



## Educational Changes Among Koramas of Karnataka: A Sociological Study

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### ABSTRACT

*Education is one of the important factors in determining the social change in any society. Education brings tremendous instinct change in society. Its impact is observed on the all community people in the society. Korama community is one of the scheduled castes in Karnataka. They are traditional musicians, basket and broom makers.*

*The present paper elaborating about Educational changes among Korama community, which includes; Inter generational changes in educational level, problems of dropouts, parental aspirations towards educating their children, etc., Researcher has collected information through primary and secondary data. The basic materials for this paper come from the primary data collection method, through the participant observation and interview schedules. The sample has been chosen from the four villages of Savadatti taluk of Karnataka. By using simple random sampling method 120 respondents were chosen for the present study.*

**KEYWORDS :** Education, social change, Korama community.

### INTRODUCTION:

In the Indian context, education is a luxury and expensive for centuries to the lower castes. It was only the higher castes who were to get formal education. People from lower castes were denied or prohibited to study Sanskrit for centuries. Only after the British, who liberalized the education system gave an opportunity to non Brahmin castes to get educated. But most of these facilities were available in big towns and cities. It was not possible for rural backward population to visit cities and pursue education as there were no transport facilities and their poor economic position.

After getting independence many facilities are provided to impart education to the general public, special provisions also made to the scheduled castes by way free facilities in schools, colleges and government hostels. In spite of all these, the education level of scheduled caste is not improved because of ignorance, low literacy of parents and their low socio-economic background.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

To know about the educational changes among Korama community.

To analyze the nature of educational changes among Korama community.

To pinpoint the causes of dropouts among the Koramas.

### METHODOLOGY:

The researcher adopted a simple random sampling method to study the problem.

### Universe of the Study:

In Karnataka Savadatti Taluka of Belgaum district has been selected for the present study. According to the Census of India, the total population of Savadatti Taluk is 3, 11,693. It is surrounded by 133 neighboring villages. And the Total population of Scheduled castes in Savadatti taluk is 26,404 which consist of 13,271 males and 13,133 females. Among the Scheduled castes of Savadatti taluk, Korama population is estimated to be around 2000.

### The Sample:

A Simple random sampling method is adopted for selecting the sample. Keeping eye on the present research and duration of the study, the respondents have been selected from four villages (Chikkumbi, Hooli, Sattigeri, and Shindhogi) of Savadatti taluk. The data was collected from 120 persons (head of households).

### EDUCATIONAL CHANGES AMONG KORAMAS:

In India from the Mid-Nineteenth century onwards, it is seen that the people of scheduled communities, having to get education, left their traditional and hereditary occupations and have joined the large scale industries, various organizations as well as in the sectors as political,

social, economic, cultural etc. in large number. Among the various scheduled caste community in India Korama community is located in Karnataka state. Researcher attempted to make an empirical study on Korama's educational changes in Saudatti taluk, Belgaum district of Karnataka. Today Korama community people have their own problems in education while comparing to their father, mother and for-fathers.

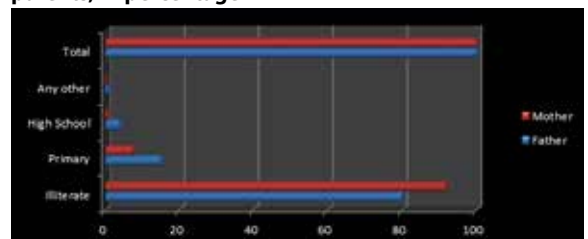
### Demographic profile of the Respondents

**Table No-1: Age wise classification of Respondents**

Age-group	Frequency	Percentage
21-30	10	08.33
31-40	41	34.17
41-50	34	28.33
51-60	18	15.00
Above 60	17	14.17
Total	120	100.00

The above table reveals about the age-wise classification of total 120 respondents. 41 persons between 31 to 40 years age group are participated with highest percentage of 34.17, the second highest persons participated is between 41 to 50 age group numbering 34 with percentage of 28.33, between 51 to 60 age group 15 percentage are participated. Above 60 years age group 17 persons are participated and between 21 and 30 age group 10 persons are participated in Interview schedule with percentage of 8.33.

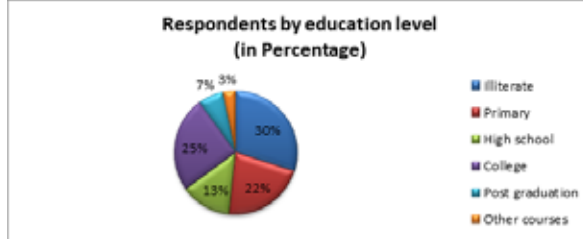
**Chart-1: Displaying Educational Levels of Respondent's parents, in percentage**



The present chart reveals that a large percentage of respondent's parents were illiterates. Among them most have not crossed primary school level where 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent among the respondent's father and mother respectively were reported to have primary level of educations. 4.17 per cent and 0.83 per cent among the respondent's father and mother respectively has high school education. 0.83 per cent of respondent's fathers have education higher than High School education. Though the parents of respondents are illiterate they encouraged their children to go to schools and colleges with

an ambition of seeing well paid jobs.

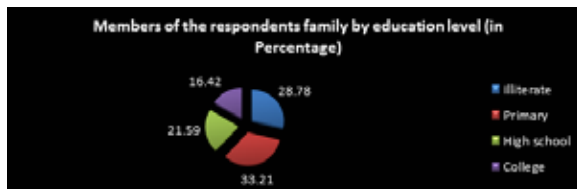
**Chart-2: Displaying Respondents by education level**



The above chart reveals that a large percentage of respondents are literates. Only 30 per cent of the respondents are illiterate. Among the literate, 25 per cent of the respondents have studied in colleges, 22 per cent of the respondents studied in Primary school, 13 per cent studied in high school. There are 7 per cent of the respondents who have studied up to post graduation and only 3 per cent of the respondents have studied in other courses.

Researcher has pinpointed that a large percentage of Koramas could not pursue their higher education due to various reasons. 53.33 per cent of the respondents discontinued their studies because of poverty. 20 per cent have not pursued higher education due to parents neglect. 11.67 per cent have not got education because of family illiteracy. 5 per cent reported that, the Lack of Interest as cause for not pursuing education.

**Chart-3: Displaying members of the respondent's family by Education level**



The above chart reveals that 28.78 per cent of the members of the respondent's family are illiterate. Among the literate, 33.21 per cent studied up to primary level. 21.59 per cent studied up to high school and only 16.42 per cent of the members of the respondent's family studied at college level.

**Problem of Drop-outs:**

**Table No-1**

**Drop-outs among the respondent's children**

Drop-outs Level	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	38	38.38	22	31.88	60	35.71
At Primary level	18	18.18	04	5.80	22	13.10
At secondary level	38	38.39	30	43.48	68	40.48
At college level	5	5.05	13	18.84	18	10.71
Total	99	100.00	69	100.00	168	100.00

Present table reveals that the levels of drop-outs level among respondents children. Out of 168 drop-out cases 99 are male and 69 are female children. Proportion of male Drop-out is higher than that of female drop-outs. In total 35.71 per cent are illiterates, among them 38.38 per cent are male children, and 31.88 per cent are female children. The highest dropout cases are found at the secondary level is 40.48 per cent of the total. Among them 38.39 per cent are of the total male and 43.48 per cent are of the female. Next major dropout cases are found at the level of primary school are 13.10 percent of the total. In that 18.18 per cent are of the total male and 5.80 per cent are of the total female. 10.71 per cent of the total dropout cases are found at the college level with 5.05 percent of the total male and 18.84 per cent of the total female.

An interesting feature is that among drop-outs, at the secondary level is higher than those at the primary level and the college level.

**Reasons for drop-outs:**

There are various factors, responsible for drop-outs among the respondent's children. The respondents stated the following reasons for their children's drop-outs problem.

**Table No-2**

**Reasons given by respondents**

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Marriage	12	10.00
Poverty	70	58.33
Lack of guidance	2	1.67
Lack of interest	8	6.67
Not applicable	28	23.33
Total	120	100.00

The above table reveals about the reasons of dropouts problem. 58.33 per cent of the respondents stated poverty as a major factor. They quit education to support their family economy. 10 per cent of the respondents are of the opinion that the female children's marriage is the cause for drop-outs. 6.67 per cent states that lack of interest among their children in education was the reason for drop-outs. They were less motivated, inspired and encouraged. 1.67 per cent of the respondents give reason for drop-outs as lack of guidance.

**Parental Aspirations:**

More than half (65 per cent) of the total respondents were fit and in favor of providing higher education to their children, they were also ready to send their children even to the towns and cities for higher education. 60 per cent of the respondents are noticed improvement in their social status by getting education. But all the respondents reported that, they are not having quality education institutions in their village. 50 per cent of the total respondents are sending their children to Government Schools, Other 15 per cent are opted private schools at nearby towns. And other 35 of the total respondents are not interested in educating their children.

**Table No-3**

**Respondent's preference in educating children**

Children Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Boy	26	21.67
Girl	10	8.33
Both	42	35.00
Neither boy Nor girl	42	35.00
Total	120	100.00

Present table reveals about the respondents preference, given in educating their children by sex-wise. 35 per cent of the respondents were interested in educating neither boys nor girls. Another 35 per cent are giving preference to both boy as well as girl in educating. 21.67 per cent gives preference for only boys and only 8.33 per cent of the respondents are giving preference to educate only girls.

**Table No-4**

**Respondents like to educate their children in these fields**

Fields of Education	Frequency	Percentage
Medical	15	12.50
Engineering	24	20.00
Arts	11	9.17
Commerce	06	5.00
Science	22	18.33
Not applicable	42	35.00
Total	120	100.00

Present table reveals about respondents interest to educate their children in various fields of education. Among them 20 per cent respondents are interested to educate their children in engineering field. 18.33 per cent of the respondents have interest to educate their children in science field. 12.5 per cent respondents are interested to educate their children in medical field. 9.17 per cent are interested to educate their children in Arts field. 5 per cent of the respondents have interest to educate their children in Commerce field.

Majority (75 per cent) of respondents were aware of the educational benefits provided by the government for scheduled caste, and 25 per cent respondents are unaware of the educational benefits provided by the government for scheduled caste. The majority of respondents' opinion is that, they got information about educational benefits through the different sources like school, news paper, Radio, Educated people, Television etc., 60 per cent of the respondents reported that their children got scholarship from the government but 40 per cent respondents answered in negatively by saying that their children did not receive any benefit from the government.

#### **FINDINGS:**

The literacy rate in India has improved a lot over the last one decade. As per the data published by the 2011 census, India has managed to achieve an effective literary rate of 74.04 per cent in 2011, and if we consider Karnataka state it is 75.6 per cent. But in present study the literacy rate of respondents is 70 per cent and literary rate of members of the respondents family is 71.22 per cent which lacks behind the literacy rate of Karnataka and India.

Among respondents, 35 per cent have studied up to collage level, post graduation, and professional course. 35 percent have studied only up to primary school and high school and other 30 per cent of the respondents are illiterates.

The literacy level among the parents of the respondents shows an opposite trend where 85 per cent of them are illiterates. The illiteracy proportion of the rate of respondent's mother is higher than that of respondent's father. Though the parents of respondents are illiterate they encouraged their children to go to schools and colleges with an ambition of seeing them in well paid jobs.

When we look at the literacy level of the total households of the respondents, 28.78 per cent are illiterates. 33.21 per cent have studied up to primary school, and 21.59 per cent have studied up to high school, and another 16.42 per cent have studied up to college level.

The problem of drop outs among respondent's children is another major problem in which 168 drop-out cases found, among them 99 male and 69 female children's are found. In total drop-out cases 35.71 percent are illiterates which means they never went to school. 13.10 percent have dropped their education at primary level, and 40.48 percent have quitted their education at high school level and another 10.71 percent have dropped at college level. An interesting feature is that among drop outs, at the high school level is higher than those at the primary and college level. They have dropped their education because their parents needed their service to carry out their traditional occupations. So the problem of drop outs is a major problem among Koramas of Savadatti taluk. Poverty is a major factor for dropouts, and marriages, lack of interest, lack of guidance are other factors for drop-outs among Koramas.

Parental Aspirations towards educating their children, 65 per cent of the respondents were fit and in favor of providing higher education to their children. 60 per cent respondents have noticed improvement in their social status by getting education. All respondents reported of not having quality education institutes in their village. Half of the respondents are sending their children to government schools. Other 15 per cent have opted private schools at nearby towns. And other 35 per cent are not interested to educate their children. 35 per cent give preference to educate both boy as well as girl, 21.67 per cent prefer to educate only boys and only 8.33 per cent prefer to educate only girls. Majority of the respondents are interested to educate their children in science field. 75 per cent of the respondents were aware of the educational benefits provided by the government for scheduled castes and 25 percent are unaware. Only 60 per cent of the respondent's children got scholarship from the government but 40 per cent respondent's children not received any benefits from the government. These way government scholarships are not sufficient in initial stage for Korama people.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

By Observing above findings we can conclude that, the educational literacy rate among the respondents is much better than their parents. Comparing respondents to their children, the literacy rate and levels of education of the respondent's children has increased. A ma-

majority of the respondents have shown favorable attitude towards the higher education of their children. But still the Educational changes in Koramas are not up to the mark compare to other communities in the Savadatti taluk of Karnataka.

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