



**EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF KUKI WOMEN: A CASE STUDY IN
CHURACHANDPUR DISTRICT, MANIPUR**

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Abstract

Education is an essential component for overall development of any society. It not only gives knowledge but also act as an agent to make an individual capable to participate in social, economic and political activities. The study is an attempt to highlight the educational status of Tribal women belonging to Kuki community. The study is based on primary data and I being carried out using an index named as Educational Index. Major finding that this study has come across is that majority of the Kuki women in the study are educated adults but still it is below the satisfactory margin. This weedy scenario of kuki women, in the society possibly will be of various socioeconomic and demographic factors which hindrance the achievement of primary and secondary education to the women.

Key words: Kuki women, Educational Status.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In order to acquire a better quality of life and to generate development, education is of great importance among the other factors. It is also mean to develop the personality of individuals, make them capable to perform certain economic activities, take part in political sphere and thereby improves their socio-economic status. When an individual

has greater knowledge of personal and social skill, the person becomes more efficient to access and use information to maintain and improve their own and their family member's health. In this manner, in a society, greater levels of education help to create wealthier economies and at same time it also can have a positive impact on levels of social welfare. Beal and Sibley (1967), have very correctly pointed out that the individual's ability to read and write and the amount of formal education, he/she possesses, will affect the manner in which the individual gathers data and relates himself/herself to his/her environment. With this comprehension, attempt is being made from a range of Non Government Organisation and various Governmental institutions. The government is committed to promote with special care the educational interest of the weaker sections of the people in general and of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes in particular (Pattajoshi 2010). The study is an attempt to draw attention to the educational level of the Kuki tribal women in Churachandpur Districts of Manipur. The Kuki are one of the major sub groups in the state. They are habitat in the hilly region so their main occupation is jhum cultivation, agriculture and other unorganised sector. In earlier period, there was only countable number of educated people among them. But the scenario is changing with various efforts made to bring them towards the rapidity of development.

1.2 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Education provides for vertical mobility and can thereby help to equalize status between individuals coming from different social strata. The movement for improving women's status all over the world has always emphasized education as the most significant instrument for changing women's subjugated position in the society (Dutta 2012).¹

Inequalities prevail in society due to which some group of people are more deprived than other groups. The tribal are one of the groups of people who are comparatively considered more deprived than others group of people in the society. Despite, a decade of planned change and development, there is a little impact on the

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development in the tribal area. The aim is to divulge the present educational status of the Kuki women in the Churachandpur district of Manipur.

1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study revolve around one sole objective which is as follows

- To investigate the educational status of Kuki women of Churachandpur district, Manipur.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE STUDY

- Whether the educational status of the Kuki women in Churachandpur district is satisfactory or not?

The first section of the study will highlight the general introduction which will consists of Introduction of the study, Signification of the study, objectives and the Research Question of to study. In the second section, related literatures will be review which will provide an insight to the study. The third section will consist of Data and Methodology, where the authors will focus on elaborating the methods and technique to be used for analysing the data. In the fourth section, the collected primary data will be analysed by using the method mention in third chapter. And in the last section, based on the study and result of analysis, a conclusion will be drawn followed by suggestion and policy prescription.

2. RELATED LITERATURES

Rani, et.al (2011), express that education is one of the most essential factors to face any socio-economic changes taking place in the society. The study emphasises to provide more educational opportunities and provide the women with various skill training programmes.

David, et.al (2007), they expressed through their study that there is a direct relationship between education and health - better educated individuals have more positive health outcomes.

Rani (2010) pointed out education as key factor in determining the pace of development. It added that factors such as gender based equality, social discrimination and economic exploitation, occupation of girl in house chores, low enrolment of girl child and school established in far distance are the major factors for low female literacy in India.

Duman (2010) has pointed out education as an important factor of economic and social opportunities for every individual. He further added that occupation of the household head, size and the composition of the family and education of the parents have a significant impact on the schooling decision for girls.

Thokchom, et.al (2013) in their study pointed out that education brings about awareness to the women related to their social status; injustice and differentiation deliver out to them. Women in Manipur despite their major contributions in the socio-economic and political life of the state, they are not given their due position in society.

Talmaki (2012) had highlighted that collective efforts and social intervention is required for improvement of the tribal women's education, vocational training, meaningful participation of tribal women in local self government bodies, anti alcohol efforts and prevention of domestic violence among tribal families.

Dutta (2012), Education imparts among the tribal women to know and overcome their problems associated with exploitation and to avail socio-economic and political opportunities. And the authors has also added that factors like poverty, indifferent attitude of the parents and children, superstitions and prejudice, lack of suitable teacher, problems of language and communication, inadequate facilities in the educational institutions and high wastage and stagnation causes major hindrances in the process of spread of education among tribal women.

From these above cited literatures it is clearly visible that education is a very important component of an individual. It is the main core to wellbeing and pillar towards any form of development. Educating girl child will not only act as investment to improve their socioeconomic status but also it might bring a change in the society.

3. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. Data

The study is purely based on primary data. The data on educational status are collected from Kuki women of age of 18 and above. Altogether, 60 Kuki women are taken from two villages (during the session August-October, 2013) namely Mata and Thingkangphai.

3.2. Methodology

For investigating the set objective, the primary data was collected through field survey from the study area.

To find out the educational status of the women a dimensional index term as educational index is incorporated below

$$\text{Educational Index} = \frac{\text{Value obtained}}{\text{Maximum Value}}$$

The Index will be measured by the literacy rate of the respondents. 0 will be allotted to illiterate women (illiterate refers to those who have not attained primary education) and for literate women, the years of schooling is allotted as the value obtained. The maximum value is the highest years of schooling among the 60 respondents in the two villages During the survey the maximum value is found out to be 17 that is Master Degree. Using the above mentioned Educational Index, the index value of each respondent is calculated and then the mean of the index values is taken as a benchmark to understand and capture the educational status of the Kuki women in the study area.

4. Result and discussion

Using the above mention Educational index, the index values of each respondent were calculated.

Respondents	Index value	Respondents	Index value	Respondents	Index value
Resp 1	0.529412	Resp 21	0.705882	Resp 41	0.470588
Resp 2	0.294118	Resp 22	0.470588	Resp 42	0.411765
Resp 3	0.882353	Resp 23	0.882353	Resp 43	0.647059
Resp 4	0.470588	Resp 24	0.588235	Resp 44	0.529412
Resp 5	0.705882	Resp 25	0.529412	Resp 45	0.705882
Resp 6	0.352941	Resp 26	0.647059	Resp 46	0.588235
Resp 7	0.647059	Resp 27	0.882353	Resp 47	1

Resp 8	0.529412	Resp 28	0.588235	Resp 48	0.705882
Resp 9	0.882353	Resp 29	0	Resp 49	0.529412
Resp 10	0.647059	Resp 30	0.176471	Resp 50	0.705882
Resp 11	0.705882	Resp 31	0.647059	Resp 51	0.294118
Resp 12	0.588235	Resp 32	0.588235	Resp 52	0
Resp 13	0	Resp 33	0.705882	Resp 53	0
Resp 14	0	Resp 34	0.705882	Resp 54	0.882353
Resp 15	0.764706	Resp 35	0	Resp 55	0.470588
Resp 16	0.470588	Resp 36	0.470588	Resp 56	0
Resp 17	0.647059	Resp 37	0.352941	Resp 57	0.411765
Resp 18	0.705882	Resp 38	0	Resp 58	0.588235
Resp 19	0.882353	Resp 39	0.470588	Resp 59	0
Resp 20	0.588235	Resp 40	0.588235	Resp 60	0.470588

Source: Authors own calculation from the survey

From the above table, the index values of the 60 respondents can be seen. After getting the index values for each respondent, the mean value of the index values is taken as the benchmark to check the educational status of Kuki women in the study area. During the analysis it is found that mean value of the index values is 0.51. And it can be seen that the index values of 37 Kuki women out of the 60 Kuki women were found to be above the mean value and the remaining 23 Kuki women were found to have an index values lower than the mean value.

CONCLUSION

A conclusion can be drawn that majority of the Kuki women in the study are educated adults. But still it will be a long way to achieve the target of satisfactory level of educational profile. During the survey, it came to light that due to lack of schools in hilly area, poor transportation facilities, early marriage, household work burden, poverty and old myth had prevented many of the women to get education. It was also found out that most of women were engage in agriculture work and other unorganised sector. In the concluding remark, the study stresses the matter that this weedy scenario in the society can be of various socioeconomic and demographic factors which hindrance the achievement of primary and secondary education to the women. The tribal women are one of the neglected groups in the society due to geographical terrain, problems of

language and communication, having less linkage with the development process and lacks of awareness among the people. Special approaches and attention is required toward their development. Based upon the finding the study will put forward some suggestion which will improve the educational status of the women. They are as follows

1. Importance of educating the girl child should be spread among the villagers.
2. Government/ Non Government must provide financial aids for girl child.
3. The chief of every village must take the initiatives to make education within the reach of every woman and girl child.
4. Any development plan should be implemented considering the customary and cultural ethic of the community.

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