



Attitude of scheduled tribe people with socio economic status towards their girls' education in Birbhum district in west Bengal

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Abstract

Education is considered as the most powerful instrument of social change and development. It is only through education that people can bring desirable changes and development by developing their social and economic conditions of the people. But in a caste ridden and hierarchical society like India access to educational opportunities is unequal and unjust. Though, Scheduled caste group is the part and parcel of the mainstream of the total population of West Bengal. It has been found that scheduled caste groups are regarded as depressed and exploited class people in West Bengal who find social, economic and political exploitation since long ago. Education is the most crucial tool of empowering marginalized people to lift themselves from the existing levels of poverty and socio-economic backwardness. Various government policies focusing on the upliftment of these marginalized communities and efforts being made are to improve their socio-economic and political condition. But the conditions of the majority of the scheduled caste people have by and large remained the same. And in Nadia district also their education and socio-economic status of SC population is not satisfactory. So there is need a systematic study on exploration of education of scheduled caste population. In this regard, a systematic study is conducted of schedule caste population under Birbhum Development Block of Nadia District. In this study the researcher followed the descriptive research with survey method. All the SC people inhabited villages under Birbhum Development Block constituted the target population. Simple random sampling was followed for the study. An attempt has been made in this paper to highlight educational status of SC people and causes of their backwardness in educational development and achievements.

Keywords: Socio-economic status, Scheduled Caste, achievements, exploration, education etc

1. Introduction

Education assume that more the percentage of educated people more will be the rate of development. As all we say that Education of a girl is like educating a family while educating a boy is merely educating a person. The importance of female education in a society and its spreading to all section of the life is well appreciated and documented to solve existing and emerging problems of the society. There is ample evidence that children from better educated parents more often go to school and tend to drop out less (UNESCO, 2010). Parents who have reached a certain educational level might want their children to achieve at least that level (Breen & Goldthorpe, 1997). For educational enrolment of girls, education of the mother might be especially important (Emerson & Portela Souza, 2007; Shu, 2004; Kambhampati & Pal, 2001; Fuller, Singer and Keiley, 1995). Mothers who have succeeded in completing a certain level of education have experienced its value and know that it is within the reach of girls to complete that level.

Review of Literature

Sididiqui, et al., (2011) ^[1] in their paper attempt to present a demographic and socio-economic profile of the Muslims in Uttar Pradesh by focussing on the literacy and occupational groups. The study was mainly done on the basis of census

2001. The position of Muslims in the state was found to be dissatisfactory. Male literacy 58% and female rate 41%. Work participation of male and female is 41% and 12%.the paper proves that there is inequalities and backwardness in the state.

Ashraf and Ahmed (2012) ^[3] attempted to analyse the Muslim women education and empowerment in the rural areas of Aligarh district. The study is mainly based on the primary sources of data. The data reveals that socio-economic conditions are the major determinants of women's liberation than the religion. This illustrates the fact that family structure has an association with the participation of women in the decision making process in upgrading the status of women.

Hossain (2012) ^[2] attempted to examine the socio-economic status of Muslim women of West Bengal. Secondary source of data was used for the study. The study reveals that Muslims of India in general and Muslims of West Bengal in particular are lagging behind in their educational attainment. The study concludes that awareness and motivation need to be rendered to the Muslim women for their socio-economic development.

Kadam (2012) ^[4] examines the scenario of status of women and the necessity to empower them. The study found that efforts taken by the Government is still inadequate. The process of empowering women in India is still a long way to

go.

Sarikhani (2012) [5] intends to report the individual autonomy of Muslim working women in government offices in Mysore and Ahvaz cities and discussed the effective factors in increasing the autonomy of Muslim working women in their families. The tool used was interview and questionnaire. Sample consists of 300 Muslim working women in the government sectors from India and Iran. The results reveal that although autonomy of Muslim working women is low, a positive change in the attitude of Muslim men towards women can be observed. Muslim women are also involved in the process of decision making. The study indicates that there is a shift from male authority to sharing the power by both husband and wife.

Objectives of the Study

The study broadly examines the attitude of the Scheduled tribe parents towards their girl child education in rural as well as urban areas of Birbhum district of West Bengal largely consisting of Scheduled tribe population. The specific objectives are as under:

1. To examine the attitudes of Scheduled tribe parents towards schooling and education of their girl child.
2. To compare the parents belonging to Scheduled tribe communities with regard to their attitude towards their girls' child schooling and education.
3. To examine whether there exists a significant gender difference in attitudes of Scheduled tribe parents towards their girls' child education.

Scope of the Study

Swami Vivekananda had introduced kumari puja in the Belur math hundred years ago. It was not just a religious ritual. It was actually a message to the society regarding the significance of a girl child. It was a humble gesture toward girls population in the society. So, education of girls and girls is an area of major national concern both as a development imperative and as a human right. Girls are viewed as the most deprived and disadvantaged section of the Indian society. Indian girls and girls have been subjected to various kinds of social discrimination including education. We know that Scheduled tribe girls are still lagging behind in the entire sphere and are deprived of all the educational opportunities especially in the state West Bengal. It is a matter of concern for me to analyze the impact of 'Girls education' on empowerment of Scheduled tribe girls in West Bengal with special reference to Birbhum district.

Justification of the study

The 21st centuries growth in various sectors has led our country towards achieving the distinction of one of the growing nations in the world. Various efforts have been made by the Government as well as Non Government Organizations but the literacy rate is increased if we compare it with the few decades back, but the 100 percent literacy is not achieved till today. The literacy rate of the disadvantaged community is still poor.

In West Bengal, in spite of the various constitutional safeguards and all the different schemes by the state government, literacy level of the rural and disadvantaged mass is found to be much lower than that of the rest of the

society. This may be caused by the various factors. Among these factors, socio-economic statuses, parental attitude, their interest to give education to their girl children, their awareness regarding education and so on play a vital role. While parents of the disadvantaged girl children are not highly in favour of schooling and education of their girl children, today's scenario might have improved with widespread awareness regarding value of education. In this context, it is imperative to evaluate the perceptions and attitude of these parents.

Parents' positive attitude towards girl child's education is important in determining school attendance and academic achievement of the child. Favourable attitude towards schooling and education enhances parental involvement in girl children's present and future studies. Parent's attitude towards their girl children's education is affected adversely by low socio-economic status and since the tribal constitute the disadvantaged population, it is expected that the attitude of parents of tribal girl children will be unfavourable towards education. However, the present study aims to examine whether the parents of rural and urban area, today, exhibit a positive and favourable attitude towards their girl children's education as a result of increasing awareness of values of education through Government Endeavour's and initiatives.

Delimitation of the Study

The study was conducted to analyze the impact of 'Girls education' on empowerment of Scheduled tribe girls in West Bengal with special reference to Birbhum district. The researcher will take only Scheduled tribe girl population concentrated in Birbhum district for this study. The Scheduled tribe girls of the other districts in West Bengal are negligible.

Limitations of the study

The study will be restricted to some selected Scheduled tribe girls of rural and urban areas of these two districts only. The research will take only 400 samples for this research study from both this districts of West Bengal.

Data collection Strategy:

In the present study, both the primary and secondary data will be used to arrive at the results.

The primary data will be obtained by the researcher with the help of questionnaire and also by interviewing the target samples from different schools individually from the selected districts.

The secondary data will be collected from the public libraries, district schools, University libraries of the state, research studies, Census Report of 2011 and from different websites of the Internet.

The data will be collected through a questionnaire consisting of 25 statements, all pertaining to empowerment of scheduled tribe girls through education. Equal numbers of positive and negative statements may be included in the questionnaire. The respondents will be asked to rate each of the statements on a five-point Likert. These 25 statements in the questionnaire will be finalized after a thorough review of literature and all the statements will reflect attitude of girls and the value of empowerment of the scheduled tribe girls through education.

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