

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology
of Egypt / Egyptology

EDUCATIONAL STATUS AND CHALLENGES OF WOMEN OF URBAN
SLUM- A STUDY IN RANGIA TOWN OF KAMRUP DISTRICT.

Abinash Neog

Ph.D. Research Scholar, Nehu, Shillong.

Abinashneog5@gmail.com

Abinash Neog: Educational Status And Challenges Of Women Of Urban Slum- A Study In Rangia Town Of Kamrup District-- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 17(6), ISSN 1567-214x

Keywords: Education, Women, Women Education, Urban Slum, Literacy.

Abstract

Education is the most important and integral part of human life. It touches all the aspects of human life and gives an opportunity to all for leading a better life. Women are the best creation of God without which the whole human species would cease to exist. Education of women is a matter of great importance. Over the last decade it has been observed that many efforts have been taken by the government for increasing the literacy rate of women. But in reality it is bitter truth that education of urban slums women is still a big challenge. It is true that children of slums are getting free and compulsory education, but women of these areas are still underprivileged, lacking of proper education, nutrition and health check-ups. The educational status of women residing in slum arrears of India is very low and there is a greater need to improve the educational attainment level of these women. In the present study an attempt has been taken to study the educational status and challenges faced by the women of urban slum of Rangia town. The present study is based on descriptive survey analysis. A total number of 45 samples were selected for the study. The findings of the study will depict a real picture of education of women of urban slum.

Key Words: Education, women, women education, urban slum, literacy.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Education is an inevitable part of human life. It is only education, which makes man human being today from animal being. Education is one of the most important instruments for the development of an individual, society as

well as a nation. It is only education, which makes our lives better and worthy. In the absence of education we can not imagine a developed society or nation having individual with proper knowledge, scientific and peaceful outlook. Hence education is a process of nation building, which moulds our personality, build future citizen, and removes all barriers, disparities, superstitions from the mind of the people of the society.

Women are the most significant part of society, without which we can not imagine a human life. It is a woman who bears a child in her womb and gives birth to a new life, who cares for her children till her last breath. A woman plays her role as a daughter, as a mother, as a wife and most significantly as a key member of the society. A woman is blessing for men and for the society. Hence women are the most important part of our society, which constitute about half of the population. Apart from playing the household responsibilities, women play significant role in social, cultural, political, educational and economic aspects. Hence, education of women should be given utmost importance like men for establishing a well-developed and progressive society. Former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru opined, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, if you educate a woman you educate the whole family." Thus, it is often said that "When women move forward, the family moves, the village moves and the nation moves."

Various kind of initiatives have been taken by the government for improving the educational status of women. But in a country like India, we are still lacking in attaining a satisfactory level of women education. A large number of women population are still in a state of deprivation from education. Women not only need education for employment, but education of women is essential for the development of a family, children, society and nation as a whole.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA:

The present study was carried out in Rangia town, which is a municipal board, in Kamrup rural district in the state of Assam. Rangia is the regional divisional headquarter of the North East Frontier Railway. According to 2011 census, it has a population of 26,389, where 54% are male and 46% are female. Regarding literacy, Rangia has an average literacy rate of 73%, where male literacy rate is 78% and female is 67%.

1.3 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY :

Education of women has been neglecting from ancient time to till date in most of the societies. Women are still living in a backward condition in their family and society and they are still considered as the underprivileged section of the society, even in this present era of modernization and digitalization. The factor which is responsible for such a situation is the negligence of education of women. In our society people residing in slum area are always

living in a very backward and unhealthy environment which never support them to grow in an expected manner in any field. Women from such urban slum area can not even imagine of getting proper education for their upliftment. Regarding the education of children of those areas, provision of free and compulsory education under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has been provided by the government of India. But what about the education of women of such area, who are not able to complete their education upto a required stage? It is of utmost importance to investigate the real picture of educational status of women of urban slum. Otherwise this section of the society will have to live their life in the darkness of ignorance, which is major cause, responsible for recognizing them as underprivileged section of the society. In this way there is a greater need of studying the educational status and challenges of women of urban slum.

1.4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The present study has been entitled as- “Educational Status and Challenges of Women of urban slum- A study in Rangia town of Kamrup District.”

1.5 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

- To study the educational status of women of urban slum of Rangia town.
- To study the problems and challenges of women education in urban slum area.

1.4 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY :

The present study is delimited to the following-

- The study is delimited to only Rangia town of Kamrup District.
- The study is delimited to only women of slum area of Rangia town.
- The study is delimited to only women of 18 to 50 years of age.

2. METHODOLOGY:

The study was conducted under the Descriptive Survey Method, which is a widely used method in education. This method is used to describe and interpret what exists on some phenomenon or situation at present. It describe the present status of a phenomenon.

In the present study, the investigator attempted to study the educational status of slum women and their problems related to education.

2.1. POPULATION OF THE STUDY:

A population in research is a large and well defined collection of individuals or objects or institutions having similar characteristics or traits that are the interest of a researcher. The aggregate or all the items in any field of enquiry constitute a ‘Population’. Population thus refers to the whole unit from which sample is selected.

The population of the present study covers all the slum women (262) of Rangia town of Kamrup District.

2.2 SAMPLE OF THE STUDY:

In a research study, studying of each and every unit in the population is almost impossible due the large size of population. In this regard sampling stands as a solution to it. A sample refers to a small and representative proportion selected from the total population for the purpose of observation and analysis.

For the present study a total number of 100 women of urban slum were selected as sample. Simple random sampling technique has been applied for selecting the sample for the study.

2.3. TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION:

In a research study tools are the instruments with the help of which the investigator gathers new facts or explore new information required for the study for analysis. In the present study following tool was used by the investigator for the collection of data-

- **Interview Schedule:** Interview is a process of communication or interaction in which the subject or interviewee gives the needed information verbally to the interviewer. Interview schedule is consisting a set of questions, which are asked by an interviewer to the subject in a face to face situation. Thus, it is a tool through which the investigator gathers data directly from others in face to face contact. It provides an opportunity to the investigator to establish rapport with the respondents.

In the present study the investigator met the women physically and conducted interview in a face to face mode. The investigator asked some relevant questions to the women individually and noted down the required data for the study in a systematic manner.

2.4. STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE USE:

For the present study, the investigators used simple percentage and graphical representation for the analysis of collected data.

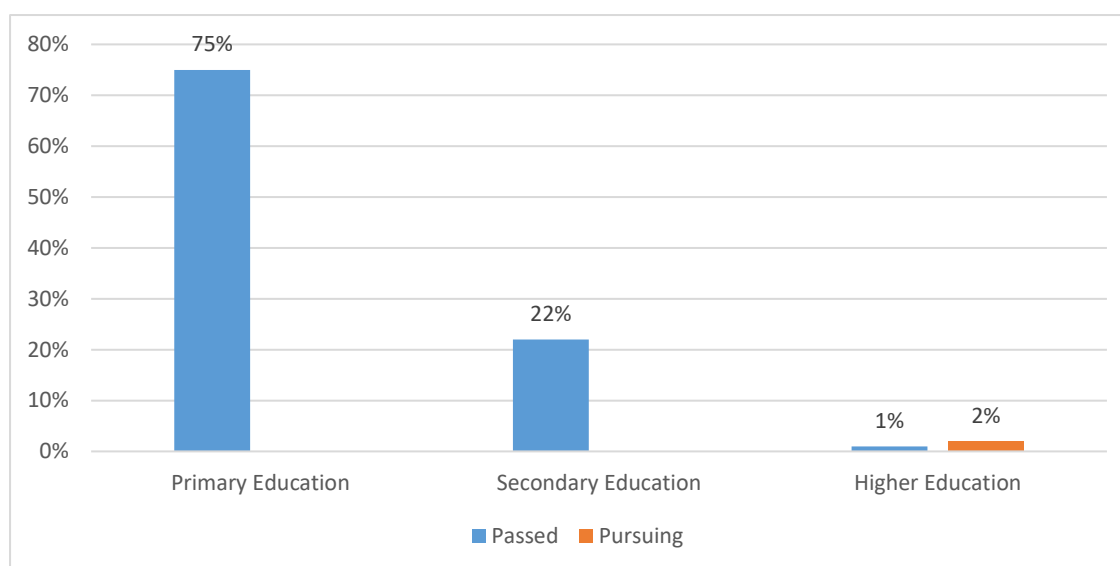
3. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

Analysis of data is the most important part of any research. It is a process of examining, clearing, converting and exhibiting collected data with the aim of discovering useful and required information, suggestions and conclusion.

Table No 1: Showing the analysis of educational status of women of urban slum

Sl No.	Educational Level	Percentage of attainment
1	Primary Education	75%
2	Secondary Education	22%
3	Higher Education	2% (Pursuing)
		1% (Completed)

Graphical Representation of Table No 1



3.1 Interpretation of Table No. 1:

After analysing the data on educational status of women of urban slum, it has been found that attainment rate of education women at primary stage is higher than the other stages of education, i.e., 75%. At secondary stage of education, only 22% of women have completed their education. Most significantly in the field of higher education, only 1% women has been able to complete their higher education and 2% women are pursuing higher education.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION:

The investigator has collected data from the urban slum women to get a real picture of their educational status and has found the following findings-

- From the present study it is found that the attainment rate of primary education among urban slum women is to some extent satisfactory, i.e., 75 % women were able to complete their primary education.
- But at the secondary stage of education, this attainment rate has been found to be decreased. After completing their primary education majority of the

women did not go for receiving secondary education. Only 22% of urban slum women have completed their secondary education.

- The most significant finding of the study is that regarding higher education the attainment rate is very low. Only 1% women have been able to complete higher education and only 2% women are pursuing their higher education. This indicates a very poor picture of educational status of urban slum women at the stage of higher education.

Along with this, the investigator attempted to find out the major challenges, responsible for poor educational attainment of urban slum women. For this purpose, the investigator has taken the help of interview and asked questions to those women with regard to the challenges faced by them regarding attainment of education and has been able to draw the following findings of the study-

- From the opinion of the women it has been found that 'Early Marriage' is one of the major obstacles in front of the women for attaining education, especially secondary and higher education. After the completion of primary education most of the girls compelled to get married and as a result they need to drop out from school, inspite of having high aspiration for receiving education.
- Engagement in household activities is an another factor, responsible for separating women from the opportunity of attaining education as reported by the urban slum women. In spite of encouraging them to go to school, their parents ask them to do the household activities, look after their younger siblings and helping parents at domestic works. The attitude of parents towards their daughter's education was not at all positive.
- It has also been found that 40% of the women used to work at other's home as maid during their childhood period to support their family financially and only 10 % owner gave them the opportunity of receiving education.
- Poverty is the key factor responsible for backwardness of slum people in all aspects of life. There are a lot of costs associated with sending children to school including uniforms, study materials, bus fare etc. In the present study it is found that non- affordability of the cost of education by parents due to poverty is one of the major factors of separating women from attaining education.
- A conducive environment is the utmost essence for motivating the students towards education. But in this study it is found that all the slum women use to live in a very unhealthy surrounding and do not have the facility of sufficient light, pure air and water electricity, sufficient room for study, sanitation etc. in their family, which never encouraged them for receiving education.
- Another significant finding of the study is that for most of the women the parental and other member's academic support is very low due to parental

illiteracy. According to them their parents used to encourage them more for engaging in earnings rather than go to school.

5. SUGGESTIONS:

Both men and women are the equal contributor of development in a society. Education must be accessible for both men and women in an equal manner for attaining development and advancement of a nation. However, in reality most of the women are separated from enjoying the accessibility of education in many parts of the world, which is reflected in the present study. In order to eradicate the challenges of attaining education by women and improve their educational status, following suggestions are put forwarded by the investigator-

- First of all the government must implement strict rules and regulations for the parents to send their child to school for receiving education inspite of sending them to work for earning. In this regard, a door to door investigation must be conducted frequently by the school authority or directly by the government to find out whether children are compelled to engage in house hold activities by their parents inspite of going to school.
- Early marriage is a major factor responsible for separating girls from receiving education. In this regard, the parents must be made aware about the harmful effect of early marriage of their daughters. Strict rules must be implemented by the government to stop child marriage in our society so that girls can go to school inspite of taking the responsibility of family in an immature age of life.
- Although most of the women become able to complete their primary education, but due to various obstacles they need to stop themselves from completing secondary and higher education. For those deprived women sufficient number of open and distance educational institutions should be established so that they can attain education according to their own pace even after their marriage also.
- In urban slum areas poverty of parents is largely responsible for depriving girls from taking education. Therefore the government should try to introduce such financial scheme which support the parents for bearing the costs associated with sending their children to school including uniforms, study materials, bus fare etc. Provision of scholarship for women education is an another way of encouraging both parents and children for enrolling in education.
- Likewise, awareness campaign among the parents of such areas on the importance of girl's education, adult education, vocational educational etc. should be organised by the government, NGOs, Schools and other responsible persons.
- Academicians, research scholars, teachers, social workers and other educated individual of the society can arrange periodical classes among the women of urban slum area in an informal setting according to their own convenience

time. It will give an opportunity to educationally deprived women to a great extent.

6. CONCLUSION:

From the present study it may be concluded that the educational status of urban slum women is very low, especially at secondary and higher stage of education. Several kind of barriers are prevailing both in their family and the surrounding, which deprive women from attaining education. But for the progress of a nation both men women need to move forward equally in the field of education. For this along with the government, each and every educated and responsible individual should try to make this section of people aware about the importance of education in their life and making proper arrangement for their education as far as possible. Then only we will be able to establish a balanced and well developed society in all the aspects. Thus it may be conclude that women of urban slum should be encouraged for being a part of the umbrella of education for the progress of their own self, their children, family, society and most significantly for the overall development of the nation.

REFERENCES:

1. Das, Lakhahira.(2005). *Educational Sociology*. Guwahati, Amrita Prakashan, 781003.
2. Das, Mahanta, Adhikary.(2013). *Contemporary Concerns and Issues in Education*.Guwahati,Mani Manik Prakash,2013,781003.
3. Best John W, Kahn James V.(1963).*Research in Education*. New Delhi, Prentice Hall of India, 110092.
4. Goswami Sadhana and Devi Meena Kumari (2012). *Emerging Issues and Education*.Guwahati, Shanti Prakashan, 781001
5. UN Millennium Project.(2005). *Toward Universal Primary Education: Investments, Incentives and Institutions*. London: Earthscan.
6. Harper, C,R.(2003).*Enduring Poverty and the Conditions of Childhood Lifecourse and Intergenerational Poverty Transmission*. World Development, 31(3). Pp. 535-554.