

Adoption and Suitability of “Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan” in the Rural Environment of West Bengal

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Abstract—Education and economic development of any nation are inter-related. Recently, economists have been paying close attention to the influence of education and schooling on economic development. Currently, the flagship programme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan along with the Right to Education Act is being implemented in full flow in the state of West Bengal and all over India. Despite the above fact, West Bengal, according to Education Development Index, has acquired 32nd position in education. The present study tried to analyze the factors responsible for this poor performance in West Bengal. So, the objectives kept in mind were-

1. Identification of reasons for Non-Adoption of the advantages of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the state of West Bengal .
2. To determine the reasons for discontinuation of schooling and non-participation of wards at the primary and elementary stage of education.

Accordingly, the present study has been conducted in the three districts of West Bengal, namely Burdwan, Birbhum and Murshidabad and 60 families from each district, totaling 180 altogether have been selected for the study. It has been found that the main causes of non –adoptions, school dropout and non-participation in primary and elementary level of education in the traditional rural communities are poor-economic condition of the families; children’s unwillingness to go to school; their need to help in household works; parents’ unwillingness to send wards to school and engagement in sowing and harvesting time, with mean scores of more than 2.00 out of 3.00. These causes are strongest among all other causes. Further from the study it is revealed that although SSA is a very good step of the government towards educational development by providing physical facilities but it did not change the teachers’ attitude or the school environment. Hence, it is recommended that the awareness for education, livelihood enhancement of people, favorable attitude towards students in schools and proper physical and administrative steps should be taken to reach the target of “Education for all”.
