



# A STUDY ON PARENTAL AWARENESS ABOUT RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT OF CHILDREN IN THE PURI DISTRICT OF ODISHA

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**Abstract:** Primary education of the children provides foundation for all other higher levels of education as reported by National Policy on Education-1986 and it highlights the measures in the direction of making primary education free and compulsory for all adopting innovative programme of incorporating Mid-Day Meals and Black Board Operations in the Primary schools. The Govt. of India has launched a Nation-wide mission oriented project of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the motto of making primary education free and compulsory for all with support services of quality teaching learning materials, attractive school environment equipped with all health and sanitary facilities, incentives, scholarships, study materials, uniforms, learning-aids and training services to teachers of the primary schools etc. Further, the Act of Right to Education of Children-2009 (RTE Act) has been enforced throughout the nation to give a boost to SSA in the vision of making quality primary education accessible for all with more parental and institutional involvement. In this context, a study was conducted to assess the level of parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of Children in the Puri District of Odisha taking a self made tool comprising of 26 items covering different features of the Right to Education Act-2009 enacted by the Govt. Of India applied on a sample of 100 parents of the 6<sup>th</sup> class students reading in different Primary Schools of the Puri District of Odisha. Adopting suitable statistical techniques i.e. Mean, SD and 't' test, the result of the study were examined on the grounds of the gender, level of Education and locality of habitation of the sampled parents and it was found that significantly male parents had better awareness than the female parents about the Right to Education Act of Children establishing role of the factor of gender influencing their awareness. Further the study also revealed that the locality of habitation of parents had positive impact on level of awareness of parents about Right to Education Act of Children causing to have better awareness with the parents of urban locality than the Parents of Rural locality. Similarly the study revealed that the factor of education had positive role in influencing the level of awareness of parents about Right to education Act of Children causing parents having above matric level of education to have better awareness about Right to Education Act of Children than the parents having below matric level of education. The study therefore implied that parental level of education is important factor for shaping their awareness about right to education Act of children and therefore all parents urged to have higher level of education. The parents of the rural locality and female parents should be educated and made aware about the features, benefits and implications of right to education Act of their children through mass media, TV, printed materials and organizing orientation programme, meetings and seminars etc in villages and schools. More and better parental awareness about Right to Education Act of children can lead towards the success of SSA project resulting 100 percent enrollment of children in primary schools with zero dropouts.

**Index Terms** - Parental Awareness, RTE Act-2009

## I. INTRODUCTION

Education is a vital factor for the all-round development of human beings. It helps an individual to become self-reliant and prosper in his life. It makes him capable to face the challenges of life, builds leadership and inner confidence to shoulder responsibilities in different facets of life and in turn he becomes an able citizen for his society and country at large. Development of a nation rests in the education of its citizens. Hence, efforts have been made to provide quality education to all children at all levels of education in our country. Article 45 of Indian constitution makes a provision for free and compulsory primary education

of all children in the country. Many Commissions and Committees have been constituted at different times since independence of our nation to recommend valuable suggestions to bring a change and development in the quality of education. More particularly the National Policy on Education of 1986 has stressed on the importance of the Primary education of the children as the foundation of all other higher levels of education and highlights the measures in the direction of making primary education free and compulsory for all adopting innovative programme of incorporating Mid-Day Meals and Black Board Operations in the Primary schools. Constitutional 86th amendment act 2002 also pledged for Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education and it also imposes new responsibilities upon the state governments, local authorities and all other persons. Following this, the Government of India launched a Nation-wide mission oriented project of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the motto of making Primary education free and compulsory for all with support services of quality teaching learning materials, attractive school environment equipped with all health and sanitary facilities, incentives, scholarships, study materials, uniforms, aids and training services to teachers of the Primary schools etc. Now the Act of Right to Education of Children-2009 (RTE Act-2009) has been enforced throughout the nation to give a boost to SSA in the vision of making quality primary education accessible for all with more enforcement of parental and institutional involvement. . Vyas, Saroj (2011) conducted a study on the awareness among elementary school teachers in the national capital region on “the right of children to free and compulsory education act, 2009” (right to education act) explore the awareness on RTE (Right to Education) Act, 2009 among elementary school teachers in the National Capital region and found the result that Government teachers are comparatively more aware as compared to Non-Government teachers on RTE act. Nithya, (2012) in her study, “A study on the awareness of Right to Education Act (2009) among the B.Ed student teachers”, revealed that the male student teachers and urban area student teachers had better awareness than female student teachers and rural area student teachers. Many research studies have been conducted in the field of Primary education in general which provide glaring suggestions to improve upon the same. Still more and extended research studies are required to be undertaken in the field of Primary education keeping in view of the gravity of the field. Therefore, the researchers decided to have a study to assess the level of parental awareness about enforcement and implications of Right to Education of Children Act in the Puri District of Odisha with a hopeful view of making the project of SSA more solid.

### Operational definitions of the key terms used in the study:

The key terms used in the present study were defined as follows,

- 1. Parents:** In the Present study, Parents means either of the mother or father being blessed with child or children in their family. In the present study parents of the children studying at 5<sup>th</sup> class in the primary schools of the Puri District were taken into consideration.
- 2. Parental Awareness:** In the present study, Parental Awareness means acquisition of information and knowledge by the parents about the Act, Right to Education Act of Children (RTE Act.).
- 3. Right to Education Act-2009:** In the present study Right to Education Act-2009 of children (RTE Act) means a fundamental right of the children to have free and compulsory primary education enforced by the constitution of India and operating nationwide for enforcing quality Primary Education for all within the age range of six to fourteen years.

### Objectives of the study:

The following objectives were set by the investigators in the present study,

1. To measure the parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of children (RTE Act) in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their gender (Male and Female).
2. To measure the parental awareness about the about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their locality of habitation (Rural and Urban)
3. To measure the parental awareness about the about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their Level of Education (Below Matriculates and Above Matriculates).

### Hypotheses of the study:

The following Hypotheses were kept in preview in the present study,

1. There is no significant difference in the parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their gender (Male and Female).
2. There is no significant difference in the parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their locality of habitation (Rural and Urban)
3. There is no significant difference in the parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their Level of Education (Below Matriculates and Above Matriculates)

### Design of the study:

The design of the study was an explorative and descriptive survey type.

### Delimitation of the study:

From the point of the delimitation of the present study, the researchers had planned to delimit the study on the following grounds,

1. From the geographical area point of view, the present study is delimited to the Puri Sadar Block and Kanas Block of the Puri District of Odisha only covering locality of rural and urban habitations of parents.
2. From the Respondents points of View, the Present study was conducted on Parents only whose children are studying in the 6<sup>th</sup> class at Primary Schools.
3. From the intention matter of the study, the present study was delimited to assess only parental awareness about Right to Education Act of children (RTE Act-2009) in the Puri District of Odisha.

Universe and sample of the study:

### Universe of the study:

In the present study, all the parents whose children were studying in primary schools constituted as the universe of the study.

**Sample of the study:**

In the present study, sample constituted of 100 parents whose children were studying at 6<sup>th</sup> class in Primary schools who were selected randomly in the sample of the study taking equal proportionate of parents from the point of view of their gender and their locality of habitation. The actual numbers of parents with reference to their level of qualification (Below Matric and Above Matric) were determined after the collection of data collapsing their gender and locality of habitation. After collection of data it was found that the sampled population of the study consisted of 46 parents were seen to be below matric and 54 parents were of matriculates with regard to their level of education as determined.

**Tools used in the study:**

In the present study, a self-made structured interview schedule was administered for the sake of collection of data keeping in view of the objectives of the study. All the questions were prepared keeping in view of objective of the present study with the proper consultation of the educationists and educational experts.

**Statistical techniques used in the study:**

In the present study, statistical techniques like Mean, SD, and 't' test were applied to measure the parental awareness about RTE Act-2009.

**Testing of Hypotheses and Discussion of Result:****Table No.1**

Study of parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their gender (Male and Female)

Details of groups	Mean Awareness	SD	SED	'T' Value	'P' Value
Male parents (N=50)	25.0	4.3	0.88	2.27*	>0.05
Female parents (N=50)	23.0	4.6			

\*-Significant at 0.05 level of significance, \*\*-Not significant at 0.05 level of significance, (P value= 1.98 at 0.05 level of significance, df = 98)

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The Table No-1 by collapsing the level of education and locality of habitation of parents indicates that, the mean awareness value of Male parents was (25.0) and the mean awareness value of the female parents was (23.0). The obtained 'T' value (2.27) was found significant and greater than the 'P' value and therefore it is concluded that, Male parents had significantly better awareness about the Right to Education Act (RTE Act) of children than the Female parents. Therefore, it leads to reject the **hypothesis No-1, i.e. there is no difference in the parental awareness about the RTE Act of children on the basis of their gender (male and Female)**. It established the fact that the gender of the parents had its positive impact on the level of the awareness of the parents about the RTE Act of children. From the result, It can be concluded that, female parents are found less aware than the male parents about the intervention of RTE Act meant for the education of their children may be due to the cause of their least involvement about the education of their children and not accessible to the mass medias and propagation of the said Act.

**Table No.2**

Study of the parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their locality of habitation (Rural and Urban)

Details of groups	Mean Awareness	SD	SED	'T' Value	'P' Value
Rural inhabitant parents (N=50)	23.0	4.9	1.18	3.38*	>0.05
Urban inhabitant Parents (N=50)	27.0	6.8			

\*-Significant at 0.05 level of significance, \*\*-Not significant at 0.05 level of significance, (P value= 1.98 at 0.05 level of significance, df = 98)

The table No-2 by collapsing the level of education and gender of the parents indicates that, the mean awareness value of rural inhabitant parents was (23.0) and the mean awareness value of the urban inhabitant parents was (27.0). The obtained 'T' value (3.38) was found significant and greater than the 'P' value and therefore it is concluded that, the urban inhabitant parents had significantly higher and better level of awareness about the RTE Act in comparison to the rural inhabitant parents. Therefore, it leads to reject the **hypothesis No-2, i.e. there is no difference in the parental awareness about the RTE Act of children on the basis of their locality of inhabitation (Rural and Urban)**. It established the fact that the locality of inhabitation of the parents had positive impact on the awareness of the parents on the RTE Act. Therefore it can be concluded that the Rural inhabitant parents are less aware about the RTE Act than the urban inhabitant parents may be due to the fact that urban inhabitant parents are more acquainted and exposed with the mass medias, print medias highlighting the intervention of the RTE Act in the field of education of children and they are more involved in the education of their children which is not found in case of the rural inhabitant parents.

**Table No.3**

Study of the parental awareness about the Right to Education Act of children in the Puri District of Odisha in relation to their Level of Education (Below Matriculates and Above Matriculates)

Details of groups	Mean Attitude	SD	SED	'T' Value	'P' Value
Below Matriculation (N=46)	19.5	4.6	1.08	3.79*	>0.05
Above Matriculation (N=54)	23.6	6.2			

\*-Significant at 0.05 level of significance, \*\*-Not significant at 0.05 level of significance, (P value=1.98 at 0.05 level of significance, df =98)

The table No-3 by collapsing the gender and locality of the habitation of parents indicates that, the mean awareness value of below matriculate parents was (19.5) and the mean awareness value of the above matriculates was (23.6). The obtained 'T' value (3.79) was found significant and greater than the 'P' value and therefore it is concluded that, the Above Matriculate parents had significantly better awareness about the RTE Act of the children than the parents having educational qualifications of below matriculations. Therefore, it leads to reject the **hypothesis No-3, i.e. there is no difference in the parental awareness about the RTE Act of children on the basis of their level of education (Below Matric and Above Matric)**. It established the fact that the level of education had its positive impact on the level of awareness of the parents on the RTE Act of the children. Therefore It can be concluded that higher will be the level of education better will be the awareness of the parents on the issue of RTE Act of the children. Matriculate/Educated parents are found to be more aware of the RTE Act of the children which is a recent intervention in case providing for free and compulsory primary education than the below Matriculate/ uneducated parents might be due to the fact that educated parents are more acquainted with the mass medias like Radio, TV broadcastings, newspapers etc. And participating seminars and meetings conducted in the schools of their children read.

#### Findings of the Study:

Followings were the major findings of the present study,

1. Parental awareness about Right to Education Act of children was found to be significantly more in case of male parents than to their counterpart female parents.
2. Parental awareness about Right to Education Act of children was found to be significantly more in case of parents of urban locality than to their counterpart parents of rural locality.
3. Parental awareness about Right to Education Act of children was found to be significantly more in case of parents having above matric level of education than to their counterpart parents having their below matric level of education.

#### Implications of the Study:

Out of the result of the study it is implied that, Right to education Act of children as enacted by the Govt. Of India with a view to boot the SSA project by widening the accessibility of Primary education to all children irrespective of all differences needs more parental and institutional involvement and therefore parental awareness about the present Act is important and more required for its successful enforcement. All parents should be aware of the features, benefits of the Act. The study revealed that male parents, urban inhabited parents and above matriculate parents were having better awareness than to their counterpart female parents, rural inhabitant parents and below matriculate parents respectively. Therefore more and more exposure programmes like meetings, seminars and conferences, TV and Radio broadcastings, news broadcastings should made available for these groups for success of the Right to Education Act of children leading to success of SSA in the country.

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