



ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL OF THE CHILDREN OF DAILY WAGE WORKERS: A STUDY

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Abstract: *Since the dawn of civilisation, education and development have been intrinsically linked through bi – directional causality. Inequalities between the educational levels of different groups have been both the cause and the effect of the differentials between their levels of socio – economic development. This is especially true of the levels of literacy, which provides the essential pre – conditions for educational developments. The present study is based on “Achievement level of the children of Daily Wage Workers: A Study” to examine the learner’s achievement level in relation to the other factors and conducted in the government run schools of Birbhum district of West Bengal. The sample consisted of 300 children of age group 6-14 years.*

Keywords: *Achievement level, children, Daily Wage Workers.*

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INTRODUCTION:

Availability of adequate number of qualified and trained teachers is an important precondition for the improvement in the quality of education. It would therefore be useful to examine the situation in Birbhum district with regard to the availability of teachers and their preparedness, training and motivation for the task of imparting education to the primary school – age children. However, we find that teaching – learning materials like text-books, note – books etc. were readily available with all children. The practice of taking monthly, half – yearly and annual examinations was also followed almost uniformly by all the schools. However, as pointed out above, the problem lay in checking the scripts of the examinations and correcting the mistakes to which the children were prone.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To examine the achievement scores for the I – VIII grade competencies o in language and mathematics.
2. To examine the variations in mean percent achievement scores between the children of daily wage workers from different government schools.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Is there the achievement level among the children of daily wage workers is really unsatisfactory?
2. Which are the subjects pose high difficulty level?

DESIGNING OF LANGUAGES AND NUMERICAL ACHIEVEMENT TEST:

While designing the language and numerical achievement test several experts –those who have earlier designed the tests, psychometricians, NGOs working in the primary school education, primary and upper primary(junior high) school teachers of government aided schools were consulted. Sample questions provided by TIMSS and PIRLS were reviewed. The pilot test revealed that the students were not familiar with decimals in the mathematics test. In Bengali and English, one page of long passage (from textbook) based on which the questions were asked. Students were unable to read the passage and answer the questions. For the final survey, both the issues were discussed.



All the questions in the test papers were categorized into questions that a student should be able to answer at the completion of class I – VIII respectively based on the existing textbook and syllabus of government primary and junior high school.

Mathematics		
Class category	Item number (Total Point in parentheses)	Description
I & II	1(1),3(1)	Counting, recognizing chronological order of numbers
III & IV	4(1),5(2),10(1),15(1)	Translate words into numbers and vice-versa, simple one digit addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, telling the time, simple word problems like distance travel to school
V & VI	2(1),6(1),7(1),8(1),9(1),11(1),14(1)	Closest number in decimal, comparison of six-digit numbers, word problems, adding days of the week, expressing multiplication in powers
VII & VIII	12(1),13(1)	Pattern recognized, completing a sequence of pattern
English		
I & II	2(2.5)	Fill blanks and multiple choices to complete the sentences
III & IV	3(6),4(5)	Write sentences for the given words, write five connected sentences based on the given picture
V & VI	1(2.5)	Match words with antonyms
VII & VIII	5(3)	Read a passage and answer based on the passage
Bengali		
I & II	2(2.5)	Fill blanks and multiple choices to complete the sentences
III & IV	3(6),4(5)	Write sentences for the given words, write five connected sentences based on the given picture
V & VI	1(2.5)	Match words with antonyms
VII & VIII	5(3)	Read a passage and answer based on the passage

Grading for the achievement test some rules was set. A committee was made with the help of Mr. Dependu Chandra (primary teacher from Suri subdivision), Md. Mokbul Ansari (junior high school teacher from Rampurhat subdivision) and the researcher himself. Some examples of guidelines were used, local dialect was allowed only in the case on nouns; half point was deducted in case of spelling mistake in a sentence; each sentence had to have a minimum of three words; incorrect or omitted punctuation marks were ignored; if a letter is either omitted or added from a word to make the sentence comprehensible; a maximum of



one point is given; if a word is omitted or added to make the sentence comprehensible, a maximum of one point is given. In case of Mathematics full marks is allotted for the correct solution and for the wrong no marks is allotted.

Table1. Achievement level of the children in relation to different subjects

Achievement level	Bengali (reading)	Bengali (writing)	English (reading)	English (writing)	Maths
A (Excellent)	32 (15.79)	51 (25.00)	11 (5.26)	22 (10.55)	8 (3.91)
B (Very Good)	24 (11.84)	46 (22.36)	30 (14.47)	27 (13.15)	16 (7.82)
C (Good)	89 (43.42)	43 (21.08)	30 (14.47)	27 (13.15)	19 (9.31)
D (Fair)	40 (19.75)	31 (15.78)	35 (17.11)	31 (15.78)	40 (19.75)
E (Poor)	14 (6.57)	19 (9.21)	46 (22.37)	35 (17.11)	46 (22.37)
F (Very Poor)	5 (2.63)	14 (6.57)	54 (26.32)	62 (30.26)	75 (36.84)
Total	204 (100.00)	204 (100.00)	204 (100.))	204 (100.00)	204 (100.00)

Students test was conducted as per norms in each and every student going to school of Birbhum district (204 students of age 6 -14 years). The grading was done in six categories i.e. A, B, C, D, E and F. in the students tests, which was taken in course of field visit in sample children, the overall performance of the students of 6 -14 years is given in table 3.16. The picture of achievement level of sampled children, which cover three subjects – (1) Bengali (2) English and (3) Mathematics. It is found that maximum students are below average. It reflects the quality of education of both primary and upper primary level.

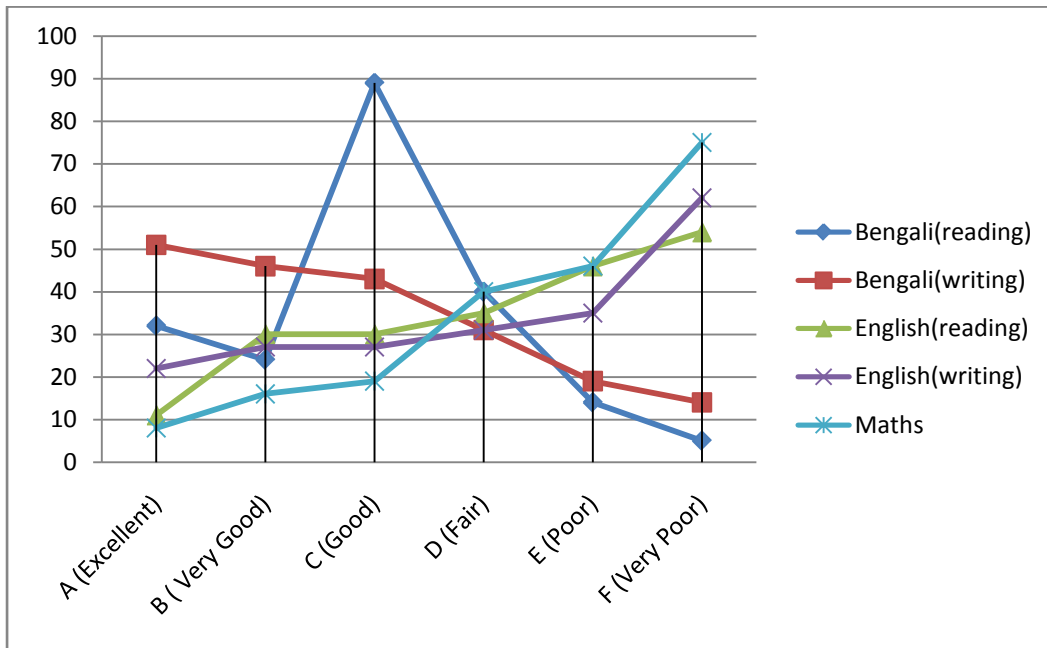


Figure 1. Achievement level of the children in relation to different subjects

The figure 4.4.3 reveals that students are found very good in Bengali reading constituting 43.42(89) per cent and in Bengali writing maximum 25(51) per cent students belong to the “Excellent” category. In case of the subject English and Mathematics constitute 26.32(54) per cent, 30.26(62) per cent and 36.87(75) per cent of the students are “Very Poor” in English reading, writing and Mathematics. The performance of age 6 – 14 years of children in an exclusive test has been found poor. Therefore, more serious efforts are required from the parents and teachers in the performance of the children.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

The achievement level among the children of daily wage workers, Mathematics emerges as the most difficult subject and the next according to degree of difficulty was English, surprisingly Bengali does not pose much of a problem.

CONCLUSION:

In India, the children of daily wage workers have been recognized among the most disadvantaged groups of the population in the provision of educational facility and finding an opportunity for their socio- economic development. In order to bring improvement in socio-economic conditions of these children and to reduce the existing inequality in at certain extent, this regard, due emphasis has been provided to increase their participation in different levels of education. Also, under the various planning strategies, education has



been valued as an important element in achieving rapid development, technological progress and in catering to a social order, social and economic justice and equal opportunity among different socio- economic groups of population.

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