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Educational Status in Border Area: A Sociological Study of Jammu District

Sakshi Verma

Department of Sociology, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, India

Abstract

In present paper attempt has been made to get insights about problems people are facing such as education through continuous dislocation. Therefore, the broad objective is to study the impact of border on the education of the people. The present study is qualitative in nature. It is confined to the Khour block of Jammu district (J&K). Five border villages were chosen randomly and those villages were selected which lies within the radius of one kilometer from the Line of Control (LoC). Simple random sampling technique was used to select 280 households in whole.

Key words: *Border, Dislocation, Education, Effect, Problem.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Every society has its own arrangements for passing on its cultural tradition to the succeeding generation. For centuries the institution of family has played a predominant role in socialization of the younger generation. But because of certain changes introduced by industrialization and urbanization during the last two centuries the role of the family in this regard has gradually weakened. In order to meet the multifarious needs of modern society there emerged education, which has in the course of time developed as one of the most important social institution (Jayaram, 1990: 43). Education is the process by which a culture is passed on or transmitted to learners. Thus, education is somewhat similar to the term socialization. In broad sense, education refers to any type of culture-learning. But in a more usual sense education refers to formal training that takes place in a classroom situated under the guidance of a trained teacher (Rogers, 1960). Education also aims for the betterment of the society. Education moulds and develops the personality of the individual. But it does not mould the personality according to the desires of the individual. It tries to find out what sort of personality is expected by the society as a whole and tries to mould it according to the societal expectations (Shah and Shah: 1998).

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In the immediate aftermath of India's independence, the constitution of India provided the framework of state policy through its Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles, within which provisions are made for securing the welfare of its citizens. Article 45 of the Constitution mandates that the state shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of the Constitution for free and compulsory education for all children, until they reach fourteen years of age. After independence various education commissions and policies were framed in an attempt to give education a mass character (Salam, 2013:36).

Present study is based on the rural border area of Jammu district. Continuous disturbance on border area caused tremendous loss in the life of border area people. In present study focus will be laid on the educational status in sampled villages of border area. As education is the all round development of the person. Through this we can know about the level of living standard of the people of the community. Continuous dislocation caused tremendous loss in the life of border area people. Whenever firing and shelling occurs people of border area become panic and remain inside their homes on hearing sounds of mortar shells. Due to this frequent war or war like situation children have to face lots of problems related to education like exams are postponed, schools are closed for many days unless situation get normal. Parents are concerned of the fact that childhood is a precious period of one's life. If children attend school, they do not waste time and encourage and motivate themselves in studies with a future goal.

The data collected from the respondents regarding educational status in border area is discussed below:-

II. EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF FAMILY

Education is an important factor which defines one's attitudes and beliefs. It is a key that opens that door of life which is essentially social in character and plays a very significant role to determine one's socio-economic status. The educational level of the family is significant as it is a variable to make an estimate of its future. Before knowing the educational level of the children it is important to know about the education of the parents. In this regard a cross table is prepared to know the association of educational level between father and respondents. Table 1 discussed below shows the association of educational level between father and respondents.

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Table-1

RESPONDENT EDUCATION	FATHER'S EDUCATION				TOTAL
	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Matriculation	
Illiterate	34 (91.89)	-	2(5.41)	1(2.70)	37
Primary	28(90.32)	1(3.23)	1(3.23)	1(3.23)	31
Middle	83(91.21)	5(5.49)	2(2.20)	1(1.10)	91
Matriculation	65(73.86)	14(15.91)	6(6.82)	3(3.41)	88
Higher secondary	14(53.85)	6(23.08)	4(15.38)	2(7.69)	26
Graduation	1(14.29)	-	4(57.14)	2(28.57)	7
TOTAL	225	26	19	10	280

Looking at the table 1 highlights that 34 (i.e., 91.89 per cent) respondents were there who were illiterate and whose fathers were also illiterate and only 1 respondent was there who was graduate but his father was illiterate. Most of the respondents i.e., 91.21 per cent who studied up to middle level but their father were illiterate followed by matriculation i.e., 73.86 per cent respondents. Thus, 2 respondents were there who were illiterate but their fathers were studied up to middle level. And same is the case with one respondent who was illiterate but his father was studied up to matriculation and 2 respondents who were graduate and their father studied up to matriculation level. Therefore, if we see educational level of the respondents' father, they all were studied only up to matriculation level and no respondent was there whose father was graduate. Thus, respondents' educational level falls up to graduation level and no respondent was post-graduate. Hence, it is clear from the table that the respondents who are graduate, their father were also literate except one and studied up to middle and matriculation level.

III. EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE CHILDREN OF THE FAMILY

Access to public transport, local timetable, the physical location of the school and of course, time as well as particular occupational engagements of the parents are important factors in deciding the type of school parents choose. However, parental choice for the private school system over other forms of schooling remains overwhelming. As in other parts of the country, respondents of selected villages have also completely lost faith in the system of government schools. Sending a child to a private school among almost all households has now become a social norm. The selected villages which are taken under study are situated on LoC, which is volatile border. Infiltration is major challenge over there. People of these areas are facing various problems of their life. Due to

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firing and shelling people have to leave their houses and shift to safe places due to this, children of these areas face major problems in education. During evacuation their schools remain close and hence they lose their interest towards education. Due to frequent evacuation majority of respondents i.e., 150 (80 %) want that their children should study outside the village so that children can continue their study and this frequent dislocation don't affect their education. Children are the young dependents in the family. They have certain needs like education, proper diet, good atmosphere to develop their personality in a proper way. Thus, it is important to have the data of number of children studying in the family of the respondents. Exactly, 97.85 per cent respondents which constitute majority said that 1-3 children are studying in their family.

Again a question was asked to the respondents that how many numbers of boys and girls are studying in college/university. Study shows that 6 respondents were there whose only one boy is studying in college. There were 2 respondents whose 2 boys were studying in college. Thus, 9 respondents were there whose only 1 girl is studying in college. Hence, it was observed that very less number of respondents' children getting higher education. Majority of these students who are getting higher education are living in hostel. Only 2 respondents were there whose children are continuing their study from that area.

After knowing about children's education it is equally important to know the views of the respondents regarding girls and boys education. As we know education is essential in almost all walks of life. Modern-day demand is education. Thus, education is the solution of all the problems and why should anybody be deprived of education so long as he or she has an opportunity to be educated. Respondents were asked that whether girls and boys are studying in same school? Majority of respondents said that both girls and boys studying in same school where as only 4 respondents were there who said that both are studying in different schools. Again it was asked to the respondents that where the girls and boys are studying. Thus, 4 respondents said that girls are studying in government school and boys are studying in private schools. The reason why girls and boys are studying in different schools is- economic conditions. As economic conditions of these respondents are not good and other reason was told by the respondents is after sometime girls have to get married and move to other house and boy will stay with us, he will feed us. That's why respondents are not concerned about girls' education. They think that why waste money on girls' education if she has to leave this home and move to other house. Respondents further told that it is difficult for them to find suitable match for girl if she study more and she has no need to study because she has husband to feed and look after her. Thus, government schools are good for girls' education because after marriage she has to move to other house.

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3.1. EFFECTS OF DISLOCATION ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Table-2

Effect of Dislocation on Children's Education	Number	Percentage
Inhibits education due to closed schools	92	23.35
Children lose their interest towards school	81	20.56
Our children get mentally tortured	63	15.99
Leave our houses and shift to far off places	42	10.66
Children are already studying in non border area	24	6.09
Total	302*	100

*Multiple responses

Table 2 highlights that 43.91 per cent of respondents told that dislocation inhibits children education due to closed schools which lose children's interest towards studies. Nearly, 16 per cent of respondents revealed that their children get mentally tortured through these continuous dislocation and it effect badly on their mind. There were 10.66 per cent of respondents said that their children's education has been effected badly because they have to leave their houses and shift to far off places. Thus, 24 respondents which constitute 6.09 % said that their children's education is not suffering due to dislocation because children are already studying in non-border areas. Therefore, majority of respondent's children's education is effecting due to dislocation. Dislocation badly affects the children's education and people of border area face various problems related to education of their children.

One of the respondents revealed that his daughter got disturbed due to firing and shelling. In the initial stage whenever it happened with firing and shelling, his daughter suffered with fever. In order to make his daughter comfortable he used to put cotton into her ear so that she might not hear that sound of firing and shelling. But she did not get any comfort and her health condition started deteriorating day by day as a result his daughter became psychologically unfit. The family once decided

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to shift to another place to protect the daughter but they could not do so because they were poor and they did not have enough money. At last he decided to send his daughter to her maternal home so that at least the girl would live a peaceful life. Later, in maternal home the girl started living peaceful life but she started living in isolation also due to which her studies got affected and with the passage of time she drop her studies and all her life got ruin because of border. The present study clearly shows that how border effects health of the people. The people suffer a lot due to firing and shelling and they have to compromise with their health.

Again it has been asked to the respondents that whether border is a barrier on their children's career or not? Therefore, 86.63 per cent of respondents which constitute majority said that border is a barrier and it is affecting their children's career. There were 13.37 per cent respondents who said that border is not the barrier and not affecting our children's career. Respondents said that there are some other factors which are responsible for failure. These factors are lack of interest towards studies, drug addiction and unemployment.

One of the respondents shared his experience that educational quality is very bad in border area. Due to evacuation for so long children cannot go to school which looses interest of students in study. He further told that only those children are achieving higher education whose parents are living in non-border area. He further told that people are literate here but majority studied up to 10th standard and higher education percentage is less in border villages. Children have to face many hardships and hence they cannot concentrate on studies. He revealed that 2 years ago government invited application for teacher under RET scheme but unfortunately no one in the village was there who was eligible for the post and thus, people who applied and selected were permanent resident of concerned village but they settled in non-border area many years ago.

After knowing about effects of border on children's career again it was asked to the respondents that are they willing to move their children to non-border area? Almost all the respondents wanted to move their children to non-border area. They told that non-border areas are the suitable place for better future of their children.

IV. BENEFITS OF QUOTA IN EDUCATION

Border areas are least privileged areas. These areas highlight spatial exclusion due to their situation near border. There is special provision for these areas such as people of border area get quota in education. When asked to the respondents that whether their children get benefits of quota in education or not? Majority of respondents i.e., 98.95 per cent said that their children did not get any benefit of quota in education and only 2 respondents which constitute

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1.05 per cent told that their children get benefit of quota in education. People of border areas of selected block have ALC (Actual Line of Control) quota which they can use for education and job purpose. But it was observed that majority of respondents are not getting this benefit or we can say that they are not aware of this.

V. CONCLUSION

Present study shows the educational status in border area. It is observed that majority of respondents studied up to middle and matriculation level and higher education percentage is very low in selected villages of border area. Parental narrations depict a close relationship between the dislocation and the educational loss of their children. Respondents now describe that at present this area has become a war zone for all. There is a continuous ceasefire violation. This continuous disturbance has bad impact on children's psychology. With frequent dislocation, children's life in border area has become really unsafe. Certainly, their attendance in schools is declined and their syllabus remains incomplete.

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