A Study of Status of Adolescent Girls in Relation to their Socio-Economic Status

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Abstract

The main aim of this problem is to identify the position & status of girls in relation to their socio-economic status. There have been great differences in the status of girls residing in rural and urban areas. Power is the most important element in term of status. Adolescent girls are very important section of our society, as they are our potential mothers and future homemakers. For this study 200 adolescent girls will be selected from Rural and Urban areas in & around of Ghatsila in East singhbhum district of JHARKHAND. They will be of the age group between 14 to 18 years of age. To collect the required data from the present study developed by Meenakshi Sharma (Socio-Economic status scale) and Dr Devendra and Dr Alpana (Adolescent Girls status) will be used. The result will show the following details, 1. Will note the changes in the status of Girls belonging to Rural and Urban areas. 2. Significant difference in the socio-economic status of Girls of Rural and Urban areas.

Introduction : -

The 21st century has been declared as century for the Women. In this changing scenario, the girls need more attention by the school, parents and the family. After various efforts by Government, NGO's and social activist the phenomenal Girls' status is not taking the desired shape due to the lack of strength in general from the rural and tribal areas. This will be indicated by the statistical data. Actually girl's status is not simply switching ON and switching OFF .Girls' have enough energy which need to be channelized in a fruitful manner, so that society can derive best out of this. Girl's status is in a transient phase of learning by which girls identify their won potential and accordingly they incorporate changes to perform better in the society. Status is not given by anyone but it is a processing of gaining confidence from inside and to be used it for the adjustment of life by learning their own potential and believing it, this will give a definite shape to their performance in the years to come.

Adolescent girls are very important section of our society as they are our potential mothers and futures homemakers. During adolescent period of human growth due to growth period, the risk of iron deficiency and anemia appears to be more for girls; it even remains during the reproductive life cycle, if corrective measures are not suitably introduced. Several studies on the prevalence of anemia among adolescent girls have been carried out in the Nothern and Southern parts of India. (Gawarikar and Tripathi 2002).

Status is the process, by which one can gain control over one's destiny and the circumstances of their lives. Status can be viewed as means of creating a social environment in which one can make decisions and make their choices either individually

or collectively for social transformation.

Girl's status enables autonomy and control over their lives. The status of girls become agents of their own development, able to exercise choice to set their own agenda and be strong enough to challenge and change their subordinate position in the societies.

According to Alpana Singh (2000) adjustment level of Rural Girls was more than adjustment of Urban Girls. Further she found that personality depends on their place of stay. Urban Girls have better personality than Rural Girls.

Alpana Singh (2000) found that the Urban Girls are more economically stronger than the Rural Girls.

Adolescents who constitute about 25% of the total population are future generation of the country and their nutritional needs are critical for the well-being of the society and demand a special concerted attention. The foundation of adequate growth and development is laid before birth, during childhood, and is followed during adolescence. The period represents an important physiological phase of life characterized by rapid growth and development both physical and physiological (Heald 1969).

The rate of malnutrition in girls not only contributes to increase morbidity and mortality associated with pregnancy and delivery, but also to increase the risk of delivering low birth weight babies. This contributes to the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. Nutritional status during early adolescence has great influence on adolescent growth spurt and age at menarche. This is a key period for adult dietary pattern. Nutritional requirement in terms of body cell mass, during adolescence need to be catered for. Thus, nutritional pattern in these growing years has special significance. Intake of nutrients by adolescents is likely to be influenced by the characteristics of their life styles, which may affect their food habits as well as their physiological requirements for nutrients. It is important to know the health and nutritional status of this group so that corrective measures can be implemented in time to prevent high mortality and morbidity. Moreover information on the nutritional status of adolescent girls is still insufficient particularly with respect to tribal belt of Jharkhand. Keeping this in view, a study will be conducted to assess the nutritional profile of tribal adolescents in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

Anemia if untreated has poor consequences. It can result in impaired physical and cognitive development (in children and adolescents), reduced work capacity and hence productivity, lowered resistance to disease and increased morbidity and mortality. Anemia also results in poor pregnancy outcomes such as maternal mortality, prenatal mortality, premature delivery and low birth weight. Iron deficiency along with deficiency of other nutrients is the major cause of anemia especially in India. Iron deficiency is caused by poor dietary intake, poor iron and other nutrient intake, poor bioavailability of dietary iron in phytate fiber rich, Indian diet and blood loss (for example, from hookworm, repeated childbirth or heavy menstruation which leads to loss of Iron). The main causes of anemia among girls and women in India are due to poor diets with low bio available iron combined with worm infestation.

Socio-economic status is commonly conceptualized as the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation. Examinations of socioeconomic status often reveal inequities in access to resources, plus issues related to privilege, power and control.

When analyzing a family SES the household income, earners education and occupation are examined, as well as combined income versus with an individual, when their won attributes are assessed.

Socioeconomic status is typically broken into three categories, high SES, middle SES, and low SES to describe the three areas, a family or an individual may fall into. When placing a family or individual into one of these categories any or all of three variables (income, education and occupation) can be assessed. Additionally low income and little education have shown to be strong predictors of range of physical and mental health problems, ranging from respiratory viruses, arthritis, coronary disease, and schizophrenia. These may be due to environmental conditions in their workplace, or in the case of mental illnesses, may be the entire cause of that person's social predicament to begin with.

Objective: - The study is designed to attain the following objectives,

1. To study the status of Adolescent girls
2. To study the Socio-Economic status of Adolescent Girls.
3. To study the difference between status of Rural and urban Girls.
4. To find out relationship between Adolescents Girls status and Socio- economic status of Girls.

Hypothesis: -

1. There exists no significant difference in status of Rural and Urban adolescents Girls.
2. There exists no significant difference in socio-economic status of Rural and Urban adolescent's girls.
3. There exists no significant relationship between status of adolescent girls and their socio-economic status.

Sample: - Random Sampling technique will be used to collect data. Data collected from the areas in & around Ghatsila of East Singhbhum, where sample of 200 adolescents' girls. 100 Girls from Rural areas and 100 girls from urban areas.

Tools: -

1. Socio-Economic status scale (Meenakshi Sharma)
2. Adolescent Girls status scale (Dr. Devendra and Dr. Alpana)

Results:-

1. Girls of Rural and Urban areas haven't equal socio-economic status.
2. Statuses of adolescent girls in rural and urban areas haven't correlated.

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