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EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF TRIBAL WOMEN IN VIJAYAPUR

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ABSTRACT
Scheduled Tribes are geographically, socially isolated and economically marginalized communities. In the post-Independence period, sincere and concerted efforts were made for the economic and educational development of tribal's. Despite these efforts the performance of the tribes in education is much lower than the other classes. As the studies on tribal education suggests that the policy makers approach paid little attention to culturally linked education. This has led to drop outs and directly impacted their overall educational status. the women are placed at the absolute bottom of the social hierarchy. After independence, apart from constitutional and legal measures large numbers of policy initiatives have been initiated by government to improve their education, literacy and socio-economic conditions of tribal women. However these improvements made some extent of the development, but when it compared to other caste is not satisfactory. Generally we feel literacy only measuring stone empowering poor women.

KEYWORD: *Scheduled Tribe, Literacy rate, Education*

INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the essential requirements for man-making and nation building. It is indispensible for development of human resources. Education imparts knowledge, skills, and character. After independence, the governments in India relied more on literacy mission emphasizing 3Rs (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) to fulfill the expectations of the Directive Principles of State Policy. At the backdrop of the New Education Policy, likely to come up shortly, the paper makes a critical attempt to appraise the statistics and status of the education among tribal women in Vijayapur. Human development is predicated upon universal access to education, with its implications for equity and social justice. And the gender justice gets a boost when women have access to education, which, by enhancing women's knowledge and employment capacity, increases their sense of autonomy and self worth (GOK.2006). The incidence of caste system in India has lower caste people at bottom of the socio-economic sphere of life. Today tribal and indigenous peoples of India constitute an important segment of the Indian population. But comparing to other caste they are still lagging far behind in the various walks of life like education, employment, good health and economic empowerment.

Objectives of the Study

Following are the main objectives of this study may.
•To know the socio-economic status of Tribal in Vijayapur.
•To study the literacy trends of Tribal women.
•To identify the issues and challenges of tribal Education.

Issues and challenges of tribal Education

- **Dropout Rates**

While the overall dropout rate in Vijayapura is 1.88% at the primary level, it increases to 25.34% at the upper primary level and 42.8% at the secondary level.

- **Inter-District Disparities**

While there has been progress in education for SC and ST populations, inter-district disparities persist, with some districts reporting lower literacy rates.

- **Lack of Adequate Schools and Teachers**

A shortage of adequate schools and competent teachers can hinder the achievement of education goals in tribal areas.

- **Language Issues**

Tribal children may face challenges due to language differences and cultural gaps.

- **Need for Inclusive Education**

Efforts to support tribal education should acknowledge the cultural and linguistic diversity of tribal communities.

Mother Tongue

Language is a vehicle of knowledge. In this study area; one can find people speaking different languages. Information regarding mother tongue of the respondent is present below.

Table- 01
Mother Tongue

Sl. No	Mother Tongue	Frequency	Percentage
1	Tribal language	280	93.33
2	Kannada	15	5.00
3	Other	5	1.67
Total		300	100.00

Source: Field Data, 2024

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Table-01 Explores that local language of the respondent in the study area. The large majority of respondents speaks tribal language (93.33%) followed by a small number (5%) of respondents spoke Kannada other language and still lesser number (1.67%) speak other language. Tribal people have largely assimilated with the majority of tribal language speaking neighbors in the study area.

Marital Status

The concept of marital status applies to the conjugal arrangements of a person. It includes persons who are living together as husband and wife, regardless of whether they are legally married or in a common law relationship. Persons living in a conjugal relationship are identified as spouses. Spouses may be legally married spouses or common-law partners. In the present study, the procedure of collecting information on marital status of the respondent family was followed:1) Married 2) Unmarried 3) Widow 4) Divorced 5) Separated.

Table- 2
MaritalStatus

Sl. No	Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
1	Married	270	90.00
2	Unmarried	10	3.33
3	Widow	8	2.67
4	Divorced	3	1.00
5	Separated	9	3.00
Total		300	100.00

Source: FieldData,2024

Table- 2 reveals Marital status of the respondents, that shows that highest percentages of married respondents are (90.92%) followed by a small number of unmarried (3.33%) separated women were (3.00%) widows (2.67%) and a minimum of divorced respondent was (1.00%).

The incidence of early marriage is high among rural and backward communities in the country. Hence the respondents belonging to tribal social group have indicated high percentage.

Age Gap between Husband and Wife

In India the maximum age difference between husband and wife should not exceed to 10 years. The ideal difference is of four years. This is so because women are psychologically four years' advance than men though they are junior to physically. Now if the gap is too wide there would emerge some problems. Suppose the girl is some 12 years' younger than the husband she would not or might not be able to cope up with the mindset of her husband. It might create a fissure in the relation between the two.

Table –3
Age Gap between Husband and Wife

Sl. No.	Age gap between Husband and wife	Frequency	Percentage
1	0-5years	185	61.67
2	6-10years	90	30.00
3	11-15years	15	5.00
4	16-20years	10	3.33
Total		300	100.00

Source: FieldData,2024

It is significance to find that age group between the husband and wife is 0-5 years in case of maximum number of respondent (61.67%)while the gap was 6-10 years in case of substantial number of respondent (30.00%). Age gap was more (11- 15 years and 15-20 years) in case of a smaller percentage of respondents (5% and 3.33% respectively).

Responses indicate lower age gap between husband and wife. This also indicates the high incidence of early marriages of girls among these tribal people in the study area.

Education of Respondent

Health status of an individual is influenced by his or her education level. The world map of illiteracy closely coincides with the maps of poverty, malnutrition, ill health, high infant and child mortality rates. Studies indicate that education, to some extent, compensates the effects of poverty on health, irrespective of the availability of health facilities. To quantify the educational status of the respondents, the scoring system followed by (Pareek and Trivedi, 1964) in their Socio-economic Status Scale Rural was used. The scoring was as follows: Can read only:1, Illiterate2, Primary: 3, Secondary: 4, Higher Secondary: 5, More than Higher Secondary.

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Table–4
Education of Respondent

Sl. No	Education of Respondent	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	220	73.33
2	Primary	60	20.00
3	Secondary	14	4.67
4	Higher Secondary	5	1.67
5	More than Higher Secondary	1	0.33
Total		300	100.00

Source: FieldData,2024

Illiteracy among the respondents is very high (73.33%)followed by those with primary education (20%) secondary education (4.67%) higher secondary education (1.67%) and those with higher than higher secondary education (0.33%).

High incidences if illiteracy and lower level of education has been the major cause for lack of awareness about education and other aspects of modern healthy living among the tribal families.

Husband's Education

Education is important factor which universally compensates the effects of poverty on health, irrespective of the availability of health facilities and affect the fertility behavior of the people. That is to say many of the studies revealed that the illiterate couples are not aware of the education facilities, where as highly educated people are aware of the education facilities. Hence there is need to know about the educational level of the husbands.

Table –5
Husband's Education

Sl. No	Husband's education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate Primary	215	71.67
2	Secondary	55	18.33
3	Higher Secondary	20	6.67
4	Degree	6	2.00
5	PG	4	1.33
Total		300	100.00

Source: FieldData,2024

Majority of the respondents husband's were illiterate i,e (71.67%).Husband followed by respondents husband's were secondary education were in good number (18.33%) followed by those with higher secondary (6.67%) degree (2%) and those with post graduate degree (1.33%).

Educational status of husbands of respondents is marginally better compared to women respondents as a few of them are degree and post graduate degree holders.

Education of Respondents Vs Annual Income

It is found from the field survey that the incidence of illiteracy among the respondent is very high as 220 respondents (73.33%) were illiterate. A lesser number of 60 respondents (20%) had primary education while 14 respondents (4.67%) had secondary education. Higher secondary education was availed by only 5 respondents (1.67%) and a lone respondent had more than higher secondary education. Large majority of 282 respondents had an annual income of less than Rs. 10000 and among 215 were illiterate. A small number 8, 5 and 4 respondents had annual income of Rs. 11000-20000, Rs. 21000-30000 and Rs. 31000-40000 respectively.

Table-6
Education of Respondents Vs Annual Income

Education of the Respondent	Below Rs 10,000	11.000-20.000	21.000-30.000	31.000-40.000	No
Illiterate	76.24% 215	25.00% 2	33.33% 2	25.00% 1	73.33% 220
Primary	18.79% 53	37.50% 3	33.33% 2	50.00% 2	20.00% 60
Secondary	3.55% 10	25.00% 2	16.67% 1	25.00% 1	4.67% 14
Higher Secondary	1.06% 3	12.50% 1	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	1.67% 5
More than Higher Secondary	0.35% 1	00.00% 0	00.00% 0	00.00% 0	0.33% 1
Total	100% 282	100% 8	100% 6	100% 4	100% 300

Source: FieldData,2024

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The above table shows statistics about education status of the respondents against income of the respondents. It is observed from the table that, when education status of the respondents against income of the respondents. is cross tabulated, the chi-square shows that there is an association between (X2=36.94,df=12,) education status of the respondents and income of the respondents. It can be concluded that education status of the respondents and income of the respondents varies with education of the respondents.

Affectionate Towards Son, Daughter Vs Education

Preference for male children (son) is found to be more prevalent among tribal women and particularly among illiterate respondent as 215 of them (illiterate) among 230 preferred to have son rather than daughter. Preference for daughter is more pronounced among 32 respondents with primary education. A total number of 43 respondents with different level of education preferred daughters while a small number of 27 respondents preferred both son and daughter.

Table-7
Affectionate Towards Son, Daughter Vs Education

Preference towards	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	More than Higher Secondary	No
Son	215 97.73%	7 11.67%	6 42.86%	1 20.00%	1 100.00%	230 76.67%
Daughter	3 1.36%	32 53.33%	5 35.71%	3. 60.00%	0 0.00%	43 14.33%
Both	2 0.91%	21 35.00%	3 21.43%	1 20.00%	0 0.00%	27 9.00%
Total	220 100.00%	60 100.00%	14 100.00%	5 100.00%	1 100.00%	300 100.00%

Source: FieldData,2024

It is found from the above table that a large majority of tribal women are preferred son. It means son preference is more than daughter. They believed that sons are looked after in their old age, and they are the heir of their family. When the preference towards son and the education status of the respondents is cross tabulated the chi-square value at 5% level of significance (X2=215.65,X2t = 15.507). It shows that there is significant association between preferences towards son education status of respondents. It can be concluded that preference towards son varies with education status of the respondents.

Toilet Facilities Vs Education

Lack of toilet facilities is found among majority of 240 respondents among whom majority of 210 are illiterate. A toilet within the house is available for 20 respondents while 32 respondents use public toilets and 8 respondents are using space outside the house for the same purpose. Illiterates accounted for maximum number of 220 with regard to toilet facility and lack of it followed by 60 with primary education, 14 with secondary education, 5 with higher secondary and 1 with more than higher secondary education.

Table-8
Toilet Facilities Vs Education

Toilet Facilities	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	More than Higher Secondary	TOTAL
No toilet facilities	210 95.45%	21 35.00%	7 50.00%	2 40.00%	0 0.00%	240 80.00%
Within the residence	10 4.55%	4 6.67%	5 35.71%	1 20.00%	0 0.00%	20 6.67%
Public toilet	0 0.00%	30 50.00%	2 14.29%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%	32 10.67%
Outside the house	0 0.00%	5 8.33%	0 0.00%	2 40.00%	1 100.00%	8 2.67%
Total	220 100%	60 100%	0 0.00%	5 100%	1 100%	300 100%

Source: FieldData,2024

Table-8 indicates the information of toilet facilities v/s education status of the respondents the present study reveals that majority [240] of the total respondents don't have toilet facilities in their houses. Which is followed by with public toilet facilities constructed by the government and [20] of the respondents use within the residence, and [8] of the respondents use the open area for the toilet, because lack of toilet facilities in rural areas people are suffering from lot of diseases like cholera, malaria etc.

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There is significant association between toilet facilities and education status at 5% level of significance (X2=194.77,X2t = 18.307).

Reasons why tribal people are backward in education:

Even though the government has provided several programs for the education of tribals, tribal students are academically lagging behind other students. There are several reasons;

Why they lag behind academically. Namely

1. Lack of awareness about education among parents.
2. Not providing them with good facilities.
3. Not to open schools near tracks.
4. Not opening more ashram schools.
5. Non-cooperation in their development by organizations and NGOs.
6. Their parents often migrate
7. Government not taking action to help them continue economically.
8. Government not making special efforts to make them come from forest to land.
9. Ignorance of the benefits of education.
10. Still interestingly familiar with their own superstitious and religious aspects.
11. Not getting along with the citizens.
12. Relying on their ancestral occupations like hunting, beekeeping, etc.
13. Marrying within blood relatives which are hereditary.
14. Ignorance of programs implemented by government and non-governmental organizations.
15. Not getting the facilities provided by the government like money, accommodation, subsidy etc.
16. Non-availability of financial and educational assistance.

In this way the above factors are important for the backwardness of the tribals educationally, socially, politically and economically.

Government Programme for Scheduled Tribes Women:

The number schemes were implemented for improvement of tribes' women literacy of central government as following.

• Scheme for Construction of Hostels for ST Girls and Boys

• Scheme for the Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas:

• Pre- Matric Scholarship for Needy Scheduled Tribe Student Studying in Classes IX &X

• The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme (PMS):

• Book Bank

• Upgradation of Merit

National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Higher Studies Abroad:

• Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)

• Scheme of Top Class Education for ST Students

• Vocational Training in Tribal Areas (VTC): (GOI.2013)

CONCLUSION

A number of important activities were undertaken government of India for more focused attention on rights, welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes. Even though the education concern especially scheduled tribes women is really very big task to enter into the school, because of their tradition system as well as poverty. But after the independence the government policy and compulsory education of children's and reservations in education has played a vital role. But still scheduled tribes are backward and poor tradition they are lack of awareness. Therefore, government should be strictly followed up to maintain of proper implementation of educational attainment for poor families and train them modern awareness of gender disparity, importance and educational benefits from government. Than only we will expect further improvement of female literacy level as equal to men.

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