



RESEARCH ARTICLE

AWARENESS OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT AMONG THE PARENTS OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN
AT TELANGANA STATE – ANALYTICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to know the awareness level among the parents of children who are studying in general schools at Medak District of Telangana State about Right to Education Act 2009. Total 87 parents participated for the present study. The Questionnaire was developed based on act, provided & implemented by the central and state Governments related to children. This study adopted survey method, validated questionnaire was used as data collection instrument and it was administered on parents which includes fathers 56 and mothers were 31. Parental gender, Parental Education, parents economic status, social status are the variables for the present study. The obtained Data was analyzed in terms of percentage and the results were compared by using t-test between the parents (fathers and mothers) and to find out the impact of parental education on their awareness ANOVA test was used. The results of the study showed that there is an overall moderate level 59.3 % of Awareness on Right to Education Act 2009. Results showed that parental education and parents social status, have impacted significant difference but parents economic status is not shown any impact on their awareness level and it is observed that the awareness among fathers (63%) is more when comparatively with the mothers (52.6%).

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INTRODUCTION

Right to education act is an act, which came for the children to help the children to get education freely and compulsory. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 is a legislation passed by the Indian Parliament that has come into effect from 1st April, 2010. It is based on the 86th amendment in the Constitution through which an Article 21 (A) was inserted after Article 21 of the Constitution. The Article 21 (A) states that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age group of six to fourteen years. The RTE act ensures all children of India, from the age group of 6 to 14 years, a fundamental right to free and compulsory elementary education (Ramdas, 2010). The Bill is important because it is the first step in the Direction of the Governments active role in ensuring the implementation of constitutional amendments. All the right steps to lay the foundation for the development of a common Public school system that can provide the quality education to all the children thus preventing exclusion of socially and economically disadvantaged children.

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Parents need to know the Government initiations providing equalization of educational opportunities. Current study was taken up to find out the status of implementation of various provisions of RTE Act 2009 among the parents of children who are studying residing in the area of Medak District of Telangana state.

Significance of the problem

Parents are the primary care takers. They have the responsibility towards children in education. The primary care taker will be giving the guidance and support to the children and hence parents have the responsibility towards their own children (Akhtar 2017). Parents are the first teachers to their own children. Parents have an important role in helping their child during the early years (Simmson, Barbara, and Paula smith Lawrence, 1981). During the education process parents have a vital role in bringing up their children and encourage them to go to school. Hence, parents should be aware about the benefits and the provision of RTE act so that it will be helpful for the children to get education (Aziz 2013). As per 2011 census, 76.00 % population of Medak districts lives in rural areas of villages & Medak district is having average literacy level i. e 56.00 %. Keeping the above factors The study is

primarily to understand the parents' awareness of right to education act in an rural areas of Medak District. The study would be a great help as there are very less studies conducted in the awareness of parents in an rural area. Hence there is a need to study the awareness of RTE act among parents in an rural area. The current study was undertaken to find out the awareness on. Right to education Act 2009 among the parents of school going children. The following objectives were framed.

Objectives of the study

To find out the overall awareness level among the parents on Right to Education Act.

- To compare the awareness level among parents on with respect to gender
- To compare the awareness level among the parents on RTE ACT 2009

With respect to the parents Education level

- To compare the awareness level among the parents on RTE ACT 2009

With respect to the parents income level.

- To compare the awareness level among the parents on RTE ACT 2009

With respect to the parents Social Status

Research questions

- What is the percentage of awareness level among the parents on Right to Education ACT -2009?
- Which of the parental gender (Father, Mother) shows more awareness about RTE Act 2009
- Which level of parental education shows more awareness on RTE Act 2009
- Which level of parental income level shows more awareness RTE Act 2009
- Which of the parental social status shows more awareness about RTE Act 2009

Hypothesis of the Study

- There will be a difference among the parents on awareness on Right to Education Act
- There will be difference among the parents on awareness of RTE with reference to the parental Gender.
- There will be a difference among the parents on awareness of RTE with reference to the Parental Education.
- There will be a difference among the parents on awareness of RTE with reference to the Parental Income Level.
- There will be a difference among the parents on awareness of RTE with reference to the Parental Social status.

Review of Related literature

Gurav Mangesh Krishnarao, GuravSheetal Mangesh (2015) conducted A study on awareness of school teachers towards "right to education act 2009. The main purpose of this research paper is to point out the role of teachers in implementing RTE Act. The findings of the present study show that there is strong

need of teacher training program on right to education act. Maraje Bharamu Parisa (2015) conducted a study on parents awareness about right to education act –2009, the study results reveals that the awareness of parents on Right to education Act 2009 is very low. It is observed that 60% of the parents are unaware about RTE Act 2009 and its benefits. The study also shows that only 40% of the parents know some of the factors in the Act. The ngos, local authorities should organize active programme for the awareness on RTE Act to the slum area parents. If they people will be well acquainted with RTE, surely they will tackle their children properly and help to enhance the quality of education.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Method

The present study was Adopted survey method, to find out the awareness level among the parents of children

Sample

Sample consisted of 87 parents of children were at school level out of which fathers were 56 and mothers were 31 selected for the present study. Purposive sampling technique has been employed for the selection of the sample. The parents were informed about the purpose of the study and those who consented to participate were included in the sample

Tool

The (closed ended) questionnaire was developed as a part of research tool and later it was validated by experienced professionals for finalization. The questionnaire was developed based on RTE act. The questionnaire consists of 15 items. Questionnaire was administered to the parents of children at school level.

Procedure

The data was collected from the parents of children who are studying at School level (primary to Secondary level) from various parts of Medak Districts (3mandals) of Telangana State. Prior to the collection of Data. The Questionnaire was administered to the each parent and explained the aim and objectives of the Study. The data was collected around 30 days. The Investigator thanked to all the parents at the end for their Cooperation. The questionnaire was prepared in English, and the questions were translated to mother tongue (Telugu) to those who do not know English and their responses were recorded. The collected data is complied and analyzed by applying sample to t-test and one way ANOVA used and are given below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Objective I. Awareness among the parents of school going children on right to education Act

Hypothesis: There is a awareness among the parents on awareness of RTE ACT 2009 Implemented by the Central /State government

From the Table 1 it can be understood that the mean scores percentage is 8.90 indicating that there is a significant difference among parents on awareness on RTE 2009.

Table 1. Awareness among parents on RTE ACT 2009

| Descriptive Statistics | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|---------|---------|------|----------------|-----------------|
| | N | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation | Mean percentage |
| Awareness | 87 | 1 | 15 | 8.90 | 3.488 | 59.3 % |
| Valid N (listwise) | 87 | | | | | |

Table 2. Comparison of Awareness by Gender

| Group Statistics | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----|------|----------------|--------|
| | Gender | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Mean % |
| Awareness | Male | 56 | 9.45 | 3.464 | 63.0% |
| | Female | 31 | 7.90 | 3.360 | 52.6% |

t- value=2.01, p<0.05

Table 3. Mean Scores and SD on Comparison of Awareness by Education

| Comparison of awareness by education; descriptives | | | | |
|--|----|-------|----------------|---------------------|
| Education | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | ANOVA ; |
| Below X | 45 | 7.42 | 3.216 | F= ratio8.92,P<0.01 |
| X | 19 | 9.53 | 3.289 | |
| +2 | 16 | 10.63 | 2.604 | |
| Graduate | 7 | 12.71 | 2.563 | |
| Total | 87 | 8.90 | 3.488 | |

Table 4. Mean Scores and SD on Comparison of Awareness by social status

| Comparison of awareness by social status descriptives | | | | |
|---|----|-------|----------------|---------------------|
| Social Status | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | ANOVA ; |
| SC | 24 | 7.54 | 3.092 | F= ratio3.73,P<0.05 |
| OBC | 57 | 9.21 | 3.564 | |
| Others | 6 | 11.33 | 2.422 | |
| Total | 87 | 8.90 | 3.488 | |

Table 5. Mean Scores and SD on Comparison of Awareness by economic status

| Comparison of awareness by Economic status Descriptives | | | | |
|---|----|------|----------------|---|
| Income | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | ANOVA ; |
| < 10000 | 43 | 8.40 | 3.573 | F= 0.995 ratio, P.>0.05 not significant. |
| 10000-20000 | 35 | 9.26 | 3.416 | |
| > 20000 | 9 | 9.89 | 3.333 | |
| Total | 87 | 8.90 | 3.488 | |

But it is found that there is minimum level awareness among parents about RTE the score is 1 (6.6%) and maximum score is 15 (100%) findings for the research question –I proves that the overall awareness level among parents is 59.3 % It is understood that more awareness is required among parents regarding RTE ACT

Comparison of Awareness by Gender

Objective II: To compare the awareness level among parents on RTE 2009 with reference to the gender

Hypothesis –II: There will be difference among the parents on awareness of RTE with respect to the Gender (father & mother)

From the Table 2 it is understood that the male population is 56 have obtained mean score 9.45 and S.D is 3.464 where as in female N=31 the mean Score is 7.90 and SD is 3.360 The calculated t value is 2.01, which is significant at 0.05 level. The findings of this study solves for the research question –II that there is a significant differences among the parents on awareness of right to education Act 2009 implemented by the Central / State governments with respect to the Gender.

It is also observed that the awareness is more in males (63.0%) when comparatively with females (mothers) 52.6%.

Comparison of Awareness by Education

Objective; III To compare the awareness level among the parents with reference to the education level on RTE 2009 implemented by the Central/ State Governments.

Hypothesis; III There is no significant difference among the parents on awareness of RTE 2009 with reference to the parental education.

From the Table 3 shown that out of 87 sample i.e. the parents with below SSC are N= 45, the obtained mean score of 7.42 and S.D of 3.216. Whereas parents with education SSC are, 19 with the mean Score of 9.53 and SD 3.289. The parents who are having education at Intermediate level N=16 have a mean score 10.63 and S.D of 2.604 There are 7 parents with graduation level and obtained mean score 12.71 and S.D scores of 2.563 respectively. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) used to compare the awareness level with respect to parental education, The calculated value F 8.92 which is refers to significant at P,< 0.01. The findings of this study for the research question - III, proves that there is significant

differences on awareness of RTE implemented by the Central / State Governments for the Students with respect to their education level.

Comparison of Awareness by Education

Objective IV: To compare the awareness level among the parents with reference to the education level on RTE 2009 implemented by the Central/ State Governments.

Hypothesis IV: There is no significant difference among the parents on awareness of RTE 2009 with reference to the parental education.

From the table 4 shown above that out of 87 sample i.e the parents with SC are N= 24, the obtained mean score of 7.54 and S.D of 3.092 where as parents with OBC category are, 57 with the mean Score of 9.21 and SD 3.564. The parents other category are 6 have a mean score 11.33 S.D of 2.422 respectively. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) used to compare the awareness level with respect to parental education, The calculated value F 3.73 which is significant at $P < 0.05$.

The findings of this study for the research question IV, proves that there is significant differences among the parents on awareness of RTE act implemented by the Central / State Governments for the Students with respect to their Social status.

Comparison of Awareness by ECONOMIC STATUS

Objective V: To compare the awareness level among the parents with reference to the economic level on RTE 2009 implemented by the Central/ State Governments.

Hypothesis V: There is no significant difference among the parents on awareness of RTE 2009 with reference to the parent's economic status

From the Table 4 shown that out of 87 sample i.e the parents having below 10,000 income level are N= 43, the obtained mean score of 8.40 and S.D of 3.573 where as parents income level between 10,000-20000 are N=35 with the mean Score of 9.26 and SD 3.416. The parents income level below 20000 are N= 9 have a mean score 9.89 S.D of 3.333 respectively. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) used to compare the awareness level with respect to parents income level, The calculated value F 0.995- which is significant at $P > 0.05$. The findings of this study for the research question V, proves that there is significant no differences among the parents on awareness of RTE act implemented by the Central / State Governments for the Students with respect to their economic status.

DISCUSSION

From the results of objective I, it is observed that there is moderate level of Awareness among parents on awareness of RTE act, this may be because the parents directly benefited through their child education and Government has taken initiation by creating Aware camps in villages. The results of objective II indicate that there is a difference on awareness level, among the parents with respect to the gender. It is observed that the awareness is more in males comparatively with females (mothers), even though female family members who bring the children for the school they use to know about

free and compulsory education but most of the female population not aware of the provisions in the Act. It is observed that the educational level of the parents varied from Below SSC to Graduation level, the awareness level among the parents is found that there is a significant difference on awareness of RTE with respect to parental education. This may be because parents are self motivated and concerned about their child, It is observed that the social status of the parents varied from SC, ST, OBC and others the awareness level is increased and it is found that there is a significant difference on awareness of RTE with respect to parents social status. This may be because some of parents are socially Disadvantaged & not Aware of the provisions of RTE 2009. The results of objective V indicate that there is no significant difference among the parents with respect to the economic status.

Based on the findings of this study, the following implications are drawn

- Necessary attention should be taken to create more awareness among parents and programmes to be conducted at village level.
- Necessary attention should be taken to create awareness among parents of school going children, through mass media through electronic and print media and printed material will be more useful to them to get awareness
- Information about RTE should be made available to the child at the school level; this information should be given to the parents through the Anaganwadi and SSA Teachers. To reach socially disadvantaged & Geographically disadvantaged.

Limitations of the study

- Study limited to only three villages Medak District (three villages) of Telangana state which is rural scenario, and it may be considerably skewed related to urban population.
- The study was restricted to the parents of children who are studying in rural background

Delimitation of the study

The parents of children with disabilities were not considered for the present study

Future Directions

- Study can be conducted at other Districts of Telangana state
- Study can be conducted to the teachers
- Study can be conducted for parents of children with Disabilities.

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