

SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL

(BI-ANNUAL)

Volume 9

Number 2

July-December 2018

- Editorial - Prof. M. Gangabhusan & Dr. G. Albin Joseph
- Rekindling the Spirit of Adventure among the North East India's Youth in their Dreams of Ventures: A Study on the Role of MUDRA Bank - Mr. Happyson Gachuiwo & Dr. A.S. Yarso
- Problems and Prospects to Development of North-East India - Mr. T Luithuiwung Awungshi & Dr. G. Albin Joseph
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- Prevention of Substance Use Disorder and Associated High-Risk Behaviours among Youths through Social Work Intervention - Mr. Sathish Kumar R & Dr. K. Sathyamurthi
- Media and Drug Abuse: A Study of Tangkhul Naga Youth of Ukhrul District, Manipur. -Mr. T Luithuiwung Awungshi & Dr. G. Albin Joseph
- Families of people with intellectual impairment: Siblings' Paradox as Future Care Givers - Mr. Ujjwal Swaroop K, Ms. Vijayalakshmi T & Prof. R.D.Sampath Kumar
- The Becoming of a 'Bride': Compelling Circumstances and Complexities - Ms. Priyanka Patowari, Dr. Ratna Huirem, and Dr. Kathiresan L.
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- The Purity- Impurity Conundrum: Examining the Availability of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Conditions in the Borjalenga Rajubari Community –Ajit Kumar Jena
- Religiosity and Life Satisfaction of the Older Persons in Mizoram
Jennifer Rohlupui* & Easwaran Kanagaraj **



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ISSN 0976-5484

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Published by
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR – 788011
Assam. INDIA. Phone: +91 3842 270821
www.aus.ac.in

SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL **(Bi-annual)**

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Assam University, Silchar – 788011, Assam, India

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This issue was published in September 2018.

SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL (BI-ANNUAL)

Volume 9, Issue 2, July-December 2018

CONTENTS

Sl. No.	Title	Author(s)	Page No.
	Editorial	Prof. M. Gangabhushan & Dr. G. Albin Joseph	5
1	Rekindling the Spirit of Adventure among the North East India's Youth in their Dreams of Ventures: A Study on the Role of MUDRA Bank	Mr. Happyson Gachuiwo & Dr. A.S. Yarso	7
2	Problems and Prospects to Development of North-East India	Mr. T Luithuiwung Awungshi & Dr. G. Albin Joseph	17
3	Entrepreneurship- An Alternative in Manipur	Mr. Md Akbar Khan	26
4	Impact of Social Media: A Study on the Tribal Youth Entrepreneurs of Manipur	Mr. Abel Ariina & Dr. G Albin Joseph	35
5	Prevention of Substance Use Disorder and Associated High-Risk Behaviours among Youth through Social Work Intervention	Mr. Sathish Kumar R & Dr. K. Sathyamurthi	45
6	Media and Drug Abuse: A Study of Tangkhul Naga Youth of Ukhrul District, Manipur.	Mr. T Luithuiwung Awungshi & Dr. G. Albin Joseph	55
7	Families of people with intellectual impairment: Siblings' Paradox as Future Care Givers	Mr. Ujjwal Swaroop K, Ms. Vijayalakshmi T & Prof. R.D.Sampath Kumar	63
8	The Becoming of a 'Bride': Compelling Circumstances and Complexities	Ms. Priyanka Patowari, Dr. Ratna Huirem, and Dr. Kathiresan L.	82
9	Mainstreaming at Risk Youth by Engaging in Civic Activities through Social Workers	Dr. Aditi Nath	91
10	The Purity- Impurity Conundrum: Examining the Availability of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Conditions in the Borjalenga Rajubari Community	Ajit Kumar Jena	98
11	Religiosity and Life Satisfaction of the Older Persons in Mizoram	Jennifer Rohlupuii* & Easwaran Kanagaraj *	105

Editorial

We are happy to bring out the current issue of Social Work Journal of Department of Social Work, Assam University. This issue is predominantly covering papers centred on the youth, entrepreneurship, development and disability studies.

The paper on “Rekindling the Spirit of Adventure among the North East India’s Youth in their Dreams of Ventures: A Study on the Role of MUDRA Bank” by Happyson Gachuiwo and A.S. Yarso describes the scheme of MUDRA Bank which was launched by the Government of India and more specifically to sensitize the provisions and offerings of this scheme for start-up rural entrepreneurs of North East India.

In the paper on “Problems and Prospects to Development of North-East India” the authors T Luithuiwung Awungshi and G. Albin Joseph discuss the problems, issues and potential resources of North Eastern Region by using SWOT analysis and suggest remedial measures for development.

The article entitled “Entrepreneurship: An Alternative in Manipur” authored by Md. Akbar Khan gives a brief analysis the role of entrepreneur in the state of Manipur and the factors that triggered the individuals to start their own enterprises. It also seeks to understand the correlation of societal factors and the entrepreneurship.

Another paper entitled “Impact of Social Media: A Study on the Tribal Youth Entrepreneurs of Manipur” jointly authored by Abel Ariina and G Albin Joseph reiterates the role of social media as one of the most important tools to promote marketing avenues of the youth entrepreneurs and have the potential to transform the mode of business through shaping the public perception of entrepreneurs and the start-ups process.

“Prevention of Substance Use Disorder and Associated High-Risk Behaviours among Youths through Social Work Intervention” by Sathish Kumar R and K Sathyamurthi brings forward the factors and high risk behaviours that are associated with substance use disorder among youths of T.P.Chatiram, Chennai. It also advocates for the role of social work practitioners in addressing the issues of substance use disorder and the associated high-risk behaviours.

T Luithuiwung Awunghsi and G. Albin Joseph through their paper entitled “Media and Drug Abuse: A Study of Tangkhul Naga Youth of Ukhrul District, Manipur” try to give an overview of the attitudinal behavioral of Ukhrul youth toward media related to drug abuse with substantial suggestions regarding media and youth drug abuse.

The paper entitled “Families of people with intellectual impairment: Siblings’ Paradox as Future Care Givers” is an outcome of an empirical study in the Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh by Ujjwal Swaroop K, Vijayalakshmi T and R.D. Sampath Kumar which focused on the socio-cultural and psychological factors contributing to the services, offered to the intellectually impaired persons by the parents, NGOs and Government.

The paper entitled “The Becoming of a ‘Bride’: Compelling Circumstances and Complexities” by Priyanka Patowari, Ratna Huirem and Kathiresan L is an important contribution focusing on the problems associated with early marriages from gender perspective. They tries to unpack the social realities that encumber upon a young girl thus forcing her to enter into matrimony much before she can comprehend the whole meaning of the word “marriage”. It also deals with the complexities of being a child bride.

Aditi Nath in her paper “Mainstreaming at Risk Youth by Engaging in Civic Activities through Social Workers” advocates the role civic engagements as an approach of risk reduction and the role of social work in promoting civic activities for at risk youth development. The author substantiates and advocates for promoting social activities for generating civic awareness among at risk youth found to be helpful in building confidence, developing leadership skill, strengthening relationships, and make a strong civic identity.

The paper entitled “The Purity- Impurity Conundrum: Examining the Availability of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Conditions in the Borjalenga Rajubari Community” by Ajit Kumar Jena attempts to examine the availability of safe drinking water, hygiene conditions and challenges of rural people in Borjalenga Rajubari Community.

Finally, the paper entitled “Religiosity and Life Satisfaction of the Older Persons in Mizoram” authored by Jennifer Rohlupui & Easwaran Kanagaraj reiterates the relationship between the Religion and the Life satisfaction of the Older persons.

M. Gangabhushan

G. Albin Joseph

Rekindling the Spirit of Adventure among the North East India's Youth in their Dreams of Ventures: A Study on the Role of MUDRA Bank

Happysen Gachuiwo¹ and Dr. A.S. Yarso²

Abstract:

The stiff-necked in the economic growth of the North Eastern Region is due to lack of utilization of its resources and development of Small Scale Industry (SSI) which is known as the engine of growth in modern literature. In reality, due to strategic location close to major emerging markets of the world economy, the region has huge potential to become a trade and commercial hub, offering local and international investment opportunities and can also become a strong base for emerging businesses. Signaling the escalating development of entrepreneurs in rural area, Government of India has launches MUDRA Bank to rekindle the spirit of adventure among the country's youth in their dreams of ventures. This paper is to examine about the scheme of MUDRA Bank which was launched by the Government of India and more specifically to sensitize the provisions and offerings of this scheme for start-up rural entrepreneurs of North East India. The bondage of acquiring capital for their business have brought into new platform with liberal finance, low rate of cost on capital and a simplified regulatory system to the rural entrepreneurs and the youths of the North Eastern Region.

Key words: *Abundant resources, Economic growth, Liberal Finance, Easy incubation.*

Introduction

The North East Region (NER) of India is characterized by their unique geopolitical location and abundant resources having vast potential for economic growth. One of the key impediments for deficiency of development was the lack of connectivity, largely on account of underdeveloped infrastructure. The lack of substructures including transportation, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and market accessibility in this region are the elements which has been unable to develop in line with the rest of India. The stiff-necked in the economic growth of the region is due to lack of utilization of its resources and development of Small Scale Industry (SSI) which is known as the engine of growth in modern literature. In reality, due to strategic location close to major emerging marketsof the world economy,

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the region has huge potential to become a trade and commercial hub, offering local and international investment opportunities and can also become a strong base for emerging businesses. Signaling the escalating development of entrepreneurs in rural area, Government of India has launches MUDRA Bank to rekindle the spirit of adventure among the country's youth in their dreams of ventures.

The Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) Bank is a public sector financial institution; its purpose is to attain development in an inclusive and sustainable manner by supporting partner institutions and creating an ecosystem of growth for micro enterprise sectors by providing loans at lower cost of rates to micro-financial institutions and non-banking financial institutions which will ultimately provide credit to MSMEs. The bank was set up under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana scheme and was launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on 8th April 2015. The beneficiaries of this scheme will be the small entrepreneurs who were neglected by the regular banks with their services. Based on the report of NSSO 2013, the targeted clients of this scheme is about 57.7 million of small business and out of this population only 4% of these businesses get financial support from regular banks. Therefore, this bank ensures to support financial as well as services to micro units for comprehensive economic and social development. The bank promises to have an initial corpus of US\$ 3.0 billion and a credit guarantee fund of US\$ 450 million. It will initially function as a non-banking financial institutions and a subsidiary of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Later, it will be made into a separate institution and also serve as a regulator for other Micro-Financial Institutions (MFIs) to provide refinancing services. The MUDRA Bank will also provide guidelines for MFIs and will give them ratings.

Objectives of the study: In this paper, researchers are to identify and examine provisions, offerings, scheme and commitments of MUDRA Bank which was launched by the Government of India and to sensitize the potential beneficiaries' mainly rural entrepreneurs for awareness, emphases on the provender that MUDRA Bank will initiate on rekindling the spirit of rural entrepreneurs.

Methodology: The data employed in this study are solely a secondary one which is collected from various website and reports, and the ascertained data is presented into simple tabular form for evaluation.

The Genesis of MUDRA

The great obstacle to grow entrepreneurs in the fields of Non-Corporate Small Business Sectors (NCSBS) is the lack of financial support to the sector. The support from the banks to this sector is scrumpy, with less than 15% of bank credit going to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Majority of non-corporate sector operates as unregistered enterprises, neither do they maintain proper books of accounts and nor covered under taxation. Therefore, the banks are finding difficult to lend to them, it is in this regard that government of India is setting up a Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) bank through a statutory enactment. The bank would be responsible for developing and refinancing all Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) which are functioning as lender to micro or small business entities engaged in manufacturing, trading and service activities. The bank would also partner with state level or regional level to provide finance to small or micro business enterprises. Since the enactment is likely to take some time, it was proposed to initiate MUDRA as a unit of SIDBI.

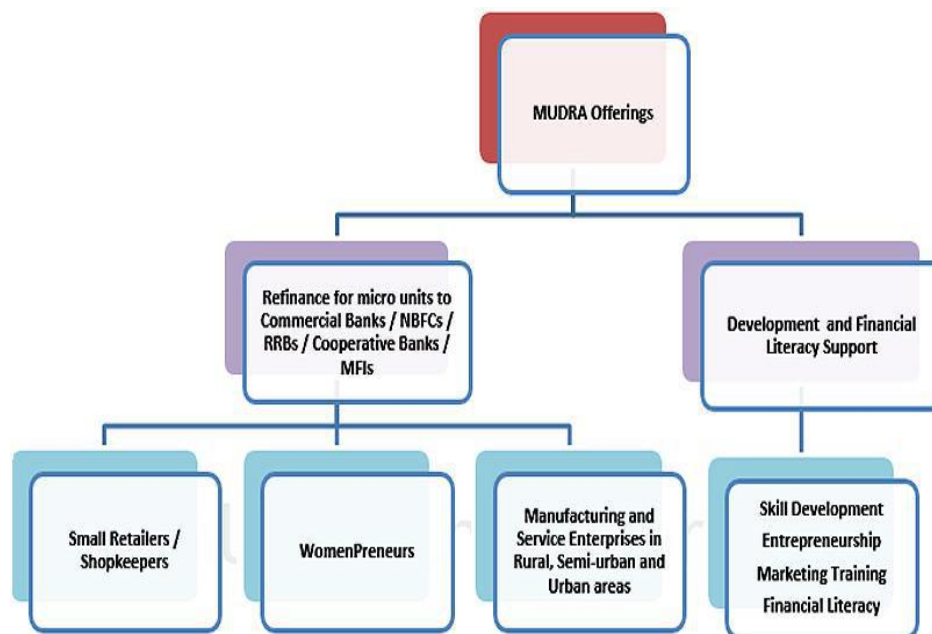
Provisions of MUDRA:

The MUDRA bank provides three categories of provisions to the stakeholders within the range of 50,000 – 10 lakh to refinance micro units and also provide loan to Micro Financial Institutions (MFI) under the scheme of ‘Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana. The three schemes which have created are: Shishu, Kishor and Tarun to signify the stage of development and funding needs of the beneficiaries’ entrepreneurs. It was ensured that at least 60% of the credits will flows to Shishu category and the balance to Kishor and Tarun categories. Within the framework and overall objective of development and growth has been designed to meet requirement of different sectors of business activities as well as entrepreneurs segment. The allotted amount and their range of the three schemes are shown below:

- ❖ Shishu: covering loans up to 50,000/-
- ❖ Kishor: covering loans in the range of 50,000/- up to 5 lakh
- ❖ Tarun: covering loans in the range of 5 lakh up to 10 lakh

Offerings of MUDRA:

The offerings of MUDRA bank are targeted across the spectrum of beneficiaries segments. Given below diagram are depicted accordingly to their channel:



The salient features of the schemes and innovative products offered by MUDRA bank are given below:

Schemes Offered: MUDRA Bank has offered the following schemes to the potential rural entrepreneurs, namely, Sector or Activity Specific Schemes, Micro Credit Scheme, Missing Middle Credit Scheme, Refinance Scheme for Regional Rural Banks or Scheduled Co-operative Banks, Mahila Uddyami Scheme, Business Loan for Traders & Shopkeepers and Equipment Finance for Micro Unit and these are presented into simple tabular form for evaluation.

Table-1: Schemes Offered by MUDRA Bank

Schemes		Expected Benefits
Sector / Activity Specific	Schemes- categorized into 4 sub-category:	
i)	Land Transport Sector / Activity	Support to the unit for purchase of transport vehicles for goods and passengers: auto rickshaw, small goods transport vehicle, 3 wheelers, e-rickshaw, passenger cars, taxis, etc.
ii)	Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	Support to saloons, beauty parlors, gymnasium, boutiques, tailoring shops, dry cleaning, cycle and motorcycle repair shop, DTP and Photocopying Facilities, Medicine Shops, Courier Agents, etc.
iii)	Food Products Sector	Support available for undertaking activities such as papad making, achaar making, jam or jelly

	making, agricultural produce preservation at rural level, sweet shops, small service food stalls and day to day catering or canteen services, cold chain vehicles, cold storages, ice making units, ice cream making units, biscuit, bread and bun making, etc.
iv) Textile Products Sector / Activity	Support for undertaking activities such as handloom, power loom, khadi activity, chikan work, zari and zardozi work, traditional embroidery and hand work, traditional dyeing and printing, apparel design, knitting, cotton ginning, computerized embroidery, stitching and other textile non garment products such as bags, vehicle accessories, furnishing accessories, etc.
Micro Credit Scheme	Financial support to Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) for lending to individuals, groups of individuals, SHGs for creation of qualifying assets as per RBI guidelines towards setting up or running micro enterprises as per MSMED Act and non-farm income generating activities.
Missing Middle Credit Scheme	Financial support to financial intermediaries for lending to individual for setting up or running micro enterprises as per MSMED Act and non-farm income generating activities with beneficiary loan size of 50,000 to 10 lakh per enterprise or borrower.
Refinance Scheme for RRBs / Co-operative Banks	Enhancing liquidity of RRBs or Scheduled Co-operative Banks by refinancing loan extended to micro enterprises as per MSMED Act with beneficiary loan size up to 10 lakh per enterprise or borrower for manufacturing and service sector enterprises.
MahilaUddyami Scheme	Timely and adequate financial support to the MFIs, for lending to women or women SHGs for creation of qualifying assets as per RBI guidelines towards setting up or running micro enterprises as per MSMED Act and non-farm income generating activities.
Business loans for Traders and Shopkeepers	Timely and adequate financial support on lending to individuals for running their shops or trading & business activities or service enterprises and non-farm income generating activities with beneficiary loan size of up to 10 lakh per enterprise or borrower.
Equipment Finance Scheme for Micro Units	Timely and adequate financial support on lending to individuals for setting up micro enterprises by purchasing necessary machinery or equipment with per beneficiary loan size of up to 10 lakh.

The salient features of the schemes are to be categorized into various areas, namely, Sector Specific Schemes, Micro Credit Scheme, Missing Middle Credit Scheme, and Refinance Scheme for RRB / Scheduled Co-operative Banks, Mahila Uddyami Scheme, Business Loan for Traders and Shopkeepers, and Equipment Finance for Micro Units; for which MUDRA Bank has launched three categories of schemes: Shishu (INR 0 - 50,000), Kishor (INR 50,000 – 5 lakh) and Tarun (INR 5 lakh – 10 lakh), 60% of the sanction amount is to be credited on Shishu category and the balance to Kishor and Tarun categories.

Innovative Offered: In order to rekindle the spirit of adventure for the beneficiaries, MUDRA Bank has the following innovative which are presented in a tabular form.

Table-2: Innovative Offered by MUDRA Bank

Innovative	Expected Benefits
MUDRA Card	MUDRA would offer innovative pre-loaded Card with an assessed value; the offering card will help members to purchased raw materials and components on credit basis from the registered producers on online platform. The card also can be linked with PradhanMantri Jan DhanYojana Savings Account of the borrower, and the drawer could also be enabled through the Bank's ATM network for meeting the immediate liquidity problems of the micro enterprise.
Portfolio Credit Guarantee	The traditional financing of Indian is an Asset Based lending approach with emphasis on collaterals which micro units most of the time are not eligible. To mitigate this issue, MUDRA will be offering a Credit Guarantee Product; further, given the context of the industry / segment, the individual loan sizes would expectedly be small and number of loans will be large, the option of a Portfolio Guarantee Product will be explored. Under this option, Credit Guarantee or Risk Sharing would be provided for a portfolio of homogenous loans instead of a scheme for individual loan - by - loan guarantee. This is expected to create administrative efficiencies and increase receptiveness for the Credit Guarantee product. The Guarantee product would be one of the key interventions proposed with the objective of bringing down the cost of funds for the end beneficiary to improve its creditworthiness.

<p>Creation of Resources for Credit Enhancement / Guarantee Facility</p>	<p>The corpus proposed for the Credit Guarantee Scheme would be regularly augmented with a charge on the outstanding loans under refinance. The same would be utilized for providing first loss guarantee / credit enhancement for securitized portfolio loans.</p> <p>Credit enhancement : Facilities offered to cover probable losses from a pool of securitized assets in the form of credit risk cover through a letter of credit, guarantee or other assurance from the originator / co-originator or a third party to enhance investment grade in any securitization process. First loss facility is the first level of credit enhancement offered as part of the process in bringing the securities to investment grade. Second loss facility provides the second / subsequent tier of protection against potential losses.</p>
<p>Underwriting for Intermediaries</p>	<p>Providing credit enhancements: Credit enhancements by way of first loss guarantee / collateral would be provided by MUDRA for securitization pools from the NCSBS asset class to be originated by MFIs and other intermediaries. MUDRA's support to such transactions will facilitate improvement in credit rating of such asset pools and hence securitization deal flow in the sector.</p> <p>Adopting Co/ Multiple Originator Models: There is a need to bring about cost and administrative efficiencies in securitization transactions. Further, as the loan sizes are small, many smaller intermediaries may not be able to provide by themselves a threshold size of assets for securitization. To address such issues, the multiple originator models would be encouraged whereby asset pools of more than one originator / intermediary could be bundled for securitization.</p>
<p>Business/Banking Correspondent Model</p>	<p>To capitalize on expertise in lending and collections which is often segment / region specific developed by intermediaries / last mile financiers in the small / informal business segment as also to meet their capital requirements, a product for lending through the Business / Banking Correspondent Model is envisaged.</p>

Offering of innovation, namely, MUDRA card, Portfolio Credit Guarantee, Creation of Resources for Credit Enhancement / Guarantee Facility, Underwriting for Intermediaries and Business/Banking Correspondent Model are offered to rekindle the spirit adventure among the youth in their dreams of ventures.

The MUDRA Pricing: The Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) are presently regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and has prescribed detailed guidelines for margin cap in respect of MFI. The margin cap has been pegged at 10% for MFIs having loan portfolio of more than 100 crore and 12% for smaller MFIs having loan portfolio of less than 100 crore. In the backdrop of these guidelines and the fact that MFI sector has been constantly trying to reduce its costs, MUDRA would also help MFIs reduce their cost to bring down the overall cost to the end beneficiaries. Further, at the time of appraisal, MUDRA would be assessing individual MFIs on this as well as other related parameters and suitably price its assistance based on such assessment. Working on the premise that the cost to the ultimate beneficiary should be reasonable and affordable, the cost of funds of MUDRA should be 150 bps to 200 bps below the benchmark repo rates. This seems to be very much feasible as Government of India is willing to support MUDRA in mobilizing low cost funds through refinance support from RBI. Thus being a refinancing agency which will need funding below market rates through State interventions which in turn will help it channelize the assistance to the last mile financiers as well as the ultimate beneficiary micro units at reasonable rates. Access to finance in conjunction with rational price is going to be the unique customer value proposition of MUDRA.

Commitment of MUDRA: MUDRA would primarily be responsible for laying down policy guidelines for micro enterprise financing business, registration of MFI entities, supervision of MFI entities, accreditation or rating of MFI entities, laying down responsible financing practices toward over indebtedness and ensure proper client protection principles and methods of recovery, development of standardized set of covenants governing last mile lending to micro enterprises, promoting right technology solutions for the last mile, formulating and running a credit guarantee scheme for providing guarantees to the loans or portfolios which are being extended to micro enterprises, supporting development and promotional activities in the sector and creating a good architecture of last

mile credit delivery to micro businesses under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana.

Conclusions:

The Government of India under the Prime Ministership of Shri Narendra Modi has recognized the hindrance of budding rural entrepreneurs and had clearly indicated that the issue was none other than financial constraints. In order to stabilize this problem and upgrade, the government has launched MUDRA bank for development and for more progress with transparency. The prospect of this scheme will now facilitate both the entrepreneurs and financial institutions for easy incubation. Under the scheme of MUDRA Bank, Government of India has sanctioned a corpus of US\$ 3.0 billion and a credit guarantee fund of US\$ 450 million. Initially it was to function as a non-banking financial institution and as a subsidiary of Small Industries Development Bank of India, and later to serve as a regulating body of Micro finance institution. At present MUDRA Bank has launched three categories of schemes: Shishu (INR 0 - 50,000), Kishor (INR 50,000 – 5 lakh) and Tarun (INR 5 lakh – 10 lakh), 60% of the sanction amount is to be credited on Shishu category and the balance to Kishor and Tarun categories. The salient features of the schemes are to be categorized into various areas are Sector Specific Schemes, Micro Credit Scheme, Missing Middle Credit Scheme, and Refinance Scheme for RRB / Scheduled Co-operative Banks, Mahila Uddyami Scheme, Business Loan for Traders and Shopkeepers, and Equipment Finance for Micro Units. Apart from this scheme there is also an offering of innovation, namely, MUDRA card, Portfolio Credit Guarantee, Creation of Resources for Credit Enhancement / Guarantee Facility, Underwriting for Intermediaries and Business/Banking Correspondent Model. MUDRA Bank being a refinancing agency, it promises to reduce the rate of interest on loans to the beneficiaries which will be affordable and reasonable. Even it ensures to minimize the current rate of interest for micro financial institutions which is at present 10% for portfolio loans of 100 crore and 12% on portfolio loans less than 100 crore. Moreover MUDRA Bank has guaranteed that the cost of funds of MUDRA should be 150 bps to 200 bps below the benchmark repo rates. This seems to be very much feasible as the government is willing to support MUDRA in mobilizing low cost funds through refinance support from RBI. Comprehensively, the schemes and offerings of MUDRA bank have rekindled the spirit of adventure for the beneficiaries into a dream. The bondage of acquiring capitals for their business in the past have brought to a wonderland, with liberal finance, low rate of cost on capital

and a simplified regulatory system to the rural entrepreneurs as well as to the MFIs.

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Problems and Prospects to Development of North-East India

T Luithuiwung Awungshi¹ & G. Albin Joseph²

Abstract

The North Eastern Region of India is one of the flourishing regions of the country. It is located towards the easternmost part of India. It consists of eight (8) states namely also known as the seven sisters prior to inclusion of Sikkim in the region; Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The north eastern region forms one of geographical and political administrative divisions of the country. It also comprises of each multi ethnic community of tribal with unique culture and varied languages. The north eastern region is connected to the mainland through a 22 kilometres of Siliguri corridor in West Bengal often called the chicken neck. It is also interesting to know that each of the states of the region is connected and shares an international border with the neighbouring countries. The north eastern states is best known for its cultural legacy, landscape, ethnic beauty and rich natural resources with bizarre flora and fauna with number of important and well known national parks. It also comprises rich biodiversity, coal, oil and natural gas, lime stones, hydro potential and forest wealth. It also can be noted that India is the largest producer of tea in the world next to China and in it the state of Assam contributes more than half of the total production of tea in India. Despite the given backdrop potentialities and its resourcefulness the region no doubt suffers from various obstructions owing to the very nature of its landscape, inaccessibility, infrastructure deficiency, insurgency, etc. This paper shall examine some of the major concerns which are the hindrances to development in the region and also the potentialities of the region using SWOT analysis.

Key words: Development, resourcefulness, SWOT analysis

Introduction

The north eastern part of India widely known as the North Eastern Region (NER) is located towards the easternmost part of India. It consists of eight (8) states namely also known as the seven sisters prior to inclusion Sikkim in the region; Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. It is located between latitudes 29 degree and 22 degree North and longitudes about 89.46 and 97.5/ East. The north eastern region forms one of countries geographic and political administrative division. The eight states of the region shares a common topography with hilly landlocked forested areas, rich bio-diversity rugged

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mountains and thriving green valleys. It also comprises of each multi ethnic community of tribal with unique culture and varied languages. The states like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland are inhabited by the tribal communities largely and even within their own community there is widespread diversity. The north eastern region is connected to the mainland through a 22 kilometres of Siliguri corridor in West Bengal often called the chicken neck. It is also interesting to know that each of the states of the region is connected and shares an international border with the neighbouring countries. Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh shares the border with China and Myanmar, Assam with Bhutan and Bangladesh, Manipur and Nagaland shares with Myanmar, Meghalaya and Tripura with Bangladesh, Sikkim share the international border with three countries ; China, Nepal and Bhutan. The economy of the state is agrarian in nature where jhum cultivation is also widely practised by hardly any indigenous groups of people.

The north eastern states is best known for its cultural legacy, landscape, ethnic beauty and rich natural resources with bizarre flora and fauna with number of important and well known national parks. It also comprises rich bio-diversity, coal, oil and natural gas, lime stones, hydro potential and forest wealth. It also can be noted that India is the largest producer of tea in the world next to China and in it the state of Assam contributes more than half of the total production of tea in India

Guwahati is the largest city among the north eastern region states. North-East Region covers near about 8 per cent of the country geographical area. According to the census of India 2011 the entire population of north east India is 46 million i.e. 3.79 percent of the total population of India where Assam is the more populated state and Sikkim is the least populated state. Mizoram has the highest literacy rate and Arunachal Pradesh is the lowest literacy rate in the region. Hinduism is the most practised religion followed by Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.

For India this part of the country is considered as one of the most important and a strategic point of position. Nearly 99 per cent of the region touches international border which also provides and open up a new way for development in this era of globalisation. The Ministry of External Affairs in its review of 2004 opened up a new dimension i.e. Look East Policy which now India is looking forward towards a positive partnership with the Association of South East Asian Nations.

With many of the potential resources ranging from the advantageous border to the presence of huge and natural resources the region is no doubt confined to development despite the presence of bulk resources.

Development – what is it?

Development refers to the growth and progress of an institution, place, and process. It is a positive term denoting the progress and growth of an individual, place, institution and the like. Development may take place in the form; culturally, socially, economically, technologically and environmentally.

Slim (1995) defines development as change and a change for definite improvement and betterment as well as for continuity.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the problems and issues of the North Eastern Region of India
2. To know the potential resources of the North Eastern Region of India
3. To suggest remedial measures for development in the North Eastern Region

Review of Literature

Nath (2004) reported that North-East Region of India has immense potentiality to make India a powerful nation with its geographic and strategic locations. It was also reported that the negligence by the foreign policy makers has made the region underdeveloped with various issues and problems which otherwise could become India's trading zone in the future and solve the existing problems like economic marginalization, insurgency and the like.

Nathan (2005) pointed out that communication links i.e. weak market linkages were constraints to development of the region and emphasize on roads, air links, telecommunications and other mode of transport and communications. He also pointed out that tourism when exploited could be a driving force of economic development.

Singh (2006) in his article 'Integration and Development in North-East India: An Assessment' talks about the challenges of integration and underdevelopment. He concluded that only when the mindset of the policy makers are changed as well as policies are responsive to the changing needs of the people both at the regional and international level, there will be development in the region.

Burman, Cajee & Laloo (2007) examined the potentiality of cultural and eco tourism in the north-eastern region of India and its future course of action. They pointed out that poor communications, rigid laws and restrictions, insurgency, lack of advertising, networking and marketing, and poor infrastructure were the hindrances to successful tourism despite the resourcefulness of the region.

Gogoi, Goswami & Borah (2009) reported that north-east region is still underdeveloped notwithstanding the resourcefulness of its region. It also reported the geographical location, hilly terrain, remoteness, poor infrastructure and unfriendly neighbours were the obstacle to development of the region. The study also no doubt indicate that border areas i.e. north-east signifies opportunities to explore and exploit resources through international cooperation.

Chakraborty & Chakraborty (2010) said that the under development of the north-east region and the unutilised potential resources of the region stir up a sense of being neglected and left behind and not belonging to the very country of India. Therefore, they concluded that a right combination of community, market, and state need to be adopted to allow trickledown effect of growth to reach the bottom level or the grass root level.

Yhome (2015) studied and examined the objectives and challenges of India's regional connectivity especially with east and South-East Asia. The link with these countries rest on five pillars trade, investment, assistance, cooperation in every area, contacts between our people and through seamless connectivity the challenges to India's connectivity are implementation issues, security, and geostrategic factors. The study reported how this region of India could develop and stress the importance of the region connectivity to the neighbouring South-East Asian and East countries.

Ministry of Home Affairs (2018) reported that since 2013 the situation relating to security has enhanced. The lowest number of insurgency incidents and civilians deaths was recorded in the year 2018 since 1997. Insurgency incidents in the year 2018 turn down to 18 per cent (252) as compared to 308 in 2017.

Research Methodology

For the present study the researcher used secondary data from various sources like magazines, newspapers, journals, articles and internet websites. This study is carried out to gain better understanding of the problems and prospects of North-East region using SWOT analysis.

Issues and problems in the North East-Region of India

1. Drug abuse and trafficking

Drug abuse is one of the social problems which are rampant taking away the resources and productivity of an individual. Drug abuse is not an individual problem rather it is a social problem affecting the population at large. It has also become a public health concern. The proximity of the neighbouring countries is one of the causing inflows of drugs to the state Manipur. It is also observed that to earn quick and fast money many became drug peddlers in a while. Drug abuse and trafficking is highly associated with various negative impacts like spread of HIV/AIDs; there are around 100,000 people living with HIV and AIDS In the North-Eastern states, criminal activities, family distortion, robbery, poverty, untimely deaths and low life expectancy, physical deterioration, school dropouts and the like. All the North-Eastern States are facing these problems especially HIV as a result of injecting drug use and unsafe sexual practice. As per the report of Department of AIDs control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (GOI) the rate of prevalence of HIV and AIDS for Manipur is 1.57 per cent and for Nagaland is 1.2 per cent which is above the national average of 0.34 per cent.

2. Insurgency

Insurgency like drug abuse and trafficking is also a thing to ponder. Insurgency is an act of disapproval or a revolt against the government or the ruling part. Taking up of arms, violence and bloodshed, extortion, bomb blasts, killing of innocent people, kidnapping are associated with insurgent activities. The north eastern region is also unstable associated with insurgency after Kashmir.

3. Bandhs and blockades

Frequent blockades and bandhs hamper the economy and disrupt student's life making them frustrated and vulnerable to pessimist world.

4. Lack of infrastructure and industries

The less number of machineries, factories, industries and the inefficiency of running those resources results in less employment generation leading people to migrate to other parts of the country which otherwise could have utilised it if properly implemented.

5. Connectivity

The north-eastern part of the country is poorly connected with the rest of the mainland. The transportation in this region also lacks to connect every part of the region. The roads in some parts are unthinkable to reach. Various reasons imply to it: the geographical location accompanied by hilly

terrain, landslide prone areas and the like makes it difficult to connect every part of the region.

6. Border issues

Unfriendly neighbours, smuggling of drugs, illegal movements along the border, law and order situation also acts as a hindrance to the development of the region.

Potential resources

1. Rich natural resources

The rich presence of affluent oil and natural gas, bio-diversity, lime stone, coal, forest assets and hydro potentiality makes north-east region as one of the potential region. The proper utilization and harnessing of the available resources could help progress and take the region to next level of development. The petroleum and rhino sanctuary at Kaziranga is one of the seen exemplars of the presence of natural resources.

2. Hot spot for trading and business

For India this part of the country i.e. North-East region is considered as one of the most important and a strategic point of position. A very good percentage of the region touches the international border which provides a platform for development in this era of globalisation. The Ministry of External Affairs in its review of 2004 opened up a new dimension i.e. Look East Policy which now India is looking forward towards a positive partnership with the Association of South East Asian.

3. Fertile land for specific plants

The fertility of the land in this region also makes it possible for growing a good variety of specific plants. This makes it possible that the finished products can be made known to the ASEAN countries. Specific plants like spices, fruits, flower, vegetables and herbs are very fertile in this region. Thus it can be exported to the neighbouring countries like orchids, orange, pineapple, spices, herbs etc.

4. Tea industry

Tea industries in the north-east region posses as one of the strong point areas for growth and development. The state of Assam Produces more than half of the total production of tea in India of which India is the second largest producer of tea in the entire world.

5. Unique culture

The north east region has its unique cultural heritage, diversity in ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity. The region has over 120 tribes

including many sub-tribes with many languages and dialects spoken of around 192.

SWOT analysis

1. Strengths

North-East India is known for its unique culture (it has over 120 tribes and sub tribes and with 192 languages and dialects spoken), presence of rich natural resources like limes tones, coal, petroleum, hydro potential etc., scenic beauty and its landscape, hot spot for tourism industry, bizarre flora and fauna with the presence of important and well known national parks.

2. Weakness

The north eastern region is poorly connected to the mainland through a 22 kilometres of Siliguri corridor in West Bengal often called the chicken neck. And moreover the natural calamities with frequent landslides, floods, and difficult terrain make it even worse to be connected to the rest of India. This poor communications weakens the process and growth of development in this very region. The absence of big industries is also responsible for the slow process and growth development which otherwise could generate employment opportunities for those in need.

3. Opportunities

The north-east region is being considered as an important strategic point geographically. The proximity of the region to the neighbouring countries can provide as an opportunity for trade and business. In this regard the Ministry of External Affairs in its review of 2004 opened up a new dimension i.e. Look East Policy which now India is looking forward towards a positive partnership with the Association of South East Asian.

4. Threats

Insurgency and the strict laws and restrictions are a great threat for the region. Due to insurgency the mind of the people is gripped with fearful assumptions forcing them to remain visiting the region despite its potentialities. The frequent curfew called upon by the insurgent groups and the common people also makes it susceptible to visit the region. The prevalence of certain laws and restrictions also is a threat to the region. The Restricted Area Permit (RAP) and Inner Line Permit (ILP) in some of the north-eastern states make travellers uneasy to gain entry to this region. It is compelled for every Indian nationals and foreign tourist to abide this to gain entry to this very region.

Conclusion

North-East India or the North-Eastern states is a great asset for the country. Its resources, geographical location and its international boundaries, unique culture and the landscape makes it valuable and serve as purpose for future venture in different ways. Regardless of its resourcefulness this part of India is facing and experiencing various insecurities and threats owing to its position and as consequences of the regional actions. For these very grounds it is also tagged as underdeveloped region. It is also to be understood this should not undermine the resourcefulness of the region. Instead, more investment should be poured upon and the unutilised resources should be utilised. Speedy development focussing on the trade relations along with good communications and infrastructure with the neighbouring countries will definitely lead to boost the economy and also strengthen the ties with the neighbours. Bilateral relationships with the neighbouring countries should also be strengthened to enhance friendly neighbours.

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Entrepreneurship: An Alternative in Manipur

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Abstract:

It is apparent that the rate of unemployment in the state of Manipur has scale to another height. The state government is looking for avenues to explore the opportunities available in creating jobs opportunities among the youths. The financial and other factors have also resulted in withholding the individuals to state an enterprise at its own risk. Manipur is known for its resources. This article is to analysis the role of entrepreneur in the state of Manipur and the factors that triggered the individuals to start their own enterprises. The paper also seeks to understand the correlation of societal factors and the entrepreneurship.

Keywords: - Entrepreneurship, Unemployment- Start up Policy, Manipur.

Introduction

Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurships look more common to many of the people. The terms are neither a new concept to human experience, however hardly people understand the real difference between the two terms. Entrepreneurs can be define as an individuals or a group of people who can connect the markets, fill the demand and supply gap, and able to create or expand the into an entities, which in turn will be known as entrepreneurship. Although, there has been many generally acceptable definition of entrepreneurship, most of them vary in the focus and scope. The word entrepreneur is derived from the French word “*entreprendre*” which means “to undertake” according to the webmaster dictionary the term is also applicable to the one who organised, manages and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise. “The general perception of the entrepreneur as a starter of business is reflected by the definition in the BCCC English Dictionary, which refers to an entrepreneur as “a person who set up a business.” Cited in the Role and Impact of entrepreneur on unemployment rate, Kasson view that, an entrepreneur is a person whose skill is to make the logical or rational decisions on coordinating in rare resources. He considers the ability of judging as a common characteristic of all the entrepreneurs.

According to Kurland’s view, an entrepreneur is a person establishing a firm to make profit and growth and manage and use it for personal goals.

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Frank Knight defines an entrepreneur as a person who makes decisions in unstable state and accept personally all its consequences. The Irish economist Richard Cantillon (1680-1734) define an entrepreneur as “someone who take the risk of running an enterprise by paying certain price for securing and using resource to make a product and reselling the product for an uncertain price.” One of the most important definitions of an entrepreneur was given by the Austrian Economist Joseph Schumpeter (1883-1950) in his work, ‘The Theory of Economic Development’. His view of the entrepreneur is that of ‘an innovator playing the role of a dynamic businessman adding materials growth to the economic development. Entrepreneurs also play important roles in the society. Entrepreneur can act as an employment agent. They also help in organising, managing resources and effective management. One of the important roles of the entrepreneur in the society is also the integration and coordination of the Market.

Manipur a small state in the far north eastern India, though known for its own rich flora, fauna and other mineral resources, lacks in policy and weak governance could not make the optimal utilisation of the resources available. The literacy rate of Manipur as per the 2011 census is 76.26% which is higher than the national literacy rate which hovers at 74.04%. The state with population of approximately 27, 21,756 people as per the 2011 census has registered an unemployment of around 7, 49,935 by the end of February 2016 which is around 78% of the total population and raising at the alarming rate. Various reasons contribute for the lack of employment opportunity in the state. Limited industries, the absence of private enterprises are the main reasons. It's a known fact that the State Government could provide only a limited jobs to all the educated youths in the state. Lack of policies for private enterprises by the state government, poor financial and investment policy, lack of skills among the youth of the State also contribute to the unemployment among the youths. The State bordering Myanmar (International Boundary) is also known for its conflict, the ongoing insurgency issues, alleged high level corruption during the recruitment of job are also the factors that contribute toward rise of unemployment in the state of Manipur.

The central bank has defined the word “JOB” as any mental or physical activity in order to earn money and its goal is producing the products or services. Tabnak (2011). Economically, an unemployed is a person at the working age (15 to 65 years) seeking job but cannot find any job or source of income. Children and the elderly, who are not able to work, are not

counted part of the active population. Housewives and students who don't seek the job do not include in unemployed population. Unemployed population is the number of unemployed people as mentioned in Indicators and indicators of labour". Certain other important causes of unemployment shall be sum up as follow:

- The lack of economy growth and the capacity of job providing of society
- Lack of skill linking and other vocational program between education and providing jobs systems.
- The lack of skills among the graduated that are needed for employment.

Entrepreneurship an alternative:

Entrepreneurship plays a very important role in developing the economy of the region or a state or a Nation. Studies by experts from various disciplines have also shown that entrepreneur is the engine of grown for the economy and the society. Employment generation is also one of the most important benefits of entrepreneurship development. A total of 27% (approximately) of the total population of the state has been registered as educated unemployed youth in the state of the Manipur. The government has initiated start up programme and other skill development course with an ambition to provide them an avenue for self employment and job creation. The setting up of Ministry of Skill development and entrepreneurship, formulation of policy, Start up Program, with is many graduates from and non graduates have stated their own enterprises at different scales leaving the only hope to get a government Job for livelihood. The entrepreneurs in the state have demonstrated their creativity and thinking out of box could help in making themselves job creators from being job seekers. As entrepreneur has become a way to provide livelihood to many living in the state, the state should develop and encourage entrepreneurs through various ways which will help in contributing in economic development in the state in significant way. Also throughout the intellectual history, entrepreneur has worn many faces and played many roles. At least twelve distinct themes in the economic literature:

1. The entrepreneur is the person who assumes the risk associated with uncertainty.
2. The entrepreneur is the person who supplies financial capital.

3. The entrepreneur is an innovator.
4. The entrepreneur is a decision maker.
5. The entrepreneur is an industrial leader.
6. The entrepreneur is a manager or super- impendent.
7. The entrepreneur is an organizer and co coordinator of economic resources.
8. The entrepreneur is the owner of an enterprise.
9. The entrepreneur is an employer of factors of production.
10. The entrepreneur is a contractor.
11. The entrepreneur is an arbitrageur.
12. The entrepreneur is an allocator of resources among alternative uses.

One major factor that the creative and the innovative individual could not start its own firm or an establishment was owing to the financial & social factors. With the lack of proper financial policies and linking with the financial institute the individual were not able fund themselves at the higher risk. The poor infrastructure and the market linkage were on the top reason for the failure of an entrepreneur. Non availability of raw materials or at the very high cost or also contribute to the stagnant growth of the individuals who took risk of their own resources. Lack of proper education and appropriate skills required for becoming an entrepreneur, the opportunities available in the local market was not bought to the consciousness of the youth living the state. The volatile law and order, frequent shut down of the business activities, alleged monetary ransom by the non state actor have made to stay away from the entrepreneurship activities. Until recent times, for the factors listed and also the conventional thoughts promote the culture of being honoured to only those who secure job or earn their livelihood through the Government sectors are only educated and to be a well to do family are one among the reasons for the youth to chase only the government job leaving behind their talent, and knowledge. Often the individual who work in the private or its own startups or an enterprise are regards as the nonperformer in the society. The rat races among all the educated youths to secure a limited job in the Government sectors have also resulted to one of the worst scenario of corruption in the society.

Recently with the formation of New Government in the state, the vision for a equilibrium society, the State government has established a well define policies to encourage and inspire the youth of Manipur to actively consider

entrepreneurship as a career choice by including appropriate learning modules, developing relevant entrepreneurship development programs in vocational institutions, and supporting outreach programs, interactions with entrepreneurs and extending financial assistance. The policies has also create a platform for accessing multiple avenues that provide financial support to start-ups in Manipur, like grants, bank loans, fiscal incentives has also help the youth of the state to explore their creativity and innovative, promoting a risk free innovative environment for entrepreneurs to flourish. This good will attempt to promote entrepreneur by the state will lead to the reduce the unemployment of the state and increase in the number of count people choosing entrepreneur as a career alternative in Manipur.

Once the hindrance, for many energetic young entrepreneurs in the state due to various factors including the infrastructure, policies and financial assistance, has now obliterated with the installation of various policies, program and schemes. The entrepreneur has now not only provides oneself a job but also provides jobs for others without depending on the State government, in addition the entrepreneur also plays a great role in production and productive employment and this helps reduce the rate of unemployment without relying on the government's investment for creating jobs. Oxenfeldt as cited in the paper, does Entrepreneurship reduce unemployment?, pointed out that individuals confronted with unemployment and low prospects for wage employment turn to self-employment as a viable alternative to unemployment which is an extension view of Knight's that individuals make a decision among three states – unemployment, self-employment and employment. The actual decision is shaped by the relative prices of these three activities but there was a clear prediction that entrepreneurship would be positively related to unemployment. Also Cited in the same paper, Storey, documents, the empirical evidence linking unemployment to entrepreneurship is fraught with ambiguities.

It is evident that, in the recent time a number of successful entrepreneur in the state of Manipur, have been into the market. As per the 6th Economic Census report by the Directorate of Economic and Statistical, Government of Manipur, there is sharp increase in the establishment in both the agriculture and Non Agriculture activities. The growth in the establishment has its impact in both the Rural and the urban areas. An increased in the establishment has result to the employment rate upto to handsome figure of 4, 09,617 (6th EC 2013) compare to 2, 11,616 (5th EC 2005) which is a

growth rate of 93.57%. Chandel District has the highest employment growth rate followed by Churanchanpur and Thoubal District.

The above data on the establishment of firms and the increase in the generation of the employment in the rural and the urban areas shows that unemployment lead to start new firm or have the tendency to become an entrepreneur by take risk and on the other side entrepreneurship lead the reduction of the employment. Studies also have found that, greater the entrepreneurial activities lesser the unemployment, however others have come to the opposite conclusion as well, that entrepreneurship and unemployment are inversely related. Evans and Leighton (1990) found that unemployment is positively associated with a greater propensity to start a new firm, but Garofoli (1994) and Audretsch and Fritsch (1994) found that unemployment is negatively related to new-firm startups, and Carree (2002) found that no statistically significant relationship exists. Audretsch and Thurik (2000) show that an increase in the number of business owners reduces the level of unemployment. The inversely correlation of the unemployment and the entrepreneurship is still debatable.

It is obvious fact that, a high rate in the entrepreneurship activities startups and establishment of enterprises may lead to the hiring of employees which subsequently will reduce to the no of unemployment in the state. This will lead to push the economy of the region or the state or the nation. The Government of the India as well as the state government has taken a keen interest in promoting the entrepreneurship to address the Job Crisis. Certain institutions have established for effective policy formation and disseminate the knowledge and other technical knowhow of becoming and entrepreneurship. The Government have also started various schemes to promote the aspirant entrepreneurs through various incentives. To name a few institute working for promoting entrepreneurship is as follow

1. National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD): The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development is a premier organization of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, engaged in training, consultancy, research, etc. in order to promote entrepreneurship and Skill Development. The major activities of the Institute include Training of Trainers, Management Development Programmes, Entrepreneurship-cum-Skill Development Programmes, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and Cluster Intervention.

2. Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE): The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) was established in the year 1993 in Guwahati by the erstwhile Ministry of Industry (now the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), Government of India as an autonomous national institute with an aim to undertake training, research and consultancy activities in small and micro enterprises focusing on entrepreneurship development.
3. National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN):- The National Entrepreneurship Network was established in 2003 with the mission to create and support high growth entrepreneur and drive job creation and economic growth in India.
4. Society for Entrepreneurship Educators (SEE):-The urgent need of having the organisation to create, share the teaching, training and the research resources have resulted to the establishment of society for Entrepreneurship education by group of academic who are passionate about entrepreneurs.

The below are the schemes to promote the entrepreneurs taken up by the government

1. Start-up India: Start-up India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to catalyse start-up culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India Since the launch of the initiative on 16th January, 2016, Start-up India has rolled out several programs with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, and transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers.
2. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. [MUDRA] is an NBFC supporting development of micro enterprise sector in the country. MUDRA provides refinance support to Banks / MFIs for lending to micro units having loan requirement upto 10 Lakh. MUDRA provides refinance to micro business under the Scheme of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana.

The Important of skill cannot be rule out in the course of developing entrepreneurship; the government of India as well as the State have made Skill development sector a thrust area to skilled the youth for a job ready and employable in the market. Often it is highlighted that there is a huge gap in the demand and the supply of the job in the market. The gap in the skill mapping among the local youths have resulted the gap. It is anticipated

that the increase in the entrepreneurship activities will raise the demand of the skilled youth for employment. Keeping this in mind ensure that for readily available, various skill development programs have initiated by the government. One among the schemes is Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY): Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Centre for Research in Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CREED): Centre for Research in Entrepreneurship education and Development was established in 1997, CREED was set up to act as a crucial link between theory and practice in the field of entrepreneurship with special focus on applied research backed by sound theoretical underpinning.

Conclusion:

As the literature ascertain the relation between the entrepreneurial and the unemployment, and have found to have a positive relation between the two. The increase in the Job opportunity (reduce unemployment) in the market with the increase in the entrepreneur activities shall be the positive impact. It is suggested that the focus should be given to the inclusion of scheduled castes & scheduled tribes, minorities, differently abled, etc., who are under-represented for all round development in entrepreneurship activities. Special Focus shall also be given to encourage women entrepreneurs through appropriate incentives for women owned businesses under the public procurement process. It will also be ensured that gender neutral incubation/ accelerator, network of mentors, industry, resource centres and credit institutes are developed to facilitate Women Entrepreneurs. Priority will be given for mentorship and support system for women entrepreneurs in existing business centres and incubators. Steps will also be taken to assemble gender disaggregated data. Vocational training on entrepreneurship at educational institutes, Universities and the national entrepreneurship institutes shall be introduced for better dissimulation of knowledge to the youth of states to make them understand the opportunities available when entrepreneurship is taken as an career. The skills associated shall also be trained for better utilisation of resources available. The

government should strengthen the policies and mechanism for the entrepreneurs' also fiscal incentives and incubation. To foster grass-roots innovation, a focus on innovations in hubs, collaborations with organisations such as the National Innovation Foundation and promotion of Intellectual Property Rights will also be encouraged

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Impact of Social Media: A Study on the Tribal Youth Entrepreneurs of Manipur

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Abstract

Manipur is one of the North East States of India. It is the Gateway to the Southeast Asia. Manipur is multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-cultural and multi-religious. There are two physical features namely the Hills and the Valley. There are vast differences in regards to the two areas in terms of every development where the valley area is much better as compare to the hills. Most of the tribal people are settle in the hills side of Manipur.

The main purpose of this paper is to determine the impact of social media on the tribal youth entrepreneurs of Manipur. The paper will see to the accessibility of social media and the challenges and the main types of social media will be dealt. Media is one of the most important tools to promote and also trade their product. Social media have transformed the way of business entirely. The media have an important role to play in shaping the public perception of entrepreneurs and the start-ups process. Therefore it is important for the tribal entrepreneurs to understand the impact of media in the programme and insure that the portal of entrepreneurship should be in reality.

Keywords: Social Media, Tribal Youth Entrepreneurs, Challenges and Opportunities.

Introduction:

The North East of India comprising of the 8 states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, is a reservoir of rich natural resources and beautiful amalgamation of different people and cultures. Blessed with a biodiversity, huge hydro-energy potential, oil, gas, coal, limestone, forest, wealth, fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, aromatic plants rare and rich flora and fauna, NE India has all the potential to transform into a commercial hub and tourist paradise.

Manipur is one of the North East States of India. It is the Gateway to the Southeast Asia. Manipur is multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic, multi-cultural and multi-religious. There are two physical features namely the Hills and the Valley. There are vast differences in regards to the two areas in terms of every development where the valley area is much better as compare to the hills. Most of the tribal people are settle in the hills side of Manipur.

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The main purpose of this paper is to determine the impact of social media on the tribal youth entrepreneurs of Manipur with special reference to Senapati District. Media is one of the most important tools to promote and also trade their product. Social media have transformed the way of business entirely. The media have an important role to play in shaping the public perception of entrepreneurs and the start-ups process. Therefore it is important for the tribal entrepreneurs to understand the impact of media in the programme and insure that the portal of entrepreneurship should be in reality.

India has grown so much in the field of information and technology. This can be seen as a result of information and social awareness that have emerged important factors of human empowerment. Social media has generated new dimension for tribal to learn and access to knowledge and skill development in various field. Since social media offers lot of interesting ways of learning anything, anywhere, anytime, the tribal entrepreneurs learns faster as compare to the traditional educational system. It is not surprising that telecommunication and level of internet connectivity across the north east region especially the hills parts where most of the tribal live are limited as compare to the valley areas of Manipur. Social media provides lots of benefits to the tribal entrepreneurs as they are able to connect and update the latest development in the field of entrepreneurs for the upliftment of their own enterprise thus connecting with the rest of the world.

The landlocked Northeast region of India remains isolated from the rest of the country and has not been able to attract investors or produce skilled labour and entrepreneurial resources, though most states have literacy rates at or above national average. Especially in the Northeast, ICTs have the power to change the very landscape of the region, stop the exodus of the youth to other parts of the country and catapult the region into a strong economic force. With a strong English speaking, intelligent, young population, North East is very well positioned to take advantage of these new technologies in our education system

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan spoke on the tribal entrepreneurship during the Global tribal entrepreneurship meet at Dandewada Chhattisgarh on the 14 November 2017, how tribal entrepreneurship is an important component of human entrepreneurship and how tribal women contribute extensively in conserving India's biodiversity. He said "It is high time we respect tribal wisdom and bring tribal into mainstream development. Their invaluable

knowledge will help us with innovative ideas to improve our livelihood and environment security.”

Review of literature:

A brief review of literature has been conducted in order to know the studies regarding the impact of social media and tribal entrepreneurs in state and national level. There are some studies which have special focus on the conditions of tribal entrepreneurs and social media.

Social media is most recent form of media and having many features and characteristics. It have many facilities on same channel like as communicating, texting, images sharing , audio and video sharing, fast publishing, linking with all over world, direct connecting. It is also cheapest fast access to the world so it is very important for all age of peoples. Its use is increasing day by day with high rate in all over the world. (Miah, 2017)

Today’s north-eastern youth must recognize the enormous potential of the digital world, address the issues involved in its creation, and take a leadership role for their diverse applications. We live in global village where distance is no longer barrier to commercial or social contact. (Sharma, 2016)

Social media in one important element that helps in bringing out new innovations in their business and services. As it gives new ideas and thoughts to discover new innovations of their products through used of new technologies and looking for the customers demand. Social media can be broadly define as any online platform or channel for user generated content. Social media is a collective online communication channels dedicated to community based input, interaction, content sharing and collaboration. Websites and applications dedicated to forums, micro blogging, social networking, social bookmarking, social curation and wikis are some different types of social media. (Laksmi.V, 2017)

In order to expand the market for the goods and services produced in Manipur, there is need for improvement of logistics especially transportation. The sense of insecurity felt by outsiders mainly on account of negative media reports and misinformation, the state of Manipur remains unattractive for investment. Therefore the only option is that the local entrepreneurs should be groom according to the needs of the society. However, for various reasons, manufacturing continues to be a difficult and challenging area. Besides, the role of the state government to provide infrastructure and incentives needs to further emphasis. (Singh O. N., 2018)

The biggest challenge that the entrepreneurs in Manipur face when starting a business from scratch is raising needed capital. Competition is the next challenge an entrepreneur face when starting a business. There is cut throat competition in business and market. New entrepreneurs get sucked with market credit policy and price war among business rivalries'. Entrepreneurs in Manipur face many more typical unexpected challenges as compare to their counterparts elsewhere. Disturbing State Law and Order. Attitudes of state players and non-state players towards businessman. (Singh, 2018)

Mobile phones have facilitated connectivity in the north-eastern region as well as in Mao areas under Senapati District, in terms of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Wireless communication came to the region in the early 2000 and this technology integrated quickly among the people as a part of their daily activities. It is creating an identity for an individual that is personal, social and political. With mobile technologies becoming an integral part of our life, if somebody we know does not own one we start to wonder and are amazed at how they are able to survive. (Chachei, 2013)

Interestingly, there is no one outstanding positive example of social media usage in the Northeast to counter the negative issues of the region. There is therefore no case study with which analysis can be conducted on the sphere of social media. There has been no concerted effort by the state governments of the region to capture the momentum and level of engagement that social media provides, although it stands to reason that they are of course aware of it. The same is also true of civilian appropriation of these platforms. The reach of telecommunications and level of connectivity across the region is limited, especially in comparison to the rest of India. (Roy, 2015)

Statement of the problem:

According to Marx a famous philosophers “we are the product of environment” it clearly indicates that changes in the environment will also change the mindset of the people. In recent times, there have been lots of young entrepreneurs investing and much new innovation of products and services but since these entrepreneurs are the first generation there are so many areas in which the tribal youth entrepreneurs needs to update their innovation to compete with rest of the states. There is a need to changes in the present society i.e. to encourage the tribal youth entrepreneurs to take up entrepreneurial activities with the used of social media. There are many issues which can be addressed in the present paper.

Objective:

- To study the impact of social media on the tribal youth entrepreneurs.
- To study the accessibility of social media in the tribal region in Manipur.
- To study the scope, types, opportunities and challenges of social media in tribal youth areas of Manipur.

Methodology:

The paper is descriptive in nature. Both primary and secondary data was used for the study. The primary data have been collected through interview scheduled from 30 Tribal Entrepreneurs (which have been selected purposively) amongst the tribal entrepreneurs in Senapati district Manipur. The secondary data have been collected from books, journals reports etc.

Research Gap:

From the review of literature, it is revealed that there are number of the studies regarding the tribal entrepreneurs in National level. However studies with regards to the tribal entrepreneurial with media in Manipur are rarely found in the literature. The study, hence, will help to fill up the existing research gap.

Scope of the Study:

The present study will not only investigate the growth of social media users in tribal areas in Manipur but also the scope and opportunity of media in marketing. Though, there are many tribal districts in Manipur the study is limited to the tribal youth who are running their enterprise in Senapati district only.

Findings:

1. Accessibility of social media in tribal youth areas of Manipur:

Social media have become one of the most important technologies at this present world without which survival is become difficult with the passage of time. The government is putting up all effort to connect with all the region of the state through road connection and slowly bringing other development especially to the hill areas where almost all the tribal settle there.

Tribal people live mostly on the Hill side of State making it more difficult in regards to the accessibility of social media due to its location finding

difficult to reach every nuke and Conner of the hills areas. Some entrepreneurs lamented that there are so many Mobile towers but not able to access the facilities due to one reason or the other which are undisclosed to the public. With the sudden overturn of media world the coming generation is trying to catch up with the latest technology available within their area.

Social media have brought people close like a small village. With various types of social media people are able to communicate and access to the other parts of India as to what is happening and updates oneself. Mobile phone has become a necessity to survive in this modern world. Amongst the tribal entrepreneurs mobile is treated as a must technology in running their business without which their enterprise would be a failure.

2. Scope and Opportunities:

There are many scopes for the tribal youth entrepreneurs to grow as it is the first generation entrepreneurs there are so many things that are still yet to be utilised for the betterment of the tribal people of Manipur. There are lots of potential in the field of tourism in Manipur. It is unfortunate that most of the tourism spot in the tribal areas are not exposed to the media for promotion. If the tribal entrepreneurs takes up in the social media about this it would boost the tribal enterprise.

Online marketing is one of the areas where the tribal needs to develop as there are not many facilities due to many reasons like lack of internet facilities in certain parts of the areas. The other is due to poor communication of road and other infrastructure. Many tribal entrepreneurs have started trying out and result seems to produce a good result.

There are so several other scope and opportunities in the areas like the Agro based business, forest products, handicrafts and much other recourse that are still un-tap. All these can be utilizes only when the tribal entrepreneurs are well trained, skilled in a particular field with adequate infrastructure and financial assistance.

The tribal youth entrepreneurs lack in the entrepreneurship awareness and business culture in Manipur. Someone comment that there is a lack of support to the young entrepreneurs rather encourages only white collar jobs. Thus this culture brings many setbacks to the tribal society as instability, stress, negative mindset, overwhelming feeling to the start-up entrepreneurs in the state. Therefore it is also the responsibility of all the stake holders to develop a positive mindset towards building a strong entrepreneurship culture amongst the tribal of Manipur.

3. Challenges for tribal youth entrepreneurs:

Financial challenge is one of the most important and without which entrepreneurs cannot run their business. The tribal youth have no source of investments for their enterprise due to lack of know where. They are not aware of the various funds and the source. Someone who knows the source are funding are usually caught up with the various rules and regulation like the document verifications and the process is too long that discourage them to pursue.

Lack of skilled and technical knowledge makes them difficult to know what technology to use. Their old indigenous traditional technical cost a lot making them product very costly. Thus losing their motivational level as lack of training and knowledge discourage them to go further of taking risk.

Marketing their product is also another problem due to lack of knowledge of marketing. The lack of infrastructure also causes lots of problem especially the transportation facilities are very poorly connected for transporting their product.

Competition: Due to stiff competition amongst the entrepreneurs the tribal youth are unable to come up with the other who is already in the market with various technologies. By using traditional method of production makes more costly their product as compare to the substituted product. Therefore, new modern technology should be used and upgrade their technology in order to come up with the already established entrepreneurs.

4. Types of social media that is used commonly in the tribal areas for the expansion of entrepreneurship:

The man is a social animal. We live in a society and we share our thoughts, information, knowledge, ideas, and sentiments with each other and our language helps us to do that. We share our knowledge and thoughts with the world in many ways and means. Social media is the major sources of gaining knowledge about the activities taking place in the entire world. Since the ancient times, human beings can share knowledge by many means and ways. Newspapers have always been the major source of information since the beginning and it has an immense importance in our society. But with the passage of time lots of modern technology have upgrade and came up that makes the social media field one of the most important elements in terms of entrepreneurship building in this modern technological world.

- a. **Whatsapp:** Whatsapp is no more meant for communication purpose solely but it is an application where all types of networking can be done with it. We can send photos, document, videos and lot more others functions. Whatsapp is the most commonly used social media by the tribal entrepreneurs of Manipur. Most of the entrepreneurs are on the opinion that Whatsapp is more user friendly as compare to other social media. Here they advertise their product through the Photo that is send to the friends or the groups where they can order or purchase them. The best part of whatsapp is that there is no extra payment to be made to access this app. Therefore, when the entrepreneurs sends photos of the products the customer response back with so many quarries about the product making the marketing easier through the use of whatsapp.
- b. **Facebook:** One of social networking website commonly used for uploading Photos and video and send messages to different place. Facebook is one of the best social media that helps in connecting people from across the world. Many entrepreneurs used this social media to advertise their products and to promote their business as it is connected to all easily available for people to see through and get connected. Therefore, Facebook is one of the social media where anyone can update his or her products for the customers to see and order and also it helps in connecting many people around the world.
- c. **Newspapers:** Newspapers are very important in our daily life because newspapers provide us with the information all around the world. Newspapers tell us about the latest happening around us from the weather, crimes, politics, sports, entertainment to the latest inventions, research in the science and technology. It is one of the social media used by the tribal entrepreneurs for promoting their enterprise by tribal entrepreneurs for advertisement of their product and gets a good result say some of the entrepreneurs especially for the immovable business enterprise like the Hotels, Tourist Centres, Lodging, and Renting of building and Hall for public functions.
- d. **Twitter:** A common question within business communities, when confronted by all of the social media possibilities on the Web. Not every business benefits from each social media site in the exact same way. Twitter is important for a business looking to expand social reach. Only a hand full used twitter according to the research conducted although it is also a free micro blogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts and their products. In twitter your

followers become the distributors of your message, so their followers see mentions of your enterprises as coming from a trusted source.

- e. LinkedIn: Hardly a hand few of tribal entrepreneurs used this social networking as in the tribal areas people are not so friendly with LinkedIn. Entrepreneurs who used this social networking are they few entrepreneurs who purchase raw materials from outside state and abroad.
- f. Instagram: The business paradigm appears to have undergone a complete change in this present world with start-ups and the entrepreneurs offering a window shopping experience for online shopping through various applications and this Instagram has become a very popular in the business community. The advantage of Instagram is that it shows only the picture oriented so people can see and chose what they like by looking the picture.

Conclusion:

From the research a conclusion can be drawn that many of the tribal youth entrepreneurs are not well aware about the important of using social media. Whereas there are many tribal who are updated to the social media are making progress in their enterprise. Through social media the misconception of the North East especially for the state of Manipur should be wipe out and attract more investor to the state as there are so many untouched resources in the state.

From the finding we can also draw a conclusion that various rules and regulations should be set up in order to use social media in a more productive way. Social media should be free from all factors that make it complex because Social Media is one of the most important key that will bring success to tribal entrepreneurship.

All the changes in social media and communication that have taken place over the last century are due to a huge technological development. Furthermore, this is a cultural and technological evolution and it is the nature of evolution that it accelerates. Our daily lives have improved greatly thanks to new digital social media, satellite communication and all the technological advances that are in an around us. But one thing we must not forget is that all that is there to help us, not to make us become their slaves by making us unaware to what really matters. Now that we have access to more Social media and information we should make good use in every field of our life and try to solve the problems that we have around the

world. Thus rightful use of social media would bring to us a satisfying result in our day today life.

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Prevention of Substance use Disorder and Associated high-risk behaviours among Youth through Social Work Intervention Sathish

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Abstract

Substance Use Disorder is a powerful whip that controls the youth of our mother land India from developing to into adults of good qualities. Youths are attracted and influenced to use substances by the influence of parental role models, peer pressure, promotion of substance usage in media, experimentation and ready availability of substances in the environment they dwell in. it is disheartening to see that youths are involved in high-risk behaviours under the influence of substances and resulting in delinquent activities. The study aims to highlight the influencing factors and high risk behaviours that are associated with substance use disorder among youths of T.P. Chatiram, Chennai. It also attempts to discuss and instigate the importance of social work in addressing the issues of substance use disorder and the associated high-risk behaviours, which can be carried out by developing and implanting interventions through methods of social work.

Introduction

Substance usage among youths in India is on the increasing phase. It is much prevalent among youths of underprivileged sections who dwell in slums of the nation. Not only the usage is higher, but also the high-risk behaviours associated with the usage is increasing with the usage of substance. These high-risk behaviours associated with substance usage can be very dangerous for the youths who use substance and also for the society they dwell in. So, it is important to curb down the usage of substance among youth should be carried out early by involving social work intervention.

Youth

Youth the exciting and educating phase of human life is very short and has to be spent in a way which leads oneself and the nation towards a sustainable development. India has a very vast youth population of 12,

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665,000(Census of India, 2011). With such a great youth population India is still struggling in terms of development which is sustainable. What could be the reason for these struggles? There are so many underlying reasons for this struggle towards sustainable development. From the researcher's point of view substance usage is considered as a major reason which is acting as a hindrance for the development of youth as well the sustainable development of the mother Nation.

The United Nations Organisation and World Bank define youth as people between the age group of 15 and 24 years (Weltbank, 2003). Kenneth Keniston (1970) terms youth as a group of people who are no longer adolescents but not yet adults. According to him these young people have not yet assumed commitments of marriage, parenting and career. In India youth are classified as persons between the age of 15 and 29 years (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 2014).

Substance Use Disorder Among Youths

Youths use substances because of the availability of substances, experimental nature, parental model, peer pressure, recreational interests, and to gain social respect (Barnow, Ulrich, Grabe, Freyberger, & Spitzer, 2007; Gaidhane et al., 2008; Malhotra, Sharma, Saxena, & Ingle, 2007; National Institute of Drug Abuse, 2014). Youth who use substances also involve in high risk behaviours and result in delinquent activities (Malhotra et al., 2007).

Education of the respondents, education of the parents, substance use by parents and by peers is significantly associated with substance usage of youths (Kokwar & Jogdand, 2011). Most commonly used substances among adolescents of slums are smokeless and smoke forms of tobacco followed by alcohol and marijuana (Kamate, Ashtagi, & Mallapur, 2017).

Interventions and prevention programmes are needed to reach college students at the environmental, individual personality and cognitive processing levels to prevent substance usage among the young population(Baba et al., 2013; Chockalingam et al., 2013; Ham & Hope, 2003).Dissemination of research-based family interventions has been slow, with most practitioners still implementing ineffective programs. There is need for increased dissemination research on training and technical assistance systems, adoption with fidelity and quality, and gender, age, and culturally sensitive adaptations (Kumpfer & Alvarado, 2003).

High Risk Behaviours among Substance Using Youths

Young people who are using substances are also prone to deviant high-risk behaviours such as anti-social behaviours, delinquency and high-risk sexual behaviours (Erikson, 1968). Factors that influence high risk behaviours are substance use, peer group pressure, poor parental discipline and supervision, low family income, isolation from the society, poor housing, poor educational progress, availability of substances in the society, lack of social responsibility and opportunity for crime. The most common high-risk behaviours among youths are drunk and drive, stealing, involving in physical fights causing serious injuries, selling illicit substances like marijuana and travelling on foot boards in public transports. There is prevalence of risk behaviour associated to tobacco, alcohol and other substance use among young people (Geethadevi M et al., 2014). Effective parenting is the most powerful way to reduce adolescent problem behaviour (Kumpfer & Alvarado, 2003).

Theoretical Foundation

Social Learning Theory—It affirms that experimental substance use among adolescents is induced by substance-specific attitudes of adolescents and behaviours of people around adolescents who act as role models (Bandura, Social learning theory, 1977).

Social Cognitive Theory – It instigates that adolescents who experiment substance usage acquire beliefs about substance use from their models, close friends and parents who use substances. It further says that exposure of adolescents to friends and family members using substances will induce him/her to experiment substance use to develop substance using attitudes. This theory also stresses on importance of self-efficacy to control or resist substance usage among adolescents (Bandura, Social foundations of thought and action: A social cognitive theory, 1986).

Theory Of Planned Behaviour – It states that self-efficacy plays a vital role in controlling behavioural intentions to get the approval of people. It explains that two important forms are important when it comes to Experimental Substance Use of adolescents which are use self-efficacy representing adolescent's beliefs in their abilities to successfully use substances and refusal self-efficacy representing adolescent's belief to resist social pressure to begin using substances (Ajzen, 1985).

Theories on Social Learning and Social Cognition insist that role models play a vital role in adolescents' experimental substance use and consequent behaviours. Adolescents with positive and conventional role models are

less likely to indulge in experimenting substance use. Theory of Planned Behaviour asserts that adolescents' behaviour towards experimenting substance use and consequent behaviours shall be altered by strengthening self-efficacy of adolescents.

Materials and Methods

Descriptive Research design was adopted to describe the substance induced behaviours of adolescents in T.P. Chatiram which is the urban poor residential neighbourhood community with its high prevalence of usage among youths. The objectives of the study are to study the demographic profile, history of substance usage in family, influencing factors to use substance, prevalence of substance use, substance induced high risk behaviours of the respondents and to suggest preventive measures to control substance usage and high-risk behaviours among adolescents. Census sampling procedure was adopted to study the behaviour of 97 youths in the age group of 15 to 21 years. A semi-structured interview schedule consists of socio demographic profile, family details, factor influencing the youths for substance usage and scales such as Michigan Alcohol Screening Test (MAST), Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND) and Drug Use Questionnaire (DAST 20) was used and the data was analysed with SPSS version 20 based on the objectives of the study.

Major Findings

Major findings of the study based on the objectives are as follows,

- Two-third of the respondents are attending school.
- Nearly one-fourth of the respondents are attending college.
- Fourteen respondents are school drop-outs and use substances.
- Six respondents are college drop outs.
- Nearly Two-fourth of the respondents have substance using family members.
- More than one-third of the respondents are buying substances for family members.
- Nearly one-fourth of the respondents are buying substances for others.
- Substance use is prevalent among more than two-fifth of total respondents.

- More than one-tenth of respondents use alcohol on weekly basis.
- Over two-fifth of substance using respondents uses cigarette daily.
- More than two-third of substance using respondents use maava daily.
- Nearly One-tenth of substance using respondents uses marijuana daily.
- The lowest age of initiation of substance usage is nine years.
- The highest age of initiation of substance usage is sixteen years.
- Friends are found to be the predominating influential factor to use substances for sixty-two per cent substance using respondents followed by family (twenty-four per cent), media (twenty-two per cent) and self (five per cent).
- More than one-third of the substance using respondents use substances at school/college.
- Nearly one-third of the substance using respondents are spending over thousand rupees for substances per month.
- Nearly two-fifth of the substance using respondents are stealing from their home to buy substances.
- Less than one-tenth of substance using respondents sells illicit substances like marijuana to buy substances.
- More than one-third of the substance using respondents involve in physical fights while under the influence of substance.
- Nearly two-fifth of the substance using respondents ride motorcycles while under the influence of substances.
- Nearly two-fifth of the substance using respondents travel on foot board in public transports while using substances.
- A few respondents (two) have got arrested by police and remanded. They have police case registered.

Discussion

Substance usage is very much prevalent among adolescent boys of the study area. As it is derived from theories, the factors inducing substance usage among the respondents are influential role models of substance using peers, parents and media promoting substance usage. Some of the respondents using substances out of their own interests and continues using substances. The study reveals that there is prevalence of high risk behaviour among adolescents which may lead to heinous crimes in future

as it is evident from the study that some respondents are stealing from homes to buy substances, involving in physical fights while under the influence of substances, riding motorcycles under influence of substances, selling illicit substances to procure substance and travelling on foot boards in public transports while under the influence of substance which are posing serious threats to adolescents and the society in which they dwell in.

How Social Work Intervention can be effectively used to prevent substance use disorder and associated high-risk behaviour among youths?

Social Work Intervention

Social is a profession that is involved in dealing with people and their problems or needs. It grew out of humanitarian and democratic ideals and got its own values and principles that are to followed while carrying any intervention (Engelbrecht & Conway, 1999; Ronald, Malar, &Laavanya, 2013). It has three primary methods namely Social Work with Individuals (Case Work), Social Work with Groups (Group Work) and Community Organisation (Engelbrecht & Conway, 1999).

Substance use disorder can be targeted and addressed by social work intervention through the primary methods of social work. The main purpose of social work intervention is to assist people to restore their equilibrium, promote growth and capacity, develop, mobilise and make resources available and solve problems or needs.

To address substance use disorder, social worker first needs to understand the intensity of the problem and then look at the possibility of carrying out intervention. Interventions should be designed based on the theoretical frame work to support its effectiveness and according to the strengths of the participants. The social worker can use combination of techniques to address substance use disorder among youths. For example, techniques like cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) and sports can be effective in reducing substance use disorder.

A preventive study using cognitive behavioural approach to prevent the usage of substances among students, was carried out for three years. The intervention was given through cognitive training that are implemented by the trainer, reported and videotaped. The study also had a control group that did not receive any intervention. It stated that the intervention involving cognitive behavioural approach was effective in reducing the usage of

substances like cigarettes, marijuana and alcohol among the students. The study also highlighted that the intervention has enabled the participants to improve their interpersonal and communication skills (Botvin, Baker, Dusenbury, Tortu, & Botvin, 1990).

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy has got a wide scope to treat the substance use disorder by involving various techniques such as processes of operant learning and motivational interviews. It has proved to be effective in controlled experiments and can be used as a solo intervention process or in combination with other techniques to treat substance use disorder (McHugh, Hearon, & Otto, 2010)

Social Work Approach and Model

Psychodynamic Approach – Sigmund Freud (1900)

Psychodynamic theory deals with the internal processes and structure of personality that motivate human behaviour. Sigmund Freud structured human psyche into three parts namely the id, ego and superego (Morgan, 1993; Payne, 2014). Id is the part of psyche in which pleasure principle dominates the instinctive pulses and it seeks gratification without considering the consequences and moral beliefs (Engelbrecht & Conway, 1999; Morgan, 1993). Ego is the rational part is the rational part of the psyche that creates the person's view in terms of his/her own interests, achievements, qualities and wellbeing (Engelbrecht & Conway, 1999; Morgan, 1993). Superego is the part of psyche that characterizes the moral codes of society and regulates the individual's ethical standards and sense of right and wrong (Engelbrecht & Conway, 1999; Morgan, 1993). It can be inferred from the theory that it is important to strengthen the ego and super ego parts of the adolescent boys to deny them succumb to the pleasure seeking 'id' part to prevent from them substance usage.

Task Centred Model – Reid and Epstein (1972)

The model focuses on specific targets and goals, that stipulate the required change in an individual or a group. It emphasises more on the actions to be carried out through the tasks developed in the intervention. The model best suits to work with clients who are willing to change but unable to take necessary actions to the desired change. It breaks down the larger tasks or the primary goal into small tasks to motivate the clients participate and ensure success. The clients are motivated to actively participate and complete the given tasks, thereby leading to the attainment of the primary goal (Reid & Epstein, 1972; Ronald, Malar, & Laavanya, 2013). On the basis of this model, adolescent boys' substance usage problem can be addressed by

motivating them to take part in tasks that are developed to improve their physical self-concept, psychological well-being, social self-esteem and overall self-esteem that ultimately results in the reduction of substance usage.

Based on the above discussion, intervention programmes can be developed and carried out to address the substance use disorder and associated high-risk behaviours among youths in the community. A community based social worker can be deputed in each zones of Chennai to address the behavioural issues of youths.

Suggestions

It is understood from the study that the prevalence of substance use disorder and the associated high-risk behaviours are high among youths of the study area. The study highlights that youths are drawn into substance usage by family, peer, media and personal influences. It is also revealed from the study that availability of substances is one of the major reasons for the young generation to use substances in the residing area as well as in schools and colleges. It is disheartening to learn from the study that few respondents are involved in high risk behaviours like physical fights and antisocial activities like selling illicit substances (marijuana). To solve the pressing issue of substance use disorder and associated high-risk behaviours, the following suggestions can be implemented.

- Positive Role Models of Parents abstaining from using substances
- Developing positive peer group.
- Involving in sports that brings discipline in adolescents.
- Taking social responsibilities.
- Stringent enforcement of law.
- Developing and Carrying out Social Work Interventions
- Employing Community Based Social Workers.

Conclusion

Substance use disorder is posing a major threat to the development of youths who are the future of India. So, it is important to address the issue of substance use disorder and its associated high-risk behaviours that result in delinquent activities among the youths, through social work intervention. By preventing the usage of substances among youths, through intervention techniques involving social work methods, we can create a healthy adult population of tomorrow who can be effective leaders too. It can be concluded from the study that preventing substance usage among youths is

essential to curb down the high-risk behaviours that result in delinquency and the prevention can be done effectively through social work intervention.

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Media and Drug Abuse: A Study of Tangkhul Naga Youth of Ukhrul District, Manipur

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Abstract

Media is considered as one of the most effective instrument in educating the people about the changes in this transits modern society. Being considered as one of the most effective tools it does not differentiate the levels of influences between young and old. Media connects people by bringing them in one platform and also informs them about the day to day happenings making them aware of their environment. Eventually, the impact has twofold: positive and negative. In the positive aspect it can be beneficial if one use it for constructive purpose in the way of healthy lifestyles. Likewise, negatively it may also increase or educate oneself with immoral activities and other issues which may hamper and cause a hindrance for an individual and the society. Subsequently, this paper shall emphasis on the attitudinal behavioral of Ukhrul youth toward media related to drug abuse. It will also substantiate suggestions regarding media and youth drug abuse. In the present study data required for analysis will be ascertained through primary methods of data collection from the youth of Ukhrul district, Manipur.

Key words: Media, Youth, Drug Abuse

Introduction

Drug abuse or misuse of drug is one of a social problem which is rampant in the present society. Drug abuse not only brings individual suffering but, also has far reaching consequences to the society as well. It may well be linked to other undesirable activities like unemployment, gambling, spread of HIV/AIDs, huge medical expense, accidents, low level of education, violence, school dropouts, homelessness and the like. Drug abuse continues to be one of the primary concerns for the society affecting the young and the old.

With the advent of modernization and digitization splendid changes have taken place in almost every sphere of our lives. What could only be heard was gradually seen visual, bringing a difference in the lifestyles and a change in the mindset of the people. What we hear and what we see makes a great difference. But, if these two are clubbed its makes a significant change and impact upon the individual or a group regardless of the

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outcome. Mass media in the form of television, radio, magazines and internet were and is instrumental in changing the lives and mindset of the people in the form of advertisement, news, headlines and the like. In this generation each and every household has one more of the facilities of mass media. But, the questions arise; do they use it for constructive purpose or for recreational purpose or any other purposes? Do media play a role in the promoting healthy lifestyles or living?

Similarly, social media's like facebook, WhatsApp, Wechat, Youtube, Instragramand the like, are prominent to each and every one of us in one way or the other. These social media's can reach to every part of the world in different forms. It is to be considered whether social media's are used by young people for constructive purposes and also is social media taking the initiative to drive young people a purposeful way?

Manipur is one of the 27 states of India located at the north-eastern part of the country. Imphal is the capital of Manipur. The state comprises of 16 districts and in it Ukhrul is one of the districts. Ukhrul lies 84 kilometers north east of Imphaland is the 2nd largest district of the State. According to Hill Survey 2011-2012, the total population of the district was 2, 04, 230. It is surrounded by Myanmar in the east, to the south is the Chandel district, in the west is the Imphal east and Senapati district and Nagaland state in the north. Ukhrul district has 213 villages as per 2011 census. The Tangkhuls are the major inhabitants of the district following Christianity as their religion.

This paper will examine the influence of media and its impact on youth and drug abuse in Ukhrul district, Manipur. It is based on the first hand information of the researcher.

Importance of the study

Mass media and social media have been instrumental in bringing about a change in various aspects of life. The advertisement, movies, songs and the like has brought people together in one platform as a community. What the researcher saw is that most of these are concerned for their own benefits or business purposes which is of less societal concern and that it does not necessarily takes into consideration the imperative of social problems which otherwise should be given top priority. When the country is in the state of unemployment, drug abuse, increasing rate of crimes, rape, insurgency, suicides, etc. the media rarely do not address the needs of these problems nor are the youth given the right direction leaving them in the state of confusion and frustration.

Therefore, the researcher is curious to know whether mass media and social media can be an instrument in reducing the social problems particularly on youth drug abuse and in promoting any kind of healthy activities through their agents.

Objectives

1. To study the influence of media and the attitude of Tangkhul Naga tribal youth of Ukhrul District related to drug abuse.
2. To suggest how media can play effective role in the reduction and awareness of drug abuse among youth in Ukhrul district of Manipur.

Media, Youth and drug abuse

Buckingham (2003) defined media as “a plural form of medium which includes the whole range of modern communications media: television, the cinema, video, radio, photography, advertising, newspapers and magazines, recorded music, computer games and the internet” (Buckingham, 2003, p. 1)

The National Youth Policy (2014) defines Youth as “A person in the age group of 15-29 years”.

Drug abuse can be such that when a person uses drugs for non-medical purposes and that may physically or psychologically impact an individual leaving undesirable consequences. Drug abuse is when drugs are misused or excessively used to the point that it becomes uncontrollable and becomes the central focus of an individual (Pillai, 2011)

Brown & Keller (2000) mentions that mass media were important sex educators. They also points out that only a few programs on television that contains sexual content mention possible risks and responsibilities where sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies were seldom discussed and rarely shown as a result of unprotected sex. They said that when mass media are placed at the right position and at the right time: they can play a significant role among the youth and children creating sexually healthy lives. Nevertheless, media will persist to be the forerunner of sex educators where it shall create, promote and make healthier sources of sexual evidence.

Anderson et al., (2003) reported that research on violent television and films, video games, and music reveals unequivocal evidence that media

violence increases the likelihood of aggressive and violent behavior in both immediate and long term contexts.

Kunrath et al., (2011) their studies reported that the media coverage of a serious three person accident on a railway trunk line which was significantly associated with an increase in the number of subsequent railway suicides.

Palmer (2003) pointed out that with the advent of digitization, any media subjects related to educational or entertaining, has the ability to reach the audiences worldwide. It further stressed that media technologies do not only reflect the message and images but, they in turn create, manipulate and disseminate them.

Tyner (2003) in the article beyond boxes and wires: Literacy in transition, said that “if students are to use new media to their greatest advantage, they too must learn to creatively and critically browse, research, organize, select, and produce communication forms that use the full spectrum of literacy tools available to them”.

Gruen Associates (2000) the experts closely observed children in their homes of their interaction with digital technology and found that children whose learning skills are at their peak, can easily master the new media’s learning curve, which often daunts adults.

Brown (2002) reported that mass media can affect awareness of, beliefs about, and possibly actual sexual behavior.

Clay (2003) pointed out that mass media provide information as well as entertainment playing a tremendous and increasing role in the society.

Xinhua (as cited in Wan & Gut, 2008) sated that internet was compared to drugs which was dangerous to young kids and also pointed out that there were very few Chinese TV programs for children dealing with their culture.

Wan & Gut (2008) in their article media use by Chinese and U.S. secondary school students, examines how children uses media and its influences in their lives and implications for media literacy education. It also shows how students use media at home and in schools and significance of media in their lives. They pointed out two responsibilities through their study i.e. firstly, educating young people to appropriately and ethically use media and secondly, to utilize media in creative and interesting ways. They also pointed out the need for media literacy education as an integral and integrated component in the academic curriculum.

Methodology

The present study is conducted in Ukhrul district of Manipur, India. The researcher used purposive sampling technique to collect data from 35 youth drug abusers belonging to Tangkhul Naga tribes of Ukhrul district. He has used semi-structured interview and observation as tools to collect data from the respondents. Both primary and secondary data are collected for the purpose of the present study to gain a better understanding about media and drug abuse among Ukhrul youth of Manipur.

Major observations

Causes of drug abuse and drug used

Drug use may vary from person to person depending upon his or her situation. In the present case four factors were responsible for the causes of drug abuse i.e. through friends and peer pressure, frustration, poverty and media. Majority of the respondent (71.42%) said that they started using drugs through friends and peer pressure. 8.58% responded that it was due to frustration and 5.71% were due to poverty. Whereas, 14.29% of the respondent started using drugs as a result of media influence.

This present study revealed the use of four drugs namely tobacco, alcohol, tablets and heroin (IDU). Tobacco is one of the most common types of drugs used by the entire respondent (100%). Alcohol was used by 85.71%. Tablets were used by 14.29% and heroin was used by 5.71%.

About media

Media in today's world have become a popular means of communicating ideas and knowledge. In the present study the researcher found that almost all the respondents were aware of the media like social media and mass media. 77.14% acknowledge the use of both social media and mass media and a group of respondent (22.85%) knew only mass media. During the interview 85.71% possessed mobile phones i.e. smart phones and 14.29% were without smart phones but with an ordinary phones. Majority of the respondent (71.42%) preferred using both social media and mass media whereas, 28.58% preferred using only social media like Facebook and Whatsapp.

Majority of the respondent (85.71%) used media for recreational purpose and 14.29% used it for educational purpose. It is also shocking to know that 85.71% of the respondent never came across about the ill effects of drug abuse on the social media and mass media. Whereas, 14.25 % of the

respondent were taught about the consequences on drug abuse at home, schools and churches.

In the context of the present study 28.58% of the respondents had the opinion that media was a root factor for drug abuse among youth in the present society. The cause might be through imitation from the media as a role model. It was also noticed that 14.29% of the respondent believed that media could be a helpful tool for drug use reduction among youth. The majority of the respondents (40%) were of the opinion that media could be an important tool for youth in reducing the social problems particularly on youth drug abuse and in promoting any kind of healthy activities through their agents. Only a few respondents (8.57%) responded that media depicts the ill effects of drug abuse. 8.57% of respondent said that media discussed about youth and drug abuse.

Discussions

This study reveals that although majority of the respondents are familiar of the different types of media only a few respondent revealed that media talk about the negative consequences of drug abuse. There is a need for the concerned media to look into this very situation to educate youth and inform them to utilize it for a constructive purpose.

Tobacco constitutes to be one of the most frequently used drugs by the respondents followed by alcohol, tablets and heroin. It is also interesting to know that media is a cause in the use of drugs which is to be given importance. Majority of the respondents had their own smart phones and preferred to use both mass media and social media. The study reveals that media was not a new form of concept for the respondents rather they were much acquainted with it. Much can be utilized using media as it can be seen that majority of the respondent (85.71%) possessed smart phones which indicates that necessary information and awareness can be disseminated about the ill effects of drug abuse and its consequences. It is thus necessary for media to be a forefront in educating youth and to sensitize them about the ill effects of drug abuse and to use media in a constructive way.

Suggestions

1. Since drug abuse among youth is rampant, there should be a way to figure out its solution and thus media can a play a significant role through mass media and social media.
2. This study clearly indicates that majority of the respondents use smart phones where 71.42% preferred using both social media and

mass media. In regard to this, information and awareness about drug use and its negative consequences could be easily transmitted from one person to another.

3. Newspapers can also play an active role in disseminating educating the ill effects of drug abuse among the youth.
4. Special TV channels can also be created especially for youth and drug abuse.
5. Since, majority of the respondent used media for recreational purpose it can be recommended that such media shouldn't depict the use of drugs as they could easily emulate and be trapped into drug abuse.
6. Media education in schools and home should also be initiated so as to educate them to use in a constructive way.
7. Although majority of the respondents were closely associated with the different types of media, it is seen that a good number of them also involved in the use of alcohol, tablets, heroin and tobacco. This indicates that there is a need for media to promote healthy lifestyles among the youth through the use of media.
8. Since, majority of the respondents revealed that they did not come across about the ill effects of drug abuse on social and mass media, it is imperative for the mass media and social media to seriously ponder and look into it.
9. The media can play a role in disseminating whereabouts de-addiction centers and rehabilitation centers are, so that who are affected by drug abuse can be well informed and utilize the resource available.
10. Media can also provide necessary information to NGOs about funding agencies to avail grants to run various projects related to drug abuse.
11. Media can also play a role reducing the issues and refrain people from using drugs mentioning the undesirable consequences.
12. Media can also inform about Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous to those who are affected by drugs and give valuable information about their meeting timings and the activities. It can also initiate them to form a whatsapp group where necessary information on how to come out of drugs could be promoted.

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Families of people with intellectual impairment: Siblings' Paradox as Future Care Givers

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Intellectual impairment is a complex and universal problem which stems from several causes and has wider ramifications. The problem of intellectual impairment is not merely psychological or medical, but it has its social and cultural dimensions as well. As such, intellectual impairment is recognised as a speciality with multidisciplinary approach.

Intellectual impairment is one of the most distressing of all disorders in the life of a person. Such people are characterised by slow learning and inability to understand as compared to a normal one. Mental slowness means the slow response in habit formation and the delay in the development of motor functions such as crawling, sitting, walking or talking. These are the first indications of the child's abnormality.

Several terms are used by educators to refer to the entire range of mentally subnormal children such as 'slow learning', 'intellectual impairment', 'mentally defective', 'mentally handicapped', 'low intelligence', 'general learning disabilities', 'educationally subnormal', as well as 'mentally retarded'. Hence, intellectual impairment and mental retardation are simultaneously used in this article to ease monotony to reader. Inarguably with the changing times the term 'intellectually impaired' is in vogue as it captures the aspirations of being more 'acceptable'.

Concept

Intellectual impairment is much less when compared to the other disabilities, though the prevalence rate of intellectual impairment is 3% all over the world. However 75% of them fall in the category of mild intellectual impairment, while the rest 25% having

IQ (Intelligence Quotient) of below 50 are classified as moderately, severely or profoundly impaired (World Health Organisation, 1996). Compared to the past, the problem of intellectual impairment is now revealed, discussed and deliberated upon. The public perception has been

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changing and it is being treated like any other disability. Mental retardation is not mental illness nor a disease. It is rather a state of arrested development of brain at birth or occurring in early childhood because of factors affecting the development of brain. It is a set of problematic symptoms in three areas i.e. maturation, learning and social adjustment. (Whitman and Oppen Heimen 1966;51) Hence, the three main criteria which help to recognize an intellectually impaired person are: Low Intelligence Quotient, Low standard of behaviour and Low achievement in relation to peers.

Definition

The term mental retardation is a complex phenomenon stemming from many different causes. Mental retardation is defined as ‘a condition of delayed developmental disabilities, wherein mental faculties are not developed in keeping with the age of the affected individual’ (Richards, 1970). But one key characteristic found in all cases is inadequately developed intelligence. According to Heber (1961:499) ‘Mental retardation refers to sub average general intellectual functioning which originates during the developmental period and is associated with impairment in adaptive behaviour’.

Causes

Intellectual impairment can be caused to the individuals irrespective of their race, gender and status. Researchers on mental retardation emphasise that the essence of it is gross behavioural mal- adaptation. It is likely that more the severity of the mental retardation higher the degree of risk in the form of speech and language problems. The following are the prominent causes of intellectual impairment:

- 1 Genetic Irregularities
- 2 During Prenatal stage
- 3 During natal and post natal stage
- 4 Psychotic disorders of childhood
- 5 Socio- cultural and emotional factors

Review of Literature

Parenting an intellectually impaired child is not an easy task as the parents have to mobilize their internal and external means of support to deal effectively with the special needs of their child (Peshawaria and Ganguli , 1995). Parents experience a variety of ‘psychological stress’ related to the child’s disability, more so mothers who need every support and

encouragement in order to perform their difficult task much easier (David, 1974).

Parents of such impaired children undergo more psychological stress (Kotopoulos 1980). A number of factors such as severity of impairment, parent's psychological makeup, availability and quality of professional services, marital interaction, religious beliefs, attitudes, family size and structure affect the parenting role. Further, it also depends upon the support the parents receive from friends, relatives and professionals etc (Featherstone, 1986). The stress experienced by parents is less when they receive support including spousal support which is pivotal (Hodapp & Ziggler, 1993).

The education level of parents had significant influence over psychological stress and coping: higher the educational level lesser was the psychological stress and higher coping strategies (Kotopoulos 1980). On the other, studies indicated that high level of intelligence and education does not guarantee good adjustment, but it is believed that the capacity to clearly understand what is wrong and what resources exist facilitates coping (Venkatesh Kumar, 2008).

In one study conducted by Manisha Goel et al 2011 in Anand District of Gujarat, India, it was observed that when it came to a parent caring for a mentally retarded child there is no significant association with the type of mental retardation and positive impact. The study states that a parent unequivocally demonstrates positive impact in terms of patience, tolerance, empathy, sensitivity, support and relationship regardless of the degree of disability of his/her child. Parents (54%) felt that they were giving less time to the other siblings, while some parents (41%) felt that the studies of other siblings got affected because of more attention towards the intellectually impaired child. The findings further, reveal that older female siblings had to shoulder added responsibilities to take care of their intellectually impaired sibling besides their own. This has impacted on the parent's ability to provide recreational needs to their off - springs. Siblings in this study have revealed that they were teased by the community and felt isolated because of the presence of an intellectually impaired sibling in the family.

Mohammadreza Bayat and others (2011) in their study observed that aggression, depression, obsession, anxiety, physical complaint and psychotic disorders were found more among the parents of intellectually impaired children as compared to parents of normal children. While Mita Majumdar et al (2005) found that the high level of stress experienced by parents of mentally retarded children could be related to subjective factors

such as feeling restricted, social isolation and dissatisfaction, and might have paved the way for the manifestation of anxiety symptoms.

Positive and negative impacts were found on the families with intellectually impaired persons both for the family as a system, its members separately and their interaction (Manisha Goelet al.2011). Several studies were conducted on the impact on siblings of the intellectually impaired. Siblings usually grow up together and spend good deal of their childhood socializing with one another. This genetic and physical closeness may be marked by the development of strong emotional bonds such as love or hostility. The emotional bond between siblings is often complicated and is influenced by factors such as parental treatment, birth order, personality and personal experiences outside the family.

While studies reveal that the change towards a positive disposition towards the intellectually impaired persons from a state of ignorance, prejudice and antagonism is due to the efforts of parents groups. When communities began to gradually imbibe the accepting attitudes, families are now commonly seen enjoying ordinary activities with the intellectually impaired persons in the community. Parental attitudes had a profound impact on the siblings' perceptions. It has been observed that brothers and sisters reflect when parents show more affection and care their impaired child (McHale et al 1986). On the contrary sometimes jealousy and resentment may also develop, if the handicapped child requires most of his parent's attention, leaving short tempers and impatience for the others.

Siblings of intellectually impaired persons may grapple with feelings of hurt, rejection and embarrassment. Severe intellectual impairment in a child surely has an effect on all family members. Studies of non-disabled siblings in these families have indicated both emotional risks and perceived benefits (Lukmanuel Hakeem & Subathra, 2013).

Sibling studies focusing on socio-demographic factors reveal that there is some evidence suggesting that it is easier for children if there is more than one normal sibling (Gath, 1974). However, family size alone cannot be seen as advantageous. The more dependent the child, the more adverse was the effect on his siblings. In other words, the more responsibility required by the normal siblings (particularly girls), the less likely the handicapped child would be welcomed into the family by his brothers and sisters.

The relationship between adult siblings and their brother or sister with disabilities may be conceptualized as the product of various factors that either 'push' siblings toward greater involvement or 'pull' them away. One

set of 'push' factors' arises from differences in childhood socialization experience. Another set of factors that push the sibling towards the care giving role are feelings of closeness with the family. Life course research suggests continuity in family relationships over time, and thus the quality of family-of-origin relationships forms a template for sibling relationships in adulthood (Cicirelli, 1995). In families with an adult child with disabilities, the non - disabled siblings may be more involved to support the parents, particularly when the siblings have a close relationship to the family and are concerned about the imminent toll it takes on the parents as care givers. Thus, sibling involvement may be sustained by family values that emphasize closeness across the generations and over time. However, multiple roles-marriage, parenthood, and career – are 'pull factors' that can strain sibling involvement (Lamb & Sutton Smith 1982). Horwitz and his colleagues (1982) found that siblings who have multiple role commitments are less involved with their brother or sister with intellectual impairment. Whereas the role demands associated with midlife may limit the sibling's current involvement, such roles may less likely to affect the sibling's willingness or ability to provide care in future, when the high demands of midlife, particularly child rearing, will be diminished.

Bringing up a child with an intellectual impairment can have significant impact on the parents, and can affect the siblings in the family as they have to share the grief, burden, embarrassment and stigma of having such a child in the family. Some siblings may show care, concern and positive attitude towards their siblings with intellectual impairment and may experience high levels of empathy and altruism as an outcome of their relationship with the child. However, growing up with a sibling with disability can also have negative consequences for the non-disabled sibling such as problems in school, decreased self-esteem and inadequate parental attention. Further, there is an added expectation on the non-disabled sibling to take on the role of the future care giver. Such expectation is more evident in a country like India where there is no adequate medical support, appropriate schooling for the intellectually impaired, and respite care. Therefore, siblings of the child with intellectual impairment are left with little choice but to get socialized into an anticipatory care giving role as part of future family responsibility. It is observed that a variety of factors such as gender, age and other characteristics would influence how the non-disabled sibling would be disposed towards a brother or sister who is intellectually impaired. With this backdrop, the present study is aimed at the sibling future care giving role to one of their siblings with intellectual impairment.

Objectives:

- To understand social, cultural and psychological factors contributing to individual differences in sibling relationships and outcomes
- To find out the opinions of the parents as to the mechanisms adopted to equip their off-springs' as future care givers of the intellectually impaired
- To find out the rearing practices adapted by the parents with intellectually impaired
- To find out the role of different actors such as NGOs and Government in promotion of better synergy among different stake holders of intellectually impaired
- To make suggestions for policy and practice

Methodology

The special schools which are offering services to the intellectually impaired persons were identified in the Visakhapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh. There are 12 special schools located in urban and rural areas of the district. Out of these, four special schools were identified using convenience sampling method. The names of these special schools are: Pavani Institute for Mentally Handicapped and Spastics (PIMHANS), Sun Flower Special School, Bhavitha Government School for Children with Special Needs and Asha Jyothi School for the Special Children. The first three schools are located in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation limits and the last special school is located at Tallapalem village in Narsipatnam Mandal, Visakhapatnam District. Permission was obtained from the managements of these four schools to carry out the study. In all these schools a total of 202 intellectually impaired persons with different age groups were enrolled.

Initially, the siblings of the intellectually impaired persons aged above 18 were chosen for the purpose of data collections as primary respondents. The four managements of the special schools were requested to identify such siblings for interview. It was found there were 54 such siblings in these four schools and out of these two siblings were married and settled in distant places. Another two siblings were pursuing technical education in other places. Hence, the data was collected from 50 siblings using an interview schedule.

A few research questions were prepared to find out its efficacy and relevance to the study setting. Questions such as type of impairment and its notice, time spent, reactions of parents and siblings etc. Further, questions relating to the care giving role by the siblings before and after marriage were also probed.

In order to have first-hand information about the intellectually impaired children and the role of their off-springs as future care givers, four Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with the parents of the intellectually impaired. In all these four FGDs 56 parents (17 male and 39 female) participated. An inventory of questions was prepared to have in-depth discussions in order to elicit free and frank opinions. The questions ranged from type of impairment, age at detection, reactions of parents and siblings, care giving roles performed by parents, family values and responsibilities being imbibed to their off-springs as future care givers and expectations from the government etc. Each of these FGDs lasted for one hour.

The principal respondents and the parent groups are mostly from urban areas of Visakhapatnam and as such the findings of study are confined to the present study though some findings can be generalised at large.

Findings:

The study findings and the summary of focussed group discussions with the parents of intellectually impaired are furnished in this section. The information relating to the primary respondents (siblings) are discussed here under:

I. Details of Respondents (siblings)

The details such as age, gender, education, occupation, income and marital status are presented below

A majority of the siblings were aged between 20 and 30 years. Fifty six per cent of the respondents were male and the rest were female. A majority of the siblings were either graduates or post graduates. Some were either doing or did professional education such as B.Tech, Management administration etc., Seventy two per cent of the siblings were engaged in gainful employment. They were getting more than Rs.10,000/- a month and the mean income is Rs.15,800/-. A majority of the siblings were either engaged in private or government jobs. A few of them were doing business. Nearly half of them were unmarried and the rest were married.

II. Details of Sibling's Parents

This part deals with the details such as age, education, occupation and income of parents of the siblings

Table No. 1 :Age of parents

Age	Percentage (n=50)
Father (Mean 57.4)	
<50	24
50-60	40
>60	36
Mother (Mean 46.7)	
<45	32
45-50	44
>55	24

The mean age of the father came to 57.4 and the mother 46.7. It's found that a few of the parents were senior citizens.

Table No. 2 : Education of parents

Education	Percentage (n=50)
Father	
Illiterate	20
Secondary	24
Graduation	40
Post-Graduation	12
Professional	04
Mother	
Illiterate	44
<Secondary	28
Graduation	24
Post-Graduation	04

As regards the education background of parents, more than half of the fathers were either graduates or post graduates. Whereas a sizeable number of mothers were found to be illiterate (44%) and some others had less than secondary education. A few were graduates, however.

Table No. 3 : Occupation and Income of parents

Variables	Percentage (n=50)
Father's Occupation	
Government job	16
Agriculture	14
Daily wage labour	20
Retiree	18
Mother's Occupation	
Home maker	70
Government job	08
Daily wage labour	22
Father's income (in Rs.)	
<10,000	32
10,000 – 20,000	32
>20,000	36
Mother's Income (in Rs.)	
No income	70
<6000	22
>6000	08

As it can be observed from the above table, the fathers were engaged in daily wage labour, government job, and agriculture in that order. Some of the fathers were retired from service. On the other, the details of the mothers' occupation reveal that a majority of them were home makers. Some women were engaged in daily wage labour and a few were government job holders. The income details of father reveal that a majority of them were getting more than Rs.10,000/- a month. Whereas a majority of the mothers income is found to be less than Rs.6000/-

III. Serial number of the Birth order

Serial number of the birth order of the respondents and intellectually impaired siblings are shown in diagram.

The serial number of the birth order of the respondents reveals that more than half were second born and the rest were either first or third born. In the case of intellectually impaired persons, most of them were first born and some were second in the serial order.

IV. Age and Level of intellectual impairment

Table No. 4 : Age & Level of Intellectual Impairment

Variable	Percentage (n=50)
Age of intellectually impaired sibling (mean 23.7)	
<20	16
20-25	44
>25	40
Level of impairment	
Severe	04
Moderate	28
Mild	68

The mean age of a majority of the intellectually impaired siblings came to be 23.7. A majority of them were aged above 20 years. As regards the level of intellectual impairment, most of them were mildly impaired, some were moderately impaired and a few were severely impaired.

V. Opinions of the Siblings

The opinions of the siblings on various aspects related to the intellectually impaired siblings are indicated below:

Table No. 5 : Opinions of the siblings

Feelings about intellectually impaired sibling	Percentage (n=50)
Unhappy	20
Fate	12
Burdensome	12
Can manage	58
Reactions of relatives	
Extended support to the family	68
Worried about the stigma	08
Kept themselves aloof	20
Other	04
Reactions of peers	
Ridicule	12
Kept themselves aloof	20
Empathize	68

Many of the siblings expressed that they were able to manage their intellectually impaired sibling. Some stated that they were unhappy about the state. A few consider that it was fate and burdensome to the family. The data also indicate that their parents were able to manage by spending more time on the intellectually impaired sibling. A majority of the siblings stated that they do not have any feeling about the neglect of the other siblings by their parents. To a question posed about the reaction of the relatives about having intellectually impaired to the family, a majority of the siblings stated that their relatives extended support to their family. However, a few of their relatives kept themselves aloof and worried about the stigma. The reactions of peers during their education indicate that they were more empathetic towards them and to their impaired child. However, some of the friends kept themselves aloof and a few ridiculed for the state of affairs.

VI. Sharing responsibilities of the intellectually impaired among unmarried siblings

The details of the shared responsibilities by the unmarried siblings are given below:

Table No 5 : Percentage distribution of shared responsibilities of the intellectually impaired among the siblings

Responsibilities	Self *	Brother*	Sister*
Provide love and care	40	-	08
Provide Protection	36	12	04
Assist parents in rearing	24	04	20
Provide financial support	20	08	
Baby setting	04	-	36
Drop and pick up from school	06	02	-
Assisting in special school assignments	24	02	08
Assisting in self-help skills	12	08	20

(n=50)

*multiple responses

Interestingly, the respondents were found to shoulder much responsibility as compared to other siblings. It was mostly sisters who were doing baby sitting at home and assisting parents in rearing and imparting special skills to one of their impaired siblings.

VII. Role of siblings as future care givers

It may be noted that all the parents of the siblings under study are alive. Two divergent opinions emerged from the unmarried siblings. The data revealed that the unmarried siblings expressed their willingness to take care one of their impaired siblings in the event of death of parents. On the other, a majority of the married siblings stated that though they were willing to look after one of their intellectually impaired siblings, due to some reasons they might be constrained. The following reasons were given by the married siblings.

Table No. : Reasons for not able to provide the role of future caregiver
(Weighted average mean)

Reasons	Rank
Spouse not willing	I
Space constraint	II
Cannot afford financially	III
Does not want to take extra burden	IV
Children do not like	V
In - Laws do not accept	VI
Place of stay (Metro etc)	VII

As regards the opinions of the married siblings about the future care giving role, almost all had some reason or the other to take care of their impaired sibling. The weighted average mean shows that their spouse was not willing to keep the impaired sibling in their house. The second reason being constraint of space as they need to keep the impaired sibling in separate room. A few stated that their financial condition does not permit to hold the responsibility. The other reasons were unwilling to take extra burden and in some cases their in-laws did not accept the proposal.

Summary of the Focussed Group Discussions (FGDs)

The discussions with the parents of intellectually impaired children revealed that a majority of the intellectually impaired was first born (64%) and the rest were second born. Further, a majority of the parents stated that they have noticed the intellectual impairment of their children during third year after their birth. In a few cases children were diagnosed after five or six years. It may be noted that there is a relationship between the type of intellectual impairment and the age of detection. It has been observed that

milder the impairment longer the detection. A majority of the parents noticed such impairment either when their children had delayed milestones or unable to cope with self-help skills or poor academic performance in formal school. As regards the care giving role at home, it was largely the mothers who had spent time discharging responsibilities. The fathers were found to supplement their role during holidays and leisure hours. However the fathers took complete responsibility when their impaired child had to be taken out during visits to the hospital or recreation or certain occasions.

It was interesting to find that the other abled off-springs irrespective of gender had cooperated while their parents spent their time with the differently abled off-spring. These siblings have shown empathy, care, concern and positive attitude towards their differently abled siblings. The parents spent most of their time with the differently abled children on training in self-help skills such as dressing, bathing, eating, toileting, combing etc. The parents opined that they can attend to other parental roles if their differently abled off - springs can attend to his/her self-help skills.

Burden, embarrassment and stigma did not come in the way when the parents took all the children including the intellectually impaired to family and relatives functions. The parents stated that it was a great respite and gratifying to see their differently abled off-spring playing and mingling with others. According to them such exposures provide avenues for emotional bonding with siblings and others. Contrary to it some parents also expressed that they would like to keep their intellectually impaired child in a respite home for a short period run either by NGO or government. This is more so when their off-springs have severe intellectual impairment and unmanageable.

The enrolment of the intellectually impaired in the special schools has yielded positive results. Many parents stated that the child was morose and confined to solitary life prior to the admission into the special school. After getting admitted into the special schools the parents could observe a positive change in the areas of mobility, speech, social interactions with peers and siblings as well as responding to the instructions of parents and siblings.

Parents expressed that they have made conscious efforts to nurture feelings of empathy, care and protection among their off-springs. They stated that their normal siblings have been made aware of the added responsibility of taking care of their intellectually impaired sibling in the future in the event of their demise. As parents strongly recognize that such a huge responsibility cannot be entrusted to individuals outside the family.

All the parents were apprehensive about the future of their intellectually impaired child. The future seems to be bleak as the parents are sceptical about the anticipated care giving role by their siblings after their demise. Though the siblings were currently cooperative and empathetic towards their differently abled siblings most of the parents unequivocally stated that their abled off-springs would not provide care giving role after their marriage, attaining parenthood besides several other factors such as constraint of space, challenges in career and their spousal attitude.

All the parents expressed the hope that the government should come forward in establishing respite centres for such persons when there are nobody to look after, more so after the demise of parents. Some parents wished that the government should periodically review the details of families who have persons with intellectual impairment. The decadal census carried out in India provides a separate column for the enumeration of the challenged persons.

Discussion

Estranged feelings, uncertainty of situations and a state of unpredictability about the predicament has mixed reactions which are divergent and sometimes paradoxical. The fact that intellectual impairment can occur irrespective of gender, caste, religion, class and status, many a families were found juxtaposing for the state of affairs being the presence of intellectual impaired person in their families. The social, economic and demographic characteristics might vary between rural and urban families as the present study is carried out mostly in the urban areas.

The very selection of primary respondents who were aged 18 and above had several implications for the study. As such most of the intellectually impaired were in the age group between 14 and 30 years, indicating the fact that their parents had undergone childhood rearing practices and were more concerned about management of the adult impaired off-spring. The positive factors such as parents care and concern has unchanged irrespective of the type of impairment, though they were spending longer hours which deprived their presence to the other normal off-springs. As a sine-qua-non the normal off-springs had to fall in prey to the circumstances. Gearing up with challenges and coping mechanisms the parents as well as their normal off-springs were rather construed to find alternatives in terms of time, space, rearing and roles to be shared either by the parents or siblings. Relatives of these families have extended emotional support besides

showing empathy. The parents under the study tried their best to socialize by taking the impaired child while attending social events and ceremonies within the house and outside. Further, these persons were enrolled in the special schools to make them socialized with the environs and received training in self-help skills under the able instructors.

The dichotomy in the opinions expressed by the unmarried siblings and married siblings about the future care giving role has lasting resultant consequences. Though the unmarried siblings had shared some responsibilities along with the parents and expressed their willingness to provide future care giving role even after their marriage. On the other, the opinions of the married siblings revealed that they had some problems in providing future care giving role in the event of the demise of their parents. The reasons may be genuine or practical but the outcome was denial of providing future care giving role. All the parents were boggling as to the fate of their impaired child after their demise. All parents expressed the view that their normal siblings would not provide future care giving role for various reasons even if parents would give a substantial amount in lieu of taking care of their impaired child.

Three important suggestions emanated from the group discussions with the parents. Formation of skills to their impaired person to enable him/her to sustain in future under somebody's supervision. The fact that they cannot function independently the parents were of the view that it can relieve some burden on the care givers. The second was formation of support groups among parents and siblings separately. These groups can either exist as an association or a civil society with some objectives for the welfare of the intellectually impaired persons. Sharing the experiences and giving testimonies can clarify myths and fears about the intellectual impairment besides serving as a means of emotional catharsis. These associations could also help and guide the young parents in rearing and managing their intellectually impaired children. The parent support groups can act as a liaison between such families and government. It can also act as a resource centre in networking and providing welfare services to these families.

Formation of sibling support groups can go a long way in providing foster care besides protection. In the midst of 'pull' and 'push' factors of providing future care giving role by the siblings, the support groups among siblings would enhance their knowledge level in addition to sharing views with their counterparts of other families. These support groups can act as agents of synergy which would strengthen the family ties and provide a positive environment. The third suggestion that emerged from the group

discussion was that the government should come forward in providing institutional care for the intellectually impaired persons in the event of death of parents and unwillingness of the siblings to provide future care. Further they suggested that there should be a separate column indicating the type of disability in the decadal census survey. Though there is a such a column it was not indicated and it should be made mandatory so that the enumerators can specify the type of disability. Further, such data should be forwarded to the local self-government for follow up and action.

The siblings' paradox as future care givers stems out of the willingness to take such a role and perform the associated duties however feel constrained due to some factors: be it spouse, space, career or finance. Their opinion can change provided the government ensures to provide thrust to the welfare programmes for the intellectually impaired so that the normal siblings can shoulder relatively lesser role.

The National Trust Act (1999) was promulgated with a definite aim to provide welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. But it did not see the light in its true spirit. Though the provisions of the Act are being used by some NGOs located mostly in urban areas the benefits are yet to percolate to a pan-India level. Further most of the envisaged programmes are not being taken up as a result of lack of information or knowledge and partly due to the apathy of local district level administration.

Recommendations

- Formation of parent support groups is a high priority for synergizing and strengthening programmes related to intellectually impaired persons. This can be done both by strengthening the parent groups/associations and identifying credible NGOs which work for the welfare of the intellectually impaired. Empowering the parents can help to deal with the matters pertaining to child's health, skills and abilities. These associations can partake in the decision making process for a better service delivery of the impaired persons. The government programmes should be accessible to these groups either in provision of know-how or financial assistance. Most of the families which are under- privileged and marginalized find it difficult to manage their families and having an intellectually impaired person in the family is an added handicap. The state shall provide necessary assistance to such families keeping aside bureaucratic delays.

- Formation of sibling groups can foster and protect the inherited bondage and evoke the anticipated role as future care givers. The positive and negative impacts can be debated in the support groups which helps them to horizon and have a holistic perspective about their responsibilities as a sibling. This helps in strengthening one another and relieving the pain through conversation and sharing. Such exercise would help the siblings to shoulder responsibilities. The government should also recognise and encourage such support groups in formulating inclusive policies such as financial assistance, counselling and guidance by the appropriate agencies which should be specially designed for this purpose.
- Many special schools are offering services for the intellectually impaired. It would be advisable to form a special school management committees comprising of teachers, counsellors, parents and siblings. Periodical meetings and counselling can take place in these special schools. The government gives grant to run these special schools and no separate grant is given for counselling and guidance to the parents and siblings. Hence it is advisable to ear mark some grant separately for this purpose and appointment of social workers should be made compulsory. The existing vocational component should be strengthened based on local needs.
- Various provisions under National Trust Act (1999) are not being utilized in many places nor were the parents or NGOs aware of such provisions. The schemes such as '*Niramaya*' a health insurance scheme or '*GyanPrabha*' a post matric scholarship which are for the welfare of the intellectually are not receiving the attention they deserve. Unlike other developmental schemes which shortfall its targets the schemes under this Act should realize its targets and goals. Timely release of grant by the government through state owned relevant bodies can help to provide assistance under various schemes. District level administration should be geared up to foresee a program of action for the target population. The present pension scheme provided to the target population by most state governments has to be enhanced and payment should be made on a regular basis.
- The people should be made aware with the help of mass, print and electronic media to sensitize about the problem besides prevention like consanguineous and child marriages, nutritional support for pregnant and lactating mothers and do's and don'ts in the pre natal phase. The

gynaecologists should be given special training in handling such critical cases more so when they use forceps at the time of deliveries.

- Many parents expressed that their highly apprehensive about the future care giving role by their normal off-springs. They suggested that there should be a separate column in the decadal census survey which would help to identify such families who are in need of assistance. In case none of the off-springs come forward to look after the impaired person the government should make a provision for institutional care where such orphaned impaired persons can take respite.

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The Becoming of a ‘Bride’: Compelling Circumstances and Complexities

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Abstract

Child marriage is a practice that oppresses and marginalises young women. In many obscure communities in India spread across different geographies, young women still do not have the language or space to address the violations inflicted on their bodies and minds simply because they are too young to even comprehend what child marriage does to them. What is worse is that the circumstances that push these women to such marriages and their plight are rarely discussed. The fact that child marriage exists in our society till today exposes how women are marginalized right from their childhood. The marginalities that child brides experience cannot be all generalised and looked at from a single lens as they deal with multiple layers of oppression simultaneously. In a lot of instances of child marriage, girls silently give in to their parents and male elders specifically, believing it to be their duty towards their parents and community. These young girls are bereft of any agency to express their wants and desires. This paper therefore tries to unpack the social realities that encumber upon a young girl thus forcing her to enter into matrimony much before she can comprehend the whole meaning of the word “marriage”. It also deals with the complexities of being a child bride.

Keywords: Child Marriage, Child Brides, Compelling Circumstances, Complexities

Introduction

Marriage is a milestone in human life which is celebrated across varied cultures and societies. It is an event which marks the union of not just two individuals but their families as well. However, when one is forced into this union, that too at an age when one is unable to decipher the complexities of marriage and the responsibilities that they entail, it may not remain such a joyous event. Within the institution of marriage, the roles allocated to the man and the woman differ from each other. The disparity between the roles assigned to men and women within a marital relationship are deeply rooted in patriarchy where the man performs his societal duties in the public sphere where on the other hand, the woman is performing her duties within

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the domestic space of the household, very often referred to as the private sphere. The concept of marriage that has been passed down through generations stresses on the idea of a woman's submission, acceptance and sacrifice. It is only when she subscribes to these norms that she is deemed womanly enough.

The interests of girl children and their perceptions are often overshadowed by quantitative impact of the phenomenon of child marriage. The child brides are never heard from first hand since the influence of the phenomenon are never looked at from their perspective. The patriarchal structures surround and trap women in specific domestic roles and therefore it becomes extremely difficult for them to escape the various complications they are exposed to on a regular basis. In such an extraordinarily complex web of poverty, patriarchal mindsets and control over sexuality, young girls are robbed of their childhood and most of the times; they do not even understand the implications that the practice has on their internal and external selves.

It thus becomes important to study and understand the compelling circumstances and complexities of the child brides since their lives are affected in multiple ways. Their movement towards adulthood is not just abrupt but also very dangerous both for their physical and emotional needs. The destruction of a childhood that results in a thrusting of forced adulthood needs to be looked at deeply for a better understanding of the lives of the child brides. Impact of these marriages on the lives of children and adolescents needs to be understood so that suitable interventions from the perspective of children are designed. More so, this needs to be done so from a feminist perspective as the need of the hour is gender equity and not just gender equality. According to the United Nations Gender equity talks about being fair to both men and women and equity leads to equality. Gender equality requires equal enjoyment by women and men of socially-valued goods, opportunities, resources and rewards.

Compelling Circumstances of Becoming a Child Bride

The problem of child marriage needs to be understood in terms of entrenched poverty and ignorance that sees the girl child as a burden, ingrained patriarchal mindsets, and the need to control their sexuality. Such marriages are often forced on young children due to poor understanding of the ills that accompany such a practice and a basic gender biased attitude of the parents as well as society. Few of the underlying circumstances that propel and compel them to be pushed into this evil are discussed below.

Poverty and Economic Instability

Poverty erodes the capacity of families to cope with the stress of sheltering growing girls especially if the girl is not studying or contributing to the family income. Girls are then seen as burdensome and illiteracy and large family size often compounds the problem of economic instability (Otoo, Naana&Pobi, 2003). Poverty and child marriage are intricately linked and where the parents consider marrying the young girl as a better choice that will ensure her protection. Presence of several girl children in the family and the fear of being able to find suitable matches for daughters continue to push such ignorant people into child marriage (Kaur, 2004). Extreme poverty often leads mothers to marry off daughters as children even when they themselves may have faced child marriage. This is emphasized to highlight how poor women despite knowing the traumas of having been a child bride push their girl children into this terrible grip of child marriage as circumstances are never favourable to take an alternative decision.

Due to the stigma attached to single women and the burden of dowry on poor families, parents find it right to marry their daughters as children as early as possible. Dowry is governed by strong patriarchal structures and norms. The dowry demands are higher for older girls so parent engages in child marriage to avoid the stress of paying high dowry. The demand for dowry in fact creates a burden on the family of the girls who are therefore inclined to marry the daughters during their childhood to reduce the dowry burden. Girl children are discriminated against due to negative feelings attached to dowry (Bose, 2012).

Lack of Education

Educational attainment remains a pipe dream for these young girls as with the onset of puberty, the first discussions in their families is about their marriage. Irrespective of whether they show interest in studies or not, protecting the family 'name' by not letting girls to be 'free' and 'uncontrolled' for a long time after menarche is a topmost priority in the families with adolescent girls. Besides this, knowing that the girls will leave them soon after marriage also invokes no interest in the parents to educate them as it is believed that their primary responsibilities are to look after the household (Chakarbarti, 1998; Gorney, 2011). In such a scenario, there are no possibilities of the girl having a scope of earning a livelihood. She will continue to be subsumed by the demands of domestic work and the demands of her husband, which eventually becomes a way of life for her.

Male Authority

Within the patriarchal context, marriage is considered to be compulsory since girls are considered burdensome and career choices and investment in girls' education are not priorities in their families. Women and girls are expected to be submissive and their roles within as well as outside the family are regulated by elders and traditional patriarchal norms which can only be ensured by marrying girls very young. It is believed that as they grow older they will tend to assert their freedom of choice which only the husband can and must control well in time. Decision making power is in the hands of the elder males who continue to further child marriages so as to control young women through obedience to patriarchal regulations. The mothers silently follow the patriarchal doctrines of getting the young girls married in their childhood thus playing their own submissive roles in furthering the patriarchal organization of the society (Santhya and Jeebhoy, 2007; Kalpagam, 2008).

Due to rigid patriarchal structures, these young married women are subjugated by the male stratum of the family where they are particularly vulnerable and unable to exercise any choice in their marital homes (Kalpagam, 2008). These married adolescents hardly have any say even in decisions related directly to their lives, or on their mobility and interaction with outsiders. Moreover, their behaviour is closely supervised by the elders of the family who are always ready to question their chastity. The existing societal patriarchal norms thus affect the lives of women through lack of agency and negotiating power because of the notion that it is mandatory for women to submit themselves to their husbands (Santhya and Jeebhoy, 2007).

Child Marriage, Bodies and the Idea of Sexuality

The young child brides have to traverse through very rough terrain in a world centred on patriarchy in the process of becoming a 'woman'. It begins with adolescence, which is a stage in life when individuals are developing a sense of self. This is the period when people understand their bodies and sexuality. In conservative communities where the idea of sexuality and love is not even remotely mentioned, it becomes all the more difficult for young women to comprehend the changes in their own bodies. Most of these marriages are not marriages of choice. In fact, the idea behind child marriage is to control a girl's sexuality before she becomes aware and begins to assert her agency over it (Mohlakoana, 2008). During this period of adolescence when they are forced into an institution that expects them to reproduce and treat their bodies and wombs just as a mechanical tool, there is nothing left to look forward to. They understand

the act of sex through unfounded experience because prior to that very experience of a sexual encounter with a man, nobody around her even mentions what the act entails. Thus there is a deep sense of fear attached to the idea of sexual intercourse because of unawareness. Their bodies become the site of both mental and physical violence, but that is the bargain they make to remain a 'good wife'.

Sexuality thus appears to be the contested ground on which child marriage is pivoted. Child brides do not raise a voice even if they are forced upon by their husbands, and if they raise their voice, they will have to bear the wrath of the entire community for even talking about their body. In fact, the idea of consent does not exist for them. When girls are pushed into child marriages, where they often experience forced and non-consensual physical and sexual encounters, it causes an irreparable damage to their sense of self.

Thus the above in short are a few of the imposing factors that continue to make child marriage a practice in our society. Patriarchy remains the unseen driving force behind this practice, fuelled by a society that has been strongly indoctrinated into these beliefs, norms and practices that always favour the male world. It can be observed that these factors continue to play upon each other. Poverty and ignorance, lack of education, male dominance and distorted ideas of sexuality continue to hound a young girl's life.

Complexities of the Problem of Child Marriage

Child marriage or forced marriage at a very tender age makes the young girls prone to various obstacles hampering their overall development. Young girls married as children are not matured enough to choose their life partners and understand what marriage is all about. Therefore, parents along with the other male members of the family look for prospective grooms on behalf of their daughters thereby affecting their future making them physically and mentally vulnerable to face the consequences of child marriage. Complexities in the form of losing their childhood, son preference and prioritizing marriage over education are discussed below.

Robbing their Childhood

By denying young girls their basic rights to the carefree life of a child and forcing them into marriage at a very early age, they are robbed of their childhood. Women's lives are always caught between the deeply entrenched web of patriarchal values, societal norms, culture, caste, class

and gender hierarchies that pervade in our society. A girl child's life is no different. Their childhoods are lost and aspirations crushed, encouraging the establishment of a society that views children as beings without an agency and basic human rights. Children are pushed to become brides which not just enhances their vulnerabilities, but also threatens the lives of the generations born out of those early marriages (Kundu et al., 2007). Yet, while getting married in childhood negatively impact girls and boys, it is girls who suffer the consequences way more than the boys.

Society provides the idea to these young women that her marital home is the only place where all their wishes and aspirations will come true. They are often told that all their aspirations of becoming a woman in the true sense of the word are going to be fulfilled by their husbands. Their mobility as young girls are restricted in their natal houses too with the assurance that the husband will do everything that they have dreamt of. Thus young girls are deprived of the gay abandon of childhood as their mobility and freedom is curtailed at every step lest society cast aspersions on their integrity and chastity. The same control continues to be exerted as she moves into her marital family, where the husband and in-laws then take over the reins of control.

Motherhood and Son-Preference

Becoming a mother for these young women also comes with a lot of anxieties and pressures. Motherhood for these child brides is immensely burdensome as they are forced to give the family a male child. It is the woman's responsibility to give the family an heir. Son preference in communities has been a pervasive practice for generations because the lineage is defined by men and not women. Property and land are only passed to men and thus there is pressure on women to produce sons instead of daughters (Kaur, 2008). The patriarchal control over property also gives them the power to economically dominate and control women's lives. They become decision makers in the private space because they are the bread winners. Thus, it is not surprising to see why women would be pressurised to produce a male child, even when reproduction is not in their control. When these young women step into their marital homes, they are told to give birth to a male child. Unfortunately for her, if she is unable to do so, she is cornered in many ways by people around her, sometimes even by telling her that she is not fortunate to become the mother of a male child. Parvathy (1999) is of the view that the moment a daughter is born, another kind of pressure begins to emerge upon her. The birth of a girl child makes her vulnerable to repeated pregnancies in the hope of a male child.

Thus, denying young girls their basic rights and forcing them into child marriage make them trapped in the deeply entrenched web of patriarchal values and societal norms that pervade in the Indian society. The innocence of childhood is lost in household responsibilities that follow child marriage without understanding the true meaning neither of marriage nor of family life and worse still impending motherhood at such a tender age.

Choice of Marriage over Education

There is pressure on young brides to conceive as soon as they are married. Forced out of education, young girls remain disempowered and dependent on the families of their in-laws. Most of these girls are overwhelmed with household work and do not get an opportunity to pursue education after marriage. They remain unskilled and economically and psychologically dependent on their husband and his family. The most important setback to girls because of child marriage is therefore their personal growth and education. Poor households prefer sending boys to school and keeping the girls home to assist parents in farms (Mathur et al., 2003). Marriage has been found to be a barrier to continuing education because of the expectation that girls should devote themselves to childbearing and household chores. Receiving formal education beyond higher secondary levels of education is found to delay the age at marriage. In households that are poor, girls are withdrawn from school to help with household work. Fear and concern regarding safety of girls while travelling to far away villages for school also prompts parents to withdraw them from school. The increase in responsibilities towards family after marriage greatly reduces the options of education for the young women.

According to the India Census (2011) around 84 million girl children covered under the Right to education Act dropped out of school. Thus girls' education is not valued; rather they are encouraged to groom themselves in traditional notions of femininity in household chores. Child brides are particularly vulnerable due to lower educational attainment resulting in lack of choice in choosing partners or husbands, greater restriction and lower autonomy in decision making.

Conclusion

The impact of child marriage is manifold. We have seen from the above discussions that poverty, lack of education and a patriarchal society continue to reinforce this dogmatic practice wherein these same set of factors emerge also as the consequences. Thus existing societal norms continue to tilt the scales in favour of men where women continue to face

the brunt in many forms. Illiteracy, forceful sex, economic dependencies are some of its consequences on the women.

It is thus girls who suffer the consequences with more intensity as their vulnerabilities in the marital homes are many. There are high levels of restrictions on them in their marital homes. The child brides are blamed for not producing male children or for repeated birth of female children or for not producing a baby in the first year of marriage. Such assertions no doubt affect the health of both mother and child, primarily owing to the poor physiological readiness of the young bride.

What is disturbing is that child marriage is also seen as a strategy to cope with high dowries and economic instability. Girls are perceived as burdens and little investment in their education and career is made. Families quickly opt for marriages especially when girls drop out of schools and marriage comes to be seen as a settlement. It is yet to be understood that the traditional beliefs of full womanhood are based on a false sense of security that marriage can provide to women. Even when there is awareness regarding the issue of child marriage within communities, there is a lack of sensitivity with respect to the implications the practice has on young people. These marriages are not marriages of choice. In fact, the idea behind child marriages is to control a girl's sexuality before she becomes aware and begin to assert her agency over it.

In conclusion, we can say that we need to develop a universal sensitive approach to the deep rooted problem of child marriages that has its roots not only in tradition and poverty but in continuing gender inequalities in the Indian society. It is also necessary to understand our responsibility of ensuring the rights of these young children and adolescents who are our future. The insecurities and fears should not prolong harmful traditions that deny children their human rights and crush their aspirations.

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Mainstreaming At Risk Youth by Engaging in Civic Activities through Social Workers

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Abstract

The paper made an attempt to explore the factors responsible for making youth at risk; understand the importance of civic engagements as an approach of risk reduction and the role of social work in promoting civic activities for at risk youth development. To get an insight on these aspects, data was gathered through reports, guidelines, journals, articles; news papers etc. The consulted literature helped to understand at risk youth as those who fail to transit successfully from childhood to adulthood due to various causes. Inter-parental conflict, dysfunctional families, broken families, single parents, individual learning difficulties, unfriendly school environment, lack of job are found to be some of the casual factors affecting successful transition to youth which further led to substance abuse, intake of alcohol, sexual engagements, truancy etc. leads to deviation from the accepted norms. Thus the situation demanded for an environment and an approach which makes provision for inculcating and internalising the ideas, values and responsibilities among at risk youth for their own and society's healthy growth and development. Literature has highlighted that civic engagement and facilitating participation in it has been found to be one of the effective approaches (NYP 2014) to make at risk youth civilised. Civic engagement is the backbone of social work and youth development is one of the focused areas of social work. Therefore promoting social activities for generating civic awareness among at risk youth found to be helpful in building confidence, developing leadership skill, strengthening relationships, and make a strong civic identity.

Keywords: At Risk Youth, Civic Engagements, Civic Activities, Social Worker.

Introduction

At-risk is a situation where there is risk or hazard that may put a youth in danger and cause harm. It is a concept that reflects a chance or probability instead of certainty. National Youth Policy defined youth aged 15-29 years which is probing to be the most stressful period in the life of most people and committing suicide as one of the risk behaviour is found more in this age group. Psychologists are of the opinion that children of 15-18 years mostly get depressed because of the tension associated to good marks and good college and relationship issues. It is in this age the teens experience their first love affair and probably the first break up affecting academic performance, interaction pattern with parents etc. and starts taking alcohol, drugs as an

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antidepressant. Thereafter, job and marriage related issues making youth of 22-25 years at risk of suicide. Risk behaviours developed at the age of 15-18 are seen to be prominent at the later age causing detrimental effect on youth overall development (Samir Parikh 2014). Youth irrespective of their ethnicity, religion, gender or family background are falling prey to such risk behaviours. Under that circumstance engaging at risk youth in civic life could be an approach to make a difference in the life of at risk youth. Even on priority basis, civic engagements and facilitating participation became one of the aims of National Youth Policy 2014 underlying the need and importance of promotion of civic activities among youth. Maximum engagement will help at risk youth to understand social values, norms, roles, responsibilities that to be followed and performed by them for their own individual and for societal development. Social Workers by virtue of their profession are focused on the wellbeing of individual. They have been practicing social work knowledge at micro, mezzo and macro level with the six intervention methods, principles and techniques addressing children, women youth, and elderly related issues. Active involvement of social workers in at risk youth issues will be helpful for mainstreaming them in real sense. Hence, exploring the factors influencing at risk youth; understand the importance of civic engagements as an approach of risk reduction and the role of social work in promoting civic activities for at risk youth development are the objective of the study and for making a discussion on these reports, guidelines, journals, articles and news papers were consulted.

At risk youth

At risk individuals are often viewed through narrow lenses without looking at the broader context that contribute and preserve the at-risk behaviours. Husby, 1998 claimed that individuals are not born at-risk rather they are made at risk by the society. According to him at risk is a process and youth at risk is the product of society. At risk population includes elementary and secondary schools students who, in one way, run the risk of not acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to become successful adults and, on the way, behave in a way that put them at-risk for not graduating from high school” (Herr, 1989). At risk youth is a child who is less likely to transit successfully into adulthood and hence find them in physically, mentally, spiritually in crisis. Behaviour and attitude are associated with risk that describes the deviation of oneself from the accepted norms (Hidalgo, 2009). Students who are at-risk are those who, on the basis of several risk factors, are unlikely to graduate from high school, Morris (2000). They cannot rely upon their own abilities. Hence they are encompassed with wide range of characterised like low self esteem,

lack of skills, and fear of failure (Lehr and Harris, 1988). There are a number of factors that put children at-risk for not succeeding educationally or in life. Most have been touched by adverse circumstances, such as poverty, teen parenthood, homelessness, drug or alcohol abuse, poor health or nutrition, inadequate opportunities for success in school, loss of hope for the future, and the lack of life goals (Morris 2000). National Centre for School Engagement viewed that at risk youth are found to be homeless or transient, Involved in drugs or alcohol, Abused sexually, physically or emotionally, Mentally ill, Neglected at home or live in stressful family environments, Lacking social or emotional supports, Involved with delinquent peers. Paying importance to factors responsible for developing risky behaviour, many theorists recently have begun to view youth as the asset of the society and focusing youth engagement in civic activities as an approach of mainstreaming at risk youth.

Civic Engagement of at risk youth

Engagement of at risk youth in civic activities means a meaningful participation and sustained involvement of a young person in an activity for community development and it has shown to benefit at risk youth for their development greatly, Crooks (2010). Involvement leads to skill development needed to become an effective leader and when youth realises they have power to influence decision at community level they make a prominent place among peers and begin to show signs of leadership. Civic engagements can make a difference in the civic life of at risk youth by developing the competencies consists of knowledge, skills, capacity in them to become self reliant and encourage them to contribute for the cause of development in broader perspective. Civic action, civic commitment, civic skills, civic cohesion constructs the concept of civic engagement can be performed voluntarily. There has always been a wide connection between youth and volunteerism. Youth are seen participating in community service programme, grassroots youth community organisation, civic development, civic education making a provision for own self learning and the gained knowledge can be applied as a problem solving approach in real life situation. At risk youth are generally found not to be acquainted with the risky behaviours because of the teen brain which is not yet fully developed to understand the consequences of such behaviours. In that context the risky behaviours and civic engagement could be a complementary constructivist approach to develop their own understanding and knowledge of a topic based on experience and reflection. Larson reports that organized voluntary youth activities provide a more fertile context for the development of initiative when compared to school

experience and social experience with friends Larson (2000). Promotion of youth involvement at community level can better be done by the social workers who are actively associated with grassroots level development issues. Social workers are best known for their civic activities so civic engagement is considered as the backbone of social work profession (Amanda Moore & McBride 2013).

Social Work and Civic Engagement of At Risk Youth

Social work as a profession is concerned with individuals, families, groups and communities in an effort to enhance their social functioning and overall well-being and help to meet the basic human needs of all people with special focus on the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty (Brill, 2001). Working with Youth for youth development is one of the core functional areas of social work. Social service and social work have important role in helping the youth to improve their quality of life by linking them with needed resources. Social workers can serve as a mediator between youth and civic opportunities due to their field level experience and awareness about the community resources. Social worker emphasise to bring change with the vulnerable not in behalf. In context to at risk youth, keeping the factors at the focal point, the social workers can work for strengthening the relationships among the family members, can help the youth develop interpersonal relationships that benefit the youth and the person connected to them for greater benefit. Moreover, social worker can build the capacity of at risk youth so that they can participate in decision making for all people. It is the fact that at risk youth are less likely to be civically engaged and making them engaged civically is the ethical obligation of social workers. That does not mean all youth will be interested to take part in civic activities. Therefore, social workers prime responsibility will be to find the ways to empower willing and interested individuals and strengthen access civic engagement opportunities (McBride, 2008). This is how the capacity of the youth will be built and will be able to take part in the decisions and the policies affecting them. That will enable at risk youth to develop and utilise tools for their own development in the areas like confidence building, sense of control in risk behaviour and self esteem followed by strengthening their own wellbeing. Further social workers can equip them with the knowledge and skills to improve their communications and to help bring about social justice at micro, mezzo and macro level.

Discussion

Youth are the very valued population of any country. Their energy, efforts, knowledge, skills matters a lot for a country's holistic development. The total youth population of India increased from 168 million in 1971 to 423 million in 2011. It is expected that India will have 34.33% share of youth in total population by 2020. But issue like education, employment, migration civic engagement, are concerning today's youth. In spite of increasing enrolment at primary level in some regions, the Millennium Development Goals of achieving universal primary level education by 2015 could not be achieved. In 2013, about 225 million youth, or 20% of all youth in the developing world, are found 'idle' who are not in education, employment or training. Youth are the potential group of seeking employment as they pass through from adolescent to youth. The global youth unemployment rate was 13.0 per cent during the period 2012 to 2014. According to the United Nations estimates for 2013, there are 232 million international migrants worldwide, representing 3.2 per cent of the world's total population of 7.2 billion and of which 75 million international migrants are found under the age of 30 which is more than 30 per cent of all migrants (Youth in India 2017). All these are creating a discomfort situation for the youth. As a result they are indulging themselves in developing anti social behaviour, increasing the rate of crime and thereby getting derailed from the mainstream of life. So the focus on youth engagement has drawn everybody's attention with an assumption that young people if involved in and connected with society will less likely to engage in hazardous behaviour. Consistently, research has shown that youth who are engaged in community work are less likely to use drugs and alcohol, less likely to drop out of high school, and less likely to be involved in criminal behaviour. Specifically, Crooks (2010) concluded that youth community engagement is connected to a wide range of positive outcomes such as higher academic performance, lower rates of pregnancy, and lower rates of marijuana use (Itman and Feighery 2004). Hence developing and promoting civic behaviour among youth will have great significance in context to present day. In this regard definitely the contribution of social work profession will have immense effect especially to promote civic engagements for prevention and rehabilitation of at risk youth and their issues at large. Effective social work services will build resilience among at risk youth. When youth are resilient, they cope better during or after difficult situations. They become an active citizen and retaliate when things go wrong.

Conclusion

The exercise of active citizens could be one of the most important activities for a healthy transition to adulthood for both the youth of today and the next generation. Civic identity made through these activities will have immense significance for individual growth and community development in broader perspective. Moreover, internalising the ideas making a meaningful contribution for the cause of development will build a sense of ownership among youth and a claim on the effort made by them for such development. This will help a youth to grow positively. Youth who are engaged in community efforts at a young age show better problem-solving and decision-making skills when compared to those youth who are not engaged (Brennan and Barnett 2009). Hence family, civil society, NGOs, social workers, administration have to bind by the same knot to mainstream at risk youth and make a nation civically civilised.

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The Purity- Impurity Conundrum: Examining the Availability of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Conditions in the Borjalenga Rajubari Community

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Abstract

The most challenging issues for the rural areas are regarding the availability of safe drinking water, Proper and hygienic sanitation facilities, good road connectivity to the other parts of villages and towns, better medical facilities and good educational system. What makes these rural areas different from cities are the way of life and the environment in which they sustain their lives. In India almost two-thirds of its population lives in poverty. Defining Poverty is itself a Hercules task and there are two ways to understand poverty, first way is based on the Calorie consumption pattern while the second way is based on the Low consumption Expenditure. There is a huge difference between the Calorie consumption of urban people when compared with the rural ones. Many of the urban people spend more money on health and hygiene and have better access to the drinking water and Sanitation but at the same time people from the countryside are not fortunate enough to have access to safe drinking water and Sanitation facilities due to ignorance, illiteracy and Poverty. This study is an attempt to examine the availability of safe drinking water and hygiene Conditions in the Borjalenga Rajubari Community in the Cachar district of Assam. The Focus of the study was to understand the Challenges before the rural poor in terms of access to the drinking water and sanitation facilities in the community. The study is the result of one year of Concurrent field work in the community, and the data was collected by the field work students who were placed in the Rajubari Community. The data was collected from 50 households using structured and unstructured interview schedule along with focused group discussion. The findings of the study indicate that majority of the people don't have access to safe drinking water but ironically they do have access to sanitation facilities.

Keywords: Poverty, Sustainable Livelihood, Rural poor, Water, Hygiene, Sanitation Facility

Introduction

Water as a source of livelihood and means of life has always been in debate, in the 21st century one cannot underestimate the importance of safe drinking water. Majority of the countries are facing water crises and those countries that are facing challenges with respect to availability of water have already developed a systematic water treatment and conservative plan. In India we worship water, and this is in practice since time immemorial.

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There are so many sources of water but all the sources are not suitable for consumption. In our Country we have Himalaya from where we get fresh water; we have rivers, Sea, Ponds, and Well etc for consumption of water. As the population is increasing so the demand and dependency on water is also increasing and due to the rising population the quality and availability of water is also getting deteriorated day by day.

On an average for one family 750 litres of water is required each day for consumption and household activities. In cities there is very high scarcity of water, whereas in the rural areas and in villages water is available for doing household activities but getting safe and pure drinking water is difficult. Many of the people specially the women and children they travel too far to collect water. Scarcity of water is the major concern for all the developing and developed countries, because this scarcity will increase further in the next ten years (Huttinger, kayigamba .et al, 2017)

According to Zetland, (2014) “living with water scarcity clarifies the connections among personal and social water flows in an accessible style”. The study narrates the origins and cost of water scarcity and explains how to address it with fair and pragmatic policies.

Mehta (2011) highlights the issues related to water allocation and expressed how the water is allocated based on gender discrimination.

Braveman (2000) indicates that only Education and occupation are the social attributes through which a proper analysis of health impacts can be analyzed.

Zwarteveen (1998) highlighted that it is the male dominant society which has more control over the access of water and is affected by many factors.

According to a report published by the World Health organization 2019 it highlighted some of the key facts regarding sanitation

- In 2017, 45 % of the global population used safely managed sanitation service.
- Poor sanitation reduces human well being, social and economic development due to the negative impacts like Anxiety, loss of educational opportunities and sexual assault.
- 10 % of the global population is consuming food irrigated by wastewater.
- 74 % of the global population used at least a basic sanitation service.
- 2 billion people still don't have basic sanitation facilities such as toilets and Latrines.
- Around 673 million people still defecate in the open
- Poor sanitation is directly linked with transmission of diseases such as Cholera, Diarrhoea, dysentery, Hepatitis A, Typhoid and polio.

- Inadequate sanitation facilities lead to death due to diarrhea, poor sanitation also leads to malnutrition.

In 2010, the UN general Assembly recognized access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as Human right.(WHO, 2019)

Allahan and Jennings, (2002) expressed that among the various factors of health the maternal health stands highly important because it directly affects the entire family including the new born babies.

About the Community

Rajubari Community is a small village which is situated in the southern side of Assam University under the Panchayat of Irongmara in the Cachar district Assam. It is situated 3.5 k.m from Assam University, Silchar is the main sub-divisional town where the people of the community use to communicate to meet their day to day needs. The community is mainly inhabited by the Manipuri and Bengali ethnic. Hinduism is the major religion in the community and majority of the people do follow and practice Hinduism as religion. Agriculture is the main occupation of the villagers.

The community has one lower primary school, one high School and one Small Anganwadi centre which caters to the needs of the children till the age of six years. There is no Primary health centre in the village, the Villagers need to go to Borjalenga for primary health care.

The total population of the village is 942, out of which 587 are Male and 355 are Females.

Objectives of the Study

- The Primary purpose of the study was to understand and examine the availability of drinking water and sanitation facilities in the community
- The second purpose was to identify the challenges being faced by the villagers with respect to Sanitation and Hygienic conditions.

Methodology

Total 50 households were surveyed using Structured and Unstructured Interview Schedule. The Survey Instrument consisted of the questionnaire consisting of 33 close ended questions and 04 open ended questions. There were different sections in the questionnaire which were targeted according to the different issues prevalent in the area. Availability of drinking water, Sanitation facility, availability of soaps and hand wash for care and protection from unhygienic conditions. Primary method of data collection was used. All the questions were in English but the interpretation was done in Manipuri and Bengali by the students. Random sampling technique was

used by the field work trainee to collect the data from the target population. The field work trainee maintained the Research ethics while collecting data from the community keeping in mind regarding the comfort and privacy of the respondents

Survey Procedure

The survey was conducted in the Rajubari community for continuously two weeks and total five field work trainees collected the primary data through home visits and focused group discussion. The questions were explained to the respondents in Manipuri and Bengali so that to reach to the maximum numbers of population within less time. Each of the trainee was allocated with 10 households to cover within two weeks. The majority of the respondents were women and trainee tried to collect all the relevant and necessary information from them with the help of female co-workers.

Major Findings of the Study are:

- There are only Two Tube well in the Community, which is installed by the Government for Public welfare.
- 56% of households are using Boring well water as the main source of drinking water for their family.
- 38 % of the population is using Surface water for cooking and washing.
- Out of the 50 households, 39 households said YES that they feel the water is safe for babies.
- When asked about if they faced any caste discrimination in using the common pool resources? 13 percent of people said that they felt caste discrimination while accessing to the water.
- On an average the people in the community spent around 45-50 minutes to go and collect the water
- 43 % of the population confessed that they faced shortage of water and stayed without water for at least twice in the last three months
- 42% said that their father, uncle and brother usually goes to collect the water while 40 % said it's the female who goes for collecting water, 18 % said that children used to get water for the household
- Out of 50 households 33 households makes 1-5 trips per week to fetch water while rest 17 households makes around 6-10 trips to collect water.
- In the Community, there is a pipe line supplied by the Government, but people are not getting water out of it, because it is under maintenance.

- In a week almost the people spend around 7-8 hours in collecting water.
- Only one household responded that water is not regularly available from the main source
- 45 households says that they do get water for one hour per day while others said 30 minutes per day
- The main source of drinking water during the wet season and dry season is the public tap and piped water, but now it is under maintenance
- Only one household has the storage tank to store water where 49 other households do not have such facilities
- Most of the community people, 90 % store the water in small containers
- Thirty household has said that they face insects and mosquito problem while storing of water.
- Only 09 households in the community uses bleaching powder and filter to make water more safe and pure for drinking. Remaining 41 households don't have any filter.
- 74% of the population uses Kutcha Toilet, where only minimum toilet facility is available; whereas only 20% of the population expressed that they have proper Pucca toilet facility in their house. And only 6% doesn't have access to Hygienic Sanitary system.
- Around 6 households have common toilet and they share it with their neighbours.
- When asked upon the distance and location of toilet, majority of the population have their toilet facility within the distance of 10-15 meters from their home.
- Majority of the Females shared that they do not defecate in the open, where only few 8% defecate in the open.
- 68% believed that chronic illness is caused due to improper sanitation facility and they are aware about the Swatcha Bharat Abhiyan.
- 47% of the respondents expressed that they are able to access the toilet throughout the day, but 53% were of the opinion that during the night time they hesitate to use the toilet.
- The community people don't use the western toilet system, only Indian system is prevailing in the community.

- 46 households confessed that they use Phenyle, dettol and other detergents to clean their toilets. Rest of the households cleans the toilet with water itself, without using any kind of phenyl or dettol.
- Two households opined that they face little risk of animals and snakes while using toilet facility during the night time.
- 95 % of the respondents said that they use mild soap for washing their hands after using the toilet facility.
- 37 households responded that when they fall sick due to unhygienic sanitation they don't visit the doctor, they purchase medicines over the counter from pharmacy, while 13 households says that they visit to the Borjalenga Primary health centre in case they are sick and unwell.
- 48 households cleans their toilet on their own, females are the one who takes care of the toilet, while 2 households hires sweeper to clean their toilets.
- When asked upon how frequently the toilet is cleaned? 32 households cleans the toilet weekly, 12 households cleans the toilet on daily basis. 6 households confessed that they clean their toilet once in a month.
- Most of the community people (83%) faced difficulty during Rainy season while accessing the toilet facility.
- Majority of the households (41) believed that they want to improve drainage system in the community.

Conclusion

The study has revealed the current situation of the availability of drinking water and sanitation facility in the community. This is the first time when a survey was conducted in the community to gather the knowledge regarding hygiene conditions in the community. The survey highlights that majority of the people used to drink piped water and tap water from the surface. Kutcha toilet is very common in the community. In the primary school the Mid-day meal is being served using hand pump and utilizing water from the Pond. There is no pipeline connectivity in the primary schools. Sanitation facility is extremely poor in the public spheres like in Anganwadi centre, Primary school and in the higher secondary school. Girls toilet is the worst affected and doesn't have any sanitation facility at

all, which shows that there is still lack of awareness regarding the sanitation and hygiene of the women.

Regarding drinking water it was observed that the quality of water which the community people drinks is loaded with full of iron and few of the respondents have confessed that due to the Arsenic in water they fear to consume it. But they don't have other options too. Regarding cleaning of the water, only few households use filter and other chemicals to clean the water. The community people are aware about the Swatcha Bharat Abhiyan and they do practice it.

It is suggested that to improve the quality of water the community people must be provided with some equipments and filters to clean the water. There must be a Community storage tank, where the water can be stored for a long time and it can be consumed during the crises. Rain water harvesting should be implemented in the community to help them during the need. Government should check and maintain a data base to know how many households are using toilet facility and for those who cannot afford to construct the toilet, the government must built free toilets, which is a part of Swatcha Bharat Abhiyan. There must be capacity building programs in the community to sensitize and to create awareness regarding the effects of unhygienic sanitation conditions on the health and overall development of the individual.

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Religiosity and Life Satisfaction of the Older Persons in Mizoram

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Abstract

Life satisfaction is a global assessment of a person's quality of life according to his/her chosen criteria. It is a significant indicator to ascertain the quality of life of senior citizens. The terms "religiousness" or "religiosity" reflect the amount of importance of religion in the life of the person. Some studies have shown that religiosity, religious participation in churches and attending other religious services play a positive role in the search for meaning and purpose in life for senior citizens. Religious participation is positively associated with both the quantity and the quality of the social relationship. Mizoram is a relatively small state in North-East India with a rapidly urbanizing trend and senior citizens constantly have to re-orient themselves to changes in society. The size of the older population (60 years and above) in Mizoram constitutes 5.5% of the total population. Mizos are predominantly Christian and are religious. Religious activities and participation play an important role in their daily lives. In this context, this paper seeks to examine the religious participation of senior citizens and its relation to their life satisfaction. The study is cross-sectional in nature and descriptive in design and is based on quantitative data collected through pre-tested structured interview schedule from the rural and urban populations of senior citizens in Aizawl district. The study reveals that Religious Participation and Life Satisfaction among the senior citizens are associated with location, denomination and family income. However, there is no gender difference in Religious Participation or Life Satisfaction. Senior citizens in urban areas have greater Religious Participation and Life Satisfaction as compared to those in rural areas. Age has a negative effect on Religious Participation but no significant difference in Life Satisfaction. Size of the family has a significant positive effect on Religious Participation but a negative effect on Life Satisfaction.

The present paper attempts to assess the relationship between religious participation and life satisfaction of senior citizens in Mizoram.

Ageing is a universal biological and natural process. In biological terms, ageing is a dynamic process that represents the molecular, biochemical, physiological and structural changes that take place in an

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individual following the cessation of growth (Dey, 2003). For Asian societies, the issues related to senior citizens need immediate attention of researchers, planners, and welfare agencies. China and India, Asia's most populous nations, are estimated to contribute a significant proportion of this growing number of older people (Irudaya-Rajan, Misra & Sarma, 2001).

The major goal of social workers working with senior citizens at the multi-level has been the promotion of their well-being. Life satisfaction is one of the ways of assessing the subjective well-being of individuals. Life satisfaction is a global assessment of a person's quality of life according to his chosen criteria (Shin & Johnson, 1978). Life satisfaction often refers to the attitudes that individuals have about their past, present as well as future in relation to their psychological well being (Chadha & Van Willigen, 1995).

Religion and spirituality play such important roles in our lives and it is vital for social workers to understand how it affects their clients and how it can be used to help them in their personal growth and progress in their mental health. As social workers moved toward a more professional approach, they began distancing themselves from religion and spirituality, by adopting more secular approaches. Kaplan & Dziegielewski (1999) suggests that this happened in order to fit in with the science-based professions of psychology and psychiatry; which state that spiritual beliefs are not by nature empirical. She goes on to say that this is a significant problem since one of the cornerstones of social work is that it recognizes the whole person and the influences in their lives; spirituality being a major component.

Many people especially senior citizen's use of spirituality as a weapon in their coping arsenal is precisely why spirituality must be acknowledged. Strengthening their abilities to develop viable strategies to both meet basic needs and maintain mental health is a social work goal. Many social workers find religion and spirituality to be a fundamental part of their client's lives and see these aspects as completely appropriate to address in therapy (Coholic, 2003) and many clinicians are already practising with religious and spiritual intervention but without feeling properly equipped. In response, the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE) has begun to introduce spiritual and religious practice into their

accreditation standards (Council of Social Work Education, 2001). The Council of Social Work Education (2001) maintains that social workers need to be able to work with clients with understanding and without discrimination regarding religious and spiritual practices.

Social workers are ethically responsible to be prepared to respond (competently) and effectively to spiritual and religious beliefs, behaviors and traditions which are common within much of human experience (micro and macro), while recognizing that beliefs, behaviours and traditions often form a framework which is used to interpret and make meaning of experience.

Religion and spirituality are a vital part of many people's lives and plays a significant role in how many deals with life's ups and downs. Therefore, more attention should be paid to religion and spirituality in order to better prepare social workers and meet the client's needs.

Overview of Literature

Religion especially religious beliefs and participation are found to have a significant positive effect on the life satisfaction of the people. The terms "religiousness" or "religiosity" reflect the amount of importance of religion in the life of the person, but terms like "religious life review" or "religious maturity" reflect applications of religion in the person's life (Ellor and McGregor, 2011). Religion offers a way to express spirituality with social support, security, a sense of belonging through religious affiliations and is significant in coping with age-related changes. (Lezotte, 2010). Religious and spiritual interventions have been found to positively affect people's lives to repair mental health problems when used alone or combined with other interventions. Elderly people who claim to have higher levels of religious beliefs and activities were noted to have improved psychological health than those with lower religious activities and beliefs (Morse & Wisocki, 1987). Studies reveal that religious people are more satisfied with their lives because they regularly attend religious services and build social networks in their congregations (Lim & Putnam, 2010). Studies also suggest that strong religious faith and personal spiritual experiences can improve well-being by bolstering self-esteem and self-efficacy (Ellison 1991). More research reveals that interviews with women aged 65 to 98 have more time and felt freer to explore their prayer life than

younger women; ageing had allowed their prayers to become simpler, spontaneous, intimate, more meaningful, and personal and open with God as a valued companion (Melia, 2001).

An overview of literature on the religiosity of the senior citizens suggests that the research on the religiosity of the senior citizens is still in its infancy. Each of its aspects studied to date needs further explorations to confirm, modify, or correct current findings. It also shows that there are a few studies on religiosity and its relationship with the well-being of the senior citizen's in the contexts of India, it's North East region especially Mizoram. The present study tries to fill these research gaps.

Objectives

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To assess life satisfaction among senior citizens in Mizoram
2. To study the differences in religious participation between senior citizens living in rural and urban areas in Mizoram
3. To study the differences in religious participation across gender among senior citizens
4. To probe into the relationship between religious participation and life satisfaction

Methodology

The study is cross-sectional in nature and descriptive in design. It is based on quantitative data collected through field survey with pre-tested structured interview schedule from the rural and urban populations of senior citizens in Aizawl district.

The unit of the study is individual senior citizen aged 60 years and above. Aizawl district has been selected based on the highest population concentration of senior citizens in the state of Mizoram (GoM 2010).

The study used a Multi-Stage Sampling procedure to select district, localities and individual respondents. The universe consists of all Mizo senior citizens above the age of 60 years in Mizoram. In the first stage, Aizawl district has been chosen purposively based on the highest population concentration of senior citizens as per Statistical Handbook Mizoram 2010. In the second stage, stratified sampling has been applied. Rural and Urban localities were drawn based on socio-economic development indicators at the village level. Three Urban localities and three

rural villages which have socio-economic development index values closer to urban area average index were selected.

In the third stage, lists of all member of Mizoram Upa Pawl (Senior Citizens' Association in Mizoram) in the selected villages and localities identified were collected. In each of the selected localities, 30 per cent of the senior citizens (+60 yrs) residing in that village or locality were taken using systematic random sampling.

Structured interview schedule has been constructed to obtain quantitative data on the demographic social and economic profile of the respondents, religious participation, and satisfaction with life. For assessing religious participation, a scale was constructed with six items and used. For assessing life satisfaction, personal well-being and satisfaction with life scale (Satisfaction with Life as a Whole and The Personal Well-Being Index Scale by International Well-being Group (2006) Part – 2) was used.

The reliability of the two scales was assessed with the help of three measures viz., Alpha, Guttman, Split-half and Parallel and the reliability coefficients were found very high. The reliability coefficients of Alpha (0.76), Guttman Split-half (0.81), parallel - estimated reliability of scale (0.76), Parallel - the unbiased estimate of reliability (0.76) for religious participation scale were found to be high (above 0.75). Similarly, the reliability coefficients of Alpha (0.90), Guttman Split-half (0.90), parallel - Estimated reliability of scale (0.90), and parallel - unbiased estimate of reliability (0.90) for life satisfaction scale were found to be high (above 0.75) (see table 1). .

For assessing the validity apart from face validity with experts, factor analysis with principal components method was used. The factor analysis showed that the items in both the scales have high factor loadings and established the convergent validity of the scales (see tables 2 and 3).

The quantitative data collected through field survey was processed with computer packages of MS Excel and SPSS. For analysis of data simple averages, cross tabulation, percentages, t-test, Karl Pearson's Product moment correlation and multiple linear regression analysis were used.

Results and Discussion

The data analysis includes 288 senior citizens above the age of 60 years. Three (3) rural villages namely Thanglailung, North Khawlek, Luangpawm and three (3) urban localities namely Ramhlun Venglai, Ramthar North and Zemabawk have been selected.

Demographic Profile of the Respondents

The demographic characteristics discussed here include age, marital status, educational status, size of family and locality.

Some gerontologists have recognized the diversity of old age by defining it into three categories: young-old, middle-old and old-old. In the present study, the age of the senior citizens has been classified using these three categories.

Age group has been found as one of the variables having a significant association with life satisfaction of the elderly. Cross-sectional studies have presented results ranging from finding no relationship at all between age and life satisfaction (Diener et al., 1999; Hamarat et al., 2002) to finding a positive relationship (Diener, 1984; Mercier et al., 1998; Prenda & Lachman, 2001) and even negative relationships (Chen, 2001; Freund & Baltes, 1998). In one of the few studies applying a longitudinal design, Mroczek & Spiro (2005) found a decrease in life satisfaction in very old age. Findings from various studies of later life are contradictory.

The study reveals that among the young-old, middle-old and old-old there is no difference in age distribution. The total population in the urban area is more; therefore the number of senior citizens in the urban area is also more as compared to rural areas. Majority of the male respondents are married, whereas the percentages of widows are high more among the female respondents. In terms of educational status, male respondents have higher education than female and there are more illiterates among female respondents. There is no significant difference in terms of the size of the family.

Social and Economic Profile of the Respondents

Among all the denominations in Mizoram, a majority of the respondents belong to the Presbyterian denomination, followed by the United Pentecostal Church of Mizoram.

Financial satisfaction measured as the perception of economic deprivation has been found to be related to lower satisfaction with life (Revicki & Mitchell, 1990). Therefore, financial security seems to constitute an important component of life satisfaction in old age. Although well-being does not increase with more money to spend, the experience of financial insecurity probably represents a basic menace to life satisfaction even in old age.

In this study, in terms of economic conditions, the majority of the household earn between Rs.10000 – Rs.20000 and men have greater income as compared to women.

Religious Participation

Religious participation is positively associated with both the quantity and the quality of social relationship (Ellison & George, 1994). Studies diverge as to why people who are committed to their religion especially those who regularly attend services and participate in religious activities have a higher level of subjective well-being and life satisfaction. One explanation is that it offers social support and network. Krause and Wulff (2005) propose that church-based friendship may promote a sense of belonging and thus enhance physical and mental health. In a subsequent study based on elderly Christians, Krause (2003) finds a positive relationship between involvement with church friends and life satisfaction.

Gender and Religious Participation

In a study conducted by Zhang(2010) women reported a higher proportion of religious participation, but the cognitive benefits of religious participation were stronger for men. However, in this present study, there is no significant difference in religious participation (see table 6).

Geographical Location and Religious Participation

In a study conducted by Krause et al (2010) among senior citizens of Japan, older people in rural areas are more deeply involved in religion than older people who live in more urbanized areas.

However, this study reveals quite the opposite. Table 7 shows that the senior citizens in the urban areas have significantly greater religious participation as compared their rural counterparts.

Determinants of Religious Participation

A multiple linear regression model was fitted to see the effect of demographic, social and economic factors on religious participation of the senior citizens. The dependent variable was weighted religious participation score derived from factor analysis of items included in the scale constructed. The explanatory variables include Age Group, Gender (Female =1, 0 otherwise), Denomination (Presbyterian = 1, 0 otherwise), Living with Spouse (Yes =1, otherwise = 0), Educational Status (levels of education), Geographical Location (Rural = 1, otherwise = 0), Size of Family, type of Family (Joint =1, otherwise = 0), Monthly Household Income (levels of income), and Monthly Personal Income (levels of income)(see table).

The multiple linear regression model of determinants of religious participation of the senior citizens were having a very poor fit. The F ratio (2.38) was significant at 5 per cent level and the explanatory variables could explain only 5 per cent of the variation in the explained variable i.e. religious participation.

Religious participation of the senior citizens in the context of Mizoram is found to significantly associate with geographical location (2.48) and size of family (2.03). The senior citizens in the urban areas have significantly greater religious participation as compared their rural counterparts when the effects of demographic, social and economic factors in the model are controlled for.

Size of the family had a significant positive effect on the religious participation of the senior citizens. It means that religious participation increases with the size of the family of the respondents.

The demographic variables viz., Age Group, Gender and Educational Status (levels of education) have no significant effect on religious participation of the elderly even at 5 per cent level. Likewise, the social structural factors of Denomination, Living with Spouse, and Type of Family had no significant effect on religious participation. Further, the economic factors viz., Monthly Household Income, and Monthly Personal Income had no significant effect on religious participation(see table 8).

Gender and Life Satisfaction

Many studies have found that there are gender differences in level of life satisfaction as women experience more health-related problems than men (Gold, Malmberg, McClearn, Pedersen, & Berg, 2002; Murtagh & Hubert, 2004), however, some recent studies reveal that there are fewer gender differences in level of life satisfaction.

In this study, we can see that there is no significant gender difference in terms of life satisfaction (see table 9).

Geographic Location and Life Satisfaction

Priyanka and Sunita (2013) among senior citizens in urban and semi-urban families of Lucknow. Results revealed that no significant differences were found in overall life satisfaction of elderly people in urban and semi-urban dwellings.

However, as we can see in Table 10, the present study shows that respondents in urban areas have a higher level of life satisfaction as compared to respondents in rural areas.

Determinants of Life Satisfaction

Life satisfaction among senior citizens is an important concept as it gives an overall view of the adjustment as well as the adaptive coping ability of the individual. The results from the few studies conducted among senior citizens indicate stability (Diener, Suh, Lucas, & Smith, 1999) or even an increase in life satisfaction (Diener, 1984; Mercier, Peladeau, & Tempier, 1998), whereas other studies suggest a decrease (Mroczek & Spiro, 2005). Senior citizens are especially exposed to numerous potential threats to life satisfaction such as loss of the spouse, changes in daily activities, changes in the social network, and age-related diseases.

Table 11 reveals that demographic factors have no effect on life satisfaction. Age and gender have no significant effect on life satisfaction. Education has an unexpectedly negative effect on life satisfaction, which means that the higher the education, the lower life satisfaction. However, in comparison with urban areas, rural areas have lower life satisfaction. Monthly personal income and household income has a positive effect on life satisfaction

The study provides a higher understanding of the life satisfaction of senior citizens in the Christian community and presented a novel finding of

religiosity and religious participation being significantly correlated with their satisfaction of life.

Religious Participation and Life Satisfaction

The focus of the present study is the hypothesis that religious participation and life satisfaction of the senior citizens is directly related controlling for the effects of the demographic, familial, social and economic structural factors. A multiple linear regression model was fitted to see to test this hypothesis. The dependent variable was weighted life satisfaction score derived from factor analysis of items included in the scale. The explanatory variables include the demographic, familial, social, economic structural variables and religious participation. The demographic variables are Age Group, Gender (Female =1, 0 otherwise), Educational Status (levels of education), familial structural variables include Living with Spouse (Yes =1, otherwise = 0), Size of Family, and type of Family (Joint =1, otherwise = 0). Denomination (Presbyterian = 1, 0 otherwise) and Geographical Location (Rural = 1, otherwise = 0) were the two social structural variables while economic variables include Monthly Household Income (levels of income), Monthly Personal Income (levels of income). Apart from these Religious Participation scores was also included (see table).

The multiple linear regression model of determinants of life satisfaction of the senior citizens was having a moderate level of fit. The F ratio (18.54) was significant at 1 per cent level and the explanatory variables could explain about 40 per cent of the variation in the explained variable life satisfaction of the senior citizens.

As expected the religious participation has a significant positive effect on life satisfaction of senior citizens, controlling for the effects of demographic, familial, social, and economic structural variables. In other words, higher religious participation greater is the life satisfaction of the senior citizens. Hence, the hypothesis that religious participation and life satisfaction of the senior citizens is directly related controlling for the effects of the demographic, familial, social and economic structural factors has been validated.

The demographic structural variables viz., age group and gender have no significant effect on the life satisfaction of the elderly while educational status has a negative effect on life satisfaction. This is contrary to the expectation. None of the familial structural variables living with Spouse, Size of Family, and Type of Family had any significant relationship with life satisfaction.

On the other hand, both the social structural factors denomination and geographical location had a significant effect on the life satisfaction of the elderly. The members of the numerically predominant denomination i.e. the Presbyterian Church had better life satisfaction as compared to those of other denominations. The respondents from urban areas have significantly greater life satisfaction as compared to their counterparts in rural areas.

Interestingly, the economic structural variables viz., monthly household income, and monthly personal income have a significant positive effect on the life satisfaction of the elderly in Mizoram. In other words, higher the monthly income of the household and monthly personal income of the respondents higher was his/her life satisfaction when all the effects of demographic, familial and social structural factors as well as religious participation are controlled for.

Conclusion

Religious practices and participation occupy a key place in the life of the Mizos. It is an established fact that older people if they are given the opportunity, to participate actively in the life of the community as well as the church as it gives them a sense of belonging, self-worth and life satisfaction. However, many of them are unable to actively participate due to the deterioration of physical health. The results of multivariate analysis demonstrate the positive influence of religious participation on the life satisfaction of older persons has been demonstrated in the context of the Christianized tribal society of Mizoram controlling for a number of demographic, social and economic structural factors. Interestingly, economic factors viz., household income and personal income have a significant positive effect on the life satisfaction of senior citizens.

Professional social workers working with senior citizens in Christian communities must acknowledge and give due emphasize the role

of spiritual, religious aspects in their life. However, their material well-being need not be overlooked and efforts of promoting the material and spiritual well-being of the senior citizens be combined. Professional social workers in Mizoram need to advocate for the provision of pension and social security to the senior citizens.

Table 1 Reliability of Religious Participation Scale and Life Satisfaction

Sl.No	Method	Religious Participation	Life Satisfaction
	Alpha	0.76	0.90
	Guttman Split-half	0.81	0.90
	P a r a l l e l		
	Estimated reliability of scale	0.76	0.90
	Unbiased estimate of reliability	0.76	0.90

Source: Computed

Table 2 Factor Matrix: Life Satisfaction

Sl.No	Item	Factor Loading
1	Achievements in Life	0.86
2	Feeling of Safety	0.86
3	Standard of Living	0.86
4	Future Security	0.84
5	Personal relationships	0.84
6	Feeling part of community	0.77
7	Spirituality or Religion	0.70
8	Health	0.47
	Eigen value	4.94
	% of Variance	61.79

Source: Computed

Table 3 Factor Matrix: Items of Religious Participation Scale

Sl.No	Item	Factor Loading
1	Participate in outreach programs of Church	0.75
2	Give Tithe in the Church	0.52
3	Attend church services on weekdays	0.81
4	Church programs and activities are an important part of my	0.64

	life	
5	Attend worship services on Sundays/ Saturdays	0.69
6	Attend morning prayer / mass service	0.61
	Eigen values	2.74
	% of Variance	45.64

Source: Computed

Table 1 Reliability of Religious Participation Scale and Life Satisfaction

Sl.No	Method	Religious Participation	Life Satisfaction
1	Alpha	0.76	0.90
2	Guttman Split-half	0.81	0.90
3	Parallel		
	Estimated reliability of scale	0.76	0.90
	Unbiased estimate of reliability	0.76	0.90

Source: Computed

Table 2 Factor Matrix: Items of Religious Participation Scale

Sl.No	Item	Factor Loading
1	Participate in outreach programs of Church	0.75
2	Give Tithe in the Church	0.52
3	Attend church services on weekdays	0.81
4	Church programs and activities are an important part of my life	0.64
5	Attend worship services on Sundays/ Saturdays	0.69
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7	Spirituality or Religion	0.70
8	Health	0.47
	Eigen value	4.94
	% of Variance	61.79

Source: Computed

Table 4 Demographic Profile of Respondents

Sl.No	Characteristic	Gender		Total N = 288
		Male n = 159	Female n = 129	
I	Age Group			
	Young Old(60 - 70)	88 (55.3)	64 (49.6)	152 (52.8)
	Middle Old(70 - 80)	51 (32.1)	45 (34.9)	96 (33.3)
	Old Old(Above 80)	20 (12.6)	20 (15.5)	40 (13.9)
	<i>Mean Age</i>	71 ± 7.3	72 ± 8.0	71 ± 7.6
II	Marital Status			
	Never Married	1 (0.6)	9 (7.0)	10 (3.5)
	Married	118 (74.2)	49 (38.0)	167 (58.0)
	Divorced	4 (2.5)	9 (7.0)	13 (4.5)
	Widowed	30 (18.9)	62 (48.1)	92 (31.9)
	Remarried	6 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	6 (2.1)
III	Educational Status			
	Illiterate	3 (1.9)	17 (13.2)	20 (6.9)
	Literate	5 (3.1)	15 (11.6)	20 (6.9)
	Primary	77 (48.4)	70 (54.3)	147 (51.0)
	Middle School(4 - 7)	32 (20.1)	14 (10.9)	46 (16.0)
	High School(8 - 10)	25 (15.7)	11 (8.5)	36 (12.5)
	Higher Secondary and Above (11 - 17)	17 (10.7)	2 (1.6)	19 (6.6)
IV	Size of Family			

	Small(1-3)	40 (25.2)	30 (23.3)	70 (24.3)
	Medium(4 - 6)	65 (40.9)	63 (48.8)	128 (44.4)
	Large(7 and above)	54 (34.0)	36 (27.9)	90 (31.3)
V	Geographical Location			
	Rural	25 (15.7)	24 (18.6)	49 (17.0)
	Urban	134 (84.3)	105 (81.4)	239 (83.0)

Source: Computed

Table 5 Social and Economic Profile

Sl.No	Characteristic	Gender		Total N = 288
		Male n = 159	Female n = 129	
I	Denomination			
	Presbyterian	114 (71.7)	91 (70.5)	205 (71.2)
	United Pentecostal Church of Mizoram	18 (11.3)	16 (12.4)	34 (11.8)
	The Salvation Army	12 (7.5)	5 (3.9)	17 (5.9)
	Baptist Church of Mizoram	4 (2.5)	8 (6.2)	12 (4.2)
	The Roman Catholic	1 (0.6)	1 (0.8)	2 (0.7)
	Other Denominations	10 (6.3)	8 (6.2)	18 (6.3)
II	Monthly Household Income			
	Below 5000	9 (5.7)	13 (10.1)	22 (7.6)
	Rs. 5000 - 10000	18 (11.3)	18 (14.0)	36 (12.5)
	Rs.10000 - 20000	42 (26.4)	46 (35.7)	88 (30.6)

	Rs.20000 - 30000	48 (30.2)	27 (20.9)	75 (26.0)
	Rs. 30000 - 40000	20 (12.6)	14 (10.9)	34 (11.8)
	Rs. 40000 & above	22 (13.8)	11 (8.5)	33 (11.5)
III	Monthly Personal Income			
	Below 5000	69 (43.4)	98 (76.0)	167 (58.0)
	Rs.5000 - 10000	42 (26.4)	19 (14.7)	61 (21.2)
	Rs. 10000 - 15000	19 (11.9)	8 (6.2)	27 (9.4)
	Rs. 15000 - 20000	11 (6.9)	2 (1.6)	13 (4.5)
	Rs. 20000 - 25000	10 (6.3)	0 (0.0)	10 (3.5)
	Rs. 25000 & above	8 (5.0)	2 (1.6)	10 (3.5)

Source: Computed

Table 6 Gender and Religious Participation : Mean Difference

Sl.No		Gender						‘t’
		Male		Female		Difference		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	Std. Error	
1	Religious Participation	0.07	0.99	-0.08	1	0.15	0.12	1.23

Source: Computed

** P < 0.01

* P < 0.05

Table 7 Geographic Location and Religious Participation: Mean Difference

Sl.No		Geographical location						t
		Rural		Urban		Difference		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	Std. Error	
1	Religious Participation	-0.36	1.22	0.07	0.93	-0.44	0.15	-2.83**

Source: Computed

** P < 0.01

* P < 0.05

Table 8 Determinants of Religious Participation: Regression Estimates

Sl.No	Explanatory Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		't'
		B	Std. Error	
1	Constant	-0.04	0.28	-0.14
2	Age Group	-0.15	0.09	-1.69
3	Gender(Female =1)	-0.04	0.14	-0.28
4	Denomination (Presbyterian = 1)	-0.04	0.13	-0.34
5	Living with Spouse (Yes =1)	0.12	0.14	0.86
6	Educational Status	0.03	0.06	0.45
7	Geographical Location(Rural =1)	-0.41	0.17	-2.48**
8	Size of Family	0.18	0.09	2.03*
9	Type of Family(Joint =1)	-0.04	0.10	-0.40
10	Monthly Household Income	0.06	0.05	1.12
11	Monthly Personal Income	-0.03	0.05	-0.55
	Std. Error of the Estimate	0.98		
	Adjusted R Square	0.05		
	F	2.38*		

Source: Computed ** P < 0.01

* P < 0.05

Table 9 Gender and Life Satisfaction: Mean Difference

Sl.No		Gender						't'
		Male		Female		Difference		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	Std. Error	
1	Life Satisfaction	0.02	0.99	-0.02	1	0.04	0.12	0.34

Source: Computed ** P < 0.01

* P < 0.05

Table 10 Geographic Location and Life Satisfaction: Mean Difference

Sl.No		Locality						t
		Rural		Urban		Difference		
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	Std. Error	
2	Life Satisfaction	-1.33	0.71	0.27	0.82	-1.61	0.13	-12.83**

Source: Computed ** P < 0.01

* P < 0.05

Table 11 Determinants of Life Satisfaction: Regression Estimates

Sl.No	Explanatory Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error		
1	Constant	0.22	0.22	0.99	0.32
2	Age Group	-0.12	0.07	-1.66	0.10
3	Gender	0.04	0.11	0.40	0.69
4	Educational Status	-0.12	0.05	-2.36*	0.02
5	Living with Spouse	-0.14	0.11	-1.33	0.19
6	Size of Family	-0.09	0.07	-1.23	0.22
7	Type of Family	0.02	0.08	0.25	0.80
8	Denomination	0.22	0.10	2.19*	0.03
9	Geographical Location(Rural = 1)	-1.37	0.13	-10.34**	0.00
10	Monthly Household Income	0.09	0.04	2.16*	0.03
11	Monthly Personal Income	0.16	0.04	3.72**	0.00
12	Religious Participation	0.09	0.05	1.93*	0.05
13	Std. Error of the Estimate	0.77			
14	Adjusted R Square	0.40			
	F	18.54**			

Source: Computed ** P < 0.01

* P < 0.05

Table 12 Religious Participation and Life Satisfaction: Pearson Correlation

	Pearson's R
Correlation	0.19**
Sig. (2-tailed)	0.00
N	288

Source: Computed ** P < 0.01

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