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IASET

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN OF THE WEAVERS IN RELATION TO EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THEIR PARENTS

Purabi Baishya[1] & Bijuli Deka[2]

[1]*Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Guwahati University, Assam, India*

[2]*Research Scholar, Department of Education, Guwahati University, Assam, India*

ABSTRACT

Handloom weaving industry occupies a distinct and unique place in the Indian economy. It is also an expression of deeply rooted cultural and social tradition in India. In Assam, the handloom weaving industry has been playing a significant role not only in human life but in the economy of the state also. Weaving industry is one of the major village industries which provide a solid basis for rapid growth of income in the state. Sualkuchi in this context is associated with weaving from time immemorial and the economy of the village is primarily dependent on weaving. Sualkuchi claims a reputation of its own which is unique in so far muga and pat silk fabrics are concerned. More than 80 per cent of the total households in the village is dependent on weaving as their principal source of income. The present study is an attempt to study the academic performance of children of the weavers, the educational level of their parents and the relationship between the academic performance of children and the educational level of their parents. The sample of the study consists of 118 students of class X selected by purposive sampling technique from four selected secondary schools of Sualkuchi. The result of the H.S.L.C. examination is taken as the index of academic performance of the selected students. The study reveals that the academic performance of children of the weavers is average and there exists a significant relationship between academic performance and educational level of their parents.

KEYWORDS: *Academic Performance, Children, Weaver*

INTRODUCTION

India is a powerhouse of silk production. It is notable in producing all four commercially used varieties of silk i.e. mulberry, tusser, eri and muga. The handloom sector occupies a distinct and unique place in the Indian economy. Apart from providing basic necessities of life, it plays a crucial role through its contribution to industrial output, employment generation and export earnings of the country. Assam has embossed an inimitable identity with its Paat and Muga silk which rank the finest in the world. The handloom industry of Assam accentuates the creative mastery of the local craftsmen and thus representing the splendid cultural heritage and traditional legacy of Assam. In Assam especially in Sualkuchi, handloom weaving is the earning source of the people. Handloom industry has its own significance in the economy. In terms of impact and coverage, handloom weaving stands next only to agriculture particularly in rural areas of Assam. Sualkuchi is a pioneer center in the handloom and weaving industry particularly silk weaving in the state for which the village is also popularly known as the Manchester of Assam. Handloom weaving is a way of life and intensely linked

with Assamese culture and heritage. Handloom industry of Assam is known for its rich tradition of making handloom and handicraft products. It also plays a very important role in the socio-economic development of the state.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Sualkuchi is a multi-caste village under Guwahati sub-division of Kamrup district of Assam, situated on the North bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra at a distance of 30 km West of Guwahati. The handloom activity of Sualkuchi is a household-based activity. The manufacturing processes are carried on by the family members themselves or by hiring weavers. With the help of Handlooms, weavers weave various kind of traditional cloth. Handloom weaving is the way of life of most of the people of Sualkuchi. So the professional weavers have to satisfy the needs of the master weavers' families and other prominent persons. Although weavers engage most of their time in Handloom weaving activities they have also their own families with school-going children. The academic performance of their children is also the concern of them. They have the expectation of their children's performance. They also have high aspiration towards the establishment of a goal or attainment of success. Education of parents is a considerable factor in their children's performance. As most of the weavers are illiterates how their children aspire the result in H.S.L.C. examination is a matter of concern. The earlier study explores that the level of education of the parents affects their children's academic performance. Academic performance and the level of education of the parents have a significant relationship.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In view of the studies already done and objectives of the study, the present study has been titled with "**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN OF THE WEAVERS IN RELATION TO EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF THEIR PARENTS**".

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are

- To find out the academic performance of children of the weavers of Sualkuchi.

- To find out the level of education of father weavers of the children.

- To find out the level of education of mother weavers of the children.

- To study the relationship between the level of education of father weavers and the academic performance of their children.

- To study the relationship between the level of education of mother weavers and the academic performance of their children.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

In order to accomplish the objectives, the following hypotheses have been formulated

H_1: The academic performance of children of the weavers of Sualkuchi is high.

H_2: The level of education of father weavers of the children is low.

H_3: The level of education of mother weavers of the children is low.

H_4: There exists a significant relationship between the level of education of father weavers and the academic performance of their children.

H_5: There exists a significant relationship between the level of education of mother weavers and the academic performance of their children.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- The study is delimited to the weaver parents of the sampled children who presently engaged in different looms in Sualkuchi of Kamrup district, Assam.

- The study is delimited to those children who appeared in H.S.L.C. examination under SEBA for the session 2016-2017.

- The study is delimited to the weavers of Sualkuchi of Kamrup district, Assam.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION ON THE TERMS USED

Academic Performance

The success met by the students (Weavers' children) in their High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) Examination conducted by Board of Secondary Education, Assam (SEBA) in the session 2016-2017 is denoted by academic performance.

Weaver

A person who weaves at a loom. In Sualkuchi, three types of weavers are seen, they are

- Master weaver: One who does not perform the art of weaving but look after the organization aspects. (Owner of the loom)

- Entrepreneur weaver: One who organizes or owner of the looms and weaves also.

- Wage weaver: One who weaves at others loom on payment of work.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Barkar AB Rahim & Shasiah Mohamed (2004) conducted a study to assess the academic performance, educational and occupational aspirations of students from technical secondary schools. Two hundred forty-three students were involved in the study. The findings of the study showed that technical secondary school students have high educational aspiration. Majority of them plan to study for at least a Bachelor degree. About 76% of them plan to enroll in technical courses, especially in engineering. About 60% of the students have an average general academic ability and about 50% have an average general academic ability in mathematics and sciences. No significant correlations were observed between academic achievement and educational aspirations and occupational aspirations. The majority of the students were confident in obtaining a place for further education, the area of studies and the occupation they aspired for. Students were moderately knowledgeable about the field of studies and the occupations they aspired for.

Winga Maureen Adhiambo, Agak John Odwar and Ayere A. Mildred (2011) in their studies on "The relationship among Schools Adjustment, Gender and Academic Achievement amongst Secondary School Students in Kisumu District Kenya" investigated the levels of school adjustment and its relationship with academic achievement.

Gender differences in school adjustment were also examined. A cross-sectional research design was employed. The target population was 4500 students. The sample consisted of 450 secondary school students with a mean age 18.38, S.D. 1.078. The form four classes in the selected schools were used. Questionnaires, as well as official KCSE examination results, were used to collect data in the study.

Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics like the mean, frequency counts and percentages. The inferential statistics that were used were t-test. They found that there were no significant differences between high achievers and low achievers in dedication, engagement, and school adjustment. The study recommends that the study environment of the low achievers be further scrutinized.

Hafiz Muhammad Waqas Rafiq, Tehsin Fatima, Malik Muhammad Sohail, Muhammad Salim and Muhammad Ali Khan (2013) studied to explore the effect of parental involvement in the academic achievement in their children. The research was conducted in Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore city. A total of 150 students (Boys and Girls) of 9th class of secondary school students (public and private) were taken as respondents. Four schools were selected through random sampling which includes one boy and one girl from each of the public and private schools categories for equal representation of both boy and girl students in the sample frame of the present study. A survey questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. After the data collection, the study has found that parental involvement has a significant effect in better academic performance of their children. The study has proved that parental involvement enhanced the academic achievements of their children.

Dash Satya Narayan (1995) aims to highlight the differences, if any, that exists within the handloom industry. Traditionally, the industry is divided on the basis of caste and each caste has specialization both in terms of yarn-count and product. Thus, one of the objectives of the study is to assess the economics of handloom weaving among different caste groups with a view to identifying the process of decline.

The decline of handloom is often associated with increasing competition from the mill sector. It is suggested that the mill sector competes with the handloom in the sphere of superior and fine fabrics.

The present work aims to examine the impact of the mill sector on the economy of handloom, both by studying the structure of demand in the neighborhood for the handloom and non-handloom desertion of weaving enterprise. Thus the second objective of the study is to assess the effect of competition on the handloom Industry and differences between caste groups.

Baishya, Prabin (1986) in his study on "Small and Cottage Industries: A case study in Kamrup district of Assam" stated that Assam occupies a unique position in sericulture by producing all the four varieties of silk, viz, Mulberry (pat), Muga, Eri and Tasar. As the most labor intensive agro-based industry covering host plant plantation and rearing and even reeling stages, sericulture provides jobs to a large section of the agricultural population on a secondary occupation and generates income to supplement the income from agriculture.

In this study, it is found that most of the commercial looms weaving particularly Mulberry and Muga fabrics are concentrated since time immemorial in Sualkuchi. The study highlighted some issues like a number of looms, employment position, capital investment, problems of Sualkuchi industry, etc.

DAS, KALYAN (2000) conducted a study titled "Women weavers of Sualkuchi: The silk town of Assam with special reference to women weavers engaged in the silk industry" pointed out that there was 15000 silk looms in 3000

households. Survey attempts to unfold the salient features of the silk weaving industry of Sualkuchi. It discusses the infrastructure, input, and output of the industry, management of the industry, the social background of the weavers, the problem of the weavers, income of the weavers, etc. From this study, it was found that there is not much difference in status and earning of the male and women weavers in the town. Economic conditions of the weaver families were found to be not very bad. Altogether 20 per cent of the weaver family lived below the poverty line. From the study, it was also found that illiteracy was greater among the women weavers and about 30 per cent were illiterate.

Deka, Latika (2012) in her study on " Socio-Educational study of the weavers of Sualkuchi: The Silk town of Assam" studies the Sualkuchi silk handloom cluster which covers 15 villages to find out the socio-economic status, educational level, working and health condition of weavers and the potentiality of Sualkuchi silk industry for employment generation among the rural masses. In her study, she has found that the overall socio-economic status of wage weavers is not satisfactory. Working and health condition of the weavers are also not sound. She also highlighted some difficulties relating to the potentialities of Sualkuchi silk industry for employment generation among the rural masses. The main difficulty is in marketing that lies in the seasonality of demand. The demand for fabric rises on the eve of Durga Puja Festival i.e. September – October and in marriage seasons from January to April. Demand for products falls for about four months that is from May to August.

METHODOLOGY

Method

The present study falls under the descriptive survey method.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

Population of the Study

All students of class X who enrolled in 2016 and appeared the matriculation examination under SEBA in the year 2017 from 4 high schools of Sualkuchi are the population for the study.

Using purposive sampling 118 students are selected as sample. Then 236 weavers i.e. the mother and father weavers of the sampled students are taken as sample using purposive sampling.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION

For the present, study data and information connected with the objectives are collected from the high schools and the parents of the weaver children by the investigator personally.

Statistical Techniques Uses

Tabulation of data, percentage, graphical presentation and χ^2 is used in the study.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

Objective No. 1: To find out the academic performance of children of the weavers.

H_1: The academic performance of children of the weavers is high.

Regarding the academic performance of children of the weavers', the data were collected from the sampled schools. Here the marks obtained by the sample children in H.S.L.C. examination conducted by SEBA were considered as

academic performance. It has been assigned as high, average and low academic performance on the basis of percentage of marks.

Table 1: Percentage of Academic Performance of Children of the Weavers

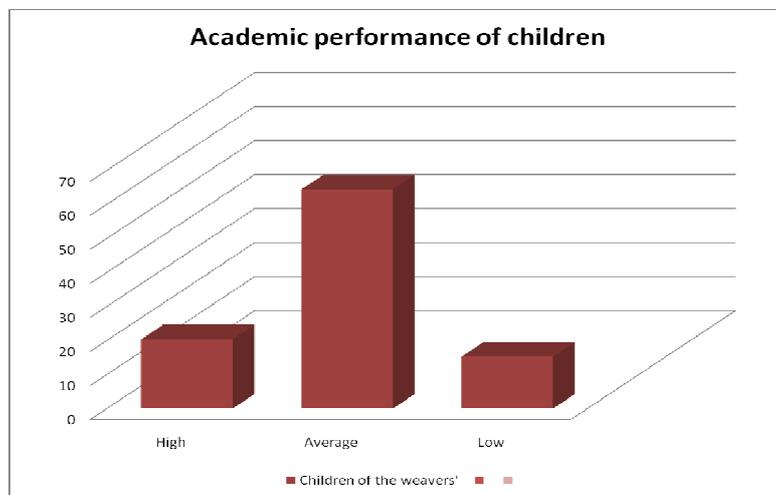| Category of Academic Performance	Children of the Weavers
High	24 (20.34%)
Average	76 (64.41%)
Low	18 (15.25%)
Total	**118**

Source: Investigator's field survey

Interpretation

Table 1 shows that out of 118 children of the weavers' 24 i.e. 20.34 per cent children have high academic performance, 76 i.e. 64.41 per cent children have average academic performance and 18 i.e. 15.25 per cent children have low academic performance in H.S.L.C. examination in the session 2016-2017.

From the investigation, it is found that the academic performance of children of the weavers' is mainly average. A large amount of children i.e.64.41 per cent possesses average academic performance and 20.34 per cent children possess high academic performance.

The percentage of academic performance of children of the weavers' is illustrated through the following bar diagram-

Academic performance of children

Figure 1

Objective No. 2: To find out the educational level of father weavers of the children.

H_2: The educational level of the father weavers is low.

Table 2: The Educational Level of the Father Weavers in terms of Percentage

Sl. No.	Educational Level of Father Weavers	Total No. of Fathers	Percentage (%)
1	Illiterates	38	32.2%
2	Literate but not completed primary education	18	15.25%
3	Completed primary education	23	19.49%
4	Completed High school education	8	6.78%
5	Completed higher secondary education	20	16.95%
6	Graduation and above	11	9.3%
	Total	118	

From the investigation 32.2 per cent father weavers are found illiterates and only 9.3 per cent father weavers possess graduation. Hence it is proved that the educational level of the father weavers is low.

Objective No. 3: To study the relationship between the educational level of father weavers and academic performance of their children.

H_3: There exists a significant relationship between father weavers and the academic performance of their children.

To find out the relationship between the educational level of father weavers and academic performance of their children χ^2 value is calculated-

X^2	Df	Level of Significance		Significant or Non-Significant
		At 5% Level	At 1% Level	
38.94	10	18.307	23.209	Significant

The study reveals that there exists a significant relationship between the educational level of father weavers and the academic performance of their children.

Objective No.4: To find out the educational level of mother weavers of the children.

H_4: The educational level of mother weavers is low.

Table 3: The Educational Level of Mother Weavers in Terms of Percentage

Sl. No.	Educational Level of Mother Weavers	Total No. of Mothers	Percentage (%)
1	Illiterates	50	42.37%
2	Literate but not completed primary education	13	11.02%
3	Completed primary education	12	10.17%
4	Completed High school education	20	16.95%
5	Completed higher secondary education	13	11.02%
6	Graduation and above	10	8.47%
	Total	**118**	

The study reveals that 42.3 per cent i.e. most of the mother weavers are illiterates and only 8.47 per cent are graduates. So the educational level of the mother weavers is low.

Objective No.5: To study the relationship between the educational level of mother weavers and academic performance of their children.

H_5: There exists a significant relationship between an educational level of mother weavers and academic performance of their children.

For studying the relationship between the educational level of mother weavers and academic performance of their children χ^2 value is computed-

X^2	Df	Level of Significance		Significant or Non-Significant
		At 5% Level	At 1% Level	
37.68	10	18.307	23.209	Significant

The table reveals that a significant relationship exists between the educational level of mother weavers and the academic performance of their children.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

On the basis of the analysis and interpretation of data, the major findings of the study have been found as follows-

- The study reveals that the academic performance in H.S.L.C. examination of the children of the weavers is average. From the analysis of objective No.1, 64.41 per cent children are found of average academic performance and 20.34 per cent children of the weavers possess high academic performance.

- The study reveals that the educational level of father weavers is low. 24.6 per cent father weavers are found illiterate from the study.

- There exists a significant relationship between the level of education of father weavers and the academic performance of their children.

- Shih-Feng, T. (2016). The Study of the Phenomenon of Fangliao Immigrant Residents' Children Getting Better Academic Performance in Taiwan.

- The educational level of mother weavers is low. From the analysis of data 42.37 per cent mother weavers are found illiterates. Only 8.47 per cent mother weavers possess graduation.

- From the study, a significant relationship between the educational level of mother weavers and academic performance of their children are found.

SUGGESTION

Level of education of parents is a factor of the academic performance of their children. Parents education and children's academic performance has a significant relationship. As most of the weavers are wage weavers, they are not only poor in educational level but also live in below poverty line. So their children always deprive of the normal living standard. Schools should provide mid-day meal and free books to secondary school students for encouraging the students to do better in academic performance. Remedial and special classes should be arranged in school for tutorial treatment of these students. The students should be counseled to concentrate on their academic performance in H.S.L.C. examination.

CONCLUSIONS

From the study, it is revealed that the academic performance of the children of the weavers is not low. They possess average academic performance. 20.34 per cent children possess high academic performance; whereas 15.25 per cent possess the low academic performance in H.S.L.C. examination. The educational level of parents is positively and significantly related to their children's academic performance.

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