

Scheduled Tribe Pardhi Children and Their Educational Accessibility With Special Reference to Socio-Economic Status in Ahmednagar District

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Abstract:

It is proved that an education can play a vital role in the upliftment of lower strata of the society. The socio-economic status of the society can be improved with imparting quality education among the society. According to the census report 2011, in India the tribal population constitute the 8.63 percent to the total population is 10.45 crores.

In Maharashtra more than 45 indigenous tribes dwelling, according to 2011 census report tribal population constitute 9.35 percent of the total population of the state.

In Ahmednagar district, according to the census report 2011 tribal population constitute the 8.33 percent to the district's entire population.

The socio-economic status of the tribal community has been improved due to education access since the independence at considerable level. The government initiate various schemes and programmes for the tribal people's upliftment. Pardhi tribe is one of the most deprived, vulnerable and isolated group of tribal community not mixed with main stream society and hence, still away from quality education access. The poor economic status and illiteracy among the pardhi tribes set back from development. The tribe is scattered in all over the district in small groups and individuals of this group surviving their lives in worst situation. The community has no awareness about education access as compared to the other tribes or other community. The present study is try to identify the education access and socio-economic impact over the education access in Ahmednagar district in pardhi community. Education access is very needful for the inclusive growth of the pardhi tribal community. To create conducive environment residential schools can play important role.

Key words : Scheduled Pardhi tribals, Education access, socio-economic status, Ahmednagar district

Introduction

Education is the base of human development and the journey from human being to being human can be attained by the accessibility and opportunities of quality education to each and every child in the country. To imparting the education for every child, the right to education act 2009 introduced in the country. According to RTE act 2009, education is the fundamental right of every child. The constitutional safeguard has been given to every child of India as per the article 21(a) of Indian constitution. Even after the 75 years of Indian independence it is quite possible to provide quality

education to scheduled tribe children across the India.

There are 45 notified indigenous tribes residing in the Maharashtra state. According to census report 2011, the entire population of tribe in the state is 1,05,10,213 which constitute 10.05 percentage of the total state population. The literacy rate among the tribal is 65.7 percent which is less than the other social group.

It is observed that by introducing various schemes for tribal community development, the socio economic status of the scheduled tribe is still not at considerable level, the reason behind is of lack of quality education and its access to them.

The one of the most vulnerable and under privileged scheduled tribe is pardhi.

Since from the British colonial the tribe is denotified as criminal tribe and the social stigma imposed over the community as a criminals. In Ahmednagar district there is considerable population dwelling ,the total population of the pardhi tribes in Ahmednagar district is near about 16,190 located in 256 villages of 13 tehsil.To imparting the education access to pardhi is not a common task as compared to non tribals or other scheduled tribes because of socio cultural,socio economic and socio political background which is very different.There is no conducive environment at their home for education. The traditions, customs and social stigma are the barriers in the pardhi children’s education.

The tribal development department ,Government of Maharashtra started Government residential ashram schools from1972 across the Maharashtra in tribal population concentrated districts ,but the schools are either in TSP or in OTSP where scheduled tribe population is more than 10 percent to that block’s entire population .But there is no special residential ashram school for scheduled tribe’s pardhi children in the Maharashtra.

The pardhi tribe is usually migrated, displaced and decentralised across the Maharashtra could not access the education in government residential ashram schools.

The present study is an attempt to understand the education access, socio economic status and barriers in the education of scheduled tribe’s pardhi children in Ahmednagar district. This study is to examine the tahsil wise pardhi population and identifying pattern of density in Ahmednagar district regarding educational access.

Study Area

Ahmednagar district is the largest district by area in Maharashtra state. The district is situated partly in the upper Godavari basin and partly in the Bhima basin. The districts has 1584 villages ,1311 Gram panchayat,1 municipal corporation,9 municipal council, 1 Nagar panchayat and 1 Cantonment board. The research study has been covered entire district.

Objectives

- 1.To identify the scheduled tribe’s Pardhi population in the Ahmednagar district.

- 2.To examine the education access for scheduled tribe’s Pardhi children in the Ahmednagar district.
- 3.To examine the socio-economic status of the scheduled tribe’s Pardhi community in the Ahmednagar district.

Research Methodology And Materials

Descriptive survey method used for data collection. District census Handbooks of Ahmednagar district, primary census abstract, Interview with pardhi community individuals, interview with non-Government organisation’s activist social workers, teachers & principals of high-school and college, trans-walk visits, real time observations on the ground level, research literature and published, unpublished research studies from different sources have been studied.

Results And Discussion

Population Status

There are 2433 scheduled tribe’s pardhi households has been identified in Ahmednagar district.

The total population of the pardhi tribes in Ahmednagar district is near about 15,058 located in 254 villages of 14 tahsil as follows

Sr. no	Tehsil	Total no .of villages having pardhi	Total no of HH	Total Popula tion	Percentage to total pardhi population
1	Akole	00	000	0000	00.00%
2	Jamkhed	29	413	2498	16.58%
3	Karjat	39	370	2312	15.35%
4	Kopargaon	15	054	0306	02.03%
5	Nagar	15	275	1732	11.50%
6	Nevasa	16	083	0785	05.21%
7	Pathardi	09	061	0369	02.45%
8	Parner	21	114	0697	04.63%
9	Rahata	11	074	0448	02.98%
10	Rahuri	08	043	0258	01.71%
11	Sangamner	01	003	0003	0.01%
12	Shevgaon	14	102	0618	04.10%
13	Shrigonda	58	707	4243	28.17%
14	Shrirampur	18	134	0809	05.37%
	Total	254	2433	15058	

Poor Economic Status

The 40 percent population living in vulnerable situation and distressed condition. They

don't have their own agriculture land for livelihood and living outside the villages in plastic sheets on bamboo made huts without any access of electricity, water supply system, road ways or any other access for residence.

Isolated From Main Stream Society

The Pardhi households are outside the villages on forest land, on pasture land, on public places, in interior or exterior part of jungles, besides the highways away from main stream society.

Cultural And Family Background

There is no educational environment in 60% household. The families are engaged in internal disputes and performing traditional religious ceremonies for blessing of God. Spending earned means as well as time in resolving internal issues. More than 80% boys and girls married in the early childhood in the age group of 13 to 18 years. There is no control over child birth and no family planning. They have strong belief on ritual and misconceptions regarding economic growth of the individual. The community believe in the dev-dev rituals, spending lot of money for its blessing for family.

Education Access

There is education access only limited to their enrolment in the school. The children not attend the school regularly and only present on class catalogue and promoted up to 8th standard as per RTE act by respective school. After primary education completion they leave the school and engaged in earning like labour work, minor theft or migrated for livelihood towards urban area.

Addiction

There are 60 % households suffered from addiction, consumes alcohol or liquor and earned means from its selling also.

Availability Of Relevent Documents

The 30% individuals don't have personal documents like Aadhaar, caste certificate, ration cards and voter ID. which are essential to procure Government schemes and benefits.

Spatio-Temporal Variation Of Paradh Population

The pardhi population concentrated in East and South of district in four Tahsils as Shrigonda(28.17%),Jamkhed(16.58%),Karjat (15.35%) and Nagar (11.50%) shows the largest cluster of pardhi population in Ahmednagar

district. In Sahyadri ranges, dense forest, hilly, remote area, valley, rugged topography steep slopes does not support pardhi communities habitat specially in akole 00% and in sangamner 0.01%. in east and south part of the district except the four tahsils the population is very thin and comes into significant category of the communities distribution as nevasa 5.21%, pathardi 2.45%, shevgaon 4.10%, parner 4.63%, rahuri 1.71%, kopargaon 2.03%, rahata 2.98%, shrirampur 5.37%.

Socio-Economic Status

There are 2433 scheduled tribe's Pardhi households has been identified in Ahmednagar district out of which 857 house hold are residing in plastic sheets on bamboo made huts or in open space under trees. These households are located out of village or city on open space having no access of livelihood or food security spending their lives in distress or in worst situation. The community members are destitute and in extreme poverty far away from education access. Due to continuous migration they are not able to continue their children's education

Conclusion And Findings

Very limited education access for pardhi population concentrated four tahsils in Ahmednagar district.

There is no access of government residential school for pardhi children at nearby living place in pardhi population concentrated tahsils.

35.22 % households are residing in temporary built huts without any access of water, electricity, road ways and any other access for living.

70% children not complete school education and drop out from school after the completion of primary education.

Due to poverty and illiteracy there is no family planning and no birth control over it. In 80% families, average number of children are 5-6 to every couple.

Due to lack of education access children unable to complete higher education

Children attend school up to 8th standard and leave the school and get married

There is not conducive environment for education at their home resulting in involved in

various illegal activities like minor theft, malpractice, liquor business or in criminal activities. 25 % youths in the age group of 15 to 35 engaged in arrant crime and suffered from addiction

Due to illiteracy and lack of quality social environment 60% families engaged in internal disputation

94 % families are the victims of social stigma, performing religious rituals and ceremonies under the influence of superstition

The community is completely isolated from main stream society resulting that they can't access employment at local place.

There are too many restrictions on women in day to day life, causes unrest family environment and internal disputes resulting polygamy

There is big influence of Jaat panchayat over the community members. To resolve the internal disputes and issues, delivering parallel judgements through the jaat panchayat.

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