ABSTRACT

The study is intended to investigate the role of family in the education of the tribal students. The specific roles played by tribal parents in the education of their children in terms of their attitude towards education, their involvement in children's education, child rearing practices they follow, parent-child relationship in their family and their parenting skill were studied in relation to the academic achievement of their children. A stratified random sample of 315 tribal children (160 boys + 155 girls) and their both parents (315 fathers + 315 mothers) constituted the sample for the study. Standardized tools were administered on the tribal parents as well as on tribal students to collect data needed for the study. Average score of last two term-end examinations, maintained by the school authorities, were taken as the measure of academic achievement. Data collection is followed by its consolidation and analysis partially with the help of SPSS (16.0) package. Interpretations of the obtained results were made by keeping the hypotheses in mind and conclusions are arrived in the light of statistical facts and figures. The study revealed that the role currently playing by the parents in the education of tribal children, in terms of the measured variables, is not very supportive. In addition to gender, other socio-demographic factors like formal education received, their income, type of income generating activity they are engaged, numbers of children in the family, mode of student hosteling etc. are all decisive in playing the educational role by tribal families. The attitude of tribal parents to education, their involvement in education, child rearing practices they adopt, parent-child relationship in tribal families, and the parenting skill of tribal parents were found correlated positively and significantly with the academic achievement of their children. In the light of the findings of the study, some holistic measures highlighting the basic causes of the problem in a context-specific, comprehensive manner have been suggested along with their implications.

Key words: Tribal children, attitude towards education, parental involvement, child rearing practice, parent child relationship, parenting skill, academic achievement.