

A STUDY ON DROPOUTS OF SCHEDULED TRIBE STUDENTS

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Abstract

Even though government proposed many policies, the higher secondary schools students face many problems, particularly the students of ST higher secondary schools located in rural areas, students face many problems, to get their higher secondary education and those problems are focused on various aspects such as Environmental, Economical, Familial, Social and School. All these aspects are considered as basic factors which influence the various problems of ST students studying in schools located in rural areas. If downtrodden groups ST students problems are to be solved, their problems must be first identified and then teachers, parents, government and social agencies must show much attention on student's problems so that their educational status may be enhanced. The problems free students will be pioneer for the future student's development. If the downtrodden groups of ST student's problems are not recognized by the government and school authorities, there is a possibility of devastating the young student's life and thereby they may enter in antisocial activities/delinquent activities in the society and schools. Moreover, if adolescent ST students don't have educational awareness, their illiteracy, ignorance and illegal, social and moral activities will be transmitted to the younger generation and that will affect the development of the society at some extent. Therefore, it is the need of the how to identify their problems in all aspects and these problems must be solved by the authorities for their social, moral, educational and economical developments.



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Introduction:

The ST developments in various aspects will pave a way for creating congenial atmosphere in their locality and at the same time there will be mobility in their status in the important fields of society, economics and education. In the present situation is government offered special benefits like equalization of education and equality of education. In order to use these special educational facilities and to attain the high level educational status, in future the study has been undertaken by the investigator in the present context.

Students face varieties of difficulties to get their higher secondary education and to meet their demands in their home and school environment. These difficulties problems are presented in this study. Not only that their related problems also develop few Environmental, Economical, Familial, social and school problems too. By considering the above problems of adolescent

higher secondary students in rural areas of Khammam district, the investigator decided to conduct the present research study.

Review Of Related Literature:

Caste and occupation were closely interlinked in the traditional socioeconomic order, and the lowest manual and menial occupations were reserved for the SC. The link has gradually been broken but not completely. There have been shifts to caste free occupations. Changes took place with the arrival of new opportunities in rural employment and petty business as well as through education based occupational and social mobility in rural and urban contexts. Studies have pointed out to growing incidence of poverty, rising levels of rural unemployment, wage squeeze, rising levels of mortality and illness as well as declining levels of consumption shares, real wages and consumer monthly per capita expenditure among the SC (Teltumbde, 1996, 2000, 2004; Thorat, 2001, 2002; Nancharaiah, 2002)

Special schemes pertaining to school education of SC/ST children currently include: i) free supply of textbooks and stationery at all stages of school education.ii) Free uniforms to children in govt. Approved hostels and Ashrams schools, and in some states also for children in regular schools; iii) free education at all levels; iv) pre-metric stipends and scholarships to students at middle and high school stage; v) special scheme of pre-metric scholarships for children of castes and families engaged in unclean occupations like scavenging, tanning and flaying of animal skin; vi) girls and boys hostels for SC/ST students and lodging facilities in hostels of backward classes including SC/ST; vii) ashram schools for tribal children started with the intention of overcoming the difficulties of provision in remote regions and also rather patronizingly to provide an environment “educationally more conducive” than the tribal habitat. In addition, several states have established schemes such as scholarships to SC students studying in private schools, merit scholarships, attendance scholarships for girls, special school attendance prizes, and remedial coaching classes, reimbursement of excursion expenses and provision of mid-day meals. The last has been recommended as an integral element in schooling by the Working group on Development and Welfare of the Scheduled Castes during the Eighth Five Year Plan (Kamat, 1985; Chatterjee, 2000). Several studies carried out in the initial decades after independence and in particular, the landmark Report of the Commission of SC/ST of 1986-87 showed that educational progress till the mid 80’s was slow and uneven (Kamat, 1985, Govt. of India, 1990; Velaskar, 1986, Govt. of India, 1998).

Significance of the Study:

The present study on problems encountered by the ST students in pursuing higher secondary education as a study, because it identifies ST student's educational status, environmental problems, economical problems, familial problems, social problems and problems in the school environmental and thereby students struggle can be traced out by the investigator for offering fruitful suggestions to solve them. The study also identifies the reasons for ST student's dropout in the present situation at the same time; the study may help to identify the possible progressive activities to develop the downtrodden community of ST students. Further, the study may help educationist, social workers and social reformers to create awareness on the part of the students to enhance their community development by availing the facilities the government offered that and other private organizations. In educational point of view, educationist can play their effective role by identifying the needed technique to give effective and useful education to promote ST students educational status.

Statement of the Problem: To study the dropouts of ST students which are persisting in rural areas of Khammam District.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To understand the problems encountered by the students at school.
2. To understand difficulties encountered by the students at home.

Operational Definitions:

1. Dropouts– In the present study, drop outs can be described as the student who discontinues the school study.

Methodology of the Study:

Research Design:

The study was narrative in nature, aiming at obtaining as much information possible, about understanding the dropouts of ST students which are still persisting in rural areas even though government have proposed many policies.

Population of the Study:

The population of the present study was the dropout students in rural areas of Khammam district as target population.

Sample of Study:

In the present study, a sample of five dropout students in rural areas of Khammam district as sample of the study.

Tools Used:

1. Interview with the students.
2. Interview with the parents of dropout students.

Data Collection:

The researcher personally visited the rural areas of Khammam district and interviewed the students. The researcher also conducted interview with the parents of the dropout students and collected the data.

Analysis and Interpretation of the Data:

The researcher personally interviewed the students and the parents of dropout students of rural areas of Khammam district and collected the data.

The impact of poor attendance and dropout is readily visible in completion rates of elementary schooling, which are far poorer for ST as compared to higher caste groups.

- a) When a child is born, the mother puts it in the charge of its elder brother or sister since the mother is employed.
- b) Schooling expenditure increases more rapidly than the income of the parents.
- c) Financial liabilities of Scheduled Tribes parents are rising.
- d) In rural and interior areas, teachers are not serious about their teaching as they are engaged in other work.
- e) Prevalence of child marriage among high school students.
- f) Lower the economic status of the family of students, the higher was their educational aspiration.

Pitfalls and utilization of financial assistance to Scheduled Castes are:

- 1) Inadequate financial or material assistance; 2) Delay in grants of stipends or scholarships;
- 3) Poor hostel facilities for students; 4) Misutilisation of financial assistance by students; 5) Cumbersome and bureaucratic procedures followed to grant financial assistance; and 6) Lack of awareness on the part of ST benefits meant for them.

Cause/Findings:

One of the interesting findings was that the educational level of the parents, especially of the mother was higher for the promoted students in comparison to the parents, especially mothers of the dropout students. The investigator feels that education of the parents is an influential factor. Because of low economic status, the parents get their children married and want to lower their burden.

Again most of the family members of the dropouts were illiterate fall below the poverty line or engaged in low paid works such as daily wage earning, agricultural/non-agricultural labour or petty businesses such as peddling or tending of cows and livestock's of others. The main factors are 1) poverty; 2) low level of literacy of parents; 3) lack of faith in Government's protective measures; and 4) indifference on the part of educational bureaucracy in motivating the Scheduled Tribes.

Conclusion:

The findings of the present study will contribute to the following directions: (1) the outcome of the present study may help and increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the educational organization and at the same time, the student's level of achievement may be enhanced by this study. (2) The present study may highlight the problems of ST students in various aspects like environmental, economical, family, society and school. (3) The present may give essential clues to the social reformers and educationist to solve the problems by preferring suitable and innovative approaches. (4) This study may help to solve many future problems of the students and there by the downtrodden communal problems and their intensity will not be increased.

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