

## **EDUCATION AND STATUS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN TRIPURA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This piece is a straightforward and sincere effort in bringing out the status and education given in government and private schools of both rural and urban areas of Tripura. Through this current work, a significant and a ardent attempt has been deliberately made to generalise and simplify the critical reasons that causes the backwardness of the students studying in schools of rural areas, in comparison to those studying in schools of urban areas. This article reflect the plights as well as the advantages met by students who are receiving education in both the type of schools mentioned above belonging to both rural and urban areas. The information's required for the study have been collected with the least negligible degree of flawlessness from various government and private schools of rural and urban areas. The findings that are diligently put in this piece would definitely help in comprehending the barriers and the problems students have been facing so far if sincerely attempted can be eradicated. A critical scrutiny into the mentioned barriers and their implementations could undoubtedly do the trick.

**Keywords: Education, Teaching aids, Teacher attitude, Facilities, Family support.**

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## **Introduction**

Children may be regarded as the foundation pillars to the fortune of any country. Children of today are citizens of tomorrow and are also considered as the backbone of a nation as their proper upbringing and development in the domains of cognitive, affective and co native does cast a phenomenal impression to the very existence and civilisation.

Children stage is like toys made of clay; once hardened cannot be reformed no matter how much we try by applying every possible ways, but, is of no use. On the contrary, timely reformation is possible only before the clay gets hardened and thus can be transformed into any shape of choice. Similarly, mind of children are like soft clay and they must be reformed by imparting right education at the right moment and time to give a shape of the educator's choice.

Home is most often found to be quoted as 'the first school of the child'. But it also cannot be denied the fact that school is a very necessary and indispensable agency in the life of an individual, for lot many knowledge and experiences can be gained from a school which is rightly regarded as a miniature society too as it is a gathering venue of children belonging to different culture, society, etc.

It is to be noted that, the students as learners have many roles to play to gain various lessons providing knowledge and information. And it is prime duty of government and also the school authority as well teachers, to play their roles to create a proper and suitable learning situations for the students. Negligence in creating an unpleasant teaching-learning atmosphere in the school premises is nothing less than killing and wasting human resources willingly. If it is sought to douse the flames of illiteracy and unedifying education, this simple but ever immeasurably sensitive matter has to be taken into account.

Tripura, a small state of India, as per details from Census 2011, has a population of 36.74 Lakhs. Tripura is said to have achieved high literacy rate at all India level and as per Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Kolkata, the literacy rate stands at 95.16 per cent in 2013. Literacy is only the ability to read and write and nothing beyond that. It is a fact that there is a vast contrast between literacy and education. A literate person can be both educated as well as uneducated, while an

illiterate can be an educated and an uneducated too that may seem incredible but true as a literate person is the one who possess certain degrees and certificates but may not have required experiences or talent to face challenges of life. On the contrary, an educated person refers to the one who may or may not have any degrees or diplomas but are having needful thoughts, experiences and capabilities to sustain life better. Literacy and education are not interchangeably used terms. Literacy and education are two terms that are not contradictory but complementary to each other. Education is broader in aspect than literacy as it is only a part of education. Thus, it is seen that mere increase in literacy is not enough to build a sound society as literacy is just an instrument of education to establish a society of higher and increased stability.

As an answer to the question as to 'what kind of education do we need?', the great Indian philosopher Swami Vivekananda had rightly said, "We want that kind of education by which our strength of mind is increased, intellect is expanded, character is formed and by which one can stand on one's own feet." If these four aspects are covered by the collaborative and constant effort of the government, teachers as well as the individual people, our country will be much ahead of development in every field. So far as the educational dilemma and condition of Tripura is concerned, it is not a fish of different river.

We must understand that the key to uplift the human resources are undoubtedly in the hands and minds of teachers. If teachers teach their students thinking of them as their own children and with utmost love and care as well as with true spirit, then Tripura can move to a complete different level which could be incomparable to any other achievements of any sorts. It can be with ease comprehended that only patriots can be ideal and true teachers for they will impart knowledge from their soul to the students thinking of this as a service to the Motherland, whereas, most of them would as ill luck would have it, just wait for the salaries and caring not a bit for the country and countrymen.

### **Rationale of the Study**

Every problem has its solution and for this to be a reality, knowing the root cause becomes the most crucial task to solve the problem. The study has thus endeavoured to go through the educational status imparted to the students of government and private schools of both rural and

urban areas of Tripura, that has been going on ever since and at present too, to a great extent. It is a brief but cautious collection of certain informative variability's such as teaching aids, facilities, attitudes of teachers toward students, parents' education, family environment, etc, in schools. Attributes like, the facilities and advantages pertaining to educational field that students of urban areas are enjoying while the students of rural areas are been deprived of is been studied with utmost care.

### **Methodology**

This work is observatory in nature and the sources of data are primary. The researcher has deliberately put his effort to express the matters with respect to the primary data collected from few government and private schools of both rural and urban areas of West Tripura.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

\*In a survey conducted in rural government school of West Tripura district, it was found that only 10% and 3% of fathers and mothers respectively, of students in average, have passed Madhyamik which is really very less in number. When it comes to sharpness of mind, female students appeared to be more responsive and a bit sharper than boys. It is to be noted that children of Madhyamik passed parents were more or less similar to the personality of illiterate parents' children and much variance couldn't be felt in the survey.

In one of the schools, investigator found it well equipped with various educational practical materials like globes, charts, atlas, etc but it is seen that only 39% of the students has been able to practice or utilise those teaching aids to keep abreast of related aspects. Only 30% of the students participate in various school events like exhibitions, programmes, etc, in average, to show their talents and creativities which mean that the rest of the students are either introverts or lacking creativities or just want to avoid publicity. Sports facilities are there in the form of co-curricular activities along with a good sports teacher and that is indeed a good sign. Students hesitatingly responded that their teachers are easily accessible. They have too responded to have been taught by their teachers wholeheartedly and selflessly.

Poor sanitation and toilet condition too is a problem that has remained unwatched, giving discomforts to students in their usage. Another problem that investigator found is seating arrangements. Students of Class 9 consisting of four sections out of which the students of first two sections were made to seat 3 students each in each desk giving them innumerable troubles through out the year. 34 desks are there not big enough a size to fit in 3 students each. During summer days they face even more hurdles as they can't be attentive in their studies too.



In a particular Higher Secondary Schools, the total strength of students is 1337, whereas number of boys are 643 and girls being 694 and total number of Teachers are 28 of which 1 is deputed. It is seen that proportion of girls are comparatively higher than that of boys. Class 9 has 4 sections with 120 students each in average (first two sections are for boys and remaining two sections are girls'). Class 10 has two sections (first section for girls and second section for boys) with a total strength of 132 and 125 students respectively. Class 12 has no sections but has a total strength of 161 students of which 70 are girls and 91 are boys.

From the above information it can be easily felt, the terrible conditions students studying in schools of rural Tripura are going through in this era after seventy years of independence from a foreign rule. These problems must be set to see a better Tripura and a better India in the broader sense.

\*In another survey performed in government school of rural area in the district of West Tripura, it has been found that almost 9% and 7% of fathers and mothers respectively, of students, in average, are educated and this is totally unsatisfactory. So far as sharpness of the students are concerned, boys and girls are more or less equal in giving quick responses and with active participation alongside. Students belonging to educated families were felt to respond more

eagerly, interestedly and with activeness in comparison to those students who belongs to uneducated families. Differences in personality and attitude could be seen distinctly in the school. Students had no such difficulties concerning seating arrangements. This school is having various teaching aids like globes, atlas, charts, etc to instruct them practically with subjects connected with their study and the students are made to use those instruments by the teachers so as to make them know things better according to the taste and interests of the concerned students. It is observed that very less number of students take part in varied school events like exhibitions, programmes, etc.

In this school too they are lagging behind in managing good sanitation for the students which are one of the greatest needs of the hour. A school where a student spend some precious hours of his/her life in the entire day, must, at the minimum, make these crucial things all well and good else it lay various negative impacts upon the students learning career.

In a particular Higher Secondary School, the total strength of students is 783 out of which 598 are boys and 185 are girls. An aggregate of 35 teachers are employed in this school of which 2 teachers are deputed. There are 383 students and 15 teachers in Arts Stream. There are only 23 students in science stream who are taught by 6 teachers.

\*In an observatory survey conducted in the government schools of urban area, it has been found that 80% and 60% of fathers and mothers respectively of students in average are educated which is not bad a number and is much higher than that of the parents of rural areas. 80% of these school students' fathers are employed in government services whereas only 20% of the mothers of students of this school are employed which is not that bad we could say. Sharpness factor could not be distinguished between the boys and girls for they equally actively took part in the classroom discussions connected with the survey. They are almost individually similar in their aptitude and personality so far as they have been recognised in the process of survey and observation. Sanitary conditions too are not up to mark as was observed. No seating arrangement problems was seen or found. It is astounding that being a school of urban area; it is lacking in teaching aid implements like globes, charts, atlas, etc for practically learning purpose of the students. It was observed that almost half of the students are participating in various school

programmes and events which is more in comparison to students of rural schools. Games and sports facilities are there as part of their co-curricular activities and good sports instructor is also present but it is unfortunate that boys are given more emphasis and girls are often been neglected. The researcher could not fathom exactly what the reason might be. Is it because of the lack of sports craze among girls or the school authority intentionally is not paying attention towards girls with respect to games and sports?



School Play Ground not constructively used due to the lack of sports instructors.

Games and sports must be a part of everybody's life irrespective of gender which unfortunately could be seen in this school. The teachers are easily accessible and they impart education wholeheartedly and selflessly which indeed is a good sign that can go a long way in the betterment of the students.

**Factorial similarities that were seemingly present in government schools of both rural and urban areas are:**

Almost 95% of the students, both boys and girls have positively responded of getting family support for their education which really matters a lot. All the students irrespective of the types of schools they study and the kind of area they dwell apparently, replied that their parents stay away from any kind of television entertainment especially by turning off T.V during study hours for they don't want their children to be disturbed or deviated from the path of studious state of mind. So far as projects and home works are concerned, it was observed that they are not assigned with heavy tasks and thus no question of getting stressed arises as an outcome of the mentioned reason. Lack of proper drinking water is a massive problem observed in Government schools of both rural and urban areas. All the students were found to complain about their dissatisfaction

when it comes to hygienic clean drinking water. Pure water is very much essential for the healthy mind and body of any individual, especially for a student. Its unavailability is the root cause of many deadly and learning mechanism staying diseases for it results in their being absent from school. Science labs were present and working accordingly, but so far as computer labs are concerned, response is totally against the direction of Digital India Mission. In some schools there are no computers or computer labs and if there are, instructors are not to be found and thus learning basic computers and life skills in empowering youth to script their future is like a dream that has to be made come true by the government's and school authorities' collaborative constant effort. Another setback in rural government schools is the zero usage of audio-visual equipments to make the students aware and conscious of various facts of the world by showing related videos with audios. Absence of such minimal facility is a great barrier and obstacle on the path of the students educational career and its availability can make the learning process faster and students can capture it in their memory for longer period of time. Dissatisfaction have been observed in the schools pertaining to sufficient working electric fans without which they are facing tremendous problems especially during summer days which divert the minds of almost all students very often and thus stands as a barrier to invaluable school hours. All the types of schools are having sufficient number of classrooms. A very weak and feeble response has been found from the schools on the aspect of quality education. Many of the students were hesitating to answer as they were confused whether they receive quality education or not. They were not at all having certainty on what to say but it could be concluded from their response that they do not receive full fledged qualitative education.

### **Conclusion**

From the entire information collected from both rural and urban areas, not much distinction is noticed in schools except for the parental education and employment, seating arrangement for students. Other than these most of the other problematic factors are almost the same in the government schools of both rural and urban areas of Tripura, that stands tall as a barrier in the educational career of a student. As there is a saying 'something is better than nothing', though students has to pay handsome amounts to be a part of a good and disciplined educational institution, only a private school can at least offer all the types of facilities that government schools of rural and urban areas has totally failed to provide with. Especially, private schools of



urban areas can be seen offering students with a good sanitation and pure drinking water, adequate working electric fans, availability of computer labs with working computers along with instructors adept at operating them, availability of Over Head Projector (OHP) and other audio-visual instruments, presence of good games and sports facilities and instructors and some of the like. These are the basic requirements of a student that he deserve to get or avail to be a good learner and a ideal person both mentally and physically. Thus it was seen that the private schools of urban areas provide their students with the aforesaid necessities that will undoubtedly help those students to be sincere and ideal citizens of our country. It has become the nature of the compatriots to keep blaming others instead of themselves and this disease like nature has found a way home so deep into their minds that they attribute the pathetic and terrible condition of our country pertaining to education to either the government or people just to find an excuse of not willing to getting involved into these ever challenging that has made our country go on her knees with displeasure and helplessness.

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