



PROBLEM OF THE NAMASUDRAS IN WEST BENGAL WITH REFERENCE TO EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The Namasudras are very strong scheduled caste group in West Bengal. They stood second position in the scheduled caste population of West Bengal; they share 17.40% to the total scheduled caste of the state according to the census 2001 of West Bengal. Namasudras are the indigenous group of the state. As it is mentioned earlier that Namasudras in West Bengal are very strong among the scheduled caste of the state; so they are very sound in education in comparison to the other group of scheduled caste in the state. In the following table literacy percentages of Namasudra people are shown from 1961-2001 census of West Bengal.

KEYWORDS: NAMASUDRAS, PROBLEMS.

INTRODUCTION

The Namasudras are very strong scheduled caste group in West Bengal. They stood second position in the scheduled caste population of West Bengal; they share 17.40% to the total scheduled caste of the state according to the census 2001 of West Bengal. Namasudras are the indigenous

group of the state. As it is mentioned earlier that Namasudras in West Bengal are very strong among the scheduled caste of the state; so they are very sound in education in comparison to the other group of scheduled caste in the state. In the following table literacy percentages of Namasudra people are shown from 1961-2001 census of West Bengal.

TABLE NO.1: LITERACY OF NAMASUDRA AND SCHEDULED CASTE PEOPLE IN VARIOUS YEARS OF WEST BENGAL:

Sl No.	West Bengal	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
1.	SC	13.58%	17.80%	24.42%	42.21%	59.04%
2.	Namasudra	21.03%	26.86%	35.87%	56.18%	71.93%

The Namasudra people in West Bengal are to some extent developed in the field of education in comparison to the other community group among scheduled caste of the state. Their present literacy rate of Scheduled Caste is 71.93%, according to the census 2001. In the census 1961 of West Bengal their literacy rate was 21.03%, 26.86% in 1971, 35.87% in 1981, 56.18% in 1991 and 71.93% in 2001. The present literacy rate of the group is higher than the state level scheduled castes literacy rate. It is also reveal from the table above that the literacy rate of the Namasudra people is higher than the all census report in West Bengal, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001. This progress in the field of education reveals that the Namasudra people in West Bengal are very conscious about their rights, duties and responsibilities towards their life, society and to the country as well.

It is also reveals from the above table No that in each census the literacy rate of scheduled caste remains below than the Namasudras in the state. According to the census-1961 the literacy rate of SCs was 13.58%, whereas Namasudra people literacy rate was 21.03%. Again in 1971 the SCs literacy rate was 17.80% and Namasudra people literacy was 26.86%. In 1981 the participation of SCs in education was 24.42% and Namasudra people

literacy was 35.87%. In this year the difference literacy rate was observed 11.45, but in 1991 this difference increased up to 13.97. In this year literacy among all scheduled caste was found 42.21%, but Namasudra literacy was observed 56.18%. It reveals that growth rate of Namasudras in education is better than all scheduled caste literacy growth.

Finally, in 2001 census of the state Namasudra literacy is recorded maximum of 71.93% and all scheduled caste literacy rate is observed 59.04%. So, it is found from the above table that trend of development of Namasudras in education is very good in the state.

Namasudras in West Bengal are not only sound in education, but they are very sound in their economics and political fields also. In this regard it may be mentioned that Das. B (1986) expressed that in Bengal during the period of King Gopal and other Kings of his dynasty and Raja Sitaram they were economically sound. They belonged to the Aristocratic community in culture and dignity and magnitude of their livelihood was high. But afterward due to political changes and violence of untouchability incited during the reign of Raja Ballov Sen, who was a strong supporter of Brahmins and caste distinction, forced the

Namasudras to accept the inhuman rules. But the Namasudras opposed to accept the inhuman rules. The King with all powers operated his force against them and drove them away from their ancestral land tortured mercilessly and announced all over his state that Namasudras are 'Chandals', 'Charal' and untouchables. Thus they were placed in the lowest class of the Hindu

society. So, from that time onward though they were considered lower caste of the society and migrated to different places of India, but they could maintain their life style above than any other sub-caste of scheduled caste group. Consequently, they are able to progress in every sphere of their life in

TABLE NO. 2: DECADAL WISE GROWTH OF NAMASUDRA AND SCHEDULED CASTE PEOPLE IN EDUCATION IN WEST BENGAL:

Sl No.	West Bengal	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
1.	SC	4.21%	6.62%	17.79%	16.83%
2.	Namasudra	5.83%	9.01%	20.31%	15.75%

The above mentioned table No reveals the decadal growth of education among Namasudra and scheduled caste In West Bengal in various censuses of the West Bengal, It is seen from the table that growth rate of Namasudra literacy in West Bengal in the early censuses was very fast, but later on it came down. It is found from the table that decadal variation of growth rate among Namasudra people in the state was 5.83% in 1961-1971, whereas all scheduled caste rate was only 4.22% in the same year. In the same way 9.01% among Namasudra and 6.62% among all scheduled caste is found in the year 1971-1981, 20.31% among Namasudra and 17.79% among scheduled caste in 1981-1991. It also reveals that growth rate of Namasudra people in education always remain above than the state level scheduled caste literacy growth so far the above table is concerned. But suddenly in the decade 1991-2001 growth rate of Namasudra all scheduled caste people in education was came down. It is seen from the above table that in this decade Namasudra people growth rate came down into 15.75% and all scheduled caste people growth rate came down into 16.83%. Decadal growth of education of Namasudras in west Bengal.

The above table expresses that the district wise participation of Namasudra people as well as scheduled castes people in education in the census 2001. In the table highest literacy i.e. above 70% among the Namasudra people found in the districts are Puruliya 85.40% whereas scheduled caste literacy percentage of the district is only 45.15%, than 73.19% among Namasudra in Kolkata and 70.54% among scheduled caste. The districts having more than 60.00% literacy of Namasudra people are North 24 Paragana 69.35%, Midnapur 67.27%, Birbhum 66.54%, Howrah 67.10% and Hugli 68.08%, Darjeeling 61.34%, Nadia 61.81%, Burdwan 64.19%, Bankura, 62.44% and Murshidabad 61.16%. Again the districts having below 60.00% are Uttar Dinajpur 54.62%, Jalpaiguri, 57.01%, Koochbihar 53.19%, Daxin Dinajpur 53.09% and Maldah 55.87%. The above table also reveals that almost all the districts having higher literacy of Namasudra in education in comparison to the state level scheduled caste literacy percentage. But it is only four districts of the state having higher literacy among scheduled caste in comparison to the Namasudra people. The districts are North 24 Paragana 70.79% of scheduled caste, w/here as Namasudra people's literacy is 69.35%, than Koochbihar

66.30% among scheduled caste and 53.19% among Namasudras, Jalpaiguri 61.87%, and 57.01% and in Darjiling 62.43% among scheduled caste and 61.34% among Namasudras.

The table above again explains that Namasudras in West Bengal are comparatively stronger in the field of education in comparison to the few scheduled caste group as well as all scheduled caste people. As it is found from the history that Namasudra in Bengal were very strong group, so they could keep their developmental trend in the present time social system also. Actually though they have been recognized as the scheduled caste or lower group people in the society, but they keep themselves above in every aspects than the scheduled caste in the West Bengal society. But in some cases, still they are living at the lowest level social structure due to their low socio economic condition and due to the social system imposed over them by the so called higher caste people in the society. The people of this group living under that sector are still can't able to get even minimum facilities required by them.

However, majority of this group of people are living in rural areas of the state, and maximum of them are still dependent on agriculture and daily wages. During the field visit of the researcher, it is found in some cases that there are some family in the district Nadia and North 24 Paragana, they are to think regularly about their food; and in that situation their reply was that in such situation they can't think of sending their children to the school, though govt, has introduced free and compulsory education to the all people irrespective of caste, creed, community, sex, race and languages. Because of these mentioned reasons some of the districts of West Bengal still could not show the education level high of the scheduled caste and Namasudras. But there are some districts which are developed in many sides; consequently they could show there education five} in very high position. But development of a state does not mean to develop one group or few group in some fields, development means progress of all people in all side.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- (1) To study the Problem Related to school distance.
- (2) To study the Problem Related to garments, books, library, school time.

- (3) To study the Problem Related to teacher.
- (4) To study the Reading Related Problems:
- (5) To study the Problem Related to privatization.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

PROBLEM OF SCHOOL DISTANCE:

Distance problem is another major problem among the Namasudras. As their houses are distant from the schools, they face problems in receiving proper schooling and education. Due to this problem a good number of scheduled caste people leave their school without completing their courses.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The data has been collected through documentary survey and field survey (where the Namasudra population is highly located).

TABLE NO.3: PROBLEM RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTANCE:

State	Always	Sometimes	Never
West Bengal	60(20%)	135(45%)	105(35%)

Majority of the Namasudra people of West Bengal are undergoing the problems of school distance 20% people of West Bengal face the problems of school distance always. 45% people face it sometimes. 35% face the problem never.

PROBLEM RELATED TO GARMENTS, BOOKS, LIBRARY, AND SCHOOL TIME:

There are various problems among the Namasudras related to garments, books, library and school. The nature

of problems is like whether they get any book or economic help from school, whether they read in school library, whether they can go to school all times during a year.

TABLE NO.4: PROBLEM RELATED TO GARMENTS, BOOKS, LIBRARY, AND SCHOOL TIME:

State	Always	Sometimes	Never
West Bengal	75(25%)	135(45%)	90(30%)

Majority of the Namasudra people of West Bengal are undergoing the problems of garments books, library school time 25% people of West Bengal face the problems of garments, books, library, and school time always. 45% people face it sometimes. 30% face the problem never

TEACHER RELATED PROBLEMS:

In teaching learning process of present education system, teachers play a very great role. In the traditional system of education the learners remains in the class as the passive learner. So, their learning is totally depending on the teacher's teaching, which generally taking place in the

classroom. In this regard every student should become very careful as well as conscious enough to listen the teaching given by the teacher. But in this regard some students gets problem from the teacher, due to which they remain lagging behind than the other students.

TABLE NO.5: PROBLEM RELATED TO TEACHER:

State	Always	Sometimes	Never
West Bengal	25(8.34%)	75(25%)	200(66.66%)

Majority of the Namasudra people of West Bengal are undergoing the problems of teacher 8.34% people of West Bengal face the problems of teacher always. 25% people face it sometimes. 66.66% face the problem never.

READING RELATED PROBLEMS:

Reading related problems generally affects the students in their study at home. These problems generally generate at the home, for which family members, family environment, family cooperation, family motivation, encouragement and financial factors of the family are responsible. If a student faces above mentioned factors in his/her home than

definitely study of that particular students will be affected very badly, and consequently the students may fall under either drop out or stagnation. So far the above mention factors are concerned the Namasudra students are being affected mostly in the rural areas of both the states, which have been observed from the field visit by the researcher.

TABLE NO.6: PROBLEM RELATED TO READING:

State	Always	Sometimes	Never
West Bengal	75(25%)	130(43.34%)	95(31.66%)

Majority of the Namasudra people of West Bengal are undergoing the problems of reading 25% people of West Bengal face the problems of reading. 43.34% people face it sometimes. 31.66% face the problem never.

PRIVATISATION:

At present privatization is a major problem among the Namasudras students in the field of education because it is not possible for them to spare a lot of money for

conducting education. As a result they are unable to conduct their education sparing a lot of money.

TABLE NO.7: PROBLEM RELATED TO PRIVATIZATION:

State	Always	Sometimes	Never
West Bengal	200(66.66%)	75(25%)	25(8.34%)

Majority of the Namasudra people of West Bengal are undergoing the problems of privatization 66.66% people of West Bengal face the problems of privatization always. 25 % people face it sometimes. 8.34% face the problem never.

CONCLUSION:

In the Present chapter, the necessary data gathered through various means and sources have been narrated to fulfil the objectives fixed for the study. data of the study have analyzing and interpreted with the help of various Government documents, books, Census report, Guruchand followers, Namasudras people the attitudes towards education of Namasudra students, parents and community members of West Bengal, the problem faced by the Namasudras in West Bengal.

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