

1. PROGRESS OF LITERACY 1961 - 2011 – Census*

Sl. No.	Year	Percent of literate to total population		
		Female	Male	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	1961	28.69	58.85	43.65
2.	1971	40.14	66.50	53.38
3.	1981	53.03	77.09	65.14
4.	1991	65.63	83.68	74.74
5.	2001	73.90	88.62	81.24
6	2011	81.22	92.12	86.55

Source:- Directorate of Census Operation, Puducherry * Provisional

Note: Literacy rates for 1951,1961 and 1971 related to population aged five years and above. The rates for the years 1981 to 2011 related to the population aged seven years and above

Education plays a vital role in the Socio-economic development of a nation. Literacy level and Education in general and of women in particular is an important indicator of economic growth. National policy on education accords priority to the universalization of primary education for children in the age group 6-14 years and eradication of adult illiteracy. The XI Five Year Plan has accorded the highest priority to education since education is an important input for harnessing the skills and talents of younger generation. we are now witnessing an unprecedented technological revolution at present and unless we equip ourselves and improve our knowledge we will not be able to compete with other developed nations of the world. Accordingly policies and programme formulation is necessary to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of universal primary education i.e. to ensure that all boys and girls complete – Primary education. The Govt. of India has recently passed the Right to Education Act 2009 for ensuring free and compulsory education to all children of India in the 6-14 age-group.

Table 1 reveals that the overall literacy rate and female literacy rate of U.T of Puducherry has increased from the level of 43.65 % and 28.69% in 1961 to 86.55 % and 81.22 % in 2011.