



Factors Influencing School Drop Out of Tribal Students in Rural India: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Education is a highly fundamental prerequisite for human progress. Employment and income levels increase due to schooling and quality education. Education is essential for both individual and national growth. India has the world's highest tribal population. However, many underprivileged Indian tribes are still unable to complete their education. As a result, there is a need to comprehend the dropout factors in this group. The present paper aims to understand the disparities and causes linked with dropouts in higher education among tribes in India. The result highlighted factors such as lack of social support, economic backwardness, malnutrition, and health issues that are essential in determining dropouts in India. Furthermore, an absence of excitement in education, being far from school, failure in academics, and financial limitations are vital factors that increase the probability of dropouts in higher education among the tribal population in India.

Keywords: Factor, Tribal population, Dropouts, Higher Education, Rural India

1. Introduction

Education is the most fundamental prerequisite for human progress. Employment prospects expand, and income levels rise as a result of schooling (Govindaraju & Venkatesan, 2010). Education is essential for both individual growth and national success. It is also the primary means of exposing a student to cultural values, making it the most potent factor in a child's development and maturation, training them to be a responsible, intellectual, and capable citizen. Education is also crucial in improving women's position and autonomy (Banik & Neogi, 2015). It adds to an improvement in household confidence and decision-making ability. Although the percentage of literate children in India is increasing, the number of illiterate children aged 6 to 14 is rising. Education constitutes one of the most significant factors in a country's growth. It significantly helps people's understanding of themselves and their surroundings (Kumar et al., 2023).

Furthermore, education is essential for maintaining social and economic development and boosting the equal distribution of wealth. Inadequate educational settings and harassment at schools have been linked to an increased likelihood of dropping out among tribal students (Lata & Khatri, 2017). Other factors such as a distance from school, a lack of sufficient amenities, low levels of education, a poor educational atmosphere and construction, packed classrooms, wrong language learning, teacher recklessness, and safety challenges in girls' schools are significant causes of student dropout in different nations (Madhukar, 2023).

Education has been established as a critical indicator for human growth, significantly contributing to people's well-being by raising income and living situations by enhancing skills and independence (Gouda & Sekher, 2014). Parents' education also influences the welfare of future generations through intergenerational communication; the higher the degree of education, the greater the likelihood that the kid will be better educated and healthier (Mohanty et al., 2023). Although emerging economies have made significant progress towards universal access to education, it remains a distant goal for those nations where the learning crisis is seen as an essential concern (Pillai, 2019). India has the world's highest tribal population. However, many underprivileged Indian tribes are still unable to complete their education. As a result, there is a need to comprehend the dropout factors in this group (Mahalanabis & Acharya, 2021). The present paper aims to understand the disparities and causes linked with dropouts in higher education among tribes in India. The result highlighted factors such as social division, economic backwardness, lack of school infrastructure, and geographical diversity, which are essential in determining dropouts in India (Mitra & Sengupta, 2023). Furthermore, an absence of excitement in education, being far from school, failure in academics, and financial limitations are vital factors that increase the probability of dropouts in higher education among tribal students in India (Sucharita, 2023).

2. Factors influencing Dropout in Higher Education

Dropouts are students who quit school before the end of the educational cycle in which they are enrolled at the primary, college or university levels. Dropouts are defined in this study as students who dropped out for reasons other than promotion, transfer, completion of education, or death, including those who dropped out due to excessive school absences (Rishi & Choudhary, 2023). Education empowers individuals to grow into contributing members of their communities. Primary education sets the groundwork for later education. Cases of dropouts can be discovered worldwide; however, the emphasis of this research study will be only on rural India (Somashekar, 2023). The primary goal is to determine the factors that contribute to India's dropout rate in higher education among the tribal students in India. These factors are discussed as follows:

2.1 Financial Constraints

Financial challenges are the central problem in the school dropout rate of tribal students in the higher education system in India. Notwithstanding the elimination of impediments to education, learners not attending school are as challenging. There is little question that socioeconomic pressures, including poverty and unemployment, are increasing (Venkatesan & Mappillairaju, 2023). Despite the abolition of fees, tribals were still denied access to education, while females were employed as domestic servants owing to home poverty. The actual financial predicament of individuals, particularly low-income and economically impoverished populations such as tribes, is a significant factor in higher education dropouts (Saha, 2023). According to specific research, students from low-income families are more likely to drop out of school. They may be forced to work to support their family. Some youngsters may need to stay home to care for their siblings while their parents' work. According to the National Centre for Education Statistics research, students from low-income families have the highest dropout rate (9.4%). Many youngsters must work rather than attend school to support their families (Mitra et al., 2023).

2.2 Malnutrition and Health Issues

Malnutrition significantly influences school-age children, such as lower attendance and more acute performance in age-appropriate grades. Long-term consequences of students' well-being and nutrition affect school enrolment, dropout, and academic success (Garg et al., 2023). School-aged students who lack nutrients such as protein, energy, malnutrition, hunger, or essential micronutrients in their diets do not have the same learning capacity as healthy, fed students (Roy, 2023). These disadvantaged students are less likely to attend school regularly, are more likely to repeat classes, drop out early, and fail to study effectively owing to poor levels of attention, exhibit little motivation, and exhibit poor cognitive function (Raj, 2023). Many studies have found that children who experience severe acute malnutrition as youngsters have impaired cognitive function, low academic performance, and behavioural disorders. Stunting and underweight have been additionally associated with delays in development in studies carried out in India (Dash, 2023).

2.3 Academic Difficulty/ Failure

The amount of high school and college students who do not complete their school and college education poses a massive problem to India's educational system. In our nation, students are expected to complete their education before entering the professional sphere. Another reason children drop out of school is an inability to cope with academic demands (Govindaraju & Venkatesan, 2010). According to studies, children who do not read effectively are four times more likely to drop out of school. Studies show pupils who fail are more feasible to drop out of high school. Many students find school uninteresting. They like arriving late, missing lessons, and taking lengthy lunch breaks. Dropping out of school can often be triggered by a lack of interest. Some students have difficulty in connecting with the teacher. Most students did not believe their professors encouraged them to work hard enough (Kumar et al., 2023).

2.4 Lack of Family Support

Parents of high school dropouts are frequently disengaged or unconcerned with their children's academic achievement. When it comes to high school attendance, parents play an essential influence (Dash, 2023). Parental participation is a concern that frequently leads to more excellent dropout rates, particularly among high school pupils (Somashekar, 2023). Suppose a parent does not encourage her kid to stay in school, show interest in classes and teachers, connect with administration, or complete homework assignments. In that case, the child may not see any need to complete the coursework. When parents fail to prioritise their child's high school education, the youngster may opt-out (Sucharita, 2023).

3. Conclusions

Education empowers individuals to grow into contributing members of their communities. Primary education sets the groundwork for later education. Cases of dropouts can be discovered worldwide; however, the emphasis of this research study will be only on rural India. According to a recent National Statistical Office (NSO) study, around 12.6% of students in India drop out; 19.8% drop out at the high school level, and 17.5% drop out at the higher education level. The study's primary objective is to determine the factors contributing to India's dropout rate in higher education among tribal students. The study highlighted that financial constraints, malnutrition and health issues, academic disengagement and lack of family support are the major factors influencing the dropouts of the tribal population in rural India. Education is the primary means of exposing a student to cultural values, making it the most potent factor in a child's development and maturation, training them to be a responsible, intellectual, and capable citizen. Education is also crucial

in improving women's position and autonomy. It adds to an improvement in household confidence and decision-making ability. The study benefits policymakers and stakeholders in implementing effective policies to improve the enrolment rate among the tribal population in India's higher education system.

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