



EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DISTRICT POONCH OF J&K

Education

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ABSTRACT

Education is important for all including the tribal communities although the Government of India has taken many steps to improve the educational level of the tribal communities, their educational level remains poor. The present study is an attempt to focus on the educational status of the Scheduled Tribes Students in District Poonch. The core concern of the study was to explore the literacy rate, enrolment, and drop out of scheduled tribe secondary school students. The paper is carried out with the help of secondary data which are collected from different sources. The study illustrated literacy rate among the tribes in the field of education is very low. It is also observed that the enrollment rate among tribal students is also low and the dropout rate is also high.

KEYWORDS

Scheduled Tribes, literacy and Educational Status.

INTRODUCTION

Education is an important indicator of socio-economic development. It also increases a person's knowledge and vision. It is considered an important ingredient in bringing about social, political, and economic change. The main objective of educating tribal's is to change their cultural norms and lifestyle, individuals gain financial independence, understand their rights and responsibilities. And actively participate in it and contribute to the overall development of the tribal society. Secondary education creates a skilled and knowledgeable nation with access to global level. Investing in secondary education also has significant social and private returns, offering the adolescent population the skills and attitudes that enable them to acquire employable skills, and contribute to society. Therefore, secondary education provides a skilled workforce for economic development and promotes a strong work ethic in society. The Secondary Education Commission directed that secondary school prepares people to adapt to the requirements of the country in terms of democratic citizenship, professional performance, personality development, and leadership qualities. Scheduled tribes (STs) constitute 11.9% of total population of the UT. The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir has twelve tribes including Gujjar and Bakarwal are the most populous tribe of Jammu and Kashmir. The majority of these people are nomads who move from the plains to the highlands on seasonal migrations to graze their livestock. This community is educationally and socially very backward from other people and their literacy rate is very low.

The government has made several educational arrangements for the migratory Gujjar and Bakarwal population in the form of stationary and permanent government schools at various locations across the state. But these arrangement has a lot of lacunas in implication and supervision but more still needs to be done. But however, millions of children are still not attending school, mainly due to inadequate infrastructure, teacher absence and attitude, parental poverty, seasonal migration, lack of interest and desire on the part of parents, etc. Poonch is among one the backward districts of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The total population of the tribal in the district is consist of 36 percent. The tribal communities of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district are essentially distinct from that of other ethnic groups and the general population in several aspects including their habitat, level of isolation, customs, beliefs, and traditions.

Review of literature

Sultan & Rashid(2022) studies indicate that the status of Scheduled Tribe education is very low Studies also show that Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes have the lowest literacy rate compared to other Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir. **Hussain & Lone** (2021) examined the educational status of the Dard tribe of Ladakh and explained the reasons for high school dropout and non-enrolment among tribal children and also identified the culprits of poor quality of educational infrastructure. Another demonstration by **Andrabi,A. (2018)**This study focuses on the state of education in the Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir and compares it with the tribal situation across the country. There is lack of access to basic infrastructure and poverty appear to be major barriers to access to education for these tribal's. Development programs and educational initiatives do not show much improvement for the tribal people.

Objective of the Study.

To explore the literacy rate, enrolment, and drop out of scheduled tribe secondary school students in District Poonch, J & K.

Methodology

In the present study, Descriptive methods were applied. The investigator used secondary data from different sources:- CEO Office, U-DISE and Census2011, The targeted population for this study is scheduled tribe secondary school students.

Analysis

Table 1:- Literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes in District Poonch.

Literacy Rate of Scheduled Tribes in District Poonch J&K						
General	Scheduled tribes			Scheduled tribes		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Rural	64.68	77.23	50.9	59.33	71.59	46.67
Urban	88.26	94.16	80.18	79.93	89.26	69.1
Total	66.74	78.84	53.19	47.88	57.21	38.06

Source: - (compiled from data taken from census 2011).

The said table depicts that the overall literacy rate among the general category in district Poonch is 66.74 percent out of which 78.8percent are males and 53.19 percent are females. Moreover, the table further highlights that the literacy rate among a scheduled tribe in District Poonch is 47.88 percent out of which 57.21percent are males and 38.06 percent are females.

Table 2:- Enrolments of Scheduled tribe Students at Secondary levels in District Poonch.

Academic Years.	General category students			Scheduled tribes students			Overall Students
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
2018-19	4882 (52.4)	4434 (47.5)	9316 (60.4)	3437 (56.4)	2651 (43.5)	6088 (39.5)	15404
2017-18	4423 (53.3)	3866 (46.6)	8289 (58.66)	3276 (56.1)	2561 (43.8)	5837 (41.3)	14126
2016-17	4117 (52.9)	3651 (47)	7768 (63.9)	2320 (52.9)	2062 (47.05)	4382 (36.06)	12150

Source: - field work (CEO office Poonch)

The said table reveals during the year 2018-19; the total numbers of 15404 students are enrolled, out of that a total of 6088 students i. e. (39.5%) belong to tribal community and a total of 9316 students i.e. (60.4%) belong to general category. The table further reveals that a total of 3437 i.e. tribal students i.e. (56.4%) are enrolled in different schools are boys while as a total of 2651 tribal students i.e. (43.8%) are girls. Moreover the tables further revealed that during the year 2017-18 the overall figure of 14126 students enrolled, out of them a total of 5837 students i. e. (41.3%) belong to tribal community and a total of 8289 students i.e. (58.6%) belong to general category. The table further reveals that a total of 3276 i.e. tribal students i.e. (56.1%) are enrolled in different schools are boys while as a total of 2561 tribal students i.e. (43.8%) are girls. Moreover the table further highlight that during the

year 2016-17 the overall figure of 12150 students, are enrolled, away from that an amount of 4382 student's i. e. (36.06%) belong to tribal community and a total of 7768 students i.e. (63.9%) belong to general category. The table further reveals that a total of 2320 i.e. tribal students i.e. (52.9%) are enrolled in different schools are boys while as a total of 2062 tribal students i.e. (47.05%) are girls. In addition to that the table also displays that the number of enrolment among scheduled tribal is gradually increasing.

Table 3:- Dropout Rate among Scheduled tribe at Secondary level District Poonch.

Area of study	Academic year	Overall			Scheduled tribes		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Poonch	2017-18	35.74	38.71	36.84	44.30	47.03	45.49
	2016-17	31.93	33.48	32.64	31.00	33.51	32.08
	2015-16	13.44	14.14	14.02	12.73	21.93	16.75

Note: value in above table is in percentage.

Source: - (U-DISE)

A perusal of the above table displays the overall dropout rate of students for the year 2017-18; 2016-17 and 2015-16 in terms of gender and category. The said table reveals during the year 2017-18; the total Percent of 45.49% scheduled tribe students are dropout, out of that 44.30% are boys while as 47.03% are girls whereas the overall total percentage of 36.84% students of general category dropout out of that 35.74% are boys while as 38.71% are girls. Moreover the tables further revealed that during the year 2016-17 the total percent of 32.08% scheduled tribe students are dropout, out of that 31% are boys while as 33.51% are girls whereas the overall total percentage of 32.64% students of general category dropout out of that 31.93% are boys while as 33.48% are girls. Besides the table further highlight that during the year 2015-16 the total percent of 16.75% scheduled tribe students are dropout, out of that 12.73% are boys while as 21.93% are girls whereas the overall total percentage of 14.02% students of general category dropout out of that 13.44% are boys while as 14.14% are girls. In addition to that the table also displays that the number of dropout rate among scheduled tribal is gradually increasing.

Findings:

Higher enrolment rate was found among scheduled tribe Boys as compare to scheduled tribe Girls and literacy rate is also high in tribal boys as compare to girls at secondary level in District Poonch It was found in the study more scheduled tribe students at secondary level were dropped from school as compare to general category students It was found that more scheduled tribe Girls were dropped from school as compare to scheduled tribe Boys at secondary level in District Poonch.

DISCUSSION

The present study has attempted to find out the access to education for scheduled tribe of District Poonch in terms of enrolment, dropout physical availability of schools. In this present study found that literacy rate is low among scheduled tribe as compare to general category while among scheduled tribe and also finding overall highest literacy rate among tribal male as compare to tribal female. The similar findings are strongly supported to present findings conducted by (Ahmed, 2017, Daripa, S.K. 2017, Rupavath, R. 2016, & Sofi, U. 2014). (Pandit, 2015). Furthermore the finding shows that the enrollment of tribal female is low as compare to Male the similar finding are supported by the finding of study conducted by (Dar, W.A & Najar, I.A. (2018). In this present study findings related to dropout rate of scheduled Tribe students in district Poonch. Highest dropout rate is found in scheduled tribal students as compare to the general students. The similar results found in the study of (Singh, A. 2014, Rupavath, R. 2016) in addition the highest dropout rate among female as compare to male (Ahmed, J. & Samena 2015. Nakpodia, E.D. 2010).

CONCLUSION

Education is a basic need for social development. Without proper education, development of scheduled tribe is beyond imagination. The literacy rate among the tribes in the field of education is very low and educational awareness is needed to improve it. It has been observed that the enrollment rate among tribal students is also low and the dropout rate is also high. The number of tribal student's enrolment in Poonch district is very low and the dropout rate is very high. There are many reasons behind this, such as lack of parental attitude, separate schools for boys as well as girls, geographical location, border tensions, social environment, lack of proper guidance, and lack of monitoring facilities.

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