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## Educational Status Of Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmin Community: A Sociological Study In Dakshina Kannada District

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**Abstract:** Education is one of the most significant factors which determine the social change in any society. It is widely recognized as a major factor influencing an individual's social as well as economic success, as it provides a pathway to improved opportunities and a better quality of life (OECD, 2020). According to Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Education plays a significant role in modernizing society. It enriches the knowledge, skills and personality of individuals to enhance the quality of life of individuals in the society. The impact of education is observed on all the communities. Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmins are one of the caste groups found in Dakshina Kannada District. The present paper aims at elaborating the educational status of the Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmin community. The paper includes the study of the level of education, parental aspiration regarding their children education and changes that have taken place due to their educational achievements. The present study is based on primary source of data collected from four Taluks of Dakshina Kannada district, namely Sullia, Puttur, Bantwala and Belthangady taluk. The study is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Based on non-probability purposive sampling method 200 respondents were selected for the present study.

**Key words-** Education, Educational Status, change, Parental aspiration, Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmins.

### 1. INRODUCTION

Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmin community is a sub-caste of the Saraswath Brahmin community. It is believed that these Saraswath Brahmins were resided on the banks of the Saraswathi River in northwestern India. Owing to several factors, these Brahmins migrated to Goa through sea routes in search of green pastures in around 700 BCE from the banks of the Saraswathi. In Goa they took up farming and trading business. But in Goa due to religious persecution by the Portuguese in 1510, it was believed that these Saraswath Brahmins migrated to Southern Maharashtra in the North, Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka and Kerala in the South (Pai, 2007).

The present paper discusses the educational status among Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmin community. Education plays a significant role in bringing about social progress and social change. It is recognized as a most powerful force for social as well as economic change, capable of improving the quality of life of individuals and communities. According to UNESCO, education enables human beings to learn to know, learn to do, learn to be, and learn to live together. For Emanuel Kant, Education is a holistic form of human development. It consists of developing all the perfection in the individual of which he is capable. According to Henri Joly, "education is the totality of efforts aimed at enabling a human being to fully possess and properly use his various faculties".

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The study on 'Voice towards Education: A Study of the Educational Status of the Sabar Community' indicates the educational status of the Sabar community in Purulia district. The study shows that there is a high number of uneducated Sabar and a low overall completion rate for secondary school or higher. At present the state of education of the Sabar community in Purulia district is very poor (Mahato and Gope, 2024).

A study on the Educational of Tea-Tribe Community in Assam shows the educational status of the tea tribe community in Assam. It also analyses the factors that cause low educational status. These factors are family duty, early death of their parents, parental support, and child marriage (Sahu and Bhuyan, 2022).

The study on Education of Tea Tribe Children: A case study of Udalguri District of Assam reveals the educational status of Tea tribes. The study states that the enrolment of girl children is lower than boys due to early marriage among Tea tribe of Assam (Bora, 2017).

The research article "Tribal Education in Madhya Pradesh," mentioned that due to the lack of education, tribes have not been able to join the mainstream of the nation. Tribes in Madhya Pradesh sustain themselves through agriculture and forest produce, but due to illiteracy, they are exploited. The study suggested that education is the way to improve their economic condition (Gupta, 1986).

The work on 'Status of Education among Tribal Communities in Madhya Pradesh' explained the status of education among scheduled tribes in Madhya Pradesh. It is a comparative study of literacy rates of different tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh and identified key reasons for low education levels among these tribes: lack of enthusiasm for education, lack of awareness, long distances to schools, instruction not being in their language, weak economic conditions, and parents' indifferent attitudes towards their children's education (Chatterjee, 2016).

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know about the educational status of Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmin Community.
2. To find out the parental aspiration towards the education of their children.
3. To trace the educational changes among the respondents of the community.

## 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 SELECTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The present study is about Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmins of Dakshina Kannada district. Since the Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmins are numerically strong in four taluks of Dakshina Kannada District, namely Sullia, Puttur, Bantwala and Belthangady, the study is carried out in these four taluks of Dakshina Kannada district of coastal Karnataka.

### 4.2 UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY:

The study is conducted in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state where the highest number of Bhalavalikars are found. Therefore 200 respondents were selected from four Taluks of the District.

#### 4.2.1 SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The present study is limited only to the four taluks of Dakshina Kannada district. Sample for the study has been selected using a non-probability purposive sampling method. When comparing to other taluks of Dakshina Kannada district, the population of Bhalavalikars is more in Sullia, Puttur, Belthangady and Bantwala taluks. Therefore, respondents have been selected from these taluks. The following table indicates the sample size of the present study.

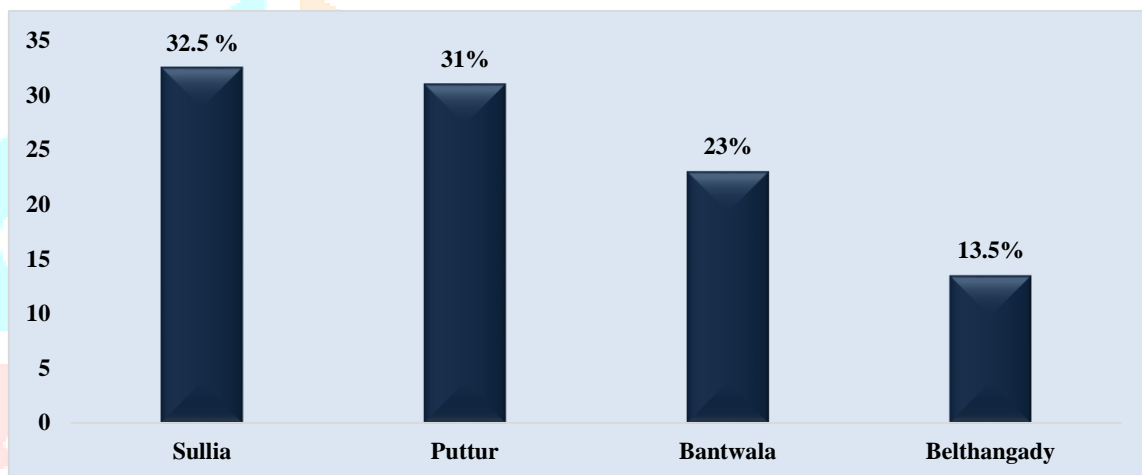
**Table No. 4. 1 Sample Size**

Sl No	Name of the Taluks selected for the study	Sample Selected	Percentage
1	Sullia	65	32.5
2	Puttur	62	31
3	Bantwala	46	23
4	Belthangady	27	13.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Filed Survey 2025**

Table No. 4. 1 shows the sample size of the respondents selected from four Taluks of the district. Out of 200 respondents 32.5 per cent of the respondents are selected from the Sullia taluk, 31 per cent from the Puttur taluk, 23 per cent from the Bantwala taluk, and 13.5 per cent of the respondents selected from the Belthangady Taluk.

The graphical representation of the above table is given below.



**Source:Field Survey 2025    Graph No. 4. 1 Sample Size**

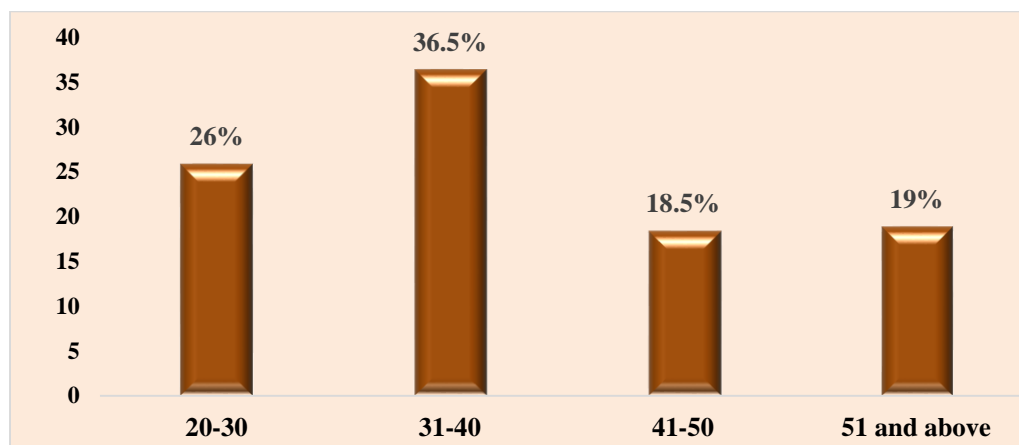
#### 4.2.2 Age category of the respondents

**Table No. 4. 2 Age of the Respondents**

Sl No	Age group	Respondents	Percentage
1	20-30	52	26
2	31-40	73	36.5
3	41-50	37	18.5
4	51 and above	38	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey 2025**

The graphical representation of the above table is given below.



**Source: Field Survey 2025 Graph No. 4. 2 Age of the respondents**

Graph No.4. 2 indicates the age category of the respondents selected for the study. Out of 200 respondents, 26 per cent of the respondents have been taken from the age group of 20-30 years, 36.5 per cent of the respondents have been selected from the age group of 31-40 years, 18.5 per cent of the respondents have been selected from the age group of 41-50 years and 19 per cent from the age group of 51 and above years.

### 4.3 TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES OF THE STUDY

The study includes both primary as well as secondary sources of data. The primary data is gathered using structured interview schedule. The structured interview schedule included close-ended and open-ended questions. The data regarding the educational status was gathered from the head of the household. Secondary information is collected from various journals, books, articles, community magazines and reports.

## 5. DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Educational Status

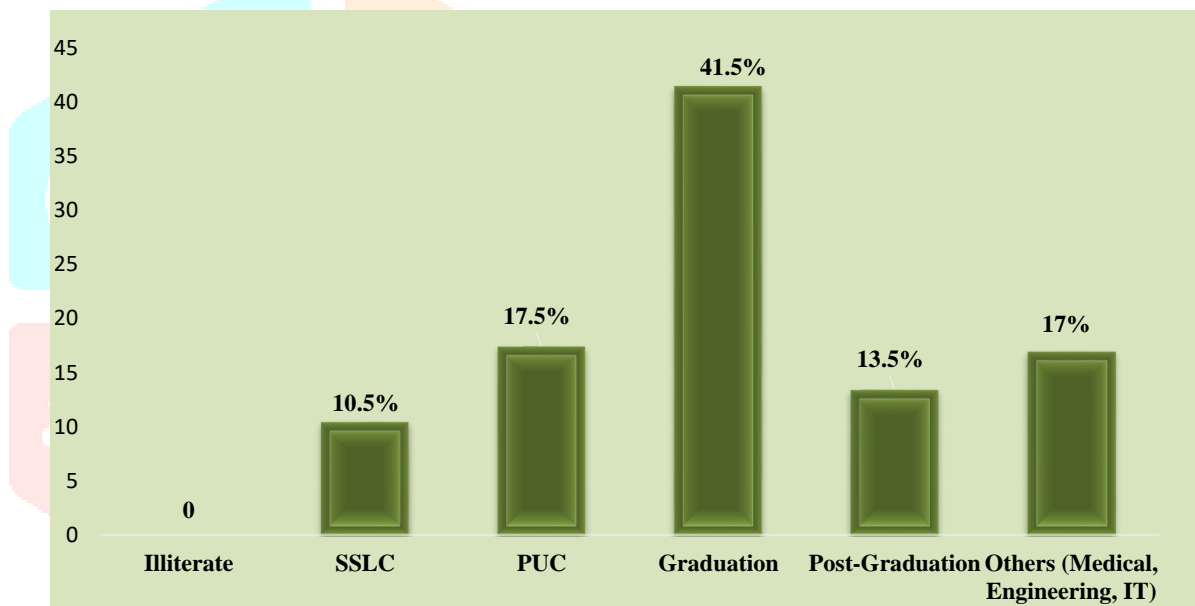
For the sociological analysis of any community, collecting data about educational status is very much essential. To understand the educational status and standard of life of the Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmin community, in the present study different variables like their level of education, parental aspiration regarding their children education, changes that have taken place due to their educational achievements, etc. are analysed.

**Table No 5.1 Educational Status of the Respondents**

Sl No	Level of Education	Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	00	00
2	SSLC	21	10.5
3	PUC	35	17.5
4	Graduation	83	41.5
5	Post-Graduation	27	13.5
6	Others (Medical, Engineering, IT)	34	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Source 2025**

The graphical representation of the above table is given below.

**Source: Field Survey 2025****Graph No 5.1 Educational Status of the respondents**

The above graph shows the educational status of the respondents of the community.

Graph No. 5.1 indicates the educational qualifications of the respondents of the study, which helped the researcher to derive the educational status of the respondents in the Bhalavalikar community. Out of the total 200 respondents, 10.5 per cent of the respondents are educated up to SSLC, 17.5 per cent got PU education. Further, 41.5 per cent are graduates, 13.5 per cent perceived post-graduation education and 17 per cent got medical and technical education. The study indicates that there is no case of illiterates in the community. The study reveals that education level of the respondents in the community is high which contributed to increase their status in the society.

## 5.2 Aspiration of the parents regarding children Education

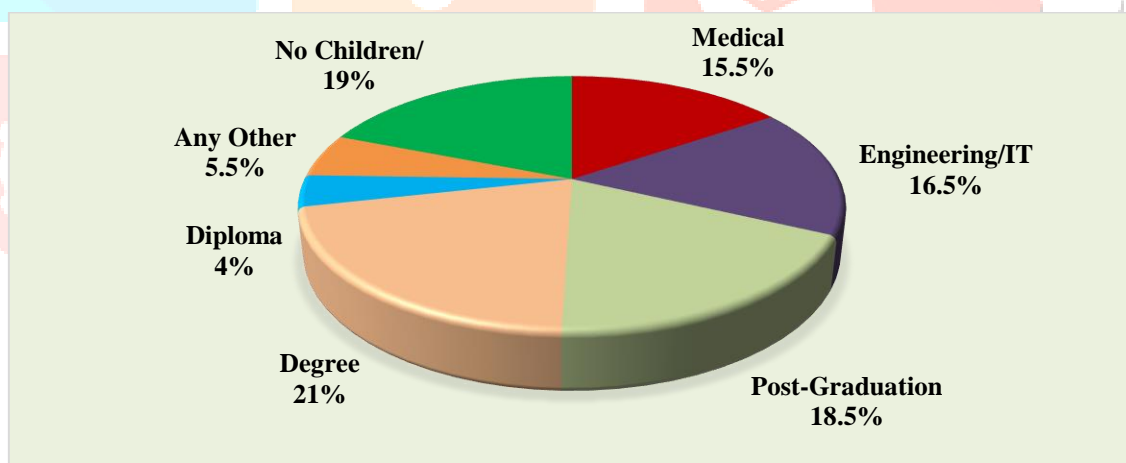
From the field survey it is found that parents in Bhalavalikar community take personal interest in educating their children. The study shows that the parents are very much interested in giving higher education to their children. This is shown in the Table No. 5.2.

**Table No. 5.2 Aspiration of the parents regarding children Education**

Sl N0	Type of Education	Respondents	Percentage
1	Medical	31	15.5
2	Engineering/IT	33	16.5
3	Post-Graduation	37	18.5
4	Degree	42	21
5	Diploma	08	4
6	Any Other	11	5.5
7	No Children/ Unmarried Respondents	38	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey 2025

The graphical representation of the above data is given below.



Source: Field Survey 2025 Graph No. 5.2 Aspiration of parents towards Children Education

In the present study an attempt has been made to identify the educational aspiration of the parents regarding children' education. Even though the respondents opined that it depends on the capacity and interests of their children, they intend to give a good education to their children. 16.5 per cent of the parents opined that they want to send their children to the medical profession, 16.5 per cent of the parents said that they want their children to do Engineering course. 18.5 per cent of the respondents want their children to do post-graduation. 21 per cent of the parents want their children to complete graduation and engage in some business. Further, 4 per cent preferred Diploma course for their children and 5.5 per cent of the parents said that depending upon interest of their children, they will send to any kind of education. 19 per cent of the respondents did not give any opinion regarding children education since they are unmarried and do not have children. The study on the aspiration of parents for their children education indicates that their aspiration is high and their attitude towards the education of their children is changing when comparing to their educational status.

### 5.3 Improvement due to education

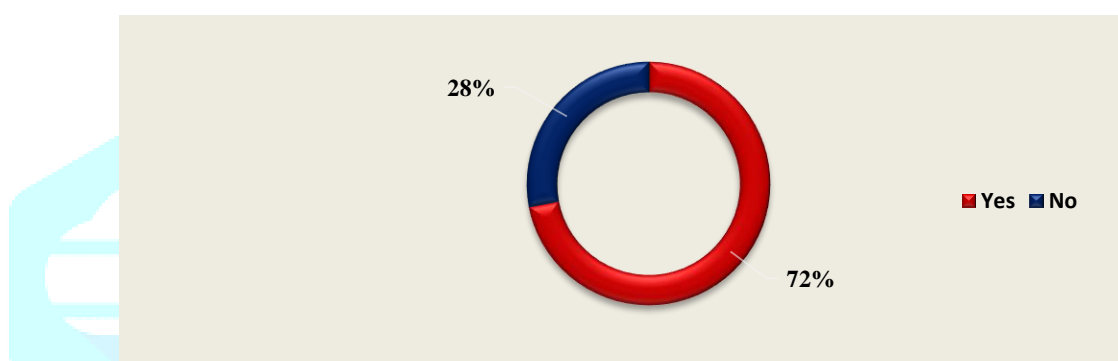
Francis J. Brown argued that education is a process which brings about changes in the behaviour of society. The present study indicates that education has played a significant role in the socio-economic development of Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswat Brahmin community.

**Table No. 5.3 Improvement due to education**

SI No	Due to Education any improvements?	Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	144	72
2	No	56	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey 2025

The graphical representation of the above table is given below.



Source: Field Survey 2025

**Graph No.5.3 Improvement due to Education**

The Graph No. 5.3 shows that 72 per cent of the respondents opined that improvement in their educational qualification has brought about changes in many aspects of their life. Remaining 28 per cent of the respondents said that due low level of their education, they could not increase their socio-economic status.

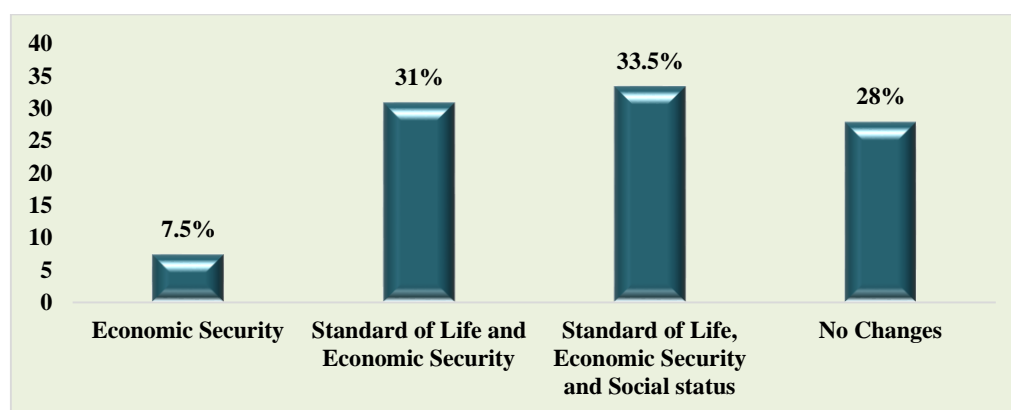
**Table No. 5.4 Type of change/ improvement**

SI No	Type of improvement/changes	Respondents	Percentage
1	Economic Security	15	7.5
2	Standard of Life and Economic Security	62	31
3	Standard of Life, Economic Security and Social status	67	33.5
4	No Changes	56	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Survey 2025



Graphical representation of the above table is given below.



Source: Field Survey 2025

Graph No. 5.4 Type of changes /improvement

The above graph shows that 33.5 per cent of the respondents viewed education as a major factor, which brought about changes in their economic condition, standard of life and increased their social status by providing better jobs. 31 per cent of the respondents considered education as a factor which provided them economic security and increased their standard of life. Another 7.5 per cent of the respondents opined that education provided economic security to them by enabling them getting better job.

## 6. FINDINGS

1. The study reveals that there is 100 per cent of literacy in the Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswat Brahmin community.
2. The field study shows that majority of the respondents are graduates.
3. Aspiration of parents for their children education indicates that their aspiration is high and their attitude towards the education of their children is changing.
4. 72 per cent of the respondents opined that improvement in their educational qualification has brought about changes in many aspects of their life.
5. Education has brought about changes in their economic condition, standard of life and hence, increased their social status by providing better jobs.

## CONCLUSION

Education is considered as one of the major factors responsible for the changes in the Bhalavalikar community. Many members of the community are found to be in the professional courses like engineering, medicine, technical etc. The aspiration of parents towards their children education is high and they want their children to take up dignified jobs. Thus, the study gives a clear picture regarding the educational status among the Bhalavalikar Gauda Saraswath Brahmin community.

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