



Educational Status of the Marginalized: A Study among the Santals of Paschim Medinipur District, West Bengal

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KEYWORDS Dropout. Education. Enrolment. Inequality. Right to Education. Tribal

ABSTRACT Educational inequality and accessibility of the marginalized people of the country has been significant issues of research among the researchers and academicians. It has been observed that education policies so far adopted in India aimed to reduce the educational inequalities particularly focusing more on the disadvantaged groups and outreach regions of India. However, the result in this sector is far away from the expectations. The present empirical study based on fieldwork in two villages of Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, is an attempt to investigate several dimensions related to the problems of education among the Santal tribes. It focused to identify the enrolment, dropout and retention scenario in primary schools, especially among the Santali students. Further, the study examines the nature of problems associated with school going children and their parents. In order to collect primary data the study adopted few anthropological field methods like case study, household interview and observation of school students.