

IMPACT OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOCIAL CHANGE- A STUDY ON SC AND ST WOMEN OF MORIGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM, INDIA

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ABSTRACT: Higher Education is an instrument for social change. Higher Education has provided social mobility to the Indian society. Social change occurs at different rates and through different Medias at different levels. The attitude of different groups of people towards social change is also related with Education. The present study was undertaken to assess the impact of higher education on attitude of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change of Morigaon District, Assam. The Researcher had selected 60 highly educated Women as sample out of which 30 women belong to SC and 30 women belong to ST category. The sample was selected by using purposive sampling technique. Descriptive survey method was used to collect data. The Modernization Scale developed by Dr. R.S. Singh, A.N. Tripathi and Ramji Lal was used as tool for collecting data about attitude towards social change. This scale consisted of four aspects of social change i.e. socio-religious, marriage, position of women and education. The collected data was analyzed and interpreted with the help of statistical techniques such as Mean, standard Deviation and t-test. The study revealed that there exists no significant difference between the attitude of highly educated SC and ST women towards social change of Morigaon District, Assam.

KEY WORDS: Higher Education, Attitude, social change, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social change is a universal feature of every society. A closer look at the members of a society reveal regularity, stability and persistence in their values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviours, it also demonstrates changes in these aspects of social life. There are many types of sequences of changes which bring about change & improvement in structure of a society. The speed of social change differs from an era to another, from one culture to another, one religion to another & one casts to another. Education has been recognized as an essential agent of social change and development in any society of any country. Education is considered as a potent instrument through which social change come into existence. Higher education is an agent of positive social change in a complex world. Higher Education exposes people to new thoughts and ideas and provides necessary skills. In our society SC and ST women are becoming victims of various social injustice and they are not being able to enjoy their due right and status in society. Therefore, this study is a modest attempt to examine the share of higher education in raising the status of SC and ST women in our society. This study was undertaken to assess the impact of higher education on attitude of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change of Morigaon District, Assam.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Higher education is an instrument for social change. Higher education has provided social mobility to the Indian society. Every society is under the continuous changes of the development and growth. Social change occurs at different rates and through different Medias at different levels. The attitude of different groups of people towards social change is also related with Education.

The Indian social system suffers from the in flexibilities of a rigid caste system. For centuries, caste had been a determining factor in education, work and employment. Historically, the vulnerable groups of the Indian society, namely, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and women have suffered deprivation in all walks of long life education. The women are an integral part in every society. But status and education of a women are still backward than men. On the other hand women of SC and ST communities are most backward than others. But in post Independence period, the government has been trying to promote the educational status of these different groups through several measures. The Indian constitution has granted equal right and status to all irrespective of caste, creed and gender. Now in our society, educated SC and ST women are increasing at fastest rate. Thus, higher education is an important tool for SC and ST women in bringing Social change and in developing attitude towards social change.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the impact of higher education on attitude of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change of Morigaon District.

4. HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

There exists no significant difference between the attitude of highly educated Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change.

5. METHODOLOGY

In the study Descriptive survey method was used to collect data.

5.1 POPULATION AND SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The population of the present study consisted of 520 highly educated women belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community of Morigaon District, Assam. The Investigator had selected 60 highly educated Women as sample out of which 30 women belong to SC and 30 women belong to ST category. The sample was selected by using purposive sampling technique.

5.2 TOOLS EMPLOYED

The description of the tool used in the study is given below-

Consumable Booklet of the Modernization scale: In this study the investigator employed the Modernization scale developed by Dr. R.S. Singh, A.N. Tripathi and Ramji Lal to collect data about attitude toward social change. The scale consists of 32 items in four sub areas which are socio-religious, marriage, position of women and education. Two types of scores were obtained, area wise modernization score and total score indicating overall modernization. Each sub area contains both types of items - positive and negative. The responses of each statement are in six point scale namely-extremely agree, strongly agree, disagree, strongly disagree and extremely disagree. The scores to be awarded for different categories of the items, it ranges from 1 to 6. To find out the scores of an individual, the sum of both negative and positive items are added. The sum of all items forms the total score of the respondents.

5.3 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED:

In the present study, the statistical techniques used were as under:-

- (i) Mean
- (ii) Standard deviation
- (iii) Significance of difference between means (t-test)

6. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

In order to present the result systematically the collected data was tabulated and was analyzed in the light of hypothesis framed.

Hypothesis: - There exists no significant difference between the attitude of highly educated Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change.

Table -1 shows the Means, SDs and 't' values of highly educated Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women

ASPECTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE		N	MEAN	S.D	t.VALUE	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
SOCIO RELIGIOUS	SC WOMEN	30	28.84	5.86	0.34	N S
	ST WOMEN	30	27.86	5.49		
MARRIAGE	SC WOMEN	30	28.49	5.93	0.35	N S
	ST WOMEN	30	29.14	5.77		
POSITION OF WOMEN	SC WOMEN	30	29.12	6.33	0.67	NS
	ST WOMEN	30	30.21	6.23		
EDUCATION	SC WOMEN	30	30.12	7.37	1.22	NS
	ST WOMEN	30	32.32	6.54		

NS-Not Significant at both 0.01 and 0.05 levels

The first component of attitude towards social change is socio Religious which was compared with the help of t-test of significance. Table.1 reveals that the mean score of highly educated SC women is 28.84 with S.D. 5.86. The mean score of highly educated ST women is 27.86 with S.D 5.49. The t- value comes out to be 0.34 which is not significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level. So, it can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the attitudes towards socio religious of highly educated SC women and highly educated ST women of Morigaon District.

The second component of attitude towards Social Change was marriage which was also compared with the help of t-test of significance. The table also depicts that, the mean score of highly educated SC women is 28.49 with S.D. 5.93. The mean score of highly educated ST women is 29.14 with S.D 5.77. The t- value comes out to be 0.35 which is not significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level. Hence, it can be inferred that there is no significant difference in the attitudes towards marriage of highly educated SC women and highly educated ST women of Morigaon District.

The third component of attitude towards Social Change was position of women. The table also indicates that, the mean score of highly educated SC women is 29.12 with S.D. 6.33. The mean score of highly educated ST women is 30.21 with S.D 6.23. The t- value comes out to be 0.67 which is not significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level. Thus, there is no significant difference in the attitudes towards position of women of highly educated SC women and highly educated ST women of Morigaon District.

Then the fourth component of attitude towards social change was education which was also compared with the help of t test of significance. The table also depicts that, the mean score of highly educated SC women is 30.12 with highly educated S.D. 7.37. The mean score of highly educated ST women is 32.32 with S.D 6.54. The t- value comes out to be 1.22 which is not significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level. So, it can be concluded that there is no significant difference between the attitudes of highly educated SC women and highly educated ST women of Morigaon District regarding Education.

Thus the Hypothesis, "There exists no significant difference between the attitude of highly educated Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change" is accepted.

7. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The following findings were revealed by this study:-

- This study revealed that the minute differences in mean scores of both of groups do not exert any significant effect on the 't' value. Thus, there exists no significant difference between the attitude of highly educated Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change.
- It was found that that both highly educated SC women and highly educated ST women have equal and favourable attitude towards Social Change.
- It is evident that highly educated SC women are more socio religious than the highly educated ST women and on the other hand the highly educated ST women have higher score regarding marriage, position of women and education than the highly educated SC women.
- From the study, we can say that caste does not affect the attitude of the highly educated SC women and highly educated ST women towards Social Change.

8. CONCLUSION:

Social Change is a continuous process. This process brings changes in the social structures and in other social attributes also. No society in this world can escape from this process of change and transformations. Higher education is an agent of positive social change in a complex world. This paper studied about the impact of higher education on attitude of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women towards social change of Morigaon District. The result showed that highly educated scheduled caste women and highly educated scheduled Tribe women were showing positive attitude at every dimension of social change. So we can say that higher education helps in diminishing social rigidity and makes thinking wider and thus helps in brining development in the society and brining social change. So higher education must be given to as much population as possible.

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