



Role Of Children Parliament In Tiruvannamalai District – A Discriptive Study

KEYWORDS

Children's Parliament, Self governance, Neighborhood Community Networks

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ABSTRACT *Today there are efforts all over the world to help children to be in charge as children are the best agents of the much-sought social change. Children refuse to be any more just objects to be looked at. They are beginning to participate in various social and political decision making forum. They believe that they can do this better than the elders without any inhibitions or selfish expectations. They are not anymore just to be governed, but also to govern. They have realized their rights to participate in governing. Now Children parliament comes to their rescue which is a Children's movement with deliberations, interventions and actions. In this context, the present study is undertaken to know about socio demographic characteristics of the respondents, to analyze the effective participation of children in children parliament, to find out the impact of socio and cultural changes, political knowledge, impact on health and education, managerial skills of the respondents. Hence for this study a descriptive research design was applied. The universe of the present study consists of members of 20 children parliaments in Tiruvannamalai District. Stratified Simple Random Sampling Method was used to select 120 respondents. The researcher used a self prepared interview schedule and assessed the role of children parliament in Tiruvannamalai District. The major findings of the study and suggestions will be discussed in the full paper.*

INTRODUCTION

The Children's Parliament caters for children below age of 18 years, of neighborhood of about 25 -35 families. Children's Parliament gives a chance to speak for the children, by the children and of the children. It serves as a platform for the children to develop leadership skills, confidence, team spirit, analytical skills and maturity. This is none other than an organization/movement for children. This study aims at describing the roles, functions and impact of children parliament thus placing valuable suggestions and recommendations for the NGOs, GOs and the public to take measures to enhance the children parliaments.

Child:

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines child as "a human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier".

The Meaning of Children Parliament

The word parliament comes from the Latin word *parlare* which in English means to speak and thus parliament means the place to speak. Parliament is the highest decision making body in any democracy but people do not have any accessibility to these parliaments and their processes and they do not have an assertive say in anything which is directly related to them and to their welfare and development and they are left high and dry powerless and helpless at the mercy of their "Elected Representatives". Hence, we propose to bring this parliament to the streets their people live. (As neighbourhood parliaments) Where people will have a strong assertive say and where people have active participation which alone will ensure the permanent eradication of the above stated and other social challenges. Since making people participate (due to their already filled up selfish notions and other factors) is a long and laborious process, we have felt the need of introducing this participatory process among children and form them as children parliaments.

Children Parliaments are formed at every neighbourhood level

of 25 to 35 houses, as only these children are going to be the adults in their neighbourhood in a few years, so that the neighbourhood parliaments become a possibility in the near future.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Overall Aim

To study about the impact of Children Parliament on the education, political knowledge, leadership skills, health, participation aspects of members.

Aim:

The overall aim of the study is to study the Life Skills among adolescents in Thanjavur District and to analyze the need for Social Work intervention among them

Objectives

1. To understand the demographic details of the respondents
2. To analyze the participation of children in Children Parliament
3. To study the impact of social cultural changes among the respondents
4. To assess the political knowledge among the respondents
5. To explore the impact of Children Parliament on their health and education
6. To know about their managerial skills among the respondents

Objectives

1. To understand the socio demographic characteristics of the adolescents.
2. To assess their life skills among them.
3. To critically examine the need for social work interventions among adolescents based on finding.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

Since the study attempts to describe the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, role of children parliament in Tiruvannamalai District Descriptive Research Design was

adopted.

According to Kothari(2009),descriptive research studies,which are concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual,or of a group, whereas, diagnostic research studies determine the frequency with which something occurs or its association with something else.

UNIVERSE AND SAMPLING:

Universe

The universe for the present study constitutes all the members of 20 children parliament in Tiruvannamalai District.

Sampling Method:

The research has adopted Stratified Simple Random Sampling Method and 120 members were selected for the study.

Tools for data collection:

The researcher has used self prepared questionnaire to collect the basic details related to their socio demographic characteristics, functions of children parliament and impact of children parliament on various aspects of its members.

Results

The following section of the paper presents the sample characteristics, salient findings of the study along with suggestions for social work interventions pertaining to the study.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

The majority 25 percent of the respondents are from the age group of 13. 20 percent of the respondents are from the age group of 14 and 20 percent of them are from the age group of 12. 8.3 percent of the respondents are from the age group of 15 and 8.3 percent of them are from the age group of 10. 11.7 percent of the respondents are from the age group of 16 and 6.7 percent of them belong to the age group of 11.

The majority 45 percent respondents are from 6th to 8th standard students and 40 percent are from 9th and 10th standard and 8.3 percent are from 11th and 12th and 6.7 percent of them are from 1st to 5th standard. From this table we can find that the majority preference for the parliament is given to 6th to 10th standard students.

The majority of 83.3 percent of respondents are Hindu because Hindu religion plays a vital role in our Indian country to bring the children in a sacred manner, where as only 11.7 percent belongs to Christian and Muslim religion and consider as a minority religious groups

The majority 60 percent of the respondents are belong to the families were 1 to 5 members are living, 23.3 percent of the respondents are belong to the families were 1 to 7 members are living, 13.3 percent of the respondents are belong to the families were 1 to 3 members are living and 3.3 percent respondents are belong to the families were 7 members are living.

The majority 51.7 percent of the respondents said they have primary school in their village 18.3 percent of them said they have higher secondary school in their village and 18.3 percent of the respondents said they have high school facilities and 1.7 percent of them having Arts colleges and 1.7 percent of them are having Technical education facilities.

The majority of 51.7 percent of the respondents have revealed that their family income is sufficient to meet their family needs without any difficulties. Whereas 41.7 percent of the respondents have set that their family monthly income is insufficient to run the families without any difficulties.

The vast majority of 93 percent of the respondents are having a good and smooth relationship with their neighbours which strengthen their good communication and healthy relationship has solved not only family constraints but also societal

problems too.

Impact of the Socio Cultural Changes

The majority 63.3 percent of the respondents say that the seasonal diseases often prevail in their community. 20 percent of the respondents say alcohol consumption by the family men folk is a big economic loss in the community.

The majority 33.3 percent of the respondents were able to say that they have taken step to solve the problem of often diseases prevails in the village, 15 percent of the respondents said they have taken step to solve alcohol problem.

The majorities 53.3 percent of the children parliament member's thought have been recognized by their family members after joining in the CP. 21.7 percent of the respondents said their family members give leadership role to them after joining in the CP. 18.3 percent of the respondents said their parents are consulting

them for any matter in the family, 5 percent of the respondents said they are respected in the family and 1.7 percent of them were unable to say how they are treated after joining in the CP.

The majorities 60 percent of the respondents were able to say that they have got interest in social work after joining in the parliament and 30 percent of them were able to say that they have got knowledge in politics and 10 percent of them said they have got social acceptance.

The majorities 60 percent of the children parliament member have got the influences by the other NGO'S Group values and benefits. 23.3 percent have learned the awareness programme through the government offices (eg. Health and education). But only 16.7 per cent of the respondents have said that they are getting enough information responses from the agency of ALCSP. This clearly proves that one way or other, the informal groups are having a high significant influences over the children parliaments in the target places.

The majorities 98.3 percent of the children parliament members said that the CPs don't affect the culture of the society and 1.7 percent of them said it affects the culture.

SUGGESTIONS

The NGOs have to give equal important to the children studying from 6th to +2 to join in the children parliament, which can help them to learn leadership and get proper guidance for their future.

The agency has to concentrate the minorities Muslims and Christians also to take part in the children parliament and to get equal chances. The agency has to be careful for avoiding dominations by the majorities. They should bring harmony among religions.

Conclusion

The main finding of the study reveals that most of the respondents are engaged in the children parliament activities. Majority of the children parliament got the recognition, leadership qualities managing skills, Health and education impact. The main findings of the study made the researcher to give the suggestions to the children parliament thus to improve in capacity-building, awareness, and to participate in all the activities of the government.

The researcher has confidence to identity the children parliament challenges in the society. This study will help to analyze the efficiency and efficacy of the children parliament and can come out with the suggestions to improve this new concept in the

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