

Educational Status of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh: Facts from Field Survey



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Abstract

It is generally recognised that Muslims in India have trailed behind Hindus in educational attainments. Keeping this fact in view, government has initiated several programmes and schemes for accelerating educational development among Muslims in Uttar Pradesh. Such efforts on the part of the state have been going on from the last many years. Therefore, it is very pertinent to examine and analyse the results of such educational boosting endeavours on the educational development of Muslims in recent time on the basis of primary data collected in different districts of Uttar Pradesh. The basic objective of the paper is to find out the present educational status of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh in comparison to majority Hindus. The paper is a modest attempt in this direction by analysing the literacy rate, education attainment of Muslims at different levels of education, drop out and enrolment of Muslim children, their Out of school children and Gender Parity Index in gender and regional perspective with a comparative framework.

Keywords: Muslims, Education, Uttar Pradesh, Literacy, Madrasa Education, Primary Education, Upper Primary Education, High School, Intermediate, Graduate, Higher And Professional/ Technical Education, Enrolment Rate, Out of School Children, Gender Parity Index

Introduction

The role of education in facilitating knowledge, skill, value, belief and good habit is undeniably crucial. It is indispensable for personal and social development. The educational development has been recognized as a vital indicator of development status of a society. It is considered to be a key variable affecting indicators like employment, poverty, fertility, mortality particularly the child mortality, overall health status and migration. The contribution of education is immense in improving the quality of life particularly with regards to life expectancy, infant mortality, learning and nutrition level of children, acquiring new skills and exploring better options of livelihood. The social reformers during all the periods, beginning with ancient stages, devoted a great deal of attention to the development of education but the significance of education increased to an enormous height in the present modern competitive societies. At the global level, Article-13 of the United Nation's 1966 International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognized the right of every one to an education. The Millennium Development Goals of the United Nation envisage achieving universal primary education by the year 2015. In our country, Eighty-Sixth Constitution Amendment Act-2002 inserted Article -21 which mandated for free and compulsory education to all children in age group of 6-14 years as a fundamental right.

Review of Literature

The Right to Education Act-2009 which came into effect on 1 April, 2010 represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article-21 A, and is a milestone Act of the state to recognize the importance of education for all. Along side of it, minimization of educational inequalities across gender, areas and social groups are the areas which have been the core plank of policy of educational development in our society. However, fact of the matter is the present day scenario in which equity in education has remained a big challenge and a wishful thinking. In general, differentials in school education attainment across the SRC's are significant in both rural and urban areas (Christine Sleeter, 2012). There are two commonly prevalent explanations regarding educational backwardness among Muslims. One explanation is that Muslims are educationally backward or that they have been slow to take advantage of the vast

educational development witnessed by the country since independence due to their particular attitudes or cultural ethos.

In this article, different aspects of status of education among Muslims in Uttar Pradesh have been examined and analyzed on the basis of primary data with focus on the following aspects:

1. Literacy Rates among males and females and rural and urban of Muslims compared to Hindus.
2. Attainment of different standard of education among males and females, rural and urban in case of Muslims compared to Hindus.
3. Status of Madrasa Education.
4. Enrollment Rates among males and females, rural and urban areas of Muslims compared to Hindus.
5. Out of School Children.
6. Gender Parity Index.

Aim of the study

The basic objective of the paper is to find out the present educational status of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh in comparison to majority Hindus. Objective is to analyze literacy rate, education attainment of Muslims at different levels of education, drop out and enrolment of Muslim children, their Out of school children and Gender Parity Index in gender and regional perspective with a comparative framework.

Literacy Rates

The literacy rate is most commonly accepted and undisputed indicator to denote the level of educational achievement of any society. In the earlier Censuses up to 1981, it was customary to calculate the literacy rate taking into account the total population as denominator and all those who could read and write as nominator. In 1991 Census and thereafter, population aged 7 years and above was used as denominator. The literacy rate calculated on the basis of total population as denominator was called Crude Literacy Rate while other method was termed as Effective Literacy Rate. Both terms are commonly and used interchangeably. The variations hardly remain wide to alter the analysis. In the framework of our analysis that has been attempted here, the nominator is number of person in the age of 7 years and above who can read and write (with formal or without formal education) and denominator is the total population.

Literacy Rates among Muslims by Gender

The gender wise literacy rates among Muslims compared to Hindus indicates that Muslims are behind Hindus in this regard. This is the fact in respect of males and females of Muslims compared to males and females of Hindus. The data as shown in Table-1 reveals this factual situation. At the aggregate level, literacy rate of Muslims is lower by around 3 percentage points as against of Hindus.

Table-1: Gender-wise Literacy Rates among Muslims and Hindus

	Literacy Rate	Sample Size
Male		
Hindus	87.65	14207
Muslims	83.65	8580
Female		
Hindus	73.85	12971
Muslims	73.13	8123
Combined		
Hindus	81.08	27178
Muslims	78.56	16703

Source: Primary data taken from the GIDS Study on OBC Muslims.

Literacy Rates among Muslims by Area

The literacy rates among Muslims and Hindus in rural, urban and combining of both the places have been shown in Table-2. The table indicates that in rural areas literacy level among Muslims is found lower compared to Hindus. In urban areas too, literacy level among Muslims is found lower as against that of Hindus. In general literacy rates are higher among Muslims and Hindus in urban areas compared to rural areas but in both places, Muslims have lagged behind Hindus in achieving literacy.

Table-2: Literacy Rates among Muslims and Hindus by Area

SRG	Literacy Rate	Sample Size (N)
Rural		
Hindus	77.78	20176
Muslims	74.85	11945
Urban		
Hindus	80.61	7026
Muslims	79.63	4777
Combined		
Hindus	81.08	27202
Muslims	78.56	16722

Source: Primary data taken from the GIDS Study on OBC Muslims.

Literacy Rates among Muslims by Regions

It becomes evident that literacy rates among Muslims are lower versus Hindus in each region of the state. The Western region is found to be on the top followed by the Central and Eastern regions in terms of literacy achievement of Hindus and Muslims. The status of Bundelkhand region is very dismal in literacy status of Hindus as well as Muslims. The interpretation of the data leads us to infer that literacy rates are lower among Muslims as against Hindus in each region of the state.

Educational Levels of Muslims

Educational levels refer to highest standard of schooling a person has completed. It is an indicator of the educational development of any individual or a group in a society. If the attainment of educational standard remains largely confine to basic education in case of any individual, then it can be inferred that the individual could not achieve higher level of education and is trailing at the basic level of educational development. In this section, educational levels of sample households have been classified into ten categories according to Hindus and Muslims by

gender, area and regions and have been shown in Tables-3 and 4.

Literates without Schooling

It is evident that among the total population of 7 years and above, nominal proportion of Hindus (0.77 per cent) and Muslims (0.67 per cent) are found to be literate without any formal schooling. In this case, Muslims are better than Hindus as Muslims have lower level of literates without schooling. The females of Muslims have lower percentages with this level of education when compared to females of Hindus. The gap at this level of education between the females of Hindus and females of Muslims is wide as females of Muslim are behind the females of Hindu which reflects from table-3. In rural areas, those who are found to be literate without formal schooling are 0.76 per cent in case of Hindus. Thus in totality, percentage of Muslims without formal education is lower but in case of Muslim females, this percentage is higher.

Madrassa Education

In table-5, proportions of Muslims and Hindus who have attained Madrasa education with respect to males and females, in rural and urban areas and at regional levels have been shown. The table shows that in the population of 7 years and above, 7.86 per cent of Muslims have obtained Madrasa education as against 0.33 per cent of Hindus. The proportion of Muslim females who have Madrasa education is higher (13.62 per cent) as against the Muslim males (5.18 per cent). In rural areas, higher percentage of Muslims (9.17 per cent) have Madrasa education than the Muslims in urban areas (7.21 per cent). The Muslims with Madrasa education is highest in Eastern region (8.92 per cent) followed by Western region (4.09 per cent), Central region (3.76 per cent) and Bundelkhand region (2.07 per cent). Thus, it became evident that around 8 per cent of Muslims have taken Madrasa education.

Primary Education

The persons who have completed 5 years of schooling during the age of 6-11 years are considered to have completed primary education. In table-3, percentages of persons who have completed primary education among Muslims and Hindus have been shown. It reflects from the table that higher percentage of male and female of Muslims (40.57 per cent and 32.49 per cent) have attained primary education than the males and females of Hindus (32.99 per cent and 29.84 per cent). Higher percentages of Muslims in rural areas (36.10 per cent) and urban areas (29.60 per cent) have attained education up to primary level than of Hindus in rural areas (31.77 per cent) and urban areas (27.84 per cent). Similar trend is found in urban areas. The share of Muslims attaining primary education versus Hindus is higher in each region of the state. On the basis of above, conclusion can be drawn that higher percentages of Muslims have attained primary education than the Hindus. This is visible almost in case of gender, area and regions.

Upper Primary Education

The persons, who have completed 6 to 8 years of schooling in the age group of 11-14 years,

are considered to have completed Upper Primary Schooling (UPS). In this case, ratio of Muslims in their population who have completed UPS is found to be lower (14.59 per cent) than of Hindus (17.04 per cent). In rural and urban areas and at the regional levels, similar pattern is observed which indicates that sizeable proportion of Muslims could not complete UPS as they left education after completing the primary education. This pattern was visible across all the regions of the state.

High School

The persons who have completed 10th standard of schooling are termed as high school pass. In table-3, percentages have been worked out for those who have completed high school in respect of males, females, rural, urban and at regional levels for Muslims and Hindus. The table reflects the similar patterns as observed in case of status of UPS. The percentage of Hindus in their population who reported high school as their educational level is 11.77 per cent versus Muslim all (8.86 per cent). In rural and urban areas, Muslims have been behind Hindus in attaining high school education. Around 11+ percentage of Hindus managed to get high school education in rural and urban areas of the state and roughly 11 per cent Muslims in urban reported to have attained high school education. However in rural areas, Muslims (7.91 per cent) lagged behind Hindus (11.78 per cent) in attaining high school education. In rural areas, Muslims are behind all Hindus in attaining high school education. The same pattern is evident at regional levels where Muslims have lagged behind Hindus in attaining high school education.

Intermediate

The data showed that 9.21 per cent of Hindus have attained intermediate education as against 6.61 per cent of Muslims. Higher proportions of males and females of Hindus are intermediate pass in comparison to males and females of Muslims. The percentage of Muslim females who are intermediate is slightly higher than the percentage of Muslim males. At the regional level, Muslims with intermediate education is proportionally lower to that of Hindus.

Graduates

The graduates in total sample population of Hindus are 7.96 per cent as against 4.71 per cent among Muslims. The same trend is found in case of males and females of Hindus versus Muslims. The similar trend is evident in case of females of Muslims versus females of Hindus. As evident in table-3, percentages of graduates among Hindus are higher in urban areas as against in rural areas. But in case of Muslim persons having graduate education, the gap between rural and urban areas is nominally higher in favor of urban areas.

Higher and Professional/Technical Education

The status of Muslims, having higher and professional education is relatively very poor in comparison to Hindus. While 3.05 per cent of male Hindus are post graduate, only 0.88 per cent of male Muslims are post graduate. The same is the pattern in case of females. (2.45 per cent Hindu females versus 0.70 per cent Muslim females) The percentages of post graduates and professional/technical qualified

persons are higher in urban areas than in rural areas in case of Hindus and Muslims. But Muslims are found to be lagging behind Hindus in having higher and professional/technical education particularly in

Eastern and Bundelkhand regions where they are far behind than their Hindu counterparts in having higher and professional/technical education.

Table-3: Education levels among SRGs by Gender

	Literate without Formal Schooling	Madarsa Schooling	Primary Schooling	Upper Primary Schooling	High School	Intermediate	Graduate	Post Graduate/PhD	Diploma/Certificate Course	Professional Education*	Sample Size (N)
Male											
Hindu All	0.79	0.69	32.99	14.27	12.71	10.00	8.23	3.05	0.67	1.12	14207
Muslim All	0.77	5.18	40.57	11.29	10.61	5.65	4.26	0.88	0.18	0.37	8580
Female											
Hindu All	0.89	2.35	29.84	20.11	9.01	7.82	6.56	2.45	0.35	0.56	12971
Muslim All	0.54	13.62	32.49	18.14	8.23	6.31	2.29	0.70	0.10	1.13	8123
Combined											
Hindu All	0.77	0.33	31.46	17.04	11.77	9.21	7.96	3.07	0.45	1.09	27202
Muslim All	0.67	7.86	36.61	14.59	8.86	6.61	4.71	2.81	0.15	0.41	16722

Source: Primary data taken from the GIDS Study on OBC Muslims.

*(a) B.Tech (b) M.Tech (c) MBA (d) M.B.B.S.

Table-4: Education levels among SRGs by Area

	Literate without Formal Schooling	Madarsa Schooling	Primary Schooling	Upper Primary Schooling	High School	Intermediate	Graduate	Post Graduate/PhD	Diploma/Certificate Course	Professional Education*	Sample Size (N)
Rural											
Hindus	0.76	0.56	31.77	17.62	11.24	7.55	5.69	1.34	0.18	0.16	20176
Muslims	0.66	9.17	36.10	14.34	7.91	5.21	1.95	0.46	0.09	0.11	11945
Urban											
Hindus	0.28	0.71	27.84	16.53	11.24	10.23	9.05	4.46	0.45	1.42	7026
Muslims	0.30	7.21	29.60	12.93	10.50	5.60	4.32	1.64	0.29	0.32	4777
Combined											
Hindus	0.77	0.33	30.70	17.28	11.77	9.21	7.96	3.07	0.45	1.09	27202
Muslims	0.67	7.86	34.20	13.93	8.86	6.61	4.71	2.81	0.15	0.41	16722

Source: Primary Data Based.

*(a) B.Tech (b) M.Tech (c) MBA (d) M.B.B.S.

Declining Pattern of Schooling from Primary to Graduate Levels by Gender

In table-5, number of persons who have attained primary education has been considered as hundred and thereafter percentages have been worked out for the persons who completed subsequent educational levels up to graduation.

The table shows a higher decline in the educational levels among Muslims who have attained primary education and those who reached to graduation in comparison of Hindus. In case of male Hindus, 81.88 per cent failed to complete graduation as against 100 per cent of the persons who have

primary education. The same is 96.41 per cent in case of male Muslims. While in case of females, the gap becomes much wider to 88.64 per cent in case of female Hindus versus 97.49 per cent of female Muslims. At the combined level of both gender, 84.85 per cent of Hindus could not complete graduation in comparison to 100 per cent persons who have primary education. The Muslims stand at 96.73 per cent. Thus, a higher percentage of Muslims could not complete graduation as against Hindus. This clearly highlights the educational backwardness of Muslims compared to Hindus in Uttar Pradesh.

Table-5: Percentage Decline in Schooling from Primary to Graduate Levels by Gender

	Primary Schooling	Upper Primary Schooling	High School	Intermediate	Graduate	Percentage decline from Primary to Graduate Levels
Male						
Hindus	100.00	56.21	41.44	34.42	29.81	81.88
Muslims	100.00	42.16	23.23	12.64	7.16	96.41
Female						
Hindus	100.00	53.20	33.01	27.70	23.97	88.64
Muslims	100.00	36.88	22.75	15.58	7.24	97.49
Combined						
Hindus	100.00	56.89	39.25	32.29	27.48	84.85
Muslims	100.00	41.19	24.73	15.25	7.44	96.73

Declining Pattern of Schooling from Primary to Graduate Levels by Area

The pattern of education obtained by the sample persons from primary to graduation has been presented in table-6. The number of persons who have primary education has been taken as 100 per cent. The table shows that if 100 persons had obtained primary education, 89.83 per cent of Hindus

and 98.02 per cent of Muslims could not obtain graduate level of education in rural areas. In urban areas, situation is found to be better, as 69.20 per cent of Hindus and 93.77 per cent of Muslims could not complete graduation. In urban areas of the state, in this way, Muslims of the state lagged behind Hindus in completing graduate level of education.

Table-6: Percentage Decline in Schooling from Primary to Graduate Levels by Area

	Primary Schooling	Upper Primary Schooling	High School	Intermediate	Graduate	Percentage decline from Primary to Graduate Levels
Rural						
Hindu All	100.00	56.11	36.07	28.87	20.96	89.83
Muslim All	100.00	39.85	22.00	14.56	5.43	98.02
Urban						
Hindu All	100.00	59.58	49.70	43.20	48.06	69.20
Muslim All	100.00	43.42	30.66	14.27	12.17	93.77

Declining Pattern of Schooling from Primary to Graduate Levels by Regions

In following table-7, pattern in educational attainment from primary to graduate level has been presented in four regions of the state across Hindus and Muslims. It becomes evident from the table that in Central region of the state, there is lowest decline in the percentages of persons who attained graduate qualification than the base of primary education followed by the Western, Bundelkhand and Eastern regions. This was found true in case of Hindus compared to Muslims. Thus, in each of four regions of the state, great majority of Muslims failed to attain graduate qualification as it is found in each region of the state.

Enrollment Rates

The enrollment rates are the estimates which show the percentage of children who are enrolled in a

Table-6: Enrollment Ratios by Gender and Area (6-11 Years)

	Male	Sample Size (N)	Female	Sample Size (N)	Rural	Sample Size (N)	Urban	Sample Size (N)	Combined	Sample Size (N)
Hindu All	86.83	2022	84.71	1769	85.29	2958	87.91	833	85.89	3791
Muslim All	77.99	1395	75.01	1309	73.27	2050	87.28	654	76.61	2704

Enrollment Rates at Regional Levels

The enrollment rates have been analyzed at the regional levels in following table-6.11. The table shows that in Eastern region of the state there are wide gaps in enrollment rates among children of Hindus and children of Muslims where Muslim children record lower enrollment than Hindu children. In Western region, enrollment rate of children of Hindus is found to be marginally lower to that of children of Muslims. In Bundelkhand region, enrollment of children of Muslims is relatively higher than of the children of Hindus. In Central region enrollment of Muslim UCs is higher than of the Hindu UCs but the enrollment rate is found to be lower among the children of Muslim OBCs and Muslim Dalits in comparison with the enrollment of corresponding Hindu OBCs and Hindu SCs. To sum up the above, it can be concluded that in the regions where Muslim population is sizeable, enrollment rates of their children are lower to that of children of corresponding Hindus.

specific education level in a specific age group at any point of time. Here the enrollment rates have been calculated by working our percentage of total number of children who are enrolled from class I to class V (primary level) in the total population of 6 to 11 years which is the age of primary schooling in Uttar Pradesh. The enrollment rates have been worked out in table-6 which indicates that in 6 to 11 years of age, children of Hindus have 85.89 per cent enrollment as against 76.61 per cent enrollment rate of children of Muslims. In this way, around 10 percent less Muslim children are enrolled at primary level in comparison to Hindu Children.

Thus, at the basic level of education Muslim children are found to be far behind Hindu children and this trend will have great impact on the educational backwardness of Muslims.

Out of School Children

The analysis has indicated that substantial number of school age children (6-11 years) is not enrolled in primary classes and hence they can be deemed to be out of school children. In the following table-7, proportions of children have been worked out who are out of school by gender and area across Hindus and Muslims. The table shows that the percentage of Muslims children who is out of school is much higher (23.39 per cent) in comparison to out of school children of Hindus (14.11 per cent). Among male Muslim children, proportion of out of schools children in their population is higher (22.01 per cent) in comparison to male children of Hindus who are out of school. The similar is the pattern among female children of Muslims versus female children of Hindus. The rural and urban areas also demonstrate the same trend.

In this way, higher percentage of out of school children of Muslims is one of the important causes of educational backwardness among Muslims in the state.

Table-7: Percentage of Out of School Children among Hindus and Muslims in the Uttar Pradesh

	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Combined
Hindu All	13.17	15.29	14.71	12.09	14.11
Muslim All	22.01	24.99	26.73	12.72	23.39

Gender Parity Index

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is a socio economic index usually designed to measure the relative access to education of males and females. In its simplest form, it is calculated as the quotient of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in a given stage of education (primary, secondary, etc.). It also serves as a significant indicator of the gender equality and women empowerment. A GPI of 1 indicates parity between enrollment of boys and girls. The GPI as presented in table-8 shows that it is lesser than 1 across Hindus and Muslims. It is further evident that in rural, urban and aggregate levels, GPI is lower among Muslims in comparison to Hindus.

Hence, it can be inferred that Muslim women are less educated compared to Hindu women in Uttar Pradesh.

Table-8: Area Wise Gender Parity Index (GPI)

SRG	Gender Parity Index (GPI)
Rural	
Hindu All	0.80
Muslim All	0.78
Urban	
Hindu All	0.88
Muslim All	0.79
Combined	
Hindu All	0.82
Muslim All	0.78

Conclusion

The literacy rate among Muslims is lower (78.56 per cent) than the literacy rate among Hindus (81.08 per cent). The literacy rate among Muslims in rural as well as in urban areas is lower to that of Hindus. The proportion of Muslims in their population who are literate without formal schooling, irrespective of gender, area and region, is lower to that of Hindus though the gap is not much wide. In the entire sample, 8 per cent of Muslims have reported to have attained Madrasa education. The percentage of Muslims that attained primary education is higher than Hindus. The trend is same in gender, area and regions. Muslims have also lagged behind the Hindus in obtaining UPS. All Muslims are found to be behind Hindus who reported to be high school pass. A considerable decline in the proportion of persons with high school education from primary schooling is evident and this is more in case of Muslims when compared with corresponding Hindus. The proportions of Muslims with intermediate education is found to be lower to that of Hindus. Hence dropout from high school level

is significantly higher among Muslim. The proportions of Muslims in their respective population who reported to have graduate education are far lower than their Hindu counterparts. The females of Muslims are particularly trailing behind the females of Hindu. The Muslims are far behind the Hindus in the attainment of higher and technical education. The dropout of Muslims between primary to Graduate level education is very high in comparison with Hindus. The rate of enrollment in primary classes among Muslims is far lower than of the Hindus.. The percentage of out of school children in the total children of primary school age is 24 per cent among Muslims versus 14 per cent among Hindus. The Gender Parity Index has been found to be lower in case of Muslims in comparison with Hindus.

Thus, on the basis of analysis of major indicators of educational development like literacy rate, attainment of different grades of education, Madrasa education, enrolment rates, dropout rates, out of school children and GPI, Muslims are far behind Hindus. There is need that greater efforts should be made the government and the Muslim community to enhance the education among the Muslims.

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