



“The Problems Of The School Drop Out In North Karnataka – A Sociological Study”

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ABSTRACT

Dropout is a universal phenomenon of education system in India, spread over all levels of education, in all parts of the country and across all the socio-economic groups of population. The dropout rates are much higher for educationally backward states and districts. Girls in India tend to have higher dropout rates than boys. Similarly, children belonging to the socially disadvantaged groups like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have the higher dropout rates in comparison to general population. There are also regional and location wise differences and the children living in remote areas/urban slums are more likely to drop out of school. Failure to complete high school not only produces negative outcome for the individuals, but also widens the existing social and economic inequalities. In order to reduce wastage and improve the efficiency of education system, the educational planners need to understand and identify the social groups that are more susceptible to dropout and the reasons for their dropping out. Keeping the above context in perspective, the present paper tries to examine the factors that contribute to dropping out by children at the School level. The findings reveal that both the family and school related factors were responsible and appeared to be highly correlated with each other. It was also found that adolescents dropout not merely due to poverty and financial constraints but also because the schools did not respond appropriately to their special educational needs forcing them to dropout. The paper proposes that the State needs to adopt a holistic approach to dropout issue and not treat it as merely a discrete problem that can be tackled without reference to the broader socio economic setting and poor delivery of education in which it is rooted. Preventive and restorative approaches, briefly discussed in the paper, are needed to tackle the issue of dropout for children living in study areas.

Keywords : Schools, Childrens, Education, Family, Indian Education system

Introduction:

Education has always been associated with providing a better quality of life for human beings. Education is the basic requirement for human development and survival of the society. There is many problems in Indian education system. School dropout is one of them. The present study was aimed at finding out causal factors of school dropouts. A total sample of 80 school dropouts was selected in North Karnataka, India. Data were selected from school dropouts through interview schedule. The study revealed some factors namely personal, family school and socio-economic factors are playing a significant role in life of school dropouts. Drop-out represents a staggering loss. Although it is found at both primary and secondary levels, it is more crucial at the primary level. An early school drop-out soon lapses to illiteracy. Re-entry to the formal school system is closed off in most cases. A secondary school drop-out has at least acquired literacy and some other educational skills and knowledge. He or she may more easily resume schooling, or take up training outside the system. The primary school drop-out will remain locked into the closed world of the illiterate and thus have further restriction placed upon a background of poverty and ignorance. A drop-out can be defined as a child who enrolls in school but fails to complete the relevant level of the educational cycle. At the primary level this means that the drop-out fails to reach the final grade, usually grade V or VI. A repeater is a child who has to repeat the same grade, due to examination failure, low attendance record, or for any other reason. A repeater may or may not become a drop-out, but there is a high probability that he or she will. The drop-out may or may not re-enter the school at a later date, but there is more probability that he or she will remain lost to the educational system. Both represent wastage. Whereas the repeater may stay on and eventually repeat the primary cycle, the drop-out is very frequently lost

to the system and may also fail to retain even the vestiges of academic skills gained earlier. Evidence from several countries shows that early drop-out results in a lapse to illiteracy.

Education plays a pivotal role to in the process of socio-economic development of every nation. One cannot imagine education without school as it plays a major role in moulding the basic ideas, habits and attitudes of the children, with view to producing well balanced individuals. School dropout is one of major problems of Indian education system School dropout an issue which can be an indicator of the academic, intellectual and socioeconomic level of the students but as well as the success level of the educational system. Education is the means through which a society perpetuates and spreads its own culture. The development of an individual and the progress of the nation depend on education. There are many casual factors that are responsible for school dropouts.

Methodology:

The study was conducted in North Karnataka, Karnataka, India. Investigator used survey method for collecting the data in target area. It is an opinion survey of the casual factors of dropouts. Total dropout count is 200 in target area. Investigator couldn't approach 08 school dropouts because of some unavoidable reasons. So a sample of 80 school dropout in the age group of 6 to 14 years from the target area has taken through multistage stratified sampling. It is convinced to researcher North Karnataka consists of 13 Districts .Out of all District of Bijapur District one was selected through lottery method. The investigator used a self- structured interview schedule for fulfill the purpose of the study.

Results and Discussions:

There are lot educational programme running in India. Still

some children do not complete their school years due to some casual factors. There are some casual factors that's responsible for school dropouts. Investigator divided all factors in four section namely personal factors, family factors, school factors and socio-economic factors. Personal factors included self ill health, not interested in study, physical inability, retired minded etc. Family factor plays an important role in female school dropouts especially. Its features involvements in domestic chores, sickness in the family, looks after for siblings, parents' disinterest in girls' education etc. School also a significant factor for school dropouts. Its features lack of facilities, teacher didn't teach properly, fears of teacher, long distance of school etc. Socio-economic factors are also playing a very important role in school dropouts especially in male dropouts. Its features lack of money, death of father, early marriage, negative attitude of society etc.

Table-1
Causal factors of male school dropouts

Factors	Numbers of Responses	Percentage
Personal	35	35
Family	17	17
School	10	10
Socio-Economic	38	38
Total	100	100

Source: Field Study

Table-1 reveals the different casual factors for male school dropouts. Out of 100 responses majority of dropouts 38 % were given the socio-economic factors to leave school followed by 35% dropouts' personal and minimum 10% dropouts were given the school responsible leaving school. Socio-Economic factors are more important than any other factors. Sharma et al also reported the poverty is one of major reasons of school dropouts. Shivali R et al (2010) also reported the lack of financial resources is also an important reason for school dropouts. Children leave school in middle due to lack of money. Their parents send their son for earning in place of school. Mostly male children go to jobs for adding some supplementary income in family income.

Table-2
Causal factors of female school dropouts

Factors	Numbers of Responses	Percentage
Personal	17	17
Family	37	37
School	10	10
Socio-Economic	36	36
Total	100	100

Source: Field Study

Table-2 depicts the different casual factors for female school dropouts. Out of 100 responses majority of dropouts 37% were given the family factors to leave school followed by 36% dropouts' socio-economic and minimum 10% dropouts were given the school factors responsible leaving school. It revealed the family factors play a very important role in life of female school dropouts. In Indian society a girls' role in family is often primarily linked to household, expenditure on her formal educating thus is seen as a waste of resources. It also a cause of becoming dropout. Govindaraju R. and Venkatesan S. (2010) also revealed that family reasons as parenting jobs and responsibilities and taking care of siblings or relatives are responsible for girl's dropout in their study.

Conclusion:

Education is the important device in development to cultural values and growth of a child in preparing him to responsible, intelligent strong and healthy citizen. Despite professed equality of opportunity to all citizens, still school dropout is present. The present paper revealed the some factors of school dropouts namely personal, family, school and socio-economic. A Socio-Economic factor plays a significant role for both male and female school dropout. Due to lack of financial resources parents have to send their child for jobs at time of school. Negative attitude of society is also a cause of school dropouts. Family factors also play very important role in school dropouts with female school dropouts especially. Majority of female school dropout left school due to household activities, child care etc. To reduce the numbers of school dropouts, some changes must make in existing situation. The parents should be made aware of the importance of education so that they develop a desire to educate their children. Some special programmes should introduce for Indian rural society. This is a high time for everyone to come forward and take a step for reduces school dropouts. Though the study is conducted at micro level, the analysis provides useful policy insights in terms of broader educational policies aimed at improving educational equity and quality with the adoption of appropriate intervention for focused groups at the local level.

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