

# Education of children among seasonally migrating tribes of Dangs district, Gujarat



## Education

**KEYWORDS :** Seasonal Migration, Education, children education.

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### ABSTRACT

*Indigenous tribes are forest dwellers and depend on the forest for their livelihood. Over decades with development the government has tried to nationally integrate these tribes. Development has also had negative socio-economic effect on the tribes. In the present scenario education is indispensable for development of the tribes. Education determines their prosperity, success and security in life to cope with national integration (Tribe education in India, 2010). The paper looks at the education of these seasonally migrant tribes, with special reference to Dangs district, Gujarat. The researcher uses both primary and secondary data for analysis and used purposive sampling to collect primary data. The researcher focus on whether the government has succeeded in providing uniform education to their children. Apart from this, the researcher also focuses at challenges faced by these children in order to attain education. Also looks the ways in which these children cope with the challenges of seasonal migration of the Parents. The seasonal migrant tribes and their children need to be provided with proper child care and educational facilities for the children and be protected them from exploitation.*

### Introduction

"... we have loan... we need to migrate to sugarcane field to work. I can't leave my children alone here as they are young. I must take them along. Their education is affected, but I need to provide for them to eat..."

- Voice of the vulnerable, Dangs district, Gujarat

The lives style of every indigenous community is unique and depends on the environment of the surrounding. The major of the tribes in India have been forest dwellers and have been depend on tribes for their development.

In the present scenario education has become indispensable for national integration. Of late, Education is important to determine their prosperity, success and security in life. The tribes which remain either deprived of or negligent toward education will suffer the consequence. The Government asserts that unless exploitation among the tribes is combated and eliminated through education, no improvement in tribal welfare will occur. Within tribal areas, education can be the basis for integrated development.

### Research Methodology

#### a. Study Design

This is a descriptive study on seasonal migrant tribals. The researcher has attempted to describe the education in Dangs district, Gujarat in detail.

#### b. Sample Design

##### Population

The seasonal Migrant tribals comprise the population size for the purpose of the study.

### Unit of Analysis

The tribals who seasonally migrate in Dangs district, Gujarat comprise the unit of analysis for the study.

### Sample procedure and Size

Purposive sampling was adopted. The primary consideration for purposive sampling is that, the researcher only goes to those people who are likely to have required information and be willing to share it. The size of the sample is 100 families.

### Analysis Design

The researcher used descriptive narration to analyze the data. Diagrammatic presentations are also used.

### c. Methods of Data Collection

Primary and secondary data were gathered. The main tool used to collect the primary data was Interview guide. The interview guide enabled the respondents to share the life condition and experiences and was not strictly restricted to the questions. The data collected was qualitative data. The researcher spent time with the migrant for a couple of weeks to understand the problem in detail.

For the secondary data the researcher data from the website [districtsofindia.com](http://districtsofindia.com). This website is an government website having updated statistics on all the districts of India.

### Research Findings

The indigenous tribes of India are the oldest inhabitants of our country. For centuries the tribal people have been controlled and ruled by the outsiders, and been exploited in many ways. Today the tribal population in India which numbers over 40 million requires special attention from the government, thou they live isolated from the mainstream national culture.

**Table 1: Projected Distribution of Rural/Urban/Total Households by Annual Income Groups in Dang District (Gujarat) (2007)**

District	Less than Rs. 45000	Rs. 45000-90000	Rs. 90000-150000	Rs. 150000-240000	Rs. 240000-330000	Rs. 330000-425000	Rs. 425000-545000	Above Rs. 545000
Dang								
Rural	19156 (41.08%)	18409 (39.48%)	6805 (14.59%)	555 (1.19%)	555 (1.19%)	586 (1.25%)	569 (1.22%)	0
Urban <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19156 (41.08%)	18409 (39.48%)	6805 (14.59%)	555 (1.19%)	555 (1.19%)	586 (1.25%)	569 (1.22%)	0

Source: BIU - Datanet India Estimate (<http://www.districtsofindia.com>).

Table 1 show the economic condition of the people of Dangs district, Gujarat. The table clearly shows that 41.08% of the population (the majority) early below Rs. 45000 per annum. Only

about 5% of the people earn over Rs. 150000. This shows the desperate and economic backwardness of the region.

The indigenous peoples are extremely dependent on the government machinery for protection of their rights and for development. This has led to much slower progress in the development of independent attitudes among the children

**Table 2: Dropout Rate of Primary Education (Standard I-V and I-VII) in Dang District (Gujarat) (2008-2009)**

District	Standard (I) to (V)			Standard (I) to (VII)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Dang	6.88	6.05	6.47	8.15	7.73	7.94

**Table 3: Dropout Rate of Secondary Education (Standard VIII-X) in Dang District (Gujarat) (2008-2009)**

District	General			Scheduled Caste			Scheduled Tribe		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Dang	36.16	31.66	34.14	66.67	54.55	61.54	36.45	31.67	34.32

**Table 4: Dropout Rate of Higher Secondary Education (Standard VIII-XII) in Dang District (Gujarat) (2008-2009)**

District	General			Scheduled Caste			Scheduled Tribe		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Dang	43.59	31.13	37.85	8.33	-	-	41.78	30.06	36.67

The table 2, 3 and 4 show that the drop-out rate is very high, both in secondary and higher secondary school in Dangs district, Gujarat. In comparison to primary school the drop-out it is less. Another observation is that the drop-out rate of boys is higher than that of girls.

The education system in the name of eradicating illiteracy produced a considerable number of semi-educated indigenous youth who remain unemployed with an acquired bias against traditional occupations and manual labor. With the increasing pressure on their lands and dwindling land holdings, the indigenous peoples have been forced to change their cropping patterns from food crops to cash crops which have impoverished them further and adversely affected nutritional intake. Often the youth migrate to semi-urban agglomerations where they may have to live in degradation and frustration.

**Fig 1: Overlapping of Migration and School term**



Source: Smita, May 2008.

The fig: 1 show that the seasonal migration of the families in search of employment in lean season and the school calendar year coincide with each year. Seasonal migration causes a strange kind of drop-out, which is not captured by conventional ways of looking at the problem. It is possible for these children to be enrolled in schools and to attend for the first few months of the school session, (i.e. from July to October), but to then drop out for the remaining months to accompany their parents to migration sites. By the time they return the following April or May, the school session is already over. Thus these children have the strange predicament of having their names on school registers, but dropping out for part of the year. Over time, the learning deficit this causes gradually leads them to drop-out of school completely (Smita, May 2008).

Seasonal Migrant populations overwhelmingly belong the landless and land poor, and those possessing the least amount of assets, skills or education. Studies show that a majority of migrants found ... to be from the most marginalized sections of society (cf. Srivastava, 2003). Distress seasonal migration is becoming the last coping strategy in the precarious lives of the rural poor. It has manifested as an inter-generational phenomenon, and it is common to come across fourth and even fifth generation migrants in many sectors. This has affected the education of the children as well as increased the dropout of children because, either they migrate with parents or works in field and do labour to earn income.

**Recommendation**

There is a need for both the government, and other agencies (NGOs, CBO etc...) to take steps to impart the need of reducing the rate of dropout as well as reducing seasonal migration to start alternative employment opportunities in the region.

- The schools must clarify and inform School Districts as to the definition of tracking dropouts. It must provide sufficient funding to allow districts to develop and report adequate data.
- Establishing and strengthening transitional education centres which focus on mainstreaming tribal children.
- Access seasonal migration in the district and plan with district and state for appropriate programs to have seasonal hostels for children of parents migrating.
- Set up temporary schools at migrating areas and bridge school, when they return back to village.

**Conclusion**

As mentioned earlier education can be the basis to integral development in tribal are such as Dangs district, Gujarat. The low economic and social condition of these tribal force them to seasonally migrate during the lean season causing many a time to displace with their family for 4 to 8 months taking the children along. This happens during the educational term leaving many children to dropout. Though this is not the only cause of dropout, it can't be neglected, because it brings in a major reason for dropout and partial education.

A multidimensional approach with the help of Government, NGOs and CBOs need to be taken to provide education and avoid the next generation of these children to be exploited laborers.

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