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A study on awareness of parents and SMC members towards right of children to free and compulsory education Act-2009 in tribal areas of Odisha

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Abstract

The awareness of Parents and SMC Members towards Right to Education Act needs significant help for proper implementation of the act and also the awareness of parents plays an important role in success of any new system of education. The present study has been undertaken to analyse the awareness about Right to Education Act among parents and SMC members of tribal children. In this study, the investigator used a survey method by which Kandhamala District in Odisha was taken as a population. Out of 12 blocks in Kandhamal District, 04 blocks were selected randomly.

From each blocks 10 elementary schools were selected. 220 parents were involved in this study. Self-developed Awareness test for Parents and SMC Members were used for the collection of data. The result of the study showed that, there is no significant difference between male and female parents in tribal areas of Odisha on awareness about RTE Act, 2009. There also exists no significant difference on awareness among the tribal parents on the basis of qualification and occupation towards RTE Act, 2009.

Keywords: Awareness, RCFCE Act-2009, Tribal Areas

Introduction

To our advantages, education of the child has become a right and the concerned child should be given all sorts of privileges to claim and enjoy right to education. To make this a reality, a positive beginning was made by the government in India and the Right to Education Act was passed by the Indian Parliament on 4th August, 2009. It provide free and compulsory education up to the age group of 6 to 14 years. The school alone cannot satisfy all the requirements for complete, comprehensive education. When schools, parents work together to support learning, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, and enrol in higher level programs. To better understand the students, to identify the best teaching approaches suitable to the learners, frequent interaction of teachers with parents is essential (KCG, 2017). Without the help of community and parents students can not be learn properly. Basically in tribal areas parent's involvement is essential for successful implementation of RTE Act. Parents should be aware and responsible for their children to provide all type of facilities through which their children get educated. The present study has been selected with the intention of finding out the awareness level of different tribal stakeholders particularly Parents and SMC Members towards RTE Act,

Rationale of the Study

The Hindu, New Delhi, 25th July 2012 wrote disadvantages, weaker sections and tribal people are not much progress with this act. Therefore special aids, educational materials, number of trained teachers, infrastructural facilities and awareness programme among teachers, parents, students and community members are required to ensure RTE Act to these children.

Some of the research studies on the RTE Act-2009, which have been reviewed showed that the implementation status of RTE Act, 2009 in tribal areas is not so encouraging. There is a lack of awareness about the act at the community level (Sarvapalli, 2012) ^[10]. Rajput and Aziz (2013) Conducted a study on 200 parents of urban slum dwellers of Delhi which revealed that 88 per cent of parents were unaware of RTE Act and only 5 per cent parents were aware of the duty of the parents to send their child to school. It is also found that there is a marked difference in awareness between Govt. and private school teachers on the RTE Act (Vyas, 2011). Male teachers are more aware than female teachers towards RTE. Kaur, (2015) ^[5] conducted a study and found that there is significant difference exists between the awareness of male -female, rural-urban, and science-arts stream secondary school teachers. Manju (2015) ^[6] conducted a study on awareness about Right to Education Act (RTE) among parents of students belonging to soliga tribe and found that the levels of awareness on RTE Act among these parents are significantly low.

There is a need for interventions to improve and create awareness among parents about RTE Act which would contribute to the achievement of universalization of Elementary Education. However, from the above studies it is clear that, so many studies related to awareness of teachers towards RTE Act was conducted but there is hardly any study conducted in tribal areas related to awareness of Parents towards RTE Act. In the present study the researcher is interested to know the awareness level of parents and SMC members towards RTE Act-2009 in tribal Areas of Odisha.

Objective of the Study

- To find out the level of awareness of parents and SMC members of elementary schools in tribal areas of Odisha about Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

Hypotheses of the Study

H1-Parents and SMC members of elementary schools are aware of RTE Act, 2009.

H0₁: There is no significant difference in awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their gender.

H0₂: There is no significant difference in awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their qualification.

H0₃: There is no significant difference in awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their occupation.

H0₄: There is no significant difference in awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their rank.

Methodology

- Design of the Study:** The researcher had used survey method to conduct the present study. Descriptive research design was used in the study.
- Population of the Study:** Population of the present study comprises of all the elementary schools of tribal areas of Odisha. Target population is restricted to all the elementary schools of Kandhamal district of Odisha and the accessible population is 04 blocks of Kandhamal district out of 12 blocks.
- Sample of the Study:** Out of 12 blocks in Kandhamal district, 04blocks were selected randomly for the present

study. From each blocks 10 elementary schools were selected randomly. From each school 05 parents and 05 SMC members were selected conveniently on the basis of their availability and interest. The following table shows the sample of the study.

Table 1: Number of parents/ community members

Sl. No.	Block	No. Of Schools	Gender		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Phulbani	10	45	23	68
2	Khajuripada	10	34	21	55
3	Chakapada	10	32	18	50
4	Tikabali	10	35	12	47
Total	04	40	146	74	220

- Tools: Awareness test for Parents and SMC Members.** The tool was designed to explore the awareness of parents and SMC Members about RCFCE Act, 2009 in elementary schools. The first part consisted of 10 multiple items and second part consisted 11 numbers of questions in yes- no forms in different aspect of RCFCE Act.

Results

Awareness of Parents and SMC members about RTE Act in Tribal Areas

Parents, the primary caretakers have to support the education of their children. Hence, parents should be aware about the benefit and provisions of RTE Act so that it will be helpful for their children to assess education.

H1 - Parents and SMC members of elementary schools are aware of RTE Act, 2009.

Table 2: Overall Performance of Parents and SM C on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

N	Mean	SD
220	17.57	4.07

Table-2 shows the mean and SD of total Parents in terms of awareness of RTE Act, 2009. Single parents can score a maximum of 20 marks on the given questionnaire. The mean score secured by the total sample is 17.57 which are more than average and SD value is 4.70. This shows that the level of awareness is very high.

H0₁: There is no significant difference in the awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their gender.

Table 3: Mean, SD and t-value of Male and Female Parents on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Sig. (P- Value)	Remarks
Male	146	17.95	3.244	218	1.919	.056	Not Significant
Female	74	16.84	5.286				

The Table -3 shows that the Mean and SD of male is 17.95 and 3.244 and female is 16.84 and 5.286 respectively. As per the Table 4.39, mean scores of male parents is more than the female parents. There was very small difference in the awareness level of the male and female parents i.e. 1.11% in tribal areas. This reveals that male parents have greater awareness than the female parents with regard to awareness of RTE Act, 2009. The obtained P-value (0.056) is more than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis, “There is no significant difference in the awareness of elementary school parents and

SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their gender” is accepted. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is no significant difference between male and female parents in tribal areas of Odisha on awareness about RTE Act, 2009. Same result was found by Choudhary (2014) and Sarvapalli (2012) ^[10].

H0₂. There is no significant difference in the awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their qualification.

Table 4: Mean, SD based on Qualification of Parents and SMC on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Qualification	N	Mean	SD	df	F-value	Sig. (P- Value)	Remarks
Upto 10 th	190	17.51	4.19	217	0.371	0.691	Not significant
+2 to +3	25	18.20	3.37				
PG and Above	05	17.00	2.24				

The Table-4 shows that the Mean and SD of parents whose qualification is upto 10th, are 17.51 and 4.19, qualification between +2 and +3 are 18.20 and 3.37 and the qualification above PG are 17.00 and 2.24 respectively. From the above table, the mean scores of +2 to +3 qualification parents are high as comparison to other qualification teachers. This reveals that BA qualification parents have greater awareness than the other parents. The obtained P-value (0.691) is more

than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis, “There is no significant difference in the awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their qualification” is accepted. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is no significant difference on awareness among the tribal parents on the basis of qualification towards RTE Act, 2009. No study is found similar or dissimilar to present study.

Table 5: Qualification F-value of Parents on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Qualification	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F- value	Sig. (P-value)	Remarks
Between Groups	12.342	2	6.171	0.371	0.691	Not Significant
Within Groups	3613.495	217	16.652			
Total	3625.836	219				

The results of Table-5 shows, that the Mean square of between groups is 6.171 and within groups is 16.652. The obtained P-value (0.691) is more than 0.05. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is no significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the

tribal parents with respect to their qualification. H_{03} . There is no significant difference in the awareness of elementary school teachers towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their occupation.

Table 6: Occupation F-value of Parents on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Occupation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig. (P-value)	Remarks
Between Groups	104.402	3	34.801	2.135	0.097	Not Significant
Within Groups	3521.435	216	16.303			
Total	3625.836	219				

The Table-6 shows that the Mean square of between groups is 34.801 and within groups is 16.303. The obtained P-value (.097) is more than 0.05. Thus, it is confirmed from the result

that, there is no significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their occupation.

Table 7: Mean, SD based on occupation of Parents and SMC on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Occupation	N	Mean	SD	df	F-value	Sig. (P- Value)	Remarks
Agriculture	109	17.42	4.13	216	2.135	0.097	Not Significant
Business	17	19.47	3.64				
Service	23	18.52	2.21				
Others	71	17.04	4.40				

The Table-7 shows that the Mean and SD of Agricultural parents are 17.42 and 4.13, business parents are 19.47 and 3.64, service holder parents are 18.52 and 2.21 and others those who are not doing above occupation are 17.04 and 4.40 respectively. The obtained P-value (0.097) is little more than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis, “There is no significant difference in the awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act,

2009 with respect to their occupation” is accepted. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is no significant difference on awareness among the tribal parents on the basis of occupation towards RTE Act, 2009. No study is found similar or dissimilar to present study. H_{04} . There is no significant difference in awareness of elementary school parents and SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their rank.

Table 8: Mean, SD based on Rank of Parents and SMC on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Rank	N	Mean	SD	df	F-value	Sig. (P- Value)	Remarks
Below Avg.	17	7.41	4.74	219	374.893	0.000	Significant
Avg.	78	15.74	1.21				
High	125	20.10	1.66				

In this study, on the basis of their score secured in the awareness test, all the parents were provided rank. The parents those who are secured 0-40% scores are comes under low rank, 41-70% scores comes under average rank and

above 71% comes under high rank. The results of Table 4.50 shows, that the Mean and SD of below average group is 7.41 and 4.74 and the mean and SD of average is 15.74 and 1.21 and high is 20.10 and 1.66 respectively. As per the above

table the mean scores of high rank parents are high as compare to low and average rank holder. This indicates that high rank parent’s awareness level is high as compare to other parents. The obtained P-value (0.000) is smaller than 0.01. Therefore, the null hypothesis, “There is no significant difference in the awareness of elementary school parents and

SMC members towards the implementation of RTE Act, 2009 with respect to their ranks” is rejected. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is significant difference in the awareness about RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their Rank. No study is found similar to present study.

Table 9: Rank, F-value of Parents on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Rank	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig. (P-value)	Remarks
Between Groups	2811.999	2	1405.999	374.893	0.000	Significant
Within Groups	813.837	217	3.750			
Total	3625.836	219				

The result of Table-9 shows that the Mean square of between groups is 1405.999 and within groups is 3.750. The obtained P-value (0.000) is smaller than 0.01. Thus, it is confirmed

from the result that, there is significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their Rank.

Table 10: Rank wise Mean, SD and t-value of low and average of parents on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Rank	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Sig. (P- Value)	Remarks
Low	17	7.41	4.744	93	13.803	0.000	Significant
Average	78	15.74	1.211				

Table-10 shows that, the Mean and SD of low group is 7.41, 4.744 and average groups is 15.74, 1.211 respectively. This reveals that average rank holder parents awareness level is high as comparison to low rank holders. The obtained P-value

(.000) is smaller than 0.05. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their low and average Rank.

Table 11: Rank wise Mean, SD and t-value low and high of parents on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Rank	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Sig. (P- Value)	Remarks
Low	17	7.41	4.744	140	-21.929	0.000	Significant
High	125	20.10	1.658				

The result of Table-11 shows that, the Mean and SD of low group is 7.41, 4.744 and high groups is 20.10, 1.658 respectively. This reveals that high rank holder parent’s awareness level is high as comparison to low rank holders.

The obtained P-value (.000) is smaller than 0.05. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their low and high Rank.

Table 12: Rank wise Mean, SD and t-value average and high of parents on Awareness of RTE Act, 2009

Professional qualification	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Sig. (P- Value)	Remarks
Average	78	15.74	1.211	201	-20.077	0.000	Significant
High	125	20.10	1.658				

The result of Table-12 shows that, the Mean and SD of average group is 15.74, 1.211 and high groups is 20.10, 1.658 respectively. This reveals that high rank holder parents’ awareness level is high as comparison to average rank holders. The obtained P-value (.000) is smaller than 0.05. Thus, it is confirmed from the result that, there is significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their average and high Rank. No study is found similar to the findings of the present study.

Major Findings

Awareness of Parents and SMC members about RTE Act in Tribal Areas of Odisha

- There is no significant difference between male and female parents in tribal areas of Odisha on awareness about RTE Act, 2009.
- There exists no significant difference on awareness among the tribal parents on the basis of qualification towards RTE Act, 2009.
- There is no significant difference on awareness among the tribal parents on the basis of occupation towards RTE

- Act, 2009.
- There is significant difference in the awareness about RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their Rank.
- There is significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their low and average Rank.
- There is significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their low and high Rank. High rank holder parents awareness level is high as comparison to low rank holders.
- There is significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act, 2009 among the tribal parents with respect to their average and high Rank.

Educational Implications of the Study

The outcomes of the study related to awareness level of the different stakeholders (parents and SMC members) towards RCFCE Act-2009 have immense implications for the teachers, parents, govt. authority and policy makers/administrators. The possible Educational outcomes of present

study will have much importance in the present day context as there is a growing focus on right of every child to free and compulsory education up to the age of 6 to 14 years. The implications of outcomes are presented below:

- a) It is found that male parents are more aware in RTE act in comparison to counter parts of female. Hence efforts should be made by the Headmasters of concern schools, CRCCs, BEOs and DEOs for creating awareness among mothers in tribal areas of Odisha.
- b) It will assist to the government to launch multipurpose training programme for the parents and SMC Members to implement the Act.
- c) The elected members are not aware about the RTE acts, so the awareness programs to the people in the locality will be poor. Therefore, government officers and local authorities should take initiatives for the awareness programs. The RTE act says that it is the responsible of the parent to admit the children in the elementary school. But if the parents didn't know about the RTE act 2009 then how will be the parents are engaging or encouraging the children to go to school.
- d) Use awareness through mass media like Television, Radio, advertisements, banners, pamphlets, and newspapers. Training to elected members of village, Taluk and Zilla Panchayaths.

Conclusion

Education is the most powerful and key to tribal development. The educational status of tribal people can be judged by the analysis of literacy rate. The Literacy rates for tribals are much lower than those recorded for other groups. Moreover, a significantly large proportion of tribal children drop out of school at the primary level. Poor quality of education too is an issue as reflected in poorer learning outcomes. The Right to Education (RTE) Act can be a huge opportunity for pushing the agenda of tribal education across the state. If Govt. will not take some drastic steps for the development of tribal education, the status of education among tribes will be a story of distress, despair and death. Hence time has come to think it seriously about tribal education and implementation status of RTE Act. The RTE Act cannot be properly implemented without the awareness of parents. Orientation programmes for parents and guardians should also be arranged at different levels. When the parents will be aware of their rights, they would avail the services and opportunities provided under RTE act.

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