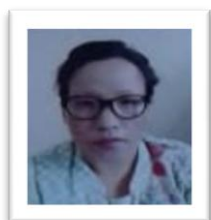


# Attitude of Bugun Tribe Students of Arunachal Pradesh towards Education



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## Abstract

This study investigated the attitude of bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh towards education. The investigator adopted descriptive-cum-survey method of educational research to complete the study. The sample of the study comprised of twenty-eight bugun tribe students of West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh, selected using convenience sampling method. The sample students belong to different stages of education. A self-developed and standardized attitude scale had been used to collect the data. Mean and t-test were used as statistical techniques to analyse the data. The study found that bugun tribe students of the study area have positive attitude towards education. Further, the study also revealed that there is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female bugun tribe students towards education, however, male students are found to be more positive towards education than their female counterparts.

**Keywords:** Attitude, Bugun Tribe Students, Arunachal Pradesh, Education.

## Introduction

India with 8.6% scheduled tribe population has largest tribal population in the world. As per 2011 census report, the number of schedule tribe community in India has increased from 212 in 1951 to 705 in 2011. But still 93% of the tribal people lives in rural areas and are engaged in agricultural pursuits (Sahu, K.K., 2014). Majority of them live in scattered habitation located in interior, remote and inaccessible hilly and forest areas of the country. 10.4% of the total rural population of the country belongs to tribal population. Sujatha, K. (n.d.) stated that 22% of tribal habitations have less than 100 population and more than 40% have less than 300 people while other have less than 500 people. Further, the largest concentration of indigenous or schedule tribe population are found in two distinct geographical areas namely central India and North-East India (Brahmanandam & Babu, 2016). More than half of the scheduled tribe population is concentrated in central India i.e. Madhya Pradesh (14.69%), Chhattisgarh (7.8%), Jharkhand (8.29%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%), Maharashtra (10.08%), Orissa (9.2%), Gujarat (8.55%) and Rajasthan (8.86%) and other tribal populated areas are in North-East India i.e. Assam (42.2%), Nagaland (86.5%), Mizoram (94.4%), Manipur (35.1%), Meghalaya (86.1%), Tripura (31.8%), Sikkim (33.8%) and Arunachal Pradesh (68.8%). North – East region occupies 8.55% of the total tribal population in India. Topographically, the region is a mixture of hills and plains, while Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland are almost entirely hilly, about four-fifth of Assam is plains, Manipur and Tripura have both plain areas and hill tracts. In the region the hills account for about 70% area and accommodate about 30% of the population of the region and the plains constituting the remaining 30% of areas holds about 70%.

Education is the most important element in the development of any community or country. It has special significance particularly for the weaker section of the society. A country cannot make progress when sizable section of its population remains backward (Burman, A.K., 2014). It is said that scheduled tribe population represent one of the most economically and socially backward and marginalized groups in India (Saxena & Kumar, 2016 and Brahmanandam & Babu, 2016). They further, added that the tribal communities are still lagging behind in terms of education. Gupta & Nanda (n.d.) and Gautam, V., 2004, revealed that in schools dropout rate are highest among STs Children followed by SCs and then OBCs. Economic hardship, lack of drinking water facility, separate toilets for boys and girls, distinct medium of instruction from their own vernacular dialects are the factors of drop out of tribal children (Rani, M,

2000, Ghosh, 2007 and Gaurang Rami, 2012). The backwardness of scheduled tribe population, however, cannot be said caused by one single factor because backwardness is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Besides disparity, discrimination, inequality, social-injustice, lack of development, lack of education, lack of commitment, it is also caused by the attitude of people towards education. According to Prem, S., 2015, a positive attitude helps one to cope up more easily with the daily affairs of live. It brings constructive changes into our life and makes us happier, brighter and more successful. It make a person feel inspired, motivated and give strength not to give up, if encounter obstacles rather look for solutions. Kishore and Mahant, 2010, also said that attitude towards studies is a yardstick of intrinsic motivation for students. Learning of subjects and acquisition of habits, interest and other psychological dispositions are all affected by their attitudes. The mindset of the child determines her/his receptivity. A study carried out by Anbuselvi & Leeson, 2017, showed that attitude is one of the important factors which affect the promotion of tribal students in higher education.

The Buguns (earlier known as Khowas) is one of the major tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, live mainly in the sub-tropical Tenga valley or Singchung administrative circle of West Kameng district with its whole native populations spread across 14 villages namely –Wanghoo, Dikhiyang, Bichom, Ramu, Lali, Chitu, Sachida, Lichini, Ditching, Mago-Pam, Singchung, Namfri, New Kaspi and Tenga Market. Due to difficult geographical location, the state witnessed development trends very lately in comparison to other states of the country. More than around 70% of its habitations are still very difficult to access. As on 2014, the total population of Buguns (Khowas) had been recorded as 2000 only. Although Bugun Tribe has recognized as a major tribe in the state recently, due to lack of accessibility to development initiatives their relative position to other major tribes like Adi, Apatani, Monpa, Nyishi, Galo and so on in terms of socio-economic, education and other status is still less developed. Education being one of the important vehicles of development must be seen with positive attitude. Otherwise, any initiative from the government's end to provide education to bring further development in the country will not yield fruitful result. Therefore, the present study had been carried out with the following objective:

#### Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate the attitude of bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh towards education.
2. To compare the attitude of bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh towards education in terms of gender.

#### Hypothesis

1. There is no significant difference between the mean score of bugun tribe male and female students on attitude scale towards education.

#### Methodology

The investigator adopted the descriptive-cum-survey method to complete the present study. The sample of the study comprised of twenty-eight bugun tribe student selected from six bugun villages viz... Namfri, Kaspi, Bichom, Wanghoo, Mago-Pam and Singchung out of fourteen in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh by adopting convenience sampling technique. To collect the data a self-developed and standardized Likert's type attitude scale had been used. Mean and t-test had been used as statistical techniques to analyse the data.

#### Results and interpretation

##### Objective- 1

To investigate the attitude of bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh toward education.

**Table -1: Mean and standard deviation of bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh on attitude scale towards education**

N	Mean	SD
28	90.82	7.19

Source: field work, 2018

The table-1 reveals that attitude mean score of bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh on attitude scale towards education came out as 90.82, which is higher than the mean attitude scale value i.e. 60 ( $5 \times 24 = 120$ ,  $120/2 = 60$ ). Therefore, it is understood that the bugun tribe students have positive attitude towards education. However, the calculated standard deviation value which came out as 7.19 is quite large. This shows substantial variation in attitude score of bugun tribe students from the attitude mean score, which is a matter of concern.

##### Objective-2

To compare the attitude of bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh towards education in terms of gender.

#### Hypothesis

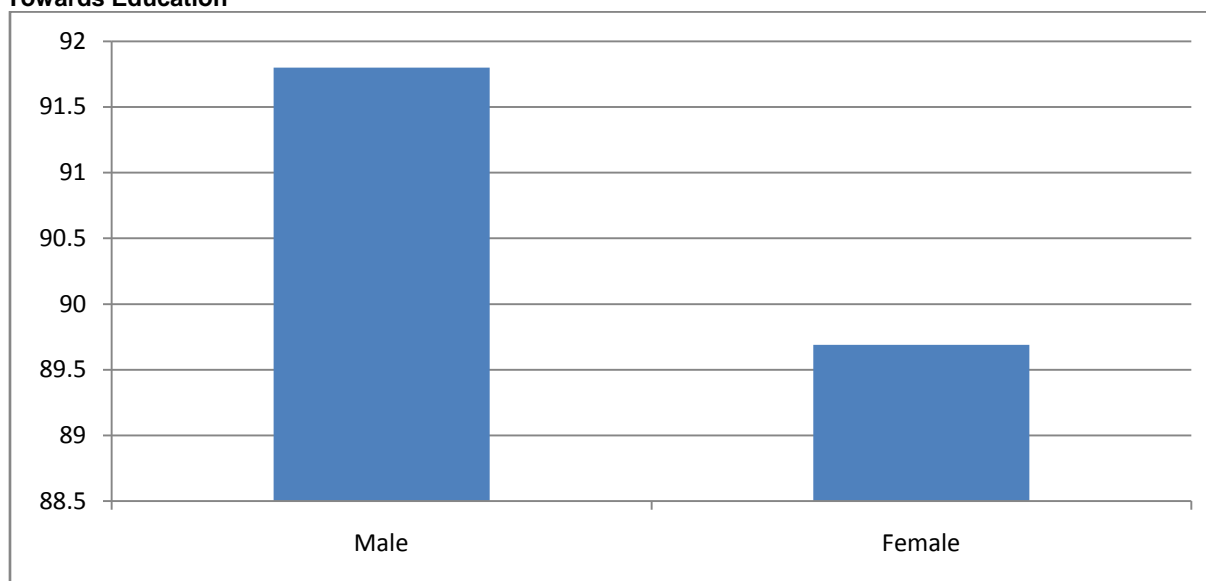
There is no significant difference between the mean score of bugun tribe male and female students on attitude scale towards education.

**Table – 2: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test of bugun Tribe Students of Arunachal Pradesh on Attitude Scale towards Education**

Gender	Mean	SD	t-test	Remark
Male	91.80	7.99	0.76	Not significant both at 0.01 and 0.05level of significance
Female	89.69	4.28		

Source: field work, 2018

**Fig.1. Mean Score of Bugun Tribe Male and Female Students of Arunachal Pradesh on Attitude Scale Towards Education**



Source: field work, 2018

The table -2 shows that the calculated t-value for the attitude mean score of male and female bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh on attitude scale towards education came out as 0.65 which is less than the critical t-values 2.05 and 2.77 at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance respectively for 26 df. Therefore, it is understood that male and female bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh do not differ significantly in their attitude towards education. Therefore, the formulated hypothesis, 'There is no significant difference between the mean score of bugun tribe male and female students on attitude scale towards education' get accepted.

It is further, revealed from the table-2 and fig. 1, that the mean score of the bugun tribe male and female students of Arunachal Pradesh on attitude scale towards education, which came out as 91.80, and 89.69 respectively for male and female students show that though both male and female bugun tribe students have positive attitude towards education, but male are found more positive towards education than their female counterparts. However, the calculated standard deviation values 7.99 and 4.28 respectively for male and female bugun tribe students' score on attitude scale towards education shows large variation of score of male students' attitude from the mean attitude score than their female counterpart, which is a matter of concern.

### Findings

Following are the findings of the present work:

1. The bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh have positive attitude towards education.
2. The bugun tribe male and female students of Arunachal Pradesh do not significantly differ in their attitude towards education. It means both the male and female bugun tribe students have positive attitude towards education.
3. The male and female bugun tribe students of Arunachal Pradesh though possess positive

attitude towards education, but male students are found more positive towards education than their female counterparts.

### Conclusion

Difficult geographical condition led snail paced development with varying impacts on different tribes in the state. Resultantly, the bugun tribe living in interior and difficult terrains lagged behind in all fronts viz...socio-economic, education, politics and so on in comparison to other tribes of the state. However, the present study showed that the bugun tribe students are positive towards education. This is a sign that they are interested in education. Therefore, it is suggested that the government should put more efforts in the form of initiatives (improving the road conditions, improving the infrastructural facilities of schools and colleges, electricity supply, transportation, provision of hostel facility etc.) to the bugun students to continue their education with positive perception. As it is a well established fact that negative attitude towards education often tend students to leave the school and if not it affect their academic achievement which further boost disruptive behaviour among students.

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