



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SCHOOL DROPOUTS AMONG RESIDENTS IN HILLY RURAL AREAS OF DISTRICT SIRMOUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH.

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Abstract: -

A dropout is a pupil who was enrolled in the beginning of school year and has left before the end of the school year and was not enrolled elsewhere. The main reason for school dropout is academic difficulties and family's economic need are two of the most common reason kids' dropouts of school. However, not having a basic education might not have a good impact on a child's future. So, it is important to focus on those factors which are highly responsible for dropping out of school. The main objective of the study was to assess the factors influencing the school dropout and to find out the association between the factor influencing school dropout with selected sociodemographic variables of the resident population of hilly rural area of district sirmour, Himachal Pradesh. Quantitative research approach and descriptive research design was adopted to assess the attitudes towards the factors influencing he school dropouts among the residents of hully rural area of district sirmour. Results: - finding of the study shows that community factors have moderate impact on school dropout i.e., 52.6%, and social factors have low impact with 93%, economic factors have moderate impact with 78.9%, in school factor there is low impact with 91.2% and in personal factors there is low impact with 80.7%. Association of age with sociodemographic variable is $p < 0.013$, and age is having association with community factor i.e., $p < 0.036.3$ and other factor such as age, gender, marital status, religion, do not appear to have a significant impact on school dropout.

Key words- school dropout , children, Variables

INTRODUCTION

Education is a vital pillar in the development of any society, empowering individuals with knowledge, skills, and opportunities to lead fulfilling lives. However, a significant and persisting challenge faced by education systems worldwide is the issue of school dropouts. School dropout refers to the phenomenon where student leave formal education before completing their required years of schooling or obtaining their academic credentials. On a global level, school dropout rates vary significantly between countries, with some regions facing more significant challenges than others. Factors such as poverty, lack of access to quality education,

gender disparities, and societal norms can influence dropout rates. The consequences of this issue extend beyond the individual to affect the labor market, public health, crime rates, and overall social cohesion.

India, with its vast population and diverse socioeconomic landscape, is no exception to the global school dropout challenge. The country has made remarkable strides in expanding access to education in recent decades. However, India still faces substantial dropout rates, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. Socioeconomic disparities, gender bias, and limited infrastructure pose significant hurdles to ensuring every child receives a complete and quality education.

Objectives: -

1. To find out the factors influencing school dropouts among residing in hilly rural area of District Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh.
2. To determine the association between the factors influencing school dropout with selected socio demographic variables among residing in hilly rural area of District Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh

Methodology: -

A quantitative research approach was adopted for this study. This study was conducted among 57 pupil of all age group residing in hilly rural area of district Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh. An exploratory study design was adopted to assess the factors influencing the school dropouts among the residents of hilly rural areas of district Sirmour. Sample was collected from residents of bagroti, baru sahib, macheer village of district Sirmour. Convenient sampling technique was used. A questionnaire tool was prepared which includes three sections i.e. section A, section B, section C which includes demographic tool, consequences of school dropout and factors influencing school dropout- 24 items. Factors involved are- Community, Social, Economic, School, Personal.

DESCRIPTION OF TOOL

The data collection tool for the research study on factors influencing school dropouts among residents in the hilly rural area of District Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh, consists of three main sections:

Section A: Demographic Variables: It includes Age, Gender, Marital status, Religion, Education of father, and Education of mother.

Section B. Consequences of School Dropout: It includes

1. Who do you think is responsible for your dropout?
2. At what age did you drop out?
3. Class Dropped out
4. Parents' reaction when their children dropout.
5. What was your dream job before dropping out?
6. What do you really do after dropping out?

C. Factors Influencing School Dropout –

The Likert scale with 5 points will be used to measure the responses for each item. Respondents will be asked to rate the perceived influence of various factors on school dropout using a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 = Not Influential, 2 = Slightly Influential, 3 = Moderately Influential, 4 = Influential, and 5 = Highly Influential.

1. Community Factors, 2. Social Factors, 3. Economic Factors, 4. School Factors 5. Personal Factors

SECTION-A: SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES OF THE SCHOOL DROPOUT AMONG RESIDENTS

This shows frequency and percentage distribution of sociodemographic variables among the school dropouts. The largest age group was 20-25 years (36.8%), followed by 20-22 years (22.8%), 18-20 years (17.5%), above 25 years (15.8%), and under 18 years (>7.0%). In terms of religion, the majority belonged to the Hindu religion (70.2%), followed by Sikh (14.0%), Muslim (12.3%), and Christian (3.5%). Regarding marital status, 52.6% were married, and 47.4% were unmarried.

Looking at parental education, 42.1% of fathers had no formal education, 33.3% had primary education, and 24.6% had secondary education and above. For mothers, 49.1% had no formal education, 42.1% had primary education, 7.0% had secondary education and above, and 1.8% were graduates.

SECTION B: CONSEQUENCES OF SCHOOL DROPOUT

This shows the frequency and percentage distribution of consequences' of school dropout. it include that the highest percentage i.e. 50.9% of pupil fined themselves responsible for school dropout and least percentage of pupil i.e. 3.5% find their teachers responsible for school dropout. This include age of dropout which shows that 22.8% of pupil dropout between 7 to 12 years of age, 68.4% dropout between 13 to 18 years of age, 7.0% dropout between 19 to 25 years of age and 1.8% dropped out at 25 years of age. It shows that 15.8% dropped out in primary school, 49.1% dropped in middle school, 26.3% dropped out in high school and 8.8% dropped in higher school. The highest percentage of silent reaction of parents were seen i.e. 47.4% and least percentage was 12.3% with very angry reaction.

SECTION C: FACTORS INFLUENCING SCHOOL DROP OUT

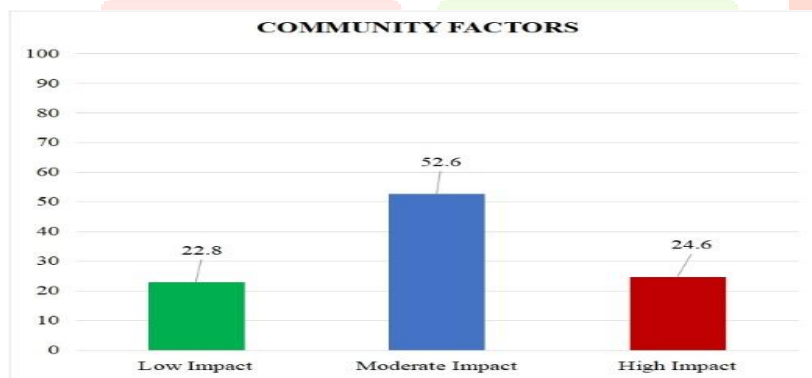


Figure 4.1 : Distribution of Community Impact on School Dropout among Residents

A "Moderate Impact" 30(52.6%) suggests that for more than half of the participants, the community factor plays a moderately influential role in their decision to drop out of school. On the other hand, a "Low Impact" 13(22.8%) implies that a smaller portion of participants perceive the community factor to have a minor influence on their dropout decisions. Finally, a "High Impact" 14(24.6%) signifies that a notable segment of participants attributes a significant role to the community factor in their choice to leave school

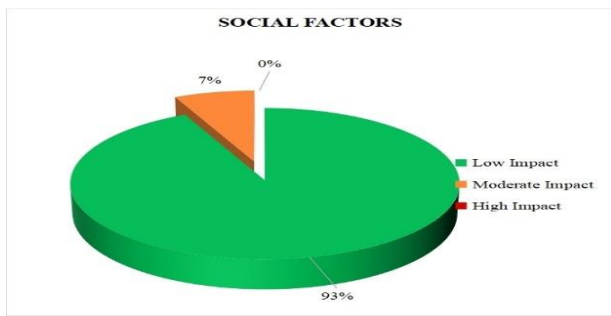


Figure 4.2 :Distribution of Community Impact on School Dropout among Residents

A majority of participants, represented by "Low Impact" 53(93.0%) perceive social factors to have a minor influence on their decision to drop out of school. On the other hand, a smaller portion of participants, indicated by "Moderate Impact" 4(7.0%) consider social factors to play a somewhat more influential role in their choice to leave school.

N = 57

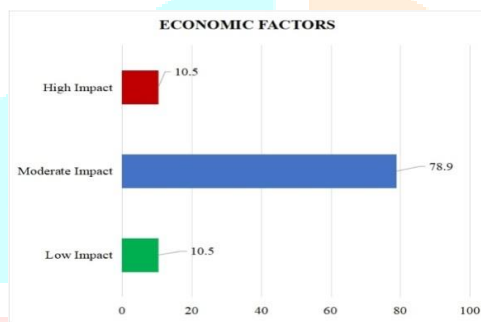
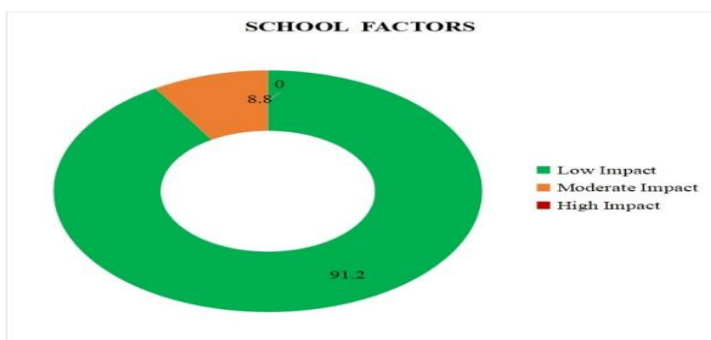


Figure 4.1 : Distribution of Economic Impact on School Dropout among Residents

The majority of participants, as indicated by "Moderate Impact" 45(78.9%) perceive economic factors to play a moderately influential role in their decision to drop out of school. Additionally, a portion of participants, represented by "Low Impact" and "High Impact" 6(10.5%) view economic factors as having either a minor or more significant influence on their choice to leave school.



N = 57

Figure 4.1 : Distribution of School Impact on School Dropout among Residents

The majority of participants, represented by "Low Impact" 52(91.2%) perceive school-related factors to have a minor influence on their decision to drop out of school. On the other hand, a smaller portion of participants, indicated by "Moderate Impact" 5(8.8%) consider school-related factors to play a somewhat more influential role in their choice to leave school.

N = 57

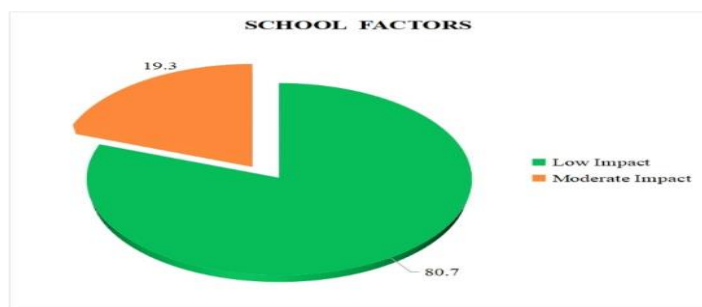


Figure 4.1 : Distribution of School Impact on School Dropout among Residents

The majority of participants, as indicated by "Low Impact" 46(80.7%) perceive personal attributes to have a minor influence on their decision to drop out of school. On the other hand, a notable portion of participants, represented by "Moderate Impact" 11(19.3%) consider personal factors to play a somewhat more influential role in their choice to leave school.

SECTION D: ASSOCIATION BETWEEN FACTORS INFLUENCING SCHOOL DROP OUT AND SOCIO DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES OF RESIDENTS OF DISTRICT SIRMOUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH.

Table 4.4. Association between Community Factors for School Drop Out and Socio Demographic Variables of Residents

N = 57

S. No	Variables	Community Factors			Fisher Exact	p Value
		High	Moderate	Low		
1	Age (in years)				16.932	0.013* S
	a) Under 18	1	3	0		
	b) 18-20	5	4	1		
	c) 20-22	5	6	2		
	d) 22-25	1	10	10		
e) Above 25 years	2	7	0			
2	Gender				2.186	.339
	a) Male	4	10	7		
	b) Female	10	20	6		
3	Marital status				0.956	0.686
	a) Married	6	16	8		
	b) Unmarried	8	14	5		
4	Religion				9.381	0.084
	a) Hindu	7	20	13		
	b) Muslim	3	4	0		
	c) Sikh	4	4	0		
	d) Christian	0	2	0		

5	Father's education					
	a) No formal education	6	14	4	1.832	0.799
	b) Primary education	5	8	6		
	c) Secondary and above	3	8	3		
6	Mother's education					
	a) No formal education	7	17	4	5.620	0.449
	b) Primary education	7	10	7		
	c) Secondary	0	2	2		
	d) Graduation	0	1	0		

Table 4.4 indicates that age is a socio-demographic variable that has a meaningful connection with Community Factors for school dropout rates in the community being studied $p < 0.013$. Other factors like gender, marital status, religion, father's education, and mother's education do not appear to have a significant impact on school dropout within this dataset or context.

Table 4.5. Association between Social Factors for School Drop Out and Socio Demographic Variables of Residents
N = 57

S. No	Variables	Social Factors		Fisher Exact	p Value
		Moderate	Low		
1	Age (in years)				
	a) Under 18	1	3	7.343	0.036*
	b) 18-20	1	9		
	c) 20-22	0	13		
	d) 22-25	0	21		
	e) Above 25 years	2	7		
2	Gender				
	a) Male	0	21	3.851	0.285
	b) Female	4	32		
3	Marital status				
	a) Married	3	27	0.863	0.613
	b) Unmarried	1	26		
4	Religion				
	a) Hindu	3	37	1.796	0.569
	b) Muslim	1	6		
	c) Sikh	0	8		
	d) Christian	0	2		
5	Father's education				0.669

	a) No formal education	2	22	1.314	
	b) Primary education	2	17		
	c) Secondary and above	0	14		
6	Mother's education			1.484	1.000
	a) No formal education	2	26		
	b) Primary education	2	22		
	c) Secondary and above	0	4		
	d) Graduation	0	1		

Table 4.5 suggests that age is a socio-demographic variable that has a meaningful association with Social Factors for school dropout rates within the community being studied $p < 0.036$. Other socio-demographic factors, such as gender, marital status, religion, father's education, and mother's education, do not appear to have a significant impact on school dropout within the provided dataset or context.

Table 4.6. Association between Economic Factors for School Drop Out and Socio Demographic Variables of Residents

N = 57

S. No	Variables	Economic Factors			Fisher Exact	p Value
		High	Moderate	Low		
1	Age (in years)				15.138	0.011* S
	a) Under 18	0	3	1		
	b) 18-20	1	9	0		
	c) 20-22	0	13	0		
	d) 22-25	5	15	1		
	e) Above 25 years	0	5	4		
2	Gender				1.144	.702
	a) Male	2	18	1		
	b) Female	4	27	5		
3	Marital status				5.379	0.59
	a) Married	5	20	5		
	b) Unmarried	1	25	1		
4	Religion				7.591	0.176
	a) Hindu	2	33	5		
	b) Muslim	2	5	0		
	c) Sikh	1	6	1		
	d) Christian	1	1	0		
5	Father's education				4.175	0.358
	a) No formal education	4	16	4		
	b) Primary education	2	16	1		
	c) Secondary and above	0	13	1		
6	Mother's education				3.188	0.915
	a) No formal education	4	20	4		
	b) Primary education	2	20	2		
	c) Secondary and above	0	4	0		
	d) Graduation	0	1	0		

Table 4.7. Association between School Factors for School Drop Out and Socio Demographic Variables of Residents

N = 57

S. No	Variables	School Factors		Fisher Exact	p Value
		Moderate	Low		
1	Age (in years)			7.103	0.057
	a) Under 18	1	3		
	b) 18-20	1	9		
	c) 20-22	3	10		
	d) 22-25	0	21		
e) Above 25 years	0	9			
2	Gender			0.023	1.000
	a) Male	2	19		
	b) Female	3	33		
3	Marital status			2.341	0.145
	a) Married	1	29		
	b) Unmarried	4	23		
4	Religion			1.189	1.000
	a) Hindu	4	36		
	b) Muslim	0	7		
	c) Sikh	1	7		
	d) Christian	0	2		
5	Father's education			1.490	0.600
	a) No formal education	1	23		
	b) Primary education	2	17		
	c) Secondary and above	2	12		
6	Mother's education			4.042	0.238
	a) No formal education	1	27		
	b) Primary education	3	21		
	c) Secondary and above	1	3		
	d) Graduation	0	1		

Table 4.8. Association between Personal Factors for School Drop Out and Socio Demographic Variables of Residents

N = 57

S. No	Variables	Personal Factors		Fisher Exact	p Value
		Moderate	Low		
1	Age (in years)			5.086	0.243
	a) Under 18	2	2		
	b) 18-20	2	8		
	c) 20-22	4	9		
	d) 22-25	2	19		
e) Above 25 years	1	8			
2	Gender			.001	1.000
	a) Male	4	17		
	b) Female	7	29		
3	Marital status				0.193

	a) Married	4	26	1.447	
	b) Unmarried	7	20		
4	Religion				
	a) Hindu	8	32		
	b) Muslim	1	6		0.917
	c) Sikh	2	6	0.710	
	d) Christian	0	2		
5	Father's education				
	a) No formal education	6	18		
	b) Primary education	4	15		0.441
	c) Secondary and above	1	13	1.784	
6	Mother's education				
	a) No formal education	7	21		
	b) Primary education	3	21	2.126	0.536
	c) Secondary and above	1	3		
	d) Graduation	0	1		

Table 4.8 indicates that there is no statistically significant association between personal factors for school dropout and several socio-demographic variables, including age (in years), gender, marital status, religion, father's education, and mother's education. In simpler terms, within the context of the dataset or study, the relationship between economic factors and school dropout rates does not appear to be significantly influenced by these specific socio-demographic variables

Discussion: -

The findings of study have been discussed in accordance with objectives of the study and previously review literature. The study was conducted in selected area of district sirmour, Himachal Pradesh. The pilot study was conducted with 14 samples and tool was reliable. Total sample taken for the study was 57 school dropouts among residents and data were collected using convenient sampling technique (non-probability). Before collection of the data investigator gave brief introduction of the study and instruction regarding feeling of self-structured research tool.

Conclusion:-

These findings invite stakeholders to collaboratively work towards creating a supportive ecosystem that empowers individual to overcome the hurdles posed by these influential factors. Through strategic interventions and holistic approaches, we can aspire to mitigate the impact of these factors and pave the way for improved educational outcomes and brighter future for the residents of the region.

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