

SOCIAL STATUS OF THE COMMON MEN AT JAMUNAMARATHUR BLOCK IN JAWADHU HILLS WITH DISTINCT ALLUSION TO EDUCATION CIRCUMSTANCES

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The Social status of the common man basically depends on their percapita, employment status, life style, habit, habitat and culture. For most of the families in Jawadhu hills, their identity is vanishing everyday due to their obliviousness and sluggishness in learning. The initiations taken by government and support organisations fail to reach till the bottom of the needy and downtrodden community. It's only through education and socio awareness which can reform this society paving way for new hope and new life. Education in the form of literary knowledge, skill development tasks and resource management will uplift this society.

Key words: Society, tribe, learning, skill, resource

Introduction

The true identity of the society which is far from the hutches of materialistic human, constellations of commuter traffic and contaminated environment is revealed. The society in which tradition, life style and culture is diverse from other related tribal communities in India. The habit and habitat of the people is different from people of the other similar areas. Both the central and state governments have been contributing for the progress of this society so called "Malayalee". Mala means *Hills* and yalee means rulers who rule the *Jawadhu Hills* is one of the primitive tribes in India living there for decades. This society is spread across the mountains of Jawadhu Hills which is shared by the judiciary of two districts namely Vellore and Thiruvannamalai. The major share of this community fits to Thiruvannamalai district and little share is retained under Vellore district. Evidence at KeelChepli stone houses, proves us that existence of human civilisation has a history of over 5000 years. The recent population of the Jawadhu block is around one lakh. Out of which 98% are from Tribal community and 2% are from other caste. The hills are around 2315 to 3000 feet above the mean sea level. This Jawadhu hills is popular for its Sandalwood, Teakwood and Rosewood and different herbs species. Elephants, foxes, deers, forest buffaloes and monkeys are spotted in the mountain ranges. This paper focuses on the community which are habituated in Jamunamarathur the biggest of 272 villages in Jawadhu hills.

Background

Any government which is in power showcase its strength by supporting the below poverty line and backward community people. Starting from preparing of its election manifesto till it declares the policies open in the cabinet after coming to power, the main agenda will be policies exclusively designed to attract below margin people. The reasons are simple that most of the community in Thiruvannamalai and Vellore constitutions are either in Middle class, Lower middle class or the weaker class. When it comes to Jawadhu hills the attention is much higher as this is one among the few oldest tribal communities in India. Either it is a welfare department or cooperative society much attention is given for the growth of this society. Establishment of Ayurveda Research Centre, Herbal Medicine research centre, Tribal community welfare society and cooperative terminal to transfer agricultural products are some of the initiatives taken by government for the welfare of this community. In addition to this government and non-government organizations support this village headquarter on several aspects that include farmers support initiations, health supplies, pathway to better living conditions and self-help groups. Education which is the back bone of future community, though is delivered, the focus and results are not achieved yet. A profound transformation is required for the CHANGE in the mind-set of the young generation who are right now in different levels of Schools spread across the mountain.

Literary Analysis

Conventionally denoted to as “adivasis” or scheduled tribes (STs) constitute about 9% of India’s population. As a basic module of human improvement; the 83rd Amendment to the constitution has made unrestricted elementary education a necessary right of all the citizens of India. Sequential governments have endeavoured to poise the disproportion in the education system, particularly for the ostracized groups. Realistic indication suggests that tribal children own the basic intellectual capabilities and psychological temperaments for successful involvement in schools, and their low realization levels are accredited to school-related variables as would smear to non-tribal students. Poor concert of tribal students and the below average position of primary education in tribal areas is obsessed by inter-related issues. Maximum children tend to be first generation learners whose education is not strengthened or reinforced in their home environments

Literary survey shows that the department of forest plays a vital role by taking care of the forest wealth by means of reducing deforestation and giving protections to herbs and medicinal value plants and trees. In addition to that they focus their attention on the development of children by providing them opportunities for education. Till 2009 they spend over forty two lakhs Indian rupee towards school development. They manage fourteen schools in Jawadhu Hills along with the support

of Tamilnadu Education Department. Today the school at Jamunamarathur is elevated to Higher Secondary School that consist of Hostels exclusively for girls students. The other High School managed by forestry is at Pudurnadu. In another survey it is clearly mentioned that the literacy rate in the hills increased from 0.2 % to 28 % ever since the Society for Rural Development (SFRD) had been imparting education to tribal students in hills. Recognizing the services of the SFRD, the AdiDravidar and Tribal Welfare Department had extended 50 per cent education grant to the society as per the GO. No.105 dated September 11, 1998.

People organization for planning and Education portayedthatmost of the children in the smaller villages have to walk for about 5 kilomètres to reach the elementarschool. This is an important factor thatreducesschoolenrollmentand the drop out from the schools are veryhigh. Very few childrencontinue theireducationbeyond eighth standard. Femaleeducationisneglected. Even few people who are educated are unemployed in the hills and soothersget no motivation for theirstudies.The Society for Women's Education And Development(SWED) in Jamunamarathur contribute on Education & Literacy, Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation, Environment &Forests, Women's Development & Empowerment, HIV/AIDS.

Society for rural development is taking care of the selling of the products like herbal items, honey, wood crafts and agricultural productivities produced by the local people in Jawadhu hills through the two retail outlets operation at Polur&Jamunamarathur. This assures hope to the people for obtaining the best prices for associates for their produce.

Existing Senario in School Education

Union schools are established by Education Department, Government of Tamilnadu. The infrastructure and facilities related to classroom teaching that includes teaching aids, lab equipment's and furniture's are provided by the government. Maintenance and replacements are carried out through proper channel which consumes lot of time and this delay the teaching learning consistency. There is no standardised monitoring tool to evaluate teacher's involvement in students and classes. Higher officials believe that the results of class ten disclose the potential of the teachers. In case of any discrepancy with the results or the pass percentage the school authorities are questioned. So the educational officer focus their attention to class ten and higher secondary schools. Because of this the primary and secondary schools are overlooked. As a result the basement for a bright future is damaged.

Schools that are under the control of Forest Department are comparatively better than the schools that are controlled by Unions as the forest rangers frequently make a visit to school to monitor the progress and functioning. In addition to this, they have guards who in turn reports frequently to the rangers.

Forest School heads should send a Monthly Report to the Forest department mentioning the functioning of the school. The infrastructure, basic amenities and ambience provided to the students are much better. The pass percentage in high school and drop outs are comparatively less in these schools. The teachers in these schools are under supervision hence it make a positive impact on the society development.

Nature of Parents

Most of the students attending the schools are the first generation children. Out of great compulsion and creating awareness about education by government, NGO's and welfare associations, parents send their children to schools. Not that they want their children to be educated, but for the following reasons

- Free food is provided thrice a day in some of the schools which reduces the burden of feeding the child for the lazy parents.
- Few schools have hostel facilities that provide free shelter for extremely poor among the tribes that pave protection for their children even if they go out of the village for work.
- Four sets of uniform are issued to the children registered in the school which eventually reduces the expenditure of procuring dresses for their wards.
- NGO's and other societies promise to help them only if they send their wards to school. So till they get their things done that send their children to school.

Parents consider their children as one among the revenue generation person. They send them as daily wages, monthly wages or sometime as a bonded labour. Laziness is their inbuilt habit and to keep them with less work they substitute their children. Most of the parents are alcoholic and smokers. They need money for their expenses so they seldom care about the future of their children. Some of the young men are used by smugglers to swindle the forest wealth. Some smugglers take them to the neighbouring state to bring down sandal and rose wood and sell in the black market.

Problemsfaced by Administarative Heads

Though government appoint teachers with Bachelor Degree in education for middle schools they are transferred to high schools as there is a deficit in teachers there. Hence the number of teachers in these middle schools is kept vacant most of the time. One or two teachers handle classes for all subjects from grade one to eight invariable of their majors of expertise of the teacher. Moreover government insist on improving pass percentage for the students appear in Tenth standard board exams. Every school should progress in its result failing which memos are given

to the teachers concerned. Head masters in high schools get teachers from middle school if they lack in teachers supply from the government. Government invest huge money and time for the development of the teachers in Activity Based Learning and few other application methodologies. But most teachers fail to transfer the knowledge to the students due to lack of practice and involvement during their training.

Problems Faced by Teachers

Some of the schools follow the system of single teacher school and two teacher schools. In these schools if the teacher falls sick or fail to attend the school due to personal reasons the students are left free without education. So absenteeism of teachers even for an appropriate reason is considered as faulty. Accommodation for teachers posted to these schools from other places of the state is not so conducive. That too for a women candidate it is the worst nightmare in their career. Transportation facilities to nearby towns like Vellore, Polur, Tirupatur or Vaniyambadi is negligible. So shuttling to schools from nearby towns is a hindrance. Teachers find it difficult to stay for a longer period as the mountain zone is alienated from the urban population. Hence newly appointed teachers tend to relocate after a minimum period. Local customs and tradition is another big threat for the teachers. They find it very difficult to go in hand with the local customs. Villages are scarcely located near so movement between villages is difficult unless the teachers possess their own means of transport. The Medical facilities cannot solve emergency situations. So no teacher from a foreign land is willing to serve this society. Teachers strongly believe that no support or understanding from the parents to let their ward for education as they pull them to work during harvest seasons and sometime send them to daily wages. Even if the teacher convince the student they may stay in the class for about two hours, then they go hand in hand as per the wish of their parents.

As per the regulation of the state government students in government schools should be promoted till their eighth grade. Whether the students acquire the skills required to pass the exams in the respective grade or class, nothing like failing the student till they complete grade eight. Most of the students in this area find it difficult to identify alphabets and fail to complete tasks in basics Math and science too after they come to grade nine. So a teacher who handle classes for grade nine miserably fail to stuff the students with the knowledge they have to acquire in due course. Other problem in executing the methodology is the lack of teaching aids. Most of the teaching aids are produced in Charts and paper related materials. So the durability of these aids may prolong for a maximum period of two years. When the tools are worn out the department make a recommendation of purchase to the government and it takes another one to two years to reach the schools again. This fails the teacher in executing what they have learned.

Conclusion

The growth of a society depends on the establishment of economic resources, favourable habitat, supply chain management, culture among families and healthy environment. The base for all the growth depends not only on the education they acquire through experience in farming, finance and management but through the learning they acquire in school and higher education. Experiential education helps only few of them to outshine in their life and that is limited to only a part of the community. But adequate book and skills education help people from all the levels of community to grow and help each other to develop their near and dear.

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