



Literacy status at Kersa Demographic Surveillance and Health Research Center field site.

This brief characterizes the literacy status of population in the study site. The result is based on census conducted on in Kersa District, Eastern Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia July 2007

Introduction

Education is a land mark in accelerating of the development of any nation. Specially sending girls to school has paramount importance. Knowing literacy status of the population helps to identify specific interventions to be directed in improving literacy thereby playing a vital role in social and economic transformation.

The study was conducted on 48,192 residents of the study site. The highest population count was recorded in Adele Key Key kebele and the lowest in Kersa town. Which is 6053 and 1811 respectively.

Among the household members above seven years of age, 18569 (54.2 %) are illiterate, constituting of 43 % males and 57 % females.

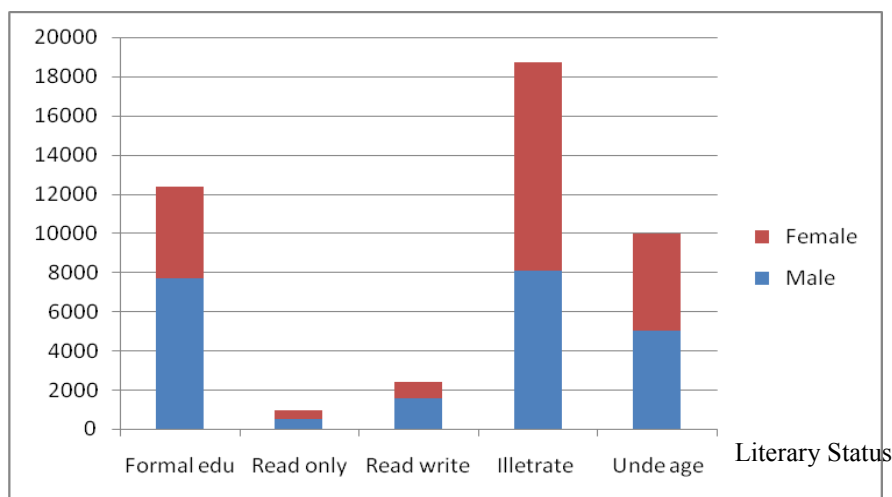


Fig 1. Distribution of literacy status by sex in Kersa district Eastern Hararge, Eastern Ethiopia, July 2007.

Among 12,357 household members who have formal education males comprise 62.1 % while females only 36.1 %.

Out of those who attended formal education 7440 (56.6%) were reported to attend elementary school (1-4) followed by junior secondary school 4012 (30.5%). Those attended high school and college

accounts 1640 (12.5%) and 46 (0.3%) respectively Majority of those who can read and write without formal education reported religious education and literacy campaign as type of education.

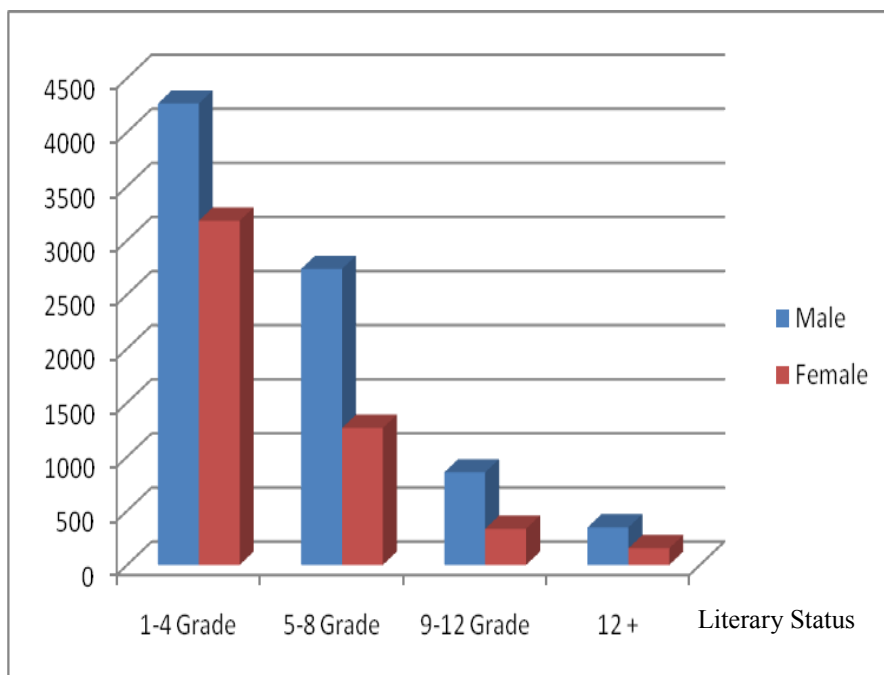


Fig 2. Distribution of level of educational among those attended formal education, KDS-HRC, Eastern Hararge, East Ethiopia. July 2007.

The above figure indicated that the number of males is higher than females at all level of education. Similarly the proportion of females as compared to males decreases with increasing level of education

Conclusion

Majority of the population who are eligible for education are illiterate. Among those who attended formal education, the proportion of females are still at lower rate.

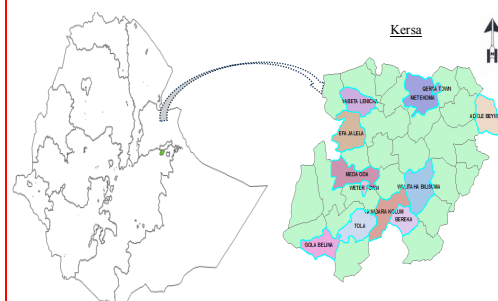
Policy Recommendation

1. Supporting the population in expanding education shall be emphasized.
2. For those who cannot go to formal schooling, literacy campaign (adult education) shall be encouraged.
3. Educating girls shall be given priority at all level.
4. Families in particular and the community in general should be encouraged in sending girls to school.

Kersa Demographic Surveillance and Health Research Center (KDS-HRC), Haramaya University:

The surveillance site was established in September 2007 in Kersa district, Eastern Hararge of Oromia region, East Ethiopia with aim of tracking demographic changes like death, birth, migration and marital status change. The surveillance activities further extended by adding surveys in Nutrition, Reproductive Health, Environmental Health, HIV/AIDS, Morbidity/health seeking behavior and health care utilization during the month of January-March 2008.

The surveillance activity is instituted in 12 kebeles (the smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia with approximate population Size of 4-5 thousand). Two of the kebeles are semi urban and the remaining 10 are rural kebeles.



According to the first census there were 10,256 households and 53,482 people in the study site with an average household size of 5.2 and sex ratio of 104.5. In the study area the crude birth and death rates were 26.8 and 9.2 per 1000 population. Infant and under five mortality rates were 44.9 and 108.2 per 1000 live births respectively.

The activities of the surveillance are lead by a coordinator and a group of six staff members from the College of Health and Medical Sciences.

