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EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS OF THE TIWA STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES AND PARENTAL ATTITUDES IN SECONDARY STAGE OF EDUCATION IN ASSAM: A STUDY



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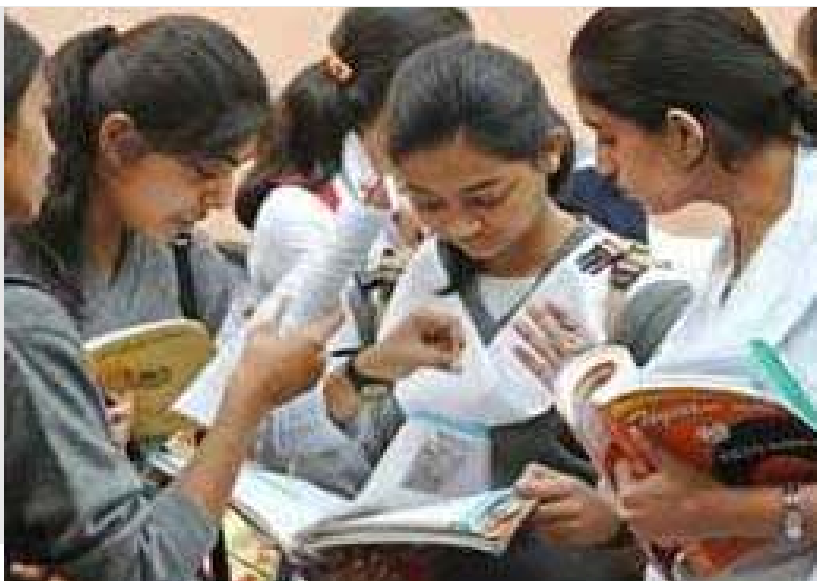
Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

Institutional facilities and parental attitude towards education are two important determinant factors contributing to qualitative and quantitative development of education. The present study deals with educational problems in terms of institutional facilities and parental attitude towards secondary education of Tiwa Tribe of Assam. The sample consisted of 126 tribal students (70 males and 56 females) appearing HSLC examination conducted by SEBA

(Secondary Education Board of Assam) in the Morigaon district of Assam. Result of the study reveals that, poor institutional facilities and moderate favorable attitude of the parents towards education have lower down educational progress in the state.

KEYWORDS

Institutional Facilities, Parental Attitude, Secondary Education, Tiwa Tribe.

INTRODUCTION :

Education is the process of developing the capacities and potentialities of the individual so as to prepare them to become successful in the society. From this perspective, education is serving primarily as an instrument of individual development function. But education, in its broadest sense, may be defined as, a process designed to impart knowledge, develop skills and inculcate right type of attitudes, values and interests necessary to enable individuals to cope effectively with their environment. Its primary purpose is, to foster and promote the fullest individual self-realization for all people. Achieving this goal requires understanding of commitment to the proposition that, education is a primary instrument for social and economic advancement of human welfare. (Verma, 1990)

Now, education has become as a fundamental right of all citizen. The Government of India and State Governments are taking steps to fulfill this right. It is a fact that, education is an essential program for economic growth and development of the society. It is conceived as important means to develop human capital, contributing both to social productivity of the individual and economic growth of the society. Literacy is proved to be a key variable for the development of the society and success of democracy. Illiterate people tend to have low self-esteem and low social status. Education is of value not only for the person who acquires it, but also for others. Widespread of education helps to resolve social problems like poverty. Mahatma Gandhi was of the opinion that, education is the basic tool for the development of consciousness and reconstruction of the society.

Secondary education is an important stage of education seeks to provide future leadership in the society. Here, a suitable educational programme is required for all round development of children. It is also a prime duty of the students to exercise an academic excellence for the benefit of the self as well as the society. There are certain conditions that affect directly towards academic performance of the students. School achievement may be affected by various factors like intelligence, study habits, and attitudes of pupil towards school, different aspects of their personality and socio economic status. (Nuthenap, G.) The Scheduled Tribes are among the most socially and educationally disadvantage groups in India. There are different histories of social and economic deprivation which cause educational marginalization in different stages of education. The present study has made an attempt to identify the specific problems faced by the Scheduled Tribes in Assam in general and the Tiwa Tribe in particular.

Institutional facilities of the school are the determinant factor of high educational achievement of the students. In the present study five dimensional self-structured questionnaires is adapted to measure institutional facilities of the school.

Parental attitude is another significant condition that, influences towards academic achievement and career expectation of the students. Positive attitude towards schooling and education of the parents enhance quality of education. In this study the investigator prepared four point Likert Scale questionnaire to study parental attitude towards secondary education.

Assam is a land of unity in diversity which comprises several caste and tribes that build up a great Assamese society. The total population of Assam in 2011 census 3,884,371 (Male: 1,957,005 & Female: 1,927,366) persons are Scheduled Tribes constituting 12.45% of the total population of the state. Being situated in the North east corner of India and blended with hills and plains, Assam presents a unique panorama having distinct culture and language, rituals and festivals, dress-pattern, food habits and social life of each and every tribal community.

In the Indian Constitution [order, 1950 (a)] modified in (1956), and amended further through the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, (1976) 23 tribes are listed as Scheduled Tribes in Assam. Among the 23 distinguished tribes of Assam Tiwa Tribe is an aboriginal tribe of Assam who are, lagging behind in many respect in socio-political, economic and educational point of view. It is mentionable that, Tiwa is known as Lalung in the Assamese and Colonial literature and they are still referred so in the Constitution order of the Government of India. But, it is believed that, the term 'Lalung' is referred by the non-lalungs. In this study, the term Tiwa is used because they prefer to call them 'Tiwa' instead of Lalung. According to the census report of 2011, total Tiwa population was found to be 200915. Out of the total population more than 50 percent of Tiwa populations are residing in the District of Morigaon in Assam. So, on the ground of Tiwa population dominance Morigaon district has been selected for conducting the study.

DISTRICT PROFILE OF MORIGAON:

Morigaon is situated between 26.15 degrees North and 26.5 degrees North latitude and between 92 degree East longitudes. The total area of Morigaon district is 1551 sq. km. this is the second smallest district of Assam. Morigaon has only one sub-division named by Morigaon, which was a civil sub-division of the undivided Nowgaon district since 1972 to 1989. As per 2011 census, 92.34 % population of Morigaon districts lives in rural areas of villages. Average literacy rate of Morigaon in 2011 were 68.03 compared to 58.53 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 71.90 and 64.04 respectively.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study institutional facilities available in the Tiwa dominated schools of Morigaon district.
2. To study the attitude of the parents towards education of their children.
3. To examine whether there exists any difference in the attitude of the parents between the girl child and the boy child in terms of education.

METHODOLOGY

Design of the study:

Design of the research is the strategy to be undertaken in the study. It is a conceptual framework of the detail study. It helps the researcher to conduct the work with economy in time and effort. Because of the nature and characteristics, the study falls under descriptive survey method which describes the existing facts happening in educational fields in Tiwa dominated schools of Morigaon district of Assam.

Population and sample:

The population of the present study consisted of the entire 10th standard Tiwa students enrolled in the session 2013-2014 in the sampled secondary schools of Morigaon district under

affiliated to Secondary Education Board of Assam (SEBA). From 72 secondary schools 15 were selected on the basis of Tiwa dominancy by adopting purposive sampling method. The sample consisted of 126 Tiwa students were selected randomly from the sampled schools by using stratified random sampling method. Further, classification was made in view of sex. Out of 126 students 70 were boys and rests 56 were the girls.

Tools:

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study the investigator used two different self-structured questionnaires one is for students and another for the parents. The questionnaire related to the institutional facilities available in the Tiwa dominated schools of Morigaon district consisted of 20 questions under 5 different categories i.e. classroom facilities, library facilities, computer and internet facilities, transportation facilities and health & sanitation facilities of the school. Secondly, to study attitude of the parents towards education of the children, the investigator used separate questionnaire which comprised 20 distinct statements, all pertaining to schooling and education of children. The respondents were asked to rate each statement on a four-point Likert scale. Here, 1 denotes strongly disagree, 2 disagree, 3 agree and 4 strongly agree.

Data collection procedure:

To start with formal permission from the Head of the institution, the investigator administered the selected tools to the Tiwa students of class X. Same procedure were followed to all the schools. Regarding the parent’s opinion the investigator distributed the questionnaire and allowed to take it to home and collect opinion from the parents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

After collection of data the investigator analyzed it by applying appropriate statistical techniques. Analysis has been done on the basis of the objectives as mentioned earlier. In order to find out institutional facilities of the schools five dimensional questionnaire was adopted and the finding are presented as follows-

Table No: 1
Responses of the students regarding institutional facilities available in sample school

Sl. No	Aspects	Response in Percent (%)	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1	Classroom Facilities	46.03	53.97
2	Library Facilities	36.51	63.49
3	Computer and Internet Facilities	7.94	92.06
4	Transportation Facilities	30.16	69.84
5	Health & Sanitation Facilities	36.51	63.49

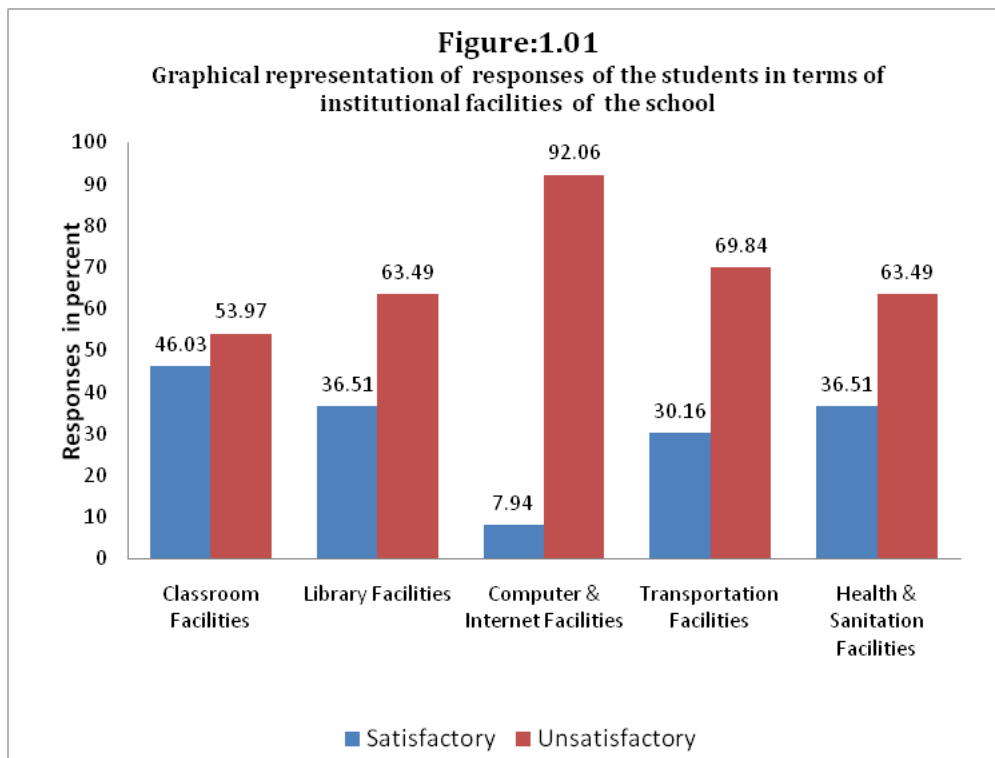
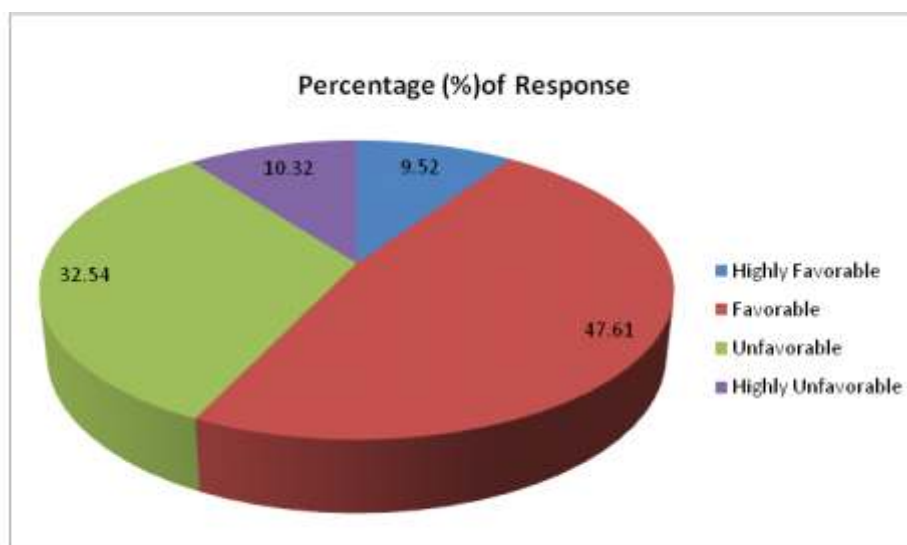


Table 1 shows in the sampled district the institutional facilities of the secondary schools are not satisfactory in terms of classroom, library, computer & internet, transportation and health & sanitation facilities. Out of the total 15 sampled schools only two schools have computer and not a single school has internet facility. Even most of the schools do not have electricity connection. Hence, 92.06% students are unsatisfied with the existing condition regarding this facility. Another major problem faced by the students is the transportation facility. Due to lack of sufficient number of public transport students face certain problem to come into the school. Table shows that, 69.84% students unsatisfied with the existing transport facilities. Health & sanitation as well as library facilities are also not up to the mark and thus, 63.49% students give unsatisfactory remark in both the cases. More than half of the students are not satisfied in the prevailing classroom facilities available in the school. Only talk and chalk method is adopted to teach different subjects in the school.

Table No: 2
Parental attitude towards education of the Tiwa Tribe of Assam

Sl. No	Dimension	Percentage(%) of response
1	Highly Favorable	9.52
2	Favorable	47.61
3	Unfavorable	32.54
4	Highly Unfavorable	10.32

Figure 1.02
Pie diagram showing parental attitude towards education of their children



Family involvement is the strongest predictor of child education and future outcomes. From the study it reveals that, the attitude of the parents is not so favorable towards education of their children. Only 9.52% parents have highly favorable attitude towards education of their children. Result indicates that, the mean score was not quite high (48.9) since the maximum score for the scale was 80 and minimum was 20. It is observed that, low socio-economic status can adversely affect the attitude towards schooling and education. The mean value regarding the attitude of the parents towards the boy child and the girl child are found to be 67.29 and 66.58 respectively with 7.16 and 7.24 SD. The study also reveals that, there exist no significant difference regarding attitude of the parents in terms of the boy child and the girl child because the t value 0.57 in 125df is not significant at .05 level.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

The following are the findings of the study with regard to institutional facilities available in sampled secondary schools of Morigaon district, Assam and parental attitude towards education of their children.

- The study reveals that, 60% schools have pucca building, 53.33% schools have playground and 13.33% schools have compound wall.
- Schools are relatively less equipped as far as availability of school library, librarian and reading room are concern. Only 33.33% schools have library facility but not a single school has permanent librarian. It is found that, only one school has reading room facility which is managed by the head of the institution.
- In terms of availability of electricity connection, computer and internet facility schools are in poor condition. As a result of implementation of centrally sponsored schemes like RMSA and ICT @Schools some progress has been made. But surprisingly, the teachers and the employees are not at all professionally oriented to use such facilities.
- Due to non-availability of secondary in the district of Morigaon the some students are coming 6/7 km

far from their home either by bicycle or by walk. Girls face more problem than the boys due to poor public transport facility, in the district. Especially students face more problems during the time of examination.

- Sanitation facilities like urinals and lavatory for students are so poor in the schools. It reveals that, 46.66% schools have no permanent boy's urinals and lavatory.
- Parental attitude towards education of the Tiwas are not satisfactory due to the reason of low socio-economic status. Parent's illiteracy is the root cause in this regard.
- It is observed that, 64% of the sample parents find it difficult to meet the financial needs related to education of their children.
- The study reveals that, there exist no significant difference regarding attitude of the parents in terms of the boy child and the girl child.

CONCLUSION:

As a conclusion remark it may be said that, institutional facilities and parental attitude towards education are the most significant issue need to be considered for all round human resource development. Secondary stage of education is the crucial and determining stage for the future career. The attitude of the parents was found to be moderately favorable towards schooling and education of their children. Mass awareness regarding literacy and education is needed to create a positive attitude towards education. Centrally sponsored schemes like RMSA should give proper orientation to the teachers as well as the employees for promotion of educational scheme for the greater interest of the students.

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