

# Study on Dropout Rate of Tribal Female Secondary School Students

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## Abstract

Education is a highly fundamental prerequisite for human progress. Education is essential for both individual and national growth. India has the largest tribal population. However, many underprivileged Indian tribes are still unable to complete their education. Dropout is a major problem in the globalised educational system. The present study has a significant role to study the dropout rate of female tribal students linked with the causes. The simple random sample technique was adopted for the selection of the sample from five secondary schools of Nilgiri Block of Balasore District Odisha. The present study had made a questionnaire, interview schedule and focus group discussion to collect data by descriptive survey method. The result highlighted that the total ST Girls dropout rate is 36.8%. The highest rate of dropout appeared in class-ix and lowest in class x. The causes of dropouts were categorized under socio-economic, academic and personal causes.

**Keywords:** Dropout, Causes, Tribal Female, Secondary School Students

## 1. Introduction

Education is the most fundamental prerequisite for human progress. Education constitutes one of the most significant factors in a country's growth. It significantly helps people's understanding of themselves and their surroundings (Kumar et al., 2023). The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal agenda-2030 has been aiming at quality education to all by the end of the year 2030. The National Education Policy-2020 in India has been implemented aiming at complete human development through inclusive and equitable quality education. Dropout has been a matter of subject at all level of education from the primary level to the tertiary education. The dropout rates in secondary education consistently have remained higher in all over the world. The government of India has taken many steps to increase the enrolment and reduce the dropout rates in the elementary and school education. However, many underprivileged Indian tribes are still unable to complete their education. A step should be required in the secondary education at least for the sake of reducing the wastage of money. The term "Dropout" in Secondary education has been defined for the present study as any student who ceased to continue the course of study and has not appeared the final examination for completion of school education. There are many factors that influence a student to cease to continue the course of study, which includes social, economic, educational, cultural, physical and mental health. These dropout students are not only being deprived of getting education but also from enjoying their cheerful student lives.

## 2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Dropout is a major problem in the globalised educational system. Different factors affect the students at

their continuing education, finding them out could be an effective step in removing dropout at all the level of education. NEP-2020 stressed on top priority to bring back the dropped-out students to the main stream of education. The present study has a significant role to draw the preventive measures to stop further dropping out. Awareness programmes at village level with an aim to sensitize the community are required as it has been noticed that SMDC members, parents are unaware of several recent development in the field of educational programmes, hence information, education and communication need has been identified. The present study had made a questionnaire, interview schedule and focus group discussion to collect data by descriptive survey method. The result highlighted that the total ST Girls dropout rate is 36.8%. The highest rate of dropout appeared in class-ix and lowest in class x. The causes of dropouts were categorized under socio-economic, academic and personal causes.

### 3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

The purpose of this study is to find out the “**Study on dropout rate of tribal female secondary school students**”.

### 4. Objective of The Study

The objective of the present study is;

1. To find out the rate of dropout of tribal girls at the secondary school level.
2. To find out the causes of dropout of tribal girls at the secondary school level.

### 5. Research Question

1. What is the educational status of Tribal women in Nilgiri Block?
2. What are the factors causing dropouts as presented by the dropouts?

### 6. Method of The Study

A qualitative research approach was followed where in descriptive survey method was adopted to explore the problem of dropout among tribal girls.

#### 6.1 Population

All the tribal female secondary students of Nilgiri Block in Balasore District.

**Sample:** The simple random sample technique was adopted for the selection of the sample from five secondary schools of Nilgiri Block.

#### 6.2 Tools of the Study

Researcher used self-made questionnaire, interview schedule and focus group discussion to collect data regarding the study. Questionnaire consists of a number of questions printed or typed in a definite order on a form or set of form. The researcher was used this tool for data collection, whereby question was prepared and distributed to the teachers of the dropout students and the interview schedule was used for parents of dropout students and FGD was administered on the dropout students and collected the data from the respondents.

#### 6.3 Procedure of Data Collection

For the completion of proposed study, the Researcher was collected data from fifty families and five schools. The Researcher was proceed himself to different schools and families for data collection after due permission and developing rapport with the Headmaster/ Headmistress/ Parents.

**6.4 Statistical techniques**

The Researcher was used simple percentage for analysis and interpretation of data.

**6.5 Delimitation of The Study**

The proposed study was delimited to only five schools of Nilgiri Block. The study was further limit to self- made Schedule.

**7. Analysis and Interpretation:**

A School information Blank was given to the sample schools to get information of secondary schools of the sampled block of the district. Information about class wise enrollment and school leavers, teachers and other facilities during the period 2021-2022 was gathered. This information blank was consisting of 05 main questions and it was given to the Headmaster/Headmistress of two Govt primary and U.P School.

**Table-7.1: Dropout Rate Among ST Girls of The Schools from Class IX & X Class Wise Five Schools:**

Class	ST Girls Enrolment	ST Girls Dropout	ST Girls Dropout rate
IX	70	30	42.85%
X	55	16	29.09%
Total	125	46	36.8%

Data on dropout girls by class reveals that 42.85% ST Girls dropped out at class ix and 29.09% ST Girls dropped out at class x. The total ST Girls dropout rate is 36.8%.

**ANALYSIS OF THE FGD FOR DROP OUT ST GIRLS:**

FGD for dropouts attempts to study the demographic details of the dropout, socio-economic and academic condition that led the students to left the school before completion of the secondary stage. This FGD was supposed to give reliable data indicating the real socio-economic and academic factors of dropout behavior of the ST Girls. The FGD consists of a total information i.e.

**Table-7.2 Age at the Time of Leaving of the School:**

Age	Drop-out	Percentage
13-14	30	65.21
14-15	16	34.78
Total	46	100

Analysis of age of dropout reveals that 65.21% ST Girls left school at the age between 13-14 years and 34.78% left school in between 14-15 years.

**Table-7.3: Reasons for Dropping out of School:**

Reasons for Irregularity	Frequency	Percentage
To help in their parental profession	4	8.69
Doing domestic work	3	6.52
Taking sibling care	5	10.86

Lack of interest to go to school	4	8.69
Works at mine area	2	4.34
Poverty	5	10.86
Parents inability to provide hidden fees, books & stationary	5	10.86
Prolonged illness	4	8.69
Low intelligence	2	4.34
Distance from school	3	6.52
Fear of Teachers	3	6.52
Peer Criticism	4	8.69
No lady teacher	2	4.34
Total	46	100

An analysis of the responses given by dropouts themselves regarding reasons for leaving school reveals that some reasons are prominent in terms of their frequency and some may be considered as minor from the point of view of their frequency. The major reasons reported by dropouts for living school are - 8.69% girls did not attend the school regularly to help in their parental profession, 6.52% due to doing domestic work, 10.86% because of taking care of siblings, 8.69% due to lack of interest to go to school, 4.34% works at mine area, 10.86% because of poverty, 10.86% due to parents inability to provide hidden fees, books and stationary, 8.69 because of prolonged illness, 4.34 because of low intelligence, 6.52% due to distance from school, 6.52% because of fear of teachers, 8.69% due to peer criticism, 4.34% because of absence of lady teacher in respective schools.

**Table-7.4: Causes of Dropouts as perceived by Dropout, Teachers and the Parents of Dropout:**

SL.NO	Reasons	Dropouts		Teacher		Family	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Domestic work	3	6.52	5	10.86	3	6.52
2	Sibling care	5	10.86	4	8.69	5	10.86
3	Parents unconsciousness	5	10.86	4	8.69	5	10.86
4	To supplement of family income	4	8.69	3	6.52	3	6.52
5	Child labour	2	4.34	4	8.69	3	6.52
6	Poverty	5	10.86	8	17.39	5	10.86

**Academic Causes:**

	Academic Causes	F	%	F	%	F	%
7	Irregular attendance	7	15.21	3	6.52	5	10.86
8	Lack of interest	4	8.69	3	6.52	4	8.69
9	Repeated failure	5	10.86	2	4.34	7	15.21

**Personal Causes:**

	Personal Causes	F	%	F	%	F	%
10	Low intelligence	2	4.34	6	13.04	6	13.04
11	Personal illness	4	8.69	4	8.69	4	8.69

**8. Findings and discussions:**

On the basis of the objectives of the study, the Researcher has analyzed the collected data and observed a number of findings the summary of the study are given below.

**On Rate of Dropout:**

- The total rate of ST Girls dropout in the 5 school was found 36.8%.
- Data on dropout girls by class reveals that 42.85% ST Girls dropped out at class ix and 29.09% ST Girls dropped out at class x. The total ST Girls dropout rate is 36.8%.
- Analysis of age of dropout reveals that 65.21% ST Girls left school at the age between 13-14 years and 34.78% left school in between 14-15 years
- The highest rate of dropout appeared in class-ix and lowest in class x.

**On Causes of Dropouts:**

- After analysis of FGD, Interview Schedules, and Questionnaire, the responses given by the dropouts, teachers and parents regarding the causes of dropouts were categorized under socio-economic, academic and personal causes. There are 11 causes identified as the causes of dropouts. Out of these 11 causes of dropouts, 6 belongs to socioeconomic causes, 3 to academic cause and 2 to personal causes.
- The causes of dropout according to the importance or rank given by the three respondents are work at home, irregular attendance, do not like to read or uninterested in reading, illiterate parents, repeated failure, siblings care, low intelligence, lack of interest to go to school, lack of supervision and guidance at home and health issues etc.

**9. Suggestions for further study:**

Although the central and the state govt. is initiating a number of schemes for increasing the enrollment and retention ratio in secondary level in India within a period, still there are problems of non-enrolment, wastage stagnation and dropouts at this level. So there is the need to conduct more research in these areas to find out the root problems and to tackle them to increase enrollment and retention in secondary level in near future. Investigation can be made on the impact of pre-school education and drop-out of the ST Girls. A comparative study can be made to find out the socio-economic, academic, and personal causes of dropout between ST Girls and other communities in the district.

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