

## SENSITIVITY AND OUTLOOK OF CHILDREN'S OF SANITATION WORKER TOWARDS THEIR EDUCATION

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**Abstract:** According the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RFCE Act), 2009, compulsory and quality primary level education in the age group of 6-14 is a fundamental right. According to census 2011 the literacy rate of Odisha as per 2011 Census is 72.9 per cent. The method followed was purposive sampling based on the knowledge of a population from the information available from Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation. Ten slums were selected from all the five zones. The main aspect of this study was to examine the outlook of sanitation worker's children towards. The study shows that there is significant relationship impact zone, age of child, mother's qualification on schooling status of children.

**Keywords:** assessment, dropout, perception, regular, sanitation.

**Introduction:** Education since Vedantic era is the need that stimulates and advocate of spirituality. Education seeks to develop the innate inner competence of an individual. The aim of education was at the manifestation of the divinity in men, it touches the highest point of knowledge. The knowledge was to be got, as the Bhagvad Gita says, by obeisance, by questioning and serving the teacher. The principle of Education as per Rigveda is that "Education is something which makes man self-reliant and selfless".

The United Nations Millennium Development Goal also had targeted to achieve Universal Primary Education, more specifically, to "ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling as the second goal. According the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RFCE Act), 2009, compulsory and quality primary level education in the age group of 6-14 is a fundamental right. According to census 2011 the literacy rate of Odisha as per 2011 Census is 72.9 per cent. A major proportion of the children of sanitation workers do not avail proper education. Education still is a dream for the children belonging to this category.

According to Bartone (1988) human scavengers constitute poor segments of the population of developing countries. Scavenging is a widespread occurrence; where one can find on the streets or in garbage dumps of third world cities people collecting all kinds of materials for reuse or recycling. Scavengers' face multiple hazards and problems. Families are forced to climb the hills of garbage each day, hoping that together they can earn enough to feed everyone in the family (Deribe, 2006). Children become helpless and homeless, and are forced to go to waste dumping sites for scavenging in search of food, clothing, and recyclable materials (Soda, 1996). Research shows in 62% of the Valmiki families that were part of this study, at least 1 member had

completed primary level schooling but most dropped out soon after, 8% of the families have completed high school, 14% have been to an institute of higher education and 4% have graduated from college. Yet 12% of the families remain without education. The study shows that 44% of families want to provide education to girls. While this by no means is a high number, nevertheless, despite all the hardships/discriminations that the Valmiki community has to endure, almost half of them do view schooling and education of girls as important (Ashish Mishra et al., 2012).

Attitude of the Parents towards their children's occupation plays a major role in determining the selection of occupation. When the children drop out of school and remain idle at home parents decide to fit them in some job. Some parents take their child along with them to their work place to assist him.

This study recognized that the major chunk of scavenging children were psychologically suffering from distress, fear of rejection, inequity and low self-respect due their attachment with low category segment which even the country law prohibits.

**Objective:** The main objective of the study was to understand the perception of the children of sanitation workers towards education.

Specific objectives are:

- To assess the present status of educational attainment of the children.
- To understand the level of aspiration of the children of sanitation workers.

**Methodology:** The study was purposive sampling based on the knowledge of a population from the information available from Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation. Ten slums were selected from all the five zones. The main aspects of this study is to examine the level of attainment of education among the children of 13-15year, aspiration of children, motivation by the parents and occupation of parents. Both qualitative and quantitative tools

were used for data collection. The collected data was then the SPSS 11 was used for the quantitative data analysis was used for quantitative data analysis.

**Results:** Sanitation workers are most marginalized group where due to poverty and illiteracy people are not conscious enough to press for their right to live their life with respect. In such a situation the children of sanitation workers are most vulnerable crowd who don't have a chance to break free from the social stigma that arises from their parents' work.

Due to financial crisis as one of their major challenges faced by these susceptible audience which includes children of aged 6-14 years even to accomplish their education. Education is only the tool by which they can get rid of this socially degraded job in their future. However with the moderization getting infused to the society and increased demand in the standard of living; children of the sanitation workers have become reluctant to take up their ancestral profession and often get into the activities of crime. Subsequently the lack of interest of the children and their parents towards attainment of education of children results to a consequence of maximum number of dropout from the school. This paper was an attempt to study the

viewpoint of the children of scavengers towards their education. A sample of 123 children of age 13-15 years from five different zones within the periphery of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation (BMC) was collected. About sixty percent of the population interviewed was male and forty percent was female. About 57.7 percent of the children interviewed belonged to 13 years age, 15.4 percent of the children belonged to 14years age and children belonging to 15 years age constituting 26.8 percent of the population. Eleven percent of the respondents belong to schedule tribe and only one percent of the respondents belong to general category with frequency of one. Fifty-eight percent of the children interviewed are first-order; eighteen percent of the children interviewed are second-order; fourteen percent of the children are third order; six percent of the children are fourth-order and five percent of the children are fifth order. Statistical package SPSS was used to understand whether there was any significant relationship between the age, gender, birth-order of the children, parents' qualification and their occupation with the school going status of the children. Table 1 shows the level of significance of above mentioned factors and schooling status of the children.

**Table 1. The level of significance of above mentioned factors and schooling status of the children (Chi-square test)**

Factors	$\chi^2$
Gender of children	0.907
Zone	31.758
Age of Child	59.712
Birth Order	2.774
Father's Qualification	11.212
Mother's Qualification	16.224
Father's Occupation	35.500
Mother's Occupation	14.097

The above table illustrates that there is significant relationship impact zone, age of child, mother's qualification on schooling status of children and no significant impact of gender, birthorder, father's qualification, father's occupation and mother's occupation on schooling status of children. This proves the proverb right - "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation" — Brigham Young. In this case mother's qualification has a significant role towards education of the child.

Whether it is the question of prejudice against the scheduled castes, or of the prejudices against scheduled tribes, or the unfairness against women, it starts in the minds people positioned in the attitudes. Education of these vulnerable communities therefore

gets affected. Many children from community of sanitation workers are out of schools who donot have any aspiration in life or fatalistic attitude. Only fifteen percent children aspire to become doctor, fifteen percent aspire to become police, eleven percent wants to become teacher, seven percent aspire to become engineer and four percent aspire to become good humanbeing.

And those children who are dropout or never attended school are child workers are considerably more vulnerable to work place of physical hazards. Child workers are more vulnerable to occupational injuries. They also suffer from the effects of fatigue due to long hours and monotonous work which led them to be engaged in crimes and addiction. These are the most vulnerable children who have no

aspiration in life and low self-esteem. Financial crisis is one of the major challenges faced by the children of sanitation workers in order to accomplish their education. Moreover lack of interest towards education resulting in maximum dropout among the school going children. Similarly, parents also do not take education of their children which are not assessed seriously; therefore they do not give them the attention they deserve.

**Issues and Challenges:** The environment of the slums where these children were dwelling was found to be dirty, with foul smell around. The slum areas were either situated near the dumping yards or near drains which was unhygienic and reasons to several health hazards. The reasons why some of the children of sanitation are willing to get into the occupation of scavenging in the dumpsite are insufficient family income, helplessness or homelessness, inadequate or poor child rearing practice, deterioration of kin based or traditional support system, streetism, family pathology and societal stress associated with rapid industrialization and urbanization. Yet with the rapid phase of development there is increasing awareness about education among this vulnerable community too. Therefore the sanitation workers are motivated to send their children to school and encouraging their education.

Similarly, parents also do not take education of their children which are not assessed seriously; therefore they do not give them the attention they deserve. The children who are interested for studies do aspire to get into white collar jobs (teacher, doctor, engineer etc.) and those children who are dropout or never attended school do not have any career ambition and ready to get into the profession of their parents. The habits of those children going to school are disciplined and those children who are dropout or never attended school were indisciplined.

**Conclusion:** Progress of every nation is depends on the educational advancement of all the children in the country collectively. Access of equal and quality education has turned into a major area of concern. The National Policies for Education (NPE) amended in 1986 had focussed upon Universal Primary Education bridging all gender and social category gaps at primary level by 2007 and upper primary level by 2010; focussing on quality of education.

As per Orissa Budget at a Glance 2011-12 child education in Odisha through the Sarva Sikhya

Abhiyan has the major share from the total amount of the off budget spent all along the study years. It is observed that the highest around 94% of the off budget expenditure is made by the Sarva Sikhya Abhiyan during the year 2010-11 against the lowest 61% in the year 2009-10. Next to the Sarva Sikhya Abhiyan, other programmes like National Programme for Girls in Elementary Education and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya have the major shares of expenditure from the off budget fund for children education. Moreover, activity under Reconstruction of School Building Project (RSBP) has no budgetary provision during the study period. Programmes like District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Quality Enhancement Unit have very haphazard budget allocation during the study years. Yet the analysis of the nine selected slums clearly reflects that the slums are bereft of necessary physical and civic amenities, with no schooling facilities or with poor schooling facilities. The plans have been made to provide schooling in the difficult terrains and hilly areas but no provision has been made for the marginalized population of urban areas with regard to the availability of schools to these children in the neighbourhood or within slum areas. The socio-economic backwardness is further exacerbated by the poor quality schools available to these children. The data collected on achievement competencies on the field shows that with increasing awareness there is increase in inclination towards education.

Besides, a major issue of child under development is lack of proper accomplishment and monitoring of child development programmes in the state. The child development indicators are much poor in Odisha as compared to other developed states in the country like child mortality rate, rate of drop out, rate of enrolment etc. Due to the unavoidable factors, the budget for child development is being misutilised at the highest extent. Therefore, it can be said that the government should adopt an exclusive state child welfare policy which will positively be helpful to meet the multi dimensional issues of the children in the state.

**Acknowledgment:** This paper was made possible with the support of Municipal Authorities of Bhubaneswar have contributed with the participation of their experts.

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