ABSTRACT

The study deals with the psycho-social elements of students in Jesuit educational institutions in the Calcutta Province of the Society of Jesus.

The research is approached in two parts: Part A and Part B.

Part A is an exploratory and descriptive study against the background of the educational policies of Jesuit educational institutions and National educational policies. This is in order to ascertain the points of coincidence and divergence of the policies of Jesuit educational institutions in Calcutta Province with that of the educational policies of the National government.

Part B is to analyze if there is any bias, for or against admission of the students from the Lower SES group and to ascertain whether the Lower SES group students have as high Achievement Motivation; are doing as well academically; have as high Self Concept and have as high Altruism as students from other SES groups studying in the six Jesuits educational institutions of Calcutta Province.

The method of study to achieve the objective of Part A was through a historical critique, by studying various documents of the National educational policies of the Indian government, before and after independence and the Jesuit educational policies and Catholic Church documents.

The method of study to achieve the objectives of Part B was through a quantitative analyses and interpretations of data collected from a random sample of 2019 students across six Jesuit schools of Calcutta Province.

Four standardized tests namely, Adapted Beena Shah’s SES Scale, (1986); Deo-Mohan Achievement Motivation Scale, (1985); S.P. Ahluwalia Children Self Concept Scale, (1986) and Ghose and Ray Altruism Scale (2007) were administered. The participants also completed an interview schedule in order to develop a descriptive profile of the sample. The academic results of two of the recent test performances of these students were collected from the school administration in order to ascertain their Academic Status. Appropriate statistical techniques consisting of descriptive statistics, chi-square test, analysis of variance test and t-test were used, as required, for the analysis of the data and the results were interpreted.

The study showed that as per Jesuit policies and National policies on education, tending to the deprived and the marginalized is the main aim in imparting education by the Jesuits of Calcutta Province. However, the quantitative analyses and interpretations of data show that the Lower SES group suffers in comparison to other SES groups in various aspects such as proportion of admission of the Lower SES group students as compared to the other SES groups, as well as in the development of psycho-social elements such as Achievement Motivation, Academic Status and Self Concept. The exception is that of Altruism where not much of a difference is observed in the Altruism scores of the different SES groups. Therefore, the study shows that Jesuit education in Calcutta Province needs to focus on the marginalized and the disadvantaged in their formal institutions of education in more meaningful ways.