

Drop-outs in the High School Level of Education: A Case Study among the Bengalee Hindu Population in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

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ABSTRACT

School drop-out leads to failure the social integration, and as a result greatly diminishes a person's chances to achieve personal success in legally accepted friends of activity. The prevention and reduction of this phenomenon are extremely difficult to achieve due to the high complexity of its causes. Qualitative analysis and case studies were addressed to elicit the reasons for the increase of student drop-out rate in the district. This study encompasses both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Key Words : Drop-out, Resource, Education System

INTRODUCTION

Preamble:

Education is a process whose function is to bring individual behavior into line with the specific requirements of a culture. In stating this, we need not take sides in the debate over theories of learning. Controversies over the role of imitation versus conditioning of reward and punishment versus association have stimulated study and sharpened perceptions of the problems involved (Herskovits, 1955)

An outstanding contrast between education in non literate and non western cultures is found in our attitude toward learning and teaching. The urge to learn, basic in all children, is in non literate societies pointed toward much broader culturally sanctioned ends-in relation to the cultural resources than in a culture such as our own where, of intense specialization, choices are number – because our and training must be along narrower lines¹.

Within the family, education is principally carried on by the members of a household. Where family units are small, as among us this means that the father and mother, with perhaps a grandparent or uncle or aunt who is for a time a member of this grouping, discharge this obligation².

Education is the development of all these of capacities in the individual which will enable him to control his environment fulfill his possibilities. Anthropology of education, is a sub-field of Social-Cultural Anthropology, and is widely associated with the pioneering work of Margaret Mead and later, George Spindler, Solon Kimball and Dell Hymes. As the name would suggest, the focus of

Educational Anthropology is on Education, although an Anthropological approach to education tends to focus on the cultural aspects of education, including informal as well as formal education. Educational Anthropology is the field which is centrally concerned with cultural transmission. Accordingly, it is also not surprising that Educational Anthropology has become increasing to used on ethnic identity and ethnic change in a given culture³.

A drop-out is defined as any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of studies without transferring to another elementary or secondary schools.

The number of drop - outs from a single age group or specific grade of students over a period of time. The number of students in a particular grade span dropping out in one year divided by a measure of the total students in that particular grade span.

This event rate, also known as the duplicate rate, does not count the number of students dropping out, but the number of occurrences of drop – out. For example, if a student dropped out in more than one year, he would be reported as a drop – out in each of the years.

A cumulative rate is much higher than the event rate. The status of drop – out rate denotes the proportion of all individuals. In the population who have not completed high school and were not enrolled at a given point of time.

Aims and Objectives of the study:

The present study bears the following aims and objectives:

1. The socio cultural issues and impacts on the dropping out of the high school students in educational system.
2. To propose some suggestions on the basis of the reality for the welfare of the drop – outs from the end of the present researcher.

Area of Observation:

The present study will be undertaken in the *Haroa* Block in the area of the District North 24 Parganas. The total context of observations for the present study would be included in the *Haroa* Block-1 and in the *Haroa* Gram Panchayat. The study will observe the drop-outs in the high school levels from an ethnographic perspective.

Selection of Sample for the study:

As mentioned above, the study will be conducted in the twelve villages of selected randomly from the proposed block in the North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal. Fifty household with drop-outs cases purposively each village will be taken as the unit of data collection. A capital head count of all the children in the 6 – 16 years age group in each of these households will be covered.

METHODOLOGY

In order to reach at the proposed aims and objectives, the typical methods as well as techniques in Social-Cultural Anthropology, will be considered for the collection of empirical data. The present researcher prefers to use Observation, (Participant and Non Participant) Intensive interview, Questioner, and Case Study method for the same. Household Census, Survey will be taken through schedule method purposively among the drop-outs families. The secondary data will also be utilized in the present study from Journals, Books, Administrative materials, Internet resources etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study at the Haroa Gram Panchyat of Haroa Block -1, the rate of school drop-out is very high. The data was collected from 16 Schools in Haroa Gram panchyat. The data has been collected from the fifty Hindu Children who are recent drop outs from the District and their class division range from IX to X. They belong to the traditional Hindu community, *Namasudra*. The questions were asked to both the parents of the drop outs and their teachers.

Most of the drops out children are living with their family. As per the study signifies, majority of their parents do not have proper education and they are early drop-outs. The reasons for their drop-out were subjected to poverty and unemployment. The parents of the dropped-out assert that poverty, and finance is no more the issues for their children's drop-out. The parents are aware that the projects and plans that are being implemented for the benefit of Hindu family. As far as the as the parents are concerned, the reasons for the dropping-out are purely related to individual attitude on education.

Many of the drop-outs are having and in favor attitude towards education. They consider education as an uninteresting practice. They still are not convinced of the need of education for their livelihood. They are aware of the allowances from the Government, for their education. But the negative attitude towards education makes them stay back to their colony surroundings than going to school.

The teachers agreed to state that the alcoholism of parents is a convening reason for the drop-out. They agreed that the children are not gating a presence of mind at home in evening when his father / brother / mother / relatives / friends come drunk. This will result in the children to move away from education. At home, they are not given an atmosphere to study and sometimes nothing to eat too.

The family finance and stability is a valid factor that leads to the drop-out of students. He wanted to continue education, indeed it's imposable. There are many Hindu students in the selected

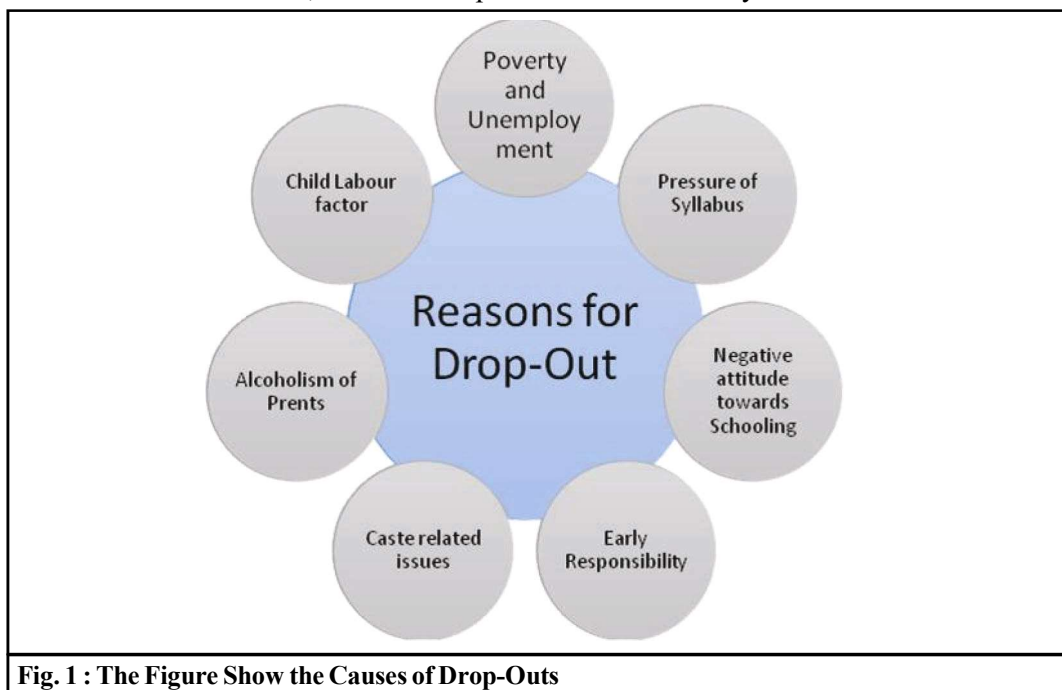


Fig. 1 : The Figure Show the Causes of Drop-Outs

region, which had to leave education to shoulder their families.

Some of the drop-outs agreed that, to an extent caste issues were the reasons to stop education. The teachers who associated with this study also state that caste is a major issue for the problem. They agreed some of the students feel reluctant to sit with a lower caste student or upper caste student and to share the physical properties of learning. This orthodox attitude could be cited as a reason for drop-out.

Health care issues resulted in the drop-out of some Bengali Hindu students in the district. The drop-outs pointed out that adequate medical care was not given when it was needed. It made the drop-out rate increasing. Many of the students who are dropped-out pointed out that they were not given proper medical care while they were sick.

Concluding Remarks and Suggestive Measures:

The major reason coined out for the increased drop-out rate is the lack of awareness on the value of education among the Bengali Hindu people on this district. From this situation, it is obvious to implement effective awareness and motivation program for the students to acknowledge the value of education. With the advent of information communication technology, the internet has been widely accepted as an important, tool in life an education in recent decades. Teachers do not take much effort to improve the educational level of the Bengali Hindu students. Lack of communication, high level of absenteeism in the class, bad result in study lack of attention, in the class room by the students are some of the factors that has increased the different attitude of the teachers towards the students. The level of motivation for education is very low among drop-outs students age factor is influencing drop-out to a great extent. Stagnation is common among and high among the drop-outs and is a contributing factor to become drop-out. Irregular attendance in the class is the route for drop-out. Most of the drop-outs are from very poor and low income families. Many drop-outs are daily wagers. The unawareness about the importance of education is the contributing factor for drop-out.

As a result of this research, the following conclusions arise -

- It has been confirmed that there is a strong connection between the family environment and the rate of school drop-out.
- The family related factors (standards of living, parent - child relationship) represent the main causes of drop-outs.
- School drop-out rate is highest in the poorer families.
- The low standards of living, as well as school drop-out are due to the same factors: low income, low educational abilities of the parents, no work place, excessive consumption of alcohol, divorce.
- Using teenagers in rural areas for labor is one more causes for school drop-out.
- Difficulties in learning and the lack of support, on the part of the parents, can also lead to school failure and drop-out.

According to present study I give some suggestions to prevent the drop-out in the high school level-

- To organize the awareness camp about school education.
- Give priority for the students in the education system.
- To help the students to prevent the fear among the education system.
- To aware their family about the education system in the primary to Madhyamik level.

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