

A Study to Determine the Prevalence of School Dropouts and its Association with Selected Factors among Children of 6-19 Years, Residing in a Rural Community of West Bengal

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Abstract: *Nursing: A voice to lead – Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. We nurses has huge role to transform our world in a better way by achieving fourth goal SDG- through quality education or by reducing school dropout rate. Objectives of this descriptive survey was to identify (i) the prevalence of school dropouts (ii) factors of school dropout and (iii)its association with selected factors. After getting ethical permission non probability sampling technique was used to select setting and random sampling technique was used to select sample. Children of 6-19 years were 147 and their 95 parents, who met inclusion criteria were interviewed. Result shows among 14.28% school dropouts majority are 12-13 years of age. Main reason for school dropouts are “distance of school from residence”. Chi-square test of association of school dropout with socio economic conditions of the family, school accessibility, child’s interest in education and parents’ views on equal education was found to be highly significant at 0.05 level of significance.*

Keywords: School dropouts, Accessibility, Parent’s views on equal education

1. Introduction

Education and health are the two most important characteristics of human capital and both have a considerable impact on individual well-being. The wealth of nations is to a large extent determined by the educational attainment and the health status of its population. Education aims to bring out desirable change in behaviors of an individual. It helps an individual to be enlightened with various aspects of life, like expansion of cultural horizon, employment opportunities, economic independence, and political awareness and so on.

2. Objectives of the Study

- 1) To find out the prevalence of school dropout among children of 6-19 years in a rural community of West Bengal, India.
- 2) To identify the selected factors of school dropout among 6-19 years old children residing in a rural community of West Bengal as expressed by the children and their parents.
- 3) To determine the association between school dropout children with selected factors in terms of Socio-economic conditions of the family, school accessibility, interest of child to education and parent view’s on equal education.

3. Literature Review

Review of literature has been organized and presented under the following headings: Literature related to prevalence of school dropout, Literature related to reasons of school dropout & Literature related to find the association between selected factors and school dropouts.

A report based on Joint review mission (JRM) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the program for universalization of

elementary education published by Shrinivasan R^[3] states that there is no definitive number of dropouts in the government records. A small independent studies in Orissa and Varanasi had shown that actual number of out-of-school children were six to eight times the government's estimates from the same household. According to the JRM report, nearly 2.7 million children drop out of school every year. The net enrolment ratio for Classes VI to VIII was reported by the JRM as 54%, that is, just 54% of all children in the age group 11-14 years were actually enrolled. This means that approximately 44 million children in this age group do not go to school. For Classes I to V, net enrolment ratio of 97% was reported, leaving out nearly 4 million children.

A study of Jalan J, Panda J [4], Kolkata, did survey on 6 district of West Bengal and shows that in Birbhum drop out rate is 7% .

Govindaraju R and Venkatesan S [5] did a cross sectional survey on school dropouts in rural settings by using open-ended interview formats and demographic data sheet on a sample of 120 parents, teachers and drop-out children. Their perceived/reported reasons for school dropout yielded nearly sixty causes. Their empirical domain wise classification revealed three major clusters with significant differences in the reported causes in relation to gender, occupation and educational status of teachers; SES and education of parents; and gender of the dropout children themselves

4. Methodology:

Research approach & design: Quantitative, Non-experimental & Descriptive survey design

Sample: Children of 6-19 years and their anyone of parent

Sample size: 147 children of 6-19 years and 95 parents.

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Setting:

Pilot study was conducted at village Chitgram of Nanur Block, West Bengal, India
Final study was conducted at village Ukrundi of Nanur Block, West Bengal, India

Sampling technique: Non- probability purposive sampling technique used to select setting and random sampling technique was used to select the sample.

Data Collection Tool & Data analysis:

Tool - I— Demographic data analyzed by frequency and percentage distribution.

Tool -II – Selected factors of school dropout analyzed by frequency and percentage distribution.

Association of selected factors and school dropout analyzed through Chi-square test of association. Reasons of school dropout expressed in rank order. The findings are presented according to objectives of the study and are organized as-

Section – 1: Prevalence of school dropout

Prevalence of school dropout analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage distribution.

Section -2: Demographic description

Description of school goer and school dropout given in terms of religion, caste, type of family, family size, age, sex, dropout class, present activity of dropout child –all are expressed in percentage and frequency distribution.

Section – 3 – Reasons/ factors of school dropouts

Selected factors of school dropout analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage distribution and reasons of dropouts expressed in rank order.

Section – 4

Association between selected factors and school dropout were computed with chi-square value.

5. Results

The percentage of school dropout was found to be 14.28 %. Majority of them belonged to 12-13 years of age. The prevalence of school dropout was more among boys than girls. Main reason of school dropout was “distance of school from residence”. Most school dropout children were engaged in field work. Chi-square test of association of school dropout with socio economic conditions of the family, school accessibility, child’s interest in education and parents’ views on equal education was found to be highly significant at 0.05 level of significance.

From the findings of the study following hypotheses were proposed

H₁ - There is a significant relationship between socio-economic status of the family and school dropout status of their children.

H₂ - There is a significant relationship between school accessibility(transport) and school dropout status.

H₃ – There is a significant relationship between child interests to education and school dropout status.

H₄- There is a significant relationship between parent view’s towards equal education and school dropout status.

6. Discussion of the findings related to other Studies

The goal of this study was to find out reasons of school dropout and its association with some selected factors. So that as a health professional we could make aware community people regarding educational effects on health. The present conceptual framework shows that if the personal, interpersonal and social interaction works properly then individual can achieve goal. The present study was supported by the following studies:

The findings of the present study reveals that prevalence of school dropout was 14.28% in the age group 6-19 years in rural community of West Bengal. This study correlates the result of ASER, Annual Status of Education Report [5]. Their survey showed that 3.3% of 6-14 years age group and 15.3% of 15-16 years age group children of rural India were dropped out of school.

A study by The Pratchi Trust [7] also supports the findings of prevalence of school dropout in rural West Bengal. According to Pratchi report dropout rate in Birbhum district is 6%.

Present study also supported by the report of Shiv Sahay Singh [8], who quoted the ASER, Annual Status of Education Report, 4.6 % children in the age group of 6-14 years were out of school in Bengal.

7. Conclusion

School accessibility has significant importance with school dropout & non availability of schooling facilities along with lack of support from the parents seems to account for 10 - 15% of India's out-of-school children. Major reason was distance of school from residence. Most school dropout children were boys than girls.

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