

Educational Status of tea-tribe community - A Case Study in Ikorajan Tea Estate, Bokakhat, Golaghat district of Assam

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Abstract : The tea tribe community mostly lives in tea garden area. They are employed as tea laborer in the garden for Plucking, Purning, Weeding, Pesticides Spraying, Fertilizer Spreaders and Carrying. Most of the workers are temporary worker of the garden. The tea laborers or workers called “Adivasis” migrated decades ago from states such as Orissa, Jharkhand, and Bihar have permanently settled in and around the plantations. Among these workers, the majority are women who are preferred to pluck tea leaves for long hours due to their soft hand and nimble fingers, suitable to pluck tea leaves (Karalam2, 2019). The main objective of the present study is to study about the educational status of tea tribe community in Ikorajan tea estate (Bagan line & Pam line) under Bokakhat Sub-division Golaghat District of Assam, India. The researcher employed both primary and secondary data to study about the topic. The result of the study is analyzed by simple statistical method.

Keywords: Educational Status, Tea tribe, Ikorajan Tea Estate.

Introduction: The tea laborers or workers called “Adivasis” migrated decades ago from states such as Orissa, Jharkhand, and Bihar have permanently settled in and around the plantations. Among these workers, the majority are women who are preferred to pluck tea leaves for long hours due to their soft hand and nimble fingers, suitable to pluck tea leaves (Karalam2, 2019). In spite of various educational policies since independence, high percentage of illiteracy still exists among the tea garden women laborers compared to other occupations. The study conducted by labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India; New Delhi (1980) showed the pathetic condition of educational scenario in tea plantation areas even after the Plantations Lab our Act (PLA) was introduced in 1951 (Dr Polakshi Bhattacharyya Baruah1*, 2017). The Tea Garden Cell in Assam was established in line with Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the officials of elementary education in 2003. Since the inception, the SSA Mission has been conducting many programmers such as enrolment drive programmers, Meena Campaign, summer camp, etc. in tea gardens of Assam. Meena Campaign is a continuous effort to promote education among girl children in tea and ex-tea garden areas for creating awareness among girl children and make them active. The literacy rate of the tea tribe community has not increased due to various reasons.

Educational status means the level of education one individual gets from an educational institution. The present study tries to know the educational status of tea tribe community.

Review of Related Literature:

Dr Polakshi Bhattacharyya Baruah, Mainowshri Daimari analyzed from their study that out of 50 respondents majority of the respondents are illiterate (27 respondents) and 10 respondents are educated up to primary level with a capacity to hardly recognize the alphabets. 7 and 4 respondents are educated up to class VII and Class X respectively, and only 2 respondents are metric pass.

Vimal Khawas found in his study entitled “Status of tea garden laborers in eastern Himalaya: a case of Darjeeling tea industry” that over 55 per cent of populations among labor households have studied only up to elementary levels. Less than 15 percent have studied up to secondary level while less than 2 percent have attended higher secondary. There are negligible proportions of population who have studied graduates and postgraduates.

Dr.Hemasri kumar, R.Arthi observed from their study on Socio-Economic and Working Conditions of Tea Plantation Workers in Manjoor Block the Nilgiris that the Nature of Job of plantation has been fixed in to six categories viz., Plucking, Purning, Weeding, Pesticides Spraying, Fertilizer Spreaders and Carrying/Loading Operations. In general male workers are working all the six categories of the nature of Job in plantation, female workers are not opted for pesticide spraying and Fertilizer Spreading. These types of Jobs have more hazards as compared with the other the jobs.

Sarkar, Dr. Ranjita Roy studied about Socio-Economic Conditions of Tea Garden Workers in Ambootia Tea Estate. In that study it is found that about 55% of the respondents were totally illiterate. It has been observed that they are in the garden to work & not to get education. But the respondents reported that they had no restriction to educate their future generation. In findings it is seen that after class five majorities leave education. Only 4% is seen getting education up to class ten. They start working in the tea garden

Statement of the Problem:

“Educational status of tea-tribe community – A Case Study in Ikorajan Tea Estate, Bokakhat, Golaghat district of Assam”.

Objectives: The objectives of the present study are-

- I. To study about the educational status of tea tribe community.
- II. To find out the reasons of illiteracy and school dropout.
- III. To know the economic conditions – livelihood pattern, pattern of job, alternative skills (if any) – of the garden laborers.
- IV. To study the social situations including health, housing & sanitation of the garden laborers.

Hypothesis:

- I. There is no significance difference in educational qualification of male and female respondents.
- II. There is no significance difference in educational qualification of Ikorajan Bagan line and Ikorajan Pam line.

Methods and Materials:

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. To collect primary data from the sample tea garden area the investigator made a suitable questionnaire. The field survey was conducted by selecting a representative garden Ikorajan tea estate (Bagan line & Pam line) under Bokakhat Sub-division Golaghat District of Assam, India. Out of total household we have selected 20 household and a total no of 84 respondents were selected as sample respondents for case study. For secondary data the researcher used various books, journals, and websites. And the present study is applied simple statistical method for analyzing the collected data.

Limitations of the Study:

The present study has been delimited –

- i. To the Ikorajan tea garden villages only.
- ii. The sample of the study is comprised only 20 household.
- iii. The outcomes/findings of the study will be applicable in Ikorajan tea garden villages only.

Results:

Table-1

Distribution of Population by Age:

		Age			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0 to 12	22	26.2	26.2	26.2
	13 to 18	6	7.1	7.1	33.3
	19 to 25	22	26.2	26.2	59.5
	26 to 45	29	34.5	34.5	94.0
	46 to 65	5	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total		84	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

In this study the researcher took 26.2% people from age group 0 to 12 years, 26.2% are from 19 to 25 years, 34.5% are from age group 26 to 45 years. The result shows that the active work force of the community is the highest in percentage i.e. 26 to 45 & they are the real earning group.

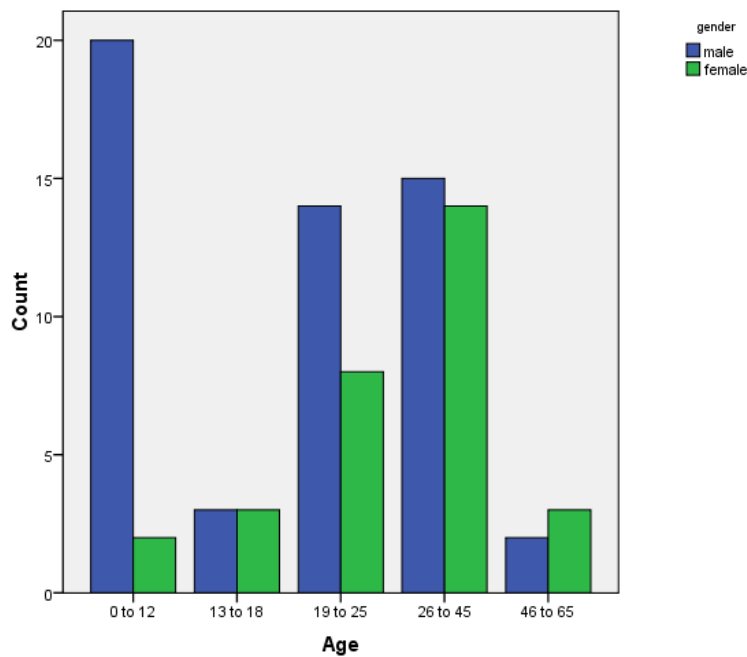
Table- 2

Classification of Gender:

		Gender			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	54	64.3	64.3	64.3
	Female	30	35.7	35.7	100.0
Total		84	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

In this study out of 84 respondents 54 are male i.e. 64.3% and 30 are female respondents, in percentage it is 35.7%.



Source: Field Survey June, 2022

Figure-1. Shows that the male-female differences according to their age group.

Table-3

Educational Status of Respondents:

		Educational Qualification			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Illiterate	33	39.3	39.3	39.3
	Pre-primary	5	6.0	6.0	45.2
	Primary	28	33.3	33.3	78.6
	Upper Primary	9	10.7	10.7	89.3
	High School	9	10.7	10.7	100.0
	Total	84	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

The table shows that out of 84, 39.3% respondents are illiterate. In primary level 33.3% and in both upper primary and high school level 10.7% & 10.7% are literate.

Table-4

Respondents Location:

		Location			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Ikorajan bagan line	40	47.6	47.6	47.6
	Ikorajan pam line	44	52.4	52.4	100.0
	Total	84	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

From Ikorajan tea estate two villages were selected. These are bagan line and pam line. From bagan line total 40 respondents were selected and from pam line 44 respondents were selected.

Table-5 Source of Water for household purpose:

Source of water

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	tape	16	19.0	80.0	80.0
	Tube well	3	3.6	15.0	95.0
	river	1	1.2	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	23.8	100.0	
Missing	System	64	76.2		
Total		84	100.0		

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

The table indicates that from 20 households 16 household i.e. 19% uses tape water provided by the tea garden authority. 3 (3.6%) household uses tube well and 1.2% uses river water for different household activity.

Table-6 Housing Condition of Tea Tribe Community:**House condition**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Pucca	1	1.2	5.0	5.0
	Half Pucca	19	22.6	95.0	100.0
	Total	20	23.8	100.0	
Missing	System	64	76.2		
Total		84	100.0		

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

The table shows the living standard of tea tribe community in that study area. Out of 20 households only 1 has Pucca house and other 19 have half pucca house. Which indicate only 5% people lives in pucca or permanent house. And other 95% people live in half pucca house.

Table-7 Electricity Facility:**Electricity**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	19	22.6	95.0	95.0
	no	1	1.2	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	23.8	100.0	
Missing	System	64	76.2		
Total		84	100.0		

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

From 20 households, 19 households have electricity connection and only 1 household doesn't have electricity connection.

Table-8 Level of Tea Garden Worker:**Tea garden labour**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	permanent	4	4.8	21.1	21.1
	tempo	15	17.9	78.9	100.0
	Total	19	22.6	100.0	
Missing	System	65	77.4		
Total		84	100.0		

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

The table shows that only 4 households i.e. 4.8% are permanent labourer in the garden. 15 households are temporary worker in the garden. 1 household is daily wage earner outside the garden.

Table-9 Sanitation Facility:

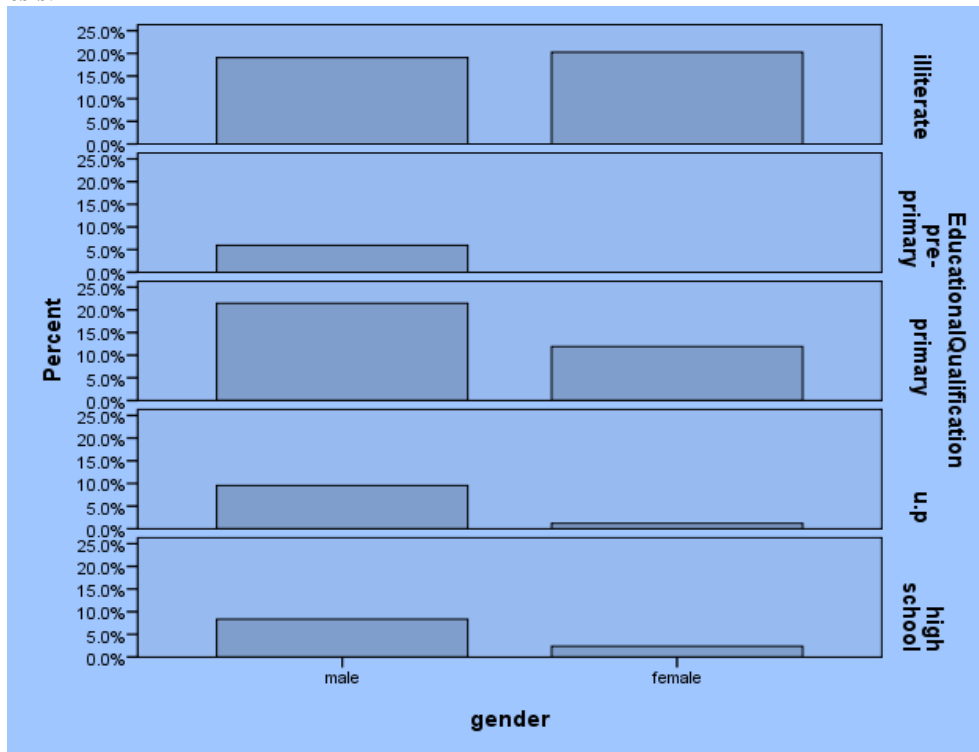
Toilet

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid private	20	23.8	100.0	100.0
Missing System	64	76.2		
Total	84	100.0		

Source: Field Survey June, 2022

From the table it can be explained that 20 households have private toilet facility in their house. Therefore we can say that the people are conscious about the cleanliness and usefulness of the private toilet in their surroundings.

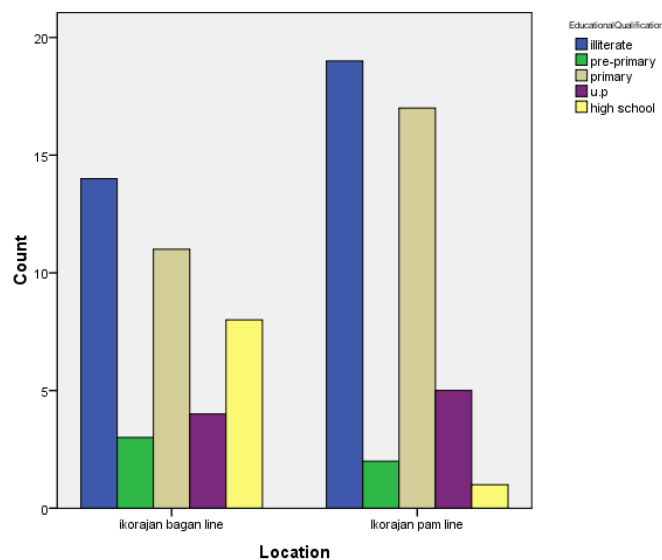
Testing of Hypothesis:



Source: From Field Study June, 2022

Figure-1
Hypothesis-1

The figure no 1 indicates that in pre-primary, primary, upper primary and high school level female respondents are lower than male respondents. In illiteracy male are lower than female respondents. From the study it is found that the null hypothesis is rejected. And alternative hypothesis is accepted.



Source: Field Study June, 2022

Figure-2
Hypothesis-2

The figure indicates that in case of illiteracy and primary level of education Ikorajan Pam line is higher than Ikorajan Bagan line. And in case of high school level Bagan line is higher than Pam line. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Findings:

The most of the tea tribe people engaged in tea garden activity. Some of them have come out for higher studies and got employment in various Govt. aided job like teaching, administrative and banking etc. But from the present study area there is no single person employed in other than tea garden labourer.

- 39.3% respondents are illiterate out of 84 respondents. In primary level 33.3% and in both upper primary and high school level 10.7% & 10.7% are literate.
- Only 4 households i.e. 4.8% are permanent labourer in the garden. 15 households are temporary worker in the garden. 1 household is daily wage earner outside the garden.
- Out of 20 households only 1 has Pucca house and other 19 have half pucca house. Which indicate only 5% people lives in pucca or permanent house. And other 95% people live in half pucca house.
- 20 households have private toilet facility in their house. The 100% people use private toilet. Therefore we can say that the people are conscious about the cleanliness and usefulness of the private toilet in their surroundings.
- Most of the respondents said that due to economic problem, early marriage and lack of educational institutions (higher than primary school) they did not go to school and dropout rate has increased.

Suggestions:

- For adult illiterate people community education programme should be organized in that area. And for dropout students open education facility should be provided in tea garden area.
- To decrease/control the problem of early marriage, girl child should be encouraged for higher education and choosing of other career like teaching, administration, computer skill, medical and business.
- Awareness programme, career counseling programme should be organized in tea garden area for motivating towards education and higher learning.

Conclusion: In conclusion it can be said that still tea tribe people are not aware about the need & importance of education in their life. To make them aware about the necessity of education the garden authority, Govt., civil society organizations and educationist should come forward for upliftment of the community and should work co-operatively.

Acknowledgement: At first I would like to acknowledge my sincere gratitude to the people who furnish required information without hesitation. Secondly I would like to acknowledge my two students, my husband and daughter who supported and helped me in collecting data.

Declaration of Conflicting Interest: The author declared no conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and publication of this article.

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Self Declaration

I Mrs. Piku Doley, Asst. Prof., Deptt. Of Education, S.M.D. College declares that the research article is original and unpublished.