

Problems and Prospects of SC Girl Students at Elementary Level

Laxmi Sarkar

M.A in Education, Department of Education, Vinaya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India, 731204

ABSTRACT

Women is the first teacher of a child and also the indispensable part of the society. Having their education, knowledge and experiences can influence the society for better improvement and increase the literacy rate. In this paper, the researcher discussed the existing educational situation, the various problems, opportunities and prospects of SC girl students at school and society level in elementary education. To fulfill this study, the researcher adopted descriptive survey research and purposive sampling, also used self-made questionnaires, conduct interview and analyzed the school documents to collect data. As a result, the researcher observed that, SC girls' students are facing many challenges from school and society level. Government has taken some major initiatives for them to continue their education and try to equalize opportunities their social status with normal lifestyle. A positive outlook and right awareness can give them a better platform in the normal life.

Keywords: *Schedule Caste, Problem, Prospect, Elementary Level*

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Author's Correspondence

Laxmi Sarkar

M.A in Education, Department of Education,
Vinaya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati,
Santiniketan, India, 731204

✉ [sarkarlaxmi2018\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:sarkarlaxmi2018[at]gmail[dot]com)

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1. Introduction

Women are the indispensable part of society. Their education, knowledge and experience influence the coming generation. Development of future generations mainly depend upon educating the women. So, that the women realize that they are also an essential part of the society. Education can help every woman to educated their children, to be good manager of the family as well as the active member of the society. The children learn the manners and behavior at home and mostly mothers are responsible for cultivating good behavior in their children. Every educated woman can run her house well and make it paradise on earth. Every educated woman can think well about her future and her aim in life and then choose the proper subject which will be useful to her throughout the life. In a democratic system the place of women is equal with that of men. Now a days, women are also conscious about their rights and obligation. In the opinion of the Educationists, mother is the first educator of the child. From birth to school age, the environment and association of other members of the family plays a significant role in developing proper attitudes among them. She is responsible for upbringing and development. Most of the time a child lives in contact with the mother and is influence by her. Women and men are equally treated in the eyes of the law. However, our cultural conditioning is the main source of atrocities against women. However, due to the spread of education many changes could be observed.

According to **Gandhiji**: - "True they are equals in life, but their functions differ. It is woman right to rule the home. Man is master outside it." In 'Harijan' Gandhiji wrote – "A more patent cause of women illiteracy is the status of inferiority with which an immemorial tradition has unjustly branded her. Man has converted her into a domestic drudge and an instrument of his pleasure, instead of about her as his helpmate and better half. The result is semi-paralysis of our society." **Swami Vivekananda, Tagore** and all other indigenous thinkers have emphasized the education for women for the uplifting of the nation. At Independence in 1947, India pledged to legislate policies aiming to improve the social and economic well-being of its disadvantaged groups, including scheduled caste members. The **University Education Commission** (1948-49) noted the importance of women's education and stated that "There cannot be an educated people without educated women. If general education had to limited to men or to women, that opportunity should be given to women, for then it would most surely be passed on to the next generation". Considering education as fundamental to wellbeing, India's 1968 and 1986 policies on education stated that the government must take "strenuous" efforts to give free and

compulsory education to all boys and girls up to 14 years of age (Government of India, 1986). Education is recognized as one of the critical elements of the national development effort and elementary education in particular, is of vital important for the nation, as it is powerful tool to build knowledge-based society of the 21st century. There are of course, angry debates over whether such a policy should exist, what the criteria should be, and how exactly it should be implemented, but the strictness of the violence is bound up with longer term caste conflict, exacerbated by a recent rise in 'identity policies' and general social changes. Upper caste Indians feel disadvantaged and discriminated against by the policy, outline in the Indian constitution, of assign places in government and elementary education to those SCs. The constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women.

In this prospective i.e., for the upliftment of SC Women, PM Narendra Modi has launched the STAND-UP INDIA scheme and web portal for the scheme on April 5,2019 under which banks will give loans of up to Rs 1 crore to SC and women entrepreneurs.

2. Significance of The Study

The study will redound to the benefit of the scheduled caste(SC) girl students in the matter and issues related to the problems in education. Having their different backwardness, they are suffering from many problems in their lives. These girls at their tender age, suffer from humiliation and biasness in the society, school and in their household. Hence, they are not capable to understand and recognize the importance of education. Education is the most important weapon for them to overcome their difficulties. Form this study the researcher wants to make such SC girl students to aware of the prevailing problems and to encourage them to get the benefits of education. This study can also create a better outlook in society's members, teachers, parents and Government to take some major initiatives for SC girl students.

3. Objectives

1. To understand the existing educational situation of SC girl students at elementary level.
2. To identify the educational opportunities of SC girl students at elementary level.
3. To explore the problems of SC girl students at school and society level.
4. To identify the prospects of SC girl students at school and society level.

4. Research Questions

1. What are the existing educational situation of SC girl students at elementary level?
2. What are the educational opportunities of SC girl students at elementary level?
3. What are the problems of SC girl students at society and school level?
4. What are the prospects of SC girl students at school and society level?

5. Methodology in Present Study

Considering the demand and the nature of the study "Descriptive Survey" method was used. The present study, researcher has used descriptive survey type research.

Sample and Sampling

The samples are taken through the purposive sampling.

District	Block	Schools	Students	Teachers	Parents
Dakshin Dinajpur	Gangarampur	5 schools	80	20	20

Tools

To fulfil the purpose of the present study, the researcher has been used self-made different types of questionnaire, conducted interviews for students, teachers and parents and also analyzed the school documents and observed the classroom.

6. Delimitations of the study

- 1.The study has been delimited on SC girl students of age group 13-14, i.e.,VII-VIII class.
- 2.The study has been confined to the elementary level only.

3. The Researcher has been conducted this study only Gangarampur Block of Dakshin Dinajpur district in west Bengal.

7. Findings:

Objective: 1

Schools are under government of West Bengal, there are classes from v to xii and well disciplined. Teachers are concern about their profession and the booster to educate the students SC girl students. Despite that, the SC girl students are facing many problems related to lack of their economic conditions, infrastructures of schools, lack of sufficient girls' schools and women teachers etc. Having their various problems, their literacy rate is not very bad or vary good. According to census 2011, population and literacy rate in Dakshin Dinajpur district the researcher has been shown below table no-1.

Population in Dakshin Dinajpur district

The fact is, last census for Dakshin Dinajpur district was done only in 2011 and next such census would only be in 2021. But as per estimate and projection, population of the district in 2018 is 17.91 Lakhs compared to 2011 census figure of 16.76 Lakhs. With the literacy rate of 76.26%, above the national average of 74.04%, as per the 2011 census, West Bengal ranks 20th amongst the 36 states and union territories in India in terms of literacy rate.

Literacy Rate in Dakshin Dinajpur District:

The total literacy rate of Dakshin Dinajpur district was 72.82% in 2011 which is less than average literacy rate 76.26% of West Bengal. Population- wise, out of total 1,083,685 literacy rate was 78.37% and the female literacy rate 67.01% in Dakshin Dinajpur District.

Table no-1: Population and literacy rate of SC students in Dakshin Dinajpur district

Population of West Bengal		Literacy of West Bengal	Population of Dakshin Dinajpur	Literacy of Dakshin Dinajpur	Population of Gangarampur Block	Literacy of Gangarampur Block	Population of Scheduled caste at Gangarampur block	Literacy of SC students at Gangarampur block
91,276,115		76.26%	1,676,276	72.828%	237,628	71.45%	72,262	69.24%
Male	46,809,027	81.69%	857,199	78.37%	122,941	67.35%	37,519	30.52%
Female	44,467,088	70.57%	819,077	67.01%	114,687	57.21%	34,743	30.29%

Source: <https://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/5-dakshin-dinajpur.html>

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gangarampur_\(community_development_block\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gangarampur_(community_development_block))

<https://ddinajpur.nic.in/subdivision-blocks/>

Objective: 2

Dimension: - 1.Awareness of elementary school teachers towards the educational opportunities of SC girl students at elementary education.

According to teachers

❖ Reservation policy:

60 % of school teachers are agree that the reservation policy for SC girl's student is adequate with respect to the girl students of other castes in school. 30 % of teachers are disagree that reservation policy is not provided to SC girl students at school and 10 % of teachers are neutral their view to respect this answer correctly.

❖ Admission facility:

80 % of school teachers are agree that SC girl students are getting proper facilities regarding admission in elementary education (Reading book, uniform, mid-day- meal). 20 % of teachers are neutral that the SC girl students are not/yes getting proper facility in schools.

❖ Infrastructure:

10% teachers are disagreed that the infrastructure of schools in not enough for the education of SC girl students. 40 % teachers are agreed that there is enough infrastructure in school but 50 % of teachers are not to understand regarding the infrastructure in schools are enough or not.

❖ School environment

90 % of teachers are agree that schools are providing properly adequate educational environment to the SC girl's student. 10% teachers were neutral.

❖ Equal facility:

20 % of teachers are agree that elementary school does not provide equal facilities of all students and 20 % of teachers are agree that elementary school provide equal facilities of all students or separate facilities for SC girl students. 60 % of teachers were neutral their own view point of this question.

❖ Communication:

50 % of teachers are agree that SC girl students during teaching-learning time in the classroom they are very active communicator. But 20 % of teachers are not agree that they are communicate in the classroom is very less in teaching learning process and 30 % of teachers are neutral that SC girl students during teaching in the classroom they are active or not.

❖ First generation learner:

60 % of teachers are think that SC girl students are more enthusiastic in classroom irrespective of being first generation learners and 20% of teachers are disagree that SC girl students are not first-generation learners but 20 % of teachers are conflicted in their own view that SC girl students are not/yes first-generation learners.

From the overall view point in the questionnaire 58% of teachers were agreed, 23% were disagreed and 19% were neutral which has been done by the researcher to fulfil this objective.

Dimensions: - ii) Parental awareness related to educational opportunities of SC girl's student at elementary education.

According to parents**❖ Scholarship**

80 % parents of SC girl students are known that the specific scholarship for scheduled caste has been provided by the government at elementary level. They also known that how to apply these and received it. Lack of awareness 20 % of parents are didn't know about the scholarships for SC girl students at elementary level.

❖ Toilet

90 % of parents are agree that the schools are provide for SC girl students useful toilet. 10% parents were neutral.

❖ Coaching by school

80 % of parents are disagree that there is no extra coaching system in the schools and 20 % of parents are agree that there are proper coaching facilities are providing in schools to the SC girl's student.

❖ Common room

80 % of parents are disagree that there is no common room facility for SC girl students in school at elementary level. 10 % of parents are agree about the common room facility to the respective students. 10 % of parents were neutral in this case.

❖ Women teacher

80 % of parents are agree that the schools have women teachers for SC girl students at elementary level. 20 % of parents disagree that there are no women teachers for SC girl students in school.

❖ Counselor

80 % of parents are agree that there are good counselors in the schools to solved the various problem for SC girl students at elementary level. 20 % of parents are disagree that there are no trained counselor in the schools to solve the problems of SC girl students.

From the overall view point of the questionnaire, it has been seen 71% parents of SC girl students are agree, 25% are disagreed and 4% were neutral.

Objective: 3

After collection of data, it has been seen that SC girl students are facing school related many problems like inadequate school facility, lack of special institutions for SC girl, lack of female teachers and transport facility. SC girl students are facing many problems which are raise from the society, such as, negative attitude of parents and other society members, poverty, early marriage, insecurity and misinterpretation of caste. These are discussed below:

School related factors

• Inadequate school facilities

An important barrier of education in Dakshin Dinajpur is the lack of adequate school facilities. Many schools do not have any common rooms (separate room for girls) to accommodate all girls of the school. Furthermore, the lack of class room infrastructures, basic necessary needs of girls such as sanitary facilities and availability of drinking water are missing such schools.

• Lack of institution for SC girl's education

Lack of separate school for girls is a big hindrance for Scheduled caste girl's students. Many parents, they don't admit their girls in co-ed school because of their traditional outlook. In rural areas, there is scarcity of separate schools for only girls or special girls' schools.

• Lack of female teachers

Lack of female teacher was another minor barrier to girl's education. Girls are more likely to attend school and have higher academic achievement if they have female teachers there.

• Lack of transport facility

Lack of transport facilities, particularly in rural areas, the SC girls are didn't come attend the regular schools. Hence, many of them, they are automatically musted to drop out before the completion of elementary education.

Society related factors

• Negative attitude of parents

Negative parental attitude can also be a major barrier for a girl student in education. According to many parents' educating son is an investment because they are responsible for caring them. On the other hand, the education of daughter as a waste of money because daughter will eventually live with their husband' families, and the parent will not be benefited directly from their education. Hence, as a girl, SC girl students are facing these types of problem from their elementary level of education.

• Poverty

The poor economic condition of parents is the greatest obstacle in the way of the development of girl's education in backward district like Dakshin Dinajpur. Education has become costly affaire. Hence, it is not an easy to poor parents to make suitable arrangements for the education of their daughters.

• Lack of parental awareness

This is an undeniable fact that the most of the parents of Scheduled caste students are illiterate. Lack of awareness such parents do not know the need and importance of education. Due to illiteracy of parents, they fail to send their daughters to educational institutions.

• Early marriage

The early marriage of the scheduled caste girl student is creating a big barrier in the expansion of girl's education. Dakshin Dinajpur is the one of the backward districts in West Bengal.

• Insecurity

Parents often feel insecure to send their girls to the school. In fact, many parents do not want to admit their daughters and send to them in distance schools due to insecurity.

• Negative behaviors from society members

33% of SC girl students acknowledge they have experience negative behavior from society members because of their living society is not accept in kind of modern education but 67% of SC girl students did not acknowledge that, they told their society encourage for their education.

• **Misinterpretation of caste**

22% of SC girl students says that caste problem is the barrier to get education because in Dakshin Dinajpur district at Gangarampur block many societies people them; they told that, only religious education can fulfil your life. 78% SC girl students says that caste is not the barrier to get the education because of their society and parents is more conscious about SC girl students' education.

Objective: 4

After collection in this objective related data, it is seen that having their (SC girl's student) many practical problems, they always keep some positive expect from the society and schools to continue their education. Some major prospects are discussed below:

Prospects for SC girls at School

❖ **Common room**

46% of SC girl students are agreed that they are getting the proper facility of common room in the school. 50% of SC girl students are disagree regarding the proper facility of common room in elementary level of school and 4% of SC girl students are neutral.

❖ **Computer facility**

80% of SC girl students are agree that they are getting proper facility of computer in school, 16% of SC girl's students are disagree and 4% students are neutral regarding the available computer facility in school.

❖ **Scholarship**

44% of SC girl students says that they get the facility of scholarships and 56% of SC girl students are disagree that they don't get the scholarship facility.

❖ **Admission facility**

50% SC girl students are agreed that they are facilitated to the admission and get special opportunities. 38% of SC girl's student are disagree and 12% student are neutral from their own point of view. Somebody not to know the admission facility how to provide school.

❖ **Books, Uniform, and Mid-day-meals facility**

100% of SC girl students are agree that the schools are providing proper books, uniform, and mid-day-meal facility. They are very happy and interested to go to school because they are belonging to poor and disadvantage group.

▶ **Toilet facility**

The schools are providing the proper toilet facility for SC girl students at elementary level of education. 82% of SC girl students are agree that they are getting the proper toilet facility and 18% girl students are disagree that they do not get the proper toilet facility in the school.

▶ **Support from school teachers**

68% of SC girl students said that, they are getting the teachers help in the various school related problem. 30% SC girl students said that, they don't get any special help provided by the teachers. 2% of SC girl students are neutral.

▶ **Sympathy from classmate**

The sympathy is one of the most important factors for students learning in the classroom of elementary level of education. 60% of SC girl students are agree that they are provided the sympathy by classmate and 10% of SC girl students are disagree that they are

not provided sympathy by the classmate in classroom at elementary level and 30% of SC students are not understood in this questionnaire and what will do. They were stand between the conflicts.

► **Women teachers facility**

In elementary school, the women teacher's facility is not to enough in the adequate requirement. In the age of elementary level of education, the girl's students are faces various personal problems. Without female teachers they can not share their personal problems. So, as a female the SC girl's student also faces the same problem. Women teachers are very important at elementary level because the girl's student can share and discuss their personal problems with them. Hence, most of the SC girl's students (100%) expect that the trained female teachers are also provided to the schools at elementary level in adequate requirements.

► **Proper drinking water**

88% of SC girl students are agree that they are getting the proper drinking water facility in school at elementary level and 12% of SC students are disagree that in the schools there is no proper drinking water facility.

► **Need to get equal opportunity in Elementary Education**

100% of SC girl students want much more equal opportunity to carry out elementary education for SC caste girls because many SC girl students are belonging in poor economic conditions.

Prospects for SC girls at Society

► **Family pressure**

14% of SC girl students express their views in favor that they have admitted in elementary level because of their family pressure, they do not prefer any type of traditional education but 86% of SC girl students do not accept that, they think only education can change their life.

► **Government facility**

Government provide the special facility for SC girl students at elementary level. 72% of SC girl students agree that they are getting this facility and 22% students are not to facilitate by the government and 6% of SC girl students are neutral.

► **Social facility**

79% of SC girl students are agree that the various social facilities are the main helpful and encouragement reason to growing up their elementary education, 16% students disagreed and 5% neutral.

► **Family encouragement**

54% of SC girl students are getting positive encouragement from their family to continue their study because, their family know that the girl's education is important in the society and nation. But 46% of SC girl's students are not getting the positive encouragement to continue their study from the family because their family members are illiterate.

► **Economical help from the society members**

90% of SC girl students are said that economical helps are provided by the wealthy person from the society. 10% students are said that they are not get this type of help.

► **Help by educated persons to the SC girl students**

89% of SC girl students are said that, they also getting the various help from the educated persons of the society to continue their study and 6% students are disagree. 5% students are neutral from their perspective.

► **Scholarships given by society members**

79% of SC girl students are getting the facilities of scholarships which given by the prominent members of the society and 21% students are not get this type of special scholarship facilities.

8. Educational implication of the study

In view of the results of the present study, the investigator laid down the following educational implication:

- (i) The focus should be on improvement to school climate and infrastructure, facilities of women teachers which will help to teachers and students to perform better in teaching learning process.
- (ii) Social status and economic condition of the private and government schools should be improved.
- (iii) Focus should be improved to the social consciousness, educational awareness and encouragement towards the SC girl students and their parents.
- (iv) Certain scholarships such as sabuj-sathiprokolpo, yubosreepokolpo, kanyasreepokolpo, mid-day-meal, free uniforms and books must be provided for elementary level SC girl students to improve their education.
- (v) Focus should be on solutions to the problems of SC girl student's at school and society level.

9. Conclusion

Caste and class system are not created by the God, but different society's members are created this system for their own advantage. After the interpretation of collected data in this present study we can conclude that, SC caste is one of the backward classes of the society. They are suffering from their many problems such as economic condition, caste background, illiteracy and also ignored by the societies positive outlook. Government has trying to help them specially to continue their education. Different private and Government NGO's are working to give them equal opportunities in society at all levels. Positive initiatives are taken by the Government to help them economically, morally supports to fulfil their basic needs. Schools and teachers are continuously encouraged them, awareness program for their parents has been conducting to understand the importance of education. The education of SC girls' students can increase the literacy rate. So, a better outlook of the society and government can change their way of lifestyle, that will help them to overcome from their backwardness to normal life.

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