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GROSS AND NET ENROLMEMT RATIO AMONG TRIBALS IN THE GARO HILLS REGION OF MEGHALAYA

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ABSTRACT

India is home to a large variety of indigenous people. The Scheduled Tribe population represents one of the most economically impoverished and marginalized groups in India. With a population of more than 10.2 Crores, India has the single largest tribal population in the world. This constitutes 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country (Census of India, 2011). The Government both at the national and state levels, are engaged in various task of uplifting the tribal population through specially designed programmes which are expected to achieve the objective of tribal integration within the shortest period of time. However, none of these programmes have made much significant impact on the tribal population of the country. Education has been considered as a key to development and holds good mores in the case of the tribal people. Literacy and educational attainment are powerful indicators of social and economic development among the backward groups in India.

KEYWORDS: *Tondaimandalam, Colin Mackenzie, Kanchipuram, Chola, Pallava, Kanchipuram.*

INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE:

India is home to a large variety of indigenous people. The Scheduled Tribe population represents one of the most economically impoverished and marginalized groups in India. With a population of more than 10.2 Crores, India has the single largest tribal population in the world. This constitutes 8.6 per cent of the total population of the country (Census of India, 2011). The Government both at the national and state levels, are engaged in various task of uplifting the tribal population through specially designed programmes which are expected to achieve the objective of tribal integration within the shortest period of time. However, none of these programmes have made much significant impact on the tribal population of the country. Education has been considered as a key to development and holds good mores in the case of the tribal people. Literacy and educational attainment are powerful indicators of social and economic development among the backward groups in India.

Studies in the past suggest a strong relationship between poverty; development and child labour. In recent years the government has launched several programmes to educate older children who missed out on schooling due to their involvement in child labour. Studies have attempted to assess the magnitude and extent of child labour, the nature of work the children are engaged in and its impact on their health, education and well-being. Studies point out that a large proportion of children in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh are engaged in farming activities and household chores. A large section of these child workers are girls who also work for long hours to earn meagre wages. Based on the variety of work contexts in which children are engaged in labour studies argue, 'the circumstances under which children work is a form of socialization into adulthood.' This is also supported by findings that work conditions do not leave scope for children to pursue schooling even on part time basis. (Sujatha, K. 2002;,Savatikar N. R.2014; Rajam V.; Malarvizhi MS. V ;2011) (Arun

C. Metha 2009-2010; Choudhury, S.S. 1985; Jha, J., Jhingran, D. 2002; KabitaKumariSahu 2014; Krithiga K. 2011)

National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) have made an effort to compute an Educational Development Index i.e.,(EDI) separately for Primary and Upper Primary levels of education and also to compute the index for the entire Elementary education (NUEPA 2014). A set up 24 indicators have been used in computing EDI which are re-grouped into the four sub-groups, namely Access, Infrastructure, Teacher and Outcome indicators. Outcome indicators include gross enrolment ratio, net enrolment ratio, dropout rates etc. including the transition rates from Primary to Upper Primary levels. EDI is available at state levels. However, a detail study focusing on one of the component of EDI i.e., 'outcomes' have not been conducted taking into account various tribes within a state or a region. Therefore, an effort is made to study the outcome measures with special reference to the five indicators namelythe gross enrolment ratio and the net enrolment ratio

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the present paper is as follows:

- To study the quantitative measures of educational attainment among the Garos, Hajongs and Koches in the Garo Hills region of the state of Meghalaya.

METHODOLOGY

Keeping in mind the nature of work it was decided to follow descriptive type of research design to meet the objectives set in the study. A survey method was planned because this approach was useful when studying the characteristics of a particular society as taken in the study.The South-West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya comprises of the plain and hilly regions. The district is inhabited by a number of tribal and non-tribal communities. Apart from the Garos, there are the Hajongs, the Rabhas, the Koch and the Boros which are recognized as the Scheduled Tribes under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The present study was focus on the Garos, the Hajongs and the Koches only. As the focus of the study was on the inter-tribal variations at elementary education in terms of quantitative measures of educational attainment, the households and schools belonging to Garo, Hajong and Koch community become the population of the study.A total of 60 villages, comprising of 20 villages inhabited dominantly by Garos, 20 villages inhabited dominantly by Hajongs and another 20 villages inhabited dominantly by Kocheswas selected randomly from the South-West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya.For sample, 20 households from each village were selected randomly.

The study was conducted on villagers from these identified households and schools available in the villages. Hence, sample size of the study was 600 households i.e., 200 households each from both the tribes (from 60 villages).Keeping in mind the nature of the data and information that is needed for the study, it was decided to go with structured questionnaire. Accordingly household questionnaire and school information questionnaire was used.After sample villages are identified, sample households (i.e., 20 in each village) were identified. With the help of background information schedule, the personal and background information of the respondents were collected. A list of villagers was prepared. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents and the data was collected.

Results:

Table 1: Gross Enrolment Ratio according to Tribes

Gross Enrolment Ratio			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Garos	131.97	138.06	134.88
Hajongs	136.69	148.51	142.49
Koches	156.06	132.89	143.77

The table given above shows the results for Gross Enrolment Ratio among the three tribal groups i.e., Garos, Hakjongs and Koches in the Garo Hills region of the State of Meghalaya. The table also provides Gross Enrolment Ratio in terms of male and female. As can be seen from the table Koches have Gross Enrolment Ratio (156.06) for boys followed by Hajongs (136.69) and Garos with 131.97. Whereas, in case of female the Gross Enrolment Ratio is highest in case of Hajongs (148.51) followed by Garos (138.06) and Koches (132.89). The table also shows the total Gross Enrolment Ratio for total children. The total Gross Enrolment Ratio is found to be highest for Koches (143.77) followed by Hazong (142.49) and Garos (134.88).

Table 2: NET Enrolment Ratio according to Tribes

NET Enrolment Ratio			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Garos	100.00	100.40	101.97
Hajongs	100.00	100.00	100.00
Koches	103.93	102.75	103.69

The table given above shows the results for Net Enrolment Ratio among the three tribal groups i.e., Garos, Hakjongs and Koches in the Garo Hills region of the State of Meghalaya. The table also provides Net Enrolment Ratio in terms of male and female. As can be seen from the table Koches have Net Enrolment Ratio (103.93) for boys followed by Hajongs (100.00) and Garos with 100.00. Whereas, in case of female the Net Enrolment Ratio is highest in case of Koches (103.69) followed by Garos (101.97) and Hakjongs (100.00). The table also shows the total Net Enrolment Ratio for total children. The total Net Enrolment Ratio is found to be highest for Koches (103.69) followed by Garos (101.97) and Hajongs (100.00).

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

Gross Enrolment Ratio is found to be more than 100 in case of all the Tribal groups i.e., Garos, Hakjongs and Koches in the Garo Hills region of the State of Meghalaya.Not much variation in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio among the Garos, Hajongs and Koches is found. Slight variations in terms gender has been observed in case of Gross Enrolment Ratio. Similarly Net Enrolment Ratio is also found to be around 100 as expected in case of all the Tribal groups i.e., Garos, Hakjongs and Koches in the Garo Hills region of the State of Meghalaya.Slight variations in terms gender has been observed Net Enrolment Ratio. Hence one can conclude that much variations have not been found in terms of quantitative measures of educational attainment is concerned.

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