

**Factors Influencing the Educational Attainment in India****M.Mamatha<sup>1</sup> and V. Nageswara Rao<sup>2</sup>**

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**Abstract:**

The study examines the determinants of educational outcome in India. The study is based on the NFHS-III data of the representative sample from all over the country, to examine the relative impacts of social, economical and household on the likelihood of transition from one educational level to the next. The poverty and the size of the family are observed to be the main hinders in achieving the higher education. The parent's education and occupation plays a key role in achieving the educational advancement. In India the rural population is more than the urban and urban has the better level of educational attainment than rural. Most of the Indian population irrespective of the religion are uneducated and not working. Out Hindus, Muslims and Christians, obviously Hindus being largest population have large number educated and uneducated. Though the Muslims are the second largest population, Christians have better educational attainment than the Muslims.

**Key words:** Educational attainment, Religion, Type of place of residence, wealth index, gender, Parents education and occupation, Number of children of 5 and under, Correspondence analysis.

**Methodology:**

Correspondence analysis is a descriptive/exploratory technique designed to analyse simple two-way and multi-way tables containing some measure of correspondence between the rows and columns. The results provide information which is similar in nature to those produced by Factor Analysis techniques, and they allow us to explore the structure of categorical variables included in the table.

**Introduction:**

INDIA is a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual country. Our country has People belonging to many religions, such as Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikhs who live here with great communal harmony and peace. However the population of India shows substantial difference in social- economic and demographic conditions. We can see India in a better prospective only through Education. More over women's education in India plays a vital role in improving life at home and outside ( D.Sai Sujatha, G.Brahmananda Reddy (2009)). Education is largely recognized to be an important key towards a successful career and ultimately for achieving the level of economic growth. Apart from the

economic growth formal education also gives a proper guidance in finding the more knowledge about life skills and work-related training activities. Education, which is an investment in human capital, plays a critical role in shaping a country's economic future. To begin with, there is a broad consensus about the positive impact of the stock of human capital on a country's growth rate (Barro, 1991; Mankiw, Romer and Weil, 1992). It is also generally accepted that there are positive and significant returns to education, and that differences in education can explain a significant proportion of earnings differences between various socioeconomic groups (Bhaumik and Chakrabarty, 2009a, 2009b).

### **1. Educational attainment and Religions:**

Education is a tool of poverty eradication by raising income levels and increasing employment opportunities for all Indians irrespective of religions. From the correspondence table, Hindus being the largest population has the largest number of people in every level of educational attainment. It also shows that the illiteracy dominates the literacy among all the religions. The increased secondary and higher level of education is evident in Christians than Muslims. We also notice that Muslims and Christians are almost equally distributed with respect to the incomplete secondary. The Literacy rate in India has though improved a lot over the last one decade after the implementation of free education in the villages, but it is noticed that illiteracy is still 51.6%. More than 50% of Hindus and Muslims and only 29.2% of the Christians are uneducated. Christians have better educational attainment when we compare with the Muslims and also Hindus. Only 1.8% of the Muslims could complete higher education. In all the three religions people who did not complete secondary are considerably high. This means that because of various reasons people of all

religions could not complete their secondary. Seventy percent or more of Hindus are linked to different levels of educational attainment among the three religions. Muslims have the least number of the higher educated people among all religions. Most of the Muslims than the Christians could achieve the primary level of education but could not continue further. Hence we notice that there exist significant association between the Religion of the person and the educational attainment. The value of inertia reveals the fact that the correlation between religion and educational attainment, while significant, is weak.

### **2. Educational attainment and Type of place of residence:**

Education is a basic need and human right. It also gives people choices regarding the kind of life that they wish to lead. From the correspondence table, it is obvious that the urban have the better secondary and the higher education than the rural. Although majority of the rural could achieve the primary level of education but could not compete with the urban in achieving the higher education. It is very clear that majority of the urban and the rural population have illiteracy. It is an alarming fact that the illiteracy is still 72.4% among the rural population of India, which indicates that we must take immediate necessary action plans for improving the literacy in rural India. We can even see that 82.2% of urban people and only 17.8% of rural people have higher education. The comparison of level of education among urban and rural makes it clear that the level of education is been gradually increasing in the urban starting with illiteracy to higher level of education where as there is a significant decrease observed among the rural population. Among the urban 35.7% have no education and 34% have incomplete secondary and only 9.9% of the urban have higher education. When we observe

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the rural, 61.5% have no education and only 1.6% has secondary and 1.4% has higher education. Hence it is obvious that illiteracy is more in rural and the higher level of education is better among the urban population of India. The country cannot hope to achieve economic progress unless a certain minimum rate of education is achieved. The chi-square test concludes that there exist association between the educational attainment and the Type of place of residence. The value of inertia reveals the fact that the correlation between educational attainment and type of place of residence significant.

### **3. Educational attainment and wealth index:**

The relation of educational attainment to poverty is generally treated as reciprocal and poverty is treated as the greatest hinder in achieving the higher level of education. From the correspondence table, we identify that there is a gradual increase in the number of higher educated people moving across from poorest to richest. Children from families in the bottom quartiles are more likely to have high school dropouts. We see that, though the children belonging to the top quartiles are observed to have some dropout but still accounting for more higher education. We observe that, poorest and poorer contribute to 16% and 17.8% of total population whereas richer and richest accounting for 22.5% and 23.1% of total population. The obvious striking higher level of education is observed among richest which accounts for 88.3%. Among the poorest and poorer we observe the gradual decrease in the level of education. It is clear that more than 50% of the population has illiteracy. The sorrowful thing that has to be accepted is only 4.8% of the population has the higher level of education. The aspect of higher education is nil among the poorest and the poorer and meager in middle income group. The chi-square test suggests that

there is statistically significant association between the wealth index and educational attainment. The value of inertia reveals the fact that the correlation between wealth index and educational attainment is very significant showing the strong association between them.

### **4. Educational attainment gender:**

The Gender inequalities, and its social causes, impact India's sex ratio, women's health over their lifetimes, their educational attainment, and economic conditions. From correspondence table, we clearly identify that compared to the female, male have large number of educated and uneducated people. The illiteracy appear to be more likely in males and as well as in female children. Most of the male and female children observed to have dropped from the schooling without completing the secondary schooling. The given data shows that almost an equal percentage of male and female children are distributed among all levels of education. We can see that male contribute to 52% where as female contribute to 48% of the total population. Almost equality is observed through the data regarding educational attainment among male and female. The chi-square test suggests that statistically educational attainment and gender are independent at 5% of level of significance. Though the test is significant at 1% level of significance, the zero value of inertia reveals the fact that the correlation between educational attainment and gender is zero. Hence from this data we did not find any kind of impact of gender on the educational attainment.

### **5. Educational attainment and Number of children of 5 and under:**

Among the perceived inputs in the production of child quality is family size. Greater family size may negatively affect child outcomes through resource dilution or because the average maturity level in

the household is lower. The correspondence table clearly identifies that most of the families are conscious about the family size. The families with number of children from 1 to 5 are gradually decreasing in the given population. The constant decrease in family size is attributed to the increase in the level of education. We observe that, most of the families restrict to have 1, 2 or at most 3 children at home and very rarely they opt to have more children than 3. It is noticed that 50.2% of the families have single child and 35.5% of the families have two children and there is a drastic decrease in the number of children at home thereafter. The sorrowful thing that is noticed here is, out of the total population 24.6% did not finish their secondary and only 3.3% of population could complete secondary. The chi-square test of finds significant relation between educational attainment verses Number of children 5 and under. The value of inertia reveals the fact that the correlation between educational attainment and number of children 5 and under at home is though significant but weak. It is even observed from the correlation that there exist negative correlation between the educational attainment and the number of children at home.

#### **6. Educational attainment and parent's education:**

Probably most prominent and direct explanation of the link between the parents education and the children's academic achievement relies on the assumption that parents learn something during schooling that influences the ways in which they interact with their children around learning activities in the home (Davis-kean, 2005). From the correspondence table, the parent's education plays a very crucial role in educating the child. Out of the population of higher educated, majority belong to the children whose parents have higher education. Very few children are highly

educated in the families with poor parental education. Out of the total population, the majority have illiterate parents along with illiterate children. We observe that, 28.7% of no-education, 17.6% of the primary, 43.6% of the secondary and 10.2% of the higher educated parents contribute to the total population. The higher level of education of the child is observed to increase significantly along with the increase in the level of parent's education. Almost 86% of the children are illiterate among the illiterate parents. The increase in the level of education among the illiterate parents is observed to be quite insignificant. Even the parent's primary education does not encourage in the higher level of education of the children.

#### **7. Educational attainment and parent's occupation:**

The family income on where the family can live and the type of the jobs the parents are likely to have is also considered as a prominent factor which influence the educational attainment. The correspondence table clearly identifies that the parent's occupation plays very crucial role in achieving the higher education among children. Out of the total population of parents with non working, agricultural employees, working for sales and involved in skilled and unskilled manual, majority of the children observed to have illiteracy. The most of the higher educated belong to the parents who work as Prof.Tech.Manag and only few are observed to have higher education among non working parents. We observe that, 2.2% of non-working, 7.5% of the Prof.Tech.Manag, 5.1% of the clerical and 12.7% of the sales, 29.3% of the agricultural employees, 6.3% of the people working for services, 37.0% of skilled and unskilled manual contribute to the total population of parents occupation . Hence the major occupation of the parents is observed to be skilled and unskilled manual and agriculture and only few

parents observed to be non working. The higher level of education of the child is observed to be significant only in the parents who have occupation to be Prof.Tech.Manag. We notice that 51.6%, 66.9%, 51.3% of the children are illiterate among the parents who are non-working, agriculture employees and involved in skilled and unskilled manual. The higher level of education of children is observed to be quite in-significant among parents involved into all occupations except Prof., Tech., Manag. and clerks. Even the parent's better occupation does not encourage in the higher level of education of the children.

### CONCLUSIONS:

It is also found that because of largest population Hindus stay first in either No-education or higher education where as Christians found to have better educational attainment than Muslims. The poverty and the size of the family are observed to be the main hinders in achieving the higher education. The parent's education and occupation plays a key role in achieving the educational advancement. The present study did not find the association between the educational attainment and the gender. On the whole the study has noticed that it is necessary to achieve complete literacy by which the chances of occupation will become bright and this would make our nation a developed India.

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**Correspondence table:**

Factors	Educational attainment	No education	Incomplete primary	Complete primary	Incomplete secondary	Complete secondary	Higher
Religion	Hindu	95425	15449	12973	43881	5569	9446
	Muslim	24368	3456	2316	8287	791	731
	Christian	6245	3240	1307	8366	928	1284
Type of place of residence	Rural	95252	15049	10342	29545	2414	2190
	Urban	36382	8209	7201	34705	5361	10112
Wealth index	Poorest	35718	2439	1171	1699	20	11
	Poorer	33146	4991	2457	5002	122	46
	Middle	30569	6692	4126	10671	446	268
	Richer	22758	6072	5634	20762	1476	1116
	Richest	9443	3064	4155	26116	5711	10861
Gender	Male	68001	12070	9146	33585	4102	6519
	Female	63633	11188	8397	30665	3673	5783
Number of children 5 and under	1	31711	5485	3801	16308	2290	3832
	2	24472	3723	2809	10690	1341	1775
	3	8526	926	932	3179	388	397
	4	1686	170	241	666	104	99
	5	407	51	58	247	29	16
Parent's education level	No education	62581	4325	2356	3639	78	42
	Primary	26673	7249	3619	6854	153	48
	Secondary	38302	10689	10453	44381	4125	2868
	Higher	2304	669	971	8983	3394	9284
Parents occupation	Did not work	2726	592	499	1188	130	144
	Prof.,Tech., Manag.	3327	966	1029	7017	1872	4907
	Clerical	3333	1125	818	5359	944	1562
	Sales	11596	2571	2441	11234	1724	2918
	Agric-employee	50126	7455	4641	11576	638	456
	Services	6566	1490	1213	5680	631	660
	Skilled & unskilled manual	53488	8932	6822	21964	1806	1621

**Summary**

<b>Educational attainment verses Factors</b>	<b>Inertia</b>	<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>Degrees of freedom</b>	<b>Sig.</b>	<b>Correlation coefficient</b>
Religion	.029	7042.750	10	.000	-.013
Type of place of residence	.100	25758.401	5	.000	.002(SD)
Wealth index	.386	99113.944	20	.000	.280
Gender	.000	14.766	5	.011	.002(SD)
Number of children 5 and under	.007	928.879	20	.000	-.007
Parent's education level	.534	135586.760	15	.000	.621
Parents occupation	.196	50170.018	40	.000	.411