

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS: A STUDY IN DIGHOLIHOLA TEA ESTATE, BARPATHAR GOLAGHAT DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Tea estate is a one of the major plantation industry in Assam. Assam is the highest producer of tea and should be called the hub of the tea industry. But even after 73 years of the Independence, the condition of the tea estate labours did not improve much and many of them were made to live in abject economic condition. Education is a major way of upward social mobility was seen lacking among the tea estate labourer community in the state of Assam. The present study tries to study the socio economic condition , educational status and facilities available in the educational institution .The primary data is collected from the field by using unstructured interview schedule. This paper is descriptive in nature. It is found that majority of the workers have primary and high school pass level of education, few are graduate and some of the illiterate, and not a single post graduate. They left schools due to certain family problems, poor financial condition or early marriage.

INTRODUCTION

Education is very important in human life. It helps an individual to realize his inherent qualities and develop his or her entire personality. Education backwardness is one of the most important parameters of dynamic pressures that plays vital role in generation of unsafe conditions and thereby making the community susceptible to possible external threats..

A present study is Education Status of Tea Workers in Digholihola Tea Estate Borpathar, Golaghat District of Assam. The social, education and economic condition of the tea estate workers have been little improved but do not have major change in their living condition and mainly the educational.

The study of Digholihola Tea Estate, most important problem in the lower wages, which is the major hindrance in the development of education for the tea garden worker and led them to live a pathetic life. That are study to problems faced by the tea workers in continuation of education and their children and this area have no facility to higher secondary institution, there are have only primary institution.

The tea workers are socially backward from the mainstream of national life and they are economically very poor and under developed. The poor socio-economic condition of tea workers are ignorance due to illiteracy unhygienic living condition. That workers are economically poor poverty. Poverty is the biggest hindrance for attainment of education. The family monthly income caused a shortage in the facility on food, health, children education facility etc.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bora (2002), survey the Existing Facilities for Primary Education in Tea Gardens Labourers in Dibrugarh District of Assam. This study major findings are- Schools in the tea garden area fail to create congenial atmosphere to motivate the students to attend the school, teachers are engaged in other works of the tea garden in addition to the teaching works, infrastructural facilities of the schools are also found not satisfactory, low percentage of enrolment of girl children in the schools was found due to parents' illiteracy and early marriage of girl child, schools have spacious playground but no games and sports materials except football and teacher-pupil ratio of the schools under study range from 1.30 to 1.35. Enrolment percentage of boys was found to be 66.93% and for girls it was 33.07% only.

Baishya (2016) "History of tea industry and status of tea garden workers of Assam" explores the origin of tea cultivation in Assam and the status of the tea garden workers. This study find out the tea industry is expanding in terms of area under cultivation and output. The most important people responsible for this growth of the tea industry i.e. the tea garden workers are the worst sufferers. They do not get proper wages, no medical facilities and no proper house to live in. thus there is a high incidence of maternal mortality as well as infant mortality in the tea garden in Assam. The government of Assam has taken various measures to help this deprived tribe but the tea garden workers are yet to experience the fruits are essential to bring this backward section of the society into the mainstream.

Bhagavatheeswaran, L.et.al (2016) conducted a study on "The barriers and enablers to education among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe adolescents girls in northern Karnataka, South India: A qualitative study" explored the barriers and enablers to scheduled caste/scheduled tribe (SC/ST) adolescent girls entering into, and completing secondary education in northern Karnataka, South India. The study highlights the importance of involving multiple stakeholders to overcome the barriers to education for SC/ST girls, and of working to change beliefs and expectations around gender norms as well as improving the quality of education in this setting.

Bhattacharyya et al (2017) in is paper "Education of Tea Tribe Children: a case study of Udalguri district of Assam" discussed the problems faced by the tea workers in continuation of education for their children after the primary level of education. The primary data were collected by interacting with 50 tea workers of Sheikh tea garden of Udalguri district of Assam with a structure questionnaire. In Assam the tea tribes is such a community which is still backward in term of education despite of various effort taken by the government in the field of education

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The all objective of the study are as follows:

1. To study the socio economic background of the tea workers
2. To the study on participation of the tea workers in education.
3. To analyse the facilities available in the institution of tea area.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology is the step in the process of research. It is one of the important aspects of social

research. Methodology is a way to solve research problem systematically. The study is descriptive in nature. Survey method is used to conduct the present study.

UNITS AND UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted within the geographic boundaries of Digholihola Tea Estate, Barpathar Golaghat district of Assam. Although, the Digholihola Tea Estate, Barpathar is the universes of the study and 50 workers are the unit of study.

SOURCES OF DATA

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary sources all the information have been collected from the selected field Digholihola Tea Estate, Barpathar Golaghat District of Assam in the through interview schedule. The secondary data is collected from book, articles, thesis, government reports etc. The survey was done in 3 days. The collected primary data are the classified and analysis with the help percentage and presented in tabular form.

SAMPLING

Tea workers both a men and women living and working in tea estate were both male and female respondent of the study at present paper. To conduct the study 50 worker is selected by using purposive sampling.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The study is based on both qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative data is collected from secondary sources and quantitative data collected from primary data were collection from the sample respondent. For this purpose, a separate comprehensive interview schedules was prepared. The interview schedule for the workers in vernacular language was administrated by the researcher personally visiting the study area.

PROFILE OF GOLAGHAT DISTRICT

Golaghat district is an administrative district in the state of Assam in India. Golaghat was raised to the position of a district of Assam on 15 August 1987, when it was split from Sibsagar district. The district headquarters are located at Golaghat. Golaghat district is surrounded by the river Brahmaputra to the north, the state of Nagaland to the south, Jorhat district to the east and Karbi Anglong and Nagaon district to the west. In during 19th century the bank of the river Dhansiri in the vicinity of the district headquarters. The name Golaghat meaning is ‘Gola’ means market and ‘Ghat’ means the port of river transport.

As per the 2011 census, average literacy rate of Golaghat district is 78.31%. The male literacy rate is 83.56% and female literacy rate is 71.09%. Golaghat is known for many literacy intellects who have made outstanding contributions to Assamese literature. The school in Golaghat are either government run or are private.

In the Golaghat district has been five recognized towns at present. These are Golaghat, Dergaon, Bokakhat, Sarupathar and Barpathar. The Golaghat district consist of three sub- divisions, Golaghat, Bokakhat, Dhonsiri and it has eight development blocks.

PROFILE OF DIGHALI PATHAR MATIKHULA VILLAGE

Digholi Pathar Matikhola is one of the medium size villages in Barpathar, block Sarupathar, in Golaghat district of Assam. It is situated 3.5 km away from sub-district headquarter Barpathar

and 43 km away from district headquarter Golaghat. Digholi Pathar Matikhola village are gram panchayat of Pub Barpathar.

In 2011, Digholi Pathar Matikhola village literacy rate of 78.11%, male literacy stands at 81.66% while female literacy rate was 74.34%. In Digholi Pathar Matikhola has two Schools, there are Digholi Matikhola IPS School and Bidypur EGS School, both school category is primary only and school management in department of education

PROFILE OF DIGHOLIHOLA TEA ESTATE, BARPATHAR

The present study is the Digholihola Tea Estate, Barpathar in Golaghat District of Assam. Tea is considered as the most important crop in Assam. In Digholihola Tea Estate total area 96.80 hector and tea plantation area 85.74 hector. In the study tea estate 10 km distance for national highway and 3 km are distance for railway station.

In the study tea estate total number of workers is 212 and where 103 is the member of male workers or 109 is the number of female workers. In the tea estate workers working time 8.00 am to 4.00 pm. The tea estate has its own factory and there is a good relation of the labourers with their managerial staff. The managerial staffs some of the steps taken for welfare in tea workers, there are primary medical facility like free medicine, ambulance, nurse, doctor.

In the study tea estate some of the festival arranged by the tea estate workers there are Durga puja, Bihu, Jhumair, Charak puja, Kali puja, Monasa puja, Holi, Diwali, Christmas etc.

ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT

OCCUPATION:

Table No 1

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of occupation

Sl No.	Occupation	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
01	Leaf Plucker	19	38%
02	Factory Worker	16	32%
03	Sub-Manager	03	06%
04	Others	12	24%
Total-		50	100%

Table No 1 shows that 38% of the respondents are leaf plucker workers, 32% of the respondents are factory workers, 6% of the respondents are sub-manager and 24% of the respondents are others workers in tea estate.

AMOUNT OF INCOME:

Income is money that an individual or business receives in exchange for providing a good or service or through investing capital. This study are describe in the respondents on the basis of amount of income in monthly are given in the following table-

Table No 2
Distribution of the respondents by their monthly income

Sl No.	Amount Of Income In Monthly	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
01	2500-5000	47	94%
02	5000-10000	00	00%
03	10000-20000	01	02%
04	20000 and Above	02	04%
TOTAL-		50	100%

Table No 2 clearly shows that monthly income of the majority workers are Rs.2500-5000 in 94%, 2% of the workers monthly income are Rs.10000-20000 and 4% workers have monthly income more than Rs.20000.

ANALYSES OF DATA ON THE BASIS OF EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN THE STUDY AREA:
NUMBER OF INSTITUTION IN STUDY AREA
Table No 3
Distribution of the number of institution there in study area

SL No.	School	No. Of Schools In Study Area
01	Primary School	01
02	High School	01
03	High Secondary School	00
Total-		02

From the above table no.3 shows that total number of school is 2 .

MEDIUM OF SCHOOL IN STUDY AREA:
Table No 4
Medium of school

SL No.	Medium Of School	No, Of Schools In Study Area
01	Assamese	02
02	English	00
03	Hindi	00
Total-		02

Table No 4 shows that there are 2 Assamese medium school in the study area.

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE IN TSUDY AREA:
Table No 5

Distribution of the types of institutional structure in the study area

SL No.	Types Of Institutional Structure	No Of Institution In Study Area
01	Pucca	02
02	Semi-pucca	00
03	Kuccha	00
04	Others	00
Total-		02

Table No 5 shows that educational institutional structure is pucca .

DATA ON EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: Education is one of the basis activities of people in all human societies. Durkheim conceives of education as ‘the socialisation of the younger generation’.

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of Educational

SL No.	Educational Qualification	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
01	Illiterate	03	06%
02	Primary School	10	20%
03	High School	30	60%
04	High Secondary	06	12%
05	Graduate	01	02%
06	Post Graduate	00	00%
Total-		50	100%

Educational qualification of the tea estate workers are quite pessimist. From the above table no 6 it is clear that 6% of the respondents are illiterate, 20% of the respondents are primary educated, 60% of the respondent are high educated, 12% of the respondents are high secondary educated and 2% of the respondents are have graduated. The tea estate most of the respondent discontinued there education due to poverty.

EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION OF THE TEA GARDEN WORKERS

Table No 7

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of types of education prefer for child.

Sl No.	Types Of Education Prefer For Child	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
01	General	04	08%
02	Medical	15	30%

03	Civil Service	10	20%
04	Engineering	21	42%
05	Agriculture	00	00%
06	Management	00	00%
07	Others	00	00%
TOTAL-		50	100%

Form the table no. 7 showing the types of education prefer for child in respondent. In 8% of the respondents are prefer for child in general education, 30% of the respondent are prefer for child in medical education, 20% respondent are prefer for child in civil service education and 42% of the respondent are prefer for child in engineering education.

Table No 8

Distribution of the respondents on the basis of library facility there in studies educational institution

SL No.	Library Facility	No. Of Respondents	Percentage (%)
01	YES	07	14%
02	NO	43	86%
Total-		50	100%

From the table no.8 show that 14% of the respondent have a library facility there in studies educational institution and 86% of the respondents have not library facility there in studies educational institution.

Table No 9 Education qualification of the children's of the tea garden workers

Sl No.	Educational Qualification For Child	No. Of Children	Percentage (%)
01	Illiterate	00	00%
02	Primary School	15	20.83%
03	High School	26	36.11%
04	High Secondary	22	30.56%
05	Graduate	04	05.56%
06	Post Graduate	05	06.94%
07	Others	00	00%
Total-		72	100%

The above Table No 9 shows that 20.83% of the children studies in primary school, 36.11% of

the children studies in high school, 30.56% of the children are studies to high secondary school, 5.56% of the children are graduates and 6.94% of the children are post graduate.

CONCLUSION

The present study about the tea estate workers education status reveals certain important fact. The data for the present study were collected selected from 50 respondent living in the Digholihola Tea Estate. Majority of the workers have primary and high school pass level of education, few are graduate and some of the illiterate, and not a single post graduate. They left schools due to certain family problems, poor financial condition or early marriage. Many workers were unable to go to school during their childhood days and complete even primary and high schooling. One major reason is poverty, which impacts on participation and completion rates and even achievement. The cost of sending to schools is a deterrent for the poor families. Parents are unable to send their children to school since children become earning member of the family or children are left to maintain the house on the absence of the parents. Another important aspect is that since the parents are not literate it becomes impossible for the parents to look after the study and even to go through the process of enrolment to school. The inability to give attention to the study of the children sometimes makes the children lose interest in education as a hold which in turn leads to drop out of school. There are many reasons in drop-out in formal education and girls are often entrusted with responsibilities of care with house in other members and domestic chores. All this all factors negatively impact the progress of formal education in tea estate workers. So that government should give proper attention to development of the tea garden workers.

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