

EDUCATIONAL DEPRIVATION OF TRIBALS IN KERALA

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ABSTRACT

The prominence of education in the course of socio-economic and political change has been recognised worldwide. A good education system should be such that it should reduce existing social gaps in the society. Despite, a good number of policies and programmes framed specially for the tribals in the educational front, little could be achieved. The study makes an attempt to bring out the educational deprivation of the tribals in Kerala. Scheduled Tribe is one of the marginalized communities experiencing high level of educational deprivation.

Key words: drop out, educational attainment, education, literacy, tribes

1. INTRODUCTION

Articles 342 and 366 (25) dealing with Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution of India provide for as under: -

“342. The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after (1) consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union Territory, as the case may be;

Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification”.

366 (25) : “Scheduled Tribes” means such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution (Constitution of India).

The tribals are one of the most socially disadvantaged sections in India, in terms of, education, socio cultural standards and economic well-being. Lack of education is a prime factor responsible for the slow development of programs among the tribals. Apart from a plethora of educational measures initiated by the government, there are

several other measures as Right to Education (2009) which makes primary education the right of every child. Framing appropriate teaching techniques for the tribals, financial assistance in education, provision of infrastructure and other amenities in schools, encouraging extra-curricular activities, promoting means of transportation to the inaccessible tribal areas has been initiated by the government in different periods.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data used in the present study is secondary data. The data from Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Government of Kerala, Kerala State Planning Board, and Census of India 2011 are systematized for depicting the educational deprivation of tribals in the state.

3. DATA AND DISCUSSION

a). Literacy

The literacy rate of tribals in Kerala is 74.44%, much lower than the state average of 93.91 % (2011 Census). Among the tribes, the highest literacy is noted in the district of Kottayam and lowest in Thiruvananthapuram and Pathanamthitta. Details regarding literacy of Tribals are given below.

Table 1 Literacy Rate

District	Population (Above 5 Years)	Illiterates	%	Literates (Including Neo literate)	Literacy Rate
Thiruvananthapuram	15712	1589	1.62	14123	89.85
Kollam	4120	747	0.76	3373	81.87
Pathanamthitta	5792	666	0.68	5126	88.50
Alappuzha	2793	375	0.38	2418	86.57
Kottayam	15519	883	0.90	14636	94.31
Idukki	48616	8410	8.55	40206	82.70
Ernakulam	7999	1585	1.61	6414	80.19
Trissur	4984	1601	1.63	3383	67.88
Palakkad	41881	17743	18.03	24138	57.63
Malappuram	12561	4207	4.28	8354	66.51
Kozhikode	9633	1695	1.72	7938	82.40
Wayanad	137374	39349	39.99	98025	71.36
Kannur	34265	7791	7.92	26474	77.26
Kasargod	43729	11745	11.94	31984	73.14
State	384978	98386	100	286592	74.44

Among the tribals, the Cholanaikkan are the most illiterates (39.63%). The total number of illiterates among the tribals are 98,386. Among them 40% are in Wayanad district followed by Palakkad district (18.03%) and Kasargod district (11.94%). Any programme intended for improvement of literacy of Scheduled Tribes should have priority for the above 3 districts.

Table 2 Age Distribution of Illiterates

Age Classification	Population (Above5 Years)	Illiterates	%
06 - 14	71848	2546	2.59
15 - 17	: 18065	502	0.51
18 - 21	: 31237	1792	1.82
22 - 29	: 72373	8451	8.59
30 - 44	: 97687	29382	29.86
45 - 59	: 58810	30602	31.10
60 - 65	: 16867	11491	11.68
66 - 74	: 10460	7572	7.70
75 - 99	: 7631	6048	6.15
Total	: 384978	98386	100

The total number of illiterates among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups is 9,127, constituting 9.28% of total illiterates. The proportion of illiterates among the PVTG's is higher than other tribal groups, therefore any programme aimed at improving the literacy of the tribals should aim at the PVTG's.

b). Educational Attainments

The number of tribals who have received formal education is estimated to be 2, 73,033. Among them, 46.81% has achieved primary level and 33.95 % are below SSLC level. There are 11.15% SSLC holders, 6.02% Plus Two Certificate Holders, 1.64% graduates and 0.30% post graduates. Among the educated tribals, about 219693 have education below SSLC. Most of them have achieved only primary education .Among the PVTG's persons who haven't achieved SSLC level are much lower than their proportion to total population.

Table: 3 Educational attainment

Course	Number of persons
Primary education	127344
Below SSLC	92349
SSLC	30342
PDC/+2	16374
Graduate's	4475
Post Graduates	822
Others	328
Total	272034

c). Enrolment in Pre School Institution

The rate of enrolment in anganwadis by the Scheduled Tribe children is very low. Out of a total of 16,233 children in the age band 4-5 years, 12,342 are not enrolled in anganwadis. This forms 76.03% of children in the ST communities. The situation is worst in Malappuram district (87.27%) followed by Kasargod (85.39 %), Palakkad

(85.27%) and Wayanad (84.31%). The non-availability of anganwadis within settlements, distance from settlements to existing anganwadis, inconvenient location of anganwadis, non-availability of facilities in anganwadis and inadequate infrastructure are the reasons for high degree of non-enrolment in anganwadis. The details are given in the table below.

Table 4 Enrolment in Pre School

District	Number of Children 4-5 Years	Number Enrolled in Anganwadis	Number Not Enrolled in Anganwadis	Percentage of Children not Enrolled
Thiruvananthapuram	603	357	246	40.80
Kollam	201	146	55	27.36
Pathanamthitta	202	91	111	54.95
Alappuzha	88	41	47	53.41
Kottayam	480	243	237	49.38
Idukki	1781	841	940	52.78
Ernakulum	400	130	270	67.50
Trissur	238	58	180	75.63
Palakkad	2009	296	1713	85.27
Malappuram	722	93	629	87.12
Kozhikode	361	124	237	65.65
Wayanad	6315	991	5324	84.31
Kannur	1279	253	1026	80.22
Kasargod	1554	227	1327	85.39
State Total	16233	3891	12342	76.03

d). School Enrolment

The total number of tribal students are estimated to be 90,902 (21.33 %) of tribal population. Wayanad district has the largest number of tribal students (33071) followed by Idukki, Palakkad and Kasargod districts. The analysis of the community wise data of students by the ST department reveals that the number of students are proportionate to the population of the respective community. District wise number of tribal students are given in the table below.

Table 5. District wise number of students

District	No. of Students	%
Thiruvananthapuram	4010	4.41
Kollam	897	0.99
Pathanamthitta	1377	1.51
Alappuzha	594	0.65
Kottayam	3607	3.97
Idukki	10901	11.99
Ernakulum	2088	2.30
Trissur	1222	1.34
Palakkad	10442	11.49
Malappuram	2943	3.24
Kozhikode	2143	2.36

Wayanad	33071	36.38
Kannur	7340	8.07
Kasargod	10267	11.29
Total	90902	100

e). General Education of the students

The tribal students in the primary classes comprise 70.64 per cent. There are 14.91 % students in secondary stream, 7.49 % in higher secondary stream, 3.81 % of students in graduation and post-graduation and 0.35% in professional courses. The details of students in various courses and district wise distribution of children in different districts are given in table 6 & 7 respectively.

Table 6 Class/ Course wise Number of Students

Class/ Course	Number of Student	%
Primary	64216	70.64
Secondary	13552	14.91
Higher Secondary	6805	7.49
Graduation	3198	3.52
Post-Graduation	268	0.29
Certificate Course	629	0.69
Diploma Course	517	0.57
Professional Degrees		
(1) B Tech	234	0.26
(2) MBBS	60	0.07
(3) BAMS	19	0.02
(4) BHMS	8	0.01
Sub Total	321	0.35
Other Technical Courses	440	0.48
Other Professional Courses	702	0.77
Others	254	0.28
Total	90902	100

Table 7 Students in Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Classes

District	Primary	Secondary	Higher secondary	Total	%
Thiruvananthapuram	2116	881	522	3519	4.16
Kollam	581	179	73	833	0.98
Pathanamthitta	827	266	132	1225	1.45
Alappuzha	337	135	64	536	0.63
Kottayam	1785	738	362	2885	3.41
Idukki	7195	1652	986	9833	11.63
Ernakulum	1367	372	152	1891	2.24
Trissur	829	228	86	1143	1.35

Palakkad	:	7726	1534	858	10118	11.96
Malappuram	:	2169	518	151	2838	3.36
Kozhikode	:	1287	410	224	1921	2.27
Wayanad	:	25852	3517	1992	31361	37.08
Kannur	:	5023	1384	446	6853	8.10
Kasargod	:	7122	1738	757	9617	11.37
Total	:	64216	13552	6805	84573	100

f). Dropout

A major concern in the education of ST students is the discontinuance of studies. The average drop out among the tribals is 36.73%, the rate of drop out being high among the secondary classes, followed by post-graduation. The discontinuance from diploma and certificate courses are also reported to be high among the tribal students. The drop out syndrome was noted to be highest in the Wayanad district (44.64%) followed by Kasargod (13.82%) and Kannur (8.99%). The details on class wise data of students and discontinuance are given in the table below.

Table 8 Class wise Details of Students and Dropout/Discontinuance

Class/Course (2)	Students (3)	Dropout (4)	% to Students (5)
Primary	64216	15364	23.93
Secondary	13552	12874	95.00
Higher Secondary	6805	1475	21.68
Graduation	3198	492	15.38
Post-Graduation	268	194	72.39
Certificate Course	629	825	131.16
Diploma Course	517	1196	231.33
Professional Courses	321	44	13.71
Others	1396	923	66.12
Total	90902	33387	36.73

4. CONCLUSION

The analysis of the study shows that the extent of deprivation existing among STs of Kerala is much higher compared to that of other communities. The learning environment of the tribals must be moulded in such a way that it fits the relevant culture of the community. There is a necessity to bring about new practices in educating the tribals like the introduction of new learning methods which suit their social setting and a medium of language that they are more comfortable with. Core Curriculum of the tribals should be made culturally reflective so that children be provided with economically feasible choices for life.

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