

Prevalent Reasons of Illiteracy among Houseless Population: A Case Study

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Abstract

The present research work attempts to analyse the literacy status of houseless population and reasons responsible for their illiteracy in Kanpur city. The study is based on primary source of data generated through a comprehensive field survey in the city carried out during 2012. The study reveals that the rate of illiteracy among the houseless population was highly prevalent because only nearly forty percent houseless people were literates, wherein, more than two-third houseless people had the education merely upto the primary level as compared with literate people who had their education upto secondary, senior secondary and graduation. As far as reasons of illiteracy are concerned, about three-fifth reasons of illiteracy for these houseless people were of economic nature, followed by social and biological reasons. Moreover, the social reasons were more detrimental for female illiteracy than the economic reasons whereas the male illiteracy was mainly determined by the economic reasons instead of social and biological causes.

Keywords: Houseless Population, Literacy, Reasons of Illiteracy and Kanpur city.

Introduction

The notion of illiteracy denotes a deficiency which is by far the most serious problem in India (Jaitly et al., 2012) and with its global dimensions poses an imperative challenge to the world community. It is indeed a glaring indignity that one-third population of the world is identified as illiterate. In developing countries of the world, one half of the child population is denied from the opportunity of basic education and continues to enlarge the rank of illiterates. While, the Article 45 of the Constitution of India lays stress upon providing universal education, but so far, this promise has not been yet fulfilled. As a result, the number of uneducated and partly educated, illiterate and partly illiterate

individuals are on the increase day by day. It is a matter of shame for any country if a large number of its citizens are deprived of the right to education (Singh and Kamboj, 2012). Golden (1968) remarked that level of literacy is determined by occupational structure of the society and found a positive relationship between increasing degree of economic diversification and process of literacy dissemination (Golden, 1955). El-Gamal (2012) stated that illiteracy has been a major issue for the government as it prevents several millions of citizens from contributing effectively to the economy of the country. The negative impact of illiteracy on individuals and society makes it a key obstacle that threatens the

efforts towards achieving integral and comprehensive development. Osman et al., (2006) emphasised the importance of education for the alleviation of poverty and the adversities, and simultaneously, poverty also happens to be the single biggest cause of illiteracy and a precursor to all other effects (Jaitly et al., 2012). Lack of well paying jobs, little education and illiteracy are all associated with poverty (Arab Republic of Egypt, 2007).

The UNESCO (2011) defines illiteracy as “a person who cannot, with understanding, read and write a simple statement on his everyday life; and a functionally illiterate is a person who cannot engage in all those activities in which literacy is required for effective functioning of his group and community and also for enabling him to continue to use reading, writing and calculation for his own and the community’s development”. UNESCO recognised a wide range of skills, including the acquisition of literacy, as fundamental aspects of individual development and human rights (UNESCO, 1947). Naming and matching tests in the study of Lecours et al., (1987a, 1987b and 1988) were based on two dimensional representations of objects and actions. Illiterate and semiliterate individuals without brain lesions have difficulty in decoding two-dimensional drawings and even photographs (Reis et al., 1994). This has to be understood following the same methodology that we are now using to study language (Castro-Caldas et al., 1996). The major reason given for this lack of interest was that it did not provide skills that would enable them to be gainfully employed (Kishindo, 1991).

Moreover, the problem of illiteracy in India will not be solved only by providing

education for the children. Illiteracy is also rampant among the older generation of people, particularly in the rural areas: and not a little of our social and culture backwardness is due to this. Campaign among the illiterate adults, therefore, is also a crying necessity (Jaitly et al., 2012). A growing interest has been seen in examining the spatial relationship to several indicators such as illiteracy rate, level of education, etc. across geographic areas in developing countries (Khamis, 2012). Shamshad (2012) examined the relationship between houseless population and level of deprivation by taking twenty indicators of deprivation, in which, the indicators of general, rural, urban, male and female illiteracy rates have been significantly identified, as there would be significant relationship between literacy rates of houseless population and their level of socio-economic development. Thus, education is considered as a social instrument for developing human resources and for human capital formation (Sokhranyaeva, 2011). The empirical observations about the space-time diffusion of literacy transition reveal a direct correlation between literacy transition and economic transformation, though it may be difficult to establish as to which cause is and which was effect (Davis, 1955).

Objectives of the study

The present research work aims to cover the two main objectives:

- i. To analyse the literacy status of houseless population in Kanpur city, and
- ii. To identify the reasons of illiteracy among houseless population in the study area.

Study area

The Kanpur city of Uttar Pradesh has been selected for the present study. The geographical location of Kanpur city lies between the parallels of $26^{\circ} 10'$ and $26^{\circ} 36'$ north latitude and $79^{\circ} 30'$ and $80^{\circ} 35'$ east longitude. The lines of $80^{\circ} 2' 30''$ E longitude and $26^{\circ} 28' 15''$ N latitude pass through mid of the city and it is located in

the central part of the state of Uttar Pradesh (see Figure 1). It has been the first largest as well as most populous metropolitan city of the State of Uttar Pradesh till the Indian Census 2001. But after 2011 Census, it slipped down to the second position after Lucknow (capital city of Uttar Pradesh) in Uttar Pradesh and stands at twelfth position in the country.

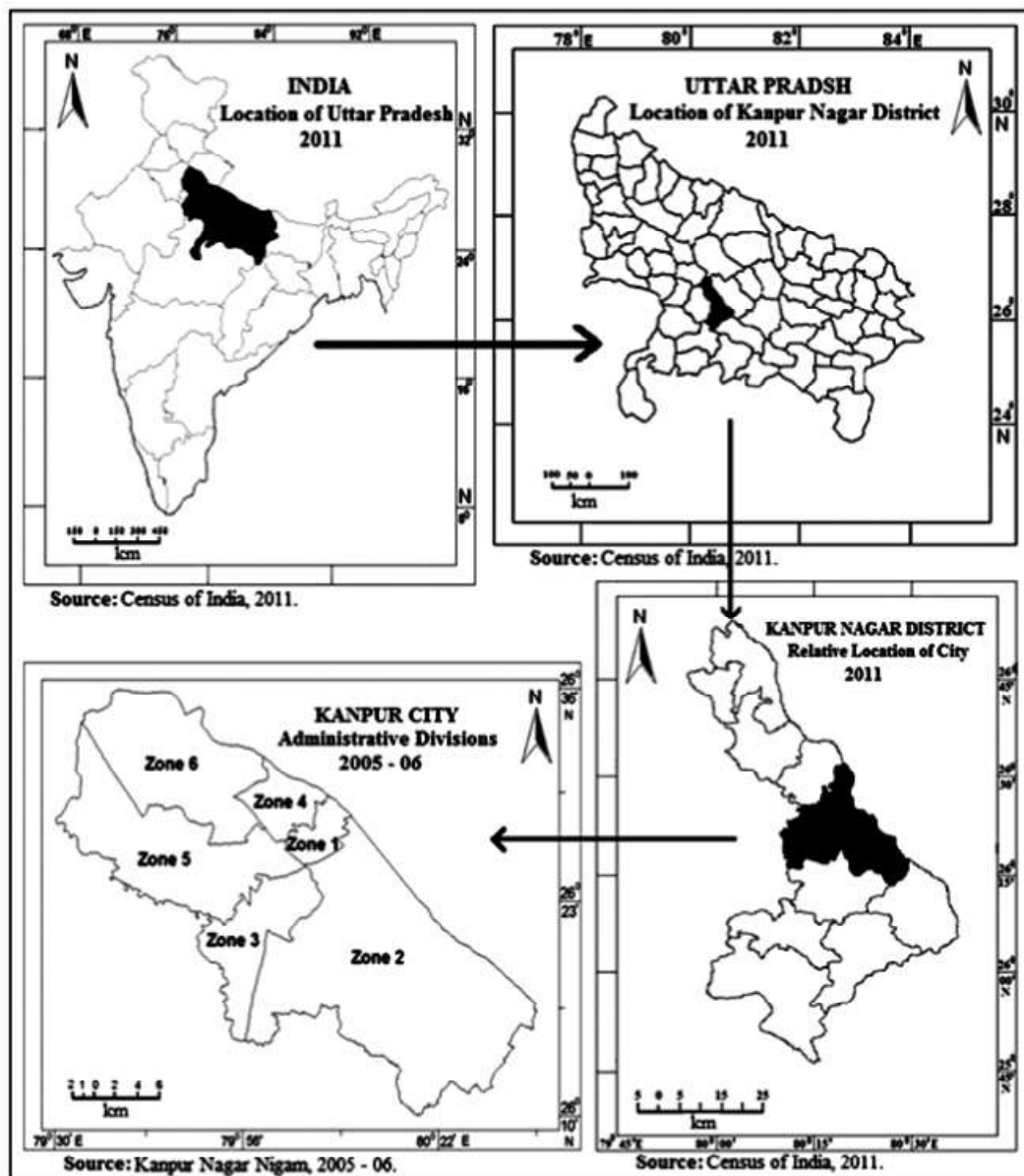


Fig. 1

According to the 2011 Census, the city had a population of 27,67,031 (27.67 lakh) which made it the twelfth most highly populated city in India. As far as the population of Kanpur urban agglomeration (UA) is concerned, it is still maintaining its first position in the state having the population 2,920,067 against the population of Lucknow urban agglomeration (UA) 2,901,474. Out of total population of Kanpur city (27,67,031), male population was 54.30% and female population was 45.70 %. The city has been known as the Economic and Industrial Capital of Uttar Pradesh. Kanpur is also the divisional headquarter of the Kanpur Commissionerate consisting of Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Etawah, Auraiya, Farrukhabad and Kannauj districts (Kanpur City Development Plan, 2006). The city is administratively divided into 6 zones and 110 wards (The inner core area of Kanpur has 67 wards out of total 110 wards) with an average ward population range of 20,000 to 25,000. The municipal area of Kanpur city is about 605 square kilometers. However, the Kanpur Urban Agglomeration, as defined by the Census of 2011, has a population of 2,920,067 and area is comprised of Kanpur municipal corporation, Kanpur municipal corporation outgrowth, Kanpur cantonment board, Armapur estate, northern railway colony and Chakeri.

According to Census of India 2011, the total houseless population of the country is 1,772,889 wherein 834,541 persons live in rural areas and 938,348 persons in the urban parts of India. While, the 44.6% houseless males and 30.9% houseless females are literates in the country, while, the total literacy rate of houseless population is 39.2 %, the corresponding figures for

rural houseless population as a whole have been recorded 44.6, 28.5 and 37.1 per cent respectively. The total, male and female literacy rates of the urban houseless population of the country are 40.8, 44.6 and 33.5 % respectively.

Database and methodology

The present study is based on primary source of data generated through a comprehensive field survey in the Kanpur city carried out during 2012. Having identified the houseless households in prior visits in each ward, the individual slips were used to ease the task of survey in the city. Among the total 110 wards of the Kanpur city, the houseless population was found only in the 96 wards and Cantonment area while 14 wards, Armapur estate, Aerodrome and C.O.D. (Central Ordnance Depot) areas do not witnessed any houseless person during the survey in the city. In the present study, the boundary of the ward in Kanpur city is the smallest administrative unit and houseless household has been taken as the smallest unit of data collection while the collected data were spatially presented zone wise in the city for easy understanding facts and figures. Initially it was planned to select 30% houseless households randomly for each ward. However, the three pilot surveys were carried out in the city during May, August and November in 2011, in these surveys; it was observed that the number of houseless households used to vary from time to time even within a day and from place to place in an area. Thus, the four periods of time in a day i.e. early morning (6 am to 9 am), noon 12 pm to 3 pm), evening (6 pm to 9 pm) and late night (9 pm to 12 midnight) were taken to observe the number of houseless households,

in which two periods (i.e. early morning and late night) experienced the large number of houseless households due to space available for sleeping/living after closing of shops/markets, and to take rest after work as a casual workers in day time, while the other two periods (i.e. noon and evening) witnessed the small number of houseless households due to opening of shops/markets, and the working hours as people mostly used to go for jobs during day time. Moreover, it was also difficult to distinguish houseless person among general public, therefore, 10 per cent of houseless population was considered as hidden. Keeping these things in mind, a sample of 25 per cent houseless households was randomly selected for the survey from each ward. At last, the sampled houseless people of all the wards lying in a zone were summed up zone-wise for easy spatial data analysis. The survey consisted of 1384 houseless households in the Kanpur city whereas the total number of sampled houseless population of the city was 2353 which is summation of total households (1384) and houseless households' family members (969).

Moreover, in this study, houseless population is defined as 'persons who do not live in a house, having few possessions with them used to sleep and live in the informal places, not meant for human habitation, excluding the slums dwellers, nomadic tribal people (gipsies) and Hindu saints, and a house, being a physical structure of dwelling

with roof and walls as a separate unit has the separate main entrance into it from the public way' (Shamshad, 2014: 106). While Census of India (1991), defines 'houseless population' as the persons who are not living in 'census houses'. A 'census house' is referred to as a 'structure with roof'. Census enumerators are instructed 'to take note of the possible places where the houseless population is likely to live such as 'on the roadside, pavements, in hume pipes, under staircases or in the open, temples, mandaps, platforms and the like.

Literacy status of houseless population

Percent distribution of houseless literates and illiterates is set out in Table 1. The distribution signifies that the rate of illiteracy among the houseless population is much higher (61.42%) than literacy rate (38.58%). As far as the difference of literacy status between male and female is concerned, the ratio of illiteracy among the houseless females is exceedingly much higher than the males, for example 92.52% females are illiterate against the 58.81% illiterate males. The prevalence of mass illiteracy among the females is due to the existence of the patriarchal system, which is still in practice in several sections of the Indian society where males use to get all social and economic entitlements more preferably than females.

Table 1: Percent Distribution of Literacy Status of Houseless Population

Zones	Male/Female	Literacy-status		
		Literates	Illiterates	Total
Zone 1	Male	41.35	58.65	100.00
	Female	4.00	96.00	100.00
	Total	39.68	60.32	100.00
Zone 2	Male	31.07	68.93	100.00
	Female	-	100.00	100.00
	Total	28.32	71.68	100.00
Zone 3	Male	44.44	55.56	100.00
	Female	9.09	90.91	100.00
	Total	39.19	60.81	100.00
Zone 4	Male	37.70	62.30	100.00
	Female	25.00	75.00	100.00
	Total	36.92	63.08	100.00
Zone 5	Male	50.96	49.04	100.00
	Female	6.25	93.75	100.00
	Total	46.82	53.18	100.00
Zone 6	Male	39.20	60.80	100.00
	Female	4.55	95.45	100.00
	Total	35.35	64.65	100.00
Total	Male	41.19	58.81	100.00
	Female	7.48	92.52	100.00
	Total	38.58	61.42	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

It may also be seen from the table that in all the zones of the city, the ratio of illiterate houseless people is recorded higher than the literates. In male-female population too, the share of illiterates transcends the literates in the whole city, barring Zone 5 in which the literates marginally exceed the illiterates. However, the percentage difference between literates and illiterates among the female houseless population are much greater than the male houseless population, and no female literates have been found in Zone 2. The highest literacy rate has been accounted by Zone 5 (46.82%).

Socio-economic reasons of illiteracy

Table 2 presents data on the socio-economic and biological determinants of illiteracy among houseless population in Kanpur city. It reveals that nearly three-fifth (59.38%) of the total reasons recorded as responsible for illiteracy among these people are of economic nature and, thus, fall under the category of economic determinants, followed by social and biological reasons i.e. 36.34 and 4.29% respectively. An important inference that may be drawn from this table is that social reasons are more detrimental

for female illiteracy than the economic reasons as they account 50.57% against the economic (41.13%) and biological (8.30%)

reasons of illiteracy in the whole Kanpur city.

Table 2: Percent Distribution of Reasons of Illiteracy among the Houseless Population

Zones	Male/Female	Reasons of illiteracy			
		Social reasons	Economic reasons	Biological reasons	Total
Zone 1	Male	31.76	63.39	4.85	100.00
	Female	50.00	35.71	14.29	100.00
	Total	32.98	61.55	5.48	100.00
Zone 2	Male	31.69	61.75	6.56	100.00
	Female	48.00	36.00	16.00	100.00
	Total	33.65	58.65	7.69	100.00
Zone 3	Male	37.98	60.58	1.44	100.00
	Female	45.65	52.17	2.17	100.00
	Total	39.37	59.06	1.57	100.00
Zone 4	Male	38.74	59.93	1.32	100.00
	Female	58.62	34.48	6.90	100.00
	Total	40.48	57.70	1.81	100.00
Zone 5	Male	31.13	64.62	4.25	100.00
	Female	52.00	38.00	10.00	100.00
	Total	35.11	59.54	5.34	100.00
Zone 6	Male	38.81	58.39	2.80	100.00
	Female	50.85	45.76	3.39	100.00
	Total	40.87	56.23	2.90	100.00
Total	Male	34.43	61.82	3.75	100.00
	Female	50.57	41.13	8.30	100.00
	Total	36.34	59.38	4.29	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher

It means that female education has not been given much importance in our Indian society because the females are still considered as the 'wealth of others', as after her marriage, she happens to belong more to her husband and his family and home, so it is not considered to be beneficial to

invest in her education. On the contrary, the male illiteracy is mainly determined by the economic causes instead of social and biological causes wherein the percentage shares of social, economic and biological reasons responsible for male illiteracy are 34.43, 61.82 and 3.75% respectively.

The zone wise analysis of the data regarding reasons of illiteracy among the houseless population also depicts that economic reasons are the major determinants of illiteracy in the whole Kanpur city. Furthermore, male-female break up of reasons of illiteracy explains that economic reasons are primary/primarily detrimental for male illiteracy in all the zones of the city. It can be seen from the table that it is the social reasons which are largely responsible for female illiteracy in all the zones, except in Zone 3 where economic reasons recorded a higher percentage (52.17%) against the social reasons (45.65%).

Social reasons of illiteracy

Percent distribution of social reasons of illiteracy among the houseless population has been provided in the Table 3. A close scrutiny of Table 3 would reveal that among the social reasons of illiteracy, the proportion of ignorant parents registered 41.03%. If the percentage shares of the categories of ignorant parents, orphans (23.22%) and

the people having no interest in education (11.79%) are taken together into account, they contribute 76.04% among the reasons for illiteracy, while the share of large family size, long distance of schools, gender discrimination, caste discrimination and absence of schools taken together as social reasons of illiteracy has been reported to be 21.75%. In addition to it, the category of other social reasons which includes fear of teachers (1.11%), religious discrimination (0.25%), disputes in schools (0.25%), divorced or separated parents (0.25%), self substance abuse (0.25%) and father substance abuse (0.12%), is also noted as an influential factor of illiteracy with 2.21% share.

Table 3 clearly depicts that for male illiteracy, three factors of social category i.e. ignorant parents, orphan and no interest in education altogether conditioned 79.56% whereas two factors namely ignorant parents and gender discrimination of social category were responsible 64.93% illiteracy among female.

Table 3: Percent Distribution of Social Reasons of Illiteracy among the Houseless Population in Kanpur City

Zones	Male/ Female	Social reasons of illiteracy									
		Ignorant parents	Orphan	No interest in education	Large family size	Long distance of schools	Gender discrimination	Caste discrimination	Absence of schools	Others	Total
Zone 1	Male	49.80	25.70	6.43	3.61	4.42	-	5.63	1.61	2.81	100.00
	Female	35.71	14.29	3.57	3.57	17.86	25.00	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	48.38	24.55	6.14	3.61	5.78	3.97	3.61	1.44	2.53	100.00
Zone 2	Male	51.72	25.86	5.17	8.62	5.17	-	-	1.72	1.72	100.00
	Female	50.00	-	-	-	8.33	33.33	-	8.33	-	100.00
	Total	51.43	21.43	4.29	7.14	5.71	5.71	-	2.86	1.43	100.00

Zone 3	Male	31.65	21.52	16.46	11.39	5.06	-	6.33	2.53	5.06	100.00
	Female	57.14	-	19.05	4.76	-	19.05	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	37.00	17.00	17.00	10.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	2.00	4.00	100.00
Zone 4	Male	22.22	38.46	17.09	8.55	8.55	-	1.71	2.56	0.85	100.00
	Female	35.29	17.65	5.88	11.76	-	11.76	5.88	5.88	5.88	100.00
	Total	23.88	35.82	15.67	8.96	7.46	1.49	2.24	2.99	1.49	100.00
Zone 5	Male	30.30	27.27	16.67	13.64	6.06	-	3.03	1.52	1.52	100.00
	Female	34.62	15.38	-	11.54	-	26.92	-	7.69	3.85	100.00
	Total	31.52	23.91	11.96	13.04	4.35	7.61	2.17	3.26	2.17	100.00
Zone 6	Male	49.55	16.22	18.92	2.70	2.70	-	4.50	3.60	1.80	100.00
	Female	36.67	3.33	20.00	3.33	3.33	30.00	3.33	-	-	100.00
	Total	46.81	13.48	19.15	2.84	2.84	6.38	4.26	2.84	1.42	100.00
Total	Male	41.18	26.03	12.35	6.62	5.15	-	4.12	2.21	2.35	100.00
	Female	40.30	8.96	8.96	5.97	5.22	24.63	1.49	2.99	1.49	100.00
	Total	41.03	23.22	11.79	6.51	5.16	4.55	3.19	2.33	2.21	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

Analysis of the Table 3 explains that ignorant parents (48.38%) and orphanage (24.55%) were leading factors for prevailing illiteracy among the houseless population in Zone 1. The same pattern was followed in Zone 2 in which they contributed 51.43 and 21.43% respectively. In Zone 3, four causes were found to be responsible for mass illiteracy among the houseless people i.e. ignorant parents (37.00%), orphan (17.00%), no interest in education (17.00%) and large family size (10.00%) which together observed to be 81%. The respective figures in Zone 4 are 23.88, 35.82, 15.67 and 8.96%, which as a whole became 84.33%, whereas in Zone 5, these are 31.52, 23.91, 11.96 and 13.04% respectively accounting to 80.79% in total. The proportion of three reasons viz., ignorant parents, orphanage and no interest in education as social reasons of illiteracy accounted for 79.44% illiteracy in Zone 6. Another important inference that may be drawn from this table is that the long distance of schools (17.86%)

and gender discrimination (25.00%) were major determinants for houseless female illiteracy in Zone 1. In other words, it can be said that the gender discrimination for female illiteracy has been the principal detrimental factor, except the ignorant parents and orphan in whole city. Among the social reasons excluding the ignorant parents, orphan and no interest in education, any other reason has not been marked as significant.

Economic reasons of illiteracy

A detailed account of various economic reasons of illiteracy has been set out in the Table 4. The data in this table portrays that the poverty is the main hindrance for the houseless population to get the education, because this section of population is living under absolute poverty rather than the relative poverty, which means that they do not even have the minimum basic means to satisfy their basic needs of life

Table 4: Percent Distribution of Economic Reasons of Illiteracy among the Houseless Population in Kanpur City

Zones	Male/ Female	Economic reasons of illiteracy							
		Poverty	High cost of education	Low income	Unemployment	Working since childhood	Landless	Supporting family	Total
Zone 1	Male	47.28	17.10	22.13	12.07	1.01	0.40	-	100.00
	Female	70.00	10.00	15.00	5.00	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	48.16	16.83	21.86	11.80	0.97	0.39	-	100.00
Zone 2	Female	48.67	18.58	20.35	11.50	-	0.88	-	100.00
	Female	22.22	22.22	33.33	22.22	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	46.72	18.85	21.31	12.30	-	0.82	-	100.00
Zone 3	Male	45.24	19.05	19.05	12.70	3.17	-	0.79	100.00
	Female	79.17	12.50	4.17	-	-	-	4.17	100.00
	Total	50.67	18.00	16.67	10.67	2.67	-	1.33	100.00
Zone 4	Male	50.28	24.86	11.05	13.81	-	-	-	100.00
	Female	60.00	20.00	-	10.00	10.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	50.79	24.61	10.47	13.61	0.52	-	-	100.00
Zone 5	Male	44.53	26.28	11.68	15.33	1.46	0.73	-	100.00
	Female	52.63	26.32	15.79	5.26	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	45.51	26.28	12.18	14.10	1.28	0.64	-	100.00
Zone 6	Male	43.71	17.37	23.95	12.57	1.20	1.20	-	100.00
	Female	40.74	22.22	25.93	11.11	-	-	-	100.00
	Total	43.30	18.04	24.23	12.37	1.03	1.03	-	100.00
Total	Male	46.85	19.66	19.08	12.78	1.06	0.49	0.08	100.00
	Female	56.88	18.35	15.60	7.34	0.92	-	0.92	100.00
	Total	47.67	19.55	18.80	12.33	1.05	0.45	0.15	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher.

i.e. food, clothing and lodging, and not to mention about their health, education and recreation. The high cost of education, low income, and unemployment are also other significant impediments for literacy among the houseless people. The maximum proportion among the economic reasons of illiteracy is that of poverty which recorded 47.67% share. The percentage shares of high cost of education, low income and unemployment as reasons of illiteracy have been registered 19.55, 18.80 and 12.33% respectively.

Moreover, working since childhood, landless and supporting family among the economic reasons of illiteracy merely accounted 1.65%. It means that the four economic factors i.e. poverty, high cost of education; low income and unemployment are the major determinants of illiteracy, and accounted 98.35% share of economic reasons of illiteracy. The proportion of poverty among males constitutes 46.85%, and that of females accounts the 56.88% of the economic reasons of illiteracy. For male illiteracy, the high cost of education, low income and unemployment make more than half of the total i.e. 51.49%, whereas, in the case of females, it is 41.29%.

The zone wise analysis of the data given in Table 4 reveals the fact that poverty in Zones 3 and 4 is responsible more than fifty percent for the wide prevalence of illiteracy and it is also contributing more than forty percent in other remaining zones of the city. The contribution of poverty in female illiteracy is recorded much higher in most of the zones, namely Zone 1 (70.00%), Zone 3 (79.17%), Zone 4 (60.00%) and Zone 5 (52.63%), followed by Zone 6 (40.74%) and Zone 2 (22.22%). The range of poverty experienced in the case of male

illiteracy ranges from 50.28% in Zone 4 to 43.71% in Zone 6. The share of high cost of education in the three zones, namely Zone 3 (18.00%), Zone 4 (24.61%) and Zone 5 (26.28%), was registered greater than the proportion of low income, but Zones 1, 2 and 6 witnessed maximum ratio of low income over the high cost of education viz., 21.86, 21.31 and 24.23% respectively. The unemployment is also accounting more than ten percent among the economic reasons of illiteracy in the whole city. While the reasons like working since childhood (found in five zones), landless (found in four zones) and supporting family (found only in one zone), are seen to have a very negligible share in the economic reasons of illiteracy for houseless population.

Biological reasons of illiteracy

Table 5 provides information about the biological reasons of illiteracy among the houseless population in Kanpur city. An examination of this table shows that mental illness among the houseless population is a key causal factor of illiteracy, though parents' illness/death and normal illness are subsequent factors in the biological reasons which have a little bit impact on their illiteracy. An analysis of the data in Table 5 indicates that the proportion of mental illness is exponentially highest (89.58%) among the biological reasons of illiteracy, whereas, it is 8.33% by parents' illness/death and only 2.02% normal illness determine the illiteracy rate of houseless persons. The respective figures for houseless males are 87.84, 9.46 and 2.70%. However, the share of mental illness among the biological reasons for female illiteracy is 95.45% and of parents' illness/death is 4.55%.

Table 5: Percent Distribution of Biological Reasons of Illiteracy among the Houseless Population in Kanpur City

Zones	Male/Female	Biological reasons of illiteracy			
		Mental illness	Parents illness/death	Normal illness	Total
Zone 1	Male	97.37	2.63	-	100.00
	Female	87.50	12.50	-	100.00
	Total	95.65	4.35	-	100.00
Zone 2	Male	66.67	25.00	8.33	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	75.00	18.75	6.25	100.00
Zone 3	Male	66.67	33.33	-	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	75.00	25.00	-	100.00
Zone 4	Male	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	100.00	-	-	100.00
Zone 5	Male	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	100.00	-	-	100.00
Zone 6	Male	62.50	25.00	12.50	100.00
	Female	100.00	-	-	100.00
	Total	70.00	20.00	10.00	100.00
Total	Male	87.84	9.46	2.70	100.00
	Female	95.45	4.55	-	100.00
	Total	89.58	8.33	2.08	100.00

Source: Based on primary survey by the researcher

Another important inference that may be drawn from Table 5 is that out of all biological reasons of illiteracy, mental illness is primarily responsible (100%) for female illiteracy in all the zones of the city, barring only Zone 1 where the share of

mental illness was registered to be 87.50%. In the case of males, mental illness is found to be hundred percent responsible only in two zones, namely Zone 4 and 5. However, mental illness, as one of the biological reasons of illiteracy among the houseless

population, recorded more than sixty percent as a whole and either for females or males in the whole city. The female illiteracy caused by parents' illness/death is observed only in Zone 1 viz., 12.50%. The ratios of parents' illness/death for male illiteracy are identified to be 2.63% in Zone 1, 25.00% in Zone 2, 33.33% in Zone 3, and 25.00% in Zone 6. The male illiteracy stimulated by normal illness is experienced only in Zone 2 (8.33%) and Zone 6 (12.50%). Moreover, the normal illness as biological reason of illiteracy among the houseless population is not found to be responsible for female illiteracy at all in any zone.

Conclusions and Suggestions

The overall analysis of the present study reveals that out of the total sampled houseless population, only forty percent houseless people were found literates while remaining proportion of houseless population was illiterate. Among the literate houseless population, more than two-third houseless people have the education only upto the primary level as compared with literate people who have the education upto secondary, senior secondary, graduation and diploma holders altogether. Among the causes of illiteracy of houseless population, nearly three-fifth share of the total reasons of illiteracy among these houseless people were of economic nature and, thus, fall under the category of economic determinants, followed by social and biological reasons. Further, the social reasons were more detrimental for female illiteracy than the economic reasons, whereas, the male illiteracy was mainly determined by the economic causes rather than the social and biological causes.

Further, among the social reasons of illiteracy, the proportion of ignorant parents registered more than forty percent. If the percentage shares of the categories of ignorant parents, orphans and the people having no interest in education were taken together into account, they contributed more than three-fourth share among the social reasons for illiteracy of houseless people, while the share of large family size, long distance of schools, gender discrimination, caste discrimination and absence of schools taken together as social reasons of illiteracy has been reported to be more than one-fifth only. In addition to it, the category of other social reasons which includes fear of teachers, religious discrimination, disputes in schools, divorced or separated parents, self substance abused and father substance abused was also noted as an influential factor of illiteracy with 2.21% share. For male illiteracy, three factors of social category i.e. ignorant parents, orphan and no interest in education altogether conditioned nearly eighty percent whereas two factors namely ignorant parents and gender discrimination of social category were responsible about two-third share of illiteracy among females.

Among the economic reasons of illiteracy, poverty was the main hindrance for the houseless population to get the education. In addition to it, the high cost of education, low income and unemployment were also other significant impediments for literacy among the houseless people. For male illiteracy, the high cost of education, low income and unemployment make more than half of the total male illiterate houseless people, whereas, in the case of females, it is more than forty percent. The biological reasons of illiteracy among the houseless population were also significant determining

factors, for example, mental illness among the houseless population was a key causal factor of illiteracy, though parents' illness/death and normal illness were subsequent factors in the biological reasons which have a little bit impact on their illiteracy. The proportion of mental illness was exponentially highest among the biological reasons of illiteracy, rather than parents' illness/death and normal illness.

The following suggestions may be put forward to overcome the problem of illiteracy among houseless people in the study area:

Educational awareness among these people should be promoted in the city and special drives have also to be undertaken to strengthen at least the primary and middle level education in both the rural as well as urban areas of the country, and to achieve the objective of 'Education for All', the 'Right to Education Act (RTE) should be made very rigorous, ambitious, efficient & effective means to encompass each and every child particularly of marginalised sections of the society, because education plays a pervasive role in bringing about transformation in the quality of human life.

Governments should also provide pick-and-drop facility for school children from their homes and schools, along with the provisions of no tuition fee, free books, mid-day meal, scholarships, etc. The parents of school going children should also be periodically rewarded, counselled and educated to make them send their children regularly to schools.

Apart from universalisation of elementary education (UEE), there is need of the hour for the universalisation the secondary education (USE) among masses of the country. To target the children of

houseless families and slum dwellers also in Kanpur city, the government schools should be opened at places like Civil Lines in Zone 1; Cantonment area near railway station in Zone 2; Munsii Purwa, Kidwai Nagar and Transport Nagar in Zone 3; Tilak Nagar and Permat in Zone 4; Govind Nagar, Barra by-Pass and Fazal Ganj in Zone 5; and Vinayakpur, Kalyanpur, Khyora, Naveen Nagar Kakadev and Gita Nagar in Zone 6.

Simultaneously, the emphasis should be given on diffusion of higher and vocational education in the countryside so that the number of youths who have been migrating from rural to urban areas for work may also be checked substantially by preparing them for self-employment.

There should be diffusion of all types of schools (including technical, professional and vocational) especially in outskirts of the city and slum areas by the central and state governments. There should be no discrimination in the schools regarding the admission, examination and evaluation on the basis of caste, religion, gender, area, etc. and moreover there should be special provision for orphan children and children of marginalised classes in terms of their free admission, lodging, mess-charges, career counseling, etc.

There should be provision of all kinds teaching facilities and amenities in the schools particularly located in the areas dominated by marginalised sections of population. The general education system needs a meaningful change to make it job oriented. Moreover, there should be provision of hygienic toilet facilities for girls in schools, absolute female security from home to schools and recruitment of well trained female teachers.

In the present study, illiteracy rate among urban houseless population is imported from rural areas of the country because more than ninety percent houseless people in the city was observed migrants who have migrated from rural places of the country towards the urban centres basically for employment opportunities. Therefore, to check this problem at the places of origin, the means of transportation have to be improved in rural areas for minimising the distances between the schools and homes of children so that they can easily access their schools frequently and good quality of education too. Truly speaking, it is a must for making literacy mission a success in rural areas. Moreover, an efficient network of transportation, communication and various other infrastructural facilities pave the way for overall development of rural areas, especially, agricultural and industry. The regular inspection should be made to enhance the efficiency of the education particularly in both the rural-urban areas country.

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