

ENROLMENT OF NARIKURAVAR (NOMADS) STUDENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Abstract: One of the basic rights available to all the children: in India is the Right to Education. But it is a sad state of commentary that a lot of societies remain unaware of these rights and suffer in crunching poverty. Narikuravar (Nomads) people is one such community that lives in such a dark age. The reason why this community never got much assistance is the lack of any systematic research on their Social, Economical and Educational status. It has been a major obstacle blocking any effort to assist the Narikuravars. The students studying in the Panchayat Union Middle school that has classes up to 5th standard were taken as samples for the purpose of investigation. This school functions at Palamalainagar. The statistics regarding enrolment of the students were collected from the teachers and staff. The analysis of the trend reveals a gradual increase in enrolment of school going Narikuravar children. It's about increasing trend. This trend shows that the enrolment of Narikuravar children will get higher to come. It is felt that it is imperative to sensitize this community of Narikuravars and bring them into the mainstream of the society. Sensitizing the Narikuravar community and bringing them into the mainstream will lead to their comprehensive development especially in Education. The Government and the society must join hands and realize the plight of the Narikuravar community which is still in distress. They must work hard to lend a helping hand to this poor community.

Index Terms: Narikuravar, Enrolment, Education, Palamalainagar, Panchayat union school

Introduction

Education is a vital aspect for children which will lead to development in all other spheres of life like Social, Cultural and Economic areas etc. This is also important for the political awareness, as they grow in age which will determine the status of the society. Educational standard of the citizens is very much a critical component that has direct relation to the social upliftment. Right to education is a basic right for children, which has to be implemented with true spirit of the constitution and fabric of our nation. This is equal to all in terms of the various segments of people in the society, yet it is ironical that certain sections of the people are unaware of such a right and are relegated to abject poverty without making use of education as a tool towards their social development.

One such a community that are not aware of the right to education for the children is the Narikuravar Community (Nomads). They are ignorant of the legal provisions since there is a lack of awareness and sensitization on the subject. Social activists and developmental workers are striving hard to create the much needed awareness on this aspect among the subjugated community. An important aspect is that there is also a lack of scientific research on the Social, Economical and Educational Status of the Narikuravar Community which has proved to be a major stumbling block for all the efforts that are directed to assist them.

Review of Related Literature

Postiglione, G., Jiao, B., & Xiaoliang, L. (2012) studied about “Education change and development in nomadic communities of the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR)”. This research throws light on problems faced and achievements of spreading awareness about basic education in; nomadic regions of Tibetan Autonomous Region. The authors appreciate the rapid change but also point out that there must be a focus on improving the learning environment of school life by nourishing creativity and the focus on the application of the knowledge gained.

Birch, I. (2010). Produced booklet on “*Towards education for nomads: Community perspectives in Kenya. IIED*”, reveals fears and apprehensions of Kenyan pastoralists about education. There is a world of change in the perspective towards education in the countryside towards education in the countryside. The Pastoralists are mincing no words to express their views and the Government has no option but fulfilling their demands. It involves coming out with alternatives. Therefore, they don't have to make hard choices that they make now.

Martha-Rose, C. I., Charles, U., & Okereke, C. (2014) studied about “Counselling for Effective Management of Nomadic Education in Nigeria” exhibited the impact of conducive and positive counselling in bringing about creative and positive inroads into effective management of nomadic education programmes. This program will produce students who will be well equipped and independent to understand the world.

Shagari, M. H., Bello, H. Y., & Umar, S. (2013) studied on “The role of nomadic education in developing nomadic community”. He came to a conclusion that providing formative education to them is a daunting challenge indeed since millions of nomadic children have not registered for education yet. Besides, these children often come out as insignificant in terms of school enrolment, attendance, classroom performance, achievement, continuity to higher education and gender balance. Most of them end up as the lowest scorers in their educational institution

Population and Place of living

A considerable population of 1473 Narikuravar community is living in Palamalainagar, Sivagangai District. Palamalainagar is named after the former collector of Sivagangai District who helped build 176 houses during the year 1992. Palamalainagar is a non-descript place located 4 km away from the district capital of Sivagangai. Interestingly, Palamalainagar is inhabited exclusively by the Narikuravar community. Currently there are 191 houses and about 547 families living there for about 30 years, out of which 423 family members are children.

They believe that their ancestors migrated to Tamil Nadu from Gujarat and Rajasthan. They are living in very old, damaged homes built by government about 14 years ago. Some of them are in small tents built by them. Neither the damaged houses nor the tents save them from scorching sun or torrential rains. The pitiable condition is they are living together with families of their married children in a single roomed house. Government has the proposal to build new houses for them through Narikuravar welfare board. Most of them are having ration card and voter ID.

Need for the Study

The need for the study stems from the fact that as a Nation, India has significantly achieved much progress in the field of Science & Technology, Agriculture, Industry, Medicine etc, yet at the same time we have very poor status of certain segments of people Community who are socially struggling to live a life with basic minimum standards. In Tamil Nadu the Narikuravar Community is at great disadvantage in terms of social development due to impoverished conditions because of their poor educational status. They are far behind that the others in the aspect of leading an socially enriched life with reasonable economic and social wellbeing.

It is a necessity to take up the responsibility to uplift them to an empowered status in the society. They seem to be living in isolation with a very poor track of human development. This condition is getting worsened year by year since there are not many programs which are aimed at their social development and well being. The major concern of the problem in this scenario is that there is no clear situational study or data with regard to their backwardness in every aspect of social life. Therefore, it is very essential that a study is carried out to address the need for concerted efforts to look into socio cultural conditions, Educational status of the Narikuravar Community and problems faced by their school going children.

The Narikuravar Community are also in great need to get socially integrated with the social mainstream with their participation in Social, Cultural, Economic and Political aspects, which is necessary in modern day concept of civil society. The responsibility of the Government and the role of the Non Governmental Organizations and that of the Civil Society have a wider meaning and significance, if positive changes are to be made in the lives of the Narikuravar Community

Objectives

The Main Objectives of this study is to find out the Narikuravar community students' progress in enrolment in the Panchayat Union School. Keeping the above main objective in mind, the following specific objectives were framed

- To find out Male and female students strength up to 5th Standard in Panchayat union school, Palamalainagar, Sivagangai
- To find out Educational status among Narikuravar children in Panchayat union school, Palamalainagar, Sivagangai
- To find out the progress in enrolment of students in Piyoor in Sivagangai
- To analyse the obstacles in the Educational development of Narikuravar students.

Hypothesis

There is no significant increase in enrolments of school going Narikuravar children in every academic year.

Methodology

Sources of data

In Sivagangai, the Narikuravar Community is living in Palamalainagar with Piyoor Panchayat in Sivagangai Taluk. It is in the Eastern part of Sivagangai District. It is four kilometers away from Sivagangai town. A small Panchayat Union Primary School with classes up to 5th standard is functioning in Palamalainagar. Initially it was started by the collector Mr.Palamalai and then it was handed over to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Funded by SSA. The school was running by the NGO called ASIFA as a Residential Special Training Center (RSTC) and it was named as "Undu, Uraividapalli". Though food was provided for the whole day, the NGO could not run the school due to abject lack of knowledge and interest of the Narikuravar students. Then the government took responsibility in the year 2010 and the school emerged as a Panchayat Union School from 26.07.2010.

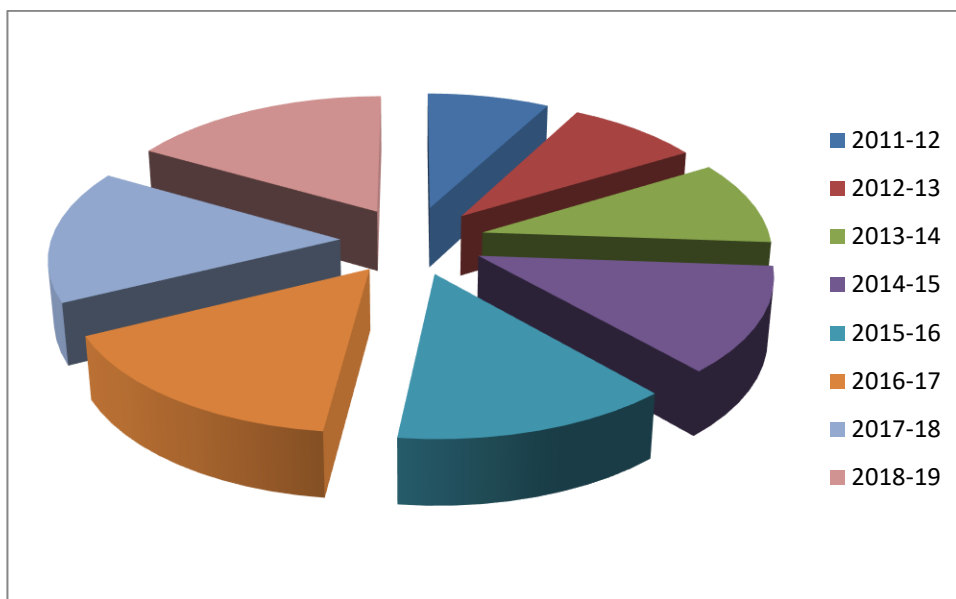
Despite the fact that this is a Government school, no other community children prefer this school, because of the presence of the Narikuravar children which obviously indicates social discrimination against Narikuravar community in the modern Social Scenario. For the purpose of investigation, the students of the Panchayat Union Primary School with classes up to 5th standard functioning in Palamalainagar were taken. The enrolment details of students were collected from teachers and administrative staffs.

Table 1
Enrolment of Students in Panchayat Union School in Palamalalai Nagar, Sivagangai Dist.

Academic Year	I		II		III		IV		V		Total		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
2011-12	7	10	5	3	4	4	2	2	3	3	21	22	43
2012-13	7	3	7	10	5	3	4	4	2	2	25	22	47
2013-14	5	6	7	3	7	10	5	3	4	4	28	26	54
2014-15	13	15	8	8	7	3	5	3	5	1	38	30	68
2015-16	4	10	13	17	7	7	7	3	3	3	34	40	74
2016-17	7	13	4	10	13	17	7	7	6	3	37	50	87
2017-18	7	4	9	12	4	8	12	16	7	7	39	47	86
2018-19	6	8	7	8	11	12	4	8	12	16	40	52	92

The above table shows a gradual increase in enrolments every year

Figure 1



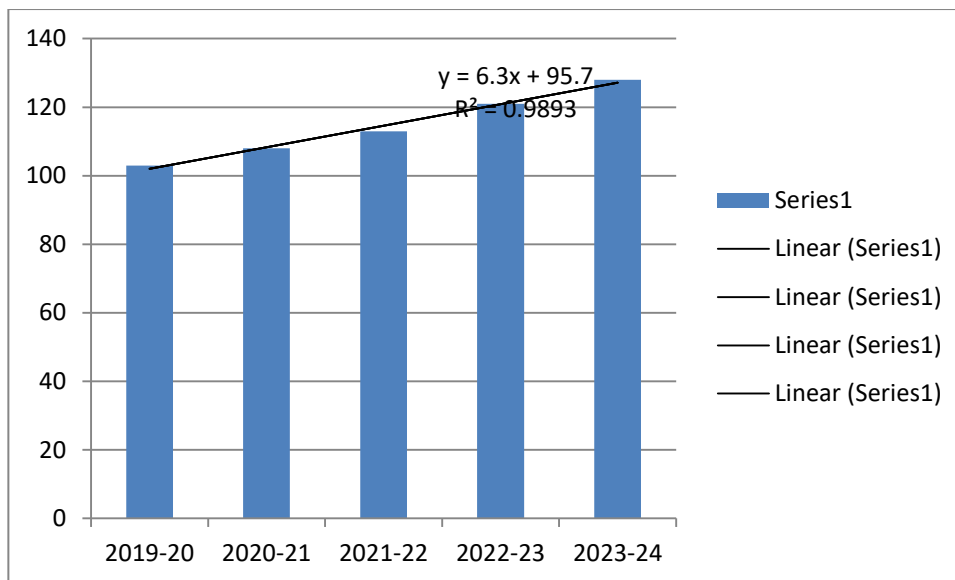
Statistical Techniques

The data thus obtained were analyzed using Trend analysis. It is a technique of studying the operational results and financial position over a series of years. Using the previous years’ data of an enterprise, trend analysis can be done to observe the percentage changes over time in the selected data. The trend percentage is the percentage relationship, in which each item of different years bear to the same item in the base year. By looking at a trend in a particular ratio, one may find whether the ratio is falling, rising or remaining relatively constant. From this observation, a problem is detected or the sign of good or poor improvement in number of school going children in successive years is detected.

Table 2
Table Showing Trend for Successive Years

Year	I		II		III		IV		V		Total		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
2019-20	6	9	9	13	11	14	9	12	10	11	45	58	103
2020-21	6	9	9	14	11	15	10	13	11	11	45	63	108
2021-22	6	9	9	15	12	16	11	15	12	12	45	68	113
2022-23	6	9	9	16	13	17	11	16	13	14	48	73	121
2023-24	6	9	9	16	14	19	12	17	15	15	50	78	128

Figure 2



Implications

The trend analysis shows a gradual increase in enrolment of school going Narikuravar children increasing every year. This increasing trend is a good sign which will argue well for the Narikuravar Community in the years to come. The status of the Narikuravar Community will be considerably enhanced if the Government can increase the level of awareness about the need and Enrolment of Narikuravar (Nomads) Students in Primary School importance of education for the children of their community, it will also help to remove the various myths and misconceptions that are in the minds of the persons of the Narikuravar Community. The greater the sensitization about the provisions that are available to the community for education will improve their confidence level and will enable them to come forward to make us of such provisions for the betterment of the educational status of their children. Education is the starting point of all social, moral, cultural and economic advancements in life for an individual, this could also be the case for the children of the Narikuravar Community, which will go a long way to empower them towards a successful life.

Conclusion

The important task of sensitizing the Narikuravar community and bringing them into main stream will lead to their comprehensive development through a vital aspect of Education. This is the social and moral duty of the government and the society to lend a helping hand to the Narikuravar community to uplift them from their deprived status and ease their social stigma.

The stakeholders in the society must ensure that there is adequate and concerted efforts to create awareness so that the neglected community can be empowered to make their lives better and meaningful. It is also within the context to mention that the recent ST status announced by the Government will prove to be a gateway for Narikuravar community to join the mainstream of life.

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