

Academic socialization of children in tea communities of Assam

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Academic socialization is a way to facilitate the educational development of children by involving in school related and other academics activities of children. Parents are considered to be the primary agents of child socialization. Hence, parent's beliefs and behaviors regarding school-related activities influence children's academic performance. The present study was an attempt to assess the academic socialization provided by parents to their children in tea communities of Assam. The sample consisted of 100 parents who had children studying in either lower primary or secondary school standards. From the total 100 samples, 50 respondents having girl child and 50 respondents having boy were selected. Samples were selected on the basis of stratified random sampling from the tea gardens of Jorhat district of Assam. An interview schedule was used for data collection. The result revealed that majority of the respondents provide medium level of academic socialization to their children and academic socialization provided to children studying in lower primary standards was found to be better than children studying in secondary standards.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Academic socialization, Lower primary class, Secondary class

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Education is viewed at large by society as a primary determinant to achieve success and to build strong foundation for later life. It is a process that begins from home of every child, which is assumed as the first place of learning and parents as the first teacher. Parent's role in socializing their children is an important aspect of good education. Socialization by parents shapes the development of children's social and antisocial behaviour that have direct impact on children's success and failure in school setting (Barmrind, 1991; Maccoby and Martin, 1983 and Thompson, 1993). Socializing children towards

education begins from early age. Family, school, peers, mass media and religion each play a major role in the socialization and, ultimately, the education process.

Academic socialization is what that takes place when parents discuss with their children about the importance of education and the benefits and importance of performing well in academics. Academic socialization is a way to facilitate the educational development of children. As education is regarded as an important determinant of achieving success for every person, hence, the role of parents and family are extremely

important in a child’s educational life. But some parents are not aware of importance of education and thus do not consider providing academic socialization to children as an influential factor. The literacy rate of the tea community of Assam is lowest, particularly among girls and women. Survey by Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) revealed that in all districts where there are Tea gardens the number of non-enrolled children is highest (SSA, Assam, 2003). The parents belonging to tea communities of Assam are not highly educated and they mostly engage themselves as tea garden labourers, hence they expect the same from their children.

Considering the above scenario of education and academic socialization of children among tea communities of Assam the present study entitled “Academic Socialization of children in tea community of Assam” has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- To find out the academic socialization provided to children in tea communities.
- To find out whether there exists any difference in academic socialization provided to children according to primary and secondary standard of study at school.

Null hypothesis:

There is no difference in academic socialization provided to children studying in lower primary and secondary standards.

RESEARCH METHODS

The present study was conducted in Jorhat district of Assam. The sample consisted of 100 parents who had children studying in either lower primary or secondary school standards. From the total sample of 100 respondent parents, 50 parents having girls and 50 respondents having boys as their children were selected randomly. Samples were selected on the basis of stratified random sampling from the tea gardens of Jorhat district of Assam. An interview schedule was used in the study to collect information regarding academic socialization of children and scores were given against the responses. After data collection, mean, standard

deviation and t-score values were computerized in the view of the findings and the results were interpreted. Data was collected during the calendar year 2018.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data were examined to assess the academic socialization provided to children and to find out if any difference exists in academic socialization provided to children studying in lower primary standards and children studying in secondary standards. The response received has been presented in the form of Table 1.

Results highlighted (Table 1) that majority of the respondents (65%) had provided medium level of academic socialization to children. It may be because most of the respondents were educated and they have realized the value of education. Even though some parents who cannot involve directly due to their busy work schedule try to arrange some alternative source to help their children like arranging tuition classes, providing study materials whatever their children needs and communicating with teachers whenever it is possible for them. There were respondents who provided high level (22%) of academic socialization. It may be that these respondents had realized that education may help in uplifting their present standard of living and hence they want their children to be well educated and get a good job in future. There were also a few respondents (13%) who provided low level of academic socialization. It may be due to poor economic condition.

Table 2 highlights the result of differences in academic socialization provided to children studying in lower primary standards and children studying in secondary standards. An independent t test was conducted to find out the differences. The calculated value of $t(98) = 5.832$ and $p=0.00$; $p < 0.01$ (2 tailed) indicates a statistically significant difference between the two categories. It can be interpreted from the result that academic socialization provided to children studying in lower primary standard ($M = 50.68$; $SD = 6.416$) is better than children studying in secondary standard ($M = 44.14$; $SD = 4.660$).

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to levels of academic socialization provided to children									
Variable	n	High		Medium		Low		Mean score	SD
		F	P	F	P	F	P		
Academic socialization	100	22	22	65	65	13	13	47.41	6.475

F= Frequency P= Percentage
 High score= 53.8 Medium score= 5.1 Low score= 40.9

Table 2 : Comparison of academic socialization provided by parents to children studying in lower primary standards and children studying in secondary standards

Groups	n	Mean	Std. Deviation	t value	df	p value
Lower primary class	50	50.68	6.416	5.832**	98	.00
Secondary class	50	44.14	4.660			

** indicates significance of value at P=0.01 level

The difference may be due to the fact that even though the parents are educated but their level of education is not high. With their limited education level they can only provide guidance or involve in academic activities of children upto a certain level (lower primary class level) and beyond that they find it difficult to guide children. This may be also because during young period children obey what parents say, but as they grow up they tend to disobey parents and do according to their own wish

Conclusion:

From the research study it can be conclude that majority of the respondents provided medium level of academic socialization to children followed by high level and then low level of academic socialization. It has been found that parents are more involved with children studying in lower primary standard than with children studying in secondary standard, it may be because they find easier to involve with children studying in lower

primary standard as they listen to them and follow their instruction.

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