

# A Study on Academic Performance of Tribal Students in Thrissur, Kerala

K. M. Vineetha

*M.Phil. Research Scholar, Bishop Appasamy College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, India*

**Abstract:** Tribe may be defined as a social division of a group of people, especially of a preliterate people. It is also defined in terms of common descent, territory, culture and type of living. A Tribe is an ethnic or ancestral division of an ancient culture. The total Scheduled tribe population returned in Kerala as per Census 2011 is 4,84,839. School failure is a general problem of almost all countries. Modern education in tribal society was not only a new but also an alien phenomenon. The high drop-out rate in tribal society is to a great extent linked with this phenomenon. This study takes an attempt to understand the academic performance among the tribal students in Thrissur district. This study is descriptive in nature. The researcher has adopted convenient and purposive sampling method. Half (50 percent) of the respondents were having medium academic performance. It explores that a tie for school social workers in school settings.

**Keywords:** Tribe, education, drop out, performance, academic

## 1. Introduction

The term 'Tribe' is a Latin word which means a group of persons or a class of people descended from a common ancestor and living under a leader or chief 'Tribe' generally means a division or a group. Therefore, a Tribe may be defined as a social division of a group of people, especially of a preliterate people. It is also defined in terms of common descent, territory, culture and type of living. A Tribe is an ethnic or ancestral division of an ancient culture. Thus we may state generally, that a Tribe is any division of an ethnic or ancestral division of any ancient culture.

## 2. Tribes in Kerala

Definition of a tribe is a very manifest question, In Kerala there was the conspicuous fact that large number of primitive aborigines have intermixed and fused with advanced societies, that external features such as prognathous (projecting) jaws, brachycephalic (short) or dolichocephalic (low vault and backward direction of brain) head and mesocephalic or leptorrhine (narrow) or platyrrhine (broad) or archaic types of nose cannot make the basis for fending. Habitual existence in forests far away from educational institutions, advance society, industry and commerce cannot be again by itself is the basis. (AAD Louis, 1962).

Tribal groups who are food-gatherers, with diminishing population and very low or little literacy rates can be called as Primitive Tribes. Cholanaikkans, Kurumbas, Kattunaikkans,

Kadars and Koragas are the five primitive tribal groups in Kerala. They constitute nearly 5% of the total tribal population in the State. Cholanaikkans can be said as the most primitive of them and found only in the Malappuram District. Only a handful of families are living in the Mancheri hills of Nilambur forest division. Kattunaikkans, another lower-hill community related to Cholanaikkans, are mainly seen in Wayanad district and some in Malappuram and Kozhikode districts. Kadar population is found in Thrisur and Palakkad districts. Kurumbas are living in the Attappady Block of Palakkad district. The Koraga habitat is in the plain areas of Kasaragod district. (KIRTHARDS Kozhikode, 2017). The total Scheduled tribe population returned in Kerala as per Census 2011 is 4,84,839. Out of this 4,33,092 are in rural areas and 51,747 in urban areas. In terms of percentage, the scheduled Tribe population constitutes 1.45% of the total population. The proportion during the last Census was 1.14%. The highest 20 proportion of Scheduled Tribe population been recorded in Waynad (18.53%)

Table 1  
Tribal profile in Thrissur district  
Tribal Education in India: Current

S. No.	Name of Tribe	Population
1.	Adiyan	4
2.	Eravellan	1
3.	Hill pulaya	10
4.	Irular	157
5.	Kadar	1166
6.	Kanikkaran	47
7.	Kattunaiyykkan	47
8.	Kurichyan	27
9.	Mullukuruman	28
10.	Kurumbar	21
11.	Malayarayan	293
12.	Malapandaram	33
13.	Malavedan	575
14.	Malazar	5
15.	Malayan	2464
16.	Malayarayar	86
17.	Mannan	79
18.	Muthuvaan	91
19.	Palliyan	5
20.	Paniyan	30
21.	Ulladan	977
22.	Urali	51
23.	Thachadan	1
24.	Mavilan	5
25.	Karimbalan	
26.	Vettakurumar	6
27.	Malapanicker	151

and the lowest in Thrissur (0.30%) The highest number of Scheduled Tribe has been recorded in waynad (1,51,443) and lowest in Alapuzha (6574). In terms of gender composition there are 2,38,203 male Scheduled Tribe population (Rural-2,13,208 and Urban-24,995) and 2,46,636 female Scheduled Tribe population (Rural 2,19,884) and Urban- 26-,752) Sex ratio of ST population in Kerala is 1035. It is worthwhile mentioning that list of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala had undergone changes during the decades 2001-2011 resulting change in proportion of Scheduled Tribes.

### 3. Scenario

Modern education in tribal society was not only a new but also an alien phenomenon. Not only was the language of reading and writing alien, but what came to be taught too, was alien in tribal society. Even those engaged in imparting such instruction were strangers to tribal society. The high drop-out rate in tribal society is to a great extent linked with this phenomenon. In fact, the percentage of tribal children crossing such barriers has been small and those who have been able to, have moved to occupation other than agriculture and have been the pillar of the new middle class in tribal society. Much of the tribal population engaged in white collar jobs belongs to the section of the first generation literate, which in spite of being exposed to modern education and occupation, represented a very strong sense of tribal identity. The same cannot be said about the second generation school-going tribal children. Their aspiration, outlook and attitude have been quite contrary to their parents. They have an aspiration to rise socially but this has much to do with their attraction towards material wellbeing and not so much with the wellbeing of their community. In terms of attitudes, however, they display an easy attitude and a liking for short cut methods, quite contrary to the attitudes of their parents. (Xaxa. V .2011).

School failure is a general problem of almost all countries. One of the most obvious reason poor performances in school is irregular attendance. It had been observed in the study that low achievers find it difficult to understand this school lesson, while high achievers grasp the meaning of this lesson with little difficulty. (Ucharan D. 1993).

### 4. Literature review

Gafoor. K. A & K. A. Madhu (2008), in their study on Perception of tribes regarding the educational problem in Waynad District, focused on the problems that hamper the educational development of tribes. The authors found that the problem were in three types, i.e., associated with family, school and person. Few personal problems were inferiority complex, lack of aim, torpidity, and child marriage etc.

Talwar. M. S & Das. A (2014) Studied about the Academic Achievement of Secondary School tribal in relation to their mental health. It was found a positive relationship between academic achievement and mental health., Mental health of tribal boys are greater than girls and also found mental health

of urban tribal adolescent were greater than rural tribal adolescent.

P. V. Prajina (2017) a study on the Academic Achievement Motivation among the tribal children with special reference to Kannur district Kerala. The majority of the respondents (69%) low academic achievement motivation, 31% only possess high academic achievement motivation. Statistical analysis showed the girl child had high academic achievement motivation than boys.

## 5. Methodology adopted

### A. Objectives of the Study

- To find out the socio-economic profile of the respondents.
- To find out the level of academic performance of the respondents

The research design adopted in this study is descriptive in nature. Descriptive study is an information gathering investigation with suitable interpretations.

### B. Sampling Procedure

There are many Government, aided and private management schools in Thrissur District. As the current study deals with the tribal adolescents, researcher selected schools under Tribal Welfare Department which have hostel facilities for tribal adolescents.

As the study deals with tribal adolescents, the researcher was advised to choose 8th to 12th standard students. The universe of the study consists of all tribal adolescents from 8th standard to 12th standard in Thrissur District. The researcher with this purposive approached these schools and got permission for data collection. The researcher contacted 150 students, 75 girls and 75 boys who constitute as sample of this study and collected data for them. Hence the researcher has adopted convenient and purposive sampling method.

### C. Tools Used for Data Collection

- The researcher use questionnaire method for data collection. The questionnaire consists of two parts; first part includes questions to assess the socio-economic profile of the respondents.
- The second part of the questionnaire is to know the academic performance of tribal the adolescent. For this purpose, the researcher used Academic Performance Rating Scale (APRS; George J. Dupaul, Lucy M. Pereillo & Mark D Rapport.,1991)

## 6. Major findings

- More than one third (35.3 percent) of the respondent's mother were illiterate.
- More than one fourth (31.3 percent) of the respondent's father were illiterate.
- Three fourths (75.3 percent) of the respondents belong to nuclear family system.

- More than one third (39.3 percent) of the respondents were born in second birth.
- Significance (96.7 percent) of the respondents were having friend.
- More than half (64.0 percent) of the respondents were seeking help from their classmates.
- More than half (61.3 percent) of the respondents were participating in group activities.
- Majority (88.7 percent) of the respondents were participating in the extracurricular activities.
- More than half (60.0 percent) of the respondents were likely to visited counselor.
- More than half (53.3 percent) of the respondents were having professional relationship with teacher.
- More than half (70.0 percent) of the respondents' parents were not attending PTA meetings.
- Half (50 percent) of the respondents were having medium academic performance
- One fourth (25.3 percent) were having poor academic performance and remaining 24.7 percent of the respondents were having high academic performance.

de-motivate the respondents in their studies. Gafoor. K. A & K. A. Madhu (2008) found that the poor academic performance was associated with family, school and person. Few personal problems were inferiority complex, lack of aim, torpidity, and child marriage etc. Shelly. J (2017) in his study is describing about the adjustment of tribal student in their school. The author found that 63.8% were afraid of school and 73.3% had the problem of forgetfulness. They were feeling very difficult to adjust in school. The current study also revealed that majority of them were interested to participated in the extracurricular activities and more than half of them were likely to visit counselor, it explores a chance for school social workers who can play a role as good counselors and motivate them in their studies and extracurricular activities.

**8. Conclusion**

Education is the key to tribal development. Education is the key to tribal development. Tribal children have very low levels of participation though the development of the tribes is taking place in Easy access and more opportunities should be provided to the tribal children in order to bring them to the main stream of economic development. We should raise tribal people in such a way that we can develop our country. Development depends upon how each person of the country is raised. It can be summarized that these people need special care and attention in academic part of life otherwise their holistic development is unfeasible.

**References**

- [1] Louiz. A. A, "Tribes of kerala", Bharathya adimajthi sevak sanga. New Delhi, India, 1979.
- [2] Gafoor. K. A, and K. A. Madhu, "Perception of tribes regarding the educational problem in Waynad District," Journal of Studies in Teacher Education,1(1), 22-31, Jan. 2008
- [3] Shelly. J, "Adjustment of tribal students in school: problems and perspective, SSRG International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 4(6), 5-8, Nov. 2017.
- [4] Xaxa. V, "The status of tribal children in India: A historical perspectives UNICEF & IHD, New Delhi, 2011.

Table 2

Distribution of the respondents by their level of academic performance

Academic performance	Frequency	Percent
Poor academic performance	38	25.3
Medium academic performance	75	50.0
High academic performance	37	24.7
Total	150	100

**7. Discussion**

The present study findings revealed that academic performance of the respondents is relatively medium. It reveals that more than one fourth of the parents were illiterates and not in a position to motivate their children. It will affect the academic performance of the respondents. More than half of them were not attending the PTA meeting. This absence will