

Tribes and Pre-School Facilities in the District of Wayanad

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Abstract

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Research across the world in general and India in particular in the area of primary education specially in the field of tribal education is in a primary stage. The studies in generally emphasizes the fact that the aboriginal communities, educational issues today itself is a sensitive one, whether it is primary, Secondary or higher education level. The 86th constitutional amendment bill 2002 that makes free and compulsory education, a fundamental right for all children of 6 to 14 years age group makes the dawn of the second revolution in the chapter of citizens rights. The mile stone in the development of tribe is with the formation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, on 15th October 1999, a historic provision to bring the most under served community of this country into the mainstream. Core of this attempts are integrated socio-economic development providing protection against exploitation, tribal welfare planning policy formulation, research and training tribal development including scholarships to aboriginals and promotion of voluntary efforts in their development. But here arise a critical and sociological question that the early child hood care and protection activities we can solve maternal under nutrition, inter pregnancy interval and related health issues. Health education and related protection service is one of the core concern and vigilant eye in the early childhood service.

Introduction

Comprehensive analysis of Tribal studies indicates a need based quality primary education for tribal development in the country. It has been observed that development of rural villages have positively influenced school participation of children approaches and intervention strategies are operating to evolve and enhance the quality of tribal life through primary education. Aboriginal groups in our country is marginalized groups because of historical, sociological and economical reasons. In past they were compelled to scheduled from mainstream, but in the contemporary time here arise so many issues which bounded them from socio-economic and educational development. UNICEF from the formation period itself scientifically concentrating on child development with it's wholehearted dedication. Education for all is one of the golden dream of U.N. Due to the Socio-Anthropological causes

Developmental process do not receive to this group. Policy planning and evaluation results that stunting in tribal children is influenced by a multi trade of factors including household food insecurity maternal nutrition, poor feeding and care practices in the first 2 years of life and poor access to water health and sanitation services. 47% tribal women suffer from chronic energy deficiency 68% tribal women are anaemic. A suitable project is for aboriginal development is to establish sufficient early child hood care centers in tribal dominated areas. Non-availability of early childhood centers leads to the health problems and malnutrition of mothers and Childs. Wayanad is a geographical peculiar land with forests estates and paddy field. Because of these peculiar nature, from the prehistoric period itself various aboriginal groups are the early inhabitants here, Paniya, Irula, Kurumba, Kattunaika, Adiya and Kurichia are the important tribe groups inhabited here. Most of them are forest depend groups for daily life. Some of them are hunters, cultivators and farmers. These lifestyle and tribal nature which causes the marginalization process. One of the major tribal dominating area in Kerala, Wayanad is a peculiar district. Unavailability of educational institutions including early child hood centres is one of the sensitive issue. Integrated child Development Scheme is a dreamful project to realize the needs and aspirations of society and tribe. Methodology of this study is survey and documents analysis.

Key Words :

Tribes, Preschool, Facilities, District, Wayanad.

Need and Significance :

Aboriginal groups are counted as most backward and marginalized because of so many reasons. Childrens are the valuable property of our nation, so we are responsible for care them with scientific and psychological base. Constitutional safeguards and developmental support from the Govt. and other progressive movements gave a new dimension of tribal issues in National and State level. Most of aboriginal groups are very backward in educational and economic growth. Because of their genuine nature to depend forest for their livelihood they traditionally settled nearby the forest and interior and inaccessible areas. Sociologists unanimously agreed that caste system and untouchability is our curse. These two causes geographical in accessibility and social deprivation withdrawn the aboriginals from the modernization and socio-economic development. Education for all is a noble concept of United Nations and for this purpose designed and implement various types of projects and programmes all over the world.

Early childhood education is a core issue related to health care, nutritional Supervision and psychological protection to pregnant mothers and children. Modern society very carefully and scientifically monitor supervise and protect the aforesaid issues, but the aboriginal peoples are in a dilemma to extend these type of services to their pregnant mothers and childs in the age group of 3 years to 6 years. Historically they are marginalized and deprived and their lifestyle also is added fuels to their generations deprivation. Secondary source and survey method is used for the present study.

- Re-Organize and re-orient the early childhood protection facilities in tribal areas.
- Identify the need and importance of early child hood education facilities at the grassroot level.

- To assure the enrollment of tribal children to these centres.
- Strengthen the social mind setup to the child care activities.

Our national level Commissions and committees ardently point out the importance of early childhood protection facilities for tribes eg. Mudaliar Commission, Kothari Commission, (1964-66) NPE (1986) and Programmes of action (POA-1986). But in reality the need of implementation strategy is to be changed in accordance with the Socio-racial peculiarities of aboriginals.

Objectives:

- Awareness and enrolment campaigns.
- Community mobilization programmes.
- Rigorous supervision and monitoring.
- Nutritional support and its distribution.
- Training programmes for resource persons.
- To establish easily accessible Anganwadis in Tribal areas.
- Capacity building programmes for the community members teachers and Anganwadi workers.
- Attractive and ecofriendly nursery buildings.
- As far as possible utilize aboriginal or Folk Art forms in Anganwadis.
- Accelerate the appointment of aboriginal Anganwadi teachers and workers in tribal areas.

Sociological background of Early childhood care :

Social mind structure and early childhood care is inter-related from the ancient period itself. Our Indian society gave due respect to child and importance to child care activities in a systematic way. Broad minded individuals in our society had established child care centres in their own villages and it slowly spread across our nation. Different types of rulers in history paved way for strengthening these activities and at last the colonial emperors like Lord Mecauley made laws regarding this effort. This is purely one side.

Opposite side of our Indian scenario is entirely different and it is very shameful. Untouchables of our society and their children do not receive any type of consideration or protection from society, or Government. The story of 'Ekalavya' is a living one among them. Upper caste population believes that these so called lower caste children are not eligible for special care and attention, and they do not allow this sects to enter school, or other public places. So the socio-racial causes negatively affected the developmental activity, it is a historical truth no doubt, that is why it is our responsibility to build a progressive social core to wipe out the social sin. Developed countries in world are very advanced in the

Early child care activities. All of us know ours is a developing nation with a well written constitution. Not only the constitutional safeguard can protect and support the activities but also the social core or mental structure is the relevant choice for this.

Psychological background of early childhood care :

Modern Psychology is one of the relevant supporting tool of early child care process. It is a contradictory concept which is more fruitful or suitable in developing the child's intelligence and skill development, Heredity and Environment. Hereditarians argued for ancestral purity and other continuations, but the other sects argued for modern systematic and scientific styles of child care activities, that is why psychology plays a vital role in modern child care service.

Psychologist, no doubt proved that from the formation of feutus itself we must protect and very micro level attention is necessary for a best individual. Health care and nutritional supervision is for mother and child is only one of the medium.

Pedagogical background of early childhood education :

Pre-school education is a Pedagogical approach to fill the education of children from the period from birth to six years of age, kindergarten daycare, nursery school or early education. This is the period to prepare young children for their transition into elementary school. Modern concept of pre-school is that pre-school age child to one of these early childhood education programmes can make a positive impact on child and give a childish step forward a bright future.

Learning and Development :

Psychologists and Pediatric experts clearly proved that child's brain to soak up new learning peaks when child is three year old, adapt for ready to learn. Child has the highest potential to learn new things. While attending an early childhood education programme, child will improve language acquisition skill, motor skills and equitable skills necessary to move on to primary schools.

Health and allied benefits :

During the age old period itself human kind extent their hands of health and nutritional services to paedos. Attending a standard pre-school programme means protect the child from diseases and lead a healthy life. The quality pre-school care is a positive step to child's physical development. Child's socio-emotional development is very effectively influence in these pre-school system. Behavioral pattern psychic structure of child is highly influenced through his pattern. This age bar is very relevant in biological psychological and emotional changes that occur in human beings between birth and the end of adolescence, child progresses from dependency to increasing autonomy.

Developmental interaction approach is based on the theories of Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson John Dewey and hierarchy of need by Abraham Maslow.



Social skills :

Early childhood co-student has the chance to interact with children of their own age group. During this time they learn problem solving, identification of persons, places, names etc. Child can the right way to interact with each other, through manners, sharing, live together, these skills will serve child well when it's time for elementary school. Systematic and scientific approach in pre-school give teachers and parents a chance to assess each child's strength and weakness. A well planned pre-school is a nursery to preserve and to develop the innate qualities of a child to a well rounded individual.

School readiness :

Most important goals of a pre-schooling activity should be to get children to ready to transition into Elementary School. Identification skills, and prepare to learn by basic concepts like letters, colors and numbers, listening skills will be important for child's future.

Maternal under nutrition, low inter pregnancy interval and low literacy which lead to the severe health problem to tribal students. 47% tribal women suffer from chronic energy deficiency this revealed that mother's health is the leading factor of child's health, when mother's health is not in a healthy stage, then it negatively affect the child's health also. 68% of tribal women are anaemic and it also affected the child's health. In their tribal life they collect and consume so many types of natural and organic food items from forest and valleys, but with the influence of modern life and deforestation they are compelled to use the modern food items, but they are helpless in consume modern vitamin content food items. Their family income and sources is not affordable to consume nutritious food, it lead to somany malnutrition related diseases.

Medical background of ECH care :

During the pregnancy itself in modern society, starts the care services. Our health services and other integrated child development schemes services are very advanced in this activities, but the actual service to the tribal mothers and children are now also is a dream, not real. There are somany reasons for that our tribal mothers are not ready to consult the medical practitioners in apt time, do not ready to take treatment and other precautions in stipulated time. Most of our medical practitioners especially Doctors and Nurses not ready to extend due care to our tribal mothers and childs. Tribes genuine quality is an introvert one because of this they are in historically out of main stream. This is also

is a reason for underdevelopment of aboriginals. Supplementary nutrition, health education, chekup, immunization and referral services are the prime focus area of Pre-school service.

Aboriginals are very famous for their ancestral food habit and preparation. As far as possible they depend only forest for their livelihood and food. Food gathering is one of the simple lifestyle of aboriginals. But due to the environmental decay and deforestation process tribes are helpless to collect their daily food from forests or paddy field. So many types of vitamin included rich food items they continuously consumed with their ancestral knowhow. But in the current lifestyle is fully against of their ancestral knowledge and ethics. Because of the blind modernization, tribes are compelled to consume the contaminated artificial foods, it affected their health and life period. Alcohol consumption of male population and tobacco of female is a curse of their population. Self reliance and health is an interrelated reality.

Early childhood centres in Wayanad:

Tribals constitute a major bulk of our population, the continuous strainful efforts of Government schemes for their educational progress, they continue to struggle in the educational front with high rate of dropout stagnation and wastage. As stated earlier Wayanad is geographical peculiar area compared to other parts of Kerala according to the 2011 Census Wayanad District had a population of 8,16,558, in which Tribal population is 1,51,443 (18.5%) literacy rate of Scheduled Tribe is 65 %. The total area of Wayanad District is 2,130 Km².

Integrated child development scheme was launched on 2nd October 1975, today this scheme represents one of the World's largest and most unique programmes for early child hood development. By name is means child oriented schemes and projects but in real sense it is a project for mothers too, child is a targeted aim through mother and vice versa.

Preschools and Children in Wayanad District :

Preschools	Total	General	Scheduled Tribe
874	7246	4736	2510

This data revealed that enrolment of Tribal Students is in a positive manner. Tribal population is positively responded to the Pre-school system of education, but at the same time it displays a fact that most of the tribes are first generation in schools, so they are in need of sufficient preschools and infrastructure facilities in Wayanad, through this preschool system we can try to adapt Tribes to schooling and mainstreaming.

Castewise Anganwadi Workers and Helpers in Wayanad District

Sl.No.		Workers			Helpers		
		SC	ST	Gen	SC	ST	Gen
1	Mananthavady	7	17	106	12	25	78
2	Mananthavady(Addl.)	3	2	95	5	13	79
3	Panamaram	3	3	68	3	21	50
4	Panamaram (Addl.)	7	9	87	11	10	75
5	Kalpetta	11	13	85	11	23	74
6	Kalpetta (Addl.)	16	4	73	13	7	51
7	Sulthan Bathery	10	14	93	6	39	62
8	Sulthan Bathery (Addl)	7	3	78	11	9	65
	Total	64	65	68	72	147	534

Table revealed that the engagement of workers and helpers in Anganwadies are comparatively better. But noted fact that helpers are double in the number compared to workers. Actually workers are very genuinely interacting to children and parents. Scheduled Tribe women ratio of participation is in limited. It is because of non availability of qualified workers due to uneducated tribal women. Anganwadi teachers are the key actors in the running of the scheme. All teachers are women.

Recommendations :

- Build as far as possible eco-friendly traditional building.
- Monitoring and supervision is in a regular way.
- Appoint trained Tribal teachers and helpers.
- Tribal parents's support cell in each centres.
- Utilize play way methods in centres.
- Regular medical team visit and assure medicine in free of cost.
- Distribute nutritional food items.
- Intensive care extension programe to conceived mothers.
- Intensive awareness programes to parents.
- Cultural fest and programmes in centres.
- Integrated local body leaders to centres development.
- Counselling and guidance programmes in Anganwadis.
- Mother and child health care services attached to Anganwadis.

Conclusion :

Modern education give due scientific and systematic importance to preschool system. In ancient and medieval periods children were protected and cared through within the hands of family ie. Most of them are through joint family. But now a Days the social and familial change is a damaging factor to child care patterns. So a very well scientifically planned preschool service is very important. But in the case of aboriginals, here arise a question they are now also in the edge of primary education. So Pre-school care is an essential need to them.

Most of them are daily wage labours and small farmers, because of that their livelihood and earning is entirely differed from main stream. Family atmosphere and living standard is very critical in compare to others, family atmosphere of a child is highly influential in their growth and mental health. Nutrition availability and health care to aboriginal childs are now also in a pathetic stage. Maternal care to conceived mothers and child care services are very slow and negligible in these communities. Some of these communities rites and rituals negatively affected the growth and development of childrens. One of the most accepted solution for these type of challenges is to strengthen the child care activities and services in a systematic and scientific way. Wayanad is a one of the most tribal dominating districts in Kerala, strengthening of child care and pre-school service is our responsibility.

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