



A RELOOK ON LITERACY RATE OF TRIBAL WOMEN: ISSUES AND PROSPECTS

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Abstract

Regarding the literary rate of tribal women, the disparity is clearly visible and even worse as the Scheduled Tribe women have the lowest literacy rates in India. In spite of the Government and welfare schemes they are putting enormous efforts to build equality among both the genders, there is still a clearly visible breach in the literacy rate between the male and female population of the Scheduled Tribe.¹These tribes are not only just behind in the literacy rate but also in the overall under development in all walks of life.The Literacy of our country and particularly our state represents and indicates the literacy rate of the tribal population in India and Tamil Nadu. It is below the average. This paper is focus on literary rate of tribal women, the issues and prospects.

Key Words: Adequate and Inferior.

Introduction

Regarding the literary rate of tribal women, the disparity is clearly visible and even worse as the Scheduled Tribe women have the lowest literacy rates in India. In spite of the Government and welfare schemes they are putting enormous efforts to build equality among both the genders, there is still a clearly visible breach in the literacy rate between the male and female population of the Scheduled Tribe.¹These tribes are not only just behind in the literacy rate but also in the overall under development in all walks of life. The Literacy of our country and particularly our state represents and indicates the literacy rate of the tribal population in India and Tamil Nadu. It is below the average. This paper is focus on literary rate of tribal women, the issues and prospects.

Education alone is a chief instrument that will upgrade the social status, economic status and social strata of the Scheduled Tribes. Adequate knowledge regarding social responsibilities will help every individuals to overcome the challenges in facing the present life without having the feeling i.e., inferior or under qualified. At present, the tribal community lags behind the general population and it is the right time to improve their literacy and education.²

Both the Central and state Governments take necessary steps to develop the tribal Communities through Education. Education is an indispensable way for helping tribal peoples. Education will determine their success, prosperity, enlightenment and security in life. The tribes which remain either deprived of or negligent toward education will suffer the consequence.

The Impact of Educating the Tribal Communities

India has the largest tribal population in the world. The major factor that can bring transformation in all walks of life is through education. An educated youth either Male or Female is capable of collectively bringing the significant changes in every pursuit of life and improving the whole community. Proper educations will not just a benefit of an individual tribal population but benefit of the entire economy of tribal society.³The implementing effective education resources for the tribal community will either bring immediate changes in their social status and their walks of living or improve their future living standard.

Literacy Rate Among Tribal Population

The Literacy of our country and particularly our state represents and indicates the literacy rate of the tribal population in India and Tamil Nadu. It is below the average.Education alone is a chief instrument that will upgrade the social status, economic status and social strata of the Scheduled Tribes.⁴ Adequate knowledge regarding social responsibilities will help every individuals to overcome the challenges in facing the present life without having the feeling i.e., inferior or under qualified. At present, the tribal community lags behind the general population and it is the right time to improve their literacy and education.



Literacy Rate among Women

Regarding the literary rate of the tribal women, the disparity is clearly visible and even worse as the Scheduled Tribe women have the lowest literacy rates in India. In spite of the Government and welfare schemes they are putting enormous efforts to build equality among both the genders, there is still a clearly visible breach in the literacy rate between the male and female population of the Scheduled Tribe.⁵ These tribes are not only just behind in the literacy rate but also in the overall under development in all walks of life.

Reasons for Decline In Literacy Rate

Reports suggest that, due to being unaware of the Government programmes, Welfare Schemes policies and development measures that are conducted for their upliftment, the tribal people are not aware to participate in any of these. Education, especially basic education, is believed to be a life saver. Education is a compound catalyst the development of a society or family or individual and it inculcates within a person to improve the confidence to approach the people, who belonging to a group's or community.⁶ The lack of awareness was responsible for the decline of literary rate in tribal society.

What Should Be Done To Overcome This Issue?

Both authoritative body's welfare measures, improvement schemes and the eminence of education, if blended effectively, can change the place of the tribal community. In comparison to the rest of the nearby population of our state, the educational standard of the tribal community is rather disheartening. The upliftment of the tribal community, factors such as the education as blocked by the poor literacy awareness, gender inequality, average in schools and colleges enrolment ratio and the rate of dropouts from colleges and universities. It is the need of this hour to be evaluating the causes and taken necessary steps to be improved. Moreover, the education institutions, methods, system and teachers should shape the mindsets of tribal children who attend them and this should be taken into account.

The Medium of Instruction

Even some tribes and villages still speak their mother tongue and vernacular language. Yet, a tribal child, on entering a school, is suddenly expected to understand the state language and also International language. Children cannot understand the teacher, let alone answer questions. Many teachers assume that tribal students are slow learners; even if the teachers are sympathetic, overcoming this language barrier requires a great deal of effort. It would help considerably if tribal pupils were taught, during their element days in school; in their tribal or vernacular language.⁷ They could then be gradually encouraged to learn the International language.

The constitution of India, under Article 350A, affirms that every state must provide adequate facilities for instruction of pupils in their mother tongues.⁸ Years have passed and state Governments have ignored this prescription for tribal people. Since initial instruction to the tribal is given in a foreign language, they understand and assimilate very little.⁹ Consequently; their response to education is poor. The instruction at the primary stage been in their own mother tongue, the progress of tribal students would have been better, and today there would be awareness of the importance of literacy among the tribal populations. Some attempts are being made to educate them in their own tongues.¹⁰

Steps We Need To Take To Improve Tribal Education

1. For the progress in the tribal community, and its education there is a dire need of educational bodies that blend well with the tribal background and lifestyle
2. In the initial stages, the medium of instruction should be one that is familiar to them particularly in their mother tongue,¹¹ and then gradually, they can be encouraged to take up regional languages
3. Tribal education should not be restricted to only learning but should evoke the responsibilities of the concerned individual towards his entire community.¹²
4. Students should be taught to safeguard their own rights as well as the rights of their community and resolve to combat exploitation against their people.



Conclusion

In spite of the Government and welfare schemes they are putting enormous efforts to build equality among both the genders, there is still a clearly visible breach in the literacy rate between the male and female population of the Scheduled Tribe. Education alone is a chief instrument that will upgrade the social status, economic status and social strata of the Scheduled Tribes. Adequate knowledge regarding social responsibilities will help every individual to overcome the challenges in facing the present life. Education is an indispensable way for helping tribal peoples. Education will determine their success, prosperity, enlighten and security in life. Education brings immediate changes in their social status and their walks of living or improves their future living standard. Welfare Schemes policies and development measures are conducted for their upliftment, the tribal people. The lack of awareness was responsible for the decline of literary rate in tribal society. Welfare measures, improvement schemes and the eminence of education can change the place of the tribal community. It is the need of this hour to be evaluating the causes and taken necessary steps to be improved. Even if the teachers are sympathetic, overcoming this language barrier requires a great deal of effort. It would help considerably if tribal pupils were taught, during their element days in school; in their tribal or vernacular language.7 they could then be gradually encouraged to learn the International language.

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