

FOR REFERENCE

# TRIBAL LITERACY IN INDIA

## The Regional Dimension

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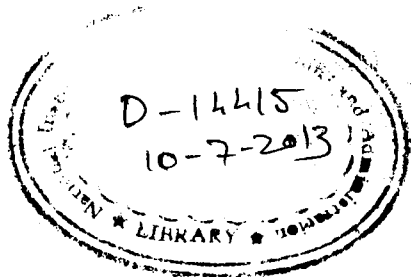


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## TRIBAL LITERACY IN INDIA : THE REGIONAL DIMENSION

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This paper makes an attempt to review the changing situation of literacy among the scheduled tribes of India as recorded by the successive censuses from 1961 to 1981. It identifies the broad regional framework of tribal literacy and points out the major trends of change discernible from the census data of whatever worth it is. It compares the performance of the tribes with the non-tribal population in terms of their literacy attainments thus indirectly reflecting on the success or otherwise of the different literacy drives adopted by the official agencies in the predominantly tribal states of India. The paper tries to place the question of literacy inequity within the different components of tribal population in its historical perspective and looks for our explanation for a phenomenon which is not easy to explain.

### DESIGN OF STUDY

The paper proposes to develop the regional dimension of tribal literacy by emphasising the spatial patterns discernible from the maps. The first series of maps shows the levels of literacy as in 1981 at the aggregative level as well as in their rural and urban segments and among the males and the females. A closer study of these maps may reveal glaring contrasts in literacy between the tribal and the non-tribal segments, on the one hand, and between the male and female components of tribal population on the other. The second series of maps shows the share of the tribal and the non-tribal literates in the district population of each segment separately as well as in their rural and urban components as in 1971. In order to explore the nature of change in tribal literacy during the 1961-71 census decade, 1961 literacy rates of the rural and urban segments of population have been depicted along with the decadal change in percentage points. An identical series of maps shows literacy rates of the tribal males and the females.

The study has been supplemented by a probe of the literacy inequities with the help of disparity index of Sopher. Further, keeping in mind the fact that physical accessibility to the institutions of learning, such as schools, may have some explanatory

value in so far as the present state of educational backwardness of the tribes is concerned, an attempt has been made here to measure the accessibility to the schools of different levels for the population living in habitations which are categorised as predominantly tribal in composition. This analysis is based on the data of the Fourth Educational Survey.

The word 'literacy' as used in the Indian census literature does not convey any qualified sense of meaning. The census view of literacy tends to cover the whole range of individuals from highly educated to those who can just recognise the alphabet and write their names. The census recognises an individual as literate 'if he can both read and write with an understanding in any language'.<sup>1</sup> Such a nebulous definition leaves much scope for inclusion of groups at disparate levels of knowledge of reading and writing within the category of 'literate'.

Definition apart, literacy is universally recognised as a powerful instrument of social change. In fact, it is the necessary first step towards the attainment of education and of higher goals in an individual's life. The process of learning exercises a profound effect on the lives of men and women in the contemporary world.<sup>2</sup>

The contemporary trends in the spread of literacy and of higher education in India should be seen in the context of historical development. While indigenous tradition of imparting education is very old, the Indian society was exposed to the modern educational system during the colonial rule only. The colonial development on the port nodes, coupled with the Christian influences in the coastal and the tribal areas of the country, contributed significantly towards the emergence of disparities in educational development. Education acquired an essentially urban character. On the other hand, vast regions within the hinterland of port centres remained unaffected by the spread of modern education.

There were, however, historically determined constraints on the universal spread of literacy and of education in Indian society even before independence. The spread of literacy stemmed from the primary edifice of social stratification enshrined in caste. The social system of caste gave birth to the philosophy of segregation and was so deterministic that it forced an individual 'to subordinate his individuality to it'.<sup>3</sup> The institutionalised framework of social inequality in conjunction with variations in income distribution engendered vast disparities not only in access to the institutions of

formal learning but also in the levels of educational attainments of the different segments of the Indian people. As noted by Cippola, while 'the art of writing spread around the world across geographical and cultural borders and adopted itself to a variety of languages, it hardly filtered down through social stratification'.<sup>4</sup>

India at independence carried on her shoulders a colossal burden of the heritage of inequalities in all facets of social development, education being no exception. However, a good deal of progress has been made in this field since independence. Efforts have been made to induce the lagging sections of population to formal education on a special basis. However, the problem of educability of scheduled tribes is a complex one. The nature of the problem is so different that it cannot be compared with the general population or even with the scheduled caste segment. Perhaps it may be hypothesised that education is not only an instrument of social change, its very acceptability is caused by the state of the society. By and large the spread of education among the tribal communities depends, among other things, on their capacity to receive it,<sup>5</sup> their stage of social evolution, ecological setting, mode of economy and their exposure to a language other than their own dialect. The process of economic development and the pattern of interaction with the non-tribal groups in the neighbourhood of the areas of tribal concentration lead to the socio-cultural transformation of the tribes. In this connection the role of the tribal elites cannot be ignored as their attitudes tend to operate as a constraint on the universal distribution of gains of educational development in the tribal society.

The Indian tribes have been exposed to literacy only recently.<sup>6</sup> By and large, their response to programmes of literacy and of formal education has varied significantly between tribes and from region to region. These responses depend on their socio-cultural, economic and demographic characteristics and on the magnitude and direction of the forces of modernisation, such as urbanisation and industrialisation.<sup>7</sup> The influence of Christianity in some tribal areas has also played a significant role.<sup>8</sup> The initiatives taken by the government and other quasi-government or voluntary organisations with the objective of educating tribes through programmes of special education and literacy drives have also contributed significantly towards the modernisation of tribal communities. However, these forces have not operated with equal vigour in all the tribal areas of the country, thus giving rise to significant variations in the regional pattern of literacy in the past few decades.

The level of literacy is undoubtedly one of the most important indicators of social and cultural development among the tribal communities. The various dimensions of socio-cultural change in a tribal society can be understood in the light of the levels of literacy and education. It is with this premise that it is proposed to depict on maps the tribal literacy in their overall population as well as within the rural and urban components. The male-female disparity in the levels of literacy can be appreciated by comparing the two series of maps. An attempt has also been made to identify the gaps that exist in the levels of literacy of the tribal and the non-tribal segments of population by presenting non-tribal literacy as in 1971. Finally, the decadal change in the literacy rates has been depicted on maps for all the components of tribal population - male, female, rural and urban. The levels of literacy of the tribal population as in 1961 have been depicted on a parallel series of maps.

The data on literacy, particularly for tribes, suffers from a major limitation. The computation of percentage of literates out of the total population, rather than out of the population in the above 4 years age-group, presents a distorted picture as it underestimates the proportion of literate population.

### **1981 PATTERNS**

The 1981 census enumerated some 8.4 million literates among the tribal population. The tribal literacy rate of 16.35 per cent was, however, strikingly low in comparison to that of general population. The tribal literacy in the urban areas is high, although, in urban areas the tribal percentage in itself is insignificant by any means. State level situation is presented in Table 1.

\* Table 1  
TRIBAL LITERACY RATES - 1981

India/State/ Union Territory	Total			Rural			Urban		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INDIA	16.35	24.52	8.04	14.92	22.94	6.81	37.93	47.60	27.32
STATES:									
1. A.P.	7.82	12.02	3.46	6.80	10.68	2.78	23.27	31.50	14.14
2. Bihar	16.99	26.17	7.75	15.56	24.63	6.48	38.53	48.30	27.78
3. Gujarat	21.14	30.41	11.64	20.34	29.53	11.00	31.27	41.16	20.20
4. H.P.	25.93	38.75	12.82	25.40	38.21	12.36	59.15	68.61	46.19
5. Karnataka	20.14	29.96	10.03	17.94	27.60	8.03	35.00	45.72	23.70
6. Kerala	31.79	37.52	26.02	31.22	37.00	25.39	61.42	63.79	58.92
7. M.P.	10.68	17.74	3.60	10.05	16.91	3.19	27.62	38.64	15.18
8. Maharashtra	22.29	32.38	11.94	19.35	29.18	9.34	47.55	58.90	35.12
9. Manipur	39.74	48.88	30.35	37.50	46.72	28.05	56.73	65.24	47.92
10. Meghalaya	31.55	34.19	28.91	27.09	29.76	24.39	63.03	66.60	59.68
11. Nagaland	40.32	47.32	32.99	37.50	44.59	30.15	66.28	71.36	60.50
12. Orissa	13.96	23.27	4.76	17.42	22.63	4.34	25.18	36.05	13.69
13. Rajasthan	10.27	18.85	1.20	9.61	17.88	0.93	27.31	41.93	8.70
14. Sikkim	33.13	43.10	22.37	29.14	39.44	18.09	55.84	63.43	47.32
15. Tamil Nadu	20.46	26.71	14.00	18.98	24.98	12.78	34.21	42.91	25.31
16. Tripura	23.07	33.46	12.27	22.33	32.74	11.52	78.81	84.42	72.21
17. U.P.	20.45	31.22	8.69	18.96	29.66	7.33	50.69	60.92	38.12
18. West Bengal	13.21	21.16	5.01	12.72	20.69	4.53	25.72	32.36	18.02
UNION TERRITORIES:									
1. A&N Islands	31.11	38.43	23.24	30.60	37.64	23.12	72.69	83.92	41.67
2. Arunachal Pradesh	14.04	20.79	7.31	13.23	19.76	6.78	48.39	60.63	33.18
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	16.86	25.46	8.42	16.32	24.76	8.04	32.34	44.87	19.28
4. Goa, Daman and Diu	26.48	33.65	18.89	26.24	33.00	19.12	27.28	35.79	18.11
5. Lakshadweep	53.13	63.34	42.92	51.00	61.21	40.83	55.76	65.98	45.51
6. Mizoram	59.63	64.12	55.12	55.20	60.17	50.21	74.04	77.11	71.01

P = Persons; M = Males; F = Females

No tribal population in Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry.



## Overall Literacy Rate

Although literacy among the scheduled tribe at the national aggregative level is only 16.35 per cent, there are 32 districts in which it exceeds 49.07 per cent (Appendix I). The spatial patterns depicted on Fig. C.19 suggest that barring the districts of Central Manipur, Mokokchung, Aizawal, Lunglei and Lakshadweep, other districts with a high literacy rate lie in the areas in which tribal population constitutes only a small proportion of total population. There are 58 district in which literacy varies between 30.01 and 49.07 per cent. Of these only 13 lie in the predominantly tribal areas of Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram. None of the tribal districts of the mid-Indian region have the distinction of having high literacy. On the other hand, it has been observed that the districts of the mid-Indian region are characterised by medium and low literacy rates. The districts of Gujarat, and Maharashtra fall in the medium literay category. The districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have consistently low literacy rates. The southern fringe of the tribal belt of mid-India, consisting of Bastar, Koraput, Ganjam, Khammam and Visakhapatnam districts, is also characterised by low literacy rates.

## Male Literacy

More than 74 per cent of literate population is comprised by males and hence geographic patterns of male literacy, corresponds to those of overall literacy. It is evident from Fig. C.20 that the tribal districts with the highest literacy rates are confined to the northeastern region. A majority of the districts of the mid-Indian tribal belt, however, fall in the medium literacy category. Although, male literacy among the scheduled tribes is only 24.52 per cent, there are significant inter-district variations. For example, literacy exceeds 52.33 in 50 districts. (Appendix II).

Literacy varies between 31.25 and 52.33 per cent in 94 districts. However, the tribal population is numerically significant in 21 districts only. The northeastern states account for 13 of these districts. Districts of the mid-Indian tribal region falling in this category include Bharuch, Surat, Valsad, the Dangs, Singhbhum, Sambalpur, Sundergerh and Phulbeni. Barring Jhabua, Dhar, Bastar and Khammam districts in which literacy rates are below 10 per cent, other districts of the mid-Indian tribal belt are characterised by medium literacy. Tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh and the Andaman islands also belong to the high literacy category.

## Female Literacy

Only 8.04 per cent of the tribal females are literate on an average. The rates are above 31.40 per cent in 37 districts (Appendix III). But the share of tribal population in most of these districts is low. Of the 55 districts in which literacy varies between 17.52 and 31.40 per cent only 2 districts lie in the mid-Indian region. Fig. C.21 reveals that while the tribal women in the districts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have low literacy rates those in Gujarat and Maharashtra districts fall in the medium literacy category.

## Rural Literacy

Since 93.80 per cent of the tribal population lives in the rural areas and 85.62 per cent of all literates are ruralites, the pattern of rural literacy is bound to have close correspondance with the overall literacy. The rural literacy average at 14.92 per cent. However, there are significant inter-district variations. For example, rural literacy exceeds 49.45 per cent in 31 districts. There are 80 districts where it is less than 8.63 per cent (Appendix IV). The districts of Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh and the Islands show high literacy rates (Fig. C.22). The mid-Indian tribal belt presents a mix of midium and low literacy districts. The districts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, south-eastern Madhya Pradesh (excluding Bastar) Bihar and Orissa (excluding Koraput) have medium literacy rates. In a number of districts in Rajasthan and western Madhya Pradesh, besides Bastar and Koraput, literacy rates are very low-less than 8.63 per cent.

Males in the rural areas have an aggregative literacy rate of 22.94 per cent. Their distribution generally corresponds with the over all pattern of the rural tribes (Appendix V) Fig. C.23).

The tribal females in the rural areas have not displayed better performance. It is evident from the fact that at the national, aggregative level the literacy rate is only 6.81 per cent. There are 110 districts with a literacy rate of less than 1.89 per cent. The literacy rate varies between 1.89 and 14.80 per cent in 166 districts (Appendix VI).

Fig. C.24 reveals that the districts in the northeastern region, excluding Arunachal Pradesh, have high literacy rates. Surat, Valsad and the Dangs districts of Gujarat also fall in the high literacy

category. Other districts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa fall in the medium literacy category. In some districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh literacy is as low as 1.89 per cent.

### **Urban Literacy**

Although, on an average literacy among the urban tribes is as high as 37.93 per cent, this figure does not indicate much as their population in urban areas is generally small. Spatial patterns have been depicted on Fig C.25.

As far as the literacy rates of male and female components of population are concerned no significant changes are observed (Fig. C.26 and C.27). The significant point to note is that the females are lagging behind the males by 10 per cent at the national aggregative level. However, both the components are characterised by significant inter-district variations. For example, in the case of the male component literacy rates are above 76.98 per cent in 20 districts (Appendix VIII). Of these only Aizawl and Lunglei have significant concentration of tribal population. On the other end of the scale are 50 districts in which literacy rates are below 26.52 per cent. Among these only Koraput (Orissa) has a sufficiently high share of tribal population.

In case of female component literacy rates are above 52.37 per cent in 46 districts of which 18 lie in the northeast (Appendix IX). In another 58 districts literacy varies between 31.80 and 52.37 per cent. However, barring West and East Siang, Lohit, West Khasi Hills, East Garo Hills, Mon, Singhbhum and Chandrapur districts, tribal population in all these districts accounts for a small proportion of the total population.

### **1971 PATTERN**

#### **Overall Literacy**

The 1971 census enumerated some 4.3 million literates among the tribal population of India. The tribal literacy rate (11.30 per cent) was, however, strikingly low in comparison to that of the general population (30.78 per cent). The tribal literates accounted for 2.66 per cent of the total literate population of the country. The tribal literacy was significantly high in urban areas, although the tribal percentage in itself is insignificant by any means.

## STATE LEVEL PATTERNS

The states of the Indian union reveal among themselves a striking disparity in tribal literacy (Table 2). Mizoram has the maximum percentage (53.49) of literates, followed by Lakshadweep (41.37 per cent). A number of states including Assam (20.67 per cent), Manipur (28.71 per cent), Meghalaya (26.45 per cent) and Nagaland (24.02 per cent) in the northeast and Kerala (25.72 per cent) in the south show relatively higher levels of literacy. The relatively higher rate of literacy in these states as well as in Mizoram can perhaps be attributed to the influence of Christian missionaries.<sup>10</sup>

Slightly above the national average (11.30 per cent) are the states of Bihar (11.64 per cent), Gujarat (14.12 per cent), Maharashtra (11.74 per cent), in the mid-Indian belt and the western coastal region; Himachal Pradesh (15.89 per cent) in the sub-Himalayan north, Tripura (15.03 per cent) in the northeast and Karnataka (14.85 per cent), Goa, Daman and Diu (12.73 per cent) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (17.35 per cent). Moderately higher level of literacy among the tribes of the western coastal belt may be related to the history of the coastal region.<sup>11</sup> These regions have a long history of external contact. So far as the north is concerned, military recruitments from the hilly tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh might have been instrumental in enhancing the literacy levels of the tribes.<sup>12</sup>

Table 2

Tribal and Non-Tribal Literacy Rates 1971  
State Level Patterns

States/Union Territories	Tribal Literacy Rate	Non-Tribal Literacy Rate
INDIA	11.30	30.79
Andhra Pradesh	5.34	25.33
Assam	20.67	29.07
Bihar	11.64	20.74
Gujarat	14.12	39.32
Himachal Pradesh	15.89	32.64
Kerala	25.72	60.86
Madhya Pradesh	7.62	25.80
Maharashtra	11.74	40.89
Manipur	28.71	34.82
Meghalaya	26.45	41.99
Mysore	14.85	31.33
Nagaland	24.01	53.78
Orissa	9.46	31.21
Rajasthan	6.47	20.81
Tamil Nadu	9.02	39.69
Tripura	15.03	37.47
Uttar Pradesh	14.59	21.72
West Bengal	8.92	35.63
Andaman and Nicobar islands	17.35	48.40
Arunachal Pradesh	5.20	34.24
Dadra and Nagar haveli	8.90	55.22
Goa, Daman and Diu	12.73	45.04
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	41.37	73.52
Mizoram	53.49	58.70

On the contrary, the eastern coastal states have a lower level of tribal literacy than the national average. The eastern littoral states of West Bengal (8.92 per cent), Orissa (9.46 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (5.34 per cent) and Tamil nadu (9.02 per cent), illustrate this point. The very low level of tribal literacy in Andhra Pradesh may be related to what Sopher describes as 'the ghastly depression in

the surface of (general) literacy of the former state of Hyderabad', which is still faintly visible in 1971.<sup>13</sup> The literacy rate among the tribes of Rajasthan, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Madhya Pradesh in the mid-Indian belt ranges between 6 and 9 per cent only. The lowest level of literacy is observed in Arunachal Pradesh (5.20 per cent).

#### DISTRICT LEVEL PATTERNS

The highest level of literacy are observed in Mizoram, Calcutta, Madras, Ernakulam, Trivandrum (Kerala) and the Lakshadweep. About one-half of the total tribal population was returned as literate by the 1971 census.

The literacy rates are generally high in Cachar (Assam), Manipur - South, Central and East, and Mokokuchung (Nagaland) in the Northeast; Bombay (Maharashtra) and Rajkot (Gujarat) in Western India; Pithoragarh and Almora (Uttar Pradesh) in the sub-Himalayan North; and Trichur, Kottayam and Quilon in the South. The tribal literacy rate in these districts ranges between 30 and 40 per cent.

The literacy rates generally remain between 20 and 30 per cent over the districts of the Northeast. Three districts of Himachal Pradesh also fall in the same category. A little less than two-third of the tribal population is literate in three districts in Mysore; two each in Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Table 3  
Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage  
of Literates in the Overall Tribal and Non-Tribal Population  
1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts	
	Tribal	Non-Tribal
Above 60	0	11
50 - 60	1	14
40 - 50	5	27
30 - 40	14	78
20 - 30	33	91
15 - 20	33	40
10 - 15	59	11
5 - 10	75	0
0.01 - 5	52	0

Then, there are thirty-three districts with tribal literacy ranging between 15 and 20 per cent, which lie above the national average for the tribes. From 5 to 10 per cent of the tribal population is literate in 75 districts (Table 3).

#### Percentage Change During 1961-71

At the national level the tribal literacy registered a change of 2.86 percentage points during the decade 1961-71. As noted earlier the proportion of literates among the tribal population rose from 8.44 per cent in 1961 to 11.30 per cent in 1971. It is noted that the literacy rates were below 10 per cent over a large number of districts in 1961.

Over the decade a total of 215 districts recorded a net gain as against 24 which registered a net loss in the proportion of literates. The change was, however, marginal in as many as 93 districts (Below 2.5 percentage points).

Table 4

#### Percentage Change in Overall Tribal Literacy 1961-71

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
<b>+ Values</b>	
0.01 to 2.50	93
2.50 to 5.00	50
5.00 to 10.00	51
10.00 to 20.00	21
<b>- Values</b>	
-0.01 to - 5.00	21
Above - 5.00	3

Districts which have registered a gain in literacy ranging between 2.5 to 5.0 percentage points make two main clusters - one over eastern Rajasthan and the other on the eastern periphery of the mid-

Indian belt encompassing parts of the Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. Significant tribal districts included in this category of change are Ranchi and Singhbhum. The districts of Mikir Hills, and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the Northeast, Chamba in Himachal Pradesh and the union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli also fall in the same category.

The gains were higher (5-10 per cent) in Raigarh, Rajgarh and Durg (Madhya Pradesh), Sundergarh (Orissa), Patna, Gaya (Bihar), Howrah, West Dinajpur (West Bengal), Garo Hills (Meghalaya), Kohima, Tuensang (Nagaland), Tripura, and Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, Mahasu and Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh).

The districts of Mokokchung, North Cachar Hills, and Mizoram in the Northeast and Mandi and Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh registered a gain of more than 10 percentage points. Calcutta, Saran (Bihar), Greater Bombay, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur (Maharashtra), Alleppey, Trichur and Trivandrum (Kerala), North Cachar Hills, Mokokchung, Mizoram, Bilaspur, Mandi, Daman and Lakshadweep also fall in the same category of positive change.

In all, 24 districts have registered a negative change over the decade. However, it is pertinent to note that barring two cases, there has been no decrease in the absolute population of literates in any of these districts. In the remaining 22 districts the absolute number of literate tribal population has actually gone up.

Notable among the districts which have registered a negative change are Gooch Behar (West Bengal), Saharsa, Purnea (Bihar), Surendranagar, Vadodara, Bharuch (Gujarat), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Cuttack (Orissa), Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh), Mandya, North Kanara, Chitradurga, Raichur (Mysore), Champaran, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) and Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu).

### **Non-Tribal Segment**

A higher rate of literacy characterises the non-tribal population in all the states and union territories. Maximum percentage of literates is found in the state of Kerala (60.86 per cent). The literacy rate is fairly high in Manipur (34.82 per cent), Meghalaya (41.99 per cent), Nagaland (53.78 per cent), Tripura (37.47 per cent), Mizoram (58.70 per cent) and Arunachal Pradesh (34.24 per cent) in the north-east; Himachal Pradesh (32.64 per cent) in the sub-Himalayan north; Gujarat (39.32 per cent), Maharashtra (40.89 per cent), West



Bengal (35.63 per cent), Orissa (31.21 per cent) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (53.22 per cent) in the mid-Indian belt; Karnataka (31.33 per cent and Tamil Nadu (39.69 per cent) in the south; and the union territories of Goa, Daman and Diu (45.04 per cent), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (48.40 per cent) and Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. The literacy rate in these states is higher than the national average for the non-tribal component. The literacy rate is strikingly low in Assam (29.09 per cent), Bihar (20.74 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (25.80 per cent), Rajasthan (20.81 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (25.33 per cent) - lower than the national average.

It is evident from the above discussion that tribal and non-tribal literacy rates remain considerably high in the north-eastern, sub-Himalayan and western littoral states. Further, it is interesting to note that the disparity between tribal and non-tribal literacy rates remain comparatively low in those states where Christianity has made an impact. For example, in the states of the northeast the gap in the literacy rates of the two segments of population is not significantly high. However, certain exceptions are quite striking. Another interesting feature is that tribal literacy remains higher than the national average in those states where the non-tribal literacy rate is also higher than the national average.

### **Tribal Rural Component**

One can hardly see a significant difference in the literacy rates of the tribes living in the rural areas from the ones observed at the aggregate level (Table 5). In fact, the rural segment of the tribes reflects the reality more emphatically. Mizoram has the maximum percentage of literates (51.16 per cent), Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, with 41.37 per cent, closely following. The north-eastern states of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland as well as Kerala, in the south, have a high level of literacy.

Rural tribal literacy remains slightly above the national average of 10.68 per cent in the states of Tripura (14.34 per cent) in the northeast; Himachal Pradesh (15.76 per cent) in the sub-Himalayan north; Bihar (10.73 per cent), Gujarat (13.46 per cent) and Maharashtra (11.11 per cent) in the mid-Indian belt; and Karnataka (12.49 per cent) and Goa, Daman & Diu (11.52 per cent) in the south. However, the literacy rate is low among the rural tribes of Arunachal Pradesh (4.92 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (4.78 per cent), the latter showing the lowest literacy rate among all the states of India.

## Non-Tribal Rural Component

Unlike the rural component of the tribal population non-tribal rural literacy undergoes a sharp decline from the aggregate level. However, this decline is marginal in case of Kerala which has the maximum proportion of literates among the non-tribal population in the rural areas. So is the case with Mizoram (55.24 per cent), and some other states which have exceptionally high rates of literacy among the non-tribes. Rajasthan, with a literacy rate of 15.14 per cent, has the lowest position in a descending order array. Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan all lie below the national average of 24.92 per cent.

It is interesting to observe that in all the states the non-tribal literacy remains considerably high than the tribal literacy, thereby implying an obvious disparity in the literacy rates of the two components of population. However, this does not hold good in the case of either Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, or Mizoram. The gap is much less in the case of these states; the situation is reversed in the case of Meghalaya.

## District Level Patterns

It has been observed in the preceding discussion that the spatial patterning of tribal literacy varies significantly among the Indian states. Obviously, the states are not homogenous spatial units, and it may be of some interest to explore the geographic patterning of the tribal literacy in rural areas at the district level.

Table 5

Tribal and Non-Tribal Literacy Rates in the Rural Segment - 1971  
State Level Patterns

State/Union Territories	Tribal Segment	
	Tribal	Non-Tribal
INDIA	10.68	24.92
Andhra Pradesh	4.78	19.86
Assam	20.31	25.90
Bihar	10.73	17.82
Gujarat	13.46	31.65
Himachal Pradesh	15.76	30.45
Kerala	24.71	59.78
Madhya Pradesh	7.39	19.73
Maharashtra	11.11	32.36
Manipur	27.32	31.13
Meghalaya	23.40	23.49
Mysore	12.49	25.24
Nagaland	22.28	47.16
Orissa	9.20	28.26
Rajasthan	6.17	15.14
Tamil Nadu	8.50	32.37
Tripura	14.34	33.13
Uttar Pradesh	-	-
West Bengal	8.60	27.10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	17.85	43.53
Arunachal Pradesh	4.92	30.94
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.90	55.22
Goa, Daman and Diu	11.52	40.26
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	41.37	73.52
Mizoram	51.16	55.24

The 1971 census indicated that more than 50 per cent of tribal population in the rural areas of Mizoram consisted of literates. The districts of Ernakulam and Trivandrum (Kerala) as well as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi islands, with a little less than one-half of their tribal population enumerated as literates, followed closely. By

way of a comparison, one may notice that there are as many as 19 districts where non-tribal literacy is more than 50 per cent as against one district (Mizoram) where the tribal literacy lies at a level higher than the 50 per cent mark.

The rural literacy ranges between 30 and 40 per cent over Cachar (Assam), Mokokchung (Nagaland), Manipur South and East districts in the northeast, Pithoragarh and Almora (Uttar Pradesh) in the sub-Himalayan north, and Trichur, Kottayam and Quilon (Kerala) in the south.

The literacy rate ranges between 20 and 30 per cent in another twenty-two districts; 11 of these districts lie in the Northeast - 5 in Assam, 3 in Manipur, 2 in Meghalaya and 1 in Nagaland.

The rural tribes of the mid-Indian belt are generally characterized by a low level of literacy. This is evident from the fact that the majority of the tribal population, particularly in the western region, has a literacy rate of less than 5 per cent. There are as many as 47 districts in the literacy range of 10-20 per cent. However, the region is generally backward in terms of the development of literacy. This is evident from the fact that the mid-Indian region is characterized by a consistently low level of literacy. The districts of Tripura, Kamrup, Darrang, Mikir Hills and Tuensang may also be categorised along with these 47 districts of the mid-Indian belt - all lying in the 10-20 per cent range. Among the union territories Daman and the Andaman and Nicobar islands also follow the same pattern (Table 6).

It is interesting to compare these patterns with the general population. Evidently, the rural segment of the non-tribal population has a relatively higher level of literacy in general - the national average literacy rate for the non-tribal segment being as high as 24.92 per cent. It is observed that none of the districts falls in the category of less than 5 per cent literacy. Barring the 3 West Rajasthan districts of Jalor, Barmer and Jaisalmer, the literacy rate of the general population remains above the 10 per cent level. In fact, there are major clusters of districts in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, coastal Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, as well as in coastal Orissa, West Bengal and the Northeast where the literacy remains well above the national average (Table 6).

Table 6.

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Literates in the Total Tribal Population in Rural Areas - 1971

Percentage Categories	Number of Districts
50 - 60	1
40 - 50	3
30 - 40	9
20 - 30	22
15 - 20	24
10 - 15	60
5 - 10	74
0.01 - 5	71

As far as rural literacy for 1961 is concerned it is noted that there were quite a number of districts having a literacy rate of less than 5 per cent in 22 districts only. The rural tribes of Alleppy and Mizoram had the highest level of literacy - 44.44 and 42.19 per cent respectively. The tribal population in the rural areas of Goalpara, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Cachar, Manipur, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Mokokchung, Trichur, Quilon, Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands had attained the literacy level of above 20 per cent.

Table 7

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Literates in the Total Non-Tribal Population in Rural Areas - 1971

Percentage Categories	Number of Districts
Above 60	8
50 - 60	11
40 - 50	13
30 - 40	47
20 - 30	88
15 - 20	59
10 - 15	33
5 - 10	3

## Percentage Change During 1961-71

Tribal literacy has shown significant increase (10-20 per cent points) in eleven districts during 1961-71. The districts included in this category are North Cachar Hills (Assam) and Mokokchung (Nagaland) in the northeast; Mahasu (Himachal Pradesh) in the Sub-Himalayan north; Gaya, Saran (Bihar) and Sangli (Maharashtra) in the mid-Indian belt; and Trichur, Trivandrum, Alleppy (Kerala), Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) in the south and the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands.

Table 8

### Percentage Change in the Rural Tribal Literacy 1961-71

All Rural	
Percentage Groups	Number of Districts
+ Values	
.01 to 2.50	91
2.50 to 5.00	57
5.00 to 10.00	42
10.00 to 20.00	11
20.00 & above	Nil
- Values	
- .01 to - 2.50	18
- 2.50 to - 5.00	6
- 5.00 & above	3

The change in literacy has been of the order of 5 to 10 points per cent in 42 districts. It is interesting to note that such a change has been mostly reported from the districts in the southern states. However, the union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mizoram, Kohima, Tuensang (Nagaland), the two districts of Meghalaya, Mandi, Lahaul-Spiti, Bilaspur, Sirmour and Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh) in the sub-Himalayan north also follow the same trend in decadal change. Maharashtra, with 9 districts reporting such a level of increase in rural tribal literacy, shows a somewhat better picture, among the states lying in the mid-Indian belt. Other districts included in this category are Krishna (Andhra Pradesh), Sabarkantha

(Gujarat), Raigarh, Durg (Madhya Pradesh), West Dinajpur, Howrah and Midnapur (West Bengal). The decadal change has been of the order of less than 5 percentage points in the remaining districts.

In all, 27 districts have reported a negative change. Champaran, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) and Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) among these districts have registered a decline of more than 5.00 points. Most of these districts lie in the mid-Indian tribal belt. Five Assam districts have also registered a negative change.

### **Tribal Urban Component**

In broad correspondence with the general pattern of literacy in the country, tribal literacy in urban areas remains relatively high in almost all the states. On an average, 28.84 per cent of the urban tribals are literate in the country. However, since the urban percentage in the tribal population is low, even this higher proportion of literates among the urban tribes makes little difference in the overall pattern of tribal literacy.

As for general tribal literacy so also in the case of urban component, Mizoram with a literacy rate of 72.00 per cent, holds a leading position. The other states and union territories in the north-eastern region may be ranked in the following order: Tripura (71.12 per cent), Nagaland (63.20 per cent) and Manipur (50.30 per cent). However, Arunachal Pradesh with a literacy rate of 33.85 per cent ranks the lowest. It is also interesting to note that in all these states, excepting Mizoram and Meghalaya, tribes are proportionately more literate than their non-tribal counterparts (Table 9).

Likewise, the states of Kerala (49.71 per cent) and Himachal Pradesh (49.01 per cent) have relatively higher proportion of tribal literates. They are followed by Arunachal Pradesh (33.85 per cent) Bihar 32.34 per cent) and Karnataka (30.03 per cent). The urban tribes of Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have a medium to low level of literacy. The really lagging states are Rajasthan (19.67 per cent), Orissa (18.17 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (15.74 per cent), Tamil Nadu (17.94 per cent) and the union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu (16.56 per cent).

## Non-Tribal Urban Component

On an average, more than one-half of the non-tribal population living in urban areas is literate - the literacy rate being 52.72 per cent. Mizoram tops the list with a literacy rate of 79.27 per cent. But the non-tribals in Mizoram are a category in itself. They consist of groups which have gone there for administrative jobs. The pattern is almost identical in Meghalaya (69.26 per cent) and Tripura (83.77 per cent). The urban literacy is equally high in Kerala (66.36 per cent), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (61.53 per cent) and Himachal Pradesh (60.57 per cent).

Other states and union territories which lie above the national average include Nagaland (59.33 per cent), Assam (58.26 per cent), Maharashtra (58.34 per cent), West Bengal (56.10 per cent), Gujarat (55.86 per cent), Tamil Nadu (56.41 per cent) and Goa, Daman and Diu (56.65 per cent).

The non-tribal population in the urban areas of Manipur, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Karnataka is characterised by a generally low level of literacy (Table 9).



Table 9

Tribal and Non-Tribal Literacy Rates in the Urban Segment  
State Level Patterns - 1971

State/Union Territories	Tribal Segment	
	Tribal	Non-Tribal
INDIA	28.84	52.72
Andhra Pradesh	15.74	47.40
Assam	61.09	58.26
Bi har	32.34	45.40
Gujarat	24.24	53.86
Himachal Pradesh	49.01	60.57
Kerala	49.71	66.36
Madhya Pradesh	21.12	50.16
Maharashtra	25.61	55.34
Manipur	58.30	52.64
Meghalaya	60.40	69.26
Mysore	30.03	51.51
Nagaland	63.20	59.33
Orissa	18.17	51.61
Rajasthan	19.67	43.83
Tamil Nadu	17.94	56.41
Tripura	71.12	63.77
Uttar Pradesh	-	-
West Bengal	22.53	56.10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	61.53
Arunachal Pradesh	38.85	54.38
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-
Goa, Daman and Diu	16.56	56.65
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	-	-
Mizoram	72.00	79.27

#### District Level Patterns

More than 60 per cent of urban tribes in Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills (Assam), Garo Hills (Meghalaya), Mokokuchung (Nagaland), West Bengal Tripura, South

Tripura and Mizoram are literate. With this cluster of districts may be associated the districts of Patna (Bihar), Ernakulam (Kerala) and Pithoragarh (Uttar Pradesh). However, the size of tribal population in these districts is too small to recognise them of having any special significance. Among the districts of the mid-Indian belt, which is characterized by a generally low level of literacy, a few districts stand out remarkably. These include Darjeeling, Calcutta (West Bengal), Monghyr, Ranchi (Bihar), Raigarh (Madhya Pradesh), and Amravati (Maharashtra). It is evident from Table 10 that the tribal literacy goes above 40 per cent in 40 districts only.

Table 10

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Literates in the Total Tribal Population in Urban Areas  
1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
Above 60	13
50 - 60	15
40 - 50	12
30 - 40	37
20 - 30	60
15 - 20	30
10 - 15	30
5 - 10	19
0.01 - 5	5

The districts of Kamong, Siang (Arunachal Pradesh), Warangal (Andhra Pradesh), Bhagalpur, Santhal Parganas (Bihar), Ratlam, Mandla, Seoni (Madhya Pradesh), Rajkot (Gujarat), Mayurbhanj, Baudh Khondmals, Ganjam, Puri (Orissa), Alwar, Ajmer, Tonk and Bundi (Rajasthan) qualify to remain above the national average.

The mid-Indian districts are generally characterized by a low level of literacy among the urban tribes. In fact, most of these districts fall in the below 30 per cent category.

Table 11

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Literates in the Total Non-Tribal Population in Urban Areas - 1971

Percentage Categories	Number of Districts
Above 60	27
50 - 60	94
40 - 50	77
30 - 40	23
20 - 30	1

Tables 10 and 11 provide a comparative framework of the distribution of districts in the various categories of literacy among the tribal and non-tribal population segments.

#### Urban Literacy 1961

The tribal population was confined to the urban areas of 172 districts in 1961. However, due to an addition to the list of Scheduled Tribes in 1971 the number of districts rose to 221. The literacy level was generally high in the north-eastern districts. Among these, Kamrup, Lakhimpur (Assam), Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, Mokokchung (Nagaland) and the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) deserve special mention. The literacy rates were also high in Mikir and North Cachar Hills, Cachar (Assam), Kohima (Nagaland), Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Ranchi (Bihar), Koraput (Orissa), Darjeeling, Calcutta, Purulia (West Bengal), Trivandrum (Kerala) and Madras (Tamil Nadu).

The urban literacy varied between 30 and 40 per cent in Goalpara, Darrang, Sibsagar and Garo Hills. On the other hand, the literacy rate was mostly low in the mid-Indian districts - below 20 per cent.

#### Percentage Change During 1961-71

The main features of decadal change in urban literacy may be described here briefly. The decadal change in urban literacy was quite significant in nine districts - more than 30 per cent points. These districts include Sibsagar (Assam), Garo Hills (Meghalaya), Sangli, Parbhani (Maharashtra), Ernakulam, Kottayam (Kerala), Mysore

(Karnataka) and Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu). These districts are, however, randomly distributed and do not reveal any geographic pattern as such. There were 11 districts which reported a percentage change of 20-30 points. The change was of the order of 15-20 points in 17 districts; 10-15 points in 23 districts and below 10 points in 111 districts. A major cluster of districts with a lower magnitude of percentage change is very significant. Equally significant is the fact that the tribal population in urban areas suffered a negative change in as many as 36 districts. The decline in the proportion of literates among the tribes was remarkable in Koraput, Baudh Khondmals (Orissa), Nilgiris and Salem (Tamil Nadu). All these districts have a sizeable tribal population. There is no evidence to suggest that the urban tribes have greater accessibility to institutions of learning which may bring about significant changes in their status after they migrate to urban areas. What is more important is the period of their stay in the town and the nature of their economic engagement. In fact, most of the tribes which are being drawn into the urban economic functions are absorbed as unskilled labourers in the construction projects or as wage-earners in the tertiary sector. These opportunities do not seem to produce any significant qualitative change in the prospects of their educability.

Table 12

Percentage in Urban Tribal Literacy  
1961-71

Percentage Groups	Number of Districts
<b>+ Values</b>	
.01 to 5.00	53
5.00 to 10.00	58
10.00 to 15.00	23
15.00 to 20.00	17
20.00 to 30.00	11
30.00 & Above	9
<b>- Values</b>	
.01 to - 5.00	13
- 5.00 to - 10.00	13
-10.00 to - 15.00	
-15.00 & Above	8

## MALE LITERACY

In the process of spread of literacy, it is the male population which benefits most. The developments over the decades since independence have drawn the tribal males towards education which they are adopting as a tool of great value, in the procurement of jobs and improvement of job requirements as well as a means of achieving higher goals in life. The literacy rate of the tribal males stood at 17.63 per cent in 1971.

In fact, the total tribal literacy rate is pulled down by the poor literacy rates for the tribal females (4.85 per cent). There is obviously a wide gap between the male and female literacy rates.

A little over 2 million tribal males were enumerated as literate by the 1961 census. Their number rose to 3.3 million in 1971. On the other hand, the number of illiterate tribal males swelled from 13.1 to 15.7 millions over the decade 1961-71.

There are large regional disparities in the literacy levels as one moves from the North-east to the South. The following regional pattern is identified. Mizoram is the most advanced area from the view-point of tribal male literacy. It alone accounts for 2.76 per cent of the total tribal male literates in the country - the male literacy rate being as high as 60.24 per cent. Thus for every three literate males there are only two illiterate males in Mizoram. The other areas of substantial advance in tribal male literacy are Lakshadweep, Rajkot, Pithoragarh, Almora, Patna and Calcutta. It may be noted that the absolute population of tribes in these districts is very small. More than one-half of the tribal males are literate in these districts. However, the share of the male literates in these districts to the total tribal male literates is rather very meagre (0.42 per cent). Male literacy ranges between 40 and 50 per cent in a set of 13 districts. Included among these districts are Mokokuchung, Manipur South, Central and East in the North-east and Chamoli and Lahaul-Spiti in the Sub-Himalayan North. Greater Bombay, Madras, Trichur, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Trivandrum districts also fall in the same category.

The male literacy ranges between 30 and 40 per cent in another thirty districts. Nine of these districts are in the North-east forming a contiguous cluster over the larger part of Assam, Kohima in

Nagaland, Manipur North and the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Mahasu and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh also belong to the same category.

There are 59 districts in the 20-30 per cent category. Then, there are 112 districts which are characterized by low literacy rates. The ratio of literate to illiterate population in these districts ranges between 1:4 to 1:19.

### Percentage Change During 1961-71

Significant changes have taken place in the level of male literacy during the 1961-71 decade. The male literacy rates have improved from 13.69 per cent in 1961 to 17.63 per cent in 1971 registering an increase of 3.94 per cent points.

A study of change in the male literacy leads to the following broad generalisations (Table 13). Ten districts have recorded an increase of 20 points or more. Notable among these districts are North Cachar Hills and Manipur districts in the Northeast, Greater Bombay, Sangli (Maharashtra), Saran (Bihar), Calcutta (West Bengal), Rajkot (Gujarat), Bikaner (Rajasthan) and Kilar (Karnataka). The gains have been very high (15 to 20 percentage points) in Lakshadweep. On the otherhand, there are 35 districts in the category of 10-15 per cent points. Notable among this category are the districts of Nagaland and Tripura.

Table 13

#### Percentage Change in Overall Tribal Male Literacy - 1961-71

Percentage Groups	Frequency of Districts
<b>+ Values</b>	
0.01 to 5.00	101
5.00 to 10.00	57
10.00 to 15.00	35
15.00 to 20.00	3
Above 20.00	10
<b>- Values</b>	
-01.00 to - 5.00	27
- 5.00 to - 10.00	2
- Above - 10.00	2

In another 57 districts, the advance in the male literacy level has been slightly above the national average. Mizoram, Mikir Hills, Garo Hills, West Dinajpur and Malda are included in this category.

The decadal change has been close to national average in as many as 101 districts. These districts form a cluster in mid-India stretching from western Rajasthan and Gujarat to Bihar, West Bengal and the adjoining parts of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

So far as male literacy is concerned the negative change has been less pronounced than in the case of overall literacy.

### **Rural Male Component**

At the 1971 census, there were 16.92 per cent literate among the tribal male population in rural areas at the all India aggregative level. This may be compared with the non-tribal literacy rates of 35.26 per cent. Thus, given the generally backward conditions prevailing in the rural areas, tribes are much more badly placed as their depressingly low level of literacy indicates.

### **State Level Patterns**

As is evident from Table 14 there are substantial variations in the literacy levels of rural males among the states and union territories. Like other components of literacy, Mizoram with a literacy rate of 58.25 per cent ranks first, closely followed by the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (54.06 per cent), else the proportion of literates exceeds 40 per cent in no other states. The rural male literacy is also high in manipur (37.18 per cent) and Kerala (30.91 per cent). These facts, however, conform to the general patterns noticed in the preceding discussion.

In a nutshell, states and union territories which rank above the national average can be arranged in the following descending order: Assam (29.28 per cent), Nagaland (28.29 per cent), Meghalaya (27.12 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (26.09 per cent), Tripura (22.86 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (21.35 per cent), Gujarat (21.04 per cent), Mysore (19.44 per cent), Maharashtra (18.26 per cent), Bihar (17.41 per cent), and Goa, Daman & Diu (18.86 per cent).

The really lagging states in this respect include Arunachal Pradesh (8.32 per cent), Orissa (16.07 per cent), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (15.30 per cent), West Bengal (14.20 per cent), Madhya Pradesh

(12.72 per cent), Rajasthan (11.56 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (7.73 per cent), and Tamil Nadu (12.76 per cent). As in the case of overall rural population so also in respect of rural male literacy Andhra Pradesh holds the lowest position (Table 14).

### **Non-Tribal Males**

The national average for the non-tribal males is much higher than for the tribes, even though the state-wise variations are equally significant (Table 13). Around 81 per cent of the non-tribal males were returned as literates in Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (80.60 per cent). On the mainland this high level of male literacy is matched by Dadra and Nagar Haveli (66.14 per cent) and Kerala (66.09 per cent). Only Mizoram (58.65 per cent) Nagaland (55.82 per cent), Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Goa, Daman & Diu (50.70 per cent) may also be classified in the high percentage category. It is interesting to note that the non-tribal males in Mizoram have a lower rate of literacy than their tribal counterparts. The non-tribal share in the rural population of Mizoram is, however, very small.

Other states in the North-east characterized by a relatively high rate of male literacy include Manipur (46.02 per cent) and Tripura (42.73 per cent). The literacy rates are also high in Himachal Pradesh (41.81 per cent), Maharashtra (45.45 per cent), Tamil Nadu (46.50 per cent), Arunachal Pradesh (39.50 per cent), West Bengal (37.52 per cent) and Mysore (35.56 per cent). In all these states/union territories male literacy remains above the national average.

The male literacy is below the national average in Assam (34.34 per cent), Meghalaya (30.88 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (28.04 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (31.36 per cent), Bihar (28.67 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (28.33 per cent), and Rajasthan (24.76 per cent).



Table 14

Male Literacy in Rural and Urban Areas  
1971

States/Union Territories	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Tribal	Non- Tribal	Tribal	Non- Tribal	Tribal	Non- Tribal
INDIA	17.63	41.02	16.92	35.26	37.09	61.55
Andhra Pradesh	8.47	34.00	7.73	28.33	21.84	57.66
Assam	29.78	37.48	29.38	34.34	68.75	64.14
Bihar	18.45	31.78	17.41	28.67	40.98	55.98
Gujarat	21.83	49.97	21.04	42.86	33.57	64.91
Himachal Pradesh	26.25	43.90	26.09	41.87	60.06	66.78
Kerala	32.01	67.07	30.91	66.09	58.19	72.03
Madhya Pradesh	13.05	37.49	12.72	31.36	31.02	61.08
Maharashtra	19.06	52.99	18.26	45.45	36.09	67.12
Manipur	38.64	49.32	37.18	46.02	68.33	65.49
Meghalaya	30.11	48.60	27.12	30.88	64.93	52.17
Mysore	21.71	41.78	19.44	35.56	39.62	60.48
Nagaland	30.17	60.49	28.29	55.82	70.83	64.18
Orissa	16.38	44.79	16.07	42.62	26.58	62.66
Rajasthan	12.03	31.02	11.56	24.76	31.06	55.91
Tamil Nadu	13.34	52.07	12.76	46.50	23.38	66.82
Tripura	23.60	46.90	22.86	42.73	80.91	72.11
Uttar Pradesh	22.51	31.25	21.35	28.04	35.13	52.11
West Bengal	14.49	44.46	14.20	37.52	26.08	62.19
A & N Islands	24.14	58.86	24.14	51.61	-	66.93
Arunachal Pradesh	8.72	42.78	8.31	39.50	46.82	61.76
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15.30	66.14	15.30	66.14	-	-
Goa, Daman & Diu	20.33	54.61	18.86	50.70	24.82	64.71
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands	54.06	80.60	54.06	80.60	-	-
Mizoram	60.24	62.91	58.25	58.65	75.85	92.54

## District Level Patterns

Male literacy among the rural population of Mizoram remains the highest (58.25 per cent). The male literacy level is equally high in the districts of Almora (52.28 per cent) and Pithoragarh (50.80 per cent) as well as in Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (54.06 per cent). South and East districts of Manipur, Mokokchung (Nagaland), Lahaul-Spiti (Himachal Pradesh), falling in the 40-50 per cent range closely follow.

Some 30 to 40 per cent males are literate in a set of 20 districts, notable among them being Goalpara, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Cachar (Assam), North and Central districts of Manipur and Kohima (Nagaland), Mahasu, Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh), Chamoli (Uttar Pradesh) and Durg (Madhya Pradesh).

The male literacy rates vary between 20 and 30 per cent in 50 districts. This category of districts includes Manipur West, Garo Hills and the united Khasi and Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya), North Tripura, Mandi, Bilaspur, Sirmour (Himachal Pradesh), Nainital, HarDOI (Uttar Pradesh), Bilaspur, Raigarh, Raipur (Madhya Pradesh), Howrah (West Bengal), Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

There are forty-seven districts where the male literacy is slightly higher than the national average of 16.92 per cent (Tables 15 and 16).

Table 15

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Literates in the Male Population among the Tribes in Rural Areas  
1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
50 - 60	4
40 - 50	9
30 - 40	20
20 - 30	53
15 - 20	47
10 - 15	46
5 - 10	62
0.01 - 5	21

The remaining 129 districts fall in the range of less than 15 per cent. Significant among the districts having a male literacy rate of less than 10 are the Arunachal Pradesh districts of Subansiri and Tirap as well as the significantly tribal districts of Udaipur (Rajasthan), Dhar, Khargone, Betul, Bastar (Madhya Pradesh), Hazeribagh (Bihar), Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Adilabad (Andhra Pradesh).

### Male Literacy - 1961

On the whole, 13.23 per cent of the rural tribal males were enumerated as literate in 1961. Understandably the highest literacy rate of 51.55 per cent was reported from Mizoram. Male literacy rates were above 30 per cent in a number of districts, viz., Goalpara, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Cachar (Assam), Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh), Kottayam, Ernakulam (Kerala), and the Union territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. The tribal males in 24 districts were classified in the 20-30 per cent category. However, a significant feature to note that in as many as 139 districts literacy rates are less than 13.26 per cent. This number is as large as 139. They include 49 districts of the mid-Indian tribal belt - where the tribal male literacy fails to cross the 5 per cent mark.

Table 16

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Literates in the Male Population other than Tribes in Rural Areas  
1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
Above 60	18
50 - 60	18
40 - 50	52
30 - 40	84
20 - 30	80
15 - 20	10
10 - 15	1

## Percentage Change During 1961-71

The 1961-71 witnessed significant developments in the spread of literacy in the tribal areas of the country. The impact of the literacy programmes was, however, far from uniform, and there were striking differences in the spatial patterning of the percentage change in male literacy between 1961 and 1971. The literacy change was very significant in the North Cachar Hills district - more than 20 percentage points. Jalgaon, Sengli (Maharashtra), Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) and Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands registered a change of 15 to 20 points. The change was also quite significant - 10 to 15 points - in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland (Table 17).

Table 17

### Percentage Change in Rural Male Literacy 1961-71

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
+ Values	
.01 to 3.50	91
3.50 to 5.00	29
5.00 to 10.00	68
10.00 to 15.00	23
15.00 to 20.00	4
20 & Above	6
- Values	
- .01 to - 3.50	11
- 3.50 to - 5.00	4
- 5.00 & Above	Nil

### Urban Male Component

There are significant disparities in the literacy rates of the tribal males living in rural and urban areas. This is evident from the fact that the literacy rate of the rural males is as low as 10.68 per cent as against 37.09 per cent for the urban males. Within the urban areas, however, the gap is even more ghastly between the tribal and non-tribal males - the respective literacy rates being 37.09 and 61.55 per cent (Table 14).

## State Level Patterns

Table 14 reveals that there is a high degree of variation in the literacy attainment of the tribal males in the different states and the union territories. The non-tribal male literacy, on the other hand, is marked by a relatively high degree of consistency. The tribal male literacy varies between 21.84 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 80.91 per cent in Tripura. If one excludes Mizoram, the non-tribal literacy varies from 52.11 per cent in Uttar Pradesh to 72.11 per cent in Tripura. The urban males have a high level of literacy in Mizoram tribal (75.85 per cent) and the non-tribal (92.54 per cent) segments.

The literacy levels are generally low in mid-Indian states where male literacy rarely exceeds 40 per cent. The southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka also fall in the same category. Another striking feature of Table 14 is that literacy rates are consistently high in the urban areas of the Northeastern states. Barring Arunachal Pradesh, literacy remains above 60 per cent in all these states.

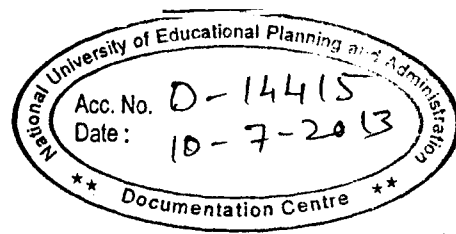
Non-tribal males in the peripheral states of Kerala, Tripura and Mizoram have the highest level of literacy - above 70 per cent. The literate males account for 60 to 70 per cent of all males in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa Daman and Diu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The lowest levels of literacy (Below 60 per cent) are seen in Meghalaya, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

It is evident from Table 14 that the disparity in the levels of literacy between the tribal and non-tribal males in the urban areas is remarkably high in all the states of the mid-Indian region. The gap is less significant in the Northeast as well as in Himachal Pradesh.

It is interesting to note that the tribal males have a higher literacy level than their non-tribal counterparts in all the states in the Northeast, excluding Mizoram.

## District Level Patterns

The male literacy reaches a very high level - above 60 per cent - in 26 districts (Table 18). Notable among these districts are Manipur South and Central districts, the two districts of Meghalaya, Kohima, Mokokchung (Nagaland), Tripura West and South in the Northeast; Patna, Monghyr (Bihar); Amravati (Maharashtra), Boudh



Khondmals (Orissa) in the mid-Indian region; Chamoli, Pithoragarh and Almora (Uttar Pradesh) in the Sub-Himalayan North; and Cannanore and Ernakulam (Kerala) in the South. The highest literacy rate was reported from Ernakulam (89 per cent).

Table 18

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Urban Tribal Male Literacy, 1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
Above 60	26
50 - 60	22
40 - 50	35
30 - 40	49
20 - 30	46
15 - 20	22
10 - 15	16
5 - 10	5
0.01 - 5	1
Nil	51

From 50 to 60 per cent males are literate in Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), Ranchi (Bihar), Rajkot (Gujarat), Seoni, Raigarh (Madhya Pradesh), Poona, Sangli, Parbhani, Nanded, Yeotmal (Maharashtra), Puri (Orissa), Alwar, Tonk, Bundi (Rajasthan) and Calcutta (West Bengal), Kozhikode (Kerala), Bangalore, Kolar (Karnataka), Dharmapuri and Salem (Tamil Nadu).

Male literacy rates range between 40 and 50 per cent in 35 districts. Significant tribal districts included in this category are Mandla, Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh), Mayurbhanj, Ganjam (Orissa) and Kameng (Arunachal Pradesh). Notable among the districts where the male literacy lies in close proximity to the national average are Sabarkantha, Surat, Vadodara, Valsad (Gujarat), Jhabua, Raisen, Betul, Durg, Raipur, Chhindwara, Surguja, Bastar (Madhya Pradesh), Sawai Madhopur, Dungarpur, Banswara (Rajasthan), Darjeeling (West Bengal), Nasik, Dhulia, Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Sundergarh and Bolangir (Orissa).

The literacy rates go down to below 30 per cent in the remaining 80 districts.

## Male Literacy, 1961

The average literacy among males was generally low - the national average being 30.42 per cent. However, there were striking inter-regional differences in the literacy attainments of the urban males. More than 60 per cent of the urban male population was returned as literate in Kamrup, Lakhimpur (Assam), all districts of Manipur and Tripura and Mokokchung (Nagaland). The proportion of literates exceeded 70 per cent in Mizoram, Tripura, Kamrup and Mokokchung. From one-half to three-fifths of male population was returned as literate in Mikir and North Cachar Hills (Assam), United Khasi and Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya), Kohima (Nagaland), Koraput (Orissa) and Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu).

On the other end of the scale is a bunch of 14 districts, distributed all over the country, in which more than 90 per cent of the male population was comprised by illiterates only.

## Percentage Change During 1961-71

It is evident from Table 18 that the decadal change in urban male literacy was remarkably high in a bunch of 30 districts which reported a change from 10 to above 40 percentage points. It may, however, be noted that phenomenal changes were reported only from districts which had a small population of literates in the base year of 1961. A little addition to this population implied a large percentage change over the decade. Districts figuring in the category of above 40 percentage points include Poona, Satara, Sangli, Parbhani (Maharashtra), Kottayam (Kerala) and Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu). The percentage change ranged between 30 and 40 points in another 6 districts.

Table 19

Percentage Change in Urban Male Literacy  
1961-71

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
<b>+ Values</b>	
.01 to 5.00	35
5.00 to 10.00	43
10.00 to 20.00	51
20.00 to 30.00	17
30.00 to 40.00	6
40.00 & Above	6
<b>- Values</b>	
- .01 to - 5.00	19
- 5.00 to - 10.00	7
-10.00 & above	19

Reference may be made here to a set of 45 districts in which a negative change was registered over the decade. Notable among these are Koraput, Boud-Khondmals (Orissa), Bankura (West Bengal), Bastar (Madhya Pradesh), Sabarkantha (Gujarat), Nilgiris and Salem (Tamil Nadu).

#### FEMALE LITERACY

The 1971 census enumerated 914,212 literate females as against 3.3 million males among the Indian tribes. It is, therefore, obvious that the male-female literacy rates, which stood at 17.63 and 4.85 per cent respectively, indicated the ghastly gap between the two sexes.

A descending order table of the female literacy rates shows that the outer limits are 46.88 per cent (Mizoram) and zero (Datia). The latter district of Madhya Pradesh had the distinction of having not even a single literate person in a population of 2,437 women.

The number of districts in the upper quartile is very small. Highest level of female literacy is reported from Mizoram (46.88 per cent) followed by Madras and Ernakulam. Together these three districts account for more than 8 per cent of the total tribal female



literate of the country. Literacy rates range between 30 and 40 per cent in Kottayam and Trivandrum. A striking feature of female literacy is that high levels are generally reported from districts in which the tribes have a small population. The districts mentioned above as well as Lakshadweep are, however, exceptions to this generalisation.

The most important feature of the female literacy is that it remains generally low in large parts of the country. Thus, there are 82 districts in which the literate females account for 5 to 20 per cent of the total female population. The predominantly tribal districts of the Northeast as well as of the mid-Indian region are included in this category. A set of 169 districts, with a literacy rate ranging between 0.01 to 5 per cent may also be bracketed together with the 82 districts mentioned above to complete this account of the female literacy at the district level (Table 20). The general position is highly depressing.

Table 20

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Tribal Female Literacy, 1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
Above 60	0
50 - 60	0
40 - 50	3
30 - 40	2
20 - 30	15
15 - 20	15
10 - 15	18
5 - 10	49
0.01 - 5.00	169

#### Percentage Change During 1961-71

Table 21 presents an overall view of the percentage change in female literacy during 1961-71. Evidently, the decadal change has not been remarkable by any means. As many as 101 districts reported a change of less than 1.50 percentage points. In fact, the national average of the decadal change is in itself very small - 1.72 percentage points.

A perusal of the decadal change at the level of the district reveals interesting inter-regional disparity. The literacy change has been quite impressive in Madras (21.95 percentage points) followed by Mizoram, Greater Bombay, Sangli, Hyderabad and Bangalore. Such a disparate category of districts does not reveal any role of a process or a set of forces which might be identified as contributing to an advance in literacy.

Table 21

Percentage Change in Tribal Female Literacy  
1961-71

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
<b>+ Values</b>	
0.01 to 1.50	110
1.50 to 2.00	12
2.00 to 5.00	50
5.00 to 10.00	27
10.00 to 20.00	10
Above 20.00	1
<b>- Values</b>	
- 0.01 to - 1.50	16
- 1.50 to - 2.00	2
- 2.00 to - 5.00	3
Above - 5.00	3

In all, 210 districts reported a positive change as against 24 districts in which a negative change was registered.

**Rural Female Component**

At the 1971 census, there were only 4.36 per cent literates among the tribal female population at the all-India aggregative level. It may be noted that the difference between the rural female literacy and the overall female literacy is only marginal since an overwhelming proportion of the tribal female population lives in the rural areas only.

## State Level Patterns

Barring Mizoram, which records an exceptionally high level of female literacy, the literacy level for the rural females rarely exceeds 20 per cent in the states and union territories. Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Assam in the Northeast and Kerala in the South have a high literacy level - ranging between 10 and 20 per cent. It is interesting to note that the literacy rates for the rural tribal females are extremely low in Tripura (5.42 per cent) and Arunachal Pradesh (1.56 per cent).

Besides, the literates among the rural tribal females are exceedingly small in number, in most of the states in the mid-Indian region and in Uttar Pradesh - the literate females accounting for less than 5 per cent of the rural female population in these regions.

The tribal female literacy may be compared with the non-tribal female literacy. It is evident from Table 22 that the impact of literacy on the non-tribal female segment has been quite significant and that the tribal females have to go a long way to catch up with the general population.

It may also be observed that the impact of literacy continues to be marginal on non-tribal females in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The progress of literacy continues to be painfully slow within the core region of North India.

It is only in the Northeast, particularly in Meghalaya and Mizoram, that the tribal females have an edge over their non-tribal counterparts.

Table 22

Percentage of Rural Female Literacy, 1971  
By States/Union Territories

State/Union Territories	Percentage	
	Tribal	Non-Tribal
INDIA	4.36	13.98
Andhra Pradesh	1.76	11.35
Assam	10.90	16.59
Bihar	4.13	6.62
Gujarat	5.68	19.79
Himachal Pradesh	5.45	18.74
Kerala	18.47	53.61
Madhya Pradesh	2.05	7.40
Maharashtra	3.79	19.08
Manipur	17.59	15.68
Meghalaya	19.65	13.82
Karnataka	6.32	14.62
Nagaland	16.12	24.14
Orissa	2.38	15.21
Rajasthan	0.41	4.64
Tamil Nadu	4.02	19.13
Tripura	5.42	22.89
Uttar Pradesh	4.33	7.00
West Bengal	2.77	16.02
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	11.17	30.38
Arunachal Pradesh	1.56	12.79
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.59	43.76
Goa, Daman and Diu	4.32	31.31
Lakshadweep	28.94	60.67
Mizoram	44.24	36.49

### District Level Patterns

A perusal of Table 23 leads to the identification of the following broad patterns.

Like all other components of literacy, Mizoram with a rural female literacy of 44.24 per cent easily holds the first rank. The union territory is closely followed by Ernakulam, Kottayam and Trivandrum districts. The rural female literacy in the three Kerala districts ranges from 35 to 40 per cent.

A few exceptions apart, most of the districts in the Northeast fall in the literacy category of 20 to 30 per cent. Outside the Northeast, the only notable cases of moderately high literacy are reported from Himachal Pradesh and a number of districts in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. As is evident from Table 23 the largest number of districts is clustered in the percentage categories where the female literacy is either depressingly low or negligible.

Table 23

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Rural Tribal Female Literacy, 1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
Above 60	0
50 - 60	0
40 - 50	2
30 - 40	2
20 - 30	8
15 - 20	9
10 - 15	17
5 - 10	44
0.01 - 5	172

#### Rural Female Literacy, 1961

Evidently the geographic patterning of female literacy has not undergone any significant change since 1961. Kerala and Mizoram were holding a leading position even in 1961 as they did in 1971. The literacy rates were generally moderately high in the North-eastern districts. Outside the Northeast, Cooch Behar (West Bengal), Ranchi (Bihar) and Surat (Gujarat) present exceptional cases in which the female literacy ranged between 5 and 10 per cent.

## Percentage Change During 1961 - 71

The earlier observation that so far as the rural females are concerned, literacy drives have hardly been able to make any perceptible impact is borne out by Table 24. There are only 9 districts in which the change has been between 10 and 30 percentage points. Included in this category of change are Mizoram, Mahasu and Bilaspur districts of Himachal Pradesh, Sangli in Maharashtra and Lakshadweep, besides a number of districts in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Then, there is a set of 67 districts in which the literacy rates have registered a gain by 1.5 to 5.00 percentage points. On the other hand, bulk of the districts, do not report any progress over the decade. In fact, there are as many as 30 districts which have registered a negative change over the decade 1961-71.

Table 24

### Percentage Change in Rural Female Literacy 1961-71

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
+ Values	
.01 to 1.50	101
1.50 to 2.00	15
2.00 to 3.00	21
3.00 to 5.00	31
5.00 to 10.00	22
10.00 to 20.00	7
20.00 to 30.00	2
- Values	
- .01 to - 1.50	25
- 1.50 to - 2.00	2
- 2.00 to - 3.00	1
- 3.00 & Above	2

### Urban Female Component

The literacy levels are generally high among the females in the urban areas. According to 1971 census, the national average for tribal female literacy in urban areas was about 20 per cent. However,

the national average conceals the higher levels of literacy which are generally observed in the states and union territories of the Northeast, and in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala. Perhaps, the higher proportion of literates among the tribal females in urban areas shows an impact of the ongoing process of modernisation. Although, the proportion of tribes in the urban population is generally low, their literacy rates are relatively high both in the male and female components. Evidently, the tribes are being gradually assimilated into the urban ethos and are transforming socially and culturally.

Table 25 presents an overall view of the female literacy in the tribal and the non-tribal segments. The inter-state variations range between 68.16 per cent in Mizoram to 4.30 per cent in Rajasthan. Literacy rates remain consistently high in the Northeast as well as in Himachal Pradesh and Kerala. Females in the urban areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have attained moderately high levels of literacy - 19 to 23 per cent. The states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Goa, Daman & Diu display a depressingly low level of literacy among the females.

Table 25

Percentage of Urban Female Literacy, 1971  
By States/Union Territories

State/Union Territories	Percentage	
	Tribal	Non-Tribal
INDIA	19.64	42.41
Andhra Pradesh	9.16	36.59
Assam	50.09	50.36
Bihar	22.83	32.25
Gujarat	13.78	45.74
Himachal Pradesh	38.10	52.28
Kerala	41.28	60.68
Madhya Pradesh	10.11	37.57
Maharashtra	13.91	47.61
Manipur	47.47	39.62
Meghalaya	56.21	63.39
Karnataka	19.26	41.68
Nagaland	54.63	43.05
Orissa	9.39	38.36
Rajasthan	4.30	30.05
Tamil Nadu	12.28	45.46
Tripura	59.70	54.87
Uttar Pradesh	21.24	33.34
West Bengal	17.74	48.00
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	51.86
Arunachal Pradesh	19.22	35.77
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-
Goa, Daman and Diu	7.22	47.54
Lakshadweep	-	-
Mizoram	68.16	44.91

### District Level Patterns

A study of Table 26 coupled with map depicting spatial patterns reveal that from two-fifths to three-fourths of the female population is literate in the urban areas of Ernakulam (Kerala), Garo Hills (Meghalaya), Mokokchung (Nagaland), South Tripura and Mizoram.



Barring Arunachal Pradesh, the other districts in the Northeast display very high female literacy rates - 50 to 60 per cent. From 20 to 50 per cent of the female population in the predominantly tribal districts of the mid-Indian region, such as Surat, Valsar (Gujarat), Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh) and Santhal Parganas (Bihar) are literate. A striking feature to note is that in a big chunk of space female literacy rates are very low.

Table 26

Frequency Distribution of Districts According to the Percentage of Urban Female Literacy, 1971

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
Above 60	0
50 - 60	0
40 - 50	14
30 - 40	7
20 - 30	27
15 - 20	27
10 - 15	36
5 - 10	48
0.01 - 5	49

Urban Female Literacy, 1961

It may be observed that the broad patterns of female literacy in 1961 were not much different than what they were in 1971. Urban females of Mokokchung and Mizoram were characterised by the highest level of literacy - above 60 per cent. The female literacy remained above 50 per cent in Kamrup (Assam), Tripura and Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu). The proportion of literates among the urban females of Ranchi (Bihar), Koraput (Orissa), Darjeeling (West Bengal), Kannanore, Kozhikode, Trichur, Ernakulam, Trivandrum (Kerala), Madras and Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu) was moderately high - 20 to 30 per cent. Notable among the districts lying above the national average are Patna (Bihar), Ajmer (Rajasthan) and Calcutta (West Bengal). The female literacy, however, remained at a very low level in a very large number of districts.

Table 27

Percentage Change in Urban Female Literacy  
1961-71

Percentage Categories	Frequency of Districts
<b>+ Values</b>	
.01 to 5.00	87
5.00 to 10.00	34
10.00 to 20.00	26
20.00 to 30.00	15
30.00 to 40.00	4
40.00 to 50.00	2
<b>- Values</b>	
- .01 to - 5.00	15
- 5.00 to - 10.00	5
-10.00 & Below	8

### Percentage Change During 1961-71

Table 27 presents an overall view of the change registered during the 1961-71 decade in the literacy rates of the urban component of the tribal females. It is evident that the tribal females have registered notable change in their literacy levels during the decade 1961-71. The decadal change was of the order of 20 to 50 percentage points in more than 20 districts. However, most of these districts are located in the Northeast, Himachal or Kerala. The change has been negligible over as many as 87 districts. There has been an actual decline in the female literacy rates in 28 districts. It is interesting to note that Koraput, Boud Khondmals (Orissa) and Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu) are included in this category. The negative change reflects significantly the impact of migration or differential rates of natural increase within the tribal regions. However, the question can not be answered satisfactorily with the help of census data alone.

### LITERACY INEQUITY IN AN EQUITIOUS SOCIETY : NATURE OF THE PARADOX

The scheduled tribes belong to the chunk of Indian population which is generally perceived as socially deprived. While the scheduled castes and the other socially lagging groups, such as women, are also deprived in their own way, tribal deprivation is a class in itself.

It is not a sub-set of the general deprivation since it emanates from an entirely different social and historical context.

The origins of the tribal deprivation need to be traced particularly in the context of the renewed concern for the upliftment of the lot of the deprived and the under-privileged in contemporary India.

For ages the tribal communities of India have lived in the relatively isolated pockets, or culs-de-sac, away from the fertile river-valleys, and outside the framework of the peasant formations. The geographic patterning of the tribal communities as observed on a map of India offers clues to the distribution process of social categories within the Indian space. The tribes are today concentrated in a mid-Indian belt which girdles the entire expanse of the country from the west coast in Gujarat and Maharashtra to the east coast in Orissa and the Rajmahal hills on the southern bank of the Ganga in Bihar-Bengal. The central Indian Vindhyan complex, which is characterised by its rugged and uneven topography, where the plateau follows the plateau and the hills follow the hills, has offered shelter to those primeval culture groups, distinctly pre-agrarian in their social and geographical isolation and survived the upheavals that unfolded the successive acts of the drama of social change among the peasant communities within the river valleys of the north and the south. Kosambi noted it as an expression of the survival of the past.

A second major concentration of the tribes is seen on the north-eastern periphery of India. Nestled within the complex of the sub-Himalayan ranges, the Indo-Burmese hills of Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram and the erosion surfaces of the Meghalayan plateau, the tribes of northeast India have a world of their own. Having lived in the marchland between India and China and in the triangle where the Indian and the Chinese worlds meet, they have picked up the impression that they belong to none. The boundaries of the British Empire, as they were defined in the north-east left the tribal question as an irrelevant adjunct of the territorial question.

The geographic patterning of the tribal communities of India fits so admirably into the regional scheme as developed by subba Rao. The locational constraints have exercised far-reaching impact on their world-view, social responses to the agrarian formations and the pattern of interaction with the neighbouring peasant communities. While not subscribing to the theory of the forties who perceived the tribe as the archetype and a social isolate, there is no gainsaying

the fact that the problems of the Indian tribes in contemporary India cannot be understood if they are delinked from the immediate context of their geographical isolation. The anthropological theory of interaction, glorified recently, hardly explain sthe empirical reality.

The present concern for the scheduled tribes and the question of the tribal non-tribal inequity in educational development should be looked in the context of the specifics of the tribal formations. The vast world of the tribes lies away from the caste society and much outside the pale of Hinudism. The gradual proces of spilover of the peasant communities from the thickly settled riverain plains brought them face to face with the tribal communities. On the fringe of crucial significance started the process of assimilation of the tribal groups into the stratified order of the caste society. It is therefore, important to note that on the fringe of traditional Hinduism the tribes were first exposed to social stratification and later to formal learning or education. In fact, the caste society treated them as lying outside the framework of the Varna system, and thus disquaified them from being covered by the prevalent system of formal education.

The enequity within the tribal society is not in situ but introduced from outside. Historically, tribal societies have not nurtured inequity in the name of sex, age, status, social background or material well-being. The tribes have lived away from caste societies for so long that they could not contact social stratification based on caste hierarchy. The tribal tradition of work has rarely distinguished between male and female components of population. The women were as vitally linked with the social organization of the tribes as the men. And yet the male-female inequity in literacy and education among the tribes in contemporary India is quite significant, particularly in the mid-Indian belt.

The second subset of the tribal society is seen in the northeast. There they were exposed to the exogenetic influences of the European colonial origin. The process of colonial expansion initiated them into Christianity and into the process of modernisation without much disturbing the tribal social order. There were historically determined and geographically defined limits in which Christian influences managed to percolate into the fastness of the tribal world. The contact with the Christian missionaries resulted in a differential pattern in the magnitude of the Christian impact as a motive force to modernisation. The male-female inequity in the tribal literacy in the

northeast, insignificant as it is, may be cited as an evidence of the missionary influence. Their path to education was not constrained by the ingrained discrimination of the social order.

The development of underdevelopment in education within the caste societies belongs to a different genre. Among the caste societies social stratification has generally acted as a barrier in the way of universal spread of education among the different strata of population. The low castes were not only alienated from the institutions of formal learning but also from the means of production. The institutionalised framework of social inequality engendered economic inequality and retained the landless working classes as a specimen of disguised slavery. The social system thus operated as a constraint on the universal spread of education and curtailed the capability of education to make an impact on the working classes which remained by and large outside the ambit of institutionalised learning.

This model of socially-evolved deprivation cannot be applied to the tribal society. Their problems will have to be appreciated in an entirely different logical frame.

The following paragraphs make an attempt to explore the nature of inequity in literacy among tribal population with the help of modified sopher's disparity index.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Male - Female Inequity among the Rural Scheduled Tribes**

Male-Female differentiation among the tribal population is a phenomenon of the recent past. Away from the river valleys the tribal societies have remained aloof of the process of social stratification so characteristic of the peasant societies. The low level of technology and the persistence of primitive economic order do not seem to allow this process of social stratification to take its roots within the tribal societies. However, with the process of interaction between the tribal and the non-tribal groups and the opening up of the tribal territories have disrupted the tribal social and economic order. The impact of the process of social transformation has not, however, been equal on the two sexes. This is evident from the fact that the rural males have a literacy rate of 22.94 as against the female literacy rate of 6.81 per cent. However, the magnitude of this differentiation varies significantly from district to district. Areas where women have been exposed to the outside influences in the wake of missionary activity the gap has been reduced considerably. Table 28 presents the overall picture in this respect.

Table 28

Frequency Distribution of Districts by Categories of  
Male-Female Inequity in Literacy among Scheduled Tribes  
in Rural Areas - 1981

Below 0.25	13
0.25-0.50	32
0.50-0.75	44
0.75-1.0	53
Above 1.0	33

District excluded from Analysis	227
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It is evident from Fig. 28 that the districts with very low level of inequity lie in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Lakshadweep and Nicobar Islands. The index of disparity is low in 32 districts lying in coastal Gujarat, Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and the northeast. There are 44 districts where the index value is medium. These districts form clusters in western India, southeastern Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. The index of disparity is high in 53 districts. These districts form a contiguous belt in the mid-Indian region from west to east. Several districts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are also included in the same category. Inequity is very high in 33 districts forming 2 clusters. One lying in adjoining parts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and another over Baghelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. Evidently, male-female inequity is less pronounced in areas where the tribes were exposed to the exogeneous influence.

#### Rural - Urban Disparity Among the Tribal Males

The shift of the scheduled tribes to the urban areas is a phenomenon of the recent past. However, even in urban areas they continue to be involved in activities which do not require skills. The expectation, therefore, is that there is hardly any difference between the rural and the urban males. However, in areas of missionary activity tribes have been transformed both in rural and urban areas. The index of disparity for the tribal males in the rural and the urban areas largely depends on the impact of these processes, (Table 29).

Table 29

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF RURAL-URBAN  
INEQUITY IN LITERACY AMONG TRIBAL  
MALES - 1981

Below- 0.25	45
0.25 - 0.50	81
0.50 - 0.75	30
0.75 - 1.00	9
Above- 1.0	-
Districts excluded 237	

Fig. 22 reveals that the districts with a very low index of disparity form several clusters. Notable among these are seen in Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa, deltaic West Bengal and the northeast. Districts with a low index form a belt over the mid-Indian region. A moderate inequity in literacy is observed in 30 districts in the central Indian region. There are only 9 districts with a high level of inequity. They are Morena, Guna, Jhabua, Durg (Madhya Pradesh) Sirohi (Rajasthan) Visakhapatnam, Mahbubnagar, Rangareddy and Nalgonda (Andhra Pradesh). Among these only Jhabua is a predominantly tribal district.

#### PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY AS AN EXPLANATION

Physical accessibility of the tribes to the institutions of formal learning seems to be only a partial explanation of the present state of educational backwardness. An attempt has been made here to measure accessibility to the schools of different levels for the population living in habitations which are categorised as predominantly tribal in composition. Keeping in view the fact that the tribes are mainly concentrated in areas which are generally unfit for intensive agricultural practices and that their settlement pattern is far more dispersed than those of the non-tribal groups, the physical distance from the schools meant for imparting education acquires significance.

Table 30

Habitations and Population Served by Primary Schools  
Predominantly Tribal Habitations

Distance (in Kms)	Habitations		Percentage Population Covered
	Number	Percentage of All Habitations	
Within the Habitaion	58,519	38.05	63.96
0.1 - 0.5	19,516	12.69	8.13
0.5 - 1.0	27,339	17.78	10.90
Upto 1.0	1,05,374	68.52	82.99
1.1 - 1.5	7,867	5.12	3.05
1.6 - 2.0	15,087	9.81	5.59
More than 2.0	25,450	16.55	8.37

It may be noted that the aggregative all-India position does not reveal the reality as it exists at the district level. There are 90 districts in which more than 81 per cent of the population is served by the primary schooling facility within half a kilometre, (Table 31).

Table 31

Frequency Distribution of Districts Classified by Population  
Served by Primary Schools within 0.5 Km  
Predominantly Tribal Habitations

Percentage population served	Number of Districts
Above 81.17	90
62.21 - 81.17	92
Below 62.21	83
Districts with no Tribal Habitations	130
Exclusively Urban Districts	4



At the middle level the predominantly tribal habitations are generally characterized by poor accessibility. As many as 56,033 habitations out of 1,53,778 habitations accounting for 35.44 per cent of all tribal habitations do not have middle schools even within a distance of 5.0 kilometres. Significantly 53.77 per cent of these habitations have a population size of less than 500 persons. There are only 4.35 per cent of habitations with 13.31 per cent population which have middle schools within the habitation.

The aggregative, all-India picture in regard to tribal habitations is highly generalised as the tribal population does not have a uniform pattern of spatial distribution. It may be noted that about three-fourths of population is served by middle schools within 2.0 kilometres. On the other hand, about 27 per cent of population is served by middle schools within 2.0 kilometres in as many as 108 districts. (Table 32).

Table 32

Frequency Distribution of Districts Classified by Proportion of Population Served Within 2.0 Kilometres of Middle School Predominantly Scheduled Tribal Habitations

Percentage Category	Number of Districts
Above 75.25	24
51.61 - 75.25	45
27.97 - 51.61	88
Below 27.97	108
Districts with No Scheduled Tribal Habitations	130
Exclusively Urban districts	4

Fig. A.7 shows that districts with higher population coverage are generally situated in areas which have an insignificant proportion of tribal population. The northeast is, however, a notable exception. The districts lying in the Desh and the Viderbha regions of Maharashtra, eastern Madhya Pradesh, southern Bihar, Meghalaya and Manipur are categorised in the moderate range of distance. The proportion of population covered by schools within the specified range of distance declines significantly over most of the mid-Indian tribal belt.

It is noted that at secondary level the schools are available for only 27.21 per cent of population within a distance of 4.0 kilometres. It is disturbing to note that as much as 48.11 per cent of population has to negotiate a distance of more than 8.0 kilometres to reach a secondary school (Table 33).

Table 33

Habitations and Population Covered by  
Secondary Schools in Predominantly  
Scheduled Tribal Habitations

Distance Slab (in kms.)	Habitations		Percentage Population Served
	Number	Percentage of All Habitations	
Within			
Habitations	1,168	0.76	3.37
0.1 - 2.0	10,974	7.14	9.18
2.1 - 4.0	18,702	12.15	14.66
4.1 - 6.0	19,881	12.93	14.55
6.1 - 8.0	14,796	9.62	10.13
Upto 8.0	65,521	42.61	51.89
More than 8.0	88,257	57.39	48.11
<b>T o t a l</b>	<b>1,53,778</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

While there are 23 districts in which more than 71 per cent of population is covered by secondary schools within 4.0 kilometres, in 118 districts the population coverage is as low as 27.58 per cent. Fig. A.11 makes it evidently clear that the areas of tribal concentration are poorly served by secondary schools. However, Mizoram is a notable exception. Perhaps the physical isolation of these areas is an explanation but not a sufficient one.

Schooling at the higher secondary level in the rural areas of the country is a rare facility. Generally schools of this level are either not located in a majority of habitations or, they are located at a distance which is not easily negotiable. It is noted that only 19.4 per cent of population gets this facility within a distance of 4.0 kilometres. On the other hand, for about 59 per cent of

population higher secondary schools are available only beyond a distance of 8.0 kilometres.

The tribal habitations are generally poorly served by higher secondary schools which is evident from the fact that less than one-tenth of population have access to higher secondary schools within 4.0 kilometres. On the other hand for more than four-fifths of tribal population of these habitations higher secondary schools are situated at a distance of more than 8.0 kilometres (Table 34).

Table 34

Habitations and Population Served by  
Higher Secondary Schools in  
Predominantly Scheduled Tribal Habitations

Distance Slab (in kms.)	Habitations		Percentage Population Served
	Number	Percentage of All Habitations	
Within			
Habitations	136	0.08	0.44
0.1 - 2.0	2,775	1.80	2.36
2.1 - 4.0	5,596	3.64	4.56
4.1 - 6.0	7,645	4.97	5.98
6.1 - 8.0	7,340	4.77	5.46
Upto 8.0	23,472	15.26	18.80
More than 8.0	1,30,306	84.74	81.20
T o t a l	1,53,778	100.00	100.00

It is observed that in 14 districts the population coverage exceeds 37.76 per cent; it ranges between 19.20 and 37.76 per cent in 18 districts. However, the proportion of tribal population in these districts is quite small. Districts with significant tribal population are moderately served by higher secondary schools. Significantly, districts with poor accessibility also account for a very little proportion of tribal population. The case of the north-east is a notable exception (Fig. A.14).

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

This study of the existing situation of the development of literacy among the tribal population of India shows that the spread of literacy has been constrained by a set of complex factors operating in close conjunction with each other. It throws up convincing evidence that the question of educability of the tribes is essentially linked with the state of their economy. Any intervention in the former situation oblivious of the latter constraints is doubtful to be rewarded by success.

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Appendix I

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES				Distt. with No ST Popu-lation	Total
		Above 49.07	30.01-49.07	10.95-30.01	Below 10.95		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	9	14	-	23
2.	Assam*						
3.	Bihar	2	4	17	8	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	4	12	3	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	4	-	-	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	14
8.	Karnataka	-	2	17	-	-	19
9.	Kerala	5	2	5	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	15	30	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	1	7	17	1	-	26
12.	Manipur	1	5	-	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	-	3	2	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	1	4	2	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	-	10	3	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	15	11	-	26
18.	Sikkim	-	3	1	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	5	10	-	-	16
20.	Tripura	-	1	2	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	14	10	18	12	2	56
22.	West Bengal	-	1	10	5	-	16
23.	A & N Islands	-	2	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	6	3	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	3	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	2	1	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	4	4
All India		32	58	176	90	56	402

\* Data not available.

Appendix II

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF  
MALE LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES				Distt. with No ST Popu-lation	Total
		Above 52.33	31.25-52.33	10.17-31.25	Below 10.17		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	15	7	-	23
2.	Assam*	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Bihar	5	4	21	1	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	11	8	-	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4	6	2	-	-	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	14
8.	Karnataka	-	7	12	-	-	19
9.	Kerala	5	3	4	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	4	15	16	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	3	12	11	-	-	26
12.	Manipur	2	4	-	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	-	3	2	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	3	3	1	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	4	9	-	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	6	14	6	-	26
18.	Sikkim	-	4	-	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	4	4	8	-	-	16
20.	Tripura	-	1	2	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	20	10	19	5	2	56
22.	West Bengal	1	1	14	-	-	16
23.	A & N Islands	-	2	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	7	1	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	2	1	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	2	1	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	4	4
All India		50	94	176	36	56	402

\* Data not available.

## Appendix - III

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF  
FEMALE LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES				Distt. with No ST Population	Total
		Above 31.40	17.52 - 31.40	3.64 - 17.52	Below 3.64		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	12	10	-	23
2.	Assam*						
3.	Bihar	3	4	14	10	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	5	11	3	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	4	5	1	-	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	14
8.	Karnataka	-	2	16	1	-	19
9.	Kerala	6	2	4	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	14	31	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	1	8	17	-	-	26
12.	Manipur	3	3	-	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	1	4	-	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	4	2	1	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	-	8	5	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	5	21	-	26
18.	Sikkim	-	3	1	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	4	4	8	-	-	16
20.	Tripura	-	1	2	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	7	7	16	24	2	56
22.	West Bengal	2	1	8	5	-	16
23.	A & N Islands	-	2	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	7	2	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	1	1	1	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	2	1	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	4	4
All India		37	55	151	113	56	402

\* Data not available.

Appendix

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF  
RURAL LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES				Distt. with No ST Population	Exclu- sively Urban Distt.	Total
		Above 49.45	29.03 - 49.45	8.63 - 29.03	Below 8.63			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	9	13	-	1	23
2.	Assam*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Bihar	2	2	21	6	-	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	-	15	4	-	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3	5	4	-	-	-	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
8.	Karnataka	-	1	18	-	-	-	19
9.	Kerala	3	5	4	-	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	16	29	-	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	-	5	20	-	-	1	26
12.	Manipur	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	-	3	2	-	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	1	4	2	-	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	-	12	1	-	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	16	10	-	-	26
18.	Sikkim	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	2	3	10	-	-	1	16
20.	Tripura	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	17	8	16	12	3	-	56
22.	West Bengal	-	4	7	4	-	1	16
23.	A & N Islands	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	8	1	-	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
All India		31	53	187	80	56	5	402

\* Data not available.

Appendix V

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF  
RURAL MALE LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES			Distt. with No ST Population	Exclu- sively Urban Distt.	Total	
		Above 58.61	36.58 - 58.61	14.55 - 36.58				Below 14.55
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	7	15	-	1	23
2.	Assam*							
3.	Bihar	2	2	23	4	-	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	-	14	5	-	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3	7	2	-	-	-	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
8.	Karnataka	-	2	16	1	-	-	19
9.	Kerala	2	5	5	-	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	1	16	28	-	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	-	9	15	1	-	1	26
12.	Manipur	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	-	1	4	-	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	1	4	2	-	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	-	12	1	-	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	1	16	9	-	-	26
18.	Sikkim	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	2	3	10	-	-	1	16
20.	Tripura	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	18	6	18	11	3	-	56
22.	West Bengal	-	-	11	4	-	1	16
23.	A & N Islands	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	8	1	-	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
All India		30	55	186	80	56	5	402

\* Data not available.

## Appendix VI

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF  
RURAL FEMALE LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES				Distt. with No ST Population	Exclusively Urban Distt.	Total
		Above 27.71	14.80-27.71	1.89-14.80	Below 1.89			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	13	9	-	1	23
2.	Assam*							
3.	Bihar	2	1	20	8	-	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	3	13	3	-	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	7	2	1	-	-	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
8.	Karnataka	-	1	18	-	-	-	19
9.	Kerala	6	2	4	-	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	15	30	-	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	-	7	18	-	-	1	26
12.	Manipur	3	3	-	-	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	2	3	-	-	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	4	2	1	-	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	-	12	1	-	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	3	23	-	-	26
18.	Sikkim	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	3	4	8	-	-	1	16
20.	Tripura	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4	3	12	34	3	-	56
22.	West Bengal	-	-	15	-	-	1	16
23.	A & N Islands	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	8	1	-	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
All India		30	45	166	110	56	5	402

\* Data not available.

Appendix VII

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF URBAN LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES			Distt. with No. ST Population	Exclusively Rural Distt.	Total
		Above 65.77	42.91 to 56.65	20.05 to 42.91			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	3	15	5	-	23
2.	Assam*	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Bihar	8	6	15	2	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	3	12	3	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4	5	-	-	1	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	14
8.	Karnataka	-	7	11	1	-	19
9.	Kerala	4	5	2	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	1	26	18	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	-	15	11	-	-	26
12.	Manipur	2	2	2	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	1	4	-	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	4	2	-	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	1	8	4	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	3	16	7	-	26
18.	Sikkim	1	3	-	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	-	6	9	1	-	16
20.	Tripura	3	-	-	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	7	8	11	14	16	56
22.	West Bengal	-	2	8	6	-	16
23.	A & N Islands	1	-	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	3	2	-	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	3	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	-	1	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	2	1	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	4	4
All India		37	81	152	61	71	402

\* Data not available.



Appendix VIII

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF  
URBAN MALE LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES				Distt. with No ST Population	Exclusively Rural Distt.	Total
		Above 76.98	51.75 to 76.98	26.52 to 51.75	Below 26.52			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	3	17	3	-	-	23
2.	Assam*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Bihar	5	14	10	2	-	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	6	10	2	-	1	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	7	1	-	1	2	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	-	14
8.	Karnataka	-	8	11	-	-	-	19
9.	Kerala	2	6	3	-	-	1	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	5	26	14	-	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	-	18	8	-	-	-	26
12.	Manipur	-	4	2	-	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	-	4	1	-	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	-	6	-	-	-	1	7
15.	Orissa	-	3	7	3	-	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	-	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	7	13	6	-	-	26
18.	Sikkim	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	-	6	9	1	-	-	16
20.	Tripura	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	6	11	9	14	16	-	56
22.	West Bengal	-	2	9	5	-	-	16
23.	A & N Islands	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	5	-	-	-	4	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
All India		20	121	140	50	71	10	402

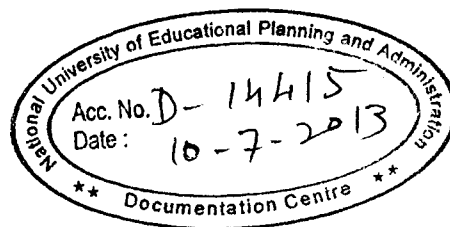
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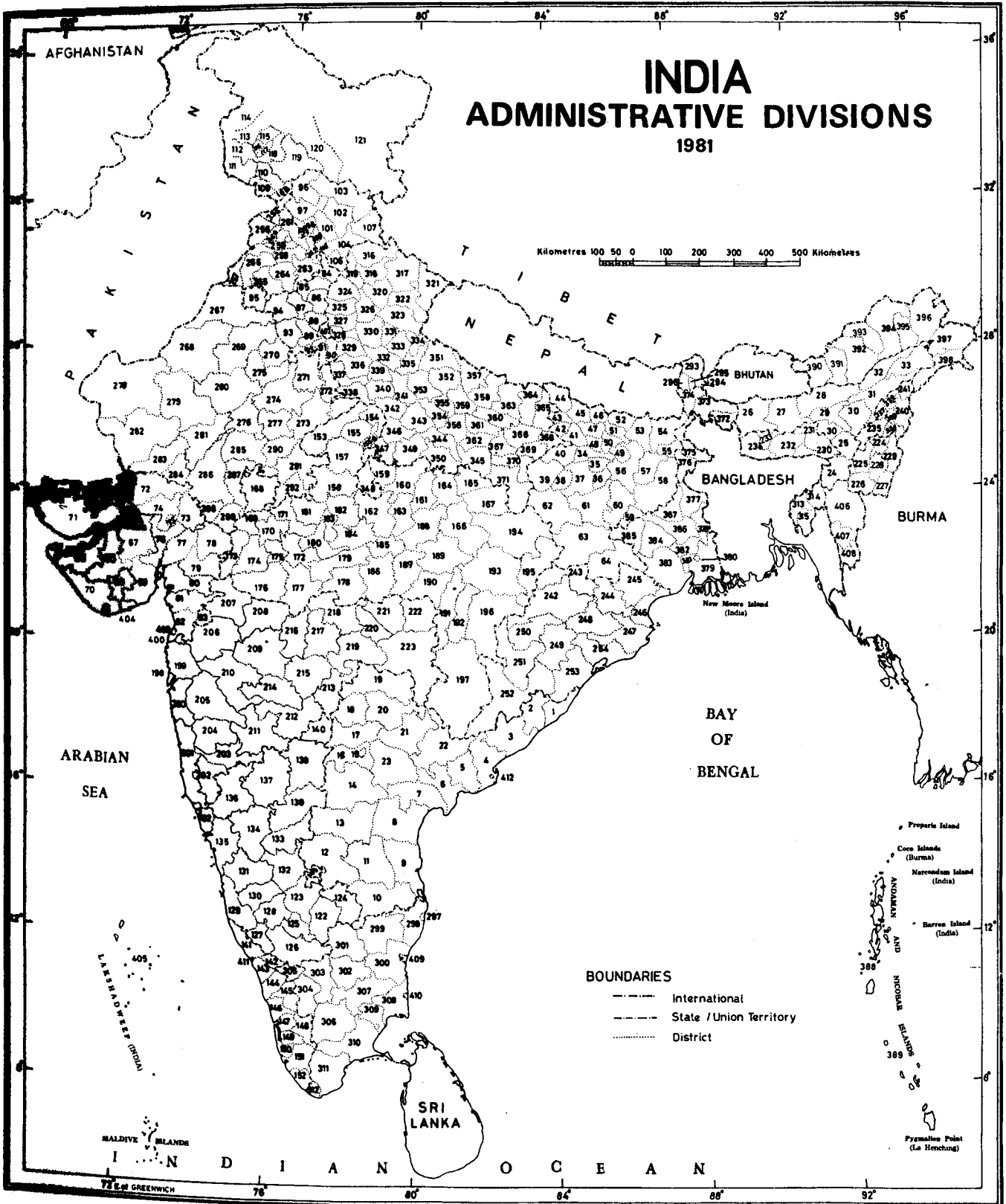
Appendix IX

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICTS BY CATEGORIES OF  
URBAN FEMALE LITERACY AMONG THE SCHEDULED TRIBES - 1981

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	PERCENTAGE CATEGORIES			Distt. with No ST Population	Exclu- sively Rural Distt.	Total
		Above 52.37	31.80 to 52.37	11.23 to 31.80			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	15	7	-	23
2.	Assam*	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Bihar	8	7	15	1	-	31
4.	Gujarat	-	2	12	4	-	19
5.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	12	12
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5	4	-	-	1	12
7.	J & K	-	-	-	-	14	14
8.	Karnataka	-	8	9	2	-	19
9.	Kerala	7	3	1	-	-	12
10.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	27	18	-	45
11.	Maharashtra	-	13	13	-	-	26
12.	Manipur	4	-	2	-	-	6
13.	Meghalaya	3	2	-	-	-	5
14.	Nagaland	5	1	-	-	-	7
15.	Orissa	-	-	5	8	-	13
16.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	12	12
17.	Rajasthan	-	-	7	19	-	26
18.	Sikkim	2	1	1	-	-	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	-	6	10	-	-	16
20.	Tripura	3	-	-	-	-	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5	4	13	18	16	56
22.	West Bengal	1	1	9	5	-	16
23.	A & N Islands	-	1	-	-	-	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	3	2	-	-	9
25.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	1	1
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	1	-	-	1
27.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	1	1
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	3	-	-	3
29.	Lakshadweep	-	1	-	-	-	1
30.	Mizoram	3	-	-	-	-	3
31.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	4	4
All India		46	58	145	82	71	402

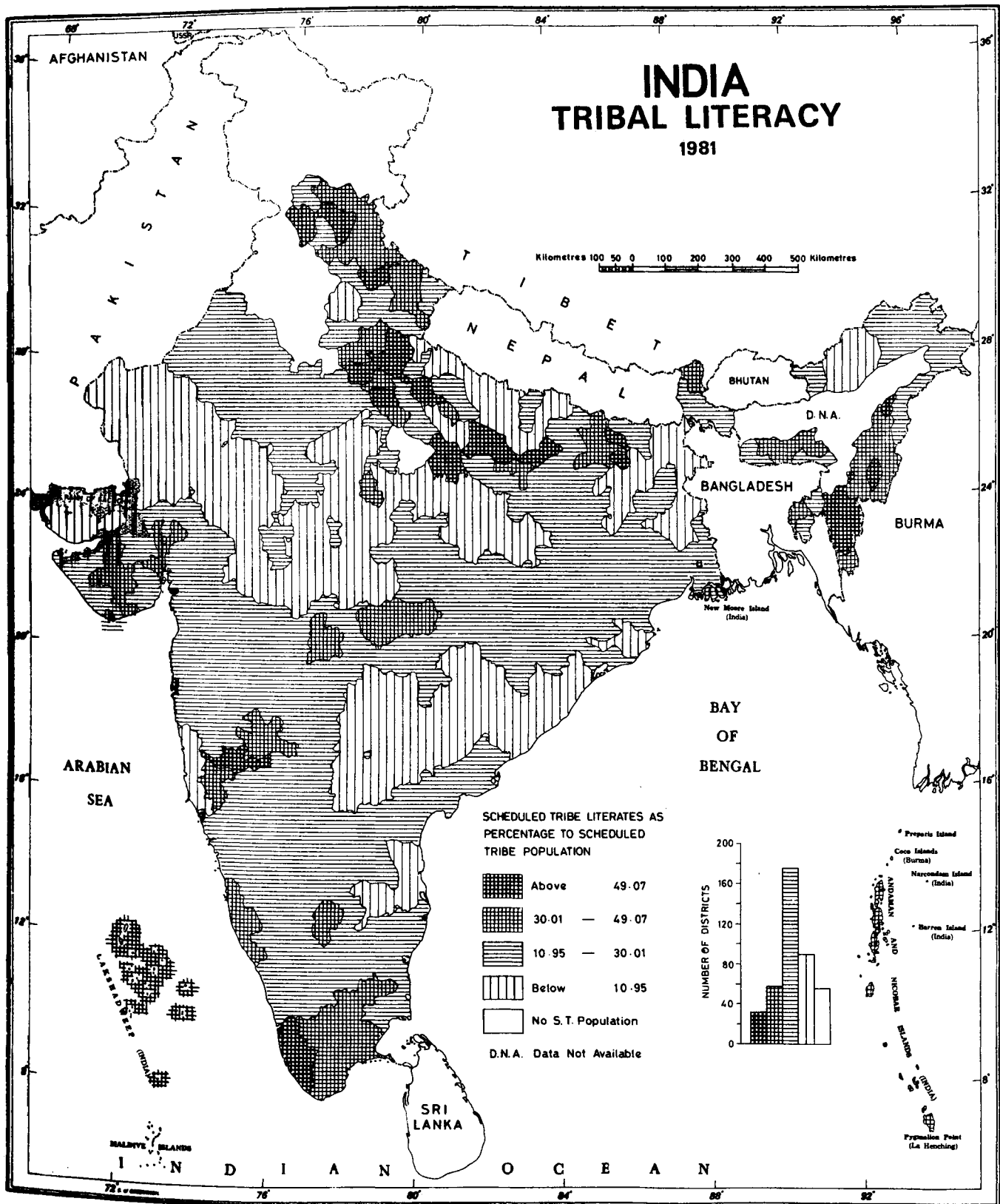
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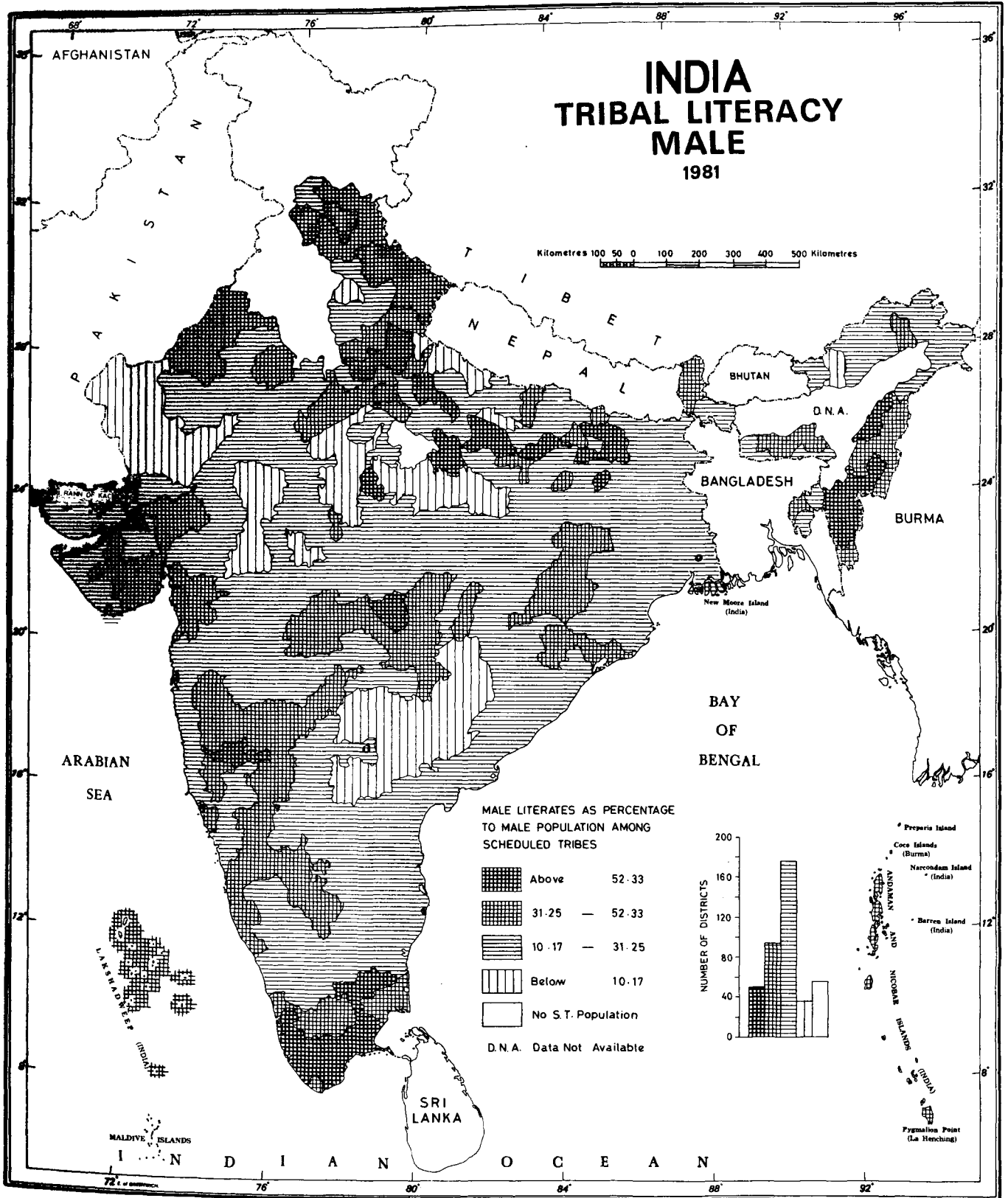
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. 1



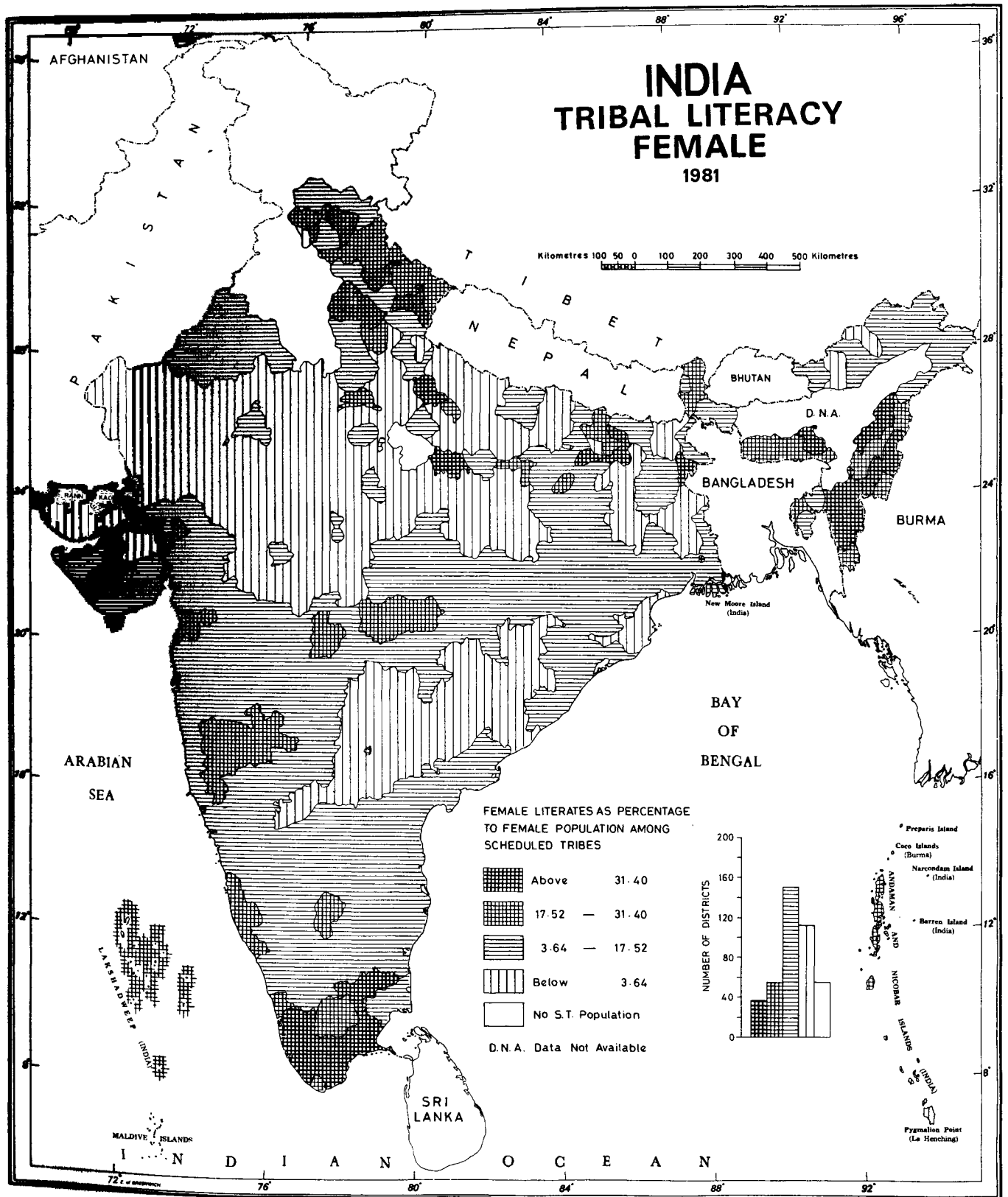
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. C-19



The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. C. 20



The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. C-21

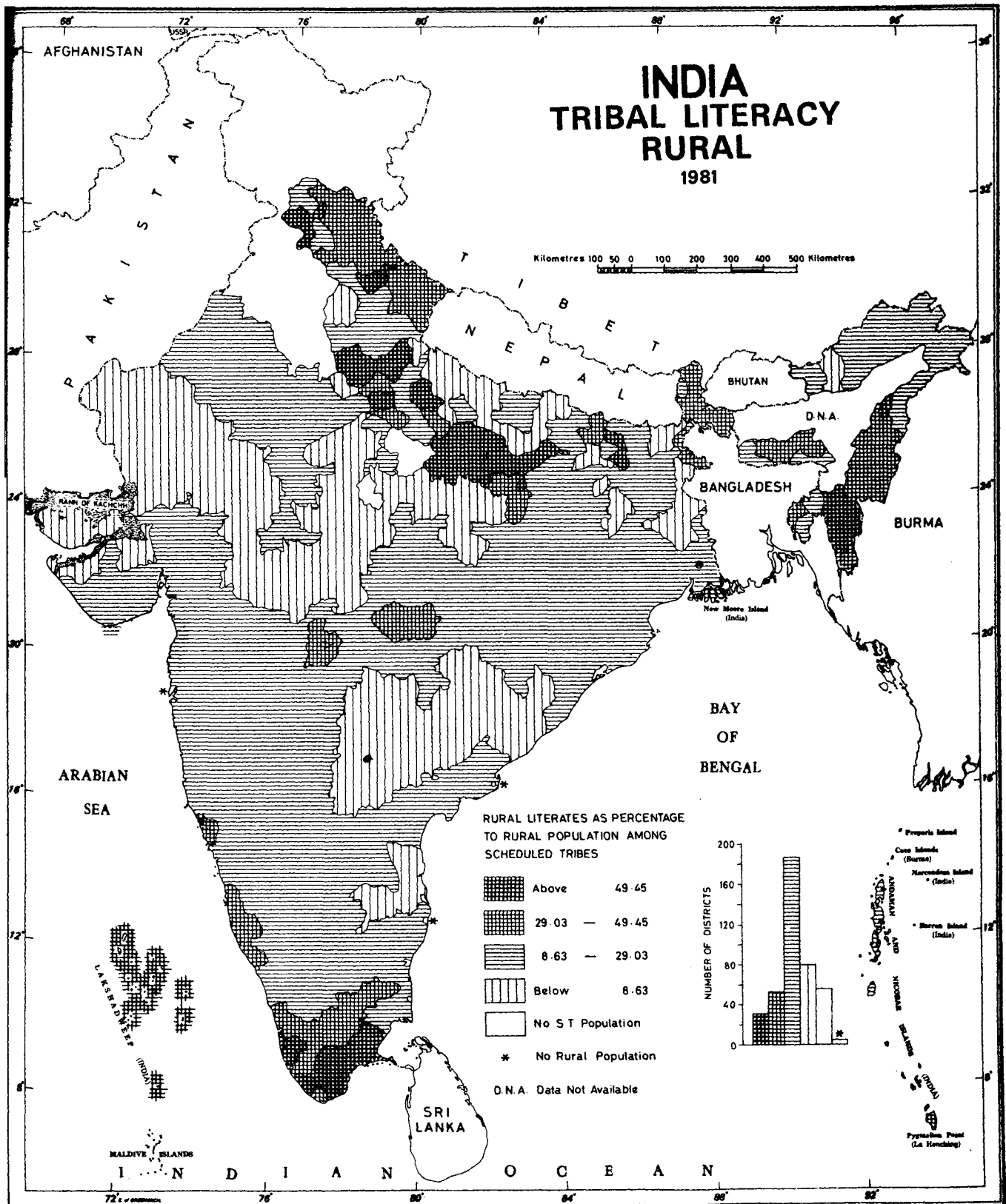
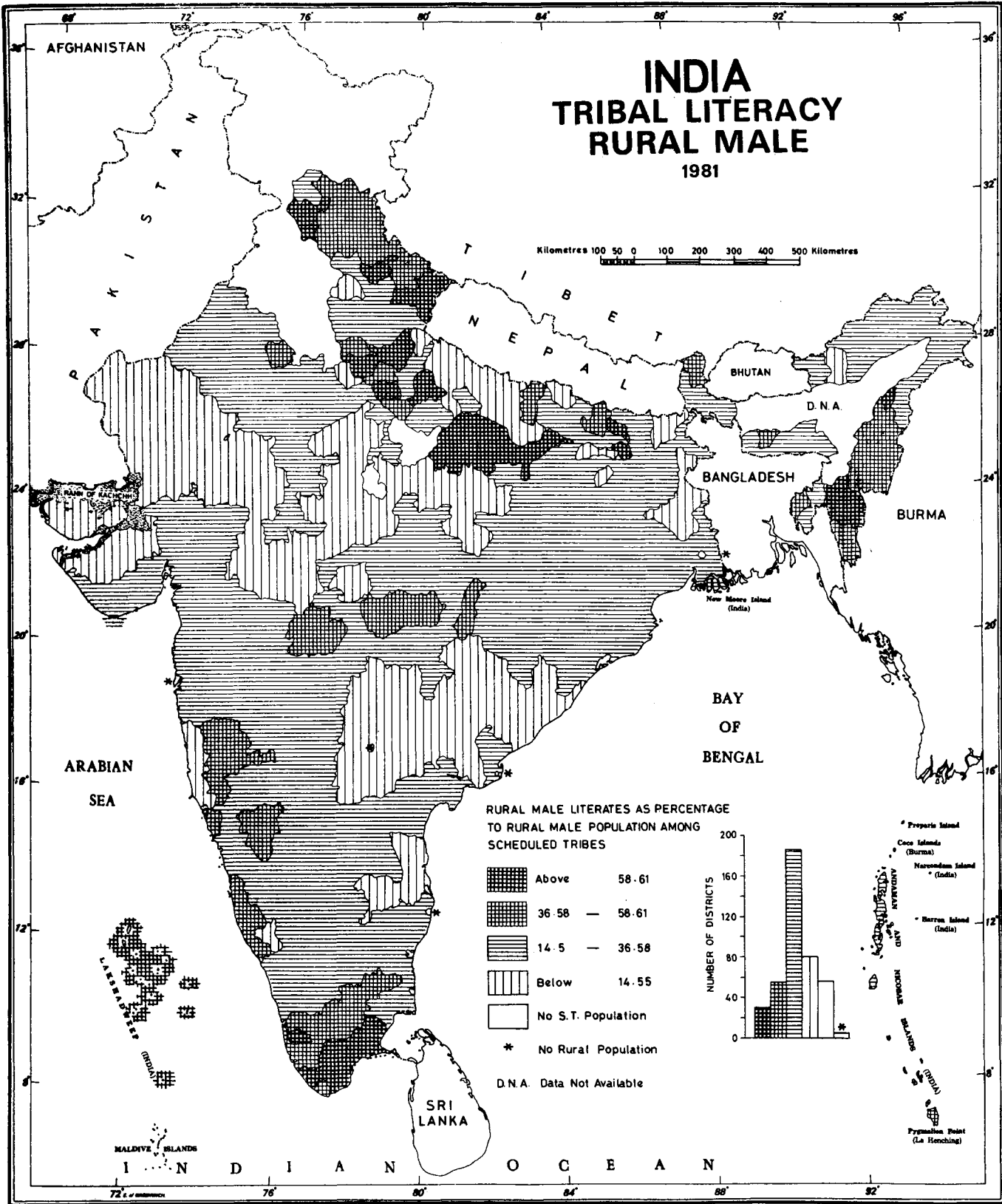


Fig. C.22

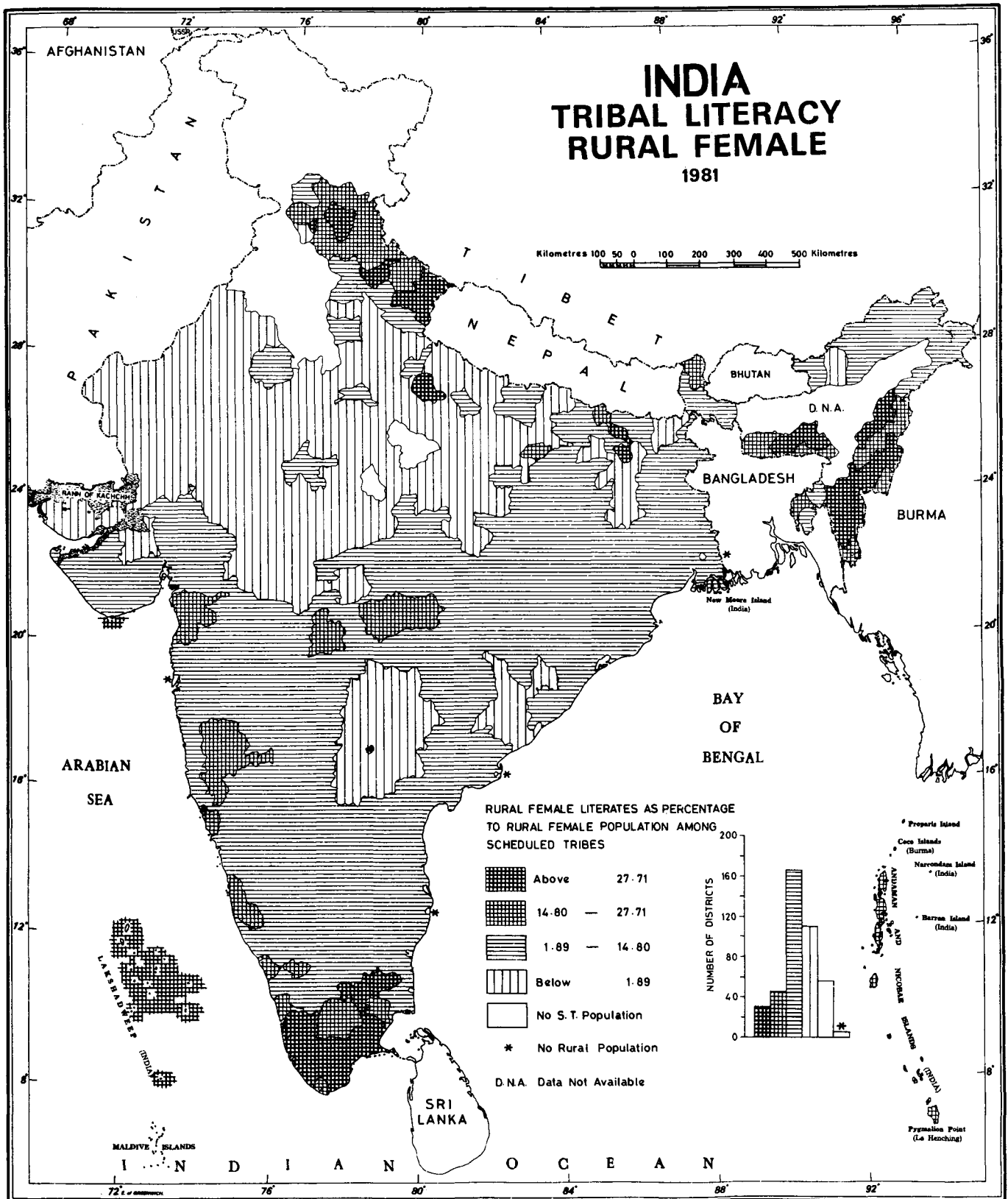
# INDIA TRIBAL LITERACY RURAL MALE 1981



The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

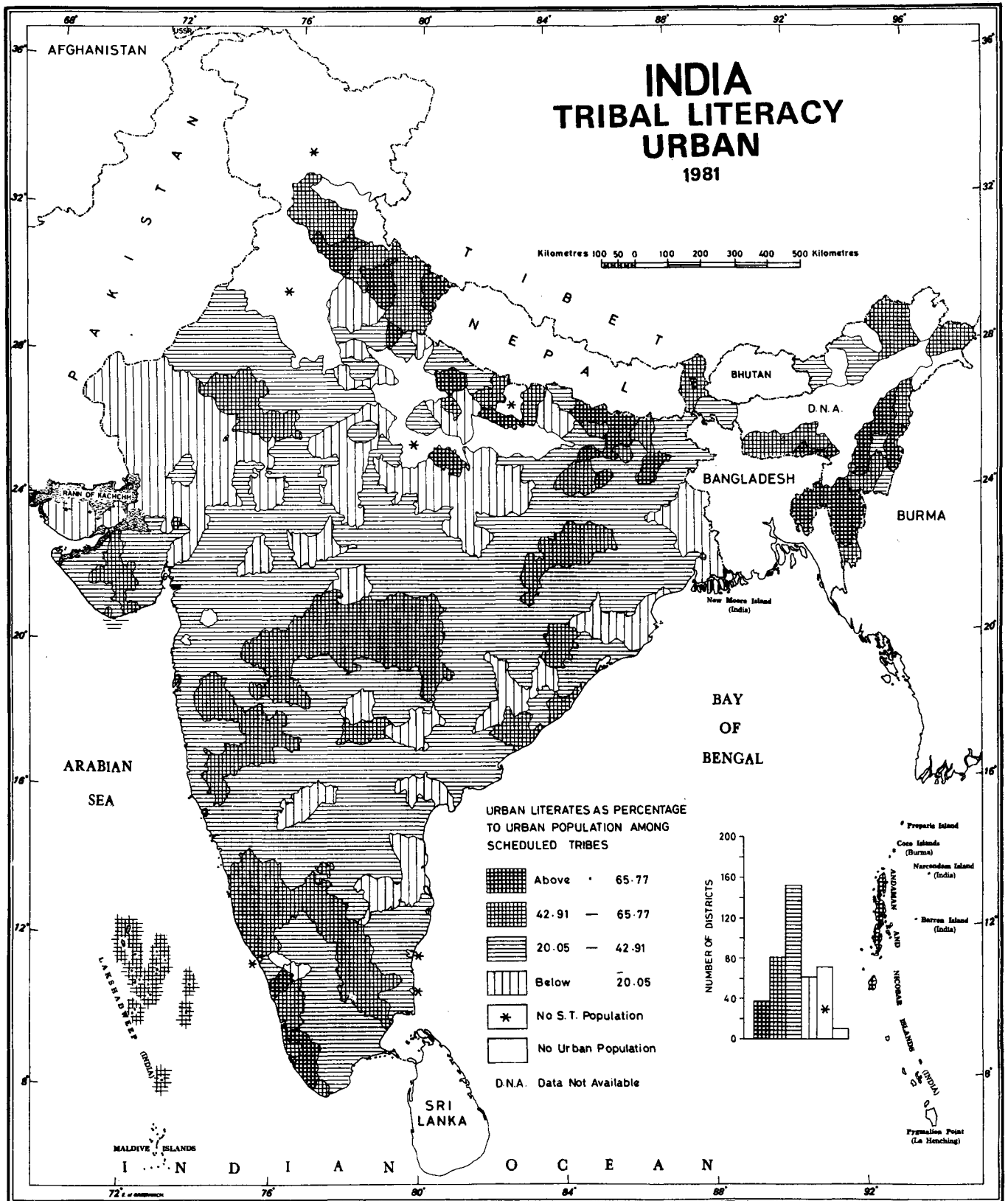
Fig. C.23





The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. C.24



The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. C-25

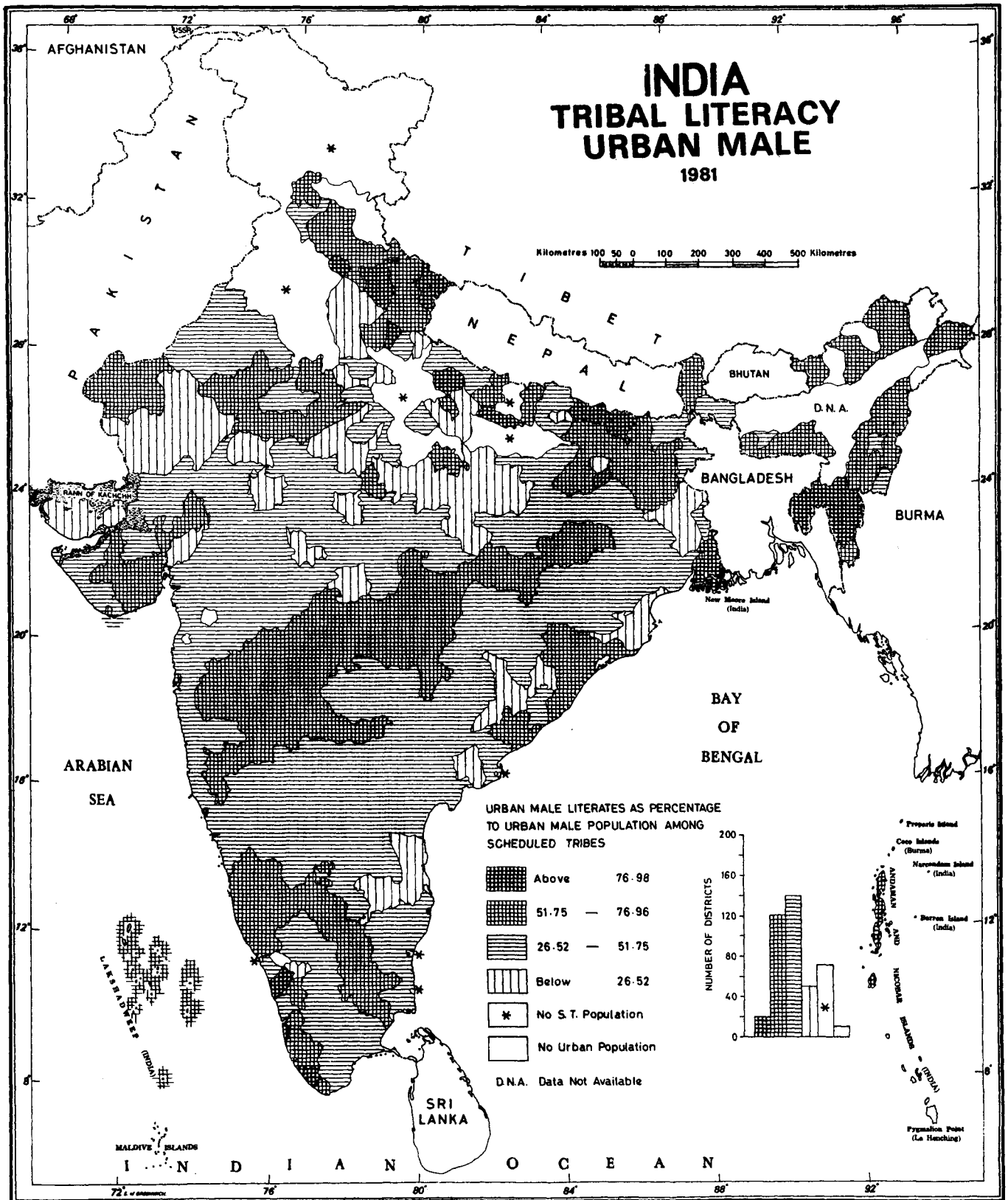
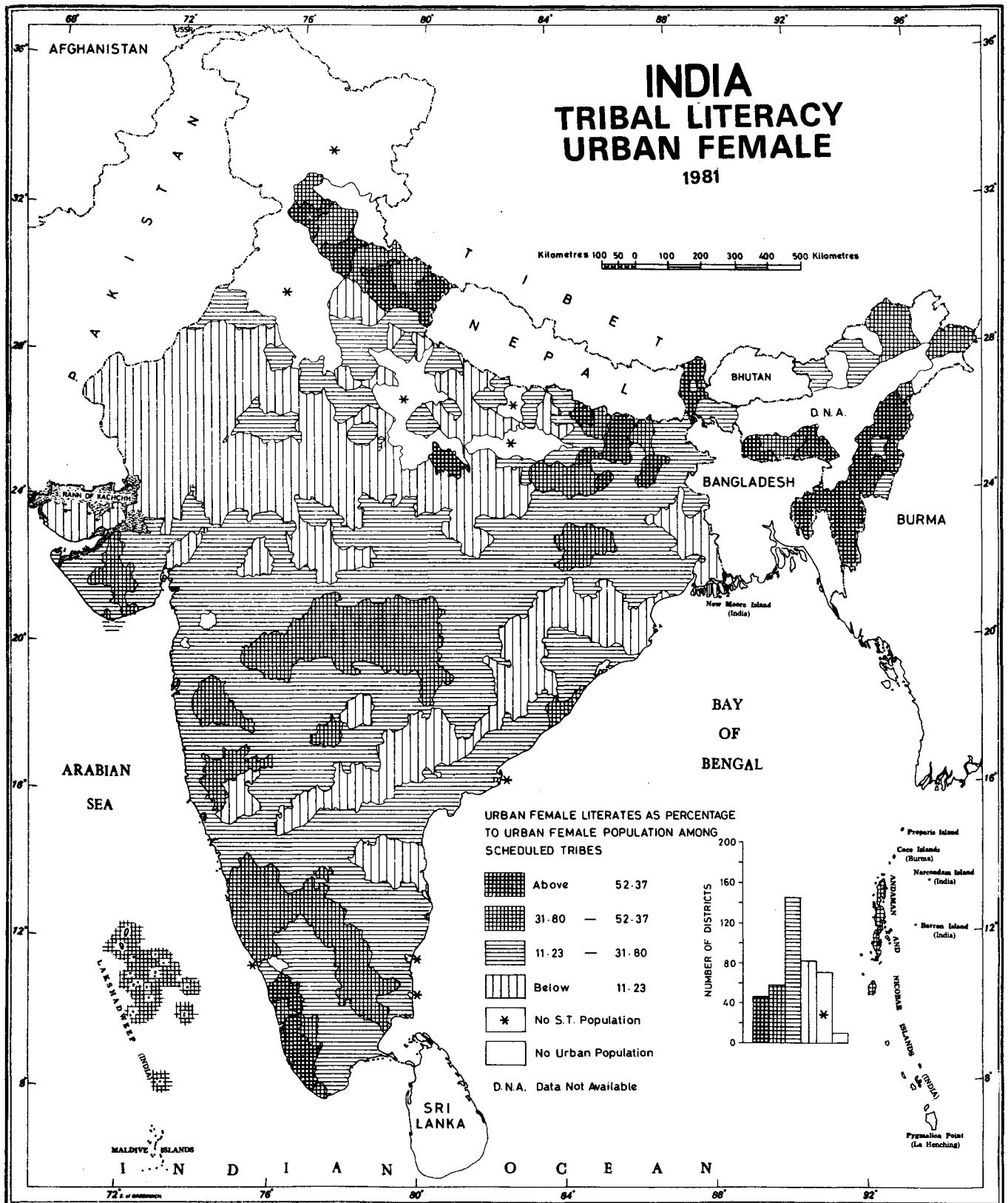
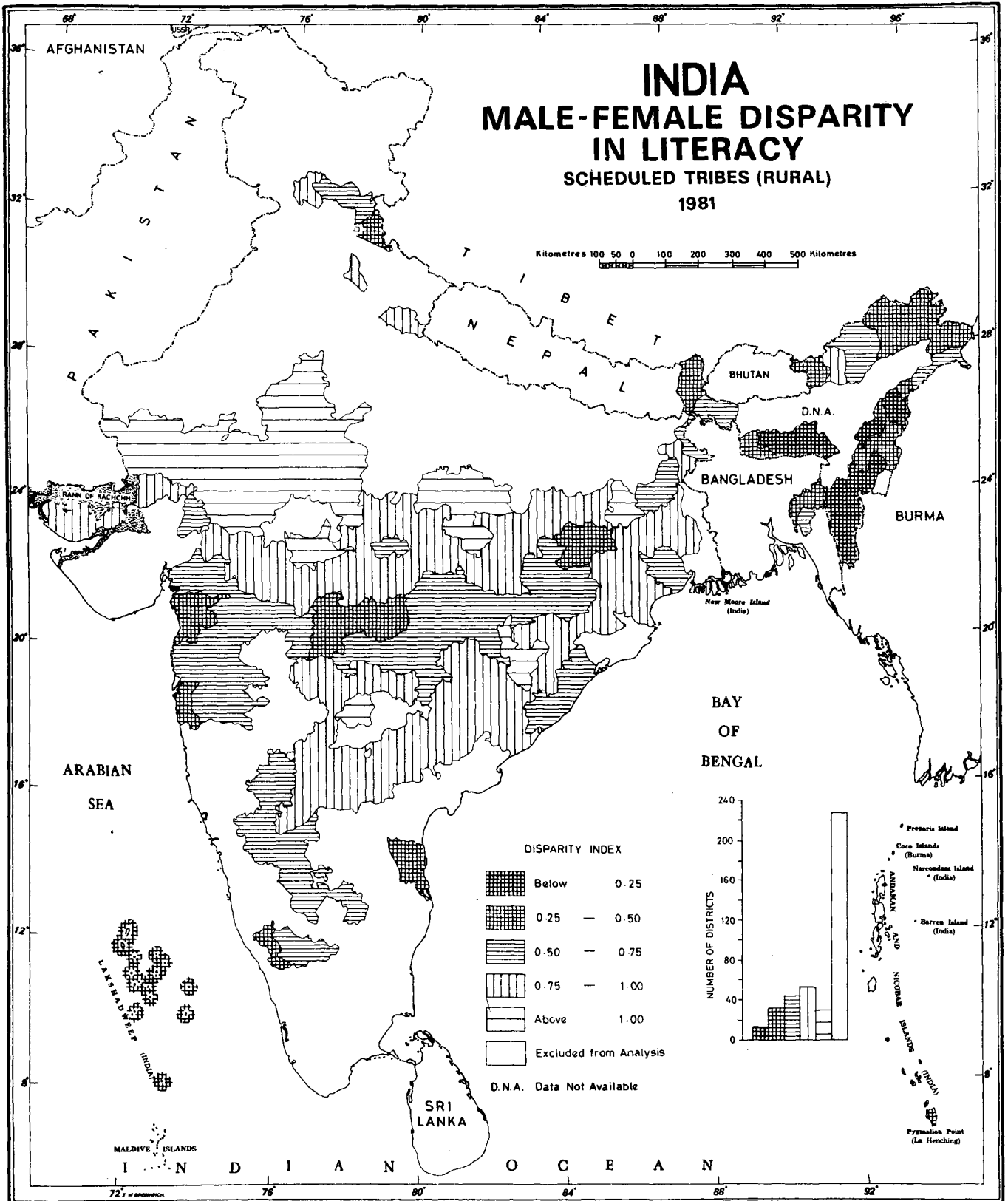


Fig. C.26



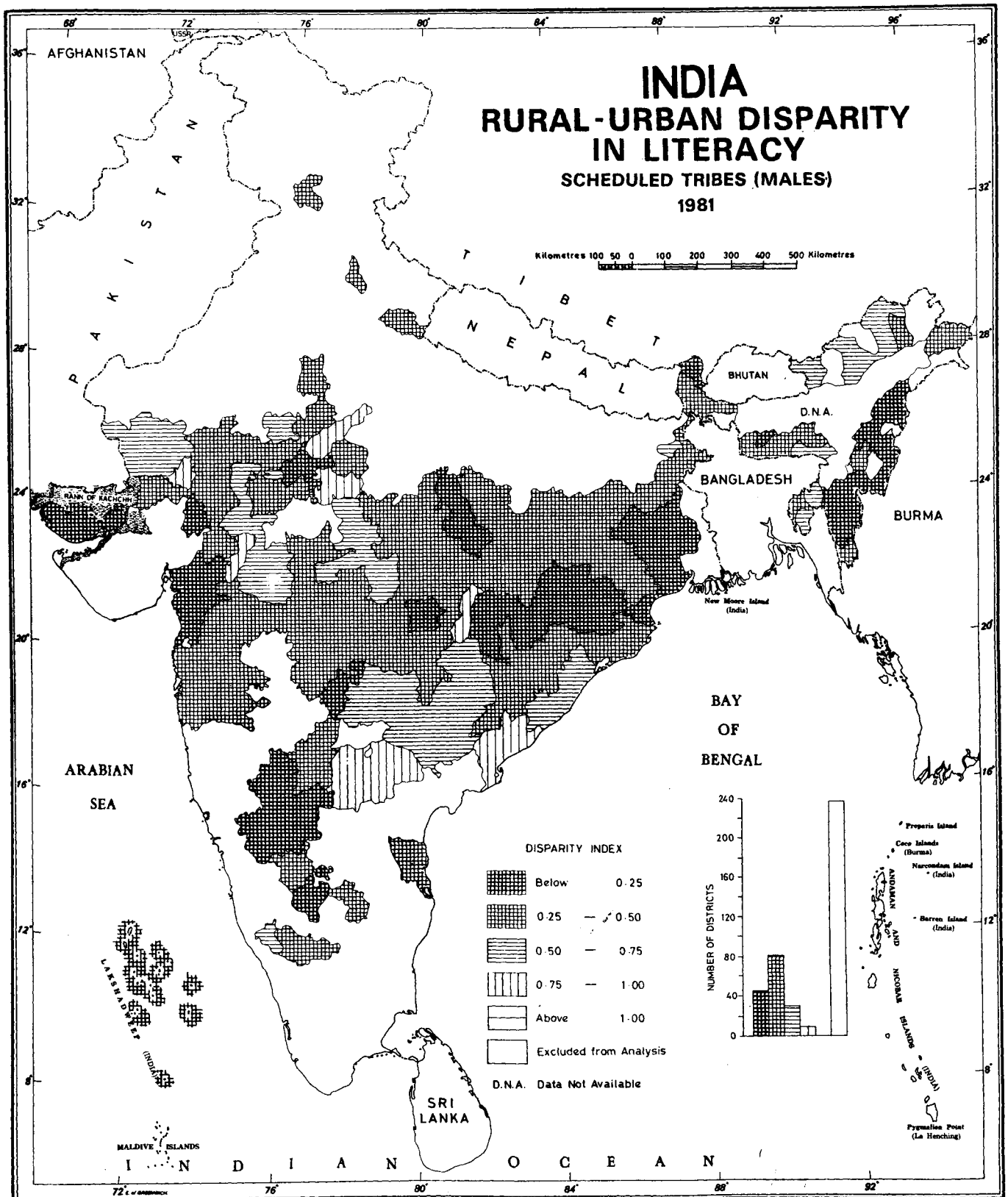
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. C-27



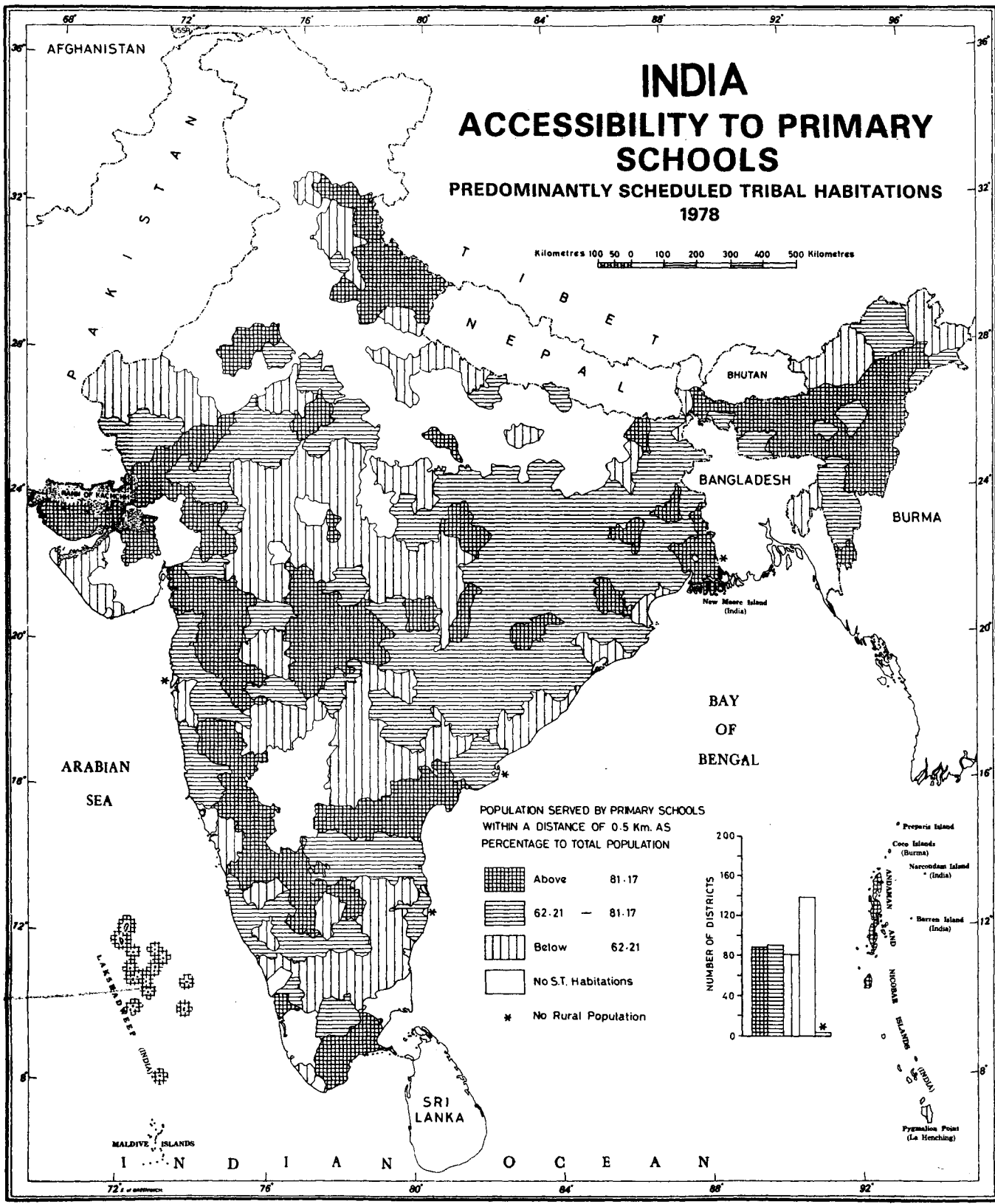
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line

Fig. F. 18



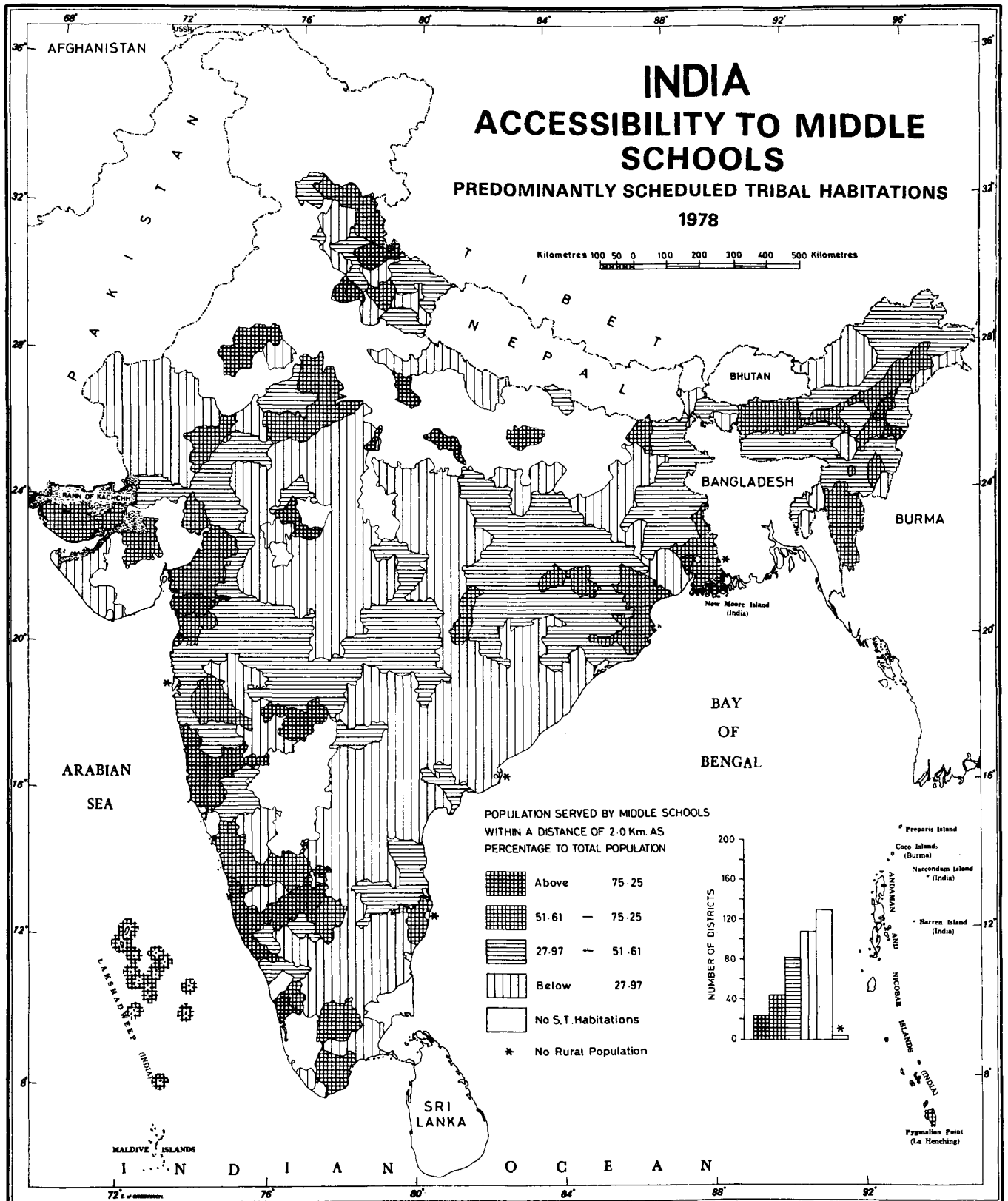
The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. F-22



The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

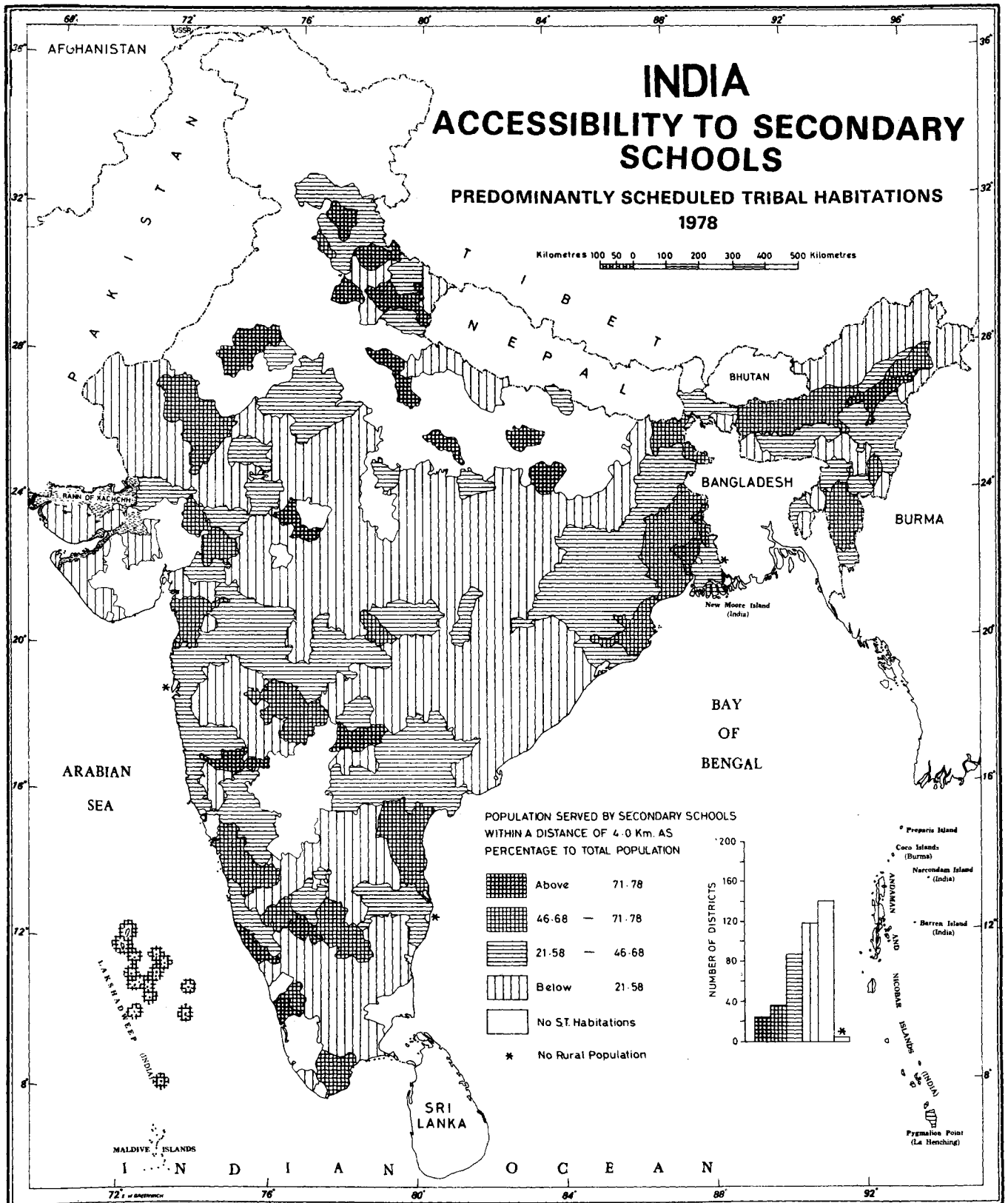
Fig. A.3



The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. A.7





The territorial waters of India extend into the sea to a distance of twelve nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line.

Fig. A-11



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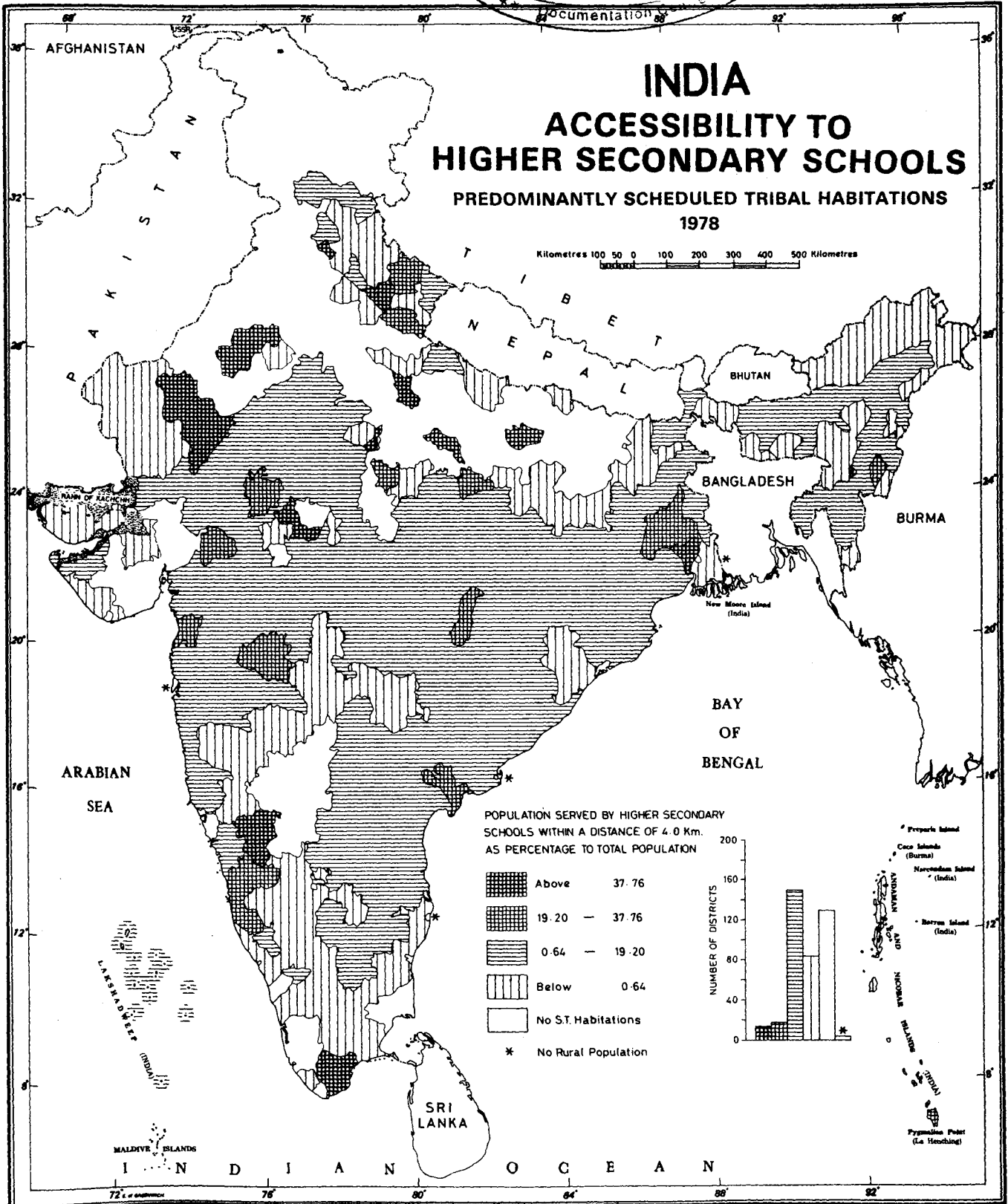


Fig. A-14