

Education among Scheduled Tribes

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Abstract- Tribes are the people with different way of living and community life. They are living in definite geographical area. They have their own culture, customs, religious belief etc which make them different from other tribal community. The literacy scenario of the Scheduled tribes in general is below the literacy rate of the general population of the country. As per 2001 census the literacy rate among tribal (47.10%) is found to be far below the overall literacy of the country (64.84%). This paper focuses the education of tribal children and the hurdles they faces.

key words: Drop out, Education, Literacy, Tribes

CONCEPT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES:

The English word "Tribe" is originated from the Latin language "Tribis" implies the group of people come from same race. The Scheduled Tribes are the primitive or aboriginal race living in India. Dr.D.N.Majumdar has defined a Scheduled Tribe as "a collection or group of families bearing a common name, occupying the same territory, speaking the same language and observing certain taboos regarding marriage, profession or occupation" Scheduled Tribes are so called as "Adivasis" ," Girijan" or "Tribal people". Thus, the tribe in India possessing their own culture, dialect, racial characteristics and being nomadic in nature constitutes the lowest layer of society live in primitive and sordid conditions. Most of the Scheduled Tribes in India belongs to the three racial stocks such as Mongoloids, Negritos and Austroloids.

Scheduled Tribes, according to the constitution of India are "such tribal communities or parts or groups, within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the constitution (article 366(25))", Before independence of India to recognize and provide special provision for the forest people who are nomads and lead unsettled life "Scheduled Tribes" has been introduced by Simon commission, the concept has been adopted by the Indian Government for the administrative convenience. Thus, today, most of the tribal people live in rural areas, living in particular territory with particular name, the tribal people are the most backward people in the Indian society, their conditions of housing, feeding and clothing verge on animal conditions. The per capita income of the tribal people is much less than the national per capita income. Most of them live in debts, they are exploited by money lenders and forest contractors, their purchasing capacity is very low. The tribal people are the most backward section of the Indian people

Meaning and Definition of Education: Many eminent educationist have given the meaning of education, among them Socrates, the great philosopher, Plato and John Dewey are prominent in giving the meaning of education, we can find

the change in the meaning of education in different ages. For the vedic Saints, education is the means of forming future life of the child, education is not only the means freeing the individual from all the clutches of life, it is the continuation of responsibility, social improvement and the protection of right type of living. It is the "knowledge acquisition" while making the person self dependent and confident, helps in building the strong civilization. The English word "Education" is derived from the Latin term 'Educare' which means to brings out the best hidden in the person.

Eminent educationists have defined education as follows :Mahatma Gandhiji has defined education as "the means of spreading the best potentiality of the man". As per Swami Vivekananda "It is the education which brings out the hidden divine qualities in the man".

Dr. Radhakrishnan said that "It is the education while converting children into human civilized, amicable beings and making them to lead respectable and dignified life", Rabindranath Tagore defined education as "Education is the training process which makes the man to find out the basic truth" and according to Socrates, "Education is the means of knowing the truth about career and thereby making an individual to involve in day to day activities"

Prominence of Education: Providing education is one of the basic functions of the modern societies, for continuing cultural heritage makes the education more important need. Education is the breathe of human and the important character of every society, civilization attainments and efficiencies depend on education, in modern days education is the prominent and powerful determinant of all dimensional development of the nation, hence educational progress is complimenting to the national development. As the education is very essential to the individual development, it is very essential for the societal security, it serves as the means of social change and social control

Reasons for Drop-out among tribal students

1. Low socio-economic status: - Tribal's enjoy low socio-economic status. Miller (1988) has identified four major classes of variables such as cognitive variables, physical variables and motivational variables where disadvantaged learners show poor performance as compared with the advantaged groups.

2. Tribal concepts of pleasure:- Tribal's are giving more importance for their pleasure such as dance, music and other types of entertainments prevalent in the society.

3. Tribal concept of learning:- In most of the tribal cultures learning is an active pleasurable event mostly carried on among peers. But the existing system of education does not take in to account their learning style.

5. Linguistic problems:-Tribal languages, except a very few, belong to Austro-Asiatic language family and are different from dominant non tribal languages of India which belong either to the Indo European or the Dravidian family. In most of the time tribals face acute problems in language.

6. Problem of learning English: - Tribals need for English is great, they face problems in learning than their non-tribal counterparts. For tribals their typical use of regional languages interferes with English. For them English are 5th or 6th languages.

7. Problems in learning to read:-Tribals have long oral tradition. Their culture is oral. Their history, myths and traditions are orally handed down from generation to generation. Most of the language does not have scripts of their own; their oral tradition still continues to exist.

8. Indifferent attitude of tribal parents: - Tribal parents are mostly illiterate. They always show a very indifferent attitude towards the education of their children. They are interested in providing household responsibilities to their children a very early stage of their education. "The parents of these students do not have any relationship with the society outside and are unaware of the importance of education. All teachers are talented. Teaching such children is a herculean task".

11. Indifferent attitude of tribal teachers: Teachers do not take much effort to improve the educational level of the tribal students. Lack of communication, high level of absenteeism in the class, bad result in study, lack of attention in classroom by the tribals are some of the factors that has increased the indifferent attitude of the teachers towards the tribal students. Overcome the Tribal educational problem: Extensive literacy campaign in the tribal dominated districts may be undertaken on a priority basis to literate the tribal.

b) Attitude of the tribal parents - The attitude of the tribal parents toward Technology should be improved through proper counseling and guidance .

d) Appointment of Local teachers and female teachers - It is suggested to appoint more tribal teachers and female teachers in the tribal areas. The ecological, cultural, psychological characteristics of tribal children should be considered carefully by the teachers in tribal areas.

e) Stipends and various scholarships - Since higher education among the tribes is less, special ST scholarships should be provided to the tribal students perusing higher education, particularly in medical, engineering, and other vocational streams.

f) Residential schools - More residential schools should be established in each states and districts and extended up to PG level in tribal areas.

g) Social security- Social security of students, especially of adolescent girls is of great concern in residential schools.

h) Proper Monitoring - Higher level officials should check the functioning of schools frequently relating to the teaching methods, working hours, and attendance registers.

CONCLUSION:

Education is the only primary agent which can help individuals overcome income barriers, and expand the horizon of the community when it comes to making career choices, personal growth, build confidence, and a sustained development in well-being. It is the most supreme and vital parameter for a better tomorrow of the tribal population.

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