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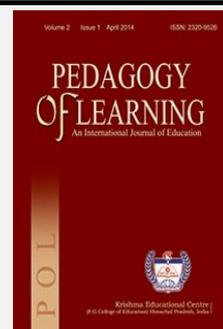
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## **Attitude and Educational Aspirations of Dalit Children Enrolled in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development High Schools of Odisha**

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### **Abstract**

*Among several steps taken by the Govt. of Odisha for up-grading the socio-economic status of the Dalit and backward classes particularly of SC and ST people, opening of innovative project of SSD High Schools is the most important, which caters educational needs of SC and ST students at par with General High Schools of Odisha. Present study was conducted to investigate the attitude and fulfillment of the educational aspirations of the SC and ST students reading at secondary level in these schools with a sample of 100 students (N=100) located in Kandhamal District of Odisha. The study analyzed attitude and fulfillment of educational aspirations of students reading in SSD high schools with reference to gender, caste and locality of habitation. The results of the study highlighted that, the functioning of SSD high schools are to be strengthened to accumulate more positive and favorable attitude of the students and meeting the educational aspirations of all incoming students of these SSD high schools.*

**Keywords:** Dalit Children, SC and ST Development High Schools, Attitude, and Educational Aspiration

## **Introduction**

In pursuance of the directive of the Indian constitution and the special provisions made therein for the Dalit, the government of India has been implementing special programmes for the socio-economic development of these SC and ST Children. The major objectives of these programmes have been to develop these backward and aboriginals in the direction of modernity so as to enable them to secure for themselves an equitable and rightful place in the national system. A large amount of money is spent during different five year plans under the head of special education and educational incentives for Harijan and Tribals. A separate department is working in different states for their social security and welfare. But researchers and social workers have noticed dissatisfaction about the educational progress of the weaker sections like SCs and STs. Many scholars have reported the backwardness of the Dalit Children in general schools in comparison to other children. Ambasht and Rath (1995) highlighted in their study that certain specific intervention strategies apart from household, community and school factors are responsible for poor enrolment retention and achievement among tribal students. Ekka (1990) attributed the low level of education of tribal's due to their inability to derive benefits from various welfare measures planned for improving their education. Nayak (1990) in his study found that in general both the tribal and non-tribal children had a low level of aspiration as compared to their achievement level. The non-tribal group was found higher than their tribal counterparts in achievement motivation and level of aspiration. Ramana (1989) out of his study pointed out that the infrastructure of Ashram schools is poor, the teaching learning process is not satisfactory and the stagnation and wastage are high.

Since 1963-1964, the government of Orissa has opened Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Development High Schools to provide special scope of education to Harijan and Tribal students. These high schools (SSD) aim at bringing about a total development of Harijan and Adivasis children. Further, the government of Orissa is spending a lot of money for these schools expecting the outcomes in terms of objectives for which these schools have been set up. These schools have been set up to bring up the disadvantaged children at par with other category of children. In this context, a question arises, how far these SC and ST Development Schools have been able to meet the educational aspirations of SC and ST children? In order to answer the above question a systematic enquiry is highly essential to evaluate these types of schools. The Ashram type school is a nation-wide experimentation for educational development of the SC and ST Children. So the evaluation of the functioning of these schools would provide some implications for the planners and policy makers. A few studies have been undertaken in the area of evaluation of the functioning of the SC and ST development Schools of Odisha and measuring aspiration level of SC and ST Children reading in these SC and ST Development Schools of Odisha. Therefore, the present study has been undertaken to evaluate the aspirations of SC and ST Children reading in SC and ST Development Schools of Odisha in the hope that it will assist the Government and administrators to get an idea of success of establishing these schools. Accordingly actions can be taken for future plan and programmes. The teaching personnel and other workers directly or indirectly engaged and dealing with the teaching learning process of these schools will

be conscious and committed to their duties. The parents thinking about the development of their wards will get an idea about these schools.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The followings were the objectives of the study.

1. To evaluate the attitude of Dalit children of secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools towards the functioning of the SSD High schools of Odisha taking into considerations of their gender, caste and locality of habitation.
2. To evaluate the educational aspirations of Dalit children of secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools of Odisha taking into considerations of their gender, caste and locality of habitation.

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

In the present study, the following hypotheses were framed in the question form.

1. Is there any significant difference in the attitude of the Dalit children of secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools towards functions of SSD High Schools of Odisha with respect to their gender, socio-economic status and locality of habitation?
2. Is there any significant difference in the educational aspirations Dalit children of secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools of Odisha with respect to their gender, socio-economic status and locality of habitation?

### **Methodology**

The decision about the methods depends upon the nature of the problems selected and its objectives of the study. Keeping in view the above rationale, methodology used in the present study was Descriptive Survey. The study intended to explore the inner views of the respondents of the study.

### **Population and Sample**

All Dalit children reading at secondary level in the SSD High Schools of Odisha constituted the population of the present study.

A total of 100 Dalit children reading at secondary level in the SC and ST Development High Schools of Kandhamal District of Odisha were selected randomly out of 10 SSD High Schools to constitute the sample of the present study. On the grounds of gender, proportionately equal number Boys and Girl students reading secondary level i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> class comprised the sample and equal number of SC and ST students reading in 10<sup>th</sup> class comprised the sample of the study on the grounds of their caste out of the total 100 sampled respondents. On the grounds of locality of habitation of Dalit students of 10<sup>th</sup> class reading in the SSD High Schools of Odisha, 50 Dalit students of 10<sup>th</sup> classes inhabiting the semi-urban area and rest of 50 Dalit students of 10<sup>th</sup> classes inhabiting the rural and remote areas reading in the SSD High Schools of Odisha comprised the sampled population in the present study.

### **Delimitations of the Study**

The present study was delimited to Kandhamal District of Odisha geographically in respect of selection of the SSD High schools and sample of the study. Further, the study was delimited to the selection of Dalit students of 10<sup>th</sup> classes reading in the SSD High Schools of Kandhamal District of Odisha. Further the study was delimited to evaluate only the attitude and educational aspirations of the sampled respondents reading the SSD High Schools of Odisha. Further the present study was delimited to include SC and ST children reading at 10<sup>th</sup> classes in the selection of sample.

### **Tools Used**

A self made Attitude Scale consisting a total of 40 items including 10 items each on the aspect of teacher, curriculum, class mates and schools to evaluate the attitude of Secondary level students towards functioning of the SSD High Schools in Odisha and the Educational Aspiration Scale developed by Sharma and Gupta (1980) were used as tools in the present study for the purpose of collection of data.

### **Statistical Techniques Used**

For analysis of data and discussion of the result in the present study, percentage analysis, Significance of the difference of percentage were used.

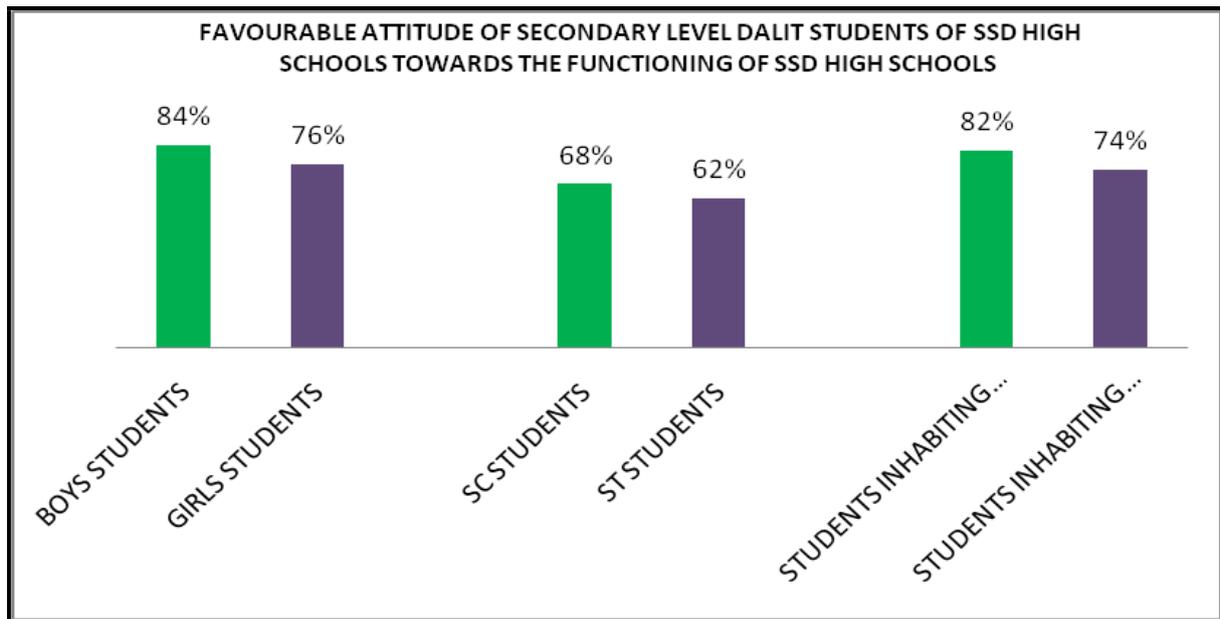
### **Testing of Hypotheses and Discussion of Result**

**Table-1: Study of the Attitude of Dalit Children of Secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools towards the functioning of SSD High Schools of Odisha**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Groups</b>	<b>Agreed (%)</b>	<b>'Z' Value</b>	<b>'P' Value (1.98)</b>
Gender (N=100)	Boys Students(N=50)	45 (90)	2.34*	>P
	Girls Students(N=50)	36 (72)		
Caste (N=100)	SC Students(N=50)	42 (84)	0.27**	<P
	ST Students(N=50)	41 (82)		
Locality of Habitation (N=100)	Students inhabiting Semi-Urban areas (N=50)	43 (86)	1.27**	<P
	Students inhabiting Rural and Remote areas (N=50)	38 (76)		

\*Significant at .05 Level of Significance, \*\*Not significant at .05 Level of Significance,

Diagram-1



Out of the study of the attitude of secondary level Dalit students of SSD High schools towards functioning of the SSD High schools including their attitude towards their teachers, curriculum, class mates and schools, the data analysis reflected in table No.1 and above diagram no.2 reveals the fact that out of total 50 sampled boys students and 50 sampled girls students of Dalit communities reading in the SSD High Schools of Odisha, respectively about 90 percent of boys and only 72 percent of girls students showed their positive and favorable attitude towards the functioning of the SSD High Schools. However, significantly Dalit boys were better in their attitude than the Dalit girls as the calculated Z value was found to be more than the P value ( $Z=2.34$ ). Thus gender could play a role in influencing the attitude of the Dalit students of secondary level reading in the SSD High school towards the functioning of their SSD High schools.

A higher percent of SC students (84%) and ST students (82%) of SSD High schools out of their respective sampled groups (50 each) showed their favourable and positive attitude towards the functioning of their SSD High schools. On grounds of their caste, SC and ST students of SSD High schools did not differ significantly in their attitude towards the same as their calculated Z value was less than the P value ( $Z=0.27$ ).

Similarly, about 86 percent of Secondary level students of SSD High schools inhabiting the Semi-urban area and 76 percent of Secondary level students of SSD High schools inhabiting the rural areas out of their total sampled groups (50 each) were seen to have positive and favorable attitude towards the functioning of their SSD high schools. With regards to their locality of habitation such as Semi-Urban and Rural areas, secondary level students reading in the SSD high schools significantly did not differ in their attitude and they equally expressed favorable attitude towards the functioning of their SSD High schools. ( $Z=1.27$ ) as their calculated z value remained below the P value.

Hence the hypothesis no.1 is negatively affirmed that there is no significant difference in the attitude of the Dalit children of secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools

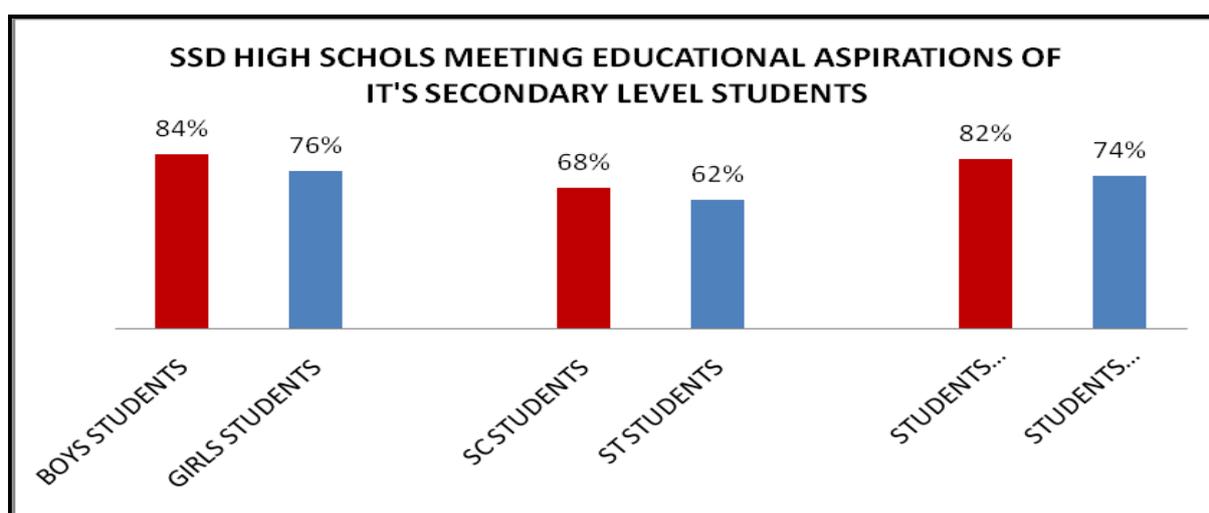
towards functions of SSD High Schools of Odisha with respect to their gender, socio-economic status and locality of habitation.

**Table-2: Study of the Educational Aspiration of Dalit Children of Secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools towards functions of SSD High Schools of Odisha**

Variables	Groups	Agreed (%)	Z value	P value (1.98)
Gender	Boys Students(N=50)	42 (84)	1.00**	<P
	Girls Students(N=50)	38 (76)		
Caste	SC Students(N=50)	34 (68)	0.62**	<P
	ST Students(N=50)	31 (62)		
Locality of Habitation	Students inhabiting Semi-Urban areas(N=50)	41 (82)	0.97**	<P
	Students inhabiting Rural and Remote areas(N=50)	37 (74)		

\*Significant at .05 Level of Significance \*\*Not significant at .05 Level of Significance,

**Diagram-2**



Data analysis shown in the above diagram no.2 and table No.2 with respect to the study of Educational aspirations of Dalit Children of secondary level reading in the SSD High schools reveals the fact that out of total 50 sampled boys and 50 sampled girls students of SSD High Schools, respectively about 84 percent of boys and only 76 percent of girls students were found agreed on fulfillment of their educational aspirations. Both boys and girls were found having equal level of satisfaction on meeting of their educational aspirations as their calculated Z value was found to be less than the P value (Z=1.00). Thus gender could not have any impact on the level of satisfaction of educational aspirations of the secondary level students reading in the SSD high schools.

About 68 percent of SC and 62 percent of ST students of SSD High schools out of their respective sampled groups (50 each) stated that that their educational aspirations are met in reading SSD high schools. On grounds of caste such as SC and ST, students of the secondary level of the SSD high schools did not significantly differ in their level of

satisfaction of their educational aspirations and both SC and ST secondary level students of the SSD high schools had equal level of educational aspirations from their SSD high schools. Therefore, caste of the secondary level students of the SSD high schools had no impact on their educational aspirations.

Similarly, a higher percentage of Secondary level students of SSD High schools inhabiting the Semi-urban area (82%) and only 76 percent of Secondary level students of SSD High schools inhabiting the rural areas out of their total sampled groups (50 each) were seen to be positively stating on meeting of their educational aspirations by reading in SSD high schools. Both the secondary level students of the SSD high schools inhabiting the semi-urban and rural areas were found having significantly equal level of satisfaction of their educational aspirations out of the SSD high schools ( $Z=0.97$ ) neutralizing the factor of locality of their habitation. The interference of mass media, awareness programme and their active involvement in the functioning of the SSD high schools might be the causes to minimize the role of locality of habitation in shaping the level of satisfaction of their educational aspirations through SSD high schools.

Hence the hypothesis no.2 is negatively affirmed that there is no significant difference in the educational aspirations Dalit children of secondary level reading in the SSD High Schools of Odisha with respect to their gender, socio-economic status and locality of habitation.

### **Major Findings**

- a) About 90 percent of boys and 72 percent of girl's students of Dalit groups showed their positive and favorable attitude towards the functioning of the SSD High Schools.
- b) Significantly Dalit boys students had better attitude in comparison to the Dalit girls students of secondary level towards the functioning of their SSD High schools ( $Z=2.34$ ).
- c) A higher percent of SC students and ST students (84% and 82% respectively) of SSD High schools showed their favorable and positive attitude towards the functioning of their SSD High schools without significantly differing among themselves ( $Z=0.27$ ) on grounds of their caste.
- d) About 86 percent of Dalit students of secondary level inhabiting the Semi-urban area and reading in the SSD High schools and 76 percent of Dalit students of Secondary level inhabiting the rural areas and reading in the SSD High schools were seen to have positive and favorable attitude towards the functioning of their SSD high schools
- e) About 84 percent of Dalit boys and 76 percent of Dalit girls' students of secondary level reading in the SSD high schools were found agreed on fulfillment of their educational aspirations placing significantly no importance to their gender ( $Z=1.00$ ).
- f) About 68 percent of SC and 62 percent of ST students of SSD High schools out of their respective sampled groups positively stated to have fulfillment of their

educational aspirations in reading SSD high schools by neutralizing the factor of their caste.

- g) A higher percentage of Dalit Secondary level students of SSD High schools inhabiting the Semi-urban area (82%) and 76 percent of Dalit Secondary level students of SSD High schools inhabiting the rural areas positively stated that their educational aspirations are met through the SSD high schools.

### **Implication of the Study**

Out of the result of the present study, it is implied that, though SSD high schools are functioning in a greater zeal to provide accessibility of education and schooling facilities for the Dalit children especially for SC and ST children and in accommodating them to a certain type of educational institutions developed by the Govt. of Odisha, still it requires to attract more positive attitude of the defined children. Teachers and employees of these SSD high schools are to be more committed towards their duties and responsibilities in meeting the educational aspirations of the SC and ST students reading in that schools. Government should fulfill all educational need and requirements of the SC and ST students reading in SSD high schools. Campus and environment of the SSD high schools are to be made more eco-friendly and appealing to the SC and ST students and their parents too. Teaching equipments and personnel are to be strengthened more in SSD high schools to create favourable attitude in the students of the SSD high schools and meeting their educational aspirations in fullest manner.

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