

A study on awareness of RTE Act 2009 among the parents of Muslim community of Srinagar

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Abstract

Education is a basic right of every child. But when children are not able to enjoy this right, there is a need for an Act to enforce the right. In spite of all efforts, if the Act is to be implemented in its true spirit, it is necessary for the stakeholders to have an awareness of the Act. This study is an attempt to investigate the awareness of Right to Education (RTE Act 2009) among the parents of Muslim Community of Srinagar City. The sample consists of 146 Muslim Community Parents selected randomly from the rural and urban localities of the Srinagar city. Descriptive survey method was used for the present study. The main objective of the study was to find out the awareness level of Muslim community parents related to RTE Act 2009. From the results, it was found that the parents who send their children to private schools were more aware about the RTE Act than the parents who send their children to government schools. A significant difference was also found in the awareness level of RTE Act among rural and urban Muslim parents and that the urban parents are more aware of RTE Act than the rural parents.

Keywords: awareness, RTE act, parents

1. Introduction

Government of India had made a number of policies and Constitutional provisions to universalize the elementary education so that all the members of the country become educated Citizens. In this process, Government of India had formulated Right to Education Act 2009. Or Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009. and became one among the 135 countries of the world who had declared that it is the right of child to get education. RTE Act mandates the right to education of all children belonging to every section of our society irrespective of their caste, religion, race, etc. To place this Act in action it is essential that all the Members of our society and parents participate and take part in providing education to everyone. Therefore, in this research an attempt is made to study the awareness level of the Muslim Community parents about the RTE Act 2009^[4]. A few researches on the RTE Act which have been reviewed are described in the following paragraphs.

Rahman A. (2013)^[2] conducted his study on sample of 160 Primary school teachers from Kanpur. It was found that about forty-five per cent of the teachers working in the private schools were not at all aware about the basic provisions of this Act, including the age group and level/classes covered therein, of the students. The level of awareness among the teachers' of government Schools is comparatively more(54.6 per cent).

Rajput G. and Aziz T. (2013)^[3]. Conducted a study on 200 parents of urban slum dwellers of Delhi which revealed that 88 per cent of parents were unaware of RTE Act and only 5 per cent parents were aware of the duty of the parents to send their child to school.

Sachar Committee Report(2006) revealed that around 25 per cent of Muslim children in the 6-14 year age group have either attended school or have dropped out. Muslims have the highest dropout rate in the country and the increase in enrolment in schools has been highest among

SCs and STs(95 per cent) followed by Muslims(65 per cent).

Report of the Standing Committee of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities' Education (NMCME), (2012) recommends the Government to discuss and take remedial action for addressing the problem of low rates of transition of Muslim students from primary to upper primary schools.

The above studies show that, there is a need to publicize about the RTE Act. They also indicate that the level of enrolment of children at the elementary level among the Muslim community is low. If the children are to be sent to school, parents are supposed to know about the Act. Even if the Act is formulated, unless the parents are aware of the provisions of the Act, it may not be possible to completely achieve the objectives of the Act. Therefore, it was felt that there is a need to find out as to what extent the parents of the Muslim community are aware of the RTE Act.

2. Methodology

The purpose of the study was to know the awareness level of RTE Act 2009^[4]. Among the Parents of Muslim Community of Srinagar City; Therefore, the survey method was selected.

For the present study a sample of 146 parents belonging to Muslim community was selected randomly from the rural and urban localities of the Srinagar city. In order to find out the awareness of RTE Act 2009^[4]. Among Muslim parents, a Questionnaire on Awareness of RTE Act 2009^[4]. Was constructed. Investigator studied the 08 aspects of the provisions of the RTE Act related to Admission, Parental responsibility, Detention punishment, Equal opportunity, Facilities to be provided to students, Educationally weaker section, School Management Committee and Minority Rights. The data collected for the study were analyzed using Mean,

Standard Deviation and t-test to find the significance of the means and interpret the result.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 To study the awareness level of Muslim Community Parents of Srinagar on RTE Act 2009 [4].

Table 1: Overall performance of parents on awareness of RTE Act 2009 [4]

N	Mean	SD
146	9.10	2.68

3.2 To compare the awareness level of Rural and Urban Parents on RTE Act 2009 [4].

Table 2: Mean, SD and t-value of Rural and Urban Parents on Awareness of RTE Act 2009 [4]

Local	N	Mean	SD	Df	T-Value
Rural	68	8.45	2.65	71	2.68
Urban	78	9.80	2.45		

*Significant at 0.05 level

As per the Table 2, the mean scores of rural parents is 8.45 and urban parents is 9.80. This reveals that urban parents have greater awareness than the rural parents with regard to awareness of RTE Act 2009 [4].

3.3 To compare the awareness level of Parents who send their children to Government and Private on RTE Act 2009 [4].

Table 3: Mean SD and t-value on Awareness of RTE Act 2009 [4]. of Parents who send their children to Government and Private Schools

Types of School	N	Mean	SD	df	T-Value
Private	40	10.20	3.30	52	2.04
Govt.	21	8.70	2.90		

As per the Table 3, the mean scores of the parents who send their children to government schools is 8.70 and private schools is 10.20. This reveals that parents who send their children to private schools are more aware about the RTE Act than the parents who send their children to government. The table value of ‘t’ at 0.05 level of significance is 1.98. The calculated value of ‘t’ is 2.04. This is greater than the table value. It can be inferred that there is significant difference between the awareness level on RTE Act among the parents who send their children to government and private schools. The parents who send their children to private schools have greater awareness when compared to the parents who send their children to government schools.

4. Conclusion and Suggestions

The research study revealed that there is significant difference in the awareness level of RTE Act among rural and urban Muslim parents and urban parents are more aware of RTE Act than rural parents. There is significant difference in the awareness level of RTE Act among Muslim parents who send their children to government and private schools. The parents who send their children

to private schools have greater awareness of RTE Act than who send their children to government schools. The present study focuses on the awareness level of RTE Act among Muslim parents. At present, several researchers (Rajput G. and Aziz T. 2013, Rahman A. 2013) [3], explored the problems and difficulty in the proper realization of the objectives of RTE Act. Results of the research studies suggest the possible recommendations and measures for the effective implementation of the Act. One of the areas of research is awareness of RTE Act among the stakeholders. The study has shown that urban parents are more aware of RTE Act than the parents of rural areas. Therefore, awareness programme should be organized in the villages and rural areas. The government body and the NGOs should take necessary steps to organize awareness programmes. Awareness could be spread through banners, slogans, pamphlets, making short commercial advertisements in the TV and radios showing the importance and value of education and RTE Act. The study has shown that the parents sending their children to private schools have more awareness than parents sending their children to government schools. Therefore, it is the responsibility of government school teachers that they also inform and make the parents aware of recent policies and programmes of the government in the field of education. Teachers and other stakeholders of elementary education should spread the information of the RTE Act in the surrounding communities and localities especially in the rural areas.

5. References

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