

The Present Condition of Elementary Schools in the Tea Gardens of Sivasagar Sub-Division

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Abstract

The tea garden community of Assam is one of the backward communities of Assam. The literacy rate of the people of this community is very poor. The problem of universalisation of elementary education has been found more serious among the people of this community. So the present study has been conducted by the investigator to study the present conditions of the elementary schools in the tea gardens of Sivasagar sub-division. The study has been conducted through Descriptive survey method of research. In selecting the sample for the present study "Simple Random Sampling" technique has been used. Among the three sub-divisions of Sivasagar District only Sivasagar sub-division has been selected as the area for the present study. 61% of tea garden schools have been selected randomly as the sample for the present study.

Key words : Tea tribes, Elementary education, Sub-division

Introduction :

Assam is one of the backward states of India with 73.18% of literacy according to the census report of 2011. Assam is the biggest producer of quality tea in India in comparison to other states. Assam contributes about 55% to countries total tea production. Assam's tea industry is depended on about two million labourers. These labourers are the descendent of those who were brought to Assam from outside by the East India Company to work in the newly established tea gardens of the state. The labours were brought originally from various parts of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh etc and they have now become a part of the Assamese society. The

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descendants of these labourers are now called tea tribes and the people of this community are known as tea tribe community. These tea labours generally live inside tea-estates and these tea-estates are located in interior places. It is admitted that literacy rate of these communities is lower than other communities. It has been also observed that the magnitude of drop out at the primary stage of education in case of these tea garden communities is greater than others. They are believed to have failed to respond satisfactorily to the various efforts of government and non-government agencies towards universalisation of elementary education. It is being felt that if the problem is not studied in depth and detail, the solution of the problem of universalisation of elementary education would remain a distant dream.

Need and Significance of the Study :

Among the different communities living in Assam, tea garden communities are considered more backward than other communities. The low rate of literacy is one of the major problems of tea garden areas. The tea garden authority never paid any attention to this problem except opening one or two L.P. school. The parents also neglect the education of their child. Most of the parents generally consider that education is not essential for their child. Different developmental scheme undertaken by the Government so far has been found ineffective to improve the literacy rate of the people of tea-garden communities. The problems of universalisation of primary education have been found more acute among the children of these communities. The problem of illiteracy can be expected to be solved successfully only when all the children of these tea garden communities will receive compulsory elementary education. Therefore the investigator has decided to undertake a research study in this area to study the present condition of the Elementary schools in the tea gardens of Sivasagar subdivision. The findings of the study are likely to help in formulating specific policies and strategies for achieving universalisation of primary education among tea garden communities of Assam.

Objectives of the Study :

The following objectives are formulated for the study—

1. To study the present condition of infrastructure in the elementary schools of tea garden
2. To study the academic qualification of the teachers in the elementary schools of tea garden
3. To study the number of trained and untrained teachers in the elementary schools of the tea garden.

Methodology :

The study has been conducted through descriptive survey method of research so that precise information concerning the current status of the schools could be obtained.

Population :

The present study covers all the elementary schools of tea gardens in Sivasagar-sub-division. So all the Head of the institutions of these schools has been selected as the population of the study.

Sample :

In selecting the sample of the present study "Simple Random Sampling" technique has been used. The Sivasagar district is divided into three Sub Divisions namely- Sivasagar subdivision, Charaideo subdivision and Nazira subdivision. Among these three sub-divisions only Sivasagar sub-division has been selected as the area for the present study. There are 13 tea garden schools under the Sivasagar Sub Division. From these 13 tea garden schools 8 tea garden schools (61%) have been selected randomly as the sample for the purpose of the present study.

Research Tools :

One self structured interview schedule was prepared by the investigator to collect data for the present study.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data :

Analysis of data is the central part of any research study. In the present study the data has been collected from the primary source through descriptive survey method from 8 tea garden elementary schools. After collecting the data the data has been classified and tabulated which has been shown in the Table-1, Table-2 and Table-3 below.

Table - 1
Present Infrastructural Condition of the Schools

Sl. No	Infrastructure	Number of Schools		Percentage	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Pucca School Building	8	0	100%	0%
2	Boundary Wall	0	8	0%	100%
3	Electricity	0	8	0%	100%
4	Adequate Classroom	2	6	25%	75%
5	School Library	1	7	13%	67%
6	School Playground	2	6	25%	75%
7	Teachers Common Room	0	8	0%	100%
8	Boys Toilet	3	5	38%	62%
9	Girls Toilet	5	3	63%	37%
10	Common Toilet	3	5	37%	63%
11	Hand Pump	8	0	100%	0%
12	Running Water	0	8	0%	100%

Regarding infrastructural facilities in the above table it has been found that--

- a) All the tea garden elementary schools building of sivasagar subdivision are pucca and there is no kuchha school building.
- b) Out of 8 schools no schools has boundary wall and electricity facility
- c) Only 25% of the schools have adequate classroom and 75% of the schools does not have adequate classroom.
- d) Only 13% of the elementary schools have school library and 67% of the schools does not have school library.
- e) Only 25% of the schools have play ground facility for the student and 75% of the schools does not have play ground for the student
- f) Out of 8 schools no school has common room for the teachers.
- g) Only 38% of the elementary schools have toilet facility for the boy's student and 62% of the schools do not have toilet facility for the boy's student.
- h) Only 63% of the elementary schools have toilet facility for the girl's student and 37% of the elementary schools do not have toilet facility for the girl's student.
- i) Only 37% of the schools have common toilet facility for both boys and girls student and 63% of the schools do not have common toilet facility for both boys and girls student.
- j) Out of 8 schools all the schools have only hand pump as the source of drinking water and no schools has the facility of running water for the student.

Table-2
Academic Qualification of Teachers

Qualification	No. of Teachers	Percentage
Below H.S.L.C	0	0%
H.S.L.C	27	61.36%
H.S.S.L.C	09	20.45%
Graduate	08	18.18%
Post-Graduate	0	0%
Total No. of Teacher	44	100%

The above table reveals that out of 44 teachers 61.36% are H.S.L.C passed, 20.45% of the teachers are H.S.S.L.C passed and 18.18% teachers are graduates. No teacher has been found below H.S.L.C and no teacher has been found post-graduate. The data tabulated above is shown in the following bar diagram -

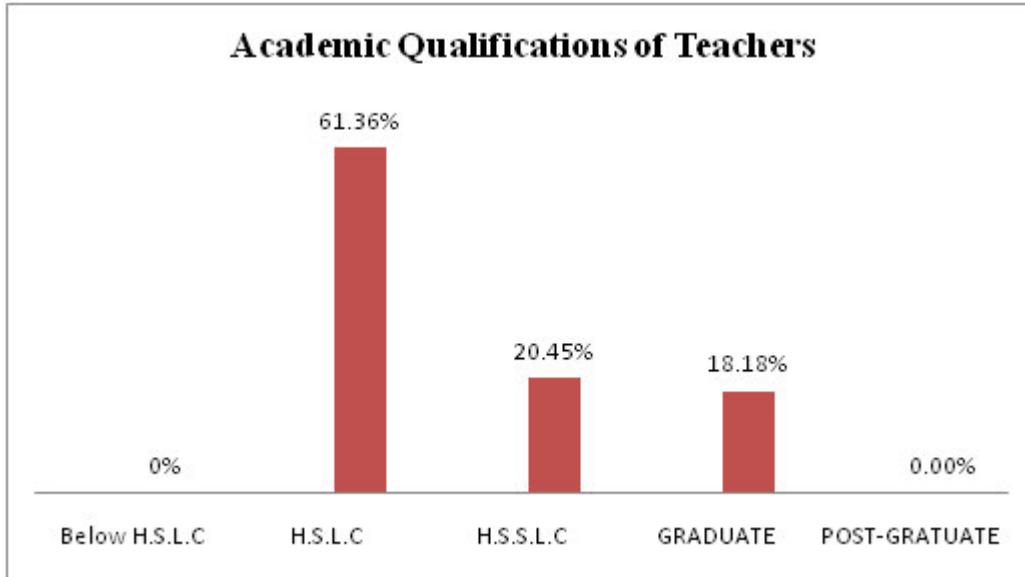
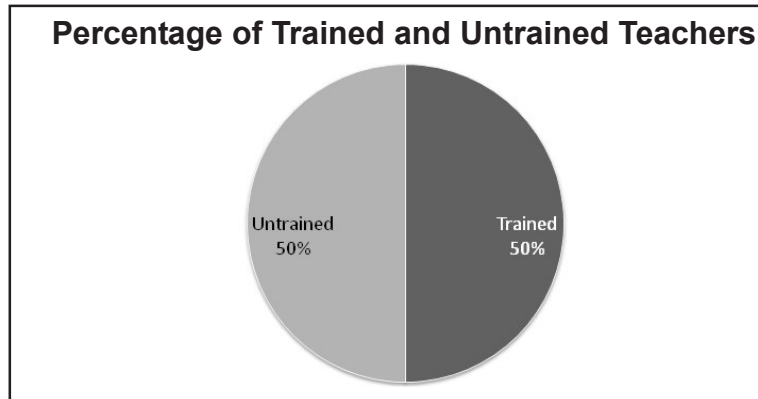


Table -3
Number of Trained and Untrained Teachers

Number of Teachers		Percentage (%)	
Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained
22	22	50%	50%

The above table shows that out of 44 teachers 50% of the teachers are trained and 50% of the teachers are still untrained. It implies that a large number of untrained teachers are rendering their service in tea-garden schools of Sivasagar sub-division. The data tabulated above is shown in the following pie- diagram.

**Major Findings of the Study :**

On the basis of analysis and interpretation the major findings of the study are as follows –

Findings Related to Objective No. 1 :

All the elementary schools building in the tea garden of Sivasagar subdivision are pucca. Out of 8 schools no schools has boundary wall, electricity facility and teachers common room, 75% of the schools does not have adequate classroom, 67% of the schools does not have school library and 75% of the schools does not have any play ground facility for the student. Besides the above problem the schools are also suffering from the problem of facility of toilets for the student. 62% of the schools do not have toilet facility for the boy's student, 37% of the schools do not have toilet facility for the girl's student, 63% of the schools do not have common toilet facility for both boys and girls student. The drinking water facilities of the schools are also very poor. All the schools have only hand pump as the source of drinking water and no schools has the facility of running water for the student.

Findings Related to Objective No. 2 :

Out of 44 teachers 61.36% are H.S.L.C passed, 20.45% of the teachers are H.S.S.L.C passed and 18.18% teachers are graduates. No teacher has been found below H.S.L.C and no teacher has been found post-graduate.

Findings Related to Objective No. 3 :

Out of 44 teachers 50% of the teachers are trained and 50% of the teachers

are still untrained.

Conclusion :

From the above study it can be concluded that all the elementary schools of tea gardens of Sivasagar subdivision are suffering from poor infrastructural condition. It has been found from the analysis of data that no schools have boundary wall, electricity facility and teacher's common room and only a few schools have the facility of adequate classroom, school library and school playground for the student. It has been also found that 50% of the teachers are still untrained and most of the teacher's qualification is very low. So we can conclude that the present condition of the Elementary Schools in the tea gardens of Sivasagar sub-division is not very satisfactory.

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