

Education and Socio-Economic Development of Kaivartta Community



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Abstract: Education brings rapid changes into socio-economic and cultural aspect of a society. So, education is the most important parameter of upward social mobility. This paper is an attempt to analyse the impact of education among Kaivartta of Majuli Island, Assam. The data have been collected from primary and secondary sources from six Kaivartta inhabited villages. The study demonstrates that educational attainment tends determined occupational choice, income level, social status and life style of an individual.

Key words: Education, Occupation, Income, Social Mobility, Kaivartta, Majuli.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education in ancient India was confined to a small section of society. Access of common people to education was excluded due to religious, caste and gender discrimination. The Hindu caste based social system separated human being into a hierarchy of ascent and descent. Caste hierarchy brings stay alive the thoughts of superiority and inferiority in ancient India social system. Therefore lower castes also known as: *Sudra, Avarna, Chandala, Dharmahina*, untouchable, outcaste, exterior caste, depressed caste, had been socially, economically and culturally exploited for centuries which are listed later on as Scheduled Caste.

After independence, constitution of India has made provision of protective discrimination policy, especially reservation policy. Thus, the constitution of India made provision of reservation of seat for Scheduled Caste in the sphere of education, public employment, and central and state legislatures. Implementation of reservation policy played a catalyst role in securing overall development of Scheduled Caste. Education for scheduled caste has become a part of national educational system. Government had formulated various schemes and policies for educational development of scheduled caste people in entire country. So, education plays crucial role in enabling Scheduled Caste to access socio-political, cultural and economic development.

The Kaivarttas are one of the sixteen scheduled castes communities of Assam. They are economically back ward and social deprived. They are fishermen by profession. In socially and geographically diversified Indian society, the fishermen could not achieve socially sanctioned position in broad spectrum of society.

Moreover, this community could not come in public interest for a long time due to some unavoidable circumstances such as physical and geographical obstruction, socio-cultural isolation, lack of communicative representation and leadership. Scholars opine that caste discrimination, atrocity and exploitation are relatively less in Assam in comparison to other states in India and they are in better position. Besides, numerous studies have shown that participate in education among scheduled castes are significantly increasing after post-independent era. Now, question arises whether education contributed to socio-economic development of the Kaivarttas of Majuli to attain a greater social mobility. Keeping view on it present study is undertaken.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study includes-

1. To study the educational attainment level among Kaivarttas.
2. To analyse the interrelationship of education and socio-economic development among Kaivarttas.

III. METHODOLOGY

Present study is under taken among the Kaivarttas of Majuli district, Assam. There are two development blocks in Majuli viz. Majuli Development Block and Ujani Majuli Development Block consist 42 Kaivartta inhabited village. From each development block four Kaivartta inhabited villages are purposively selected. The selected villages are Rangali Bahar, Bhuramara No. 2, Senchowa Alengtiati and Barmukali Kaivartta. In sample selection each family has been given equal opportunity of selection. Out of total 288 families of the selected villages, 106 families (approximately 37%) have been selected as unit of sample through simple random sampling method (lottery method) for well representation of the study and earner of the family regarded as respondent. Primary data are collected through structured interview scheduled. Books, Journals, Government records are use as a secondary data. The study has analysis empirical data in comparative perspective of education and socio-economic development of the Kaivartta of Majuli district and findings are drowning mainly by descriptive and analytical method. Quantitative methods like tabulation, frequency distribution, percentage are also used for data analysis.

IV. EDUCATION AND KAIIVARTTA

Education is the key factor of overall development of a society. In middle age, Satras are playing vital role for spread of Sanskrit education in Assam.

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In Majuli priest and Vaishnavas helped to expand Sanskrit education among Satradhikar. Modern education in Majuli Island was introduced during colonial period. Kaivartta inhabited area of the island received little attention of social workers and policy maker during British period.

During field study it is observed that not a single primary school was established during that period in Kaivartta inhabited area. Though impact of modern education is late, literacy rate of the study village is satisfactory. Among them 85% percent is literate whereas 14.15 are found illiterate (Table 1).

Table 1: Literacy Rate of Respondent

Literacy	Respondent	Percentage
Literate	91	85.84
Illiterate	15	14.15
Total	106	100%

Source: Field Study during 5th Oct-28 Dec, 2017

V. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND OCCUPATION

There is a close relationship between educational achievement and occupation, since level of educational attainment determines a person occupation. In present society education is the most important factor which determine occupation and income of a person one can aspire. To examine the educational achievement of the Kaivarttas under study is divided into five categories viz. upper primary, under matriculation, HSSLC, graduate, post-graduate and technical and professional. Table 2 clearly depicts the educational achievement and occupation.

Table 2: Educational Achievement and Occupation

Education Level	Occupation					Total
	Fishing & Fish Selling	Cultivation	Business	Service	Any Other	
Illiterate	320.0	960.0	-	-	320.0	1514.15
Upper Primary	12.56	2974.35	12.56	-	820.51	3936.79
Under Matriculation	27.14	1760.71	310.71	-	621.42	2826.41
H.S.S.L.C	-	535.71	535.71	17.14	321.43	1413.21
Graduate	-	112.5	450.0	337.5	-	87.54

Table 3: Educational Achievement and Income of Respondent

Annual Income	Education of Respondents							Total
	Illiterate	Upper Primary	Under Matriculation	HSSLC	Graduate	Post Graduate	Technical/ Professional	
Less 10,000	13(12.26)	13(12.26)	17(16.03)	-	-	-	-	43(40.56)
10,500-15,000	2(1.88)	10(9.43)	4(3.77)	-	-	-	-	16(15.09)
15,500-20,000	-	10(9.43)	5(4.71)	8(7.54)	2(1.88)	-	-	25(23.58)
20,500-25,000	-	6(5.66)	2(1.88)	6(5.66)	4(3.77)	-	-	18(16.98)
25,500-30,000	-	-	1(0.94)	-	2(1.88)	-	-	3(2.83)
30,500-40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40,500-50,000	-	-	-	-	-	1(0.94)	-	1(0.94)
Above 50,000	-	-	-	-	-	1(0.94)	-	1(0.94)
Total	12(11.32)	39(36.79)	28(26.41)	14(13.20)	8(7.54)	2(1.88)	-	106(100)

Source: Field Study during 5th Oct-28 Dec, 2017

Post Graduate	-	-	-	2 33.3 3	-	2 1.88
Technical/ professional	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6 5.66	61 57.55	13 12.26	6 5.66	20 18.86	106 100

Source: Field Study during 5th Oct-28 Dec, 2017

*Any Other: Wage earner, Carpenter, Driver

It is clear from above analysis that majority of respondent are educated up to upper primary (36.79%) level most of them are engaged in cultivation (74.35%). Among the respondent 7.53% completed graduation and 50% of them engage in business whereas 37.5% doing government service. The study found that only 2 i.e. 1.88% respondent achieved highest education.

VI. EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There is a close relationship between education, occupational achievement and income. Individual with low level of education have lower income than those with higher level of education (Sewell and Hauser, 1975). Because a low educated person is less likely to be employed, and if employed, he is more likely to hold low level job. To understand about annual income level of the respondent, the level of the income is divided into eight categories; viz. less than 10,000, 10,500-15,000, 15,500-20,000, 20,500-25,000, 25,500-30,000, 30,500-35,000, 35,500-40,000, 45,500-50,000.

Table 3 reveals that out of 106 sample respondent of the study area 43 i.e. 40.56% annual income is less than 10,000 of which 17.03% earner is under matriculation, 12.26% is upper primary and illiterate as well. Within the income category 15,500-25,000 9.43% earner is upper primary, 4.71% is under matriculation 7.54% having HSSLC and 1.88% is graduate. There is 2.83% respondent having annual income is Rs. 25,500-30,000 and 0.94% of them achieved education up to matriculation and 1.88% is graduate. In the field situation there is no respondent found in the income category of Rs 30,500-40,000. Out of total respondent only 1.88% is achieved highest educational level i.e. post graduation depends on government service and their monthly income level is more than 40,500-50,000 and more than 50,000 per month. There is no respondent found engaged in technical area in the study villages.



VII. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

- i. Though, overall literacy rate of the Kaivartta is 85.84%, they are not well educated. Out of 106 respondents 39 i.e. 36.79% is achieved education up to upper primary, 28 i.e. 26.41% is under matriculation, 14 i.e. 13.20 is HSSLC passed whereas only 7.54% is found graduation. Only a negligible portion of Kaivartta that is 1.88% able to achieved highest educational level. In the field situation it is observed that there are not a single person achieved technical education.
- ii. As it is mentioned earlier that education determines occupation of a person. It is clear from the study that out of 15 i.e. 15.14% illiterates, 60% is engaged in cultivation and 20% of each engaged in their traditional occupation as well as any other occupation. Majority of the Kaivartta those who educated up to upper primary, 74.35% is engaged in agriculture. Similarly, 60.71% of under matric Kaivarttas also engaged in the same occupation. Out of total 14 HSSLC passed only 1 i.e. 7.14% is engaged in service whereas out of 8 graduate only 4 i.e. 50% is engaged in service. Though younger generation of the community able to achieved higher education, they are suffering in unemployment. They are even self employed themselves since there is no industry, lack of transport and communication for business since Majuli island is isolated place where backwardness is observed in every aspect. Young educated generation migrate to Kerela, Hyderabad and neighbouring states and engaged themselves as security guard, various factories, telecommunication centre to earn their daily bread-and-butter.
- iii. As we know occupation determines the income level of a person. In the study, it is found that majority i.e. 40.56% respondent annual income is less than 10,000 of which 12.26% earner is illiterate, 12.26% have primary education and 16.03% is under matriculation whereas it is found that only 0.94% of Kaivartta belongs to income level of 40,000-50,000 or more than 50,000 among them who achieved the highest level of education.
- iv. Educated younger generation feel inferior to practice fishing and fish selling since the profession considered as derogatory. They desire to enhance their social recognition in entire society. But mention may be made, the illiterate, who utilized labour in fishing and fish selling, agriculture and other economic activities cannot meet up their day to day problems due to some unavoidable circumstance such as unavailability of fishes, scared agricultural land, and lack of modern fishing methods. There income is irregular and insufficient.

VIII. CONCLUSION

From above discussion we may conclude that geographically isolated Majuli Island has miscellaneous problems such as flood and bank erosion. So, life of the isolated Kaivartta of the island is full of uncertainty and danger. Overall condition of the Kaivartta of Majuli Island is poor, backward and below average in all aspects of life. But still there is a ray of hope that one day Kaivartta of the remote island will overcome from all sorts of backwardness. It is distinguished the study may not be represent a comprehensible picture of Kaivartta as a whole since this

study is micro level observation based on only four Kaivartta inhabited village of Majuli.

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