

# **Socio-Economic Status on Academic Achievement of High School Students: A Sociological Study**

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Education is an integral part of human life. It is the basic condition for the development of the 'whole man' an vital instrument for accelerating the well-being an prosperity of all, in every direction. Without education man would still be living just like a splendid slave or like a reasoning savage. Therefore, it is one of those subjects, which are talk about by all. Socio-economic status (SES) plays a significant role in shaping the academic achievement of high school students, influencing multiple aspects of their educational experiences. Students from higher SES backgrounds typically have better access to educational resources such as quality schools, private tutoring, learning materials, and supportive home environments. In contrast, students from lower SES families often face barriers such as financial constraints, lack of parental involvement, and limited access to educational support, all of which hinder their academic performance.

**Keywords:** socio-economic status, student problems, Student Aspiration & Achievement

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Education is one of the basic activities of people in all human societies. The continued existence of Society depends upon the transmission of culture to the young.. Every society has its own ways and means fulfilling this need. "Education" has come to be one of the ways of fulfilling this need. Education is indispensable to normal living, without education the individual would be unqualified for group life. Education, in its broadest sense, may be defined as a process designed to inculcate the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to enable individuals to cope effectively with their environment. Its primary purpose is to foster and promote the fullest individual self realization for all people. Education is the most important weapon for growth an prosperity of nation.

Socio economic status has an important role in the education of the child. The home is the original social institution from which, all other institutions developed. The world is becoming more and more competitive. Parents desired that their children climb the ladder of performance to has a high level a possible

## **Importance of the Study:**

Elementary Education provides the platform for Secondary Education. Secondary Education is the connecting link between primary education and higher education. Secondary Education is a crucial point

in the lives of individuals. It is at this stage that young people should be able to decide their own future in the light of their own tastes and aptitudes, so that they can acquire the abilities and skills for a successful adult life. The global Education For All (EFA) effort provides added momentum for the growth in secondary education. Furthermore, globalization and the increasing demand for a more sophisticated labor force, combined with the growth of knowledge-based economies gives a sense of urgency to the heightened demand for secondary education.

Now a days high schools are mostly running private institutions. Some of these private institutions are funded while some are unaided schools. Especially in Bangalore City Private schools is very high. High & Middle Class people prefer the private schools but poor people not join the private school. Daily wage earner and economically weaker section, backward people are admitted to government school or Corporation school.

BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) schools are a significant part of the public education system in Bengaluru, Managed by the municipal body of Bengaluru, these schools cater to children from economically weaker sections of society, offering them free education. The history of BBMP schools traces back to the early development of public education in the city, but their transformation over time reflects broader social, political, and economic changes. Because of this study is important.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

**Krishna C K (1972):** in his studied " Individual study of students belonging to the 10<sup>th</sup> class who are academically backward in some high schools of Bangalore city". The reasons why the students show minimum academic performance. Mainly low economic status, lack of help in studying house work, poor stud habits, absence from school, adjustment problems were mentioned as reasons.

**Joachim C.O., Eskay M Ezeudu. F (2014):** study on a relationship between home environment factor and academic achievement of secondary school adolescent Anambra State.. The finding revealed that here is a positive relationship between economic background parents and academic achievement of students.

**Ashwinkumar R Soni(2013)** studied on relationship between and academic achievement motivation and home environment Among standard 10<sup>th</sup> students. A significant positive relationship was found between five factors of the home environmental that is mother's & father's occupation, mother's & father's education, family size academic achievement motivation, parental encouragement was the only factor that was not significantly related to academic achievement motivation.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To Study Socio-economic, Education status of parents of BBMP high school students.
2. Analyzing the learning Problem faced by the students in BBMP schools.
3. To know the educational aspirations an achievements of BBMP students.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) manages a network of educational institutions across Bengaluru, primarily aimed at providing free education and facilities to children from lower-income groups, including the children of Pourakarmikas (municipal workers). BBMP oversees a total of 159 educational institutions, which include nursery schools, primary and high schools, pre-university (PU) colleges, degree colleges, and even postgraduate centers.

The present study was mainly intended to identify the educational constraints at the secondary level in Bangalore. It is conceptually study and primary data is drawn from observations, interviews most suitable method for the study. The data was collected from the students of class 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> from the selected schools belonging to the 10 Schools of South Zone in BBMP. Information was also collected from parents, Direct observation of the school situation was also made by the investigator using an observation and interview schedule

#### **SAMPLE:**

The sample for the present study consisted of 200 students from BBMP high schools. The sample was selected using random sampling technique

#### **ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA :**

Socio-economic status (SES) plays a significant role in shaping the academic achievement include parental education levels, family income, and access to educational infrastructure. Students from low SES backgrounds tend to experience higher rates of absenteeism, lower test scores, and increased dropout rates due to economic pressures and a lack of educational motivation. The home environment also plays a crucial role, as children from wealthier families are more likely to have access to books, technology, and extracurricular opportunities that foster cognitive development.

The purpose of the study was to analyze socio economic family status influence on students behaviour. The independent variables selected for the study were study habits, it has been found that the factors like parent's education, parental occupation, type of family, family size, their impact on the achievement of every pupil.

According to level of education of the parents qualification was made a shown below:

**Table :1 Parents Education Status**

<b>Education status</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Illiterate	100	50.00
Primary	75	37.50
Secondary	20	10.00
College	05	02.50
Degree	00	00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The characteristic of the sample is presented in the Table 1. It is shown that 50.00 percent of parents were illiterate, 37.50 percent of parents had primary school education. About 10.00 per cent parents are educated high school. More over 02.50 per cent parents had college education.

And zero percent of parents degree education. parental education, significantly related to student academic achievement and parents were not able to spend more time for their children's.

The size of the family has been found to play an important role in the child's academic performance. According to Types of Family was made a shown below:

**Table :2 Type of Families**

Types of family	Numbers	Percentage
Nuclear Family	150	75.00
Joint Family	50	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is observed that there were 75.00 per cent of students from nuclear families. Only 25.00 Percent Students from joint families.

It was researched that poor children lag behind in all the activities involving cognitive abilities than children from middle and upper section of the society. According to Parents Income and Parents Occupation was made a shown below:

**Table :3 Parents Income**

Annual Income	Number	Percentage
1,000-5,000	60	30.00
5001-10,000	80	40.00
10,001 above	60	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is revealed that 30.00 per cent Parents belong to the low income category. Moreover 40.00 percent of Parents had medium income , 30.00 per cent of parents above 10.001 income.

**Table :4 Parents Occupation**

Parents Occupation	Numbers	Percentage
Unemployed	10	05.00
Labourer	100	50.00
Caste occupation	28	14.00
Small Business	60	30.00
Govt. Jobs	02	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is revealed from table that 5.00 per cent of Parents were unemployed, 50.00 parents were labourers, 14.00 per cent of parents were having caste occupation, 30.00 percent of parents were having small business, 1.00 per cent of parents were got a Govt. jobs

## PROBLEM FACED BY STUDENT IN BBMP SCHOOL:

The children living in poor environment cannot develop their potentials and skills to the maximum extent which do effect negatively on their performance in schools and achievements in social life, because student having disturbing factors at home in the form of quarrels between parents and siblings, broken homes, substance abuse in parents and having responsibilities at home, low achievers had the above disturbing factors, and adjustment problem with parents ,friends, siblings and neighbors. Corporation school student most of them time spent on television watching did not affect grades in the

present study. children from well to do families show superior cognitive abilities, competence and other similar skills. It was researched that poor children lag behind in all the activities involving cognitive abilities than children from middle and upper section of the society.

**Socio-Economic Constraints:** Many BBMP students come from low-income families, where parents may prioritize earning a livelihood over education. This leads to high absenteeism, as children are often required to help with household chores or earn supplementary income for the family. Poor nutrition affects the physical and cognitive development of children. Although programs like the mid-day meal scheme help, irregular nutrition at home can still impact concentration and learning outcomes

**Parental Involvement and Literacy Levels:** Many parents of BBMP students have little to no formal education. This affects their ability to support their children's learning at home, leading to a lack of reinforcement of schoolwork and academic expectations. In many cases, parents are unaware of the long-term benefits of education, resulting in less encouragement for children to continue their studies, especially for girls. This lack of family support often leads to higher dropout rates.

**Psychological and Emotional Challenges:** The economic and social pressures faced by students in low-income families often contribute to stress, which affects their mental health and ability to focus on studies. Many students face the constant challenge of balancing home responsibilities and schoolwork. Due to the absence of role models or success stories within their communities, students in BBMP schools often have low aspirations. A lack of encouragement or positive reinforcement from both teachers and parents leads to low self-esteem and reduced academic motivation

**Living Conditions:** Many students live in slum areas or economically backward neighborhoods of Bengaluru. They often face challenges like overcrowded living spaces, lack of access to basic amenities such as clean water and sanitation, and unstable housing conditions. These environmental factors can affect both their academic performance and overall well-being.

**Dependency on Government Support:** A significant portion of students rely on government-provided amenities like free mid-day meals, textbooks, uniforms, and other educational materials. These programs are essential for ensuring their continued participation in school. In some cases, BBMP schools also provide additional support such as footwear, helping to reduce the financial burden on families.

**Education as a Social Mobility Tool:** For many of these students, education serves as one of the few pathways to improving their socio-economic status. Programs aimed at providing free and quality education in BBMP schools are critical for offering students opportunities that might not be available otherwise.

**Inadequate Infrastructure :** Many BBMP schools are overburdened with high student-to-teacher ratios, leading to insufficient attention for individual students ,Several schools suffer from dilapidated buildings, lack of basic amenities (like clean drinking water and functional toilets), and inadequate learning resources such as textbooks and computers. Poor infrastructure not only hampers the learning process but also affects student attendance and retention

**Limited Teacher Resources and Training:** BBMP schools often face a shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in subjects like mathematics, science, and English. The lack of specialized teachers results in students not receiving the necessary guidance, impacting their understanding of key subjects. Even when teachers are available, many may lack adequate training or professional development opportunities to address the specific needs of underprivileged students. This results in less effective teaching strategies, affecting student engagement and performance.

**Language Barriers:** Many students come from non-English-speaking backgrounds, and since English is often the medium of instruction in higher grades, they struggle with comprehension. This language barrier creates a disconnect between students and the curriculum, affecting their ability to learn and engage in class activities. While Kannada is the regional language, students from migrant families who speak other regional languages face additional challenges in adapting to the school environment and instruction

**Lack of Access to Technology:** While online education became essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, many BBMP students were left behind due to a lack of access to digital devices and internet connectivity. Even now, technological gaps continue to affect these students, as they miss out on digital literacy and e-learning resources. Even when devices are available, many students and teachers lack the skills to effectively use digital tools for education, further widening the gap between them and their peers in more resourceful schools.

#### EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS & ACHIEVEMENT OF BBMP STUDENTS:

The educational aspirations and achievements of BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) school students are shaped by their socio-economic background and the resources provided by government initiatives. Given that many of these students come from low-income families, their aspirations are closely tied to opportunities for upward social mobility through education. However, several challenges and patterns emerge in their educational journey. In the present study the educational aspirations of the students can be know through the table

**Table :4 Education aspirations**

Education aspirations	Numbers	Percentage
Government Job	30	15.00
Doctor	25	12.50
Engineer	30	15.00
Police	35	17.50
Teacher	22	11.00
IAS Officer	15	07.50
Software Engineer	20	10.00
Soldier	10	05.00
Scientists	03	01.50
nothing	10	05.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Most BBMP school students view education as a gateway to stable employment and better economic conditions. Given their family backgrounds, many students aspire to secure jobs in government sectors, IT, or skilled vocational roles. While many students express a desire to pursue higher education, practical constraints often limit their aspirations. Some may opt for technical training courses or vocational education if higher education is not financially viable.

#### THE FACILITIES OF THE BBMP HIGH SCHOOLS:

- Economic support to Merit students studying in BBMP Schools.



- Grants to Educational Institutions/Hostels run by SC/St management.
- Financial supports BBMP to the schools.
- Educational programmes for school Drop outs.
- Expenditure for students educational/study tour.
- Facilities to Children of BBMP Schools- Midday meals & Health Checkup.
- Facilities to Children of BBMP Schools- Uniform, Book facilities to Nursery, Primary & High School students.
- Purchase of School Bags to Primary & High Schools /Colleges.
- Study Tour for BBMP students (7<sup>th</sup> Std, SSLC & 2<sup>nd</sup> PUC).
- To encourage the students studying in BBMP schools a prize money of Rs. 10,000 for the S.S.L.C students and Rs 15,000 for II P.U.C students is being given for those who score above 85%. For students passing in first class also Rs. 750 and Rs. 1000 is given for SSLC and II PUC students respectively.

### EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

**High Dropout Rates:** Unfortunately, BBMP schools often struggle with relatively high dropout rates, particularly among older students. Many students leave school to support their families through work, impacting their ability to complete secondary education and pursue higher goals(

**Academic Performance Challenges:** A 2023 report noted a decline in academic performance in BBMP schools. The state government is addressing this issue by transferring the management of some BBMP schools to the Karnataka Education Department, hoping to improve results and offer more structured educational support(

**Success Stories:** Despite these challenges, there are success stories of students overcoming socio-economic barriers and achieving academic excellence. Many students receive scholarships and merit-based recognition, which helps them pursue college education or professional courses.

This Study Three areas: Socio-Economic conditions, problem faced by the student & Academic achievement. The finding have important implications for promoting parental involvement, basic facilities from home, and teaching practices to benefit the student achievement in many cases infrastructural facilities are less than enough. The above said where the problems came to know while conducting the research study based on the genuine information. Through research aspects the detailed problems where known and some recommendations were given they are:

### MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Agencies like Government Management, & BBMP should take initiative for the improvement of the infrastructural facilities of the High schools.
- The Department of education and BBMP Management of schools should take initiative to perfect the laboratory and library facilities of the schools.
- Steps are to be taken by everyone concerned to provide the schools with educational technology laboratory with modern amenities and facilities.
- Teachers encouragement should be given to ensure the participation of all students in co-curricular activities.

- Through multimedia approach and by showing demonstration lessons confidence should be developed in teachers for adopting new instructional strategies.
- The administrative system at the secondary level should be made more democratic.
- The prevailing administrative procedures and formalities to be observed in teacher appointment has to be simplified so that substitute appointment for teachers entering on long leave can be made without delay.
- Parents should be educated to provide a proper atmosphere in home, so that students wishes are taken care in the home.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

Students in schools come from different backgrounds. Quality education focuses on identification of the varieties each individual and nurturing such varieties for holistic development of the individuals. So nurturing each child to optimize his/her potential is an inevitable parameter of school education. Parents should create good home environment for their children. Parents can help and develop the ability for resolving the conflicts in day-to-day life activities of their children. Where the Parents are the role models for children to imitate them. Therefore parents telling the truth, keeping promises, honesty, courage, perseverance and strong will for right actions. These principles are a part of society's culture and have to be reinforced continuously.

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