

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION AND LITERACY RATE IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA (INDIA)

Dr. Sachin Navnath Pawar

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, R. B. Narayanrao Borawake College, Shirampur (Autonomous),
Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India.

E-mail address: sachinjipawar@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The work participation rate depends upon the various factors such as age and sex structure of population, age of marriage, family size, education, health, attitude to work, availability of work, etc. There was no single state with higher WPR of women than the male. This means, in Indian society, male gives less priority to their women. Participation of women in the rural sector is always larger than the male members of the society (Md. Mainuddin, 2012). In this paper attempt has been made to analyse female work participation in agricultural and non-agricultural sector and their relationship with female literacy rate. The present study is entirely based on secondary data which is collected from District Census Handbook of Ahmednagar, 2011. Sector-wise work participation is measured in terms of percentage of workers engaged in agricultural sector or non-agricultural sector to the total main workers. The proportion of female workers has higher than the proportion of male workers, especially in agricultural sector and vice-versa in non-agricultural sector. Female literacy is significantly influencing on female work participation in non- agricultural sector.

KEYWORDS: *Work Participation Rate, Main Workers, Literacy Rate, Agricultural Sector.*

Introduction

The World Development Report (World Bank 2012), focusing on gender equality, highlights the economic disadvantages faced by women in the poorer regions of the world. Although significant progress has been made in reducing gender disparities in health and educational outcomes, economic opportunities remain limited for women. The work participation rate depends upon the various factors such as age and sex structure of population, age of marriage, family size, education, health, attitude to work, availability of work, etc. Among the other factors female literacy and education significantly affecting on the participation rates. It has been pointed out that highly educated women are more likely to marry highly educated men earning high incomes, and hence remain out of the labour force (Chatterjee et al. 2018). Work has been defined by the Census of India, as participation in any economically productive activity. In practice, such participation may be physical or mental. The work also includes unpaid works on a farm or in family enterprises. Work also includes supervision and direction (Jhingan M.L., Bhatt B.K., Desai J.N., 2003).

The working population is the most significant aspect of the population which shows the level of economic development of the country. However, in India agriculture is a predominant activity. Mitra (1993) assesses the role of women in the non-agricultural sector based on Census data. Kaur (1982) studied changes in the occupational structure in India from 1961 to 1971. This study has focused only upon the male population. Ramotra (1989) studied the female work participation rate with special reference to the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. Present study reveals that the female participation in agricultural and unpaid works is higher than the non-agricultural works.

Study Region

Ahmednagar district is situated partly in the upper Godavari basin and partly in the Bhima basin commanding somewhat central position in the state of Maharashtra. It lies between 18° 2' and 19° 9' north latitude and 73° 9' and 75° 5' east longitude. Topographically the district can be divided in to three parts viz. The Sahyadri ranges, Plateau region and Bhima, Godavari basins (Fig. 1).

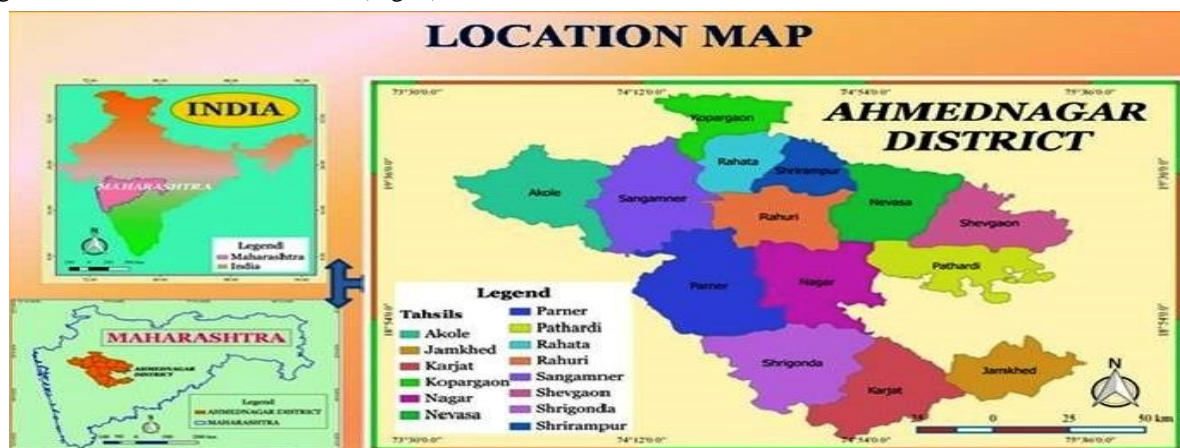


Fig.1 Location Map of Ahmednagar District

Objectives

1. To analyse the female work participation in agricultural and non-agricultural sector in 2011.
2. To find out correlation in between female literacy and female work participation in agricultural and non-agricultural sector in 2011.

Database and Methodology

The present study is entirely based on secondary data which is collected from Census of India, District Census Handbook of Ahmednagar, 2011. The collected data is processed and presented in the form of tables and maps etc. Occupational structure viz. agricultural sector and non-agricultural sector is taken in to consideration. Sector-wise work participation rate is measured in terms of percentage of workers in agricultural or non-agricultural sector to the total main workers.

$$\text{Workers in Agricultural Sector (\%)} = \frac{\text{Cultivators + Agricultural Labourers}}{\text{Total Main Workers}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Workers in Non-Agri. Sector (\%)} = \frac{\text{Household Industry Workers + Other Workers}}{\text{Total Main Workers}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Female Literacy Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Female Literate}}{\text{Total Female Population (aged 7 and above)}} \times 100$$

Work Participation in Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Sector, 2011

Table 1.1 shows the sector-wise work participation during the 2011. The average work participation of the district was 74.35 per cent in agricultural sector, while 25.65 per cent workers were in non-agricultural sector.

The highest proportion of agricultural worker was found in Karjat tahsil (86.60 per cent) while, lowest was found in Nagar tahsil (36.75 per cent). The highest proportion of workers engaged in non-agricultural sector was found in Nagar tahsil (63.25 per cent) and lowest in karjat tahsil (13.4 per cent). In karjat tahsil due to the agricultural economy most of the workers are engaged in agricultural and allied occupations. On the other hand Nagar tahsil denotes lowest work participation rate in agricultural sector and highest in non-agricultural sector, due to its urban and industrial nature.

Table 1.1
Ahmednagar District: Percentage of Workers in Agricultural and non-agricultural Sector, 2011

Sr. No.	2011	Percentage of Workers in Agricultural Sector			Percentage of Workers in Non-Agricultural sector		
	Tahsil	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1	Akola	85.32	81.16	90.24	14.68	18.84	9.76
2	Sangamner	73.3	66.15	83.25	26.7	33.85	16.75
3	Kopergaon	68.82	60.74	82.54	31.18	39.26	17.46
	Rahta	59.25	52.93	71.85	40.75	47.07	28.15
4	Shrirampur	58.75	52.61	71.65	41.25	47.39	28.35
5	Nevasa	80.63	75.75	87.62	19.37	24.25	12.38
6	Shevgaon	83.34	77.65	90.72	16.66	22.35	9.28
7	Pathardi	84.34	78.49	91.28	15.66	21.51	8.72
8	Nagar	36.75	28.35	55.66	63.25	71.65	44.34
9	Rahuri	73.73	68.02	83.59	26.27	31.98	16.41
10	Parner	84.78	79.27	91.16	15.22	20.73	8.84
11	Shrigonda	84.47	79.16	91.26	15.53	20.84	8.74
12	Karjat	86.6	82.16	92.46	13.4	17.84	7.54
13	Jamkhed	80.86	75.32	88.56	19.14	24.68	11.44
Dist. Average		74.35	68.41	83.7	25.65	31.59	16.30

Source: Primary Census Abstract of Ahamadnagar, 2011.

Tahsils, like Akola, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhed shows work participation rate in agricultural sector was above district average, while remaining Sangamner, Kopargaon, Rahata, Shrirampur, Nagar and Rahuri tahsils show work participation rate below the district average (74.35 per cent). On the other hand, tahsils, like Sangamner, Kopargaon, Rahata, Shrirampur, Nagar and Rahuri show work participation in non-agricultural sector was above the district average and remaining all tahsils, like Akola, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhed shows work participation below the district average of 25.65 per cent. In short, all those tahsils are identified with higher share of workers engaged in agricultural sector also identified with their lower share in non-agricultural sector and vice-versa.

FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, 2011

In agricultural sector (cultivator and agricultural labourers), the average proportion of male workers was 68.41 per cent whereas the average proportion of female workers was 83.70 per cent during 2011. That means female worker are mostly depended on agricultural sector as compared to the male workers.

The share of male and female worker was highest in Karjat tahsil i.e. 82.16 per cent, 92.46 per cent whereas both male and female share was lowest in Nagar tahsil i.e. 28.35 per cent 55.66 per cent respectively.

It indicates that the women play a significant role in agricultural sector. High proportion of females engaged in agricultural sector due to low level of living, lower socio-economic status of female, very little skill and training required to the female.

In the tahsils, viz. Akola, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhed are observed with the higher proportion of male and female workers than the district average, while Sangamner, Kopargaon, Rahata, Shrirampur, Nagar and Rahuri tahsils are correspondingly observed with their lower proportion than the district averages in agricultural sector.

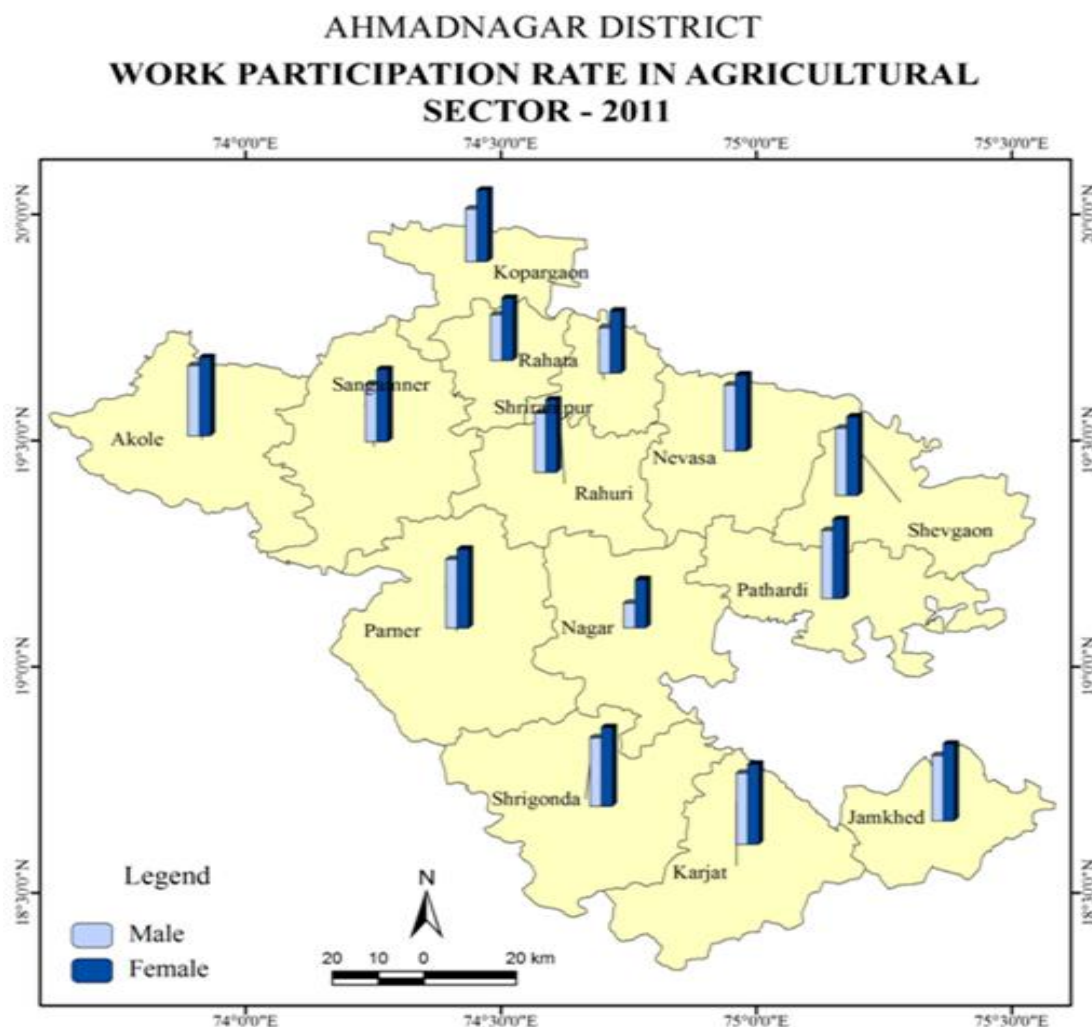


Fig. 2

FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION IN NON-AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, 2011

The average percentage share of male workers in non-agricultural sector was 31.59 per cent, while percentage share of female workers in this sector was accounted only 16.30 per cent. It was clearly show that the share of female workers was comparatively very low than the share of male workers engaged in non-agricultural sector.

The proportion of male and female workers involved in non-agricultural sector was highest in Nagar tahsil i.e. 71.65 per cent, 44.34 per cent respectively, whereas proportion of both male and female was lowest in Karjat tahsil i.e. 17.84 per cent, 7.54 per cent respectively. It is observed that higher is the degree of urbanization and industrialization of any region higher is the male-female work participation rate in non-agricultural sector and vice-versa.

Nagar is district headquarter having highly industrialized and urbanized, therefore higher percentage of population is employed in industries, various government offices and NGOs, schools, colleges, banks, insurance companies, commerce, trade transportation and other services. It indicates that Nagar is one of the leading developed tahsil and Karjat is under developed tahsils in the district.

There are tahsils, for instance Sangamner, Kopargaon, Rahata, Shrirampur, Nagar and Rahuri show the proportion of male as well as female workers engaged in non-agricultural sector was above the district average. While, tahsils, like Akola, Nevasa, Shevgaon, Pathardi, Parner, Shrigonda, Karjat and Jamkhed show their proportion in non-agricultural sector was below the district average of 31.59 per cent and 16.30 per cent respectively. The female work participation rate was increased in Kopargaon, Rahata, and Shrirampur and Nagar tahsil due to improvement in their literacy rate, educational attainment and skills. The share of male and female workers in non-agricultural sector was higher in industrialized and urbanized tahsil.

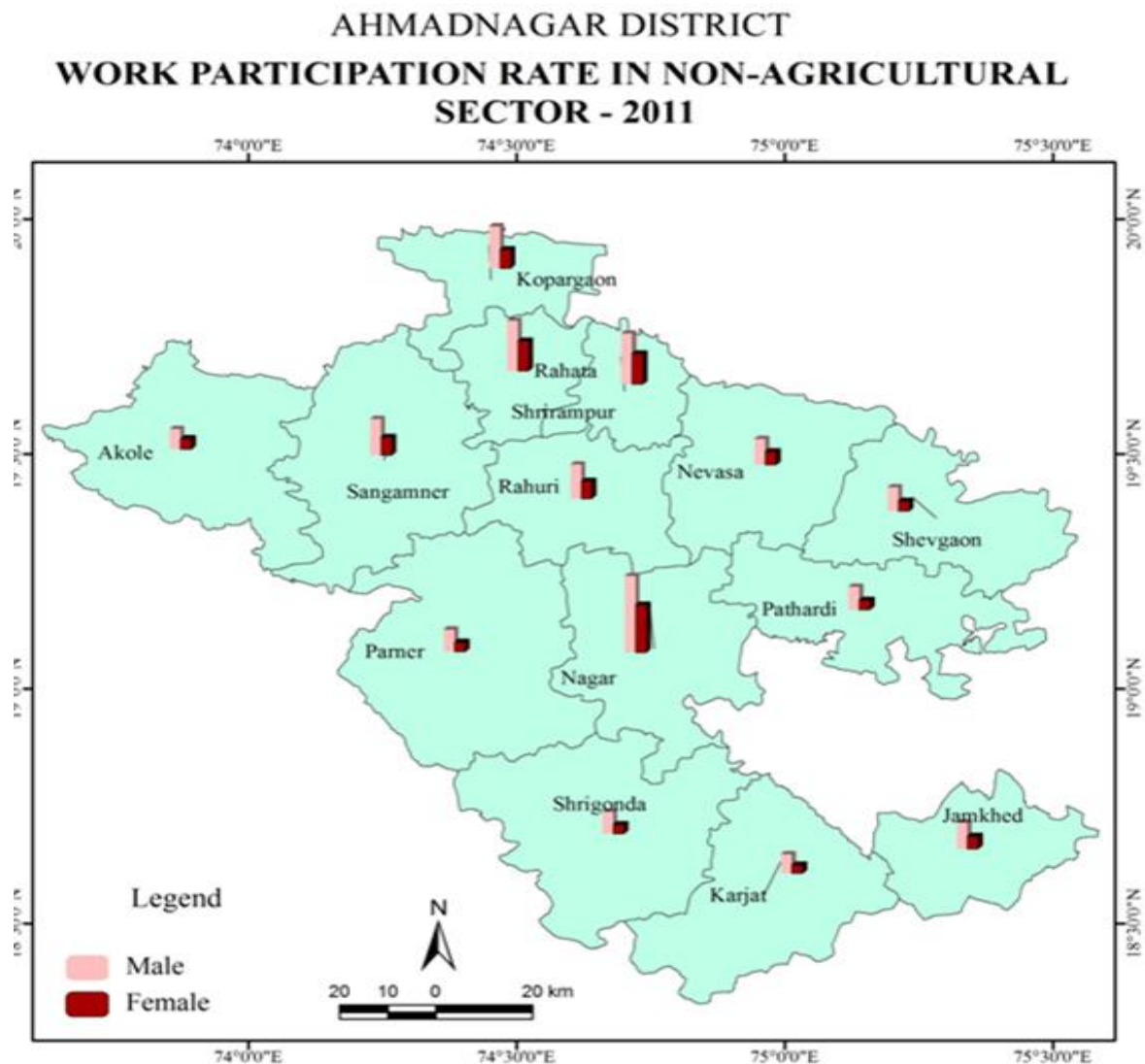


Fig. 3

CORRELATION BETWEEN FEMALE LITERACY AND FEMALE WORK PARTICIPATION, 2011

The present sector-wise analysis (Table 1.2) shows that the female workers are mostly engaged in agriculture and allied sectors like horticulture, livestock, poultry etc., which require little skill and literacy. Female work participation rate has very high negative correlation with female literacy and the correlation coefficient value of 'r' is -0.91. The high proportion of female workers in this sector indicates more female illiteracy and less development of non-agricultural occupations.

Table 1.2
Correlation in between Female Literacy and Sector-wise Female WPR -2011

Sr. No.	Tahsil	Female Literacy	Overall (*FWPR)	Agricultural Sector (*FWPR)	Non-Agricultural Sector (*FWPR)
1	Akola	65.5	50.5	89.3	10.7
2	Sangamner	71.98	42.9	82.6	17.4
3	Kopargaon	71.68	35.8	81.2	18.8
4	Rahta	75.13	32.5	70.5	29.5
5	Shrirampur	74.8	30.8	68.6	31.4
6	Nevasa	70.05	44.4	86.5	13.5
7	Shevgaon	63.42	46.8	89.8	10.2
8	Pathardi	63.85	50.4	90.2	9.8
9	Nagar	80.9	27.6	53.7	46.3
10	Rahuri	71.65	37.9	82.1	17.9
11	Parner	66.78	52.7	90.1	9.9
12	Shrigonda	67.88	50.5	90.2	9.8
13	Karjat	64.98	49.9	91.5	8.5
14	Jamkhed	62.26	45.6	87.4	12.6
District Average		70.89	41.1	82.0	18.0

Source: Primary Census Abstract of Maharashtra and Ahmednagar, 2011.

***WPR-** Work Participation Rate

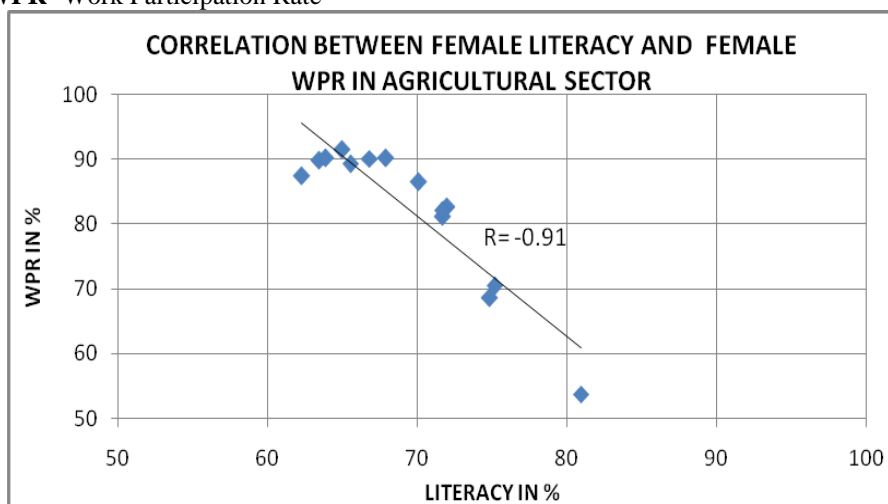


Fig. 4

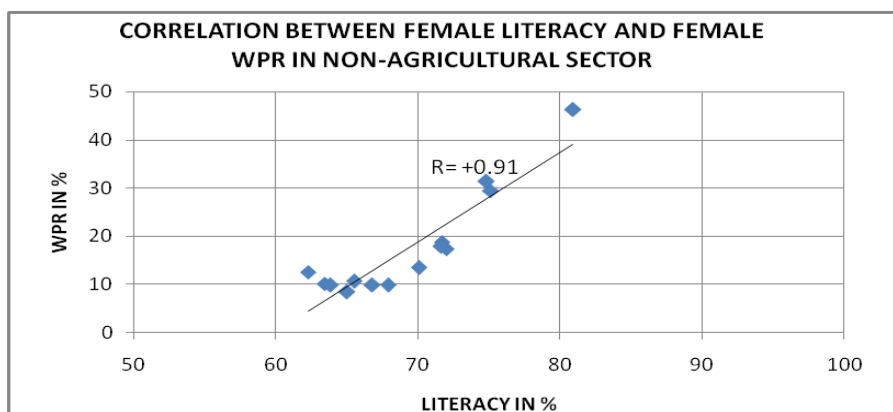


Fig. 5

In contrast, in non-agricultural sector we found very high positive correlation between these two aspects and the correlation coefficient value of 'r' is +0.91. In this sector female literacy and education play a very significant role for acquiring employment.

Overall picture of correlation between female literacy and female work participation shows strong and negative correlation (correlation coefficient $r = -0.88$) between these two aspects. The employment opportunities are available mostly in agricultural sector than the non-agricultural sector, which require very little skill and literacy among females is a first cause of it and the other is the acquisition of education, skill and training delays the entry of female into working force in non-agricultural sector than the agricultural sector.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing analysis reveals that in general female work participation rate is lower in agriculturally developed and urbanized tahsils, while higher in the agriculturally less developed, drought-prone and tribal tahsils. Present study reveals that the female literacy and education significantly influencing on female work participation rates. There is high and negative correlation ($r = -0.88$) found between overall female literacy and overall female work participation. It is because of the employment opportunities are available mostly in agricultural sector and the acquisition of education delays the entry of female into working force in non-agricultural sector. Sector-wise relationship show that there is very high and negative correlation ($r = -0.91$), between female literacy and work participation in agricultural sector and allied occupations, while very high and positive correlation ($r = +0.91$) in non-agricultural sector and allied occupation.

Present investigation shows that overall male work participation is considerably higher than females in the study region. Sector-wise relationship between female literacy and work participation indicates that there is very high and negative correlation in agricultural sector, whereas very high and positive correlation in non-agricultural sector.

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