AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SCHEDULE TRIBE (ST) STUDENTS OF DHALAI DISTRICT IN MADHYAMIK EXAMINATION

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ABSTRACT:

The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in India, comprising over 10.2 crores individuals, represents one of the most economically disadvantaged and marginalized groups in the country, accounting for 8.6 percent of the total population (Census of India, 2011). Tripura, one of the states in India, has a population of 36,73,917. According to the 2011 Census of India, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in Tripura accounts for 31.76 percent of the total population. ST students from every districts of Tripura faces numerous challenges in education, leading to a higher dropout rate compared to other communities. These challenges stem from socio-economic weaknesses, and addressing them through education is crucial for improving their socio-economic status. The objective of this study is to address the academic performance of Scheduled Tribe students at Dhalai district in Tripura.

Key Words: Scheduled Tribe (ST), 2011 Census of India, Academic performance, Dhalai district

INTRODUCTION:

Education is widely recognized as a potent tool for alleviating poverty and reducing inequality among individuals. It holds immense significance for both societal and national development. The tribal population in India faces arduous challenges in terms of survival and progress. Given their substantial numbers, their development is crucial for the overall progress of the country. Unfortunately, they are often deprived of equal opportunities, which can result in socio-economic development. Literacy and human development serve as pivotal factors in driving both quantitative and qualitative social transformations, significantly influencing demographic behavior. The implementation of reservation policies has opened up educational avenues for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. Education is generally regarded as a key

indicator of societal and individual advancement. Academic performance stands as a fundamental component for evaluating an individual's capabilities and overall potential. Our society witnesses a significant disparity in the academic achievements of children from different backgrounds. Privileged groups tend to outperform disadvantaged groups in schools and other educational domains. Tribal's, in particular, require more time to unfold their abilities within our society. In the modern era, academic achievements play a pivotal role in individual and national development. The effectiveness of the education system, both quantitatively and qualitatively, relies on students' academic accomplishments. Consequently, academic achievement holds great importance as one of the foremost priorities for educational institutions, serving as an outcome that reflects the extent to which students, teachers, or institutions have attained their educational objectives.

Tripura is the third smallest state of India. In India's North-Eastern area, it is known as one sister of seven sisters.. Tripura is mixed culture and it is divided into 8 districts where populations are found i.e. Tribal and Non-Tribal peoples. Among these 8 districts Dhalai is the largest and its academic performance is very low compared to the other districts of Tripura. The district has an total area of 2,400 sq km and the Population of Dhalai in 2022 is estimated to be 499,264 inhabitants, among them the majority population belongs to ST community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the study are mentioned below:

i) To study the academic performance of Schedule Tribe (ST) students of different schools of Dhalai District in Madhyamik examination.

ii) Comparison of academic performance among Schedule Tribe (ST) students' of different schools in Madhyamik examination over the previous five years.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

A literature review is an essential and very significant part of any research. The review of literature give us a clear understanding of the term use, the methodological issues involved, and the developments in historical perspectives. It also brings to light the unexplored aspect and in a way which helps in providing guidelines for carrying out the research.

Deb, Kamal and **Bhattacharjee, Baishakhi (2016)** titled "Academic Achievement Of Schedule Tribe Secondary Level Schools Students Of Rural And Urban Areas In Tripura" showed no discernible differences in academic achievement between boys and girls. Furthermore, the descriptive analytical survey approach was used in 21 secondary level schools in Tripura and the results of the study showed that there were notable variations in academic attainment between boys and girls.

Debbarma, Newton (2022) titled "Study on the problems of ST students in Tripura at Elementary Education" shows the problems faced by ST students at Elementary Education and also provide suggestions how to reduce the dropout rate of ST students at Elementary level.

Dr. Sahidul Ahmad (2017) titled "Quality of Secondary Education. A case study of Tripura presents the state of secondary education in the state, highlights student learning accomplishments, and offers recommendations for raising the standard of secondary education in the state.

Timothy Tripura (2020) titled "Issues and Challenges Faced by the Indigenous Students of Tripura in Primary-level to Higher Education: An overview" shows the critical issues and challenges faced from the viewpoint of their socioeconomic condition, the language of teaching in school, the attitudes of their parents, teachers, and peer groups, tribal students in Tripura from the primary level to higher education. It will also give an analysis of the status of literacy rate, gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index.

M. Rani (2000) titled "Tribal languages and Tribal Education" observed in her study that due to the language barrier the tribal children are unable to establish communication link with teacher, ultimately resulting in their education being discontinued at some point.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The survey method is the practice of interviewing people face-to-face or asking them questions about a survey or research in order to collect data for a study. People with specific information, ideas, or experiences connected to the subject are typically surveyed by researchers. Formal lists of questions are created by researchers and may be given one-on-one to participants.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE OF THE STUDY:

All the Schedule Tribe (ST) students appearing Madhyamik Examination from all the schools of Dhalai District are the population of the present study.

All the Madhyamik appearing Schedule Tribe (ST) students from randomly selected Six schools of Dhalai District are the sample for the present study.

TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION:

In order to gather data for our survey, we first choose schools and collect the relevant data by conducting face-to-face interviews with the head of school authority.

For our survey first we collect data through face to face interview with the help of Principal or Head Master of our selected schools in Dhalai District. We analyze the data by using tabulation and graphical representation.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

Objective-I : To study the academic performance of Schedule Tribe (ST) students of different schools of Dhalai District in Madhyamik examination.

Madhyamik Examination Results from 2018 to 2022

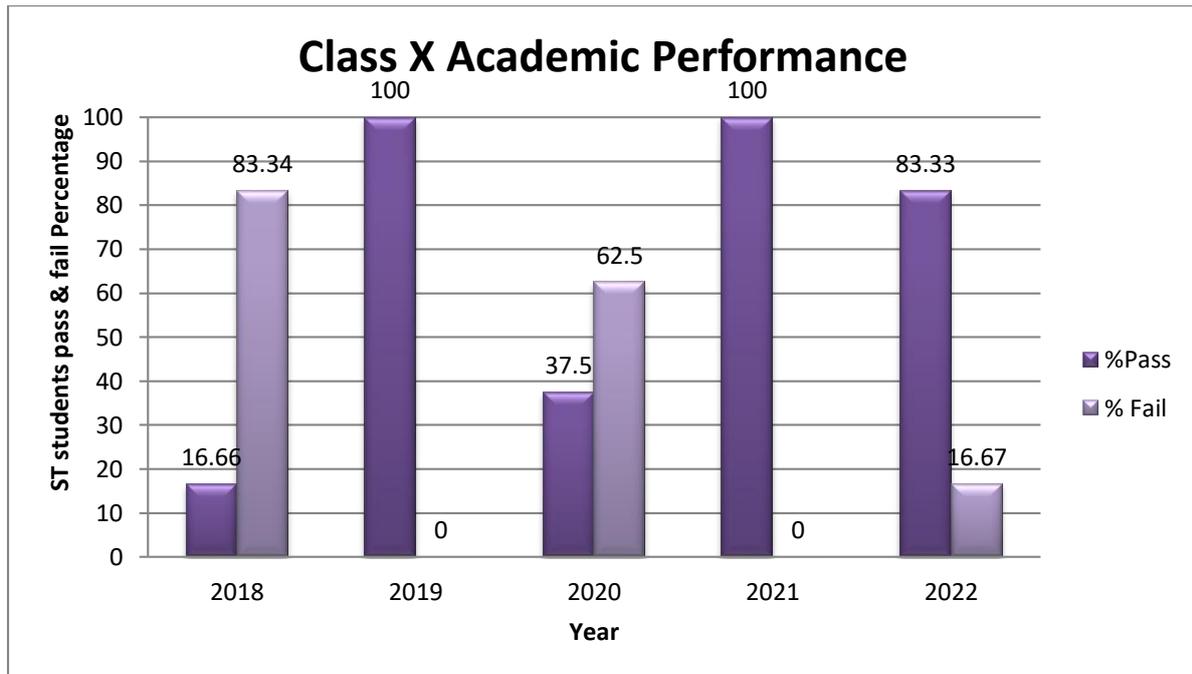**K.C. Girls' Class XII School**

Table 1: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe pass percentage(%) for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at K.C. Girls' Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared	Total ST Students Appeared	Total pass ST Students	Pass Percentage(%)	Average of Percentage
2018	65	12	02	16.66	
2019	52	02	02	100	
2020	102	24	09	37.5	59.42
2021	58	13	13	100	
2022	81	18	15	83.33	
Total	358	69	41		

Table:1

Table 1: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage(%) at K.C. Girls' Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. In K.C. Girls' Class XII School, ST students' engagement and academic achievement have grown

over the past two years. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage of roughly 59.42%.

Graph:1

The academic performance of S.T. Students in the Madhyamik Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the K.C. Girls' Class XII School is displayed in Graph 1.
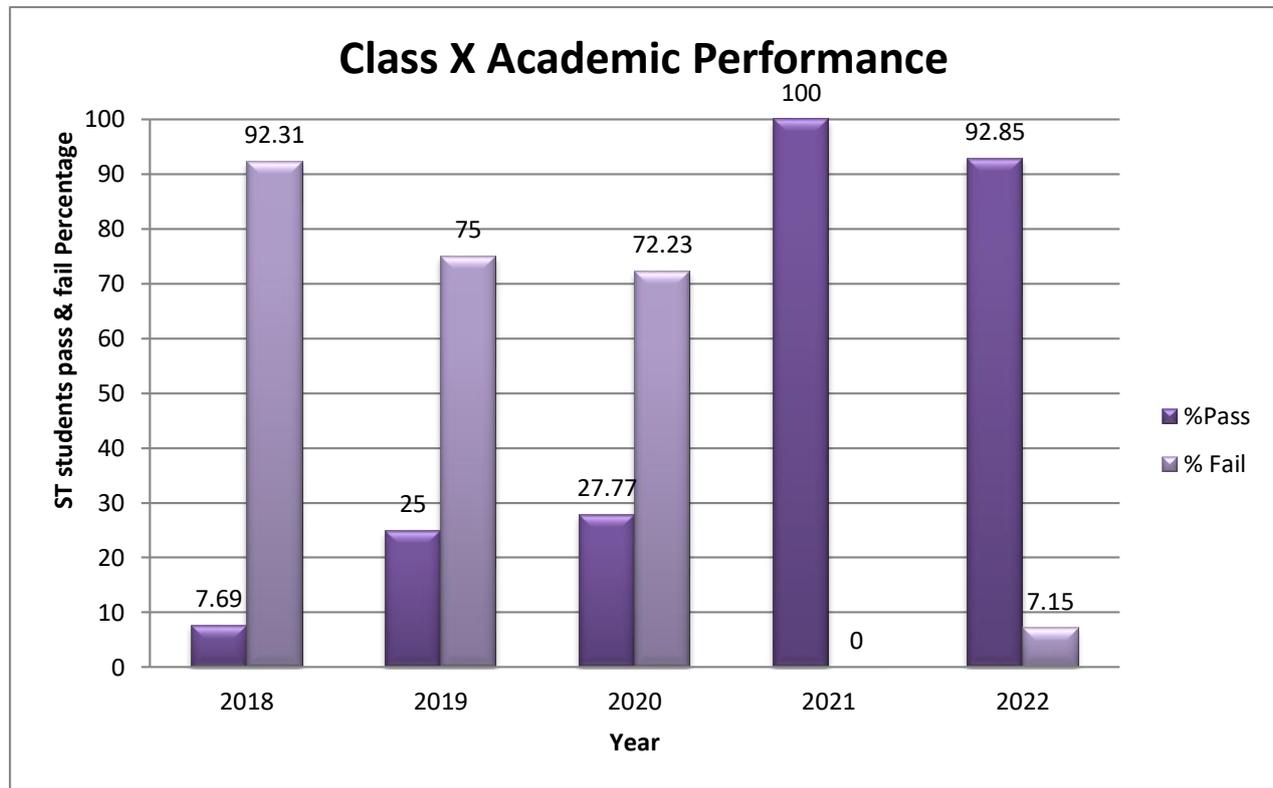
Kamalpur Class XII School

Table 2 : Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe pass percentage(%) for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Kamalpur Class XII school.

Year	Total Students Appeared	Total ST Students Appeared	Total pass ST Students	Pass Percentage(%)	Average of Percentage
2018	37	13	01	07.69	
2019	37	04	01	25	
2020	45	18	05	27.77	56.06
2021	56	17	17	100	
2022	42	14	13	92.85	
Total	217	66	37		

Table:2

Table 2: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage(%) at Kamalpur Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. In Kamalpur Class XII School, ST students' engagement and academic achievement have grown over the past two years. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have had an average success percentage of roughly 56.06%.

Graph:2

The academic performance of S.T. Students in the Madhyamik Examination from 2018 to 2022 at Kamalpur Class XII School is displayed in Graph 2.
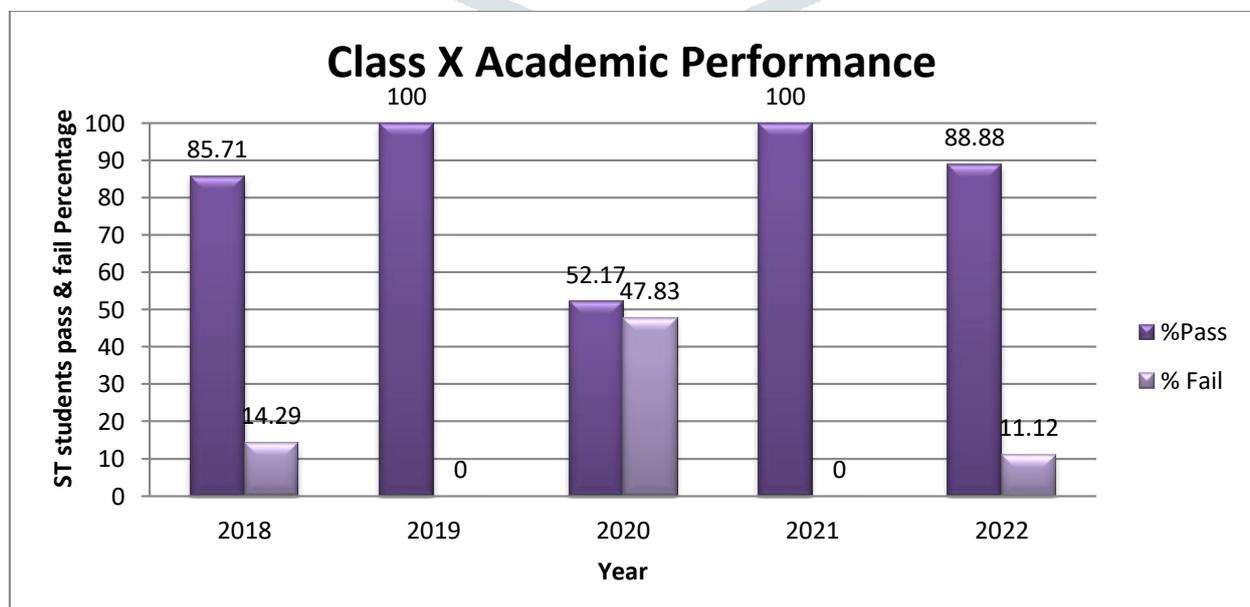
Halhali Class XII School

Table 3: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe pass percentage(%) for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Halhali Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared	Total ST Students Appeared	Total pass ST Students	Pass Percentage(%)	Average of Percentage
2018	101	14	12	85.71	78.12
2019	67	06	06	100	
2020	119	23	12	52.17	
2021	83	12	12	100	
2022	114	9	8	88.88	
Total	484	64	50		

Table:3

Table 3: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage(%) at Halhali Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage of roughly 78.12%.

Graph:3

The academic performance of S.T. Students in the Madhyamik Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Halhali Class XII School is displayed in Graph 3.
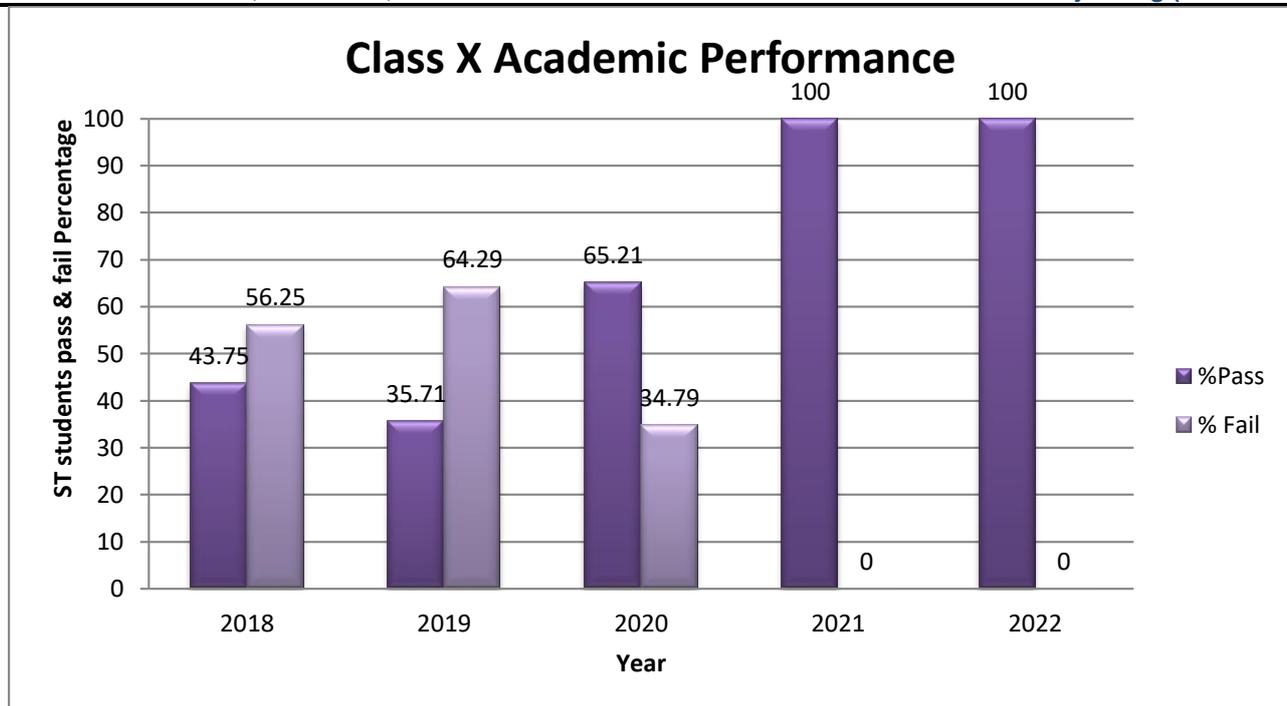
Baralutma Class XII School.

Table 4: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe pass percentage(%) for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Baralutma Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared	Total ST Students Appeared	Total pass ST Students	Pass Percentage(%)	Average of Percentage
2018	36	16	07	43.75	
2019	53	28	10	35.71	
2020	50	23	15	65.21	75.35
2021	61	37	37	100	
2022	79	38	38	100	
Total	279	142	107		

Table:4

Table 4: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage at Baralutma Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. In Baralutma Class XII School, ST students' engagement and academic achievement have grown over the past three years. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage of roughly 75.35%.

Class X Academic Performance

Graph:4

The academic performance of S.T. Students in the Madhyamik Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Baralutma Class XII School is displayed in Graph 4.
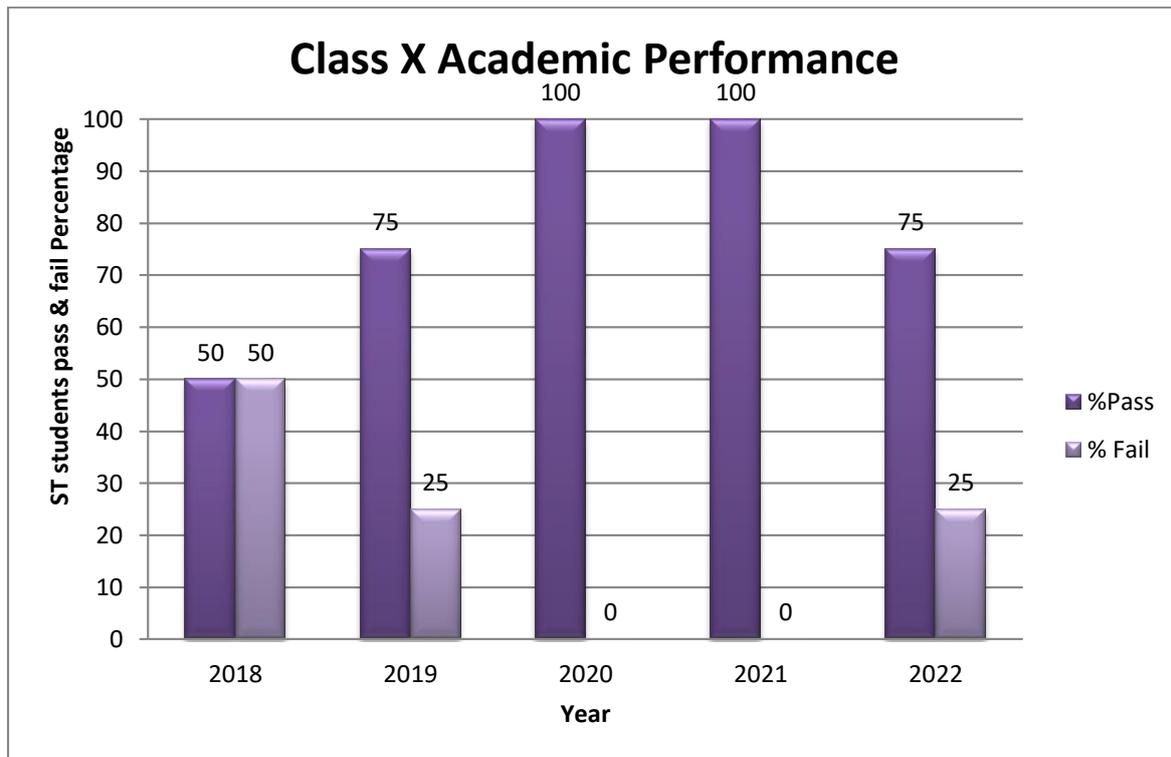
Salema Class XII School

Table 5: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribes pass percentage(%) for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Salema Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared	Total ST Students Appeared	Total pass ST Students	Pass Percentage(%)	Average of Percentage
2018	67	04	02	50	
2019	90	08	06	75	
2020	85	03	03	100	83.78
2021	86	14	14	100	
2022	112	08	06	75	
Total	440	97	31		

Table:5

Table 5: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe students pass Percentage at Salema Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage of roughly 83.78% in Salema Class XII School. We observed that ST students' engagement is not quite impressive because of communication barrier.

Class X Academic Performance

ST students pass & fail Percentage vs Year bar chart:
- 2018: %Pass 50, % Fail 50
- 2019: %Pass 75, % Fail 25
- 2020: %Pass 100, % Fail 0
- 2021: %Pass 100, % Fail 0
- 2022: %Pass 75, % Fail 25

Graph:5

The academic performance of S.T. Students in the Madhyamik Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Salema Class XII School is displayed in Graph 5.
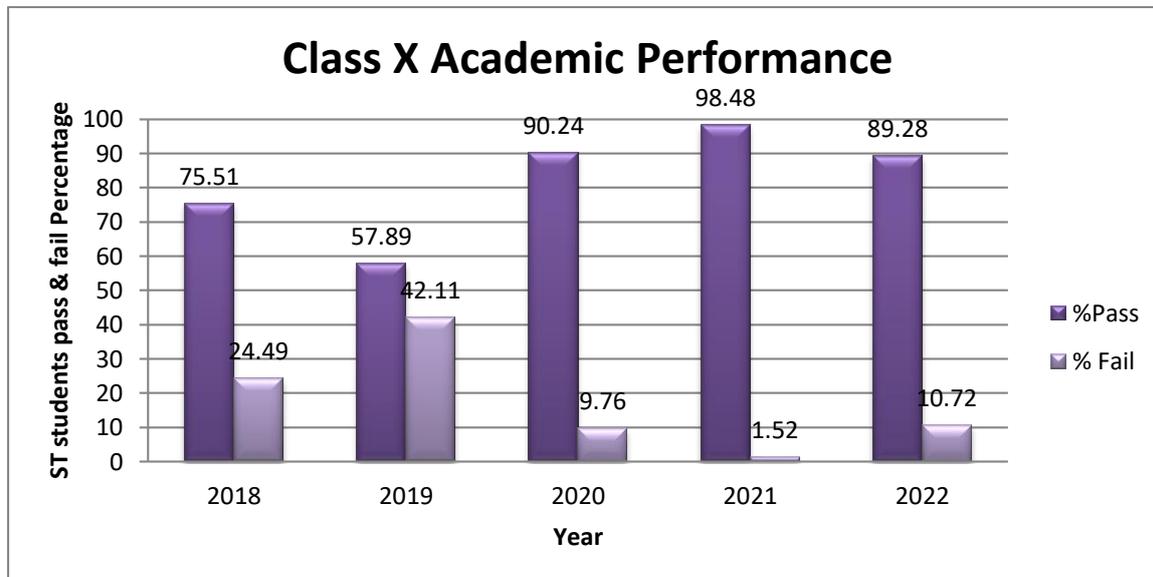
Kulai Class XII School

Table 6: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribes pass percentage(%) for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Kulai Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared	Total ST Students Appeared	Total pass ST Students	Pass Percentage(%)	Average of Percentage
2018	116	49	37	75.51	
2019	112	19	11	57.89	
2020	88	41	37	90.24	86.20
2021	108	66	65	98.48	
2022	136	28	25	89.28	
Total	560	203	175		

Table:6

Table 6: Displays the class X Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage at Kulai Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage of roughly 86.20% in Kulai Class XII School, we observed that ST students' engagement is quite impressive because of hostel facility.

Graph:6

The academic performance of S.T. Students in the Madhyamik Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Kulai Class XII School is displayed in Graph 6.

Objective-II : Comparison of academic performance among Schedule Tribe (ST) students' of different schools in Madhyamik examination over the previous five years.
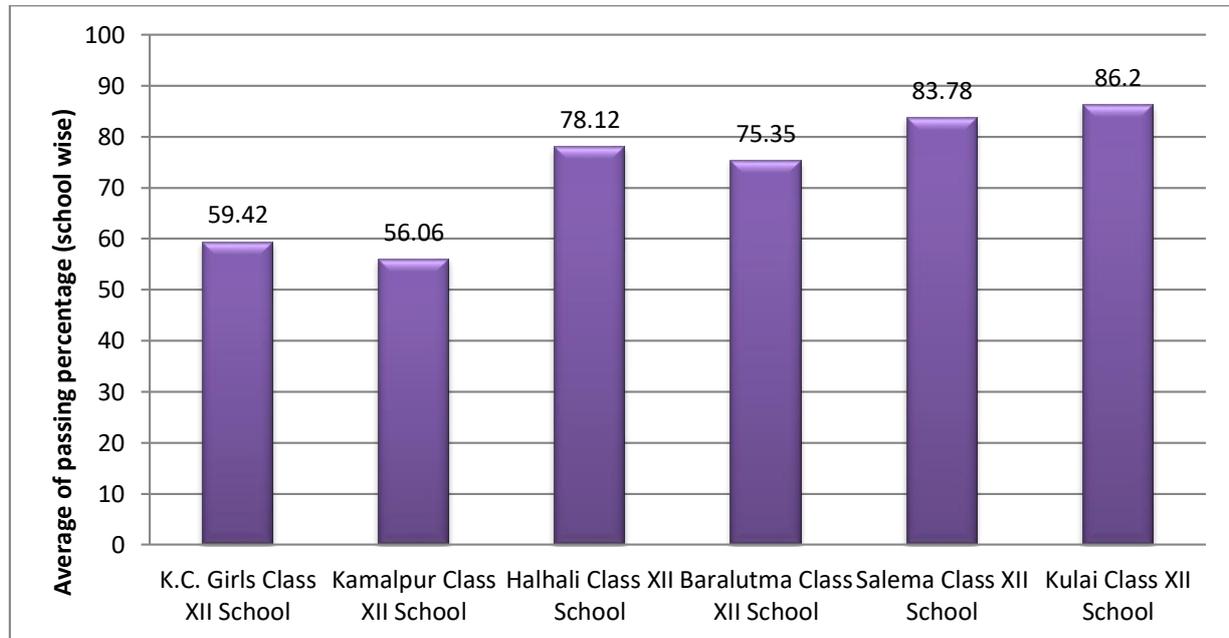
School Wise Comparison at Madhyamik Level

Sl No	Name of the school	Average of passing percentage (school wise)
1	K.C. Girls Class XII School	59.42
2	Kamalur Class XII School	56.06
3	Halhali Class XII School	78.12
4	Baralutma Class XII School	75.35
5	Salema Class XII School	83.78
6	Kulai Class XII School	86.20

Table:1

Table 1: Shows that the average (school wise) passing percentage of schedule tribe students in madhyamik examination for the last five years(2018 to 2022). Here we can see that the Kulai Class XII School has the highest passing rate compare to other schools and Kamalpur Class XII School has the lowest passing rate.

Among these six schools Kulai Class XII School has the highest enrollment of ST students in Madhyamik examination (2018 to 2022).

Graph:1

Graph1: Showing the Comparison of Last five years Academic Performance of above mentioned schools. Here Kulai Class XII School has the highest percentage of passing rate of ST students in Madhyamik Examination. Kamalpur Class XII School has the lowest percentage of passing rate among the ST Students in Madhyamik Examination.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

After analyzing all the collected data from Dhalai district, we found some key factors that affects the academic performance of ST students over the past five years (2018-2022), which are given below:-

I.   One of the major issue we found that the enrollment rate of the ST students are very low compared to other community students.

II.   We found that most of the ST students did not continue their higher education compared to madhyamik.

III.   Language barrier is one of the key reasons for their poorer academic performance and also their erratic attendance.

Dhalai district is educationally backward. The infrastructure facilities, family background, and their availability are not sufficient to fulfill the educational needs.

CONCLUSION:

From the study we can conclude that the enrolment rate of ST students of our selected schools in Dhalai district is less compared to other community students in last five years. Although the students who are enrolled in madhyamik their academic performance is between 56-87 percent. We found that ST students have less interest in taking science in their higher secondary level. We also observe that the academic performance of tribal students is not quite impressive due to various reasons like irregular attendance, language problems, financial crisis and distance of the school from their home. Conducting regular awareness program in the villages by the teachers to spread the importance of education. It will be helpful for the ST students if the medium of instruction are given in their mother tongue parallel to other languages. ST students will be benefited if the hostel facilities provided by every schools. Providing free coaching classes in hostels to increase their academic performance.

The academic performance of Schedule Tribe students is important for both the overall development of student life and for better societal development, so we can anticipate that challenges faced by these students will be resolved in the coming days by implementing various innovative ideas and strategies.

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