



Attitude of Parents Towards Equitable Education in Tamilnadu

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ABSTRACT

The field of education, covering ethics, religion, morality, philosophy, literature, skills and general knowledge, is a very broad and very vital one. The importance of learning in enabling the individual to put his potentials to optimal use is self-evident. Without education, the training of the human minds is incomplete.

The present study investigates the attitude of parents towards equitable education which was implemented in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. Two hundred and eighty parents participated in the study. Data were gathered using Parents Attitude Scale towards Equitable Education (PASEE), a rating scale constructed by the investigator. The statistical analysis of data revealed that the parents possess favourable attitude towards equitable education.

KEYWORDS

Parents' Attitude, Equitable Education

INTRODUCTION:

Education systems are one arena in which States can seek to limit inherited advantages and promote greater equality of opportunity, even though that greater equality in outcomes will always prove elusive. Access to education is very unevenly distributed in relation to household wealth in most poor countries. Discrepancies related to location, gender, cultural affiliation and many other signifiers of advantage may also be very obvious. And of course access narrowly defined as enrolment conceals vast differences in educational quality, resource inputs, and measurable outcomes.

School education is a very important part of progress in society. We need to provide our children quality education in an equitable manner. This is one important path towards a just, equitable and humane society.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN INDIA:

According to the 2009 Right to Education Act, schooling is free and compulsory for all children from the ages of 6 to 14. However, improvements are slowly being implemented and disadvantaged groups may still not have adequate access to education. A high value is placed on education, as it ensures a stable future. All parents want their children to attend the best private English schools, but places are limited. The admission process is therefore highly competitive.

Most Indian schools have a strong focus on academic subjects, with little scope for creativity and few or no extra-curricular activities. Traditional schooling methods tend to emphasise rote learning and memorisation, rather than encouraging independent or creative thinking. There is a strong focus on examinations from an early age. This makes the atmosphere at Indian schools competitive. Many experts prefer to send their children to international schools. Others choose a more progressive Indian school that is less traditional in its teaching style.

CURRENT EDUCATION SYSTEM IN TAMILNADU:

The Uniform Education System in Tamilnadu is a new education system which has brought about noticeable changes. It was formed with the vision of providing equal quality of ed-

ucation to all students. The Uniform Education or Equitable Education is a praiseworthy step that has added light in the gloomy parts of our society. This system comes under the School Education Department of Government of Tamil Nadu. Followed by the Tamil Nadu Uniform System of School Education Act 2010, this system was first introduced in classes I and VI in 2010. Consequently, it has been applied in other classes also. This newly added system has been implemented since the 2011-12 academic session. With this equitable education system into adaptation there can be a uniformity of education for various classes of peoples from different caters of educational system.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

The Equitable Education System is a system which provides uniform education to all students of Tamilnadu. The education comprises of uniform syllabus, uniform examination pattern and uniform evaluation scheme. By following this type of uniform education we can provide impartial education to all children irrespective of region such as rural /urban, caste upper /lower, religion etc. The main goal of this system is offering impartial education to all children in the school level. This new system of education came into existence after a lot of obstacles and confusions.

Measuring attitude and efforts to improve attitude towards a new system of education is very much essential to effect any change through it. Attitudes of teachers, students and parents about a new educational system influence the choices and national development. The teaching- learning process depends upon a range of factors such as attitudes, confidence, views of the nature of the learner and perceptions of themselves.

Thus, the study of parents' attitude towards Equity Education System becomes indispensable to the implementation plans. These observations initiated the researcher to undergo a study on, "Attitude of Parents towards Equitable Education in Tamilnadu".

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

Objectives:

To find out the significant difference in Attitude of Parents to-

wards Equitable Education System with respect to their Gender, Age, Educational Qualification and Locality of Living.

Hypothesis:

1. There is no significant difference in the attitude of parents towards Equitable Education System with respect to their Gender, Age and Locality of Living.
2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of parents towards Equitable Education System with respect to their Educational Qualification.

Methodology Adopted:

Considering the objectives of the study, the investigator has decided to use 'Normative Survey Method'.

Instrumentation:

The data were collected through a rating scale consisting of 22 items measuring attitudes of parents toward Equitable Education developed by the researcher. The items were on a 4-point scale, ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). The tool was piloted, items were analysed, reliability and validity check was done and consulted with a panel of experts before being used in the main study.

Participants:

The participants were 280 parents of secondary level students of Coimbatore city in Tamil Nadu, India.

Statistical Techniques Employed:

The collected data were consolidated, tabulated and analyzed statistically by using the t – test and F - test

DATA ANALYSIS:

The suitable statistical techniques were applied and the data analysis was carried to find the Attitude of Parents towards Equitable Education System.

Table No. 1: Test of significance difference in Attitude towards Equitable Education System among Parents with respect to their Gender, Age and Locality

| Categories | N | Mean | S.D | Std. Error of the mean | DF | t' value | Significance |
|------------|----------|------|---------|------------------------|-----|----------|-----------------|
| Gender | Male | 129 | 72.2713 | 5.98403 | 278 | 2.384 | Significant |
| | Female | 151 | 70.5298 | 6.18364 | | | |
| Age | Above 40 | 116 | 69.8448 | 5.85417 | 278 | 3.474 | Significant |
| | Below 40 | 164 | 72.3841 | 6.14238 | | | |
| Locality | Rural | 140 | 71.4143 | 6.02153 | 278 | 0.223 | Not Significant |
| | Urban | 140 | 71.2500 | 6.28361 | | | |

An analysis was done to find whether there will be gender, age and locality wise difference in attitude of parents towards equitable education. Means and standard deviations were found and t-test was calculated to find out if there is any statistically significant difference in attitude based on gender, age and locality and the values are given in Table No.1

Table No: 2: Test of significance difference in Attitude towards Equitable Education System among Parents with respect to their Educational Qualification

| Category | Source of Variance | Sum of Squares | D F | Mean Squares | F Value | Significance |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----|--------------|---------|--------------|
| Parents' Educational Qualification | BG | 458.193 | 4 | 114.548 | 3.128 | Significant |
| | WG | 10071.918 | 275 | 36.625 | | |

Attitude of parents with respect to their educational qualification (namely Degree (N=19), Higher Secondary (N=29), Secondary (N=125), Primary (N=78) and Illiterate (N=29)) towards equitable education were considered for the study and the scores obtained were subjected to Analysis of Variance and the F- value obtained is given in Table No. 2.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS:

The following were the important findings obtained from the present investigation.

1. The findings reveals that there exists a significant mean score difference in Attitude towards Equitable Education System among Parents with respect to their Gender (t=2.384) and Age (t=3.474)
2. From the analysis it is found that there is no significant mean score difference in Attitude of Parents towards Equitable Education living in Rural and Urban Locality (t=0.223).
3. From the results of Analysis of Variance (table no. 2), it is evident that the parents' educational qualification influences the attitude towards Equitable Education System (F=3.128).

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS:

1. The government should work toward making schools places where it is safe for administrators, teachers, parents, and students to disagree. Understand that disagreement and conflict are characteristic of democratic spaces, and not indications of disrespect or insubordination.
2. The schools can get parental assistance to organize certain tasks.
3. Parents can be given awareness about the system policies through PTA meetings and at some planned gatherings.

CONCLUSION:

The uniform education system Tamilnadu is a new thinking in a new dimension in the history of Tamilnadu education. No doubt the Equitable Education System will bring an expected change over cognitive, affective and psycho motor domain of Education. Opposing is easier than designing, so the Equitable Education is not against anyone or favoring any political party but in is in the interest of Children of Tamil Nadu. It is one of the best education systems in Indian education.

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