



“EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF GIRL CHILD”
(A Study with Reference to Dropout in Kakinada Rural Area,
East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh)

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ABSTRACT :

Education is an important vehicle for holistic growth of individual and systematic expansion of an intellectual society. Primary education is the foundation on which the development of every citizen and the nation as a whole built on. In recent past, India has made a huge progress in terms of increasing primary education enrolment, retention, regular attendance rate and expanding literacy to approximately two third of the population. India's improved education system is often cited as one of the main contributors to the economic development of India. At the same time, the quality of elementary education in India had also been a major concern. School dropout is the manifestation of dysfunctional education system and social disorganization. Among many factors, low parental attitude towards learning, their educational level, unsuccessful migration, family income level, interest of children, delinquent behavior, and unfavorable peer group influence the academic achievement of students.

KEYWORDS : *primary education, economic development, school dropout, India.*

INTRODUCTION:

Education is the most powerful weapon which can change the world. It is a strong building block in building a stronger and healthier community and a strong foundation in one's life. As a community we must provide protection, knowledge and good values. It is especially true in terms of looking our future generation and refers to the intellectual and moral training that systematically enlarges the spheres of knowledge, develops character as well as mental faculties and evolves a definite pattern on relationship between an individual and the society. It refers to the systematic process of teaching training, and guiding students to acquire knowledge, skill and understanding through practical experience or deep study on a subject especially at schools, colleges, other education institutions.

Some of the authors/members defined Education as follows:

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world – **Nelson Mandela**

The roots of education are bitter but the fruits is sweet — **Aristotle**

Education is not preparation for life's education is life itself - **John Dewey.**

Education is the movement from darkness to light- **Allan Blam**



Primary Education is the fundamental right and in school age it depends on growing phase of childhood. Primary school age is a dynamic period of physical growth as well as of mental development of the child. Research indicates that health problems due to miserable nutritional status in primary school-age

children are among the most common causes of low school enrolment, high absenteeism, early dropout and unsatisfactory classroom performance. The present scenario of health and nutritional status of the school-age children in India is very unsatisfactory.

IMPORTANCE OF GIRL CHILD EDUCATION

Children education in India plays a very important role in the overall development of the human resources to improving the quality. Educated children tend to promote personal hygiene so they can also educate their parents. Gender discrimination still persists in India. The gap in male - female literacy rate is just a simple indicator. There is a wide gender disparity in the literacy rate in India. Effective literacy rates age from 7 and above in 2001 were 82.14 % for men 65.46 % for women prevailing prejudices, low enrollment of girl child in the school, engagements of girl children in domestic works and high dropout rate are major obstacles in the path of making all Indian women educated (Bhargava P and Mr. Balana 2005).

Educated girls can play a vital role in the development of their country. They can share the burden of men in the different walk of life. When girls are well educated and not forced to marry during childhood. They will be able to serve the society as writers, educators, teachers, lawyers doctors, administrators, politicians, scientist and much more.

HISTORY OF GIRL CHILD EDUCATION IN INDIA

The world declaration on education for all 1990 was an important milestone in the girl's education. Although in vedic period women had access to education in India, they had gradually lost this right. However, in British period there was revival of interest in women's education in India. During this period various socio-religious movements led by eminent persons like Raja Rammohan Roy, EswarchandraVidyasagar emphasized on women's education in India. Mahatma Jyotiba phule, Perivar and Baba Saheb Ambedkar were leaders of the lower castes in India. After the country got independence in 1947 and the government has taken various measures to provide education to all Indian women. As a result women's literacy rate has grown over the three decades and the growth of female literacy has in fact been lower than that of the male literacy rate. According to 2011 census, the literacy rate in India was 74.00%. In that male literacy rate was 84% and female literacy rate was 65%.

FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF THE CHILDREN OF KAKINADA RURAL

This research for the holistic development of the B.C in Kakinada rural East Godavari District through education. Around 100 children from kachirpeta provided free education. Parents of these children are mostly fisher man where their income levels and they totally depend on fishing due to lack of education facilities in the community. In earlier times children spend their time with their parents and skip school and lose their interest in studies and eventually dropout. The organization focuses on making the community aware about the importance of education, children has been provided with educational support for continuation and successful completion of their formal schooling, healthcare and supplementary nutrition are integral parts of their education.

The organization has helped in minimizing of school dropout rate by 5%. It has also led to an increase of attendance among the students by 80% community members, especially the mothers are now informed and aware about nutrition and hygiene.

EDUCATION BRINGING JOY TO THE FAMILIES

The organization works for child developments, health and hygiene of welfare of kachirpeta Kakinada rural. The target groups are the children from 4 to 15 years age group from poor fishing families East Godavari district. Due to many reasons in children social taboo, in accessibility. Violent situations child labourers, assisting the parents to take care of toddlers and lack of awareness among the parent, the children of the village do not get a chance to go to school.

The organization aimed to promote primary education of the poor children. The organization also tries to improve the quality of formal education for children in the fishing familiars of kachirpuram promoting health and healthy practices among the rural children is also a part of the project.

LITERACY RATE IN ANDHRA PRADESH

1981			2001			2011		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
39.26	20.39	29.94	71.28	52.72	62.07	74.77	59.96	67.35

Source: Census of India, Govt. of India

The above table indicates that the literacy rate in Andhra Pradesh from 1981, 2001 and 2011 census. Based on 2011 census the total literacy rate 67.35 percent compare with last 2001 census nearly 5 percent excess from 2001 to 2011 census.

Kotari Commission in report states that 6% in GDP must be cited for education but now only 3.7% was catered by the Government. Due to this reason so many schools in our country have no proper facilities.

METHODOLOGY NEED FOR THE STUDY

Education plays a vital role in the development process and it has been recognized as the prime indicator in empowering the women. But several studies and survey reports reveals that the literacy rate of women is yet to be decrease and now after several years of inputs and hard-work toward campaigning women. Now the present rate of literacy among women is 54% in urban regions. The patriarchal societal norms emphasizing the efforts on the boy's education, and the girl's are being encouraged to learn the household workers rather than their education. Through there are facilities provided and accessibility of education. The dropout rates among the girl students are too high even in slum areas as in rural area. Lately, the trend has been gradually changing and the women who were the member is SHGs literate and educated on several aspects, in turn they are doing well in their children's education in particularly the girl child. There is a need to study those aspects, in order to find out the literacy rate and how they are running their families and also to suggest for their education and development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following objectives are carried out on my research:

- To find out the girl child literacy rate
- To know the attitude of parents towards imparting education by sex
- To identify the causes and effects of female dropouts in the section area.
To collect and access data on enrollment of pupils according to gender.
- To know the impact of their education in bringing out changes in their families.

The steps followed in carrying out the study are listed under the following heads:

1. Selection of sample
2. Tools used for data collection
3. Process of the study
4. Statistical analysis

Selection of the sample

According to Gupta (1995) a sample is the part of the universe selected for the purpose of the investigation. Considering the feasibility of the investigator, ten students from each class have been selected for conducting the present study. Multistage stratified random sampling procedures are adopted

Tools used for data collection

The data pertaining to the study was collected with the help of an interview schedule. The schedule was developed keeping the objectives of the study in view. The data were collected from the students and their family members at Kacheripeta, Kakinada rural area, East Godavari district of AP.

Process of the study

During the process of the study data was collected by using the personal interview method, to obtain the information regarding the impact of family members' education on their children's educational level.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive analysis will be performed the percentage will be calculated and analyzed with the help of statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

EDUCATION WISE DISTRIBUTIONS OF RESPONDENTS

EDUCATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Illiterates	16	32
Below 2 nd class	10	20
Below 4 th class	8	16
Below 6 th class	6	12
8 th class	10	20
Total	50	100

N=50

Significantlevel=0.001

When discussed according to education wise distribution of respondents were 32% of respondents are illiterates and they are not interested in education. Mostly 20% of respondents belong to 8th class and they become dropout because of multiple reasons.

- ❖ In these communities most of the parents were illiterates & they don't know the importance of education.
- ❖ Some families do not have basic needs so they thought their children far earning hands so they put their children in some work.
- ❖ Some other families send their children to school due to insufficient family income and remaining children are at home.

RELIGION WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

RELIGION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Hindu	28	48
Muslim	16	32
Christian	10	20
Total	50	100

N=50

X²value=0.01

When-discussed according to religion wise distribution of respondents there were 48% of the respondents belongs to Hindu community. In this community child marriages are very frequent. There are 32% of the respondents belongs to Muslim and 20% are Christian.

CASTE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

CASTE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
SC	21	42
ST	14	28
BC	8	16
OC	7	14
Total	50	100

N=50

Significantlevel=0.001

The above table indicates that caste wise distribution of respondents. There were 42% respondents belongs to scheduled castes. 28% of respondents belongs to scheduled tribes. These community students dropout because of their poverty, lack of proper work, unemployment, migration for the livelihood, more work less salary and lower level of land cultivation.

FAMILY INCOME WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

FAMILY INCOME	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Below 1500	28	20
1500-2000	10	16
2500-3500	8	8
3500-4500	4	8
Total	50	100

N=50

Significantlevel=0.001

When discussed, in accordance with their family income there were 56% of the respondents belongs to very low income family. Their family income was below 1500 per month. It is identified that school dropout ratio was high in low income families because of the following reasons.

- ❖ Most of the respondents are orphans they loss both mother and father. These children become child labour. They went to fishing along with their relatives so they become dropout from schools even though encouragement comes from Govt. and some NGOs.
- ❖ If some families lossed their bread winner who was the head of the family. Those families made debts for their livelihood. So they were unable to send their children to school.
- ❖ Some families lossed their home kaker i.e., mother no one is there to help them these single parent families were trapped in debt trends.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS OCCUPATION

OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Daily labourers	22	44
Rikshawala	15	30
Servant maids	8	16
Autodriviers	5	10
Total	50	100

N=50

X2value=0.01

When discussed regarding to the distribution of respondents according to their parents occupation 44% of respondents belong to daily labourers. The dropout rate was low in case of auto drivers family. The following reasons are identified that:

- ❖ In our country most of the people do not have basic needs like house, cloths and food. So many fisher men loosed their house when (Aatu-potu) comes.
- ❖ Don't know any other works when the government announced holiday for fishing for 2 months.
- ❖ Some middle class families were unable to send their child to schools become of the burden of school fees.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS DEATH

DEATH OF PARENTS	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY
Both mother & father	24	48
Mother	17	34
Father	9	18
Total	50	100

N=50

Significantlevel=0.001

When discussed regarding to the distribution of respondents and according to their parent's death 48% were fully orphans. 34% of the respondents become dropouts from school because death of their mothers and 18% became dropouts due to death of breadwinners of the family. The following reasons for death of parents because:

- ❖ Due to road accidents head of the family members becomes patients or handicapped by and dependents on their children and other family members. They servants to their parents and siblings this leads to lack of interest on studies.
- ❖ Prolonged diseases of the school going child like epilepsy etc., the parents of the child feared about their child so they were not interested to send their child to school.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS HEALTH STATUS

HEALTH STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Ill health of Mother	19	38
Ill health of Father	20	40
Ill health of sibling	5	10
Ill health of Child	6	12
Total	50	100

N=50

X2 value=0.01

When discussed about the respondent's parent's health status, there was 40% respondents become dropout from school because of their father's ill health. It was also noticed that12% of the respondents became dropout due to their prolonged illness.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS SOCIAL STATUS

SOCIAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Poor	38	76
Middle class	12	24
Total	50	100

N=50

significant level=0.001

When discussed regarding to the distribution of respondents and according to their parent’s social status 76% belongs to poor status. And 24% belongs to middle class. The following reasons for

- ❖ Many of the parents of the respondents were illiterates so they don’t guide their children towards education.
- ❖ Most of the family bread winners went for fishing they came back after few days. So they don’t show any interest towards their children.
- ❖ Some families were willing to send their child but lack of basic amenities in schools, mainly toilets/restrooms for the girls and teasing of boys etc., they become dropouts.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS AWEARENESS ABOUT EDUCATION

AWARENESS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Aware	14	28
Unaware	36	72
Total	50	100

N=50

Significantlevel=0.001

When discussed about the respondents their parents awareness levels about education there were 72% are unaware about the importance of education. 28% were aware the importance of education but they were not interested. It may be conclude that now a days in schools some boys teases the girls at toilets and in class rooms about the child physical appearance and all and some of the girl’s parents were unwilling to send their daughters. Some parents are willing to send but the grandparents stress and their family background were the main reasons.

- ❖ A long time school becomes one of the reason i.e., 9 AM to 5 PM this big time may cause stress on the children.
- ❖ Usually school holidays comes in summer. But our country depends on agriculture. Rural people have work in summer and they don’t have any work in rainy season but our schools gave holidays in summer and no holidays in rain season.
- ❖ Heavy Home works in schools due to lack of coordination among teachers and stress on the teachers and this may leads to heavy punishments in schools.
- ❖ Heavy home works also caused burden of school bags all these causes stress on the children.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR PARENTS WILLINGNESS

WILLINGNESS	PERCENTAGE	FREQUENCY
Willing	18	36
Unwilling	32	64

Total	50	100

N=50

X2 value=0.01

When discussed about the willingness of parents there are 64% were unwilling to send their girl to school because of harassments and some other multiple causes.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS \ ACCORDING TO DISCIPLINARY CASES

DISCIPLINARY CASES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Heavy home works	9	18
Heavy punishments	15	30
Burden of school bags	18	36
Interest in games	8	16
Total	50	100

N=50

significant level=0.001

When discussed about disciplinary cases 36% respondents became victims due to the burden of school bag.30% respondents were dropout from school because of the heavy punishments in the schools.

- ❖ Death fear if grandparents causes early marriages and parents income levels were also cause child marriage.
- ❖ Population growth and unemployment of the parents made their children child labours.
- ❖ High level of teacher students' ratio due to this individual attention of the teacher was not possible. So children may develop escapesiam and leads to lack of interest towards schooling.
- ❖ Un attractive teaching methods and syllabus leads to lack of interest towards education.
- ❖ Distance of the schools from the society or families.
- ❖ Migration of parents from different areas.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO MULTIPLE CAUSES

CAUSE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Early marriages	16	32
Child labour	13	26
Lack of basic amenities in schools	7	14
Neglected by teachers	5	10
Sexual harassments	9	18
Total	50	100

N=50

X2 value=0.01

When discussed about school dropouts, it was noticed that many respondents became dropout due to multiple causes not by a single reason.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

Drop out is considered as a complex social problem. It is huge waste of resources of the country as well as individual. Community must be made aware & motivated regarding the importance of education. Parents should be encouraged to get involved in the school activities of their children. Counseling should be provided for the parents to realize the need of sending & making sure that their children are in school possibly by supervision and monitoring.

The present study was carried out in slum area of Kakinada. There are 300 houses at that area in Kakinada. Considering the feasibility of time and energy, the researcher selected 50 families randomly for her study. There are 76 girl child in that 50 families. Out of 76 the researcher selected 50 girls for this study. So, that the sample size consists of 50 girl child members. The researcher collected the data from respondents using a structured interview. The interview schedule consists of 3 parts. Part a) deals with demographic data. Part b) deals with family particulars and part c) deals with their experience in school days.

All most all the respondents expressed their unhappiness towards their position. Majority institutions provide free education but the girl child has the burden of family responsibility. Most of the respondents belong to low income families. It is recommended that; reduce the punishments and home work. Create awareness about the importance of girl child education. Create awareness about the evil effects of child marriages. Economy should be strong enough to provide good education. Specific policies are necessary to address the problem of disadvantaged groups. The pupils who are not interested in education must be encouraged. Financial allocations for education are to be increased to solve its problem and to improve the performance of primary education. Otherwise the performance of primary education may not be up to our expectations.

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