



IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF TRIBAL IN UTTAR DINAJPUR DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL

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Abstract: In the present study, the researchers intended to examine the impact of education on Socio-economic Status. The main objective of the paper is to study the role of education in socio-economic development of the tribals in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal. The researchers used mixed research method and selected tribals from Uttar Dinajpur District as sample. Self-made questionnaire was used for data collection regarding the tribals' education and Socio-economic Status. The researcher analysed the data by qualitative and quantitative analysis method. In the result the researchers found that there is less Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of female against male. It is also found that the advancement in education is more whose economic condition is better. The study also proves that education plays an important role in the socio-economic development. Researchers conclude that there is a need to promote education among tribals by giving financial support and also creating awareness among them about various financial support available to them by Government.

Index Terms : Education, Socio-economic status, Tribal.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6% of the total population. 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas. They are the poorest and the most marginalized, oppressed and deprived people in the country. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Karnataka are the State having larger number of Tribes. According to the census of 2011, 5.79% of the total population of West Bengal is Scheduled Tribes and 40 different types of tribal community reside in West Bengal. Most of them are found in the Southern, Western and Northern part of the state (Daripa, 2018). In West Bengal tribes are found in Purulia, Bardhaman, Midnapore, Uttar Dinajpur etc. More than half of the total ST population of the state is concentrated in Medinipur, Jalpaiguri, Purulia, and Bardhaman districts. Of the remaining districts, Bankura, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, and Dakshin Dinajpur have sizable ST population. Uttar Dinajpur is one of the most backward and deprived tribal populated district in West Bengal. 162816 people belonging to the tribal community (census 2011).

Because of lack of education the tribal groups are economically low. Only 59% of Tribes over the age of 7 can read and write compared with the national average of 73%. Children from Tribes rarely progress beyond the primary level, leading ultimately to lower employment chances and long-term income poverty. The Government of India has enacted progressive legislation, programmes and schemes for the development and empowerment of the Tribes. And has special schemes to enable access to opportunities including scholarships for education, financial support and skill building for setting up enterprises, reservations in jobs, and special courts to address instances of atrocities and violence. But still tribes are the most deprived and backward section of our society. In the present study, the researchers intended to examine the impact of education on Socio-economic Status, of the tribes in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has the following objectives:

1. To study the total scheduled tribe population in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.
2. To study literacy rate of the tribes in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.
3. To study economic condition of the tribes in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.
4. To study the role of education in socio-economic development of the tribes in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The researchers used mixed research method and selected tribal from Uttar Dinajpur District as sample. The Sample consisted of 200 tribes of different villages of Uttar Dinajpur District. Random sampling technique was use to collect the sample. They were selected from Kaliaganj, Hemtabad, Itahar, Raiganj, Dalkhola, Islampur, Goalpokhar, Chopra. Self-made questionnaire was used for data collection regarding the tribal's education and Socio-economic Status. The researcher analysed the data by qualitative and quantitative analysis method.

4.0 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Objective 1 : To study the total Scheduled tribe population in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal :

Table 1

	Total tribal population	Rural	Urban
Persons	1,62,816	158,377	4,439
Males	81,831	79,631	2,200
Females	80,985	78,746	2,239

Source census 2011 (Govt. Of India)

From the Table 1 it is seen that the total tribal population in the Uttar Dinajpur District is 1,62,816. From which 81,831 are male and 80,985 is female. In rural area total tribal population is 1,58,377, from which 79,631 are males and 78,746 are female. Where in urban area total tribal population is 4,439, from which 2,200 are males and 2,239 are female. It can be easily analysed that almost 98% of the tribal people live in the rural areas of the district. So, from the data researchers found that most of the tribe people live in rural area.

Objective 2 : To study the Literacy rate of the tribes in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal :

Table 2

	Literates			Illiterates		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	59,069	35,231	23,838	103,747	46,600	57,147
Rural	56,748	33,953	22,795	101,629	45,678	55,951
Urban	2,321	1,278	1,043	2,118	922	1,196

Source Census 2011 (Govt. Of India)

By knowing the literates among the population is one of the most effective method to understand the progress of the society. From the Table 2 it is seen that the tribal literacy rate of Uttar Dinajpur district along with gender disparity. It is also found that Educational status of the tribal people in the district is really a matter of concern. Total literacy rate of the district is around 49% whereas tribal literacy rate is only 36.27%. Tribal male literacy rate is 43% and female literacy rate is 29.43%. Therefore the differences between Tribal male and female literacy rate is as high as 13.57%. It is also found that the total tribal literacy rate in urban area is 52.28%. And the male tribal literacy rate in urban area is 58% and the female tribal literacy rate in urban area is 46.58%. The Study also reveals that in rural areas the tribal literacy rate is 35.83%. And the male tribal literacy rate in rural area is 41.49% and the female tribal literacy rate in rural area is 28.94%.

The literacy rate of the tribal people of this district is very low especially the situation of tribal women in rural areas. This low literacy rate is one of the major causes of their unemployment and poverty. It is considered to be luxurious for the parents to send their children to school rather they send their children to work. Due to the poverty the drop out rate in tribal school is also high. Lack of sufficient schools in tribal areas affect educational enhancement in this area. Absence of basic infrastructural amenities in the school is one of the important reason for slow growth of literacy among the tribals in this area. Reluctance of the teachers to work

in remote areas of the district is also an obstacle in the way of development of education in this area. Lack of awareness of the parents about education, is one of the reasons of educational backwardness. In most the areas there is no Girl school and some parents hesitate to send their daughters to co-educational institution. In Mahinagar and some other villages tribal female student want to play football, volleyball, cricket etc. but in their school there is no infrastructure facilities. It is true that the government has taken many initiatives of educational development among tribal people but the outcomes are not satisfactory.

Objective 3 : To study the Economic condition of the tribes in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal

Table 3

	Total workers		
	Persons	Males	Females
	73,654	44,279	29,375
Rural	71,992	43,160	28,832
Urban	1,662	1,119	543

Source Census 2011 (Govt. Of India)

From the Table 3 it is seen that the total tribal population working in the Uttar Dinajpur District is 73,654. From which 44,279 are male and 29,375 is female. In rural area 71,992 tribes are working, from which 43,160 are males and 28,832 are female. Where in urban area 1,662 tribes are working, from which 1,119 are male and 543 are female.

Tribes in the Uttar Dinajpur in West Bengal are most backward and in underdeveloped condition. Poverty is not the sole enemy of the tribal people, they are exploited in various ways by the non-tribals. They always live under a constant threat of violence, torture, oppression, molestation, atrocity and aggression. More over they are exploited by money lenders, contractors, and government officials.

The main occupation of the tribes are agriculture and daily labour. Some tribal people live in urban areas and have adopted the modern culture and values in their life and they also more educated than others. Most of the tribal peoples annual income is lower than 27,000. So they are in Below Poverty Level.

In the age of technology and rapid urbanization, most of the tribals of this district still remain untouched by civilized society and are unable to avail the facilities of development and fruits of modernization.

Originally tribals of Uttar Dinajpur district are farmers. Generally agricultural activities is the sole means of their economic activities. Some of them doing daily labour for their earning. In the north portion of the district most of the tribal are the tea garden workers. Some of them have small industries.

Rapid urbanisation and using of technology greatly influenced the tribal socio-economic life. The researchers found that presently many tribal people are coming out from their inhabitation to engage in some sort of professional work in non tribal areas. Now they are also engaged in different industries as workers, domestic workers in households etc. Now it is quite evident that neo imperial intervention has slowly but steadily not only influenced the tribal socio- economic status but forced them to adapt modern culture and technology and depend on capitalism (Daripa, 2018).

Objective 4 : To study the role of education in socio-economic development of the tribes in Uttar Dinajpur District of West Bengal

Tribes are the most disadvantaged socio-economic groups in this district. But Modernization brought drastic changes in tribes life in social, cultural, ecological and economical sphere. It is found that 65% tribal children goes to school. Due to lack of knowledge 85% don't know about the different schemes of governmental aids. Researchers found that due to of early marriage 90% girls do not avail higher studies. The researchers also found that there is less Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of female against male. It is also found that the advancement in education is more whose economic condition is better. The study also proves that education plays an important role in the socio-economic development. Some of the tribes having property and education, but still the rest of the tribal population belong to the lower stratum of society. In few tribes inclination towards modern education was noticed. Educated tribes employed themselves in various government offices by using reservation facilities guaranteed by the constitution for Tribes.

More than 80% tribals in this district are in below poverty level condition. Poverty is one of the reason of the educational backwardness of the tribals in this district. It is considered to be luxurious for the parents to send their children to school rather they send their children to work. Drop out rate in Tribal student is also high due to the poverty. Tribal female students want to complete their studies and do something for their earning in future. The Government of India has enacted many laws and schemes, for the development and empowerment

of the Tribes. But still tribes are the most deprived and backward section of Uttar Dinajpur District in West Bengal.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The main occupation of the tribes are agriculture and daily labour. Most of the tribal peoples are in Below Poverty Level. The literacy rate of the tribal people of this district is very low especially the situation of tribal women in rural areas. Some basic reason of educational backwardness among the tribals of Uttar Dinajpur district are because of the poverty. It is considered to be luxurious for the parents to send their children to school rather they send their children to work. Due to the poverty the drop out rate in tribal school is also high. Lack of sufficient schools in tribal areas affect educational enhancement in this area. Absence of basic infrastructural amenities in the school is one of the important reason for slow growth of literacy among the tribals in this area. Reluctance of the teachers to work in remote areas of the district is also an obstacle in the way of development of education in this area. Lack of awareness of the parents about education, is one of the reasons of educational backwardness. In most the areas there is no Girl school and some parents hesitate to send their daughters to co-educational institution. Researchers found that due to early marriage girls do not avail higher studies. The researchers also found that there is less Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of female against male. In Mahinagar and some other villages tribal female student want to play football, volleyball, cricket etc. but in their school there is no infrastructure facilities. The Government of India has enacted many laws and schemes, for the development and empowerment of the Tribes. But still tribes are the most deprived and backward section of Uttar Dinajpur District in West Bengal. It is also found that the advancement in education is more whose economic condition is better. Modernization brought drastic changes in tribes life in social, cultural, ecological and economical sphere. Some tribal people live in urban areas and have adopted the modern culture and values in their life and they also more educated than others. Educated tribes employed themselves in various government offices by using reservation facilities guaranteed by the constitution for Tribes. The study also proves that education plays an important role in the socio-economic development. Researchers conclude that there is a need to promote education among tribals by giving financial support and also creating awareness among them about various financial support available to them by Government.

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