

## **A Study on the Academic Achievement and Home Climate of Tribal Students in Nilgiri District**

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### **Abstract**

The main objective of the study is to find out the level of academic achievement and Home Climate of Tribal Students living in Nilgiri District. The survey method is used as a method of the study. The 250 tribal students of VIII Std were considered as a sample of the study and they were administered the tool that General Information Schedule, Academic Achievement test and Home Climate Schedule. The results have shown that the tribal students were better academic achievement and Home Climate.

### **Introduction**

Success of a nation is determined by the quality of its citizens. Nation is not built by bricks and mortars but by the quality of men. It does not require any evidence to say that society and development are positively correlated to the development of education. The most significant factor that determines the quality of people is 'Education'. Education plays prime role in economic and social development. It is crucial for building human capability and for opening opportunities (Gupta, 2001).

India has a large number of primitive tribes that live in different parts of the country. There are apparent cultural differences and location practices among the life style of the tribal people of India, but historically there is a basic unity in thought and philosophy among these people born and brought-up in environments of diversity through the length and breadth of the country. In India tribal societies have their own specific characteristics. They live in compact areas, which are generally hilly and undulating terrain. India has the second largest concentration of tribal population after the African continent. Demographically speaking, there are some 250 scheduled tribes with several sub groups speaking some 100 languages / dialects. Most of these tribes constitute separate socio-cultural groups having distinct customs, traditions, marriage, kinship and property inheritance system and they live largely in agricultural and pre-agricultural level of technology (Nagda, 1999, p.36)

### **Scheduled Tribes – Meaning**

The tribals are the indigenous people of India who are generally called 'Adivasis' which literally means original settlers. Under the constitution of India certain tribes have been specified as Scheduled Tribes (ST) and they are given special treatment or facilities or privileges envisaged under the constitution. Scheduled Tribes are one of the most backward sections of our country. Though there has been a gradual increase in their literacy rates since independence, the present position is far from satisfactory (Mohanty, P.K. 2003, p.20)

### **Rationale for the study**

It has been an unrevealed truth why the semi-literate and illiterate tribal parents whose students fail to perform well inspite of having all Government facilities. After Independence, the Centre as well as the State Governments made hectic efforts to solve the educational problems of tribals.

Many programmes have been implemented in our country 'but the results have defied our expectations. In order to motivate the tribal students to join the school and to continue the studies up to a particular stage, the Government and other agencies sponsor free learning and instructional materials, free mid-day meals, free uniform, scholarships, stipends and so on, but yet wastage and stagnation are common among these people.

### Statement of the problem

“A study on the academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in Nilgiri district”

### Objectives

1. To find out the level of academic achievement of tribal students in terms of

a.	Sex	:	Male / Female
b.	Place of Residence	:	Rural / Urban
c.	Parents Income	:	Upto Rs.1000/ Rs.1000 – 2000 Rs.2000 – 3000/Above Rs.3000
d.	Type of School	:	Govt. Tribal Residential School / Govt. General School / Private School
e.	Class	:	VIII / IX
f.	Parent's Educational Qualification		
	Father	:	Illiterate / Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> Std 6 – 8 <sup>th</sup> Std/Above 8 <sup>th</sup> Std
	Mother	:	Illiterate / Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> Std 6 – 8 <sup>th</sup> Std/Above 8 <sup>th</sup> Std
g.	Father's Occupation	:	Own Business / Coolie / Others
h.	Distance of the School	:	Within 2km / 2 – 3km / 3-5km / Above

2. To find out the level of home climate of tribal students in terms of the above said Independent variables.
3. To find out the significant difference if any, in the academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in Nilgiri district in terms of sex and parents income.
4. To find out the correlation between academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in terms of the above said independent variables.

### Hypotheses

1. The level of academic achievement tribal students in Nilgiri district is average.
2. The level of home climate of tribal students in Nilgiri district is average.
3. There is no significant difference if any, in the academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in Nilgiri district in terms of sex and parents income.
4. There is no significant correlation between academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in terms of the above said independent variables.

### Methodology

The researcher has adapted the survey method for this investigation.

### Population

Population of the present study consists of the tribal students studying in VIII std in the Government Tribal Residential Schools of Nilgiri District.

**Sample**

The investigator has taken random sampling technique among the tribal students studying in std VIII in the schools of Government Tribal Residential Schools of Nilgiri District. The actual samples drawn are given below:

**Tools for investigation**

1. General information schedule
2. Academic achievement
3. Home climate schedule

**Analysis of Data:****Hypothesis 1**

1. The level of academic achievement of tribal students in Nilgiri district is average.

**Table showing the level of academic achievement of tribal students in terms of independent variables**

Categories	Total	Low		Medium		High	
	No.	No	%	No	%	No	%
Male	139	30	21.58	86	61.87	23	16.55
Female	111	11	9.91	77	69.37	23	20.72
Below Rs. 1000	147	21	14.29	106	72.11	20	13.61
Rs. 1000 and above	103	20	19.42	57	55.34	26	25.24
Illiterate	108	19	17.59	76	70.37	13	12.04
Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> std	137	20	14.6	85	62.04	32	23.36
5- 8 <sup>th</sup> std	5	2	40.0	2	40.0	1	20.0
Illiterate	149	26	17.45	100	67.11	23	15.44
Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> std	96	15	15.63	59	61.46	22	22.92
5- 8 <sup>th</sup> std	5	0	0.00	4	80.00	1	20.00
Own business	94	0	0.00	86	91.49	8	8.51
Coolie	114	41	35.96	73	64.04	0	0.00
Others	42	0	0.00	4	9.52	38	90.48
2-3 km	76	8	10.53	43	56.58	25	32.89
3-5 km	99	16	16.16	68	68.69	15	15.15
Above 6 km	75	17	22.67	52	69.33	6	8.00

The above table shows that most of the tribal students belong to medium level of academic achievement irrespective of sex, parent's income, father's education, mother's education, father's occupation and distance of the school.

### Hypothesis 2

1. The level of home climate of tribal students in Nilgiri district is average.

#### Table showing the level of home climate of tribal students in terms of independent variables

Category	Number	Low		Medium		High	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
Male	139	16	11.51	105	75.54	18	12.95
Female	111	15	13.51	82	73.87	14	12.61
Below Rs. 1000	147	26	17.69	103	70.07	18	12.24
Rs. 1000 & above	103	5	4.85	84	81.55	14	13.59
Illiterate	108	23	21.30	76	70.37	9	8.33
Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> std	137	8	5.84	108	78.83	21	15.33
5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> std	5	0	0.00	3	60.00	2	40.00
Illiterate	149	22	14.77	116	77.85	11	7.38
Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> std	96	7	7.29	69	71.88	20	20.83
5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> std	5	2	40.00	2	40.00	1	20.00
Own business	94	7	7.45	68	72.34	19	20.21
Coolie	114	16	14.04	88	77.19	10	8.77
Others	42	8	19.05	31	73.81	3	7.14
2-3 km	76	10	13.16	58	76.32	8	10.53
3-5 km	99	12	12.12	73	73.74	14	14.14
Above 6 km	75	9	12.00	56	74.67	10	13.33
Total sample	250	31	12.40	187	74.80	32	12.80

The above table shows that most of the tribal students belong to medium level of home climate irrespective of sex, parents' income, father's education, mother's education, father's occupation and distance of the school.

### Hypothesis 3

1. There is no significant difference if any, in the academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in Nilgiri district in terms of sex and parents income.

**Critical ratio test & 't' – test****Table showing the mean difference of academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in terms of independent variables**

Factors	Independent variables	Category	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	CR Value	Remarks
Academic Achievement	Sex	Male	139	108.396	49.834	2.854	Significant & HO rejected
		Female	111	119.694	46.262		
	Parent's income	Below Rs. 1000	147	110.687	42.958	2.016	Significant & HO rejected
		Rs. 1000 and above	103	118.301	55.452		
Home climate	Sex	Male	139	124.657	11.313	2.547	Significant & HO rejected
		Female	111	124.865	11.325		
	Parent's income	Below Rs. 1000	147	124.578	10.340	5.235	Significant & HO rejected
		Rs. 1000 and above	103	125.398	10.126		

There is significant difference in the academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in terms of independent variables namely sex and parents' income and hence the null hypothesis is rejected.

**Hypothesis 4**

There is no significant correlation between academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in terms of the above said independent variables.

**Correlation analysis****Table showing the correlation between academic achievement and home climate of tribal students in terms of independent variables**

Independent variables	Category	df	r value		Remarks
			Calculated value	Table value	
Sex	Male	137	0.0202	0.159	N.S
	Female	109	0.0503	0.174	N.S
Parent's income	Below Rs. 1000	145	0.1641	0.159	S
	Rs. 1000 and above	101	0.0769	0.174	N.S
Father's education	Illiterate	106	0.9462	0.174	S
	Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> std	135	0.7431	0.159	S
	5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> std	3	0.9727	0.878	S
Mother's education	Illiterate	147	0.9526	0.159	S
	Upto 5 <sup>th</sup> std	94	0.0783	0.195	N.S
	5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> std	3	0.9727	0.878	S
Father's occupation	Own business	92	0.0071	0.195	N.S
	Coolie	112	0.2678	0.174	S
	Others	40	0.0221	0.304	N.S
Distance of	2-3 km	74	0.036	0.217	N.S
	3-5 km	97	0.263	0.195	S

the school	Above 6 km	73	0.364	0.217	S
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The null hypothesis is rejected in the case of

1. Parents whose income is below Rs. 1000
2. All categories under father's education
3. Whose mother's education is 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> std and illiterate

### Findings and Interpretations

The findings related to the academic achievement of the tribal students on the basis of the background variables prove that the tribal students of Nilgiri district are now better in their academic achievement i.e., most of the students belong to the **medium academic achievement category**.

Similarly, when we look into the level of the factors affecting academic achievement of the tribal students regarding education taken for the study, they are **better in their home climate**. This clearly indicates that social deprivation did not have much influence over the academic achievement of tribal students. Probably better home climate, would have helped them for better academic achievement.

As in the case of the current records of the academic achievement of male and female students of Tamil Nadu at all levels, the **female students have got better academic achievement than that of the male students**. Similarly female students have better home climate. Probably, this is one of the reasons, that the female students rise up their academic level.

Findings based on correlation, home climate have influence on the academic achievement of the tribal students.

### Conclusion

From the major findings of the study it is clear that the tribal students of Nilgiri district are somewhat better in their academic achievement. It is also true that the Government of India and State Governments are taking intensive efforts for the quantitative and qualitative upliftment of education for the scheduled tribe students. The tribal students are also better in their home climate, of the present study. This may be one of the reasons for the encouraging academic achievement record of the tribal students of Nilgiri district.

If more attention is focused on the improvement of the home climate of the tribal students, definitely students could achieve higher than this. This could be done only with co-operative involvement of the parents, teachers and the society.

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