

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLITERACY IN RURAL AREAS OF DISTRICT MANDI BAHAUDDIN PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

KHIZAR HAYAT QAMAR

Lecturer Sociology University of Sargodha, Sub-Campus Mandi Bahauddin

ABSTRACT

Illiteracy is a serious social issue of the present era especially in the developing countries like Pakistan. Illiteracy is a social evil. It has very harmful effects on society. An illiterate person is unaware of the causes of his/her creation, does not know anything about his/her rights and duties. He does not understand law of the country and cannot make material progress in the world with the force of education and knowledge. He is unable to get good job in any public or govt. sector. Illiteracy is the "inability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying context (UNESCO). In 1930 the U.S. Bureau of the Census defined as illiterate any person over ten years of age who was unable to read and write in any language. By the next census (1940), the concept of "functional" illiteracy was adopted. Any person with less than five years of schooling was considered functionally illiterate, or unable to engage in social activities in which literacy is assumed.

The present study was conducted to investigate various causes of illiteracy in rural areas of Tehsil Phalia, District Mandi Bahauddin Punjab Pakistan. The sample of 120 respondents was selected by using simple random sampling. The data were collected by interview schedule and it was analyzed by Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study investigated that there were many causes of illiteracy. Poverty, parental illiteracy, lack of educational facilities, social and cultural disputes, unemployment, behavior of teacher and lack of children interest were the main causes of illiteracy. The finding of study depicted that 60% people were illiterate due to poverty. Illiteracy is not only a social evil but also causes many other social evils. It has very harmful effects on society. Both NGOs and Government should play their vital role for reduction of illiteracy.

KEYWORDS: Illiteracy, Poverty, Schooling, Behavior