International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR)
E-ISSN: 2582-2160 ● Website: www.ijfmr.com ● Email: editor@ijfmr.com

# Comparative Study of Literacy Rates among the Idu Mishmi Population in Etalin and Anelih Circles of Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh: A Census-Based Study (2011)

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**Abstract**
Literacy is a key indicator of educational and social development. It enables people to acquire knowledge, develop skills, and participate in society. Literacy levels may differ from one geographical area to another because of various social, economic, and educational conditions. The present study aims to compare the literacy rates of Etalin and Anelih Circles in Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh. It focuses on three major aspects: the overall literacy rate, the male literacy rate, and the female literacy rate. The study adopts a descriptive-comparative research design and is based on secondary data from the Census of India 2011. The data indicate that Etalin has a higher overall literacy rate (54.48%) than Anelih (40.32%). Similarly, the male literacy rate in Etalin is 57.7%, compared with 44.8% in Anelih, while the female literacy rate is 50.7% in Etalin and 35.8% in Anelih. These results reveal variations in literacy levels between the two circles and highlight the need for greater attention to educational development, particularly female literacy. The study may help in understanding local educational conditions and planning future educational programme.

**Keywords:** Literacy, Male Literacy, Female Literacy, Comparative Study, Etalin, Anelih, Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.

## 1. Introduction

Education is a key factor in the development of individuals and society. It enables people to gain knowledge, develop skills, understand their rights and responsibilities, and improve their quality of life. Literacy is one of the basic indicators used to assess the educational development of a population. It involves more than simply being able to read and write; it also helps people understand information, communicate with others, and participate in various activities in their daily lives. A literate population contributes to social awareness, economic development, and the overall progress of society. In India, literacy has long been considered an important factor in national development. Although educational opportunities have expanded over the years, differences in literacy levels persist across geographical regions and social groups. These differences may be observed between rural and urban areas, between males and females, and among different communities. Arunachal Pradesh is a geographically diverse state

with many remote and mountainous areas. Districts and administrative circles may differ in their levels of educational development because of geographical conditions and variations in access to educational facilities. Dibang Valley District is one of the districts of Arunachal Pradesh where the Idu Mishmi community resides. The district includes several administrative circles, such as Etalin and Anelih. Although both circles are part of the same district, their literacy figures indicate differences in educational attainment. Comparing the literacy rates of these two circles is important for understanding their educational conditions. Hence, the present study attempts to compare the overall, male, and female literacy rates of Etalin and Anelih Circles using Census of India 2011 data.

Statement of the Problem

"Comparative study of literacy rates in Etalin and Anelih circles of Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh: A Study Based on Census Data of 2011."

## 2. Objectives of the study

1. To compare literacy rates of Etalin and Anelih Circles.
2. To compare the male literacy rate of Etalin and Anelih Circles.
3. To compare the female literacy rates of the Etalin and Anelih circles.

## 3. Research Questions

1. Which of the two circles has the highest literacy rate?
2. How do male literacy rates compare in Etalin and Anelih?
3. What is the gap in the female literacy rates between the two circles?

## 4. Methodology

The present study is a descriptive-comparative investigation. It describes the literacy rates of Etalin and Anelih Circles and compares their overall, male, and female literacy levels. The study adopts a quantitative approach, as it examines and compares the literacy rates of the two administrative circles using numerical data from the Census of India 2011. It is based on secondary data, primarily drawn from the Census of India 2011. Information on the demographic characteristics and literacy levels of Etalin and Anelih has been extracted from publicly available census-based records.

## 5. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

### 6.1 Comparison of Overall Literacy Rates

The first objective of the study is to compare literacy rates of Etalin and Anelih Circles.

Table.1 *Compare literacy rates of Etalin and Anelih Circles.*

| *Circle* | Literacy Rate |
|---|---|
| Etalin | 54.58% |
| Anelih | 40.32% |

**Interpretation:**

The data presented in Table 1 show that the overall literacy rate in Etalin is 54.58%, whereas in Anelih it is 40.32%. The difference between the literacy rates of the two circles is 14.16 percentage points. The

results indicate that Etalin has a higher overall literacy rate than Anelih. This disparity reflects differences in literacy levels between the two circles and highlights the need to examine educational development at the local administrative level.

### 6.2 Comparison of Male Literacy Rate

The second objective of the study is to compare the male literacy rate of Etalin and Anelih Circle.

Table 2: *Compare the male literacy rate of Etalin and Anelih Circle.*

| Circle | Male Literacy Rate |
|---|---|
| Etalin | 57.7% |
| Anelih | 44.8% |

Interpretation:

According to the data, the male literacy rate in Etalin is 57.7%, compared with 44.8% in Anelih. The diffrence between two circles is 12.9%. This comparison indicates that Etalin has a higher male literacy rate than Anelih, reflecting a variation in male literacy levels between the two administrative circles.

6.3 Female Literacy Rate Comparison

The third objective is to compare the literacy rates of females in Etalin and Anelih Circles.

Table 3: *Compare the literacy rates of females in Etalin and Anelih Circles.*

| Circle | Female Literacy Rate |
|---|---|
| Etalin | 50.7% |
| Anelih | 35.8% |

Interpretation:

The data show that the female literacy rate in Etalin is 50.7%, whereas in Anelih it is 35.8%. The difference between the two circles is 14.9%. The results indicate that the female literacy rate is higher in Etalin than in Anelih. However, in both the circles, the female literacy rate is lower than the corresponding male literacy rate. This highlights the need to focus on female education and provide equal educational opportunities.

6.4 Gender Gap in Literacy:

Although the study has three main objectives, examining the difference between male and female literacy rates provides additional insight into gender inequality.

Table 4: *The difference between male and female literacy rates provides additional insight into gender inequality.*

| Circle | Male Literacy | Female Literacy | Gender Gap |
|---|---|---|---|
| Etalin | 57.7% | 50.7% | 7.0 |
| Anelih | 44.8% | 35.8% | 9.0 |

Interpretation:
The comparison indicates that the gender gap in literacy is 7% in Etalin and 9% in Anelih. This suggests that the gap between male and female literacy rates is wider in Anelih than in Etalin. The results also show that female literacy is lower than male literacy in both circles. Therefore, improving female literacy remains an important priority for educational development in both areas.

## 6. **Findings of the Study**

Etalin has a higher overall literacy rate (54.48%) than Anelih (40.32%). The male literacy rate in Etalin is higher than that in Anelih (57.7% compared with 44.8%). Similarly, the female literacy rate is higher in Etalin (50.7%) than in Anelih (35.8%). The difference in overall literacy rates between the two circles is reported as 14.16 percentage points. The difference in male literacy rates is 12.9%, while the difference in female literacy rates is 14.9%. Female literacy is lower than male literacy in both circles. The gender gap is 7 % in Etalin and 9% in Anelih. Overall, the data show that Etalin has higher literacy rates than Anelih across all three measures examined in the study.

## 7. **Implications for education**

The findings of the study have several implications for educational development in the two circles. First, the difference in overall literacy rates highlights the need to expand educational opportunities in areas with comparatively lower literacy levels. Second, greater attention should be given to female literacy. Educational awareness programmes, encouragement of girls' education, and community participation can help improve female literacy. Third, local educational planning should take into account the specific needs of each circle. Educational programmes should be designed according to the local context rather than applying the same approach everywhere. Finally, continuous monitoring of literacy levels may help education officials identify areas that require greater attention and support.

## 8. **Conclusion**

Literacy is an essential foundation for individual and social development. The present study has attempted to compare the overall, male, and female literacy rates of Etalin and Anelih Circles in Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh. The findings indicate that Etalin has higher overall, male, and female literacy rates than Anelih. The data also show that female literacy is lower than male literacy in both circles. The gender gap is wider in Anelih than in Etalin. These findings highlight the need for sustained efforts to improve literacy, particularly among females, and to ensure equal access to educational opportunities in both circles. Greater attention to local educational conditions, community awareness, and educational planning may help improve literacy levels. In conclusion, comparing literacy rates at the circle level is useful for understanding local variations in educational development and identifying areas that require further attention.

## 9. **Study limitations**

1. It is based on secondary data and does not include primary fieldwork.
2. It is limited to two administrative circles in Dibang Valley District.
3. It examines only overall, male, and female literacy rates.
4. The data are drawn from the Census of India 2011 and therefore do not reflect the current literacy situation.

5. The study does not examine the social, economic, or geographical factors that may explain disparities in literacy.

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