

**“Educational Status of Beda Community Women in Raichur District,  
Karnataka State, India”**

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**Abstract:**

Education is the key to success so without education, there is no growth. The Beda women constitute a small proportion of the total population of the country and they are marginalized from the society in many respects because of education. The educational status of women in a society depends to a large extent on the social structure and the type of society. The status of any social group is determined by its levels of health-nutrition, literacy education and standard of living. The tribal women, as women in all social groups, are more illiterate than men. The low educational status is reflected in their lower literacy rate, lower enrolment rate and their presence in the school. The Beda women work very hard, in some cases even more than the men. The Raichur district women tribes in Karnataka are hardworking and well educated than Beda men and they contribute significantly towards their family income, but their income generating sources are limited. Mainly due to the high rate of illiteracy, poverty, backwardness, very low status of education and lack of awareness of the various government programmes and policies made for their upliftment the tribal people are not able to participate in the process of development. The present paper aims to examine educational status of Beda women with special focus on Raichur district of Karnataka state.

**Keywords:** Educational Status, Beda Women, Raichur District, Karnataka Stat, Women education

**I. Introduction:**

Mahatma Gandhi has remarked "The real difficulty is that people have no idea of what education truly is. We assess the value of education in the same manner as we assess the value of land or shares in the stock-exchange market. We want to provide only such education as would enable the student to earn more. We hardly give any thought to the improvement of the character of the educated. The girls, we say, do not have to earn; so why should they be educated? As long as such ideas persist, there is no hope of our ever knowing the true value of education". Education in the present scenario has great significance. It is essential because it is a vehicle to knowledge, self-respect and getting successful in life.

The Beda population in India, though a numerically small minority, represents an enormous diversity of groups. They share common dialects, common culture and at the same

time vary in different aspects like- the size of the population, modes of making a livelihood, level of development, social stratification, etc. Since British rule, the tribal population has faced segregation. From being employed in tea gardens in Northeast to post-independence, much progress in the socio-economic, health, and education has not been noted.

In the post-Independence period, sincere efforts were made for the economic and educational development of tribes but still, the performance of the tribes in education is much lower than the Scheduled Castes and non-scheduled tribal population. They had been subjected to various forms of deprivation such as alienation from land and other resources. Bada women, in particular, had also been facing deprivation of various basic amenities like- health issues, water availability, primary education, etc.

The Scheduled Tribes are tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution, which makes special provision for 'tribes, tribal communities, parts of, or groups within which the President may so notify'. There is no definition of a tribe in the Constitution but one may distinguish some characteristics that are generally accepted: self-identification, language, distinctive social and cultural organisation, economic underdevelopment, geographic location and initially, isolation, which has been steadily, and in some cases, traumatically, eroded. Many tribes still live in hilly and/or forested areas, somewhat remote from settlements.

The overall literacy rate of Raichur district is 59.56 percent while the male & female literacy rate is 70.47 and 48.73 percent respectively. At the block level, a considerable variation is noticeable in male-female literacy rate. Devadurga has the lowest literacy male and female rates at 60.47 and 38.62 percentages respectively. Raichur block, subsequently, has the highest literacy rates– among both males and females. The male literacy rate is 75.26 percent, while that for females is 55.16 percent.

## **II. Review of literature:**

**Dr. G. Sandhya Rani and N. Rajani (2011)**<sup>2</sup> Education to women is as essential as to men. It makes women to find the right way to development. Even today in most parts of the country, the tribal women remains steeped in superstitions and ignorance with men presiding over their destiny. The main aim of education is to change the cultural norms and patterns of life of tribal women to make them economically independent, to organise themselves to form strong groups so as to analyse their situations and conditions of living, understand their rights and responsibilities and to enable them to participate and contribute to the development of women and the entire society. The population of STs is very high in some states and in some states there are no STs. **T. Brahmanandam and T. Bosu Babu (2016)**<sup>3</sup> Scheduled Tribes are geographically, socially isolated and economically marginalized communities. In the post-Independence period, sincere and concerted efforts were made for the economic and educational development of tribes. Despite these efforts the performance of the tribes in education is much lower than the Scheduled Castes. As the studies on tribal education suggests that the policy

makers approach paid little attention to culturally linked education. This has led to drop outs and directly impacted their overall educational status. **Dr. S. YAVANA RANI (2022)**<sup>4</sup> One-third of people in Karnataka who are 7 years of age and older are illiterate, despite the state's efforts to increase literacy at a quicker rate, therefore, the government should work to educate the vast majority of illiterate people in the country. Although it made progress toward achieving a high literacy rate in 2011, it is still behind. The scheduled tribes are still far behind in nearly all of the normal development metrics, despite the government's serious attempts to support their overall community development. The tribes are not able to participate in the process of development, as they are not aware of most of the programmes and policies made for their upliftment. **Dr. Roop Kamal Kaur (2020)**<sup>5</sup> This article discusses the role of Education in the tribal women is at different levels of development. Earlier government had no direct programme for their education, but in the subsequent years the reservation policy has made some changes. There are many reasons for low level of education among the tribal women. Formal education is not considered necessary to discharge their social obligations. Superstitions and myths play an important role in rejecting education. Most tribes live in abject poverty. It is not easy for girls to go to schools. As they are considered extra helping hands.

### **III. Objectives of the Study:**

1. To Study on Educational Status of Beda Community Women in Karnataka.
2. To analyze the Educational Status of Beda Community Women in Raichur District.

### **IV. Research Methodology:**

The study has used both primary and secondary sources of data for evaluating the above said objectives, Educational Status of Beda Community Women in Karnataka. As detailed in the section of research problem and also in the relevance of the study, the reason behind the selection is the position occupied by the source among the Educational Status of Beda Community Women. The study proposed to analyse the education of Beda women in Raichur district.

### **Sample Size**

As discussed in the methodology, samples have taken from four areas Raichur district. Total 50 Beda women respondents are taken for the sample survey from 5 taluks, 10 samples taken from each talukas (Devadurga, Lingasugur, Manvi, Raichur and Sindhanur).

### **V. Educational Status of Beda Community Women in Karnataka:**

Despite government efforts to promote education among the Beda women (STs), their literacy rates as compared to the national average have remained low, a Parliamentary

Committee has said this week. The literacy rate as per Census 2011 is 73 per cent but for STs is 59 per cent only. The House panel also flagged the female literacy rate, saying it is also lower as compared to the national average. "The overall literacy gap amongst the various groups and STs has come down from 19.77 per cent in 1961 to 14.03 per cent in 2011, a scrutiny of state-wise literacy data reveals that in most of the north eastern states like Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, STs are at par with the general population. "While in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which have sizeable ST population in remote areas, the literacy gap is as high as 18 to 26 per cent," the committee has noted. It has also exhorted the government to view the large disparity in literacy rates of STs in these states, which have lagged in almost all socio-economic parameters, and promote educational development for STs on a "mission mode". The panel also stated that it was unhappy with the fact that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs till date does not have the complete data about the total number of Ashram schools in states and UTs, as according to them the requisite information is awaited from of the states. Keeping in view the "sub-standard food and bad quality" of personal care products being provided to the ST students in the Ashram schools, the committee has recommended that the ministry should ask all the state governments to take such complaints seriously and conduct appropriate inquiries in this regard and also ensure strict compliance of the standards laid down under the Right to Education Act (RTE). "The Ministry has stated that the states are being requested to provide good food and quality personal care products to tribal children in Ashram schools and hostels will also be asked to deal with complaints seriously and conduct appropriate enquiries. "The committee may be apprised of the remedial measures taken in the matter so far," said the report. In order to bring greater transparency and efficiency, the committee recommended the Ministry to furnish a detailed statement on the number of proposals received, rejected, approved and those pending with reasons therefore state-wise during the last three years.

**VI. Analysis the Educational Status of Beda Women in Raichur District:**

**Table No. 1 Age of the Respondents**

Talukas	Devadurga	Lingasugur	Manvi	Sindhanur	Raichur	Total
Age						
Up - 10	1	1	-	-	1	03
11 to 30	5	4	3	4	5	21
31 to 50	3	4	5	4	2	18
51 to 65	1	1	1	1	1	05
65 and Above	-	-	1	1	1	03
Total	10	10	10	10	10	50

Sources: Field Survey

The above table shows that maximum 21 (42%) respondents are comes under the age group of 11 to 30 followed by 18 (36%) of them comes under age group of 31 to 50, 5 (10%) Beda women respondents are comes under 51 to 65 and only 3 (6%) of the respondents are comes under age group of Up to 10 and above 65 age each in the raichur district.

**Table No. 2 Educational status of the Respondents**

Talukas	Devadurga	Lingasugur	Manvi	Sindhanur	Raichur	Total
Education						
<b>Illiterate</b>	4	3	4	2	3	<b>16</b>
<b>Up to SSLC</b>	1	3	2	1	1	<b>08</b>
<b>PUC</b>	2	1	1	2	3	<b>09</b>
<b>Graduate</b>	2	2	2	3	1	<b>10</b>
<b>Post-Graduate</b>	1	1	1	2	2	<b>07</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>

*Sources: Field Survey*

A careful perusal of Table 2 makes it evident that among Raichur district Beda women community education statues. Maximum 32% of the respondents were illiterates, 20% had completed graduation, 18% of the respondents are PUC level educated women and 16% of them completed education Up to SSLC. Only a few numbers of the respondents have finished Post-Graduation.

**Table No. 3 Occupation of the Respondents**

Talukas	Devadurga	Lingasugur	Manvi	Sindhanur	Raichur	Total
Occupation						
<b>Govt Job</b>	1	2	2	1	3	<b>09</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	3	2	1	3	1	<b>10</b>
<b>Business</b>	3	1	2	2	2	<b>10</b>
<b>Coolie</b>	2	3	2	3	3	<b>13</b>
<b>Shopkeepers</b>	1	2	3	1	1	<b>08</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>

*Sources: Field Survey*

Table 4 indicates that majority of the Beda women working as Coolies in district (26 percent) were involved in farming occupation after completion. Similarly, the women of Beda community the major occupation was found to be agriculture and Business each 20 percent of the respondents are working as agriculture and Business. However 18 percent of the Beda women working as Govt jobs in this district, and 16 percent of the respondents are working as shopkeepers.

**Table No. 4 Monthly family income of the Respondents**

<b>Talukas</b>	<b>Devadurga</b>	<b>Lingasugur</b>	<b>Manvi</b>	<b>Sindhanur</b>	<b>Raichur</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Up to Rs. 5000</b>	1	-	2	-	-	<b>03</b>
<b>5001-10000</b>	2	3	4	2	1	<b>12</b>
<b>10001-30000</b>	4	3	2	4	5	<b>18</b>
<b>30001-50000</b>	3	3	2	2	2	<b>12</b>
<b>50001 and Above</b>	-	1	-	2	2	<b>05</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>

*Sources: Field Survey*

The analysis of family income of the selected Beda women in Raichur district revealed that for majority 18 (36%) respondents family income was found to be in the range of Rs.10001-30000 followed by 12 (24%) of them have income Rs.5001-10000 and Rs.30001-50000 each, 5 (10%) respondents have income Rs.50001 and Above and only 3 (6%) respondents have less income up to 5000.

**Table No. 5 Frequency distribution of distance to school/college for the selected Beda women Community households**

<b>Talukas</b>	<b>Devadurga</b>	<b>Lingasugur</b>	<b>Manvi</b>	<b>Sindhanur</b>	<b>Raichur</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Kilometres</b>						
<b>Below 1 kmt</b>	5	6	3	5	6	<b>25</b>
<b>1 to 2</b>	3	3	3	3	2	<b>14</b>
<b>2 to 4</b>	1	-	2	1	2	<b>06</b>
<b>4 to 6</b>	1	1	1	1	-	<b>04</b>
<b>6 and above</b>	-	-	1	-	-	<b>01</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>

*Sources: Field Survey*

This table illustrate on an average the distance to school/college was found to be higher 25 (50%) respondents told that below 1kmt have to journey for school or colleges every day followed by 14 (28%) of them said 1 to 2 km have to journey for education, 6 (12%) women told 2 to 4 km, 4 (8%) respondents told 4 to 6 km have to journey and only one women told above 6 km I have to journey every day for learning purpose.



**Table No. 6 Item wise per Beda women educational expenditure per sem incurred by the selected tribal households**

<b>Talukas</b>	<b>Devadurga</b>	<b>Lingasugur</b>	<b>Manvi</b>	<b>Sindhanur</b>	<b>Raichur</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Expenditure (Rs)</b>	<b>Avg of 10 R</b>	<b>Avg of 10 R</b>	<b>A of 10</b>	<b>Avg of 10 R</b>	<b>A of 10</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Books and Note Books</b>	3300	2000	3100	2040	2700	<b>2628</b>
<b>Uniform</b>	350	370	200	250	300	<b>294</b>
<b>Examination fees</b>	720	500	600	500	720	<b>608</b>
<b>Transport</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
<b>Hostel fees</b>	200	100	300	200	350	<b>210</b>
<b>Accessories and others</b>	300	400	500	300	250	<b>350</b>

*Sources: Field Survey*

For the selected women Beda households, expenditure on books and notebooks are the dominant item since they accounted for Average Rs.2628 of the total expenditure. The Uniform fee average is 294 per sem. The examination fees constitute 608 of total average expenditure. Hostel fees accounted for only Rs.210 average amount since only limited number of students stay in the hostel. Average Rs.350 expenditure on Accessories and others and there is no transportation charge for girls/women candidates because Karnataka government has given free journey for every women since from 2023.

#### **VII. Suggestions:**

1. Government should provide study material in free of cost to beda women students and reduce school or College fees 50% off than others.
2. Schools/Colleges must encourage arts and crafts among tribal women students.
3. There is need for conducting competitions among the Beda women students to identity their talents.
4. Tribal parents need to be more concerned with the future wellbeing of children. They must realize the fact that by providing education at present the children can get a better life in future.
5. Proper mechanisms may be adopted by Non-Governmental Organisations in order to arrest the dropout rate in the secondary level.
6. Community mobilization plan may be formulated to ensure participation of Beda community women children in education.

#### **VIII. Conclusion:**

In modern era education is need for everyone so, maximum in our society, as men have the right to education; women have the right to equal education opportunities. By educating women, they can improve society further. The education of women has become very important in the current twenty-first century. Beda women need to provide education so that they can change

their way of life and they can play a more liable role in society and play important role in the progress of society. For the last few years, we have seen that the literacy rate in the urban area as well as rural area's Beda women gradually increasing. It is generally seen that in rural areas the Beda women are deprived of educational opportunities for various reasons. Different programs should be undertaken in the rural areas for the education of the Beda women as well as they will have to provide different types of training to enhance their skills development.

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