

Summary of the Report

Minor Research Project

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Title of the project

ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS OF THE TRIBAL STUDENTS IN ATTAPPADI OF PALAKKAD DISTRICT

Attappadi is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats region of Palakkad district, Kerala. Attappadi is the largest tribal settlements in the State. The progress of education among tribes at Attappadi is very slow, due to low participation and alarming dropout rate and failures. In spite of the conscious efforts to bring them into the fold of formal education, they are far behind and a few isolated incidents are insignificant in terms of quantity and quality.

A greater understanding of the tribal students' problems is important for educators, counselors, administrators, policy-makers and for human resource specialists to optimize strategic planning and to effectively intervene in their empowerment. On this view, researcher tried to understand and address certain severe problems of school students of Attappadi tribal habitat.

The study aimed to find out the nature and extent of adjustment problems of tribal students in Attappadi, to find out the major area of adjustment problems and

also to find out whether there is any gender difference, age difference (elementary and secondary level) and difference with respect to type of families. Survey method was used for the study. A culture specific student problem checklist was prepared by the investigator. The data was collected from 605 tribal students from Attappadi. Stratified Random Sampling was adopted to obtain essential research data.

The result obtained showed that the percentage of tribal students in Attappadi with average level of adjustment problems is greater than that of low and high level of adjustment problems. The domain of vocational and educational future (VES) rated, in general, as the area having more problems. Girls reported more number of adjustment problems than boys and significant differences were found in the number of the problems with respect to gender. There exists no significant difference in the adjustment problems between the students of elementary and secondary level. But Secondary level students reported more number of problems than elementary students in this inquiry. Family type (Nuclear \ broken \ Joint) has shown significant differences in terms of students' adjustment. But contrary to earlier studies, students from nuclear families reported better adjustment. When the scores of students belonging to Nuclear, broken and Joint families in their adjustment problems were compared in pairs using the Scheffe's Test, the mean difference was found to be significant. Students belonging to Joint families have more adjustment problems than nuclear and broken family's students. Some remedial classes for the major problems were also provided by the investigator with the help of resource persons in the concerned area.

The results from this study will provide professionals and policy-makers a clear perception on adjustment problems and developmental needs of the students in Attappadi. Armed with such knowledge, administrators can use the study as a tool to shape both the students and organization's future in Attappadi by implementing counselling and guidance services, awareness training programmes and appropriate bio medical interventions.