

TRIBAL EDUCATION IN NORTH EASTERN STATES OF INDIA

*Dr.J.V. ARUN
**A. PREMKUMAR

Abstract

Education is the key to achieve sustainable development and so a steady investment in human capital goes a long way in nation building. Unequal education tends to have a negative impact on economic efficiency and social consistency. The issue of equity mainly affects disadvantaged groups like the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). As far as the North Eastern Region of India is concerned, in the majority of the eight states tribal literacy rate is much lower than the literacy level of the States as such. This indicates that the educational status of the tribals in this region is a matter of grave concern. This Paper examines exclusively tribal literacy rate, gross enrolment ratio, drop out ratio and gender parity index in the North Eastern States of India. It also examines the releases of grant-in-aid and the number of beneficiaries under the scheme of post-matric and pre-matric scholarship for ST students. Interestingly, the present study also found that the literacy rate of the tribals in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland is higher than that of the total population in those states. At the outset, a study on the status of education among STs in north eastern part of India would help us to understand the extent of social inclusiveness in that region.

Keywords: tribal, education, literacy, dropout rate

Introduction

Education is the key to achieve sustainable development and so steady investment in human capital goes a long way in nation building. There are mounting empirical evidences pointing to contribution of education to economic growth (Schultz, 1961; Becker, 1964; Psacharopoulos, 1984). Unequal education tends to have a negative impact on economic efficiency and social consistency (Ozturk, 2001). In a developing economy like India, the issue of equity mainly affects disadvantaged groups like the SCs and STs. In particular, tribes who constitute 8.6 % of the total population (Census, 2011) are the most affected group. This can be

*Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Government Arts College for Men (Autonomous), Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035, Tamil Nadu.

**Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu.

