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GRT PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTS REGARDING EDUATION OF THEIR CHILDREN STUDYING IN ASHRAM SCHOOL: A CASE STUDY OF PARENTS IN NANDED DISTRICT, (Mah).

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Abstract:-Education is considered as an instrument of peaceful revolution in different areas of life of the individual as well of the society. 'Right to Education' has been included as fundamental right by the 86th amendment to the constitution introduced in 2002 under article 21A. Children are universally recognized as the most important asset of any nation. They are the most valuable of the resources of a nation and thus deserves the best that mankind can give. Children need special protection as they are the most vulnerable section of human society and because of their fragile state of development children are readily susceptible to abuse and neglect. If they are not protected and ensured in totality children are deprived from basic rights and get exploited remain underprivileged and vulnerable. They became victims of many evil practices misused and forced to live under sub human conditions. Though there are child right convention, constitutional provisions, enactments, child welfare policies/ programs, National Child Rights commission, five year plans, NGO initiatives etc for the protection and care of the children. They are suffering from many problem such as child labour, child trafficking, child abuse, drop out from school, taking education in inhuman conditions etc. thus role of parent in ensuring rights of children is very important one.

 $\textbf{Keywords:} \ Education\,, Right to \ Education\,, constitutional \ provisions\,, child \ welfare \ policies$

INTRODUCTION:

Education, marital status, atmosphere in the family, physical environment and accupation of the family influence the aspirations and the way of attainment of goals of children on a large scale. It is evident that educated parents boost the pocess of educational development of children by providing educational aids to them. Money or the income-level is of the prime importance in providing means for satisfaction of needs of children. Therefore, these three factors ie. education, accupation and income level of parent of learners are related with one another. They are the crux of socio-economic life of family. Thus the poverty is the main reason of non-attendance of children at school and low enrolement of children in schools. It is found that majority of families in deprived sections of societs come under low income groups. Yet it can be concluded that parents working as skilled labours and servicemen are more aware and thus concerned regarding the povision of educational facility to their children than the respondents who comes under low income groups.

In spite of several programmes of special assistance to the children of deprived sections of society, a positive and strong relationship between socio-economic status and educational attainment of the deprived sections has been reported. The education commission was of the view that it is the responsibility of the educational system to bring the different social classes and groups together to create an egalitarian society. But on the other hand, education has tried to create class distinctions among different sections of society. Socio-economic conditions are very influential factors in the study of any society. The economic conditions of any family determine the aspirations, the way of achiving goals and material gains of its members. The economically better off families usually succeed to satisfy their primary and secondary needs and they can acquire material goals comparatively easily. While poor families cannot satisfy primary needs easily and they experience emotional strains and teansions in their day to day life.

Social structure is seen primairly as a system of class inequality and the key institutions by which its effects are transmitted are the family and the school. Physical environment plays an important part in determining educational development of children. The physical environment where deprived sections of society lives is not conducive to the educational development of children, sometimes school facility is not present in this area, at other times even though there is

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school facility many of the children do not attend the school because there is lack of motivation on the part of their parents and lack of interest on the part of the children. Children of these sections get enrolled in the schools but due to socio-economic reasons these children discontinue their education in the school. There are low rates of literary and enrolment among the children as compared to other children in better of parts of the city. The fact is attributed to the role played by physical environment of family of children in the educative process of children.

The children of nomads experience all forms of neglect like that of physical neglect, emotional neglect, educational neglect and medical neglect. They are deliberaately neglected by their parents as they fail to supervise and take charge of their children. Researches show that most of the nomadic children are victims of active neglect as they accompany their parents instead of going to school, they perform on road sides, in cities for ex. children playing drums and walking on strings, snakes trappers and monkey performers. These nomadic children are trained by their parents to exhibit their talents and solicit money. But it is pitiable to note that for these children this is the only means to earn their livelihood.

Present study has been focused on case studies of parents whose children are studing in ashram school comprizing VJ/NT, ST and SC catogries. They are the most deprived sections of society with low-income groups. Thus their perceptions and aspirations about education for their children is valuable. There is close relation between parent's socio-economic educational occupational background and children's educational and overall development and protection of rights. Present study is an attempt to throw light on need of aspirations, motivation of parents which influence the achievements and attainments of children studying in Ashram school. It is also an attempt to study the perceptions of parent regarding quality of education and facilities provided in ashram school for their children and thereby asses the role of parent for their educational development and building their future.

METHODOLOGY

Present study is an qualitative study thus it has been conducted by using case - study method followed by a set of questionnaires highlighting the factors such as socio-economic background, occupational status of parent of learners, aspirations of parents regarding educational achievements of their children studying in Ashram school, and perceptions of parents about quality of educations, Food, Health and safety facilities, provided to their children at Ashram school. Primary data has been collected by conducting direct interview of parents of children studying in Ashram school. Secondary data also has been used such as books, journals and internet. Analytical research design has been used to analyze the case studies.

In Nanded district in order to spread education among vulnerable section of the society such as vimukta jatis and Nomadic Tribes (VJ/NT), Scheduled Tribes(ST), Scheduled castes (SC) and others who constitute sizable population of the district (approximately 60%) all total 107 primary and post-basic Ashram schools are operating for them. The schools are supported and managed by N.G.O (90) Tribal department/ Zillah Parishad (17). By using purposive sampling method four sample of parents has been selected one from each category viz. VJ/NT, ST and SC. At the end of the study findings conclusions and suggestions has been drawn by analyzing the case studies on the basis of objectives.

OBJECTIVES

To study the socio economic background and educational, occupational status of parent of learners.

To study the aspirations of parents regarding educational achievements of their children studying in Ashram school.

To study the reasons of parents for admitting their children at Ashram school.

To study the perceptions of parents about quality of educations, Food, Health and safety facilities, provided to their children at Ashram school.

ANALYSIS OF CASE STUDIES OF PARENT OF LEARNERS

Case study No - 1

Shankar father of the learner 42 years old and mother 33 years old at pota taluka Himayatnagar dist. Nanded belongs to VJ caste category theirs basic occupation is farming both father and mother of the learner works in the own farm. They hold 4—5 acre land besides farming they have goat rearing as a secondary occupation. Both father and mother are educated up to secondary level. They lived in a house made-up of mud and tin. Which have electricity, water, toilet and bathroom facility's, television is available as an interment facility no other facilitates which makes life easy are available such as has, mixer, vehicle for etc. Family consists 06 members. They bear 04 children one daughter, and 02 sons out of which daughter is studying in X std. while son is studying in V and VI std. Respectively and one is a small kid. At village level school is up to primary level. Reason they admitted for sending at residential ashram school was that the Ashram school is near their village where they reside. As they have to go for work on farm they can't pay towards their children at home. Moreover all educational facilities are free to their children at Ashram school.

Their future aspirations towards their children educational achievements are not very high as they want to educate their children up to higher secondary level. They are satisfied about the progress of their ward that they are attending school regularly instead of wandering at village and are concentrating on studies and doing their routine work independently. Parents

are not satisfied about the quality of food provided at Ashram school though they don't dare to complain about it Parents visited school very rarely nor they attend parents meeting as they don't get time out of their work. They want to educate their daughter but due to caste system traditions they are not ready to break the caste practices and prevailing traditions. The daughter helps her mother in household works and many times she stays at home to look after her small brother and have to do all family chores instead of going to school.

Case study No. 2

Madhav the father of the learners 45 years old, and mothers 25 years old, belong to NT caste category reside in the village name Savli, Near Bus Stop, Biloli, and Dist. Nanded. Both father and mother work as an agriculture labour. They are landless thus they go to work on others farm in the same village on daily wages to meet the needs of livelihoods of their family. In order to raise income they are doing animal husbandry also. They earn Rs. 15,000 to 20,000 annually. Parents of the learner both father and mothers are illiterate, they had never gone to school. They lived in a small hut which don't have electricity, toilet, and bathroom and water facility. No television and other entertainment facilities are available at home. They have to bring water from the common hand pump which is far away from their home. Very limited facilities are available at home which is not satisfactory to maintain the minimum standard of living. In their family there are total 06 members, they bear 03 children, 02 sons and 01 daughter. In their village school is till 10th Std.

The two sons are taking education in Ashram School, one son is studying at II Std and another one is studying in IV std. Though girl is older than the boy she is not taking education. She stays at home and supports the family by working at home handling daily family chores; look after home when the parents went to fields for work. As parents are illiterate they don't have any special aspiration about the future of their children especially about girl.

As they belongs to NT category they told that in their caste education is not given to the girl child as there is no use of education in terms of employment. They opines that due to their, poor socio-economic conditions they can't afford the educational expenditure of other private school. Thus they send their children at residential Ashram school. They are satisfied about the facilities and education gets at Ashram school as they totally unaware about the Govt. Scheme of Ashram school and facilities that are provided and thus whatever getting free that is sufficient to them. They don't have any complaints nor do they have any expectations from the Ashram School. They are not very attentive towards the result and progress of their children. They seem that their children should decide what they want to become in future and if they fails to get good job in future parents are not worried to join them to work as agricultural labour in other's farm and meet their livelihood needs.

Case study No-3

Pandurang, father of the learner, aged 40 years, mother Umnabai, 29 years old belongs to ST category. They reside in gondjevli village, taluka kinwat, dist Nanded. Their basic occupation is farming. They rely on it for the fulfillment of their livelihood needs. Mother is an housewife. She does not go outside for work. They hold 7 acres of land and animal husbandry as secondary occupation. They earn Rs 15, 000-20,000 annually. Father and mother, both have taken education up to primary level. They live in a house made up of mud and tin. Electricity and water facilities are available at home. They don't avail toilet and bathroom facilities. Drainage system has not been developed. Thus they live in an unhealthy environment. No television is available at home as an entertainment facility. No other facilities which raise their standard of living are available at home. They bear 2 children. One is studying in IX Std and the daughter is studying in VII std .both of them are studying in ashram school. At village level, Zillah parishad's primary school is available. They want to educate their daughter till Xth std. So that she should get married in a good family. Dowry is still prevailing in their caste system. They are worried about it for their daughter. No special aspiration regarding daughter's education but wants to education to get good job in future.

They are satisfied with the facilities and treatment provided in ashram school. They are of the opinion that no problems are prevailing regarding any matter in ashram school. They rarely i.e. twice in a year visit the school to take follow up. They are satisfied with the progress of their wards, as behavior has been improved after sending to ashram school. They feel sad that they can't fulfill certain needs of their children due to their poor economic condition. They believe in bhanamati, karni. Though they don't like to practice, but under the pressure of caste system, traditions and fear, they follow the practices to some extent.

Case study No - 4

Govind, the father of the learner, aged 40 years, mother, Mahadabai, aged 32 years. Lived in a rural area in a small village, Ambegaon, taluka, Ardhapur, dist. Nanded. They belong to S.C caste category. Both father and mother work as an agricultural labour in other's farm. They don't have any land holdings nor do they have any secondary occupation. They earn Rs.20000 – 25000 annually. Education of father is up to primary level and mother is totally illiterate. They bear three children, two sons and one daughter. Only one son is studying at Ashram school and the rest two are at home supporting the family, by working along with parents in the fields. They live in a small hut, located in a farm. Family consists of seven members. They don't have electricity, bathroom and toilet facilities at home. Water facility is available. No television and entertainment facilities are available. At village level, school is 35km away from their residential place. As it is very difficult to travel a long distance from the farm to the school, they have sent their son to the Ashram school. They want their son to be a successful

person and get a good job in future. They are satisfied with the progress of their ward as he is attentive towards his studies after sending to ashram school.

They can't pay attention towards their ward's education and are worried about the same. They are satisfied with the education, food, health and safety facilities and treatment given in ashram school to their children. They visit the school very rarely to take follow up of their ward because they don't get time from their work. They are positive towards girl's education but as school is far away from their residential place, they don't send their daughter to school. She looks after the household works and works along with parents in farms to support the family. They follow the customs and caste system traditions.

CONCLUSION

While studying the socio -economic background of parents of children studying in ashram school it has been concluded that parents depends on farming, many of them are engaged in working as an agricultural labors and wage earners. Due to poor economic conditions they are unable to fulfill the requirements of their children, they Send their children at ashram school. Moreover, they are from rural and tribal areas, where schools are far away from the residential place, the schools available in their villages do not provide free residential facilities and their wards are unable to attend the school regularly parents prefer to seek admission at residential ashram schools. The housing conditions of parents are very poor. They are living in house made up of mud and tin. Few of them are also living in hut. Thus, it has been seen that parent's socioeconomic background is weak.

Most of parents (both father and mother) are illiterate. Less attentive towards needs and problems of their wards regarding education, and do not have any future aspirations regarding educational achievements for them. Parents are not worried about the future of their ward. As they are illiterate their concentration is on fulfillment of basic need rather than on education and future aspiration. It adversely impact on increase of drop-out rate among the children. Some parents have future aspiration about their wards and wants to make them self reliant and stand on their own feet by educating them. They want to give their children proper exposure to the competitive world. But at the same time, they are worried about the standard of the ashram schools as compared to the other private schools in the cities. But they do not shoulder any responsibility in this regard. Due to their socio-economic, occupational status, educational status culture, traditions of caste their perspective towards education is not developed and thus parents don't have any aspirations regarding educational attainment and achievements for their children and thus children studying in ashram school does not get motivation and healthy environment from their parents and which is not conducive for the educational development of these children.

Moreover while analyzing the perceptions of parents regarding quality of education, food, health and safety facilities provided to their children studying at ashram school it has been concluded that whatever getting free at ashram school they are satisfied with the same. They are totally unaware about the Govt. Scheme and facilities provided by Ashram school along with this they are totally unaware about the rights of children and the need of its protection. Thus they don't have any complaints nor do they have any expectations regarding facilities, treatment and quality of education provided to their children at Ashram School. Some parents are not satisfied about the quality of food provided at Ashram school though they don't dare to complain about it. They are unable to make changes in it. They feel sad that they can't fulfill basic needs of their children due to the poor economic condition. They are satisfied about within this shift of their ward that they are attending school regularly instead of wandering at village and are concentrating on studies and do their routine work independently. As both father and mother go on fields for work to fulfill their livelihood needs. Parents visited school very rarely nor do they attend parents meeting as they don't get time out of their work. Thus it has been concluded that due to weak socio-economic condition, low income and illiteracy, poor physical environment at home parents don't have any aspirations and perceptions regarding educational achievement for their children in ashram school. Thus it is one of the major reason which hinders the process of educational development of children studying in ashram school.

SUGGESTIONS:

Parents should be attentive towards the educational needs and achievements of their children studying in ashram school.

Parents should be aware about the rights of the children and play active role in ensuring it properly.

Parent should provide motivation and healthy physical environment to boost the process of educational development by paying attention towards the facilities, quality education and treatment provided at ashram school for their children.

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