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## **Impact of health status and parental attributes on academic achievement of adolescent girls in urban slum**

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### **Abstract**

The objectives of present research was to study the impact of health status and parental attributes on academic achievement of the adolescent girls. One hundred school and college going adolescent girls (13-18 yrs) were selected randomly for the present study from different slums of Bhubaneswar namely Sikharchandi and Saliasahi. The data was collected with the help of pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaires by interviewing them. Height & weight was measured with the help of required tools. The results of the study revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to lower income group families. Fathers were more educated in comparison to mothers. Cent percent of the respondents had positive attitude towards education. Academic performance of the respondents was found to be average/below average in majority cases. Majority of the respondents had normal nutritional status. Positive parental attitude and family support inspired them for higher education. However lower educational status and low income of the parents and poor health were found to be important constraints for their better academic achievement.

**Keywords:** Parental attitude, academic performance, health status, future aspiration

### **1. Introduction**

Education is one of the most important weapon for empowerment of women. It is a life line to social & economic development of the society. offering girls basic education is one sure way of enabling them to make genuine choices over the kinds of lives they wish to lead. It is not a luxury, it is a basic human right. It is also a moral and social imperative. There are 600 million girls living in the developing world. Two thirds of worlds uneducated children are girls and two thirds of worlds illiterate adults are women. Around the world girls and women continue to suffer from lack of economic opportunity, inadequate health care and education, early marriage, sexual violence and discrimination. India holds a strong determination in educating all children, especially the girl child by declaring education as a fundamental right and by providing constitutional provisions for free and compulsory education still than there are numerous huddles that prohibit a girl child from actually getting education specially the prejudices that families have about girls.

The education of the girl child has faced resistance to all efforts under taken at the national level having a school dropout rate 67%. It has been estimated that the total female literacy in Odisha is very low i.e. 23.37% as compared to male literacy of 51.48% and the difference is 28.11% (HRD, India, 2011). In this context, the present research is designed to study the impact of health status & parental attributes on academic achievement of the adolescent girls in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The objectives of the study were -

- To study the health status of the respondents.
- To know the attitude of the respondents towards education and their academic performance
- To study academic achievement of the respondents according to parental attributes and health status.
- To study the constraints in education and future aspiration of the studied sample.

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**2. Materials and methodology**

The study was carried out in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. One hundred adolescent school and college going girls (13-18yrs) were selected by random purposive sampling method for the present study, belonged to the age group of 13 to 18 years for collection of data. Information on their family background, academic performance, constraints in education & future aspiration etc. were collected with the help of pre-designed and pretested questionnaire by interviewing them as well as by using score card. Academic achievement

score of children were obtained from the latest grade sheet of the examinations. Parental encouragement level was assessed with the help of a self developed eight point scale. Nutritional status of the girls was ascertained with the help of BMI by measuring their height and weight with the help of required tools.

**3. Results and Discussion**

**3.1 Socio-economic indicators**

**Table 1:** Distribution of respondents according to socio-economic condition

SI No	Socio-Economic Indicators	Variables	Frequency		%	
	Age	13-15 years	47		47	
		16-18 years	53		53	
1	Parental education	Illiterate	Father 08	Mother 10	Father 8	Mother 10
		Below 10th	53	82	53	82
		10th to Graduation	36	8	36	8
		Above Graduation	3	-	3	-
3	Parental occupation	Laborer	Father 78	Mother 67	Father 78	Mother 67
		Business	08	05	8	05
		Service	09	-	9	-
		Any other	5	28	5	28
4	Family Income	Low (Less than 1 Lakh)	73		73	
		Medium (1 to 2 Lakhs)	27		27	
		High (Above 2 Lakhs)	00		-	
5	Types of family	Nuclear	68		68	
		Joint	32		32	
6	No of family members	Less than 04	12		12	
		04 to 06	73		73	
		Above 6	15		15	

Information on the socio-economic condition of the respondents revealed that majority of the girls belonged to the age group of 16-18 years and were studying in schools and colleges. Very few parents were found to be illiterate. Majority of the parents were found to be working as labourers in different places either in construction site, or in market places or as maids. Family income was found to be less than Rs.1,00,000/- per annum in majority cases. Nuclear family system having above 4-6 family members was found to be prevalent among the respondents.

**3.2 Attitude towards education**

Cent percent respondents had positive attitude towards education. 92% of the parents were found to inspire their daughters for higher education & co-operate them in every step of their life Johnson Adlyno. (2013) [4] found 90.7 percent girls had positive attitude towards education.

**3.3 The data on Academic performance of the respondents as per their last school score.**

**Table 2:** Distribution of the respondents according to academic performance

Subject → Grades ↓	Mathematics	Science	English	Social Studies	Language	Total Score
Excellent (Above 80%)	02	05	7	22	34	6
Good (60%-80%)	13	18	12	28	41	22
Average (40%-60%)	17	21	22	36	14	44
Below Average (30% - 40%)	68	56	59	14	11	28
Poor (below 30%)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Information on academic performance of the respondents is shown in Table No- 2. Results revealed that majority of the respondents were excellent in language specially in Odia/Sanskrit/Hindi followed by social studies. Very few respondents were excellent in Mathematics, Science and English. Majority of the respondents were found to be average in their studies. However majority of the respondents were found to be below average in English,

Mathematics and Science due to no clarity in fundamentals, no facility for doubt clear or no extra class, or no other family members or anyone else to help in their studies or not interested for a particular subject. Overall score of the students was estimated by taking total percentage of marks scored in last annual examination. It was observed that majority of the respondents were average students.

### 3.4 Academic achievements of the respondents according to Parental attributes

**Table 3:** Distribution of the respondents according to parental attributes

SI No	Parental attributes	Academic achievement				
		Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Total
1	<b>Education of the Father</b>					
	Illiterate	-	01	02	05	08
	Below 10th	-	09	23	21	53
	10th to Graduation	03	12	19	02	36
	Above Graduation	03	-	-	-	03
2	<b>Education of the Mother</b>					
	Illiterate	01	01	03	05	10
	Below 10th	02	18	40	22	82
	10th to Graduation	03	03	01	01	08
	Above Graduation	-	-	-	-	-
2	<b>Income of the Family</b>					
	Low (Less than 1 Lakh)	02	16	34	21	73
	Medium (1 to 2 Lakhs)	04	06	10	07	27
	High (Above 2 Lakhs)	-	-	-	-	-
3	<b>Parental encouragement</b>					
	Low	-	01	4	16	21
	Medium	02	13	33	11	59
	High	04	08	07	01	20
	Total	06	22	44	28	100

Results related to adolescents academic achievement on the basis of parental attributes are portrayed in Table-3.

It was observed that better parental education, better family income and higher parental encouragement has positive impact on academic achievement of the respondents. Majority of the respondents who excell / good in studies had educated parents and belonged to medium or high income group family. However the difference of parental education & income was not found among average and below average students. Similarly the respondents who received high parental encouragement were found to excell in their studies in comparison to others. But the academic achievements of the respondents who received medium level of parental encouragement was not significantly differing from academic achievement of respondents who received low and high level encouragement.

Kaur (2013) [6] found out students received high parental encouragement showed better academic achievement than students receiving low parental encouragement. Parental encouragement was positively associated with academic achievement (Hill and Tyson, 2009: Priya et.al) [3]. Students are more likely to reach their full potential when their parents actively support their direction and goals. Pandey (2008) [7] revealed that academic achievement of students were not affected by educational level of parents. Devi and Mayuri (2003) [1] found out parental aspiration and socio-economic status significantly contributed to academic achievement.

### 3.5 Academic achievements of the respondents according to Nutritional status (BMI)

**Table 4:** Academic achievement according to Nutritional status

Academic Achievement					
Nutritional Status	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Total
Under weight	01	02	08	07	18
Normal	04	16	34	20	74
Over weight	01	04	02	01	08
Obese	-	-	-	-	-
Total	06	22	44	28	100

Table No. 4 depicts that children who had normal health status were excellent or good in their studies in comparison to the girls who were under weight or over eight. However academic achievement of the respondents with regard to

health status was not significantly observed among average or below average students.

### 3.6 Constraints in higher education

**Table 5:** Constraints in higher education

SI No.	Variables	Frequency	%
1	Income of the family	63	63
2	Education of the parents	21	21
3	Score in examination	09	09
4	Environmental factors	06	06
5	Any other	01	01

It was interesting to note that income of the parents / family plays an important role for higher education of the respondents as without that support they can not go ahead. Education of the parents, score in their examination & environmental factors such as parental attitude, gender bias

& early marriage also hinder their higher education. Similar findings was also observed by Sahoo (2014) <sup>[9]</sup>.

**3.7 Future aspiration of the respondents**

**Table 6:** Future aspiration of the respondents

Sl No.	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Doctor	03	03
2	Engineer	02	02
3	Government Officer	08	08
4	Teacher	51	51
5	Self-employment		
	i) Beauty parlor	16	16
	ii) Tailor	09	09
	iii) Nurse	06	06
	iv) Any other	03	03

It was interesting to note that majority of the respondents (72%) wanted to be teacher in they future. 34% of the respondents wanted to be self employed such as beauty parlor, Tailor, Nurse, etc. Some of them were also interested to join in public sector, bank, or any other job / officer etc. A positive trend towards job was found among the respondents.

**4. Conclusion**

Problems related to implementation education policies to enhance social and economic development are many and varied specially for the girls. This research highlights perception of adolescent girls regarding education, academic achievement, future aspiration and problems related to it. Positive attitude towards education of the respondents as well as parents helped them to march ahead for higher education. Excellent / Good academic achievements of respondents was found be affected by education of the parents and income of the family as well as high parental encouragement as well as normal health status. Financial crisis was found to be major constraint in school dropout of girls as well as for their higher education. A positive trend towards job was found among the respondents & majority of them wanted to be teacher in their future followed by self employment.

Thus it can be concluded that girls are neither culturally inferior nor cognitively less competent. Linking education with their life in general with special attention to ecological, psychological and cultural aspects will certainly have significant impact on education of the adolescent girls.

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