

ATTITUDE TOWARDS EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: A STUDY ON RAJBANGSHI STUDENTS

Sanjib Kr. Roy

Assistant Professor, A.C. Training College,
Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, PIN-735101

ABSTRACT

A group of local Hindu population in the northern districts of West Bengal is known as Rajbangshis. They were a socially homogenous group in the sense that there was no sub-caste among them. Their socio-religious system is indicative of the existence among them of a culture and social organization different from the Brahmanical culture, which gave the Rajbangshis a distinct identity. Educationally they were very backward, economically agriculture was their basic occupation and their representation in other profession was not very significant. The changing economic and social dimensions definitely challenging the traditional outlooks towards the people belongs to that particular social group. So, the social organization, cultural practices, educational status, economic position and the status of women of the Rajbangshis need to re-orient in order to situate them in the contemporary social structure. If we try to equip them like of the other people, education plays an important role in this respect. If they shall get the priority of proper education, they will make themselves sufficient and good citizen in their future life. The present study is a small attempt to study the development of their educational achievements of secondary level Rajbangshi students.

Keywords: Attitude, Awareness, Achievement, Education, Rajbangshi.

INTRODUCTION

The Rajbangshis constituted the most predominant section of the local Hindu population in the northern districts of West Bengal. Numerically they were the third largest Hindu caste in West Bengal as a whole. The origin of this caste is shrouded in mystery and the basic debate is around the question of their association with the Koches. But there is no dispute about the fact that the Rajbangshis were the early settlers in north Bengal. They were a socially homogenous group in the sense that there were no sub-caste among them. Their religio-cultural practices were simple and free. Their socio-religious system is indicative of the existence among them of a culture and social organization different from the Brahminical culture, which gave the Rajbangshis a distinct

identity. Educationally they were very backward, economically agriculture was their basic occupation and their representation in other profession was not very significant.

But, nowadays, there is still happening a distinct change in the socio-economic and educational status of the Rajbangshi society. The changing economic and social dimensions definitely challenging the traditional outlooks towards the people belongs to that particular social group. So, the social organization, cultural practices, educational status, economic position and the status of women of the Rajbangshis need to re-orient in order to situate them in the contemporary social structure.

For the proper development of society there is necessary to develop all types of people in various ways like vocationally, socially, academically, economically, etc. Hence, Rajbangshi people are also integral part of our society. If we try to equip them like of the other people, providing education plays an important role in this respect. If they shall get the priority of proper education, they will make themselves sufficient and good citizen in their future life. The present study is a small attempt to study the development of their educational achievements of secondary level Rajbangshi students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To determine the influence of educational facilities of the Rajbangshi students.
- To know the attitude towards educational achievements of that group of students.
- To determine the awareness of educational achievements of that group of students.
- To know the status of educational achievements between the male and females of that group of students.

STATEMENT OF HYPOTHESIS

On the basis of survey related research discourses and researcher's own experience following hypothesis were formulated.

- H₁ - Attitude of male Rajbangshi students would be more favourable than the female rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.
- H₂ - Awareness of male Rajbangshi students would be more favourable than the female rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.
- H₃ - Socio-economic condition of the male Rajbangshi students would be more favourable than the female Rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.
- H₄ - Educational facilities of male Rajbangshi students would be more favourable than the female Rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.

METHODS OF STUDY

The study is wide in its scope and it is not possible to deal with all the populations. So, on the basis of the nature and problem of the study the researcher selected his sample by using the random sampling method. The sample were the students of Class VI, VII, VIII, & IX of eleven co-education schools from the Maynaguri Block of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. The size of the sample was 85 students (both male and female) only. The researcher used four checklists consisting dimensions and no. of items were as follows:

Table 1: Dimensions of checklists.

Sl. No.	Dimensions	No. of items
1	Attitude	24
2	Awareness	24
3	Socio-economic condition	24
4	Educational facilities	26
Total		98

The reliability of the checklists measured by test-retest method and obtained co-efficient of reliability was 0.64 with 18 df. It was significant at the .01 level.

Analysis and interpretation of data:

The researcher applied X^2 test to find out the difference in Median between socio-economic condition, awareness, attitude and educational facilities of male and female. The frequency distribution of the scores obtained from the sample helped to the norms of X^2 test.

Table 2: Numbers of scores above median, at median, below median and total.

	Numbers of scores above median	Numbers of scores at median	Numbers of scores below median	Total
Socio-economic condition	9	39	37	85
Educational facilities	19	44	22	85
Attitude towards educational achievements	14	33	38	85
Awareness towards educational achievements	15	38	32	85

Table 3: The X^2 value for scores measuring the socio-economic condition of male and female population.

Scores above 79.1	Median 67.3 - 79.1	Below 67.3	Total
9	39	37	85
$X^2 = 19.36$			

For 2 df from table value the X^2 is significant at .01 level.

Table 4: The X^2 value for scores measuring the educational facilities of male and female population.

Scores above 86.55	Median 86.55 – 73.45	Below 73.45	Total
1	44	22	85
$X^2 = 13.15$			

For 2 df from table value the X^2 is significant at .01 level.

Table 5: The X^2 value for scores measuring the attitude of male and female population.

Scores above 79.7	Median 79.7 – 67.3	Below 67.3	Total
14	33	38	85
$X^2 = 10.55$			

For 2 df from table value the X^2 is significant at .01 level.

Table 6: The X^2 value for scores measuring the awareness of male and female population.

Scores above 80.83	Median 80.83 – 71.63	Below 71.63	Total
15	38	32	85
$X^2 = 10.05$			

For 2 df from table value the X^2 is significant at .01 level.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

From the statistical analysis of the study the following findings have come forth. From the Table No.2, it was clear that the obtained scores of total students as numbers of scores above, number of median scores and number of below median scores. In the table no. 3, it was clear that total number of students according to their socio-economic condition of male and female population is above median 9, median level 39, and below median 37 respectively.

Table no. 4 shows that total number of students according to their educational facilities of male and female population is above median 19, median level 44, and below median 22 respectively. Table no. 5 shows that total number of students according to their attitude of male and female population is above median 14, median level 33, and below median 38 respectively. Table no. 6 shows that total number of students according to their awareness of male and female population is above median 15, median level 38, and below median 32 respectively.

1. Attitude of male Rajbangshi student would be more favourable than the female Rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.
2. Awareness of male Rajbangshi student would be more favourable than the female Rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.
3. Socio-economic condition of male Rajbangshi student would be more favourable than the female Rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.
4. Educational facilities of male Rajbangshi student would be more favourable than the female Rajbangshi students towards educational achievement.

After investigating the present problem, the researcher came to the conclusion derived from the data that, there is significance difference between their socio-economic condition, educational facilities, awareness and attitude.

SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

With regard to the selection of the sample larger areas should have been covered giving due weightage to the different categories of backward communities with respect to their socio-economic condition, educational facilities, attitude and awareness.

REFERENCES

- Agarwal, J. C., *Recent Developments and Trends in Education*, Shipra Publication, New Delhi, 2005.
- Ambani, M. & Birla, K., *Report on a Policy Framework for reforms in Education, Government of India*, New Delhi, 2001.

- Banerjee, K. Lal, *The Education of the Backward Classes in Free India*, Bani Prakashan, Kolkata, 1999.
- Best, John W. and James, V. Kahn., *Research in Education*. New Delhi, Prentice Hall of India Pvt. Ltd., 1992.
- Bhattacharya, Sabyasachi, *Education and the Disprivileged : Nineteenth and Twentieth Century India*, Orient Blackswan, New Delhi, 2002.
- Deshpande, A., *Assessing Caste and Gender Inequality in India*, Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi, 2001.
- Dikshit, S.S., *Nationalism and Indian Education*, New Delhi, Sterling Publication, 1966.
- Karade, J., *Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UK, 2008.
- Kerlinger, Fred N., *Foundations of Behavioural Research*, New York, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., First Indian Reprint, 1978.
- Nurullah, S., *A Students History of Education*. New Delhi, Macmillan publication, 1964.
- Tilak, J.B.G., *Education, Society and Development*, APH Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2003.
- Vyas, K.C., *The Social Renaissance in India*. New Delhi, Vora Publications, 1957.