

Abstract

Education has become fundamental human rights more than half of the total sovereign countries all over the world. It is recognized as wealth of people, which exists with throughout his/her life and it cannot be robbed by anyone. At present, it is recognized as a basic need of human being after food, cloth and shelter. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights defines, “Human rights are those rights which are inherent in our nature and without which we cannot live as a human being”. India also gives top priority on education sector from its independence itself. However, most significant development has taken place by the Eighty Sixth Constitutional Amendment in the year 2002 by which education is declared as fundamental right for children and made free and compulsory education between the 6 to 14 years of age. With this, India has become the 135th country, who declared education as a fundamental right for its citizens.

This study is mainly concern with the educational needs of children living in Paschim (West) Nalbari area, as they constitute a significant percent of the population. There is need for developing awareness about right to education of children, because most of the families live Below Poverty Line (BPL) in this area. The importance of this study is that education is necessary for the optimum development of the child. The another significance of this research is to find out the Right to Education of children like- educational performance of the children in school, condition of the school, facilities are getting properly or not by the children which are necessary for the mental and physical development. The main aim of the study is to know the actual truth about the problems of the children which are facing in their day to day life. Through this

study the researcher also tried to find out the existing condition of the lower primary schools and the upper primary schools of this area. To look into the right to education under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and its implementation in the school premises of this particular area is also another important aspect of this study. To bring awareness about the importance of child education among the masses of that particular area is also aimed of this study. The study also tried to find out how much conscious the parents about their child's education. The researcher also tried to know about the Government facilities and the role of NGO's towards the child education of this particular area.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) mentioned that, "Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding," and "considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society , and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter to the United Nations, and in particular in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity."

Kailash Sartyathi, the Nobel Prize winner stated in Nobel Peace Prize distribution ceremony in Stockholm on 10th December, 2014 that, "There is no greater violence than to deny the dreams of our children."

V. C. Pandey in his books "Girls Primary Education" (2004) mentioned that the necessity of girls primary education. Girls are always treated as inferior and they are put down last in society. The discrimination and neglect against girls can lead a lifelong downward spiral of deprivation and exclusion from social main stream. The prevailing discrimination against girls can harm every aspects of life like- access to

education, health services etc. which are necessary for the development of their current and future life.

The study is undertaken to understand the educational level and basic facilities provided by the school to the children living in the selected area, to know about the condition of the school and to analyze and identify the problems that children are facing in school, to know whether the Right to Education under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is fully implemented or not in the school premises of this particular area, to find out whether children are benefited from any government aids & mid day meal and to look into parent's outlook, consciousness and responsibility towards children education.

It is presumed that the children of the Paschim (West) Nalbari area are not getting adequate facilities in pursuing their education and the teachers as well as the parents of this area are very much responsible and conscious towards child education.

The present work is a descriptive study to analyze the research problem; the researcher has adopted the analytical survey method. Data requires for this research was collected from both primary and secondary sources as well as through field study.

The study tries to discuss about the basic indicators related with the right to education of children such as- Enrolment, Quality, Equality, School- Community Involvement etc. in the said area. The major findings of the study have been mainly divided into such categories like- enrolment, quality, school- community involvement, equality (gender) etc. The total enrolment of children is high in the elementary schools and the girl's enrolment is slightly higher than boys in the selected area. Along with, the general and schedule caste students occupy the major portion of total enrolment.

The term quality simply means that level of excellence. The quality of education is usually determined by access to education by students, adequate facilities of infrastructure, providing mental & physical health development of students, subject specific teachers, and healthy environment in school premises. The study found that the electricity, playground and play materials exists with the school shows a gloomy picture in the elementary schools of the area. The lack of library facility is one of the important barriers of lower primary schools i.e. having 23.8 percent but most of the schools have book stock facilities. The pupil- teacher ratio is 17:1 in lower primary and 11:1 in upper primary schools of the area and it is fulfillment of the norms of Right to Education Act, 2009.

For the smooth running of school, community involvement with school is necessary. The School Management Committees (SMCs) plays a significant role for the development of school both lower primary and upper primary schools. The villagers take responsibility towards the development of condition of the schools in the form of 'to a high extend' or 'to an extend'.

The one of the significant features of SSA is to reduce gender inequality in education and increase the girl's enrolment in elementary level. But girl's enrolment is not a problem in this area. The percentage of girl's enrolment in schools of both lower primary and upper primary schools is 51.3 percent and 52.7 percent respectively which shows that girl's enrolment is higher than boy's enrolment. The study also found that the percentage of male teachers is higher than female teachers in both of the lower primary and upper primary schools of the area. There are total 69.7 percent of male

teachers in lower primary schools and 87.9 percent of male teachers in upper primary schools of the particular area.

The other indicators related with the right to education of the children such as- all students of the area are willing to come to school and they want to continue their study after passing their elementary level. The students of the area are getting scholarship, the students have extracurricular activities like- singing, dancing, playing football, arts etc. but they do not get chance or platform where they can show their talents. Most of the parents take care about their child education i.e. 90 percent, large number of the parents (54 percent) does not prefer home tuitions for their children and most of the parents (58 percent) do not use any modern technology related with their child education.

The study has found some findings which are not included with questionnaire. One non- enrolment lower primary school is found in the selected area. The name of the school is- '*154 No Pakowa Balak Lower Primary School*' and it is located at Panigaon Village of the selected area. Computer has already been provided by the government to develop computer literacy among the students of upper primary schools of the area but most of the computer is damaged at present. The child marriage is one of the problems of some villages where most of the inhabitants belong to the Scheduled Caste community. The percentage rate of child marriage is comparatively less in elementary educational level but below the age of 18 years, it is high in the said community.

The study has concluded with the statement that the basic facilities regarding child education is being provided by the school of both lower primary and upper

primary schools of the area. The children are getting adequate facilities in pursuing their education and the parents as well as teachers are very much responsible, conscious towards their child's education.

Key Words: Education, SSA, RTE Act etc.