

A Study on Attitude of Slum Children Towards Education

Hanamantha F Goti

Research Scholar
Department of Sociology
Rani Channamma University
Belagavi.

Dr. Ravi S. Dalawai

Assistant professor
Department of Sociology,
Rani Channamma University,
Belagavi

Abstract

Education the real wealth of every individual plays a vital role in the development of their standards in life. It enhances them to perform better in their day to day demands and also in their profession. The value of education is high as it makes individuals empowered and self sufficient. Attitude towards education means the evaluation or the worth individuals have or form towards all the aspects associated with education and education itself as a whole. Attitude is also a factor that determines the interest of individuals to that particular thing. Hence, the interest towards education depends on the type of attitude they have towards education. So having a positive attitude towards education increases the interest and worth the individual has for education. On the other hand negative attitude will make the individual dislike education and make him least interested in education. The research was carried out at Rukmini Nagar of eastern outskirts of the Belagavi City, of the Karnataka State. There are about 1500 Families residing in the recognized as slum by the Karnataka State Slum Clearance Board. Descriptive research design was adopted. The number of samples for the study is 150. Interview Schedule was used to collect the data from the respondent. Major findings are discussed in the main paper.

Key words : Education, Attitudes, Interest and Studies.

Introduction

Education, the real wealth of every individual, plays a vital role in his all-round development. It enhance individuals to perform better in their day-today demands Education, the real wealth of every individual, plays a vital role in his all-round development. It enhances individuals to perform better in their day-to-day demands and also in their profession. The value of education is high as it makes individuals empowered and self-sufficient. The importance to education is expected to be understood by all the people, and it plays a unique part in the productive development of children. Education being one of the important ways to improve the lifestyle of children, this topic was chosen to find out the values the children have towards education.

The attitude of individuals is affected by a lot of factors. The factors can be both from tonal sources and external sources. Hence the identification of the factors influencing i.e. attitude is very important. The research carried out is a descriptive one which explains the already existing condition of a particular thing. The research work is

aimed understanding the attitude of children towards education and tries to explain the matter in detail.

The study was carried out considering different dimensions that would affect the attitude of children towards education. These dimensions are as follows:

- ❖ Attitude of parents towards education
- ❖ Socioeconomic status of the family.
- ❖ Influence of peer pressure
- ❖ Family background
- ❖ The quality of educational institutions in the locality
- ❖ Influence of recreational activities.

All the factors contribute to the type of attitude children have towards education. The, interest of children on education and its related activities depends on the type of attitude they have over it. Though there are various other factors influencing the attitude and interests of children towards education yet these are the major contributors of the attitude and interest over it.

02. Research Methodology:

The research work was carried out Rukmini Nagar of Belagavi City. Easter outskirts. There are about 1500 families residing in flats constructed by

the Karnataka State Slum Clearance Board. The descriptive Research design was adopted. The number of samples for the study was 150. The

03. Analysis And Interpretation

3.1 Factors Effecting the Attitude of Children

The attitude of children is affected by many factors such as parents' interest, distractions, their standard and way of living, their overall status, etc., Figure 1 shows the factors which mainly affect the education of children in Rukmini nagar. From the Figure it can be inferred that 97 per cent of parents residing in Rukmini Nagar were very much interested in educating their children. Only a few (3%) parents showed disinterest towards their children's education.

Interview schedule was used to collect the data from the respondents. Major findings are discussed in the main paper.

Secondly, 66 per cent of the parents sent their children to public schools, whereas 34 per cent sent them to private schools. Parents with sound economic status readily sent their children to private schools, and those who were very weak in this case had no other option except to send their wards to government schools. But in the case of the moderate income family, the size of the family and interest of the parents determined the school.

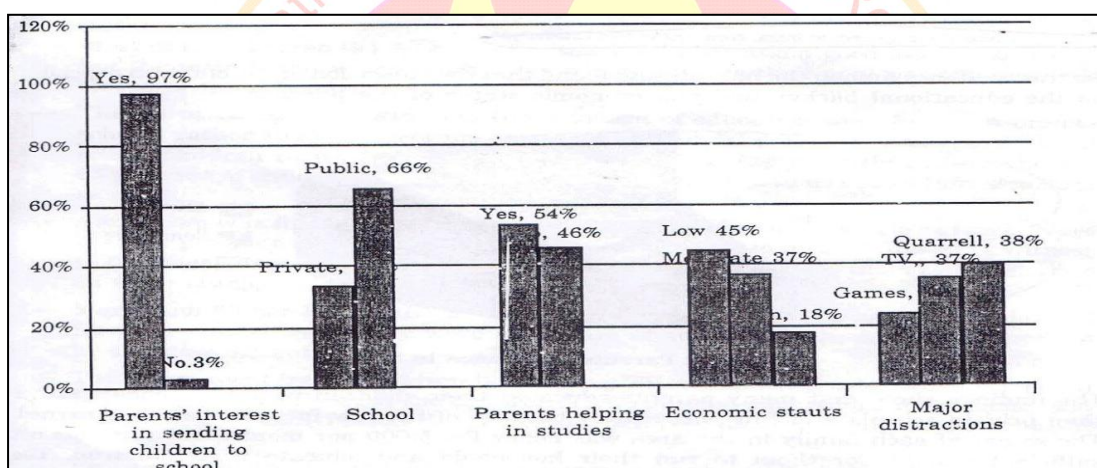


Figure1

Thirdly, 54 per cent of the parents helped their children with their studies on necessity or during exams, and 46 per cent of the parents seemed to have no helping mind towards their child's education. Apart from the interest of parents, their helping their children with their studies played a significant role in setting the attitude of the children, and thus it was found that here too, the educational background determined this factor.

Fourthly, it was found that 45 per cent of the respondents belonged to families with low economic status, i.e., less than Rs 5,000, 37 per cent with moderate economic status, i.e., between Rs 5,000 Rs 6,500 and about 18 per cent with a good economic background, i.e., Rs 6,500-10,000. Lastly, the major distractions of the children that prevented them from concentrating on their studies was the frequent

quarrels at home, which was felt by 38 per cent of the respondents, followed by watching TV told by 37 percent of the respondents, and finally playing games, according to 25 per cent of the respondents.

3.2 Parents Assistance In Studies

These days all parents want their children to be educated. The findings in Rukmini Nagar showed that parents wanted to educate their children, but how far they helped their children to study is a matter of concern. The researchers tried to find out the reasonsfor this tendency among the parents and found that the education of the children depended on the educational background and economic status of the parents.

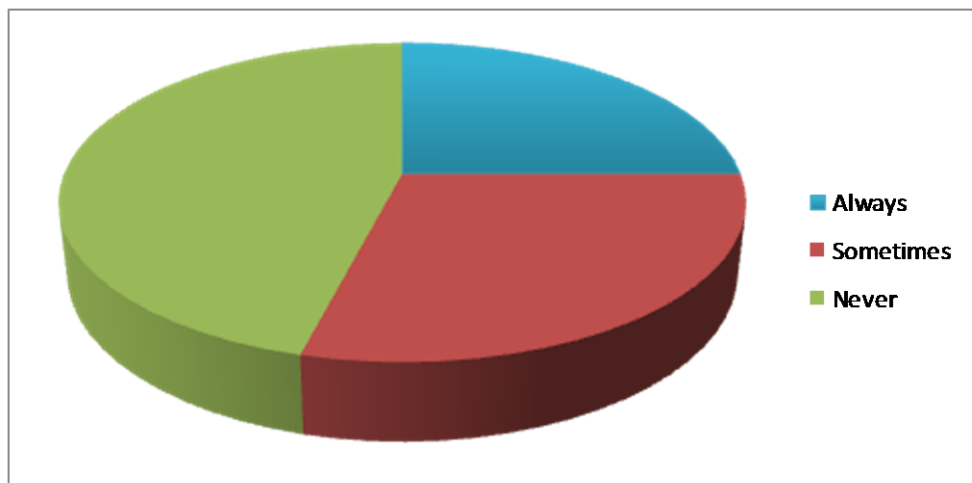


Figure 2: Parents Assistance in Studies

The findings show that many parents educated their children in public schools rather than private schools and this was mainly because of the low income that they earned. The salary of each family in the area was below Rs. 5,000 per month and this was not sufficient enough for them to run their household and educate their children. The economical status of the parents also prevented them from sending their children for tuition, and most of the students studied by themselves.

The other reason is that the parents were uneducated and were not aware the subjects that their children studied. They were also ignorant about the different courses available. They were not able to guide their children on the right path especially after the board exams and didn't understand the importance of education and examination. Hence it is very obvious that the parents' educational status often contributed to the attitude of the children in education.

0.4 Findings

The major findings of the research are as follows:

- A vast majority (97 per cent) of the parents were interested in educating their children, with the exception of a meagre 3 per cent who were not willing mainly due to extreme poverty and the task of survival.
- Though parents were interested in educating their children, a majority of the parents (73%) did not extend their help to their

- children in their studies because of varied reasons like being uneducated, not realizing the actual importance of education in the case of the educated, and their sustenance for the family.
- Nearly 60 per cent of the families' total income was less than Rs. 5,000, so they were unable to afford to send their children to private schools where the standard of education was comparably high than the government schools.
- Most of the children (94%) had a focused aim in life and a good interest to study, but the main factor which blocked the way to achieve their goal was the economic status of their family.
- The infrastructure facilities and the standard of education were better in private schools rather than in government schools. About 50 per cent of the government school children rated their school infrastructure facility as fairly better, whereas 85 per cent of children studying in private schools rated their school infrastructure as good.
- Alcoholism was found to be the predominant factor for the quarrels at home. More than 50 per cent of the children had fathers addicted to alcohol and were witness to frequent quarrels at home which was a major distraction for them to concentrate on their studies.
- More than 60 per cent of the children did not avail of the government scholarship for their education as they were not aware of such a

scholarship being provided by the government..

- The hours spent by the children in watching TV was much greater when compared to the study time. Most of the children (70 %) studied only before their exams and this was the main reason for increased failure rate, especially in government schools.
- Peer pressure was the main factor in determining the attitude of children, because the research reveals that those children who often bunked their class had only a few friends who appreciated their going to school and had no toppers in the peer group.

Suggestions

- The children studying in government schools were lethargic and not focused. The rate of bunking classes often and not going to school for silly reasons like class test, was greater among the children studying in government schools. Such children lacked proper aim in life. And vice versa, children studying in private schools had high ambitions in life and were also aware about the ways to achieve them. This shows clearly that the educational settings have an impact over the attitude of children towards education.
- Parents were mostly uneducated, so they were unable to guide their children in their studies. In such cases they should send children to tuition centres for their betterment in education.
- Education begins at home. One does not only acquire knowledge from a teacher but he also learns and receives knowledge from a parent, family members and home environment too. So a peaceful environment must be provided at home for them to concentrate.
- Awareness should be created regarding the effects of alcoholism and its impact on the mental stability of the children.
- The education of a child is significantly affected by both the attitude of the parents and the quality of the child's school and teachers. Among these factors, parents' attitude is necessarily the more important. Educationally minded parents can in fact compensate to a certain extent for a poor quality school (government school) or teachers. Such parents might provide extra work at home, motivate the children to study more or to study by themselves.
- Unhealthy, destructive peer groups can cause much pain and suffering for both parents and children. Although parents can't force their children to avoid negative peers, they can encourage their children to become associated with positive groups. The parents should have control over their children in all their activities.
- Government should give more importance to improve literacy rate in low literacy rate areas
- Media should play an effective role to educate the parents about those attitudes that can kindle a positive attitude towards education among children.
- Government schools should arrange teacher-parent meetings to inform them about the progress of their children.
- Teachers should try to educate parents during teacher-parent meetings about the styles that can be effective for children.
- Like many private sector schools, government schools should also provide extra help to weak students in studies after school as many children are from low economic background who cannot afford to go for any tuition.
- Parents have adopted some attitudes that affects badly the educational attainment of students, such as disturbing children by Watching TV and quarrelling at home In such cases the needs of students should be understood and parents should be educated or counselled through different programmes about the attitudes and styles that can be favourable and positive.
- Children should be made to realize the importance of education through various awareness programmes.
- The infrastructural facilities in the government schools can be improved in such a way that it creates an atmosphere conducive for the children to concentrate on their studies.
- The government school teachers should be trained to handle children in a friendly manner rather than an autocratic manner. They should be

enabled to understand their mentality, their needs and major problems, and maintain a record of it. Also counsel their parents on necessities.

- The parents should be made aware of the adverse effects of movies and TV programmes on the children's education, and the need to prevent them from becoming addicted to it.

Conclusion

The researchers aimed at finding out the attitude and mindset of the children living in the slums towards education. The research unveiled many facts about the lifestyle of the students in Rukmini Nagar and threw light on the outlook of parents on education. The parents were very much interested in educating their children, thereby making them skilled and self-sufficient. Since they were not educated, they were not able to help them in their studies, and due to poor economic background, they couldn't afford to send them for extra tuitions.

Due to lack of proper guidance, the children were not much focused in their life and career. They studied just for the sake of studying, without any prior motto or aim. A majority of the students were more interested in recreation than education. The children studying in private schools were more focused in their studies, as some of their parents were educated and they had comparably better standard of education than the government school children.

It was finally found that a majority of the children in Rukmini Nagar had the desire for learning and with proper motivation and guidance; they could be made to obtain a positive attitude towards education.

Reference

1. Anderson, A., & Stokes, S. (1984), Social and instructional influences on the development and practice of literacy. In H. H. Goelraan.
2. A. Oberg, & F. Smith (Eds.) *Awakening in literacy*, Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. (pp. 24-37). Au, H. K. (1998). Social constructivism constructivism, and the school literacy learning of diverse backgrounds. *Journal of Literacy Research*, 30(2), 297-319.
3. Cazden, C. (1988). *Classroom discourse*. NH: Heinemann Portsmouth.
4. Freppon, P.A, (1991). Children's concepts of the nature and purpose of reading in different instructional settings. *Journal of Reading Behavior*, 23(2), 139-163.
5. Gambrell, L.B. (1996). Creating classroom cultures that foster reading motivation. *The Reading Teacher*, 50(1), 14-25.
6. Morrow, L.W. (1992). The impact of a literature-based program on literacy development, use of literature, and attitudes of children from minority backgrounds. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 27(2), 250-275.
7. Weinstein-Shr, G. (1992). Literacy in the family and across generations. *National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education Forum*, 15(5), 1-3.