



A STUDY OF STUDENTS' DROPOUT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AHMEDNAGAR CITY

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ABSTRACT

There are social and economic inequalities in India. There are many reasons for it. Traditional social structure is responsible for it. Caste system in society is one of the most important reasons behind it. Caste system is an obstacle in the economic and social development of the people. Status given by the caste system doesn't allow people to improve their lifestyle. Education can remove these inequalities. Education plays very important role in human recourse development. It makes available various opportunities to the people. Therefore education is very important. There is a common problem of students' dropout in every state. It can be seen in rural as well as urban area. Dropout rate is very high in backward regions because children need to work for the fulfillment of their basic needs. It's higher in case of Schedules Castes and Schedule Tribes because their financial background is not strong. The basic objective of the research paper is to concentrate on various factors leading to the dropout of students in secondary education. It is observed that factors relating to family and society are highly responsible and correlated with this problem.

KEYWORDS : student, dropout, secondary education.

INTRODUCTION

Our education system has been facing dropout problem. Many students are unable to complete their secondary, higher secondary and higher education. In rural and urban area parents are not educated. It's hardly possible for the students from scheduled castes and schedule tribes to complete their education. Many factors are responsible for it. Family problems and social environment is negative for them to take higher education. Uneducated parents are not interested in sending their children to school. It leads to absenteeism. Even if they are ready, students get it hard because of negative social environment. Failure in examination also makes them negative.

Theoretical part- Concept- According to Merriam-Webster definition of dropout for students is ' a person who quits school or a training programme'.

Reasons- There are many reasons for students' dropout in secondary education. They can be briefly classified into three categories.

A) Reasons relating to family background of students.

- 1) Students are not able to pay school fees, tuition fees and other contribution.
- 2) There are family disputes about education of children.
- 3) There is lack of time for studies at home.
- 4) No one is at home to help them in studies.

B) Reasons relating to the student.

- 1) There is no need of education for employment.
- 2) There is Lack of interest in studies

3) There is continuous failure in the examination

C) Reasons relating to the school.

- 1) There is not effective teaching in schools.
- 2) There is discriminatory attitude of teachers.
- 3) There is unequal treatment by other students.

Significance- It is observed that there are many 13 and 14 year students working in small hotels. They quit school and start working somewhere. Their financial background doesn't allow them to complete their education. School dropout is one of the reasons of child labour problem. Education can change this situation. Education can give them opportunities to change their financial and social status. Obviously it can solve the problem of child labour. The most important objective of education is make people think. It can bring social changes which will lead to social upliftment of the people who are from socially backward class.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE-

Many efforts have been done in India to bring all the sections of population in the main stream of education so that social and economic development can be achieved. Although there is increase in the enrolment in the primary education, large number of children is still far away from the education. They are still without schooling. There are still gender, regional and caste disparities in India. It is estimated that minimum 3.5- million and maximum 60 million children in the age group of 6 to 14 are still not in the stream of education. High dropout rate, inadequate school infra structure, absenteeism of teachers, large number of vacant posts of teachers, poor quality of education, inadequacy of funds are some of the main problems. There are many children who don't have access to education. They are orphans, child labourers and victims of riots and natural disasters (1).

Boroah(2) studied Indian database and revealed the fact that 11% children living in rural area are living without primary schools in their villages, 30% children lived in villages where there are no middle schools. Urban area is not exception to it; similar picture can be seen in the urban area. Similar picture has been observed by Shariff (3) and Sengupta and Guha (4).

Analysis done by Bhat and Zavier(5) reveals the fact that the dropout rate in Muslims is higher than Hindus in India. They observed that the communities who took education earlier passed its advantages to the next generation. Upper castes in Hindus took advantages of the opportunities created by secondary education. High rate of illiteracy in Muslims resulted into backwardness of the Muslim community. Choudhary (6) observed that the chance of dropping out of school increases by 2.7% when students move from primary school to a higher stage of school. He revealed the fact that the chance of discontinuation of Muslim students is 1.9 times higher than that of Hindu students. He also found that the total number of sibling is a highly significant predictor of school dropout. The chance of school dropout increases by 1.7% with the increase in the family size. His analysis showed that father's level of education plays important role in dropout behaviour. It can reduce dropout by 16%. Rao(7) revealed the fact that poverty is one of the most important reasons of dropout of girls. Upendranath(8) reports that there is a large number of dropouts in Indian education at middle level of education. He also reveals the fact that dropout of girls is higher than that of boys. Study shows that there is widening gender gap between primary and school education in many developing countries like India. Research done by Rao and Mohanty(9) is concluded with the fact that there is gender differentials in schools enrolments and school attendance in all the states of India. The school attendance of students is subject to the economic condition of the parents.

NEED OF STUDY- There is huge investment in the field of education. Government has been taking efforts and introducing innovation programmes for the participation of all the sections of the society in the main stream of education. Still there is dropout of students in almost all the states. Not only adequacy of schools and quality of education is responsible for it but also family and social background play very important role

discontinuation of students in education. It has become essential to know family and social background of students and to find out the reasons of school dropout. Child labour is another problem created by dropout of students.

OBJECTIVES-

- 1) To understand the main reasons of school dropout reported by dropped out Students.
- 2) To understand social factors influencing the school dropout.
- 3) To understand family background influencing the school dropout.
- 4) To understand the difficulties for taking education.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY-

Researcher has collected data from 100 child labour of Ahmednagar city that have left school and working in hotels. They are between the age group of 13 to 15. It's purely primary information. 68 respondents are from SC category, 9 respondents are from ST category, 16 respondents are from OBC category and 07 respondents are from open category. Personal interviews were taken and observation method is used. Ahmednagar is a semi-urban area. Information is collected only from boys. Ahmednagar city is not tribal area.

Sr. No.	Category	No. of Respondents
1	SC	68
2	ST	09
3	OBC	16
4	Open	07
Total		100

Data analysis and interpretation- Classification of children according to their age

Sr. No.	Category	Age of children			No. of Respondents
		13 years	14 years	15 years	
1	SC	13	19	36	68
2	ST	01	03	05	09
3	OBC	03	05	08	16
4	Open	01	02	04	07
Total		18	29	53	100

Out of 100 children 18 children are of 13 years, 29 children are of 14 years and 53 children are of 15 years. There has been increase in the number of school dropped out students with the increase in the age of children.

Classification of children according to their income group

Sr. No.	Category	Income group of children				No. of Respondents
		0 to 3,000	3,000 to 6,000	6,000 to 9,000	9,000 and above	
1	SC	08	22	38	-	68
2	ST	02	03	04	-	09
3	OBC	04	05	07	-	16
4	Open	01	02	04	-	07
Total		15	32	53	-	100

15% respondents reported that their monthly income is less than Rupees 3,000. 32% respondents reported that their monthly income is between Rupees 3,000 to Rupees 6,000. 53% respondents reported that their monthly income is between Rupees 6,000 to Rupees 9,000. No respondent reported that his monthly income is more than Rupees 9,000.

Main reasons for dropping schools

Reasons relating to the family-

Reasons	SC	ST	OBC	Open	Total
-Not able to pay school fees, tuition fees and other contribution	40	05	09	03	57
-Family disputes	13	03	03	02	21
-Lack of time for studies at home	09	01	03	01	14
-No one is at home to help in studies	06	00	01	01	08
Total	68	09	16	07	100

Reasons relating to the child-

Reasons	SC	ST	OBC	Open	Total
-No need of education for employment	42	03	09	04	58
-Lack of interest in studies	19	04	05	01	29
-Continuous failure in the examination	07	02	02	02	13
Total	68	09	16	07	100

Reasons relating to the school-

Reasons	SC	ST	OBC	Open	Total
-Not effective teaching	39	07	15	07	68
-Discriminatory attitude of teachers	17	01	00	00	18
-Unequal treatment by other students	12	01	01	00	14
Total	68	09	16	07	100

57% respondents told that they dropped school because they are unable to pay school fees, tuition fees and contributions collected by schools for various programs and celebrations. They feel awkward in the school at the time of collection of fees. 21% respondents told that family disputes are the reason of dropping out the school. 14% respondents told that they don't have time for studies at home because it's essential for them to work somewhere to earn money. Their financial background doesn't allow them to give time for studies. 8% respondents told that their parents are educated enough to help them in their studies. At the same time, they are unable to join any tuition because of poor financial background.

58% respondents told that they don't need education to get employment opportunities. It's very serious matter that they think that there are no job opportunities after education then why they should take education. They don't believe in education. Education is very important for the financial and social improvement of any society. Still many backward castes and tribes are uneducated. They are not in education process of our society and they are losing belief in education before taking education. It's not a good sign for our education system. 29% respondents told that they don't have any interest in education because it's boring. It doesn't give them any skill. 13% respondents told that they don't understand the various topics taught in classroom so they get failed continuously.

68% respondents told that there is no effective teaching in classroom. Teachers need to complete their syllabus. They don't think of last benchers whether they are able to understand. They just ask some questions to brilliant students and complete their syllabus. 18% respondents told that attitude of some teachers is discriminatory. The teachers who take private tuitions they expect that students should join their

tutions other they don't give proper treatment to the students. 14% respondents told they got unequal treatment from some students who were having good family and financial background.

SCOPE-

- 1) Data are collected only from the child labour of Ahmednagar city, Maharashtra.
- 2) Data are collected from the only children who are working in small hotels.
- 3) Period of data collection is of one year.
- 4) Random sampling method is used for data collection.
- 5) Data are collected only from male respondents.
- 6) Study focuses only on the dropout of students in secondary education. It doesn't think of higher education.

HYPOTHESIS-

- 1) Financial background of students is one of the most important reasons of students' dropout in secondary education.
- 2) Family disputes of students causes students' dropout in secondary education.
- 3) Children think that education is useless for their social as well as economic development.
- 3) Discriminatory attitude of teachers is also one of the most important reasons of students' dropout in secondary education.

FINDINGS-

- 1) It is observed that financial background of students plays important role in the dropout of students.
- 2) Family disputes of students leads to students' dropout in secondary education.
- 3) There is lack of willingness among many students to study.
- 4) Many students think that education is useless for changing their economic as well as social status.

RECOMMENDATIONS-

- 1) Special coaching classes should be started in the school for the students who live in slums, whose parents are not well educated and who are below poverty line. Experienced teachers should be selected to teach them. Completion of syllabus should not be the main objective of such coaching classes.
- 2) There should be psychologist in every school to understand the problems of the students. They should create informal environment in the school so that students will be able share with them about their family disputes. They should council the students in such a way that students will have positive attitude about the education and their future.
- 3) Skill development courses should be started in the school. Practicability is more important than theoretical knowledge. These courses should be developed in such a way that in future students will able to earn their bread and butter through such courses.
- 4) Syllabus should be designed in such a way that students will take interest in learning it. It should be attractive. Students should be allowed to think. There should not be one way process.

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