



A STUDY ON EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS AMONG IRULA PARENT'S IN THOLAMPALYAM & VELLIANGADU PANCHAYAT IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Irulas are one among the six primitive tribal groups in Tamil Nadu. In comparison with other tribal population, Irulas are still backward in Education & Employment. Only education can transform a community at large. There are several factors that influence the education of children in Irula society. In this study the researcher tries to analyze the level of educational awareness among Irulas tribes in selected villages. This study will help in throwing light on this issue of backwardness of Irula tribes. The name Irulas are derived from the Tamil word "Irula" meaning dark which refers to their skin tone. Irula people have their own language which is again called as "Irula". This language is a mix of Tamil and Malayalam and it has its own dialect. Educationally this tribal population is at different levels of development but overall the formal education has made very little impact on tribal groups. Earlier Government had no direct programme for their education. But in the subsequent years the reservation policy has made some changes. There are many reasons for low level of education among this tribal people one such reason is that formal education is not considered necessary to discharge their social obligations. This study broadly examines the Educational Awareness among Irula parent's in Tholampalyam & Velliangadu village panchayat in Coimbatore District. The specific objectives are to study the Socio-Demographic profile, to know the Educational avenues available for Irula tribes, to study the formal education and achievement among the Irula tribes, to find out the parental objective in educating their children and to know the difficulties encountered by Irula parents in educating their children. The study analyzed the data from 60 parents, who had one or more than one school going children. A questionnaire was used for collecting data along with personal interview. The respondents were required to indicate their agreement or disagreement with each of the statements about children's education, where 1 denotes strong disagreement and 5 denotes strong agreement. The findings showed that the overall attitude of the respondents was moderately favorable and positive towards schooling and education of their children. The respondents had clarity to provide facilities for higher studies for their children. The study suggested that, although government endeavors at universalizing education it has resulted in creating mass awareness and positive response towards schooling and education. But still there is lot of scope for improvement in their education.

Introduction

Irulas are one among the primitive tribal groups in Tamil Nadu. The name Irulas are derived from the Tamil word "Irula" meaning dark which refers to their skin tone. Irula people have their own language which is again called as "Irula". This language is a mix of Tamil and Malayalam and it has its own dialect. In comparison with other tribal population, Irulas are still backward in Education & Employment. Only education can transform a community at large. There are several factors that influence the education of children in Irula society. In this study the researcher tries to analyze the level of educational awareness among Irula tribes in selected villages.

Significance of the Study and Statement of the Problem

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 to educate the masses, but still the literacy rate of the disadvantaged community is very low.

In spite of the various constitutional safeguards and different schemes by the state government and Central government the literacy level of the tribal is found to be much lower than that of the rest of the society. There are several hindering factors such as socio-economic condition, parental attitude, interest of the parents to educate their children, awareness regarding education and others.

Objectives of the study

The study broadly examines the Educational Awareness among Irula parent's in Tholampalyam & Velliangadu village Panchayat in Coimbatore District. The specific objectives are under.

I. To study the Socio-Demographic profile.

- ii. To know the Educational avenues available for Irula tribes.
- iii. To study the formal education and achievement among the Irula tribes.
- iv. To find out the parental objective in educating their children.
- v. To know the difficulties encountered by Irula parents in educating their children.

Statement of the Problem

The present study aims to examine whether the tribal parents, today, exhibit a positive and favorable attitude towards their children's education as a result of increasing awareness of values of education through Government endeavors and initiatives.

Details of the Study Area

1	STATE	TAMILNADU
2	DISTRICT	COIMBATORE
3	PANCHAYAT'S	THOLAMPALYAM & VELLIANGADU
4	PANCHAYAT HAMLETS	GOPPANARI, SEENKULI, KALIYUR, S ENKUTTAI
5	NAME OF THE TRIBE	IRULAS

Research design

Descriptive Research includes surveys and fact finding enquiries of different kinds. The major purpose of Descriptive Research is description of the state of affairs as it exists at present. It is designed to gather descriptive information and provides information for formulating more sophisticated studies. Data are collected by using one or more appropriate methods:

observation, interviewing.

Universe of the study

The Universe of the study is Irula parents of Tholampalyam & Velliangadu Panchayats in Coimbatore district.

Sampling technique

The researcher used Purposive sampling method in this study. The researcher specifically selected four villages named Goppanari, Kaliyur, Seenkuli, Senkuttai of Tholampalyam & Velliangadu Panchayats having Irula Tribes and conducted the study only with Irula parents whose children are studying. This method is a Non-probability sampling method.

Sample Size

The sample for the study consisted of residents of selected villages of Tholampalyam & Velliangadu Panchayat namely Goppanari, Kaliyur, Seenkuli and Senkuttai. The data was collected from the 60 respondents.

Tools of Data collection

The researcher used interview schedule as the tool for the data collection. The interview schedule is prepared according to the objectives of the study which includes questions on demographic details of the respondents, parental objective in educating their children, difficulties encountered by Irula parents in educating their children.

Results & Discussion

53.3 % of the Respondents in this study are male, About 36.7 % of the respondents of this study belong to the age group of 31-40 years, 35 % of the respondents are between the age group 20-30, so half of the respondents are in age group of 20-40, More than half of the respondents i.e. 53.3% of this study are illiterate, Majority of the respondents i.e. 71.7% Family type is Nuclear, Majority of the respondents (90 %) occupation is daily wages, Majority of the respondents (91.7 %) children are studying in schools, About 36.7 % of the respondent's income is between Rs2000-2500, 28.3 % of the respondent's income is between Rs3600-4500, Majority of the respondents (61.7 %) plan regarding the children education is that they want their children to get a degree, All the respondents (100%) agree that education will help their children to progress well in life, More than half of the respondents (51.7%) agree that education helps in bringing overall development in children, More than half of the respondents (51.7%) agree that education will certainly help in improving the standard of family, All the respondents agree that their Children are very much interested in pursuing their education. Majority of the respondents (81.7 %) agree that they want to send their children to school every day, Majority of the respondents (61.7 %) agree that education will help their child to face challenges in a better way, Majority of the respondents is (86.7 %) agree & strongly agree to the fact that good educational qualification will help in getting good jobs, More than half of the respondents (56.7%) agree that they avail fee concession for children, Only 30% of the respondents agree that their children receive scholarship for pursuing their education, Majority of the respondents is (88.4%) strongly agree & agree to the fact that teachers understanding the backwardness of Irula children & motivating them, Majority of the respondents (66.7%) agree that they are aware of free books & uniforms, Majority of the respondents (96.7 %) disagree & strongly disagree to the fact that NGO's help in educating children, Majority of the respondents is (98.3%) strongly agree & agree to the fact that Girl children's are encouraged to pursue education, About 48.3% of

the respondents agree that they have difficulty in coaching the children at home, More than half of the respondents (68.3%) agree & strongly disagree to the fact that television affects the children education, About 45% of the respondents agree that language is not the barrier for their children to cope & continue their higher studies, More than half of the respondents (68.4%) agree & strongly agree to the fact that work schedule makes hard to involve in children's education, Majority of the respondents (70%) strongly agree & agree to the fact that Inadequate of family income is the hurdle in educating the children, Majority of the respondents (70%) strongly agree & agree to the fact that the children are fairly protected from diseases and are in good health, Majority of the respondents (95%) strongly agree & agree to the fact that a lot of change happens in community by educating the children, About 46.7% of the respondents agree that there are employment opportunities available to the children after completing their higher studies, Majority of the respondents (90%) strongly agree & agree to the fact that they are aware of the government reservation available in government employment.

Suggestions

Majority of the respondents feel that their income level is inadequate to meet their basic needs. So there is a need for intervention to increase their income level. Self-employment and skill training shall be promoted among the tribal parents so that they will have sufficient income to support their children's education. Alternative sustainable source of livelihood shall be created to the Irula tribe. Educational status of tribal children is good, but measures to improve the quality of education shall be initiated, Massive community programme could be taken with a view to change the aspiration levels of the disadvantaged children. Even though there are many government schemes to promote higher Education among the tribal students still there needs special attention of government to make higher education easily accessible to the tribal & disadvantaged people

Conclusion

No doubt there is a change found in the literacy level as well as the perception regarding schooling and education since independence but there are some obstacles in getting such facilities by the minority communities which affects their literacy level. The attitude of the respondents was found to be moderately favorable towards education of their children. The study throws light on the fact that growing awareness regarding literacy and education; persistent campaigns through mass media around the country and attempts at mainstreaming have significantly affected all sections of the society, including the tribal population. The value attached to education of children has substantially improved compared to earlier times when lack of literacy and negative attitude towards education were the main barriers for sending children to school in a tribal community. Previously education was considered as wastage of time and money since its outcome was perceived to be uncertain and unimportant. Presently, the importance and the outcomes of education are highly appreciated by people through persistent efforts at compulsory education and increased awareness through information and technology revolution. Education Commission (Kothari Commission 1964-65), also observed and states, "One of the important social objectives of education is to equalize opportunities enabling the backward and under-privileged classes and individuals to use education as a level for the improvement of their conditions. Every society that values social justice and is anxious to improve the lot of talent must ensure equality of opportunity to all sections of society."

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