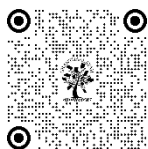


STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND LITERACY RATES AMONG THE KOL TRIBES AND IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO EDUCATION AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

One of India's indigenous tribes, the Kol tribe, is mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. The Kol tribe still has considerable obstacles to accessing high-quality education despite the constitution's requirements and numerous government programs meant to improve the socio-economic standing of Scheduled Tribes (STs). The purpose of this study is to determine the literacy rates of the Kol tribe today, to pinpoint the obstacles to education, and to appraise the success of present programs meant to enhance educational results for this community.

Keywords: Tribe, Alcohol, Kol, Education

1. INTRODUCTION

One of India's indigenous tribes, the Kol tribe, is mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. The Kol tribe still has considerable obstacles to accessing high-quality education despite the constitution's requirements and numerous government programs meant to improve the socio-economic standing of Scheduled Tribes (STs). The purpose of this study is to determine the literacy rates of the Kol tribe today, to pinpoint the obstacles to education, and to appraise the success of present programs meant to enhance educational results for this community.

The Kol tribe's literacy rate is still significantly lower than the national average. Scheduled Tribes had a literacy rate of 58.96%, according to the 2011 Census of India. This is substantially lower than the 72.99% national literacy rate. (Tripura, 2020) Similar patterns are seen in the Kol tribe, one of the oppressed ST communities. There is a noticeable gender gap in literacy rates, with females' rates falling short of men's. (BRAHMANANDAM & BABU, 2016) This discrepancy emphasizes the necessity of focused measures to advance female education in the community. Several issues

cause the Kol tribe's low levels of education and literacy. These impediments can be broadly divided into socioeconomic, cultural, and infrastructure-related categories. One major obstacle is the absence of suitable educational infrastructure in tribal regions. Many Kol villages need more school facilities, instructional resources, and trained teachers. (Ottaplackal, 2022) Especially for younger children, the great distance to the closest school deters regular attendance. Cultural influences are a significant barrier to obtaining an education as well. The Kol tribe's traditional way of life and customs frequently conflict with the requirements of the formal educational system. Disinterest and high dropout rates are also caused by a lack of culturally appropriate curricula and teaching strategies that fit with the tribal way of life.

Economic and Social Barriers: Among the Kol tribe, poverty is a widespread problem, with many families struggling to meet their basic demands. For many families, the opportunity cost of sending their kids to school versus getting them involved in activities that earn money is frequently too great. (Gangele, 2019) Furthermore, low enrolment and retention rates result from a need for more knowledge about the long-term advantages of education.

Initiatives from the Government and Non-Government-

Several governmental and non-governmental programs have been put into place to raise the Kol tribe's level of education. All children up to the age of 146 are to receive free and compulsory education through initiatives like the Right to Education (RTE) Act and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). (Chatterjee, 2016)

15316784 is the total tribal population in Madhya Pradesh, where the Kol tribes comprise the total population of 105,046 in Madhya Pradesh, male-53,012 and female-52034, with a rural population of 94,194 and an urban population-10,852.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

(Rao, 2013) The study highlights that 70 percent of the village's population is illiterate and has a vast educational backwardness. The study also shows that the education gap may be due to poor conditions.

(Malyadri, 2011) The study shows the backwardness of education in the tribal area of Khammam district, how non-tribal teachers neglect the local tribal language, and the lack of tribal culture material in textbooks, making it less attractive for children and difficult to connect.

(Parida, 2016) The study analyzes the educational status of the Santhal tribal group of Mayurbhanj; the quality of education and access is the primary concern of tribal people, and the poor condition of tribals affects their educational development.

(Mane, 2022) Mainstream education cannot settle with tribal education, which is socially and culturally different. Though the tribal peoples are treated as unskilled by the other groups, there should be separate schools with a curriculum that suits the tribal people.

2.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY-

- To assess the Kol tribe's present literacy rates.
- To determine the infrastructure, cultural, and socioeconomic obstacles preventing people from completing their education.
- To evaluate the success of government and non-governmental initiatives to enhance education among the Kol tribes.
- To investigate the Kol community's attitudes and beliefs regarding formal education.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS-

- 1) What is the current literacy rate among Kol tribes in Dhanpuri town of Shahdol District?
- 2) What percentage of Kol kids are enrolled in elementary, secondary, and tertiary schools?
- 3) What socioeconomic restrictions prevent the Kol tribes from achieving higher levels of education?
- 4) What infrastructure barriers (school accessibility, transportation, etc.) do the Kol tribes encounter when trying to receive an education?

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- 5) Do the Kol tribes' educational attainment and access differ noticeably according to gender?
 - 6) How successful are NGO and government initiatives in raising the educational standards of the Kol tribes?
 - 7) How does the Kol community see formal education? And What are their attitudes towards it?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY: This study is significant as it addresses educational disparities among the Kol tribes in Shahdol District, Madhya Pradesh. By identifying barriers to education and proposing solutions, it aims to enhance educational access and quality, contributing to the socio-economic upliftment of the Kol community. The research will inform policymakers, preserve cultural heritage, promote gender equality, and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on education. Engaging with the community ensures that the solutions are sustainable and culturally sensitive, ultimately empowering the Kol tribes to actively participate in shaping their educational future.

RESEARCH DESIGN: A mixed method approach with descriptive research design is used in the study; Kol tribes predominantly inhabit the study area of Shahdol district Dhanpuri -A simple random sampling method was used to select the respondents from the universe, and both primary and secondary method were used to collect data, Interview Scheduled and focus group discussions were used to collect information from the Kol tribe households by analyzing survey data using statistical programs.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS: Data was collected from a total of 50 households of the Kol tribe of Dhanpuri, of which 24 respondents were female and 26 respondents were male. The age group of the respondents varies from 20-40. Of all of the total respondents, more than half of the respondents were uneducated. Of 26 males, 20 males were illiterate, and of 24 women, 22 women were illiterate

- **Total Respondents:** 50 (24 females, 26 males)
- **Education Levels:**
 - Females:** 8 educated (up to class 4th or 6th)
 - Males:** 10 educated (none beyond 10th grade)
 - Literacy:** Only 8 can sign their names; the rest use thumbprints
- **Occupation:** Manual labor in brick kilns or construction sites
- **Income:** ₹7000 to ₹15000 annually
- Alcohol Consumption: High among adults, leading to social issues
- Direct Impact on Household Finances

Financial Strain: Excessive alcohol use lowers the money available for educational costs like textbooks, uniforms, and fees.

Opportunity Cost: The money used to purchase alcohol may have been saved for future educational expenses or used to buy educational materials.

- Impact on the Environment and Society

Toxic Environment: Drinking alcohol frequently contributes to social problems, including abuse, neglect, and overall unsteady living conditions. This may lead to a tense environment that is unsuitable for learning.

Children pick up behaviors from their parents through role modeling. Adults who drink excessively might set a bad example for their children, making them not value education or forming bad habits.

4. EFFECT ON HEALTH

Health Problems: Drinking too much alcohol can cause health issues that make it difficult for parents to work and fund their kids' education. It may also result in worker absenteeism, further reducing household income.

Abuse of Alcohol: Parents who drink too much alcohol may fail to provide for their kids' basic needs in terms of nutrition and health, which can negatively affect their academic performance.

5. PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

Stress and Anxiety: Kids who grow up in homes where there is a lot of alcohol drinking may face stress and anxiety, which can impair their focus and academic achievement.

Lack of assistance: Parents who drink alcohol regularly may be less able to give their kids the emotional and intellectual aid they require.

- **Attitude Towards Education:** Positive shift, with all children attending government schools.
- **Role of NGOs:** there is no such role of NGOs in the community. No NGOs come to visit them or see their condition.

Educational Status

- **Low Literacy Rates:** Only 18 of 50 respondents are educated, with a significant gender gap.
- **Limited Educational Attainment:** Education levels are low, with no respondents educated beyond the 10th grade.
- **Functional Literacy:** Basic numeracy skills are present, but literacy is limited.

Socio-Economic Conditions

- **Income and Employment:** Seasonal employment in manual labor with low annual income.
- **Alcohol Consumption:** High prevalence of alcohol use, contributing to social issues and financial strain.

Attitudes and Aspirations

- **Positive Attitude Towards Education:** Despite low educational attainment, there is an intense desire for children's education. This is because they are living in an area that is directly connected to the mainstream society where all the people are working and sending their children to schools even if the children don't wish to go, which is also seen by the tribal community, and they adapted this from nearby people of the area which is a positive sign
- **Gender Equality:** No significant gender discrimination in educational opportunities.

6. CONCLUSION

From the above study, it is seen that the education level among the participants was very low, as it was

From the above data, it can be concluded that the educational level of participants of Kol tribal communities was significantly lower. The main reasons behind their educational backwardness were financial strain and a less interesting educational environment. The elder member of the family had no or least interest in the education of the younger one, due to less awareness about the education and life outside where people are fighting for shares. Kol tribal group is happy with two meals, which is the primary challenge that I felt for their backwardness in some sectors like education and finance, the heavy use of alcohol in both the male and female of the family, which allows children unsupervised without any restriction

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **Educational Interventions:** Implement adult literacy programs and vocational training to improve literacy and employability.
- 2) **Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct awareness programs on the importance of education and the negative impacts of alcohol consumption.
- 3) **Support Systems:** Establish support systems for children, such as after-school programs and scholarships, to encourage higher educational attainment.
- 4) **Community Engagement:** Engage community leaders to promote education and address social issues related to alcohol consumption.

- 5) **Programs for Raising Community Awareness:** Inform the public about the harmful effects of alcohol on one's health, finances, and education. Emphasize the advantages of cutting back on alcohol use.
- 6) **Support Teams:** Create support groups for people battling alcoholism. Offer therapy and recovery programs.
- 7) **Financial Literacy Programs:** Educate locals on the value of education investments and how to create a budget.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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