THE IMPACT OF TOTAL LITERACY PROGRAMMES ON NEO-LITERATE ADULTS OF MALAPPURAM DISTRICT IN KERALA

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SYNOPSIS

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Adult Education Programmes concentrated on reaching the target in quantity: but ignored the qualitative aspects. Previous studies on adult education repeatedly pointed out that the programmes did not create qualitative impact in the learners, especially in the areas of social awareness and functionality. The quality and effectiveness of any programme depends to a large extent on the research and investigation by which it is backed. For the effectiveness and continuation of the literacy programmes it is very essential to study the impact of these programmes. It is in this context, the investigator initiated and conducted a study on the impact of Literacy Programmes in Kerala, by focusing on the most educationally backward district, i.e., Malappuram.

TITLE OF THE STUDY

The problem for the present study is entitled as “THE IMPACT OF TOTAL LITERACY PROGRAMMES ON NEO-LITERATE ADULTS OF MALAPPURAM DISTRICT IN KERALA”.

OBJECTIVES

To analyse the impact of the Total Literacy Programmes on neo-literate adults in their:

I. Personal background
   a) Education
   b) Health and Hygiene
   c) Vocation
   d) Economic condition
   e) Religion

II. Family background

III. Social background

IV. Cultural background
SAMPLE FOR THE STUDY
The sample for the study was 100 neo-literates of Malappuram district. Due representation was given for Tribal people, Coastal fishermen and Women in the selected sample.

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES USED IN THE STUDY
The following tools and techniques were used for collecting data for the study.

1. A structured interview schedule for neo-literates.
2. An interview schedule for the community
3. Participant observation.
4. Performance Test in Reading.
5. Performance Test in Writing.
6. Performance Test in Numeracy.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED FOR THE STUDY
The statistical technique used for analysing the data was percentage analysis.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY
1. The programme has a positive impact on making the illiterates aware of the need for literacy. But the programme could not provide enough facility centres for continuing education.
2. The programme had an average impact on their performance in reading, writing and numeracy.
3. It could develop reading habit among participants.
4. It had an impact on increasing the political awareness.
5. But the programme has low impact on knowledge of India’s relation with neighbouring countries and the internal problems of the country.
6. Similarly, the programme has only a low impact on making awareness on consumer rights.
7. The programme could not provide enough knowledge of different types of financial assistance instituted by the Government and could not help them in utilizing these financial aids.
8. The programme had an impact on changing the preference of treatment from the traditional medicines to modern medicines.

9. The programme could educate some of the participants (11%) on the importance of health care.

10. It could increase the knowledge on the importance of prenatal and postnatal care to more persons among the participants (14%), though the others already had the knowledge.

11. Preferring a hospital for delivery is found to increase after the programme.

12. The programme could make the participants aware of environmental pollution and its different causes.

13. It could gain momentum to stop bad habits like smoking and consumption of alcohol (25 to 28% of those had the habits).

14. It could increase the number of participants following hygienic practices (16%).

15. It could increase the number of participants having a separate dwelling house for their pet animals (6% more while 87% already had it earlier).

16. Though the programme could increase the awareness of the need for having a latrine, only a few had constructed a latrine (4%). (This may be due to the poor financial condition of the participants. As pointed out under ‘impact on Education’ the programme had failed to impart knowledge of different types of financial assistance provided by the Government).

17. The programme could make people aware of the importance of pure drinking water.

18. The programme had made a notable impact on disseminating knowledge on infectious diseases and its preventive measures.

19. Though the programme could give enough awareness on the need for nutritious food, it could not make much change in the food habits, due to poor financial condition.

20. The programme could make the participants who were already employed rethink on a change of their job for more earnings. It could also change their attitude towards work more positively and increase their interest in work.
21. The programme could influence the spending habits of the participants and it made them spend more economically.

22. But the programme had failed to give awareness of renewable energy sources such as biogas and the use of better utensils for energy conservation.

23. The participants of the programme are still religious and their belief in religion has not decreased with increasing earnings.

24. Majority of the participants could not be influenced by the programme to keep away from their religious rituals.

25. The literacy programmes could convince the participants of the importance of giving education to children, which is an important step to eradicate illiteracy.

26. It could also influence the participants to treat their boys and girls equally without any discrimination.

27. The programme could make a high positive impact on the attitude towards higher education of girls.

28. It could develop an attitude of protest against premature marriage of girls.

29. The programme could make the participants aware of population explosion.

30. But the programme could not make any change in the habit of alcohol consumption.

31. Similarly, the programme could not succeed in disseminating the need for small families.

32. It could not effectively spread the message of keeping sufficient time-gap between each pregnancy.

33. The programme could not disseminate the knowledge of use of external devices for family planning.

34. It could also not influence the participants’ attitude towards equality of sexes or towards the upliftment of women in a more positive way.
35. The programme had not tried to motivate the participants to do social activities.

36. The programme had an added effect on the positive attitude of the participants to their neighbours.

37. It could generate awareness on the need to resist injustice.

38. The programme could add to their participation in celebrating days of national importance, thereby developing love for the nation.

39. The programme had made a high impact on making the participants to take part in cultural activities.

40. But it failed to motivate the participants to spend their leisure time fruitfully.