

Present Education System Vis-a-vis People's Peoples Participation and Aspirations in Madhya Pradesh

- The broad objectives of the study were to find out perceptions and aspirations of the rural community towards school education, their response to the utility of present education, vis-a vis their needs and impact of schooling on the status of rural community.
- The study was conducted in three districts namely. Hoshangabad, Guna and Jhabua. The first is a tribal district and second a district in which there is a mix of tribals and non-tribals, but where the project like Tawa have brought about significant economic change and Guna, a district on the edge of Malwa plateau running into genetic plain where the social characteristics of eastern Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh merged with local culture. The study is interesting because while it has looked at various aspects of how the education system is organized in these districts, it has, through case studies and direct interaction with students, teachers, parents and village representatives, tried to cover as wide a spectrum of educational problems at village level as is possible. What is encouraging is the responses of children from rural background who have clear ideas about the quality of their teachers, the subjects that they are taught, the infrastructure problems of their villages, their parents attitude to education and the careers they would like to chart out for themselves.

The main findings of the study were.

- School education was felt necessary but the participants in the workshop suggested various interventions such as Gurukul pattern of education, vocationalisation etc.
- Students were generally regular in classes but had to suffer great difficulties due to poor infrastructure facilities in the school.
- The rural students were found to have limited exposure to outside world.
- Mostly students dropped out after completing a minimum standard [primary] of education due to household responsibilities and financial compulsions.
- Most of the drop-outs expressed a sense of belonging towards school.
- Most of the teachers lacked a sense of belonging towards schools.

The main concerns of the students during case studies were found as:-

- The rural respondents generally aspired to become teacher or policeman whereas the girl students aspired to become teacher.
- The students were very sensitive over teachers attitude and felt disappointed because of their bad behaviour.
- Big play grounds, specious school buildings were the attraction of students.