Academic Achievement of Female Students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam in relation to Socio-Economic Status

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Abstract: Academic achievement plays an important role in holistic development of the students which refers to the level of success attained by the students in the academic work or in the curricular subjects prescribed within the syllabus. The present study is an effort to focus on academic achievement of female students of secondary schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam in relation to their socio-economic status. The present study used Descriptive or Survey method. Purposive sampling method was adopted for selecting the schools and incidental sampling was used for selecting the student sample in the present study. This study was carried out on a sample of 90 female students studying in the ten secondary schools of Rangia Sub-division of Kamrup (Rural) district of Assam. It was evident from the present study that socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students are significantly correlated.

Keywords: academic achievement, socio-economic status, secondary schools, female students, Rangia sub-division.

INTRODUCTION

Academic achievement is an important part of the whole educational growth and development which is considered as main purpose of education. Academic achievement is the result of the instruction imparted to the students in schools or any other educational institutions which is determined by the marks, or grades obtained by the students in the examination.

Good academic achievement of the students is the sole responsibility of schools or any other educational institutions to promote their whole scholastic growth and development. In words of Crow and Crow [1] “Achievement is reflected by the extent to which skill or knowledge has been imparted to him.”

Kamrup is one of the districts of Indian state of Assam which is situated between 25.46 and 26.49 North Latitude and between 90.48 and 91.50 East Longitude. Kamrup District has two Civil Sub-Divisions namely-Kamrup Sadar Sub-Division and Rangia Sub-Division. Rangia is a city and a sub-division of Kamrup district in the Indian state of Assam.

Most of the female students are lagging in the field of education due to several factors such as poverty, illiteracy and ignorance of parents, high dropout rate, unsuitable curriculum of education, etc. In the rural areas, even today it is a common problem that school going female children is being engaged with the earning activities to help their own families in place of receiving education, hence they are being deprived of education. Till today, the Assam State Government has been taken such initiatives for the upliftment of the female students by providing various concessions such as free tuition, free supply of text books, stipends, scholarships and other facilities. Though these facilities are being provided to them for the improvement of their academic achievement, they cannot compete with the male students. In this competitive era, everyone must have a scholastic achievement to compete with others itself for their bright careers. It is found from the studies done earlier that academic achievement of the students is greatly influenced by the components of socio-economic status, and it is evident that there is a difference in academic achievement between urban and rural female students. Hence, it claims a deep research in the field of academic achievement.

Recent studies done by Lamare [2], Chandra and Azimmudin [3], and Kalita [4] revealed that academic achievement was positively related to socio-economic status. Kalita [4] showed that academic achievement of tribal boys was better than tribal girls. In the present study, on the basis of these results, an attempt has been made to study on academic
achievement of female students in relation to socio-economic status. It is evident from the above studies that few studies have been done on academic achievement of students but it reveals that there is a research gap in assessing academic achievement of female students in relation to socio-economic status which is necessary to be studied. In the present study, the following objectives have been formulated,

- To study the level of academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.
- To find out the relationship between socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.
- To compare the academic achievement between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.
- To compare the socio-economic status between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

The following null hypotheses have been formulated in the present study:

$H_01$: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

$H_02$: There is no significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam in relation to academic achievement.

$H_03$: There is no significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam with respect to socio-economic status.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The investigator used Descriptive or Survey method. Purposive sampling method was adopted for selecting the schools and incidental sampling was used for selecting the student sample in the present study. A sample of 90 female students studying in the ten secondary schools of Rangia Sub-division of Kamrup (Rural) district of Assam was selected.

In the present study, the two different tools were used for collecting data and information such as R. P. Verma, P. C. Saxena and Usha Mishra’s Socio-Economic Status Index (SES–VSM) [6], and Academic Achievement Score. Here, academic achievement score refers to the percentage of marks obtained in aggregate by the female students of secondary schools (i.e. class X) of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam in the Final Examination of class IX held in 2016. In order to analyze the collected data, Percentage, Pearson’s Coefficient of Correlation and ‘t’ test were used by the investigator. The present study has been delimited to the female students studying in class X belonging to Provincialized and Private secondary schools under Board of Secondary Education, Assam (S.E.B.A.) of Rangia Sub-division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After collecting and arranging the data in a systematic way, the objectives and hypotheses of the present study have been tested in the following:-

Objective 1: To study the level of academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

In order to find out the level of academic achievement, Mean, Standard Deviation, Skewness and Kurtosis of Academic Achievement Scores of female students of secondary schools of Rangia Sub-division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam are computed which are shown in the following table:

Table-1: Showing Variable, N, Mean, Standard Deviation, Skewness and Kurtosis of Academic Achievement Scores of Female Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>MEAN</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>SKEWNESS</th>
<th>KURTOSIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>53.72</td>
<td>14.83</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-1 shows that the calculated value of skewness of the distribution is 0.91 which shows that the distribution of academic achievement scores is skewed in positive direction or to the right of the median. The computed value of kurtosis is 0.14 which means the distribution of academic achievement scores
is leptokurtic which indicates that the distribution of academic achievement scores is more peaked than the normal curve.

The Percentage of Students Achieving Different Divisions for Academic Achievement of female students of secondary schools of Rangia Sub-division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam is shown in the following table:

Table-2: Percentage of Students Achieving Various Divisions for Academic Achievement of Female Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. NO.</th>
<th>CRITERIA OF CATEGORIZATION</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1st Division (Above 60%)</td>
<td>23.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2nd Division (45% or more but less than 60%)</td>
<td>46.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3rd Division (30% or more but less than 45%)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>99.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-2 shows that 23.33% of the students achieved 1st division, that is, they scored 60% or above, 46.66% of the students achieved 2nd division, that is, they scored 45% or more but less than 60% and 30% of the students achieved 3rd division, that is, they scored 30% or more but less than 45%.

Objective 2: To find out the relationship between socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

H0:1: There is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

Table-3: Showing ‘r’ Value and Level of Significance between Socio-Economic Status and Academic Achievement of Female Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>‘r’ VALUE</th>
<th>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE STUDENTS</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>Significant at 0.05 level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-3 clearly shows that it is a positive and substantial relationship between socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam. The result of this study is in agreements with the other studies conducted by Lamare, R. [2]. Banerjee, S. [7]. Kalita, U. [4] who had reported that socio-economic status was significantly correlated with the academic achievement of the students.

Objective 3: To compare the academic achievement between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.
Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

H₂: There is no significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam in relation to academic achievement.

Table-4: Showing Significance of Difference of academic achievement between Urban and Rural Female Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>MEAN</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>SE₀</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>'t'</th>
<th>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban Students</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>60.67</td>
<td>17.54</td>
<td>3.35</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>Significant at 0.05 level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Students</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>49.50</td>
<td>11.10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table -4 reveals that the calculated ’t’ value is 3.33 which is more than the table value 1.99 at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected which indicates that there is a significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam in relation to academic achievement. The above finding of the present study is in agreement with the earlier finding supported by Lamare, R.[2] that the academic achievement of the students belonging to urban schools was better than the students belonging to rural schools.

Objective 4: To compare the socio-economic status between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam.

H₃: There is no significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam with respect to socio-economic status.

Table-5: Showing Significance of Difference of Socio-Economic Status between Urban and Rural Female students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>MEAN</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>SE₀</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>‘t’</th>
<th>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban Students</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>61.41</td>
<td>14.31</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.38</td>
<td>Significant at 0.05 level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Students</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>49.89</td>
<td>7.20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table -5 shows that the calculated ’t’ value is 4.38 which is more than the table value 1.99 at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected which indicates that there is a significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam with respect to socio-economic status.

CONCLUSION

It is evident from the present study that Majority or 46.66% of the female students achieved 2nd division, 30.00% of the female students achieved 3rd division, and 23.33% of the students achieved 1st division. It is an indication that there is a significant relationship between socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam. Again, there is a significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam in relation to academic achievement. The result of the present study showed that there is a significant difference between urban and rural female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam with respect to socio-economic status.

From the findings of the present study, it may be inferred that socio-economic status and academic achievement of female students of Secondary Schools of Rangia Sub-Division of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam are significantly correlated. Therefore, the parents as well as school teachers should be well aware of the academic achievement of their children so that they can desire scholastic achievement as the sign of one’s quality in the field of education.

REFERENCES

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