharashtra's literacy, the study explores the relative positioning of males vs. females as well as rural-urban segment of population.

In this study, Maharashtra has been selected for studying various issues pertaining to literacy. Maharashtra presents a good case because it has a strong base of social reform movements which were instrumental in spreading literacy. However, these movements were not a intensive as some of the movements of trade unions, peasants associations and other non-governmental organizations in other parts of country such as Kerala and west Bengal. Notwithstanding this Maharashtra does not have semi-feudal, political economy as is the case with parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar

and Andhra Pradesh.

This midway position of Maharashtra provides a useful reference period for analysis of literacy located in a given socio-economic and political context. Moreover, despite high literacy in Maharashtra there are inter-group and inter-regional disparities existing in the State.

Overall literacy showed a tremendous increase during the study period 1961-1991. Overall literacy rates were highest for non-scheduled followed by scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In 1991 these subgroups recorded literacy percentages higher than any other state in India. Literacy rates were highest for non-scheduled population in Konkan region which is the most urbanised area of Maharashtra. Marathwada region with five most backward districts i.e. Parbhani, Bid, Nanded, Osmanabad and Aurangabad had the lowest literacy rates during the four decade.

Among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes literacy, similar pattern was observed, but scheduled tribe literacy was far below than scheduled caste literacy. As a consequence the kind of hierarchical structure which was formed in case of literacy was, non-scheduled literacy followed by scheduled caste literacy and scheduled tribe literacy in a descending order.

During the study period from 1961 to 1991, growth of literacy was also observed and it was found that literacy growth was highest for all segments of population during 1971-81 period as compared to other periods between 1961-71 and 1981-1991. Highest growth in literacy was experienced by

rural scheduled tribe and scheduled caste females. Even among non-scheduled growth literacy was highest among rural as well as urban females.

Highest growth in literacy was registered in Marathwada region and lowest was recorded in Konkan and Deccan regions. This may be due to already existing high literacy rates in Konkan region than low literacy in Marathwada. This is because Konkan with already existing high literacy rates has low potential for further growth and a sort of plateau seems to have been reached there as far as increase in literacy is concerned. In contrast, Marathwada offered a case where higher literacy could be achieved in the face of awareness among people. This is a supposition which needs further information in order to be tested. Same was the case with growth rates in literacy during these four decades.

Spatial pattern of gender disparities exhibit low levels for the districts located in western Maharashtra i.e. Konkan and Deccan region. Marathwada region again emerged as the most backward region as it recorded the highest gender disparities during the four decades. Vidarbha was just after Marathwada region as it had gender disparities lower than Marathwada but higher than Deccan and Konkan for non-scheduled literacy.

Disparities among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe were highest during the decades of 1961 and 1971 in both urban and rural areas. Scheduled tribe gender disparities were prominent in rural areas. Urban scheduled tribe

population was negligible is most of the districts so, gender disparities in urban areas are not very significant. Scheduled castes had relatively higher gender disparities than non-scheduled population, but they were definitely lower than scheduled tribe gender disparity.

When worked out female literacy showed a strong negative correlation with gender disparities in rural as well as in urban areas. Male literacy also showed a negative correlation with gender disparities but it is more pronounced for female literacy meaning thereby that it is increase in female literacy which has stronger bearing upon reduction in gender disparities in literacy. Hierarchy of inequities in Maharashtra showed that at the top of the Pyramid is scheduled tribe rural female with lowest literacy rate among all the sub-groups.

Rural scheduled caste and scheduled tribe were at lower level than urban non-scheduled females. Urban non-scheduled male have the highest literacy and they form the base of Pyramid. Thus it can be concluded from this study that although literacy rates for various districts and region have increased in absolute terms over a period of four decade, relative positions of districts and regions have remained the same.

Regions having the highest literacy rates in initial period for various sub-groups continued to have the same pattern up till the terminal period. Similarly backward areas maintained their low position in overall situation. This pattern emerged even as the highest growth in literacy

was experienced by backward areas.

Low male-female literacy and high gender disparities is another characteristic of the study. Interestingly gender disparities also follow the structured pattern where non-scheduled are at the top most layer with high literacy and low disparities.

High disparities and low literacy has been the feature of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes. Although these various sub-groups have registered constant decline in overall, rural and urban gender disparities, their relative position have not altered at all.

Thus the areas which had highest disparities in 1961 i.e., the initial period, were still lagging behind in terminal period that is in 1991 also. This proves the fact that there exists a high degree of temporal stability in regional disparities in literacy in Maharashtra.

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