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## A Study of Literacy of Adolescents of Gujarat State

### Abstract

*The one of the best weapons to fight with the barriers of economy growth is 'Literacy'. In Indian Population 10-19 yrs age (adolescent) accounts for 243 million of the country population (2011)<sup>8</sup>, where every 3<sup>rd</sup> person belonging to Adolescent age group. Today's adolescent is tomorrow's 'Youth'. So the adolescent literacy, adolescent health, adolescent intelligence, adolescent skill etc have major role in economy. From the secondary data about census 2011, in Gujarat State literate adolescent population is 18.45%. The literate adolescent male-female population in rural area is more literate than urban area male-female literate population. And the literate adolescent male-female in rural and urban area's schedule caste (sc) population is consistently averagely equally literate (3-4%).*

**Key words:** Literacy, Adolescence, Gujarat State.

### Introduction:

India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> populous country with over 1.2 billion people and the most populous democracy in the world<sup>6</sup>. But the Indian economy is the world's 10<sup>th</sup> largest economy<sup>7</sup> also. After 1991's economy reforms India became one of the fastest-growing major economies. And other side Population of the nation also increases with the high rate. Also it continues to face the challenges like poverty, low rate of literacy, unemployment, corruption, malnutrition, inadequate public healthcare, terrorism etc. To going on economy progress with these barriers the qualitative participation of the 'Young People' of any nation is important and this whole journey is most affected by them also.

Young People are group of Adolescents. Here a researcher wants to know about literacy of adolescents of Gujarat State, that's why this study was carried out.

### 1. Statement of the problem:

The researcher has decided to study of literacy of adolescents from Gujarat State. The title of the present study is,

**'A Study of Literacy of Adolescents of Gujarat State'**

### 2. Explanation of the key words:

- **Literacy:** As defined in Census operations, Literacy is - 'the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. A person, who can read but cannot write, is not classified as literate. Any formal education or minimum educational standard is not necessary to be considered literate'.<sup>5</sup> In India the total literacy rate at present as census 2011 is 74.04 % and in Gujarat State it is 67.99 %. Literacy of Schedule Caste and

Schedule Tribe is a major demanding effort to make them a part of economy progress and also to give them benefits from it.

- **Adolescence:** World Health Organization (WHO) defines 'adolescence' as age 10 to 19 yrs<sup>10</sup>. Adolescence is further divided into early adolescence (11-14 years), middle adolescence (15-17 years) and late adolescence (18-21 years).

### **3. Rational of the study:**

In the life cycle adolescence is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is characterized by rapid physical, biological and hormonal changes resulting in to psychosocial, behavioral and sexual maturation between the ages of 10-19 years in an individual. Adolescence is often described as a phase of life that begins in biology and ends in society. Adolescents account for one 5<sup>th</sup> of the world's population and have been on an increasing trend and in India for one 3<sup>rd</sup> of the country's population.<sup>3</sup>

In the world there are around 1.2 billion adolescents aged 10 -19 yrs. Now it can break entrenched cycles of poverty and inequity (UNICEF, 2011). India is home to more than 243 million adolescents. Over the past two decades rapid economic growth has lifted millions out of poverty.

#### **In Gujarat State:**

The Population of Gujarat State according to the 2011 census stands at about 60 million, making it the 10<sup>th</sup> most populated state in India. The Gujarat State makes up about 5% of the country's population. A figure going high which was 4.8% during the last census in 2001. The state has a growth rate in population of about 19% which slightly close to the national growth rate of about 17%. The population of the state is raising considerably due to rapid efforts towards development and progress. The rapid growth of Gujarat State's population has resulted in a youthful population. The proportion of the population of 10-19 yrs has equally been high and has represented about 20% of the total population of Gujarat State.

Total population of Gujarat State is 6.04 crore (100 %). Where total population of adolescent is 1.2 corers (19.88 %) And among them population of literate adolescent is 1.1 crore (92.80%) and in Gujarat State literate adolescent population it is 18.45%.

The population made up of literate adolescents is very important in the social, economic and political decision making in the state today. Literate adolescents are quite diverse by age and other distribution and therefore there cannot be one uniform set of policies or programmes that can sufficiently address the challenges which they face. This calls for a critical analysis of their variation by geographical location, gender and cast in the state.

### **4. Objectives of the study:**

The objectives of the study are,

1. To study about the literacy of adolescent in Gujarat State.
2. To study the literacy of adolescent of Gujarat State in context to their Area, Gender and Caste.

### **5. Questions of the study:**

The questions of the study are,

1. What is the literacy of adolescents of rural and urban area from Gujarat State?
2. What is the literacy of adolescents of male and female from Gujarat State?
3. What is the literacy of adolescents of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe from Gujarat State?

## 6. Variable of the study:

The Variables of this study are

Independent variable:

1. Area : Rural (R) , Urban (U)
2. Gender : Male (M) , Female (F)
3. Caste : Scheduled Caste (SC) , Scheduled Tribe (ST)

Dependent variable:

1. Literacy (L)
2. Adolescent (A)

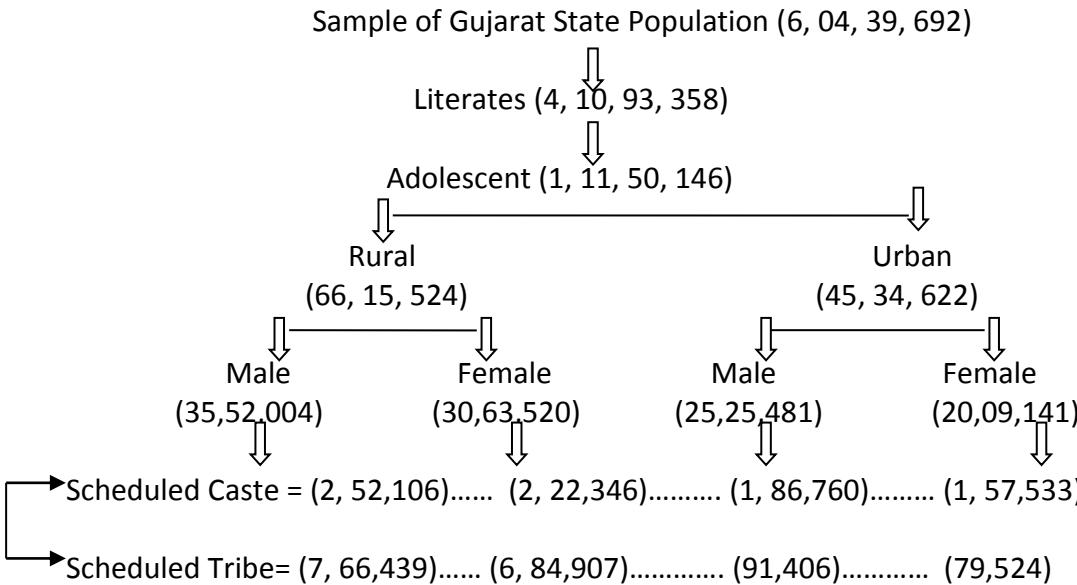
## 7. Delimitation of the study:

The Delimitations of this study are,

1. The study was delimitated to Gujarat State only.
2. The study was delimitated to the sample of only Literate Adolescent of Gujarat State.
3. Present study is delimitated to the Literate Adolescent with some variable like area, gender and caste.

## 8. Sample of the study:

In this study the sample consisted of Literate Adolescent of Gujarat State. Total population of Gujarat State as census of India 2011 is 6,04,39,692 peoples. And among them Literates are 4,10,93,358 (means 67.99% of total population). In sample of this study adolescent from literate population is been studied. In the sample literate adolescent population is 27.13%. And these adolescent are divided in rural and urban areas, than male and female gender. At the last from gender only Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) population are studied.



## 9. Method of the study:

Looking into the nature of present research study secondary data on literacy was used which is from 'The Census 2011', the 15<sup>th</sup> National census survey conducted by the Census Organization of India. The data was already treated and classified data of literacy of adolescent in area , gender and caste wise.

## 10. Analysis and interpretation of the data:

**Table 1: Population of Gujarat State**

Year	Total population	Male	Female	In Decade Growth Rate (%)	With the Percentage of Total Population of India (%)	Sex Ratio (of female for each 1000 male)
2011	6,04,39,692	3,14,91,260	2,89,48,432	19.28	4.99	919
2001	5,06,71,017	2,63,85,577	2,42,85,440	22.48	4.93	921

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table – 1 shows total population of Gujarat State. Where year, total population, male, female, decade growth rate, total percentage with India population and sex ratio are mentioned. Here total male and female of Gujarat State are respectively 3, 14, 91, 260 (52.10%) and 2, 89, 48, 432 (47.89%) to Gujarat State population. During the 2001 to 2011 decade growth rate at 19.28% which is down with before decade growth rate 22.48% (1991).But by 2011 population is 6.04 corers and in 2001 it was 5.07 corers. Means in that last decade 0.97(nearly 1) corer population rose. The Growth rate of population is going down but population is increasing rapidly. And also the sex ratio in 2011 is going down 921 to 919.Thus this numbers and percentage value indicate to upcoming difficulties to state progress.

**Table 2: Population of Total Adolescent in Gujarat State**

Age Group	All Localities			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Adolescent (10-19)(%)	19.88	10.64	9.24	11.90	6.24	5.66	7.98	4.40	3.58
Total	1,20,15,205	64,29,944	55,85,261	71,94,415	37,70,953	34,23,462	48,20,790	26,58,991	21,61,799

Source: Census of India, 2011

Here in Table – 2 the information about Total Adolescent from Total Population of Gujarat State. It shows the percentage value of adolescent population. Table contain the percentage value of geographical area (Rural & Urban) and gender (Male & Female) also. Here adolescent population is averagely equal proportion of male and female are also similar.

**Table 3: Gujarat State Literacy**

Year	Total Literates	Literacy Rate (%)	Total Literate Male	Literacy Rate of Male (%)	Total Literate Female	Literacy Rate of Female (%)
2011	4,10,93,358	78.03	2,34,74,873	85.75	1,76,18,485	63.31
2001	29,827,750	69.14	17,833,273	78.49	11,994,477	60.40

Source: Census of India, 2011

Table – 3 is showing the total literates and literacy rate of Gujarat State according 2011 and 2001. Total male and total female - and their literacy rate are also in there. Gujarat State literacy is increase but not equally in gender. Literacy rate is increase in 2011 with 8.89% but there is 22.44% difference in male and female. And in 2001 that difference (total male & total female) was 18.09 %. So in the state literacy increase slowly but compare to male literacy female literacy increasing poorly ( just 2.91% when in male it was 7.26% ).

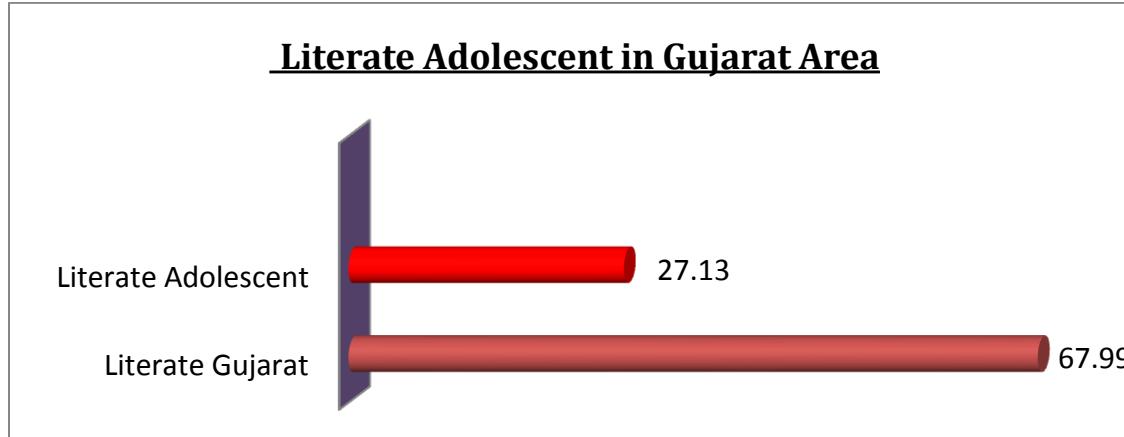
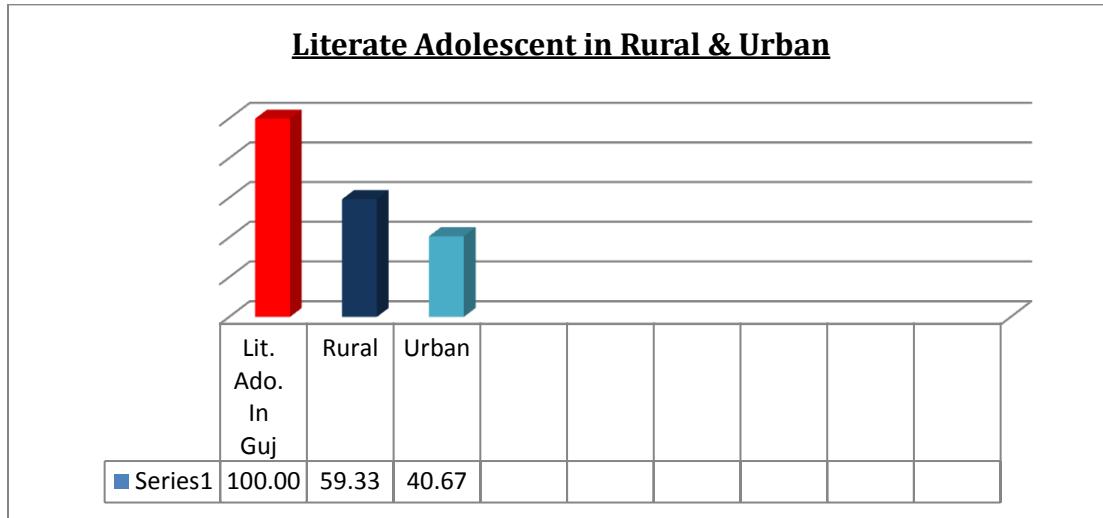
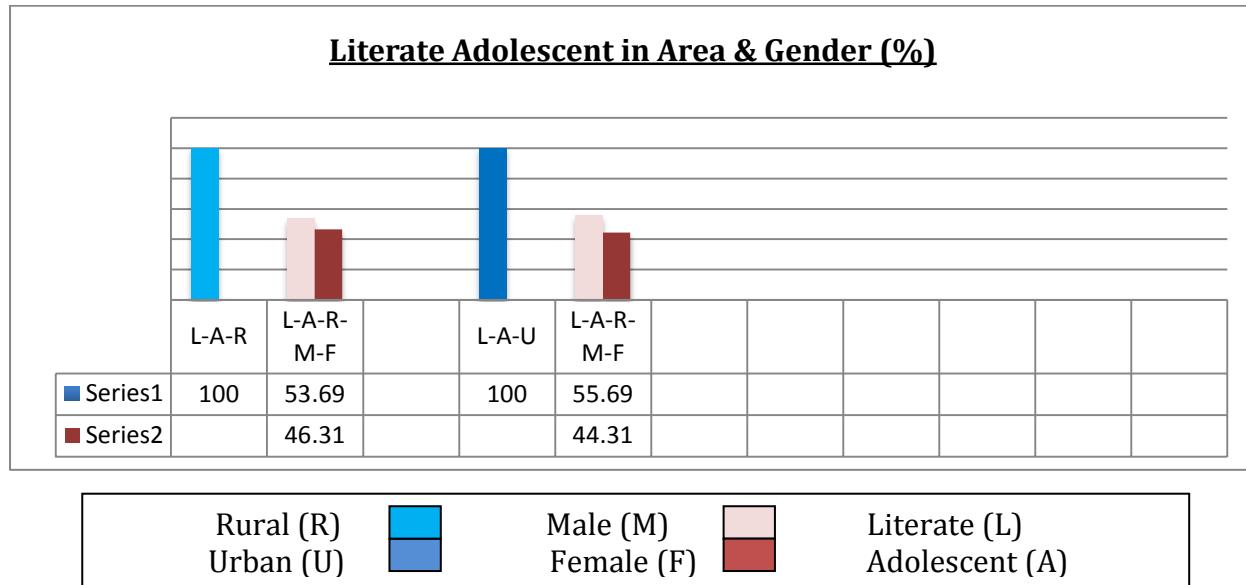
**Table 4: The Population of Literate Adolescent of Gujarat State**

Table – 4 presented percentage value of total literate people in Gujarat State and among them total literate adolescent and their percentage proportion. Table value shows that literate population in Gujarat State is 67.99%. While among that literate adolescent group is 27.13%.]

**Table 5: Literate Adolescent in Gujarat State Area [Rural-Urban]**

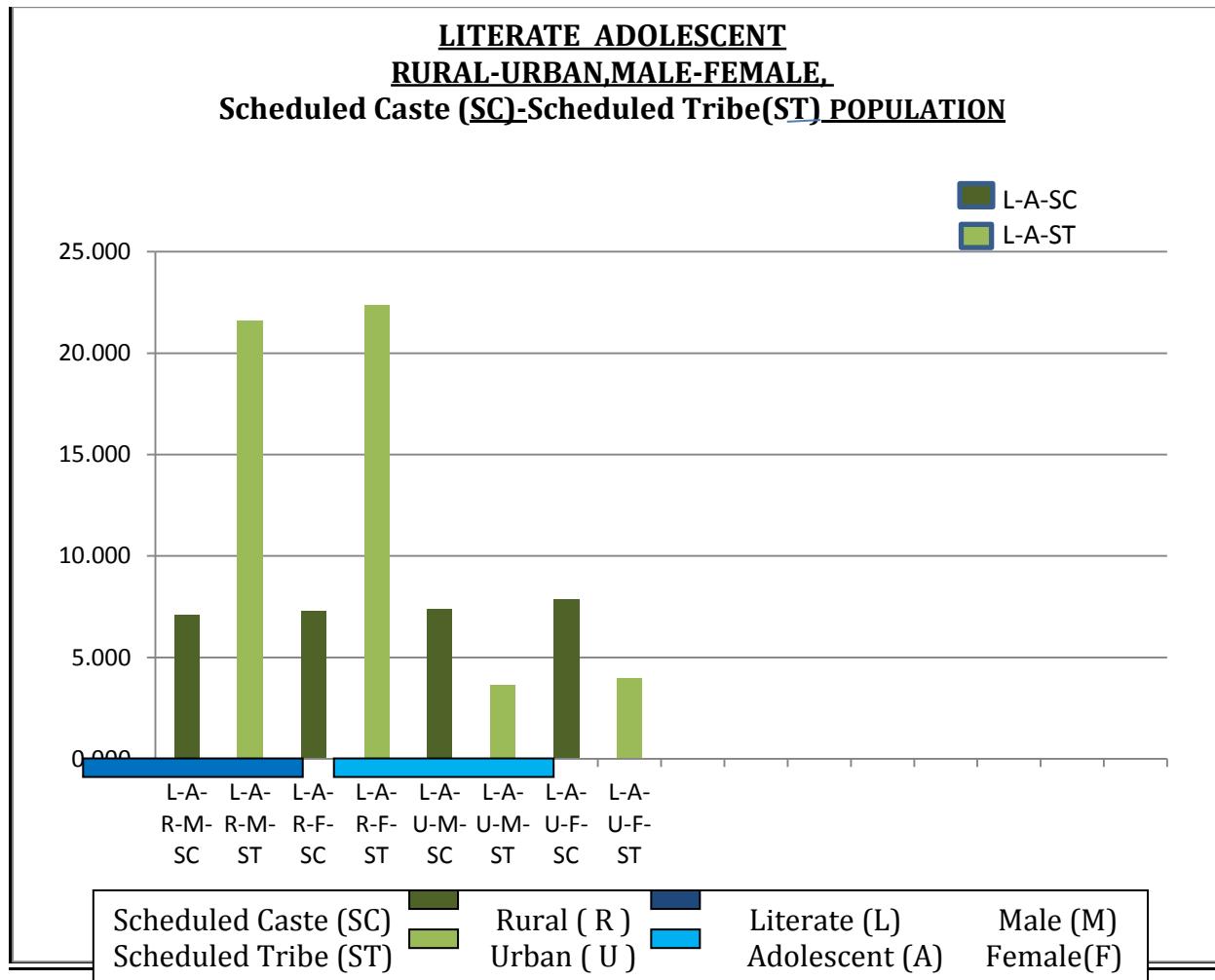
In table - 5 the data distribution of literate adolescent in Gujarat State area is presented with geographical area - rural and urban. The result indicates that the proportion of literate adolescent rural population (59.33%). And the proportion of literate adolescent urban population (40.67%).The proportion of rural literate adolescent (59.33%) is higher than the proportion of urban literate adolescent (40.67%).

**Table 6: Literate Adolescent Gender in Gujarat State Area**

In table-6, the data distribution of literate adolescent is presented with geographical area and gender.

- literate adolescent are rural and urban male (53-56%).
- literate adolescent rural female is higher literate (46%) among the whole group female. Other groups female are averagely equal higher (44%).

**Table 7: Literate Adolescent Rural-Urban, Male-Female,  
Scheduled Cast (SC) – Scheduled Tribe (ST) Population**



In table-7, the data distribution of literate adolescent is presented with different variables like Area (Rural, Urban), Gender (Male, Female), Caste (SC, ST). The results indicated that the proportion of literates adolescent is higher (19-22%) in rural male and female of schedule tribe. And the proportion of literates adolescent is lower (3-4%) in urban male and female schedule tribe. And the rest of proportions are showing averagely similar (7-8 %).There is a major difference in

- (1)L-A-M-ST in R-U = [Male (M) Scheduled Tribes (ST) Literate (L) Adolescent (A) in Rural area (R) and Urban Area (U)]
- (2)L-A-F-ST in R-U = [Female (M) Scheduled Tribes (ST) Literate (L) Adolescent (A) in Rural area (R) and Urban Area (U)]

## **11. Major findings:**

1. In census 2011 Gujarat State finds decrease in sex ratio (919).
2. More adolescent population is in rural area (59.33%).
3. Literacy rate of females of Gujarat State is lower (63.31%) than male literacy rate (85.75%) and increasing literacy rate of female (2.31%) of Gujarat State is also slower than increasing male literacy rate (7.26%).
4. Literate adolescent proportion is 27.13% to total population of literates in Gujarat State.
5. The proportion of rural literate adolescent is higher than the proportion of urban literate adolescent.
6. Literate adolescent male population of rural and urban area is higher (53-56%) than literate adolescent female population of rural and urban area (44-46%).
7. In rural (literate adolescent male-female population) Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is more literate (19-22%) than urban (literate adolescent male-female population) Scheduled Tribe (ST) population (3-4%).
- In rural and urban area Scheduled Caste (SC) population (literate adolescent and male-female) are consistently averagely equally literate (3-4%).
- No major literacy difference in Scheduled Caste (SC) male-female in rural-urban (7-8%). But major literacy difference in Scheduled Tribe (ST) male-female in rural-urban area (3-22%).

## **12. Suggestions:**

Gujarat government take Initiatives for more Literacy and for this, there are many projects like Sakshar Bharat, Sarswatee Yatra etc administered by Director of Literacy & Continuing Education Government of Gujarat, where their focus areas are rural women, Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Minorities, adolescents etc.<sup>9</sup>

- High literacy rate will help to fight against barriers of economy and society. So literacy policy should as per state requirement.
- Qualitative Adolescents are 'Treasure' of Population. High Literacy among them is one of the effective factors for economy growth and well being.
- More adolescent population is in rural area so provide the infrastructure for make more literate at rural level.
- In a decade increase the literacy rate as per population growth rate.
- In Gujarat State there is need to increase literacy rate of female. Because there is a difference in female literacy rate and male literacy rate. So literacy policies should be more effective where this difference can be minimized.
- This study was done with some particular variables - area, gender, caste. So there is a scope to further study with other variables.
- May be government policies about literacy development are available but lacking of its - amplification, rules and regulations, administration, management and finance- not support to increase the literacy, so find out that lacking and should work on it with more efforts.
- To make more effective some programmes like free education, education to all etc and involved more and more population, program should be tested and retested with time gap. And other side we should stop child laborer, decreased drop out ratio and make people more understand to be literates.
- To be Literate is a human right and it is a responsibility of communities and individual to make illiterate people to be literate. If a literate person make one more person to be literate, than we will achieve our literacy goal early. Here proper information or data and human source can help to achieve national goals.

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**Swati Sawant**

Research Scholar

University School of Psychology Education and Philosophy

Gujarat University

Ahmedabad

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