

BEYOND BOOKS: HOW POVERTY SHAPES A CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

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Abstract:

This research study focuses on how poverty affects a child's education. The topic is "Beyond Books: How Poverty Shapes a Child's Educational Journey." In this study, I collected data from 20 pupils using a questionnaire and also included one case study of a 13-year-old girl who is not able to read and write.

The findings show that many pupils are interested in education, but due to financial problems, lack of awareness, and family responsibilities, they are not able to continue their studies. Some parents understand the value of education, but they are not able to support their children due to poor economic conditions. At the same time, some parents are not aware of the importance of education.

The study also shows that lack of awareness about government schemes is a major issue. Some pupils receive benefits like free books, uniforms, and scholarships, but many are still not aware or are not eligible.

This research highlights that awareness, support, and proper guidance are very important. If we organize educational programs and require B.Ed students in teaching, it can help these pupils. Education is crucial for the development of the country, and every child should get equal opportunity.

Keywords: *Poverty, Educational Inequality, Child Development, Socio-economic Factors, School Dropout, Government Schemes*

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Introduction:

Education is very vital for every child because it helps them grow and become successful in life. Every pupil does not get an equal chance to learn. Pupils from poor families face many problems in their education. Due to poverty, many pupils do not get proper food, study materials, or a good place to study. Some pupils also have to help their parents or guardians with work, so they are not able to focus on their studies. In some families, parents or guardians are not educated, so they do not understand the importance of literacy. In India, poverty still affects many pupils' education. Many pupils leave school early, attend irregularly, or are not able to perform well in their studies. Some pupils are also forced to work due to financial problems in the family.

This research tries to understand how poverty affects not only school education but the overall learning journey of pupils. It also focuses on the role of parents and guardians, awareness about literacy, and the challenges faced by many pupils in their daily lives.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To understand how poverty affects pupils' education.
2. To study the role of family background in pupils' learning.

3. To examine the challenges faced by pupils from low-income families.
4. To analyze real-life experiences through a survey and a case study.
5. **To find out the number of pupils who have dropped out of school.**
6. To study the awareness and access of government schemes among pupils.

Review of Literature:

The 'Poor Child': The Cultural Politics of Education, Development and Childhood explains that poverty is not just economic but also affects identity, opportunities, and how society views pupil.

A study on Impact of Poverty on Education in India highlights that poverty creates barriers such as lack of resources, poor vocabulary development, and limited educational opportunities

Research shows that family income is one of the strongest factors influencing education, and pupil from poor backgrounds often have higher dropout rates and lower academic performance

This shows that poverty affects not only access to school but also learning ability, confidence, and future outcomes.

Methodology:

This research is done using a mixed method approach, which includes both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Survey Method (Quantitative):

In this study, data was collected from 21 pupils using a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire included questions related to their educational status, family background, financial condition, school attendance, learning resources, and awareness about government schemes. This method helped to collect factual data from different pupils.

Case Study Method (Qualitative):

Along with the survey, one case study was also included. The case study is of a 13-year-old girl who has dropped out of school and is not able to read or write. This method helped to understand the real-life problems and challenges faced by pupils in depth.

Field Survey:

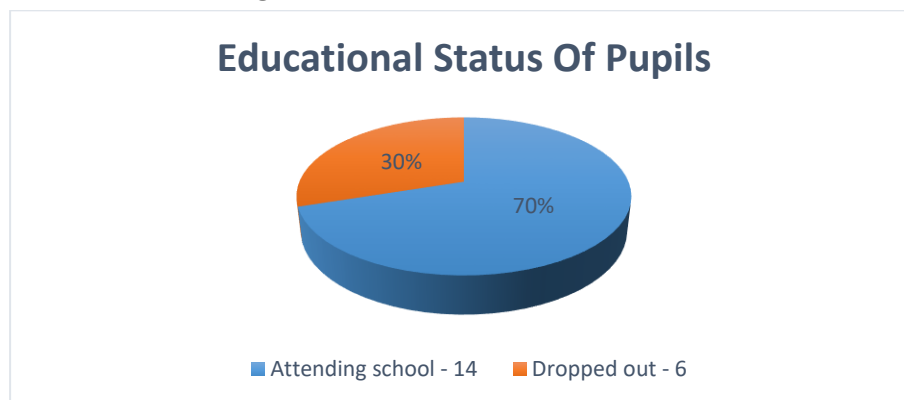
The data was collected through direct interaction with pupils. This helped to understand their real situation, feelings, and difficulties in education.

This combination of methods helped to provide a better understanding of how poverty affects the educational journey of pupils.

Data Analysis and Interpretation :

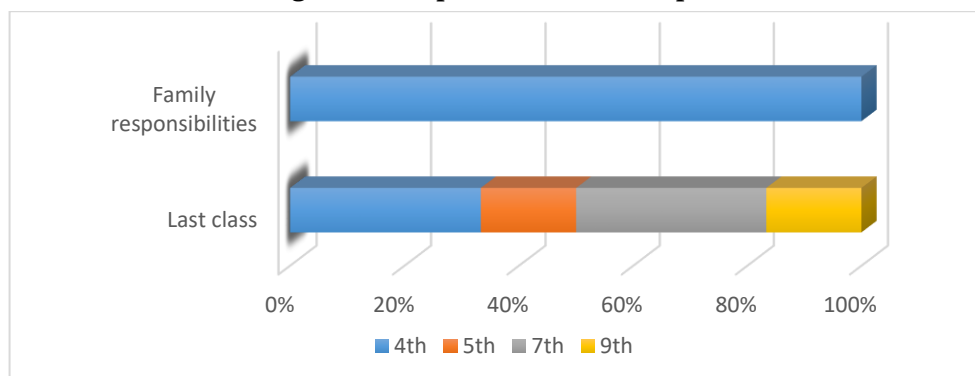
The data collected from 20 pupils has been analyzed and interpreted to understand the impact of poverty on their education.

Figure 1: Current Educational Status



Out of 20 pupils, 14 are attending school and 6 have dropped out. All the dropout pupils are girls, which shows that girls face more challenges in continuing their education.

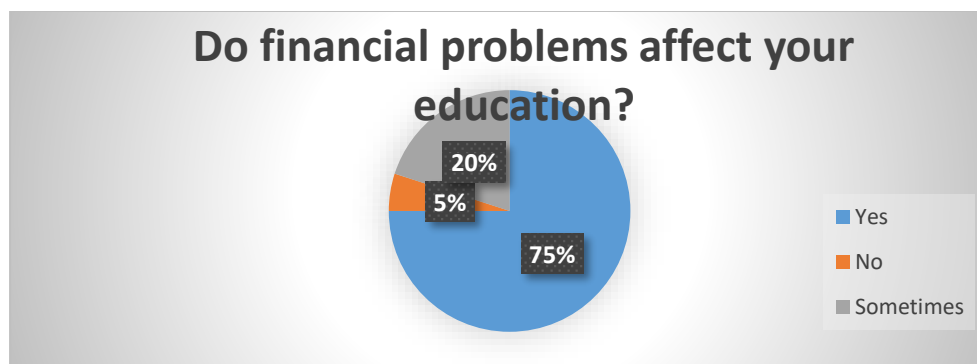
Figure 2: Drop Out Details of Pupils



The last class completed by dropout pupils ranges from **4th to 7th standard**, showing that dropout happens mostly at the early and middle stages of education.

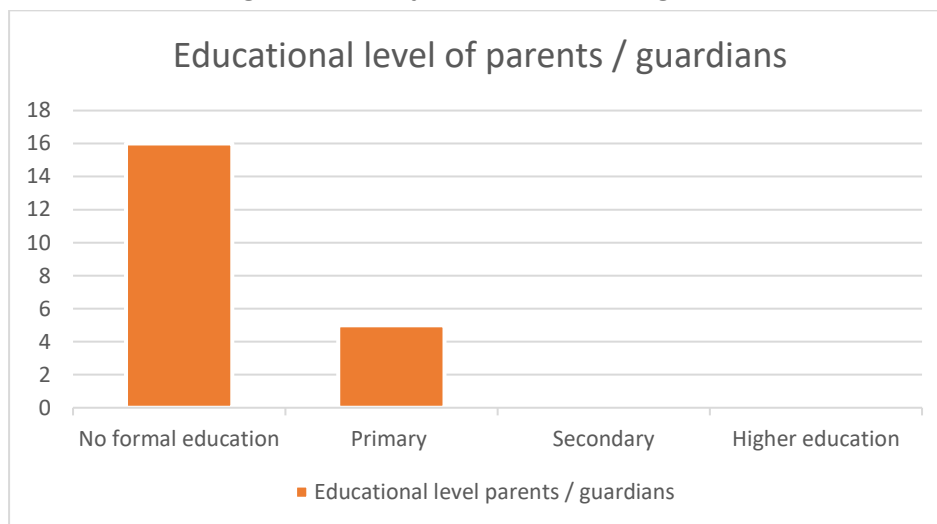
The main reasons for dropout are **family responsibilities** and **lack of interest**.

Figure 3: Financial Problems Affect Education



Most pupils said that financial problems affect their education. This shows that poverty has a strong impact on their studies.

Figure 4: Family Educational Background



Most parents or guardians have no formal education or only primary education. Their main occupation is labour work, which reflects a low-income background.

Interpretation:

The data shows that poverty has a strong effect on pupils' education. Most pupils are going to school, but dropout is mainly seen among girls. This shows that girls face more problems in continuing their education.

Most parents or guardians are not educated and are working as daily labourers. Because of this, both income and support for studies are low at home. Many pupils also said that financial problems affect their education.

Irregular attendance is also common. Many pupils miss school due to family responsibilities and financial conditions. In addition, lack of proper study space and study materials makes learning more difficult.

Many pupils know about government schemes, but not all are getting the benefits. Those who receive support find it helpful in continuing their education.

Pupils have dreams for their future, but financial problems and lack of guidance create difficulties. Overall, poverty affects not only education but also the learning conditions and future of pupils.

Case Study:

This case study is about **Monika Digambar Dudhe**, a 13-year-old girl who has **dropped** out of school in the 7th standard. She belongs to a poor family, and her parents are working as workers.

The main reason for her dropout is **family responsibilities**. She has to take care of her younger sister, which makes it difficult for her to continue her education. She also lost interest in school due to comparison with other students.

Monika wants to become a **police officer**, but she is not able to read or write properly. During the survey, she became emotional while talking about her situation. When she was attending school, she often missed classes due to family responsibilities.

She also does not have proper study materials like books, notebooks, and uniforms. They are not receiving benefits from government schemes due to eligibility issues.

Her parents also shared that they feel different from others due to their financial condition. This situation clearly shows the difficulties faced by pupils from poor families.

This case study is very emotional and shows how poverty, lack of support, and family conditions can affect a child's education and future.

Findings of the Study:

1. Most pupils are attending school, but some have dropped out. It is observed that all dropout pupils are girls.
2. The main reasons for dropout are family responsibilities and lack of interest in studies.
3. Most parents or guardians are not educated or have only primary education, which affects pupils' learning and guidance at home.
4. Financial problems affect the education of most pupils and create difficulties in continuing their studies.
5. Many pupils miss school often or sometimes due to family and economic conditions.
6. Lack of proper study materials, study space, and digital resources affects pupils' learning.
7. Most pupils receive limited support from parents, while teacher support is available but not for all.
8. Many pupils are aware of government schemes, and some are receiving benefits, but not all are able to access them.
9. Pupils have future goals, but they face many difficulties in achieving them due to poverty and lack of support.

Impact of Poverty on Education:

Poverty strongly affects a child's education. It limits not only access to school but also learning, performance, and continuation of studies. Children from low-income families often show poor school readiness, low academic performance, and higher chances of dropout.

Financial problems create stress, which affects concentration and learning ability. Many pupils miss school due to family responsibilities, health issues, or lack of transport, leading to poor performance. Lack of study materials and proper facilities also affects their learning.

Poverty increases dropout rates, as pupils leave school due to financial pressure and lack of support. In addition, poor health, unstable home conditions, and low parental education further reduce their chances of success.

Overall, poverty affects both the quality of education and future opportunities of pupils.

Conclusion:

This study shows that poverty has a strong impact on pupils' education. Even though many pupils are attending school, some have dropped out, and it is clearly seen that girls are more affected.

Financial problems, family responsibilities, and lack of awareness are the main reasons for dropout and irregular attendance. Most parents are not educated and work in low-income jobs, which affects the support given to pupils at home.

Many pupils do not have proper study materials, a suitable place to study, or access to digital resources. These problems make learning difficult. Although government schemes are helpful, not all pupils are able to receive their benefits.

At the same time, pupils have dreams for their future, but they face many challenges such as financial problems and lack of guidance.

Overall, this study shows that poverty affects not only education but also the overall development and future opportunities of pupils.

Suggestions:

- 1. Local Awareness Programs:** Regular awareness programs should be conducted in villages and communities to inform parents and guardians about the importance of education and literacy.
- 2. Special Support for Girls:** Extra support should be given to girls, especially those who have dropped out, to encourage them to rejoin school and continue their studies.
- 3. Support Centers:** Small study centers can be started in local areas where pupils can come and study, especially those who do not have a proper place at home.
- 4. Guidance and Counseling:** Teachers and volunteers should regularly guide and motivate pupils to build confidence and develop interest in their studies, so they can continue their education.
- 5. Involvement of B.Ed Students:** B.Ed students can help in teaching and supporting pupils to improve their learning.
- 6. College Initiative and Outreach Programs:** Colleges should take the initiative to visit such areas and organize educational awareness programs. B.Ed students can conduct teaching activities and guide pupils, which will help in increasing awareness and interest in education.
- 7. Effective Implementation of Government Schemes:** Government schemes should reach every eligible pupil, and proper information should be given to families.

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