

# AWARENESS ON CHILD RIGHTS: A COMPARISON OF TRIBAL AND NON TRIBAL STUDENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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*Child rights are the human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care. Every child has a right to their childhood, a hopeful existence, free of exploitation, violence, poverty.. The present study intended to compare the Awareness on Child Rights of the Tribal and Non Tribal Secondary school students The study was conducted a total sample of 200 secondary school students. The findings of the study revealed that there is a significant difference between the awareness on child rights of tribal and Non Tribal secondary school students.*

**Keywords :** *Awareness, Child Rights, Tribal students, Non Tribal students, secondary schools.*

The history of the world proves that education has been the root cause for any change which takes place in the social, cultural, spiritual, political and economic aspects of human life. It is education, which not only transforms the human animal in to a rational human being, but also prepares and develops in to survive and adjust with surroundings so as to lead his personal as well as social life successfully. Today life is education and education is life. Hence no distinction can be made between life and education under any circumstances. In fact education is a part and parcel of human life.

Children are the most vulnerable section of our society .They are exploited in various ways. To protect them from exploitation and provide them from opportunities for harmonious development, the United Nations has focused its attention on their problems since 1946 supported by several international conventions and treaties such as the Geneva Declaration of 1924, The declaration on the rights of child in 1959, The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and The convention on the rights of the child-1990.

These conventions and treaties focused and strengthened the civil rights and liberties of the child ,right to family environment The right to health, , The right to special Protection In Emergency, cultural, economic and political rights such as right to life, liberty, education and equality before law and right of association, belief ,free speech, information, religion, movement and nationality. Promulgation of these rights not binding on any country but they serve as a standard of concern for people and form the basis of many modern national constitutions.

## NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Today's children are growing with lots of awareness. We need to consider them as citizens and address their problems and issues. As a citizen all must have knowledge about their rights and duties as today's children are tomorrow's citizens.

Now days we are facing so many serious issues related to child rights. We hear about the violation of child rights. Education is a lifelong process. So there should be a system and practice in our education to make the children aware of their rights and responsibilities in the present scenario. The present study aims to familiarising the child rights among secondary school students.

## OBJECTIVES.

To find out the level of Awareness on Child Rights of tribal and non tribal Secondary school students

To compare the mean scores of Awareness on Child Rights of tribal and non-tribal students of secondary schools.

To compare the Awareness on Child Rights of tribal students based on gender.

To compare the mean scores of awareness on Child Rights of Non- tribal students based on gender.

## HYPOTHESES

There is significant difference between the mean scores of awareness on Child Rights among tribal and non-tribal students of secondary schools.

There is significant difference between the mean scores of awareness on Child Rights of tribal students based on gender.

There is significant difference between the mean scores of awareness on Child Rights of Non- tribal students based on gender.

## METHODOLOGY

The focus of the study was to find out the difference between tribal and non tribal students' Awareness on Child rights. Normative survey method has been adopted to collect data. The sample consists of 200 students selected from different Tribal and Non Tribal schools of Thiruvananthapuram District.

### Tools

Awareness on Child Rights was measured using an awareness test prepared by the investigator. The test consists of 40 multiple choice test items based on the different aspects of Child Rights.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

*Table-1*

**The Level of Awareness on Child Rights of Tribal and Non Tribal students for the total sample**

category	Number of students (N)	Mean	S.D	High		Average		Low	
				No	%	No	%	No	%
Tribal	100	12.50	7.36	12	12	32	32	46	46
Non Tribal	100	18	5.31	32	32	55	55	13	13

Table ,1 indicates that the 12% of the tribal students have high level of Awareness on Child rights.32% of the tribal school students have Average level of Awareness on Child Rights. Majority of students from tribal schools have low level of awareness on Human rights.ie46%.But in the case of non tribal students, 32% have higher awareness on Child rights compared to the non tribal students.55% of the non tribal students have average level of Awareness on Child Rights .Only 13% of the Non tribal students belonging to Low level of Awareness on Child Rights.

**Table. 2 .****Comparison of Awareness on Child Rights among Tribal and Non Tribal students.**

category	Sample (N)	Mean	Standard deviation	t-value	Level of Significance
Tribal	100	12.50	7.36	6.0634	0.01 significant
Non tribal	100	18	5.31		

Table 2 indicates that the obtained T value is 6.0634 which is significant at 0.01 level. This means that there is significant difference between the means of the Awareness scores of students belonging to the Tribal and Non tribal secondary school students. The higher mean scores of the non tribal students show superior awareness when compared to the Tribal students.

**Table.3.****comparison of Awareness on Child Rights of tribal students based on gender**

Group		Sample (N)	Mean	Standard deviation	t-value	Level of Significance
Gender	Boys	50	10	9.53	1.118	not significant
	Girls	50	8	8.32		

Table3 reveals that the obtained t value is not significant even at 0.05 level,( $t=1.118$ :  $p>0.05$ ) Which means there is no significant difference between Tribal boys and girls on the awareness on child rights. But the high mean score of boys indicates that they have higher awareness on child Rights than the girls.

**Table.4.****comparison of Awareness on Child Rights of Non tribal students based on gender**

Group		Sample (N)	Mean	Standard deviation	t-value	Level of Significance
Gender	Boys	50	17	8.52	3.771	0.01 significant
	Girls	50	11	7.32		

Table 4 shows that there is significant difference between Non tribal boys and girls on the awareness on Child rights. The obtained t value ( $t=3.771$ : $p\leq 0.01$ ).The higher mean value obtained by the boys shows that they have better Awareness than their girls counter part.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The present study indicates that 12% of the tribal students have high level of Awareness on Child rights. 32% of the tribal school students have Average level of Awareness on Child Rights. Majority of students from tribal schools have low level of awareness on Child Rights .ie, 46%. But in the case of non tribal students, 32% have higher awareness on Child rights compared to the non tribal students. 55% of the non tribal students have average level of Awareness on Child Rights Only 13% of the Non tribal students belonging to Low level of Awareness on Child Rights.

The findings of the study revealed that there is significant difference between tribal and non tribal students on awareness on Child Rights. ( $t= 6.0634; P<0.01$ )

Further it is noticed that there is no significant difference between Tribal Boys and Girls on Awareness on Child rights. ( $t=1.118; p>0.05$ )

There is significant difference exists between the means of the boys and girls on Child right awareness of Non Tribal students.

The results of the study focus the necessity of Child Rights awareness among the tribal students. The educationalists and the authorities should be vigilant in imparting the awareness among the concerned population.

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