



## PERCEPTION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOWARDS SOCIETY AND ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

*Higher education refers to education in the post higher secondary institutions, colleges and universities. The Education Act 1988, higher education is defined as higher courses in any institution- broadly, those of a standard than General Certificate of Education (G.C.E). It is higher education because it constitutes the topmost stage of formal education and it is also concerned with processes in the more advanced phases of human learning. The present study was based on Descriptive Survey method. The sample size of the present study was 160 where 80 were parents and 80 were children. Among them 40 were Post graduate and 40 were Graduate parents. In the same way 40 Post graduate and 40 Graduate children were selected for data collection. The sampling technique of the present study was Purposive sampling technique. Self-Constructed questionnaire was used as tool of the study.*

**Keywords-** Higher Education, Perception

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Education has always played an important part in preparing men for life in society and moulding them accordingly, whether directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly. Improvement of the human with its potential powers of rational thoughts, ability to discover knowledge about nature and its laws, is regarded as the key to human progress during the enlightenment.

### 2.0 MEANING OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education refers to education in the post higher secondary institutions, colleges and universities. The Education Act 1988, higher education is defined as higher courses in any institution- broadly, those of a standard than General Certificate of Education (G.C.E). It is higher education because it constitutes the topmost stage of formal education and it is also concerned with processes in the more advanced phases of human learning.

### 3.0 SOCIETY OF ASSAM

Assam is a land consists of different people having colourful traditions, folkways and mores. It is a land of diversity where people of different clan and race have come together to live in a particular place and has developed a society. This can be termed as the Society of Assam.

### 4.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Statement of the problem is 'PERCEPTION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOWARDS SOCIETY AND ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION'

### 5.0 RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

- 1) What will be the perception of Post graduate and graduate parents and children towards the Cultural aspect of the society of Assam?

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- 2) What will be the perception of Post graduate and graduate parents and children towards the Social aspect of the society of Assam?
- 3) Is there any impact of Higher education on the development of perception of parents and the children towards cultural and social aspect of the society of Assam?

## 6.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To study the perception of Post graduate and graduate parents and children towards the cultural aspect of the society of Assam.
- 2) To study the perception of Post graduate and graduate parents and children towards the Social aspect of the society of Assam.
- 3) To study the impact of Higher education on the development of perception of parents and the children towards cultural and social aspect of the society of Assam.

## 7.0 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- 1) The study is delimited to the Kamrup District of Assam. Area under Palasbari Revenue Circle and Ward no.0001 (Guwahati Municipal Corporation)
- 2) The study is also delimited to the Post graduate and graduate parents and children living in Kamrup District.
- 3) The study is delimited only some of the Cultural and Social aspect of the society of Assam which are as follows-  
Cultural Aspect- 1) Material Culture 2) Non-Material Culture (Folkways and Mores, Belief and habits) and Social Aspect- (Class system and Caste system)

## 8.0 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on Descriptive Survey method.

## 9.0 SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The sample size of the present study is 160 where 80 are parents and 80 are children. Among them 40 are Post graduate and 40 are Graduate parents are selected. In the same way 40 Post graduate and 40 Graduate children were selected for data collection. The sampling technique of the present study is Purposive Sampling technique.

## 10.0 TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

For the present study self structured Interview Schedule was prepared. The nature of the items is based on following elements. Cultural Aspect- 1) Material Culture 2) Non-Material Culture (Folkways and Mores, Belief and habits). Social Aspect- Class system and Caste system

## 11.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 11.1 PERCEPTION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOWARDS THE CULTURAL ASPECTS

Statement 1 & 2- *Do you feel satisfy with the goods available in your home? Do you need more than it?*

Parent's View- The data of the present study reveals that all the 40 post graduate and 40 graduate parents are satisfied with the goods available in their home and they do not need more than it. Among them 3 Post graduate parents expressed that 'Simple living and high thinking'- this should be the ideology of everyone.

Children's view- The opposite result has found in case of the children's opinion. Among 40 Post graduate children, 32 children are not satisfied with the goods available in their home and the rest 8 are satisfied. On the other hand all the 40 graduate children are not satisfied with the goods available in their home and they need more luxurious goods.

Statement 3- *Do you want to update the goods by replacing it with new western material in time to time? What is your opinion?*

Parent's View- All the Post graduate and graduate parents viewed that they want to

update the goods by replacing it with western material in time to time. Among them 36 Post graduate and 1 graduate viewed that some materials like 'Sorai', 'Japi', 'Gamosa' etc. should not be replaced because those are represents our culture.

Children's view- The 80 children also viewed that they want to update the goods by replacing it with western material in time to time. They viewed that we should be changed all the materials because the western materials are more comfortable, good looking than the using materials of Assamese culture. Apart from that 4 Post graduate children viewed that the materials like 'Sorai', 'Japi' those should be preserved because those material represent our material culture.

Statement 4- *We should use 'tamol-paan' instead of Printed invitation letter for inviting people in marriage ceremony. If no, then why?*

Parent's View- The all parents agreed that we should use 'tamol paan' instead of printed invitation letter for inviting guests in marriage ceremony. Among them 11 parents (8 are Post graduate and 3 are graduate) viewed that from a long time they have been using 'tamol paan' instead of invitation letter to invite the guests of their locality.

Children's view- The present data has shown that 78 Post graduate and graduate children disagreed with that statement and 2 Post graduate children agreed with the statement. At the time of data collection when the researcher asked the reason of disagree than they replied as "*Invitation letter is innovative and it our upgrades our standard whereas using 'tamol-paan' will decrease our standard.*"

Statement 5- *'After marriage, a girl takes the surname of her husband'- This tradition should be changed.*

Parent's view- All the sampled parents disagreed with the statement. They viewed that the girl should take the surname of her husband with their name after marriage.

Children's view- The present data has revealed that all children are disagreed with the statement. They viewed that the girl should be empowered and they should have their own identity.

Statement 6- *During meal time always the male of the houses should take first after that the female should take.*

Parent's View- 76 Post graduate and graduate parents were agreed with the statement. They expressed that usually the males are the head and seniors of the houses and it is a sign of respect for them which should be kept in our society. On the other hand rest 4 Post graduate parents viewed that both male and female should be equally treated.

Children's View- All children were disagreed with the statement and viewed that both the male and female should be treated equally.

Statement 7- *Do you belief in Witch?*

Parent's View- All parents viewed that they do not believe in Witch.

Children's View- All children also viewed that they do not believe in Witch.

Statement 8- *Do you belief in Witch Hunting?*

Parent's View- All parents viewed that they do not believe in Witch Hunting.

Children's View- All Children also viewed that they do not believe in Witch Hunting.

Statement 9- *"If a black cat crosses our road then we should move four footsteps backwards'- Do you believe in this?*

Parent's View- 70 Post graduate and graduate parents believe in the above statement. On the other hand the rest 10 post graduate parents do not believe in the above statement. They viewed that those are only some kind of superstitious belief which are should be removed from the society.

Children's view- All children does not believe in the above statement. They also

viewed that those are only some kind of superstitious belief which are should be removed.

Statement 10- *“In the day of marriage of Assamese culture, if thin rain comes for a short period of time, then it is believed as a sign of goodness”- Do you believe?*

Parent’s View- 70 Post graduate and graduate parents believe in the statement whereas the rest 10 parents do not believe in the statement.

Children’s View- All the children do not believe in the statement.

Statement 11- *“In the day of marriage ceremony of Assamese culture, the groom’s mother should not go to bride’s home to attend her son’s marriage ceremony”- Do you believe?*

Parent’s View- 77 parents believe in the statement. Only 3 Post graduate parents viewed that it is an unrealistic ritual which is created my man and we can remove it.

Children’s view- 79 children does not believe in the statement and only one graduate child believes in the above statement.

Statement 12- *“If we say something and at the same time a lizard makes sound continuously for three times, it is believed that we said truth”- Do you believe?*

Parent’s View- 69 Post graduate and graduate parents believe in the above statement and they viewed that they usually do it in day to day life. On the other hand the rest 11 (10-Post graduate and 1 graduate) parents do not believe in that statement and viewed that there is no any scientific reason behind this statement.

Children’s view- All the children do not believe in that statement and viewed that there is no any scientific reason behind this statement.

Statement 13- *“The dream we dreamt in the early morning comes true in the real life”- Do you believe?*

Parent’s View- All Parents do not believe in that statement and viewed that there is no any scientific reason behind this statement.

Children’s View- All children do not believe in that statement and viewed that there is no any scientific reason behind this statement.

Statements 14- *What type of dress do you prefer to wear in cultural events like Bihu? a)Traditional b)Modern*

Parent’s View- 2 Post graduate parents prefer to wear Traditional dress and the other 78 parents prefer to wear modern dress.

Children’s View- All the children prefer to wear modern dress.

Statement 15- *Are you happy with the dressing style of your children/parents?*

Parent’s View- 75 parents are happy with the dressing style of their children and the other 5 Post graduate parents are not fully happy viewed that all type of modern dresses which their children wear should not be encouraged.

Children’s View- All the children are not happy with the dressing style of their parents. They viewed that their parents should change their perception towards dressing style.

## **11.2 PERCEPTION OF APERNETS AND CHILDREN TOWARDS THE SOCIAL ASPECTS**

Statement 16- *Do you agree that higher education upgrades the class system?*

Parent’s View- All the parents are agreed with that statement.

Children’s View- All the children are agreed with that statement.

Statement 17- *Do you believe in caste system?*

Parent’s View- 76 parents believe in caste system. Among them 2 Post graduate and 2 graduate parents who belong to Brahmin caste, they viewed that they always maintain their caste status and usually do not like to mix up with the other caste.

Children’s View- 71 children do not believe in caste system and on the other hand 9 graduate children believe in caste system.



Statement 18- *Do you support inter-caste marriage?*

Parent's View- 77 parents do not support inter-caste marriage. From the rest 3 Post graduate parents support caste system.

Children's View- 79 children support inter-caste marriage and only one graduate child does not support inter-caste marriage.

Statement 19- *Will you support your daughter/son to marry with a boy/girl of other caste?*

a) *Brahmin* b) *Sudras* c) *Scheduled Tribe* d) *Scheduled caste*

Parent's View- 77 parents were disagreed to support their children to marry with a boy-girl of other caste. On the other hand 3 Post graduate parents viewed that they will support their children to marry with in any boy-girl of any caste.

Children's View- 79 children support to marry with a boy/girl of other caste and only 1 child opposed the above statement.

## 12.0 FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- 1) The present study reveals that most of the parents have positive perception regarding preservation and conservation of material culture, where as the children do not have positive perception towards the preservation and conservation of material culture. The perception of post graduate parents is better than the graduate parents regarding the preservation of material culture.
- 2) It has also been found that the perception of children is more scientific and rationale than the parents towards the non-material culture of the society. Moreover the post graduate parents have better perception than the graduate parents.
- 3) The perception of children is more scientific and rationale than the parents towards the women empowerment, equality of rights of both male and

female, superstitious belief etc. A few post graduate parents have scientific perception towards superstition belief, women empowerment, equality of rights of both male and female etc.

- 4) From the present study it has found that the children have broader perception than the parents towards the class system and caste system of the society of Assam. Very few post graduate parents have broader perception towards the class system and caste system of the society of Assam.
- 5) The study reveals that higher education has a good impact on the development of the perception of parents towards material culture. Most of the parents have the positive perception towards preservation and conservation of the material culture. The parents having Post graduate degree have better rational thinking and perception than the graduate parents.
- 6) The study also reveals that Higher education has failed to build the perception among the children towards preservation and conservation of culture. On the other hand the children have positive and rationale perception towards non-material culture. Higher education has good impact on the development of the perception of the children towards non-material culture.
- 7) The present study has shown that higher education has failed to fully develop their perception towards social aspect of the society of Assam. Only few post graduate parents have logical and broader perception towards the society.
- 8) From the study it has been found that almost all sampled children have positive and broader perception towards the social aspect of the society. Higher education has a good impact on the development of the perception of the children towards the social aspect of the society.

### 13.0 CONCLUSION

Higher education has a vital role in the development of the cultural and social aspect of a society. But unfortunately the present higher education system has failed to develop the perception of the younger generation. So, it is urgent need to reform the curriculum, method of teaching and find out the proper solution to make aware the younger generation towards preservation and conservation of culture of their own society.

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