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Conclusions and suggestions

Conclusions:

The present study dealt with Educational Opportunities available to the slum areas children of the Srinagar District. Its main purpose was to find out whether it was appropriate, adequate and at par with educational opportunity which existed for the non-slum area children in Srinagar District. On the basis of the interpretation of results the following conclusions are drawn:

01. The schooling facilities provided by the Government authorities in Srinagar District were almost adequate for slum area children. However, their utilization by slum area children was far better that those of the non-slum area children.

02. Although for the great mass of slum area children in Srinagar District, sufficient educational facilities were existing, yet the quality of these facilities was very much inferior to those being enjoyed by the non-slum area children.

03. In the matter of school resources i.e. physical, material and human, the slum schools were not at par with the non-slum area schools. There was much discrepancy between slum and non-slum schools in important school inputs like the school building and equipment, the teachers, the curriculum and the pupils.

04. The physical and material resources of the school were much inferior and inadequate. Level of ability, the teachers were less qualified, less interested and less favourably inclined towards their students and the pupils had less favourable conditions and
facilities for studies at home, less parental help and support, less interest and developed ability for studies, and very low educational aspirations.

05. The differences in school and family inputs were reflected in the outcomes of education both academic and non-academic. The academic achievement of slum children was very much low than that of non-slum area children. Thus educational opportunities, as judged from educational outcomes, had not been as effective in the case of slum area children as in that of non-slum area children.

Thus although apparently the slum area children had free access to Government Schools in Srinagar District and sufficient educational facilities available to them, educational opportunities for them was far from equal as is evident from highly unequal school and family inputs, unequal academic and non-academic outcomes of learning and a very low utilization of educational facilities by them. Naturally, much will have to be done at the school, societal and family levels before a reasonable measure of equality can be achieved in the criteria of equality of educational opportunity.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:**

In the light of the findings of the present study the investigator feels that the following suggestions be taken into consideration, while conducting a study similar to the present one:

01. Similar studies covering all aspects of educational opportunity and also furnishing description, evaluation and comparison of educational opportunity for slum and non-slum children can be undertaken at other stages of school education and in other areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
02. Intensive studies devoting themselves exclusively to a single dimension or factor of educational opportunity such as the provision of educational facilities, their utilization, school, teacher, family and pupil inputs, and the cognitive, affective and conative outcomes of education can be undertaken.

03. It will be worthwhile to conduct studies of educational opportunity for the children of other deprived sections of the society such as Girls, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Inhabitants of geographically difficult and economically backward areas can be undertaken.

04. Studies of those socio-physiological processes which help to translate the external educational opportunities into actuality both in the home and at school would really be very useful.

05. Essential is research on the socio-economic and environmental conditions, life style, values and attitudes of slum-dwellers and their child-rearing practices which impinge on the education of their children.