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POPULATION GROWTH LITERACY TRENDS AND GENDER GAPS IN GORAKHPUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

With a focus on population growth, literacy trends, sex ratio, religious mix, population density, and rural-urban differentials, this research analyses the demographic structure and population dynamics of Gorakhpur District in Uttar Pradesh. The study relies heavily on secondary data culled from the 2001 and 2011 Census of India reports, with additional projections of population up to 2031. Research shows that both the size and density of human populations have been steadily increasing, putting more and more strain on the world's finite land and resource supplies. There has been a substantial improvement in literacy rates over the past decade, but there are still large gender gaps, especially in rural regions. Gender inequality persists, as the report notes a downward trend in the sex ratio and the child sex ratio. The demographic structure is still heavily skewed towards rural areas, but urban areas have lower sex ratios and greater literacy rates. To tackle the district's growing demographic issues, the study stresses the importance of inclusive development strategies that prioritize female education, gender equality, and balanced rural-urban growth.

Keywords: Population, Literacy, Gender, Gorakhpur, Density

I. INTRODUCTION

Gender inequality, the rate of population increase, and the rate of literacy are all aspects of social and economic development that are intricately linked. Taken as a whole, they impact social mobility patterns, human capital quality, and the viability of development initiatives in the long run. Analyzing demographic shifts and developing inclusive growth plans need an understanding of their interrelationships.

The term "population growth" describes the overall rise in the human population in a certain region during a given time frame. Rates of fertility and death, migration trends, and the quality of healthcare and living standards all have a role. Public resources including education, healthcare, housing, and jobs are sometimes overwhelmed by fast population expansion, especially in emerging nations. School overcrowding, diminished educational quality, and restricted access to basic services can result when population growth outstrips infrastructural development. The opposite is also true: an increase in the domestic market and the size of the labour force can boost economic development if the population growth rate is controlled.

One of the most important measures of societal and human development is the trend in literacy rates. A person's access to knowledge, economic participation, and civic engagement are all improved when they are literate. The health of a population, the fertility rate, productivity, and democratic engagement are all positively impacted by an increase in literacy rates. Reading rates do not always rise at the same rate in different parts of the country or across different socioeconomic categories. Literacy rates are highly affected by factors such as poverty, the quality of education, the infrastructure for education, and the split between rural and urban areas. If educational policies are successful in converting enrolment into sustained learning and skill development, then trends over time will show that.

The gender gap in education is an important part of literacy trends as it shows that men and women have different levels of schooling, different educational accomplishments, and different learning outcomes. There are historical, cultural, and socioeconomic reasons that contribute to the gender literacy gap. These include patriarchal traditions, early marriage, the assignment of home tasks to females, safety concerns, and restricted access to secondary and higher education. Male literacy rates are consistently higher than female literacy rates in many civilisations, especially in economically deprived and rural areas. Due to the powerful

multiplier effects of female education on family health, child education, and economic stability, these inequities impede not just women's personal growth but also larger society advancement.

Literacy rates and population growth are inversely related. There is a robust correlation between higher literacy rates and reduced fertility rates and better population stabilisation, particularly among women. In terms of health and reproduction, educated women are more likely to make educated decisions, marry later in life, and have fewer children overall. Literacy, thus, reduces the impact of population increase. Governments may find it challenging to preserve quality and fairness in schooling systems when faced with fast population increase, which dilutes educational spending.

II. SPATIAL AND GENDER DIMENSIONS OF LITERACY

Literacy Profile of Gorakhpur District

The average literacy rate in Gorakhpur district was 70.83 percent in 2011, up significantly from 58.49 percent in 2001, according to Census 2011. In terms of educational achievement, the district has come a long way in the past ten years.

When looking at the data by gender, we see that male literacy went from 73.57% in 2001 to 81.80% in 2011, whereas female literacy climbed dramatically from 42.88% to 57.36% in the same time frame. A large gender disparity in literacy rates remains, even with these gains.

In 2011, there were 2,700,328 people in the Gorakhpur district who could read and write; this included 1,593,890 men and 1,106,438 females. On the other hand, there was a substantial increase in educational engagement over the past decade, with 1,798,769 people able to read and write as of 2001.

Gorakhpur Sex Ratio

There were 950 girls for every 1000 males in the Gorakhpur district in 2011, down from 960 in 2001. The district's sex ratio is concerning since it is dropping, even if it is still higher than the national average of 940 (Census 2011).

From 934 girls per 1000 boys in 2001 to 909 in 2011, there was a considerable drop in the child sex ratio (0-6 years). There has to be focused social measures to reverse this declining tendency, which shows that there is still a gender gap at birth.

Gorakhpur District Religion Data

The Gorakhpur district is mostly Hindu, however it does have a diverse religious population. Hindus make up 90.28 percent of the population, with Muslims following at 9.09 percent, according to the 2011 Census. The combined membership of other faith groups—including Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains—is less than 1% of the total.

Table 1: Religious Composition of Gorakhpur District (2011)

Description	Percentage	Population 2011
Hindu	90.28 %	4,009,037
Muslims	9.09 %	403,847
Christian	0.22 %	9,662
Sikh	0.05 %	2,123
Buddhist	0.06 %	2,848
Jain	0.01 %	460
Others	0.00 %	207
Not Stated	0.29 %	12,711

III. GORAKHPUR POPULATION**Gorakhpur Population 2025 - 2026**

In the year 2026, how many people will live in the Gorakhpur district? There is no right response to the question, despite its significance. The most recent Gorakhpur census was in 2011, and the one scheduled for 2021 has either been cancelled or delayed. However, we may estimate the population of Gorakhpur in 2026 based on the expected rate of population growth.

Table 2: Projected Population of Gorakhpur District (2011–2031)

Year	Projected Population	
2011	4,440,895	44.41 Lakhs
2021	5,110,000	51.13 Lakhs
2022	5,170,000	51.79 Lakhs
2023	5,230,000	52.36 Lakhs
2024	5,280,000	52.84 Lakhs
2025	5,320,000	53.26 Lakhs
2026	5,360,000	53.62 Lakhs
2027	5,390,000	53.93 Lakhs
2028	5,410,000	54.19 Lakhs
2029	5,440,000	54.41 Lakhs
2030	5,460,000	54.60 Lakhs
2031	5,470,000	54.76 Lakhs

Gorakhpur Population 2011 – 2001

There were 1,337 people per square kilometre in the Gorakhpur district in 2011, up from 1,135 in 2001, according to the Census. Being one of the most densely inhabited districts in Uttar Pradesh, the district occupies 3,321 square kilometres of land.

Table 3: Key Demographic Characteristics of Gorakhpur District: 2001 vs. 2011

Description	2011	2001
Population	44.41 Lakhs	37.69 Lakhs
Actual Population	4,440,895	3,769,456
Male	2,277,777	1,923,197
Female	2,163,118	1,846,259
Population Growth	17.81%	22.94%
Area Sq. Km	3,321	3,321
Density/km ²	1,337	1,135
Proportion to Uttar Pradesh Population	2.22%	2.27%
Sex Ratio (Per 1000)	950	960
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	909	934
Average Literacy	70.83	58.49
Male Literacy	81.80	73.57
Female Literacy	59.36	42.88
Total Child Population (0-6 Age)	628,442	694,213
Child Proportion (0-6 Age)	14.15%	18.42%

IV. GORAKHPUR DISTRICT DENSITY

Gorakhpur district has a population density of 1,337 per square kilometre in 2011, according to preliminary data given by census India 2011. The population density of the Gorakhpur

district was 1,135 per square km in 2001. There are 3,321 square kilometres under the jurisdiction of the Gorakhpur district.

Gorakhpur District Urban/Rural 2011

In the urban parts of the district, 18.83% of the total Gorakhpur population resides, according to the 2011 census. Males make up 439,051 and females 397,078 of the 836,129 individuals who call urban regions home. The 2011 census found a sex ratio of 904 in the Gorakhpur district's urban area. Similarly, in the 2011 census, the child sex ratio in the Gorakhpur district was 892. There were 91,259 children in the urban zone, 48,238 boys and 43,021 girls, aged 0-6. At 10.9 percent of the urban population, this is the number of children living in the Gorakhpur district. Males in the Gorakhpur district have an average literacy rate of 83.76% and females 76.46%, according to the 2011 census. The overall literacy rate is 82.39%. Among the 613,700 persons living in urban areas, 342,980 are male and 270,720 are female.

In the Gorakhpur districts, 81.17 percent of the population resides in rural or hamlet regions, according to the 2011 census. Out of a total of 3,604,766 people residing in rural regions inside the Gorakhpur district, 1,838,726 are male and 1,766,040 are female. There are 960 girls for every 1000 males in the rural regions of Gorakhpur district. There are 912 girls for every 1000 males according to the child sex ratio statistics from the Gorakhpur district. There were 537,183 children in rural regions between the ages of 0 and 6, with 256,169 girls and 281,014 boys. Fifteen and twenty-eight percent of Gorakhpur district's rural residents are children. According to the 2011 census, the literacy rate in the rural parts of the Gorakhpur district is 68.02 percent. When broken down by gender, the literacy rates for men were 80.30 percent and for females it was 55.35 percent. Males accounted for 1,250,910 and females for 835,718 of the 2,086,628 literate individuals.

We have processed all the facts regarding Gorakhpur District after obtaining them from the Government of India. Inaccuracies in the Gorakhpur District population census are not our responsibility.

Table 4: Socio-Demographic Profile of Rural and Urban Gorakhpur District

Description	Rural	Urban
Population (%)	81.17 %	18.83 %
Total Population	3,604,766	836,129
Male Population	1,838,726	439,051
Female Population	1,766,040	397,078
Sex Ratio	960	904
Child Sex Ratio (0-6)	912	892
Child Population (0-6)	537,183	91,259
Male Child(0-6)	281,014	48,238
Female Child(0-6)	256,169	43,021
Child Percentage (0-6)	14.90 %	10.91 %
Male Child Percentage	15.28 %	10.99 %
Female Child Percentage	14.51 %	10.83 %
Literates	2,086,628	613,700
Male Literates	1,250,910	342,980
Female Literates	835,718	270,720
Average Literacy	68.02 %	82.39 %
Male Literacy	80.30 %	87.76 %
Female Literacy	55.35 %	76.46 %

V. CONCLUSION

Significant changes in population size, literacy attainment, and socioeconomic composition occurred after 2001, according to the demographic analysis of Gorakhpur District. Due to rising population density and consistent population increase, the district's essential services, such as healthcare, schools, and jobs, are in high demand. Literacy rates have been on the rise, especially among women, which is a good sign of educational success; yet, the fact that there are still large gender differences shows that there are systemic injustices that need targeted governmental action. We must be vigilant and take action to address the pressing issues surrounding the falling sex ratio and child sex ratio, which are manifestations of long-standing socio-cultural choices. The district's socio-economic character is shaped by the continued dominance of rural regions in population distribution, even if urban areas have lower sex ratios and generally superior educational attainment.

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