

A Study Of Empowerment Of Tribals Through Education In India

Shaista Yasmeen

B.Sc,M.A(English Literature),SET qualified

B.Ed, M.Ed (Master Of Education)

Government English Teacher

Poonch , Jammu & Kashmir, India

ABSTRACT

Tribals have their own cultures, customs, religions belief etc. and they are busy in all these traditions. They have different way of living. Their Literacy rate is very low in comparison to general population. According to census 2011 the literacy rate of tribals is 47.10% where as literacy rate of general population is 64.84%. The paper focuses on the empowerment of Tribals through Education in India and also a detail of government schemes: Educational programs going on in India for upliftment and empowerment of tribals and also discuss problems regarding the education of tribals.

KEY WORDS: Tribal, Education, Literacy,empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

The tribal people of India also known as Adivasis, represent communities that have kept ancient means of livelihood, culture and benefits. They mostly lived in isolated regions. In this current time, the tribal people mostly face serious issues such as epidemic, poverty and lack of resources like water. A major portion of the tribal habitat is hilly and forested, often remote and inaccessible. Globalization, Liberalisation and Industrialization have resulted in shrinking and limiting tribal habitat. Illiteracy, low access to health facility, malnutrition ,exploitation and

ignorance are major problems facing by the tribal society. As a result, they are not easily assimilated in the main stream society.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the present educational status of tribal in India.
- To identify the problems regarding the education of tribals.
- To study the government's schemes, educational programmes going on in India for empowerment of tribals.

METHODOLOGY

Empirical study has been done and need the secondary data for the present research

1. Tribal Empowerment-An Overview

Empowerment means the freedom of choice and action. Also can be defined as a process of enabling someone to think, act and control in a unique way. UNESCO defines empowerment as “ the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives”. An empowered person can have the necessary control over his or her destiny and life. And this includes control over physical resources as well as ideologies. According to report of government of India "Empowerment means moving from a position of enforced powerlessness to one of power". Tribal empowerment speaks to create a socio-political environment where tribals can live without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a tribal in a traditionally dominated structure.

2. Role Of Education In Tribal Empowerment

It is proved that education is the sole means to establish peace and brotherhood in the world. The tribal group in India shares only 8.6% of the total population(2001 census) which means India is home to more than 10.2 crore tribal people, which makes

India the largest tribal populated country in the world. In today's world India is going through a problem where India has to give "development of all" but without its 10.2 crore tribal development the motto fails and India has to come forward for the development of tribals and it can only done by education. Education is considered to be the most important means to enhance potentiality of subaltern class and literacy can cultivate and transform them from a mere human being to the resourceful person, so they can easily develop their internal quality and overcome barriers of day to day life.

3. Government Schemes: Educational Programmes

- Early childhood education for 3-6 age group children:
 - As we all know if the base is strong one can construct number of apartments on that base and if base is weak then no one can do anything. This is the crucial stage of one's life. One of the main objectives of educational development according to sixth five year plan 1980-85, is ensure essential minimum education to all children upto the age of 14 years within the next 10 years. This is the constitutional goal in the directive principles written in article 45 of the constitution.

- Post matric scholarship for S.T students:
 - The scheme was introduced during the year 1944-45. The scheme provide financial assistance is the scheduled tribe students studying at post matriculation or postsecondary stage.

- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship For Scheduled Tribe Students:
 - This is the central scheme to providing fellowship to scheduled tribe students for pursuing higher studies such as MPhil and PhD. The scheme was introduced in the year 2005-06. UGC is a nodal agency for implementation of the scheme. The fellowship is on the pattern of UGC

fellowship awarded to regular full time research students in MPhil and PhD courses. The total no. of fresh fellowships each year is 667.

- National Overseas Scholarships For Scheduled Tribe Students:
 - It is a central scheme to provide financial assistance to meritorious students for pursuing higher studies in foreign university in specified fields of master level courses, PhD and Post Doctoral research programs in the field of engineering, technology and science the scheme was introduced during the year 1954-55. This was non-plan scheme which became a plan scheme from 2007-2008.

- Scheme To Upgrade Merit Of Scheduled Tribe Students:
 - The objectives of the scheme is to upgrade the merit of S.T students by providing them remedial and special coaching in class IX to XII while remedial coaching aims at removing deficiencies in the various subjects, special coaching is provided with a view to prepare the students for competitive examination for seeking entry into professional courses like engineering and medical discipline.

- Central Sector Scholarship Scheme For Scheduled Tribe Students:
 - This central sector scholarship scheme for S.T students introduced from the academic year 2007-08 with the objectives of encouraging meritorious S.T students for pursuing studies at degree and post graduate level.

- Scheme Of Strengthening Education Among Scheduled Tribe Girls In low Literacy Districts:

- The scheme aim to bridge the gap in literacy levels between the general female population and tribal women, through facilitating 100% enrolment of tribal girls.

4. Few Other Government Schemes Are:

- Schemes for assistance to voluntary agencies for adult education.
- Scholarships scheme by centre for cultural resources and training.
- Scheme of pre-matric scholarships to the other backward classes for studies.

5. Problems Regarding The Education Of Tribals:

○ Medium of Language:

Language is one of the important limitation of tribal children which prevents them access to education

○ The Location Of The Village:

The physical barriers creates a hindrance for the children of a tribal village to attend the school .The transport facility is not there and hence they have to walk for long distances which is not possible for a kid.

○ Economic Condition:

The economic condition of tribal people is so poor they do not desire to spare their children or their labour powers and allow them to attend the schools.

○ Attitude Of Parents:

As education does not yield any immediate economic return the tribal parents prefer to engage their children in employment which supplements the family income.

○ Teacher Related Problems:

In the remote tribal areas the teacher absenteeism is a regular phenomenon and the this affects largely the quality of education.

6. Conclusion:

Education is the key to tribal development and empowerment through the development of the tribes is taking place in India but the pace of development has been rather slow. If government will not take some drastic steps for the development of tribal education the status of education among tribes will not be a story of distress despair and death. Hence time has come to think it seriously about tribal education and inclusive growth. So, there is an urgent need for various government interventions, planners and policy makers to address this problem and allocate more funds in the central and state budgets for tribal education. Easy access and more opportunities should be provided to the tribal children in order to bring them to the mainstream of economic development.

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