



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF ADOLESCENT BENEFICIARIES (GIRLS) OF SABLA SCHEME OF AMARAVATI, NANDED AND NASHIK DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA

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Introduction:

Educational Skills Professional Circumstances are changing rapidly. Academic Skills Training Area is expanding with various curriculum scales. In this competitive and rapidly changing world, it is challenging and stressful for teenagers to adapt to life in a changing world. The transition period from childhood to adolescence or adulthood is called 'adolescence'. In the same sense, the words 'adolescence', 'adolescence' and 'adolescence' are also used. Adolescence is a critical phase in human life, and the consequences of what happens in this stage last a lifetime.

Adolescence means to emerge or gain recognition. Adolescence is derived from the Latin word- 'adolescent', which means growth or maturation. Adolescence is an essential transition from infancy to adulthood, although the growth and development of a person begin at birth (even before conception).

This transition period usually begins in adolescence and ends when a person becomes a fully grown adult. It includes the physical, sexual, mental and social growth and development of man. Since this process starts a little back and forth and lasts for a more extended period, it is challenging to define adolescence and determine the period (and there are expert differences).

Adolescence is generally considered to be the period from the tenth year to the sixteenth to the twentieth year. In girls, this period starts earlier than in boys and ends earlier

(10 to 16 years for girls and 12 to 18 years for boys). Depending on the child's socio-economic-family situation, nutrition, environment etc. (this period starts late due to poverty and malnutrition).

It also varies according to the natural-socio-cultural characteristics of different places. Although this period is beginning earlier than before, considering the more extended period of education and the increased period of dependence on parents, it now takes much longer to become a complete and self-sufficient man/woman.

The term adolescent has not been given a publicly accepted definition. However, UNICEF¹ has clarified this in the case of 10-19-year-olds.

The dropout rate is defined as 'the percentage of students who drop out from a given grade or cycle or level of education in a given school year. 'Dropout of students affects labor market, economic performance and a country's social progress. The 2020-21 report by Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) revealed that the annual dropout rate of secondary school students was 14.6%. Regarding the dropout rate among adolescents in Maharashtra, various schemes brought in to ensure free and compulsory education, the dropout rate at the upper primary and higher secondary levels in Maharashtra continues to rise. As per UDISE², The dropout rate of upper primary students has gone up from 1.06% (2016-17) to 1.56% (2017-18), whereas that for higher secondary school students increased from 2.4% (2016-17) to 2.9% (2017-18). This study aims to study regional imbalance in Maharashtra. It explores adolescent girls' dropout rates in Amravati, Nashik and Nanded districts.

Objectives:

- To know the socio-economic and educational status of school dropout adolescent girls
- To understand the type of beneficiaries
- To study the reasons for school dropout adolescent girls

Methodology:

Primary data has been collected from the three districts, namely Amravati, Nashik and Nanded. Further, three blocks were selected from the selected districts on the basis of urban, rural and tribal. From each block, nine Anganwadi's are selected; from all 27 Anganwadi's, 387 respondents are selected for the purpose of the study. Descriptive statistics is used to analysis the data further.

District Profile:

Amravati: Amravati district is a district of Maharashtra state in central India. It is the administrative headquarter of Amravati division, which is one of the two divisions in Vidarbha (the other being Nagpur) out of a total of 6 regions in the state of Maharashtra.

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/media/57336/file>

² <https://udiseplus.gov.in/#/home>

Amravati District population constituted 2.57 percent of the total Maharashtra population. The 35.9% of people lives in urban areas, while 64.09% lives in rural areas.

The district comprises six sub-divisions, further divided into 14 talukas. Amravati sub-division is divided into three talukas: Amravati, Bhatukali and Nandgaon Khandeshwar.

Nashik: Nashik is an ancient city in the northwest region of Maharashtra in India, situated on the banks of the Godavari river. Nashik district is the third-largest district in Maharashtra in terms of Population. The total number of talukas is 15 in the district. The economy of the district is based on agriculture and industries also. The district is known for its massive production of grapes and onion.

Nanded: Nanded is one of the districts of the Marathwada regions of Maharashtra and has a predominantly agricultural economy. It comprises sixteen talukas. The majority of its population is engaged in agricultural activities. Very few industries exist in the district. The existing industries are agriculture-based. The majority of its population lives in rural areas.

Vital Demographic Indicators: Amaravati, Nashik and Nanded District (2011)

Sr. No.	Items	Amaravati	Nashik	Nanded
1	No. of Blocks	14	15	16
2	No. of Villages	1681	1922	1645
3	Population (2011)	2888445	6107187	33, 61,292
4	Population - Males (2011)	1480768	3151786	17, 30,075
5	Population - Females (2011)	1407677	2950001	16, 31,217
6	Literacy Rate (2011)	82.31	80.96	75.45
7	Literacy Rate - Males (2011)	88.17	88.17	84.27
8	Literacy Rate - Females (2011)	76.08	76.08	66.15
9	Sex Ratio (2011)	934	931	943
Sr. No.	Items	Amaravati	Nashik	Nanded
10	Child Sex Ratio (2011)	890	882	910
11	Density of Population (2011)	393 per sq.	393	273
12	Percent Urban (2011)	42.52%	58.67	27.18
13	Percent Rural	64.09	47.33	72.8
14	Percent SC Population (2011)	9.08%	9.08	19.05
15	Percent ST Population (2011)	25.61%	25.62	8.38
16	Girl Marriage below 18	22.4	22.4	31.5
17	School Dropout rate after 5 th	1.6	0.40	Data Not
18	School Dropout rate of Girls after 5 th	1.4	0.21	Available
19	School Dropout rate after 8 th	1.00	0.67	
20	School Dropout rate of Girls after 8 th	1.4	0.35	

Source census of India 2011

Discussion:

Table: -1 Total number of Kishoris (adolescent girls) participated in the study

Districts	Total number of respondents			Total
	Urban	Rural	Tribal	
Amaravati	47	53	34	134
Nashik	45	39	32	116
Nanded	46	45	46	137
Total	138	137	112	387

Table no 1 depicts that out of a total of 387 respondents' participation from the tribal area is less (112), and the participation of (138) respondents is more. One number is less in a rural area compared with the urban area. In the given table researcher gave absolute numbers instead of percentages.

Table: -2 Age of Kishoris (adolescent girls)

Districts	Age Group of Respondents		Total
	11 to 14	15 to 18	
Amarawati	58 (43.3%)	76 (56.7%)	134 (100.0%)
Nashik	37 (31.9%)	79 (68.1%)	116 (100.0%)
Nanded	53 (38.7%)	84 9 (61.3%)	137 (100.0%)
Total	148 (38.2%)	239 (61.8%)	387 (100.0%)

The above table depicts the district-wise distribution of the total number of respondents involved in the study with their age group. It is seen that 148 respondents are from the age group of 11 to 14, and 239 are from the age group of 15 to 18. This indicates a need to increase the number of beneficiaries in the age group of 11 to 14.

Table: - 3 Distribution of the respondents according to geography against religion

Geographical Diversity	Religion					Total
	Hindu	Muslim	Christian	Baudha	Sikh	
Urban	92 (66.7%)	8 (5.8%)	1 (0.7%)	37 (26.8%)	0 (0.0%)	138 (100.0%)
Rural	121(88.3%)	5 (3.6%)	1 (0.7%)	9 (6.6%)	1 (0.7%)	137 (100.0%)
Tribal	81(72.3%)	24 (21.4%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)	112 (100.0%)
Total	294 (76.0%)	37 (9.6%)	2 (0.5%)	53 (13.7%)	1 (0.3%)	387 (100.0%)

The above table depicts the total number of respondents with their religion. In this table, it is seen that a single respondent is of Sikh faith, and maximum respondents 294 are of Hindu religion, 53 are Buddhist, 37 are Muslims, and 2 are Christian. Representation from other religions is too less. That may be because that religion's population proportion is less than the Hindu religion. It may be due to the population proportion other than the Hindu community in the total population. Here researcher feels that participation of other than Hindu communities need to be increased. There must be some awareness campaign about the scheme and its benefits.

Table: - 4 Distribution of Respondents by the Category

Geographical Diversity	Distribution of Respondents by the Category				Total
	General	SC	ST	OBC	
Urban	12 (8.70%)	70 (50.70%)	10 (7.20%)	46 (33.30%)	138 (100.00%)
Rural	11 (8.00%)	17 (12.40%)	2 (1.50%)	107 (78.10%)	137 (100.00%)
Tribal	0 (0.00%)	18 (16.10%)	53 (47.30%)	41 (36.60%)	112 (100.00%)
Total	23 (5.90%)	105 (27.10%)	65 (16.80%)	194 (50.10%)	387 (100.00%)

Table number 4 shows the distribution of respondents according to their caste category. The maximum number of respondents is 194 (50%) from the OBC category, followed by SC is 105 (27.5%) and a minimum number of 23 (5.9%). Though it is being seen in table 3, the representation of Hindu respondents is more, but the category of them is from the other backward class. This is a good indication that the deprived class of society is taking the maximum benefit of the scheme. But researcher strongly recommends that there should be efforts need to be taken by the implementing department for the involvement of ST category girls.

Table: - 5 Educational Status of the respondents

Geographical Diversity	Educational Status		Total
	School Going	Dropout	
Urban	86 (62.30%)	52 (37.70%)	138 (100.00%)
Rural	101 (73.70%)	36 (26.30%)	137 (100.00%)
Tribal	111 (99.10%)	1 (0.90%)	112 (100.00%)
Total	298 (77.00%)	89 (23.00%)	387 (100.00%)

Table 5 explains the school going and school dropout status of the respondents. Out of a total of 387 respondents, 298 (77%) are School going, and 89 (23%) are school dropouts.

It is exciting that a maximum number of school dropouts are from urban projects, and a minimum of 1 (09%) are from tribal area projects. Similarly, there are more school-going respondents from tribal area projects 111 (90.10).

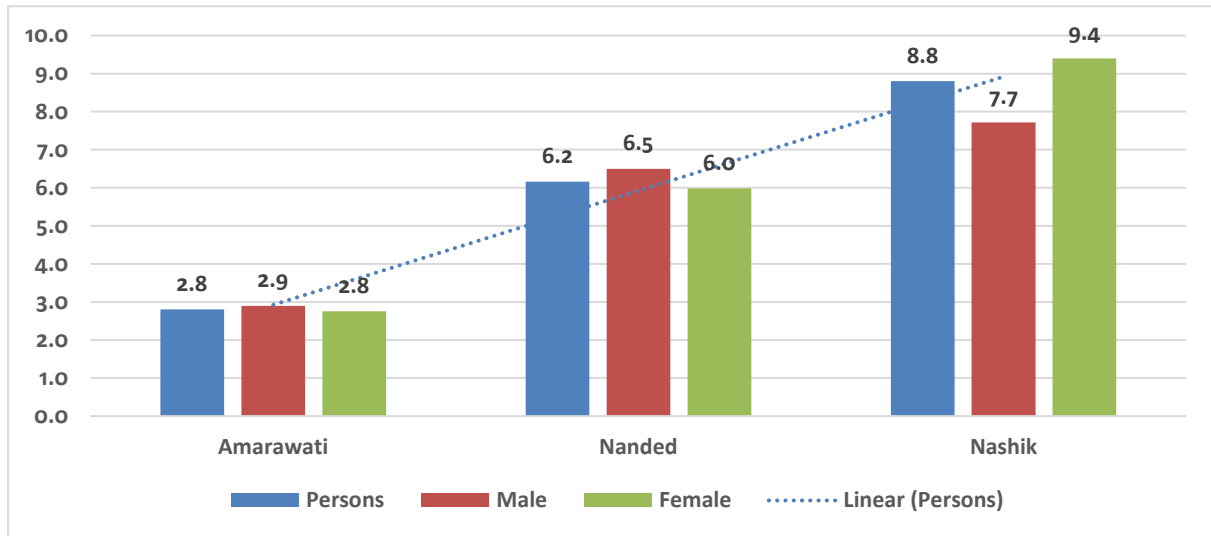
Table: - 6 Demographic profile (Age, Marital Status and Type of family) of Respondents

Age Group	Marital Status	Type of Family			Total
		Single	Joint	Nuclear	
11 to 14	Unmarried	42 (29.8%)	76 (53.9%)	23 (16.3%)	141 (100.0%)
	Married	1 (14.3%)	3 (42.9%)	3 (42.9%)	7 (100.0%)
15 to 18	Unmarried	48 (20.6%)	134 (57.5%)	51 (21.9%)	233 (100.0%)
	Married	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	5 (83.3%)	6 (100.0%)
Total	Unmarried	90 (24.1%)	210 (56.1%)	74 (19.8%)	374 (100.0%)
	Married	1 (7.7%)	4 (30.8%)	8 (61.5%)	13 (100.0%)

Table 6 depicts the distribution of respondents by their marital status. From the table, it is being seen that out of 148 respondents from the age group of 11 to 14, 141 are unmarried, and seven are married. Regarding the type of family, almost 3 (42.9%) are from Joint and Nuclear families. Whereas 1 (14.3%) is from Single parent family. About the age group of 15 to 18, out of 239 respondents, 233 are unmarried, and six are married.

Further, regarding the total respondents 387, 374 are unmarried, and 13 are married. This is a very alarming situation that is still in a state like Maharashtra, which is claimed as a progressive state in the country. Girls below the age of 18 are getting married, and out of 13 married girls, 7, more than 50 per cent of girls are from the age group of 11 to 14. This is not a good picture. The researcher strongly recommends that the Department of Women and Child Development needs to conduct a depth study to find out the reasons behind this, and responsible persons should be given punishment.

Chart No 1: - Child Marriages in Amarawati, Nashik and Nanded districts



(Resource- Census 2011)

The above chart shows the details of the total percentage of below 18 years of age marriages are taking place. This data is from the census of 2011. It is being seen in the chart that as compared to the Amaravati district, marriages below 18 years of age took place in Nashik and Nanded districts. The total population of the Maharashtra state is 112374333, of which 57376896 (all ages), among which 432148 child marriages took place in the state of Maharashtra. Amaravati contributes 2.8 percent of Maharashtra, whereas Nanded and Nashik are 6.2 and 8.8, respectively.

Table: - 7 Educational and Marital Status of Respondents

Educational Status	Marital Status		Total
	Unmarried	Married	
School Going	285 (95.6%)	13 (4.4%)	298 (100.0%)
School Dropouts	89 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	89 (100.0%)
Total	374 (96.6%)	13 (3.4%)	387 (100.0%)

Table 7 depicts the distribution of the respondents by marital and schooling status. Out of 387, 374 are unmarried, of which 285 are school going, and 89 are school dropouts. About 13 are married, and all of them are from a school going group. Here results are pretty exciting none of the respondents is married from the group of school dropouts. This is somewhat serious that all school-going girls are married. This clearly shows the non-implementation of law. Most of the parents are of the mindset that girls are a burden on them. Therefore, it is

better that they get married at the earliest so they will be free from the responsibility. Similarly, from the census of 2011 total of 96516 children are married in the age group of 10 to 19 from three study districts. The serious thing is among these, 71.5 per cent are girls.

Table: - 8 Marital status of respondents against religion

Religion	Marital Status		Total
	Unmarried	Married	
Hindu	293 (99.7%)	1 (0.3%)	294 (100.0%)
Muslim	26 (70.3%)	11 (29.7%)	37 (100.0%)
Christian	2 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Baudha	52 (98.1%)	1 (1.9%)	53 (100.0%)
Sikh	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Total	374 (96.6%)	13 (3.4%)	387 (100.0%)

The above table depicts the marital status of the respondents by their religion. From the figures, it is seen that out of 387 respondents, 13 are married, and 11 are Muslims. This indicates that this community is far from the mainstream and backward in terms of education. All of them are school going and from the age group of 11 to 14. All 13 married girls are from school and the 11 to 14 age group. The researcher feels that to find out the basic reasons; further research is required to stop early marriages.

Table: - 9 Occupation and Marital Status of Respondents

Occupation	Marital Status		Total
	Unmarried	Married	
Agriculture, Construction & Industrial Labourer	186 (97.9%)	4 (2.1%)	190 (100%)
Agriculture	60 (96.8%)	2 (3.2%)	62 (100.0%)
Self-Employment	86 (94.5%)	5 (5.5%)	91 (100%)
Private Service	26 (100.0%)	0 (100.0%)	26 (100.0%)
Government Servant	16 (88.9%)	2 (11.1%)	18 (100.0%)
Total	374 (96.6%)	13 (3.4%)	387 (100%)

Table 9 explains the marital status of the respondents and their family occupations. The maximum number of 5 married girls' parents is from the self-employment category.

Following, 4 married girls parents are from the category of laborer. Two each girls are married from occupation category of agriculture and government servant respectively. Serious finding is that the 2 girls are married; whose parents are government servants. Despite there is law to prevent under age marriages, we have still observed through our research that 13 out of 387 girls are married. Hence we can see that the system is not working in the best efficient manner to eliminate the child marriages.

Table: - 10 Distribution of Respondents by their Marital Status and Income Range

Income Range	Marital Status		Total
	Unmarried	Married	
Below 36000	162 (99.4%)	1 (0.6%)	163 (100.0%)
37000 to 60000	117 (92.9%)	9 (7.1%)	126 (100.0%)
61000 to 95000	44 (97.8%)	1 (2.2%)	45 (100.0%)
96000 to 1.25 lakh	27 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	27 (100.0%)
1.26 lakh to 1.50 lakh	19 (90.5%)	2 (9.5%)	21 (100.0%)
More than 1.50 lakh	5 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (100.0%)
Total	374 (96.6%)	13 (3.4%)	387 (100.0%)

Table 10 explains the marital status and income range of the respondents' families. The maximum of nine married girls is from families whose income is below Rs.60000 per annum. This indicates that poverty is one of the reasons for getting married early. From tables 9 and 10, it is being seen that due to lack of regular employment the families from the low-income group are marrying their daughters at an early age.

Findings/ Conclusion:

As per the census 2011, the total population of the below 18 age group of the Maharashtra state is 112374333, of which 432148 child marriages took place in the form of Maharashtra. Compared to the Amaravati district, more marriages in Nashik and Nanded districts occur below the 18 years of age group. Amaravati contributes 2.8 per cent of Maharashtra, whereas Nanded and Nashik are 6.2 and 8.8, respectively.

A total number of 387 respondents participated in the study. Participation from the tribal area is less (112), and the involvement of (138) respondents is more. As the number of respondents is less, the researcher used absolute numbers instead of percentages.

A total of 148 respondents are from 11 to 14, and 239 are of 15 to 18 years. This clearly shows less awareness of the scheme in the age group of 11 to 14 or that the system is unreachable to them effectively.

Regarding the religion of the respondents, a single respondent is of Sikh religion, and maximum respondents 294 are of Hindu religion, 53 are Buddhist, 37 are Muslims, and 2 are Christian. Representation from other than the Hindu religion is too less. That may be because the population proportion of other religions is less as compared to the Hindu religion. Here researcher feels that participation of other than Hindu communities need to be increased. There must be some awareness campaign about the scheme and its benefits.

The maximum number of respondents is 194 (50%) from the OBC category, followed by SC is 105 (27.5%) and a minimum number of 23 (5.9%).

Though it is being seen in table 3, the representation of Hindu respondents is more, but they belong to other backward classes. This indicates that the deprived class of society is taking the maximum benefit of the scheme.

Participation of ST is (16%) therefore researcher strongly recommends that the implementing department should make efforts for the involvement of ST category girls.

Out of 387 respondents, 298 (77%) are school going, and 89 (23%) are school dropouts.

Interestingly, a maximum number of school dropouts are from urban projects, and a minimum of 1 (0.9%) are from tribal area projects. Similarly, there are more school-going respondents from tribal area projects 111 (90.10%). This optimism indicates that the dropout rate in girls from the tribal area is less.

Of 148 respondents from 11 to 14, 141 are unmarried, and seven are married. Regarding the type of family, almost 3 (42.9%) is from Joint and Nuclear families. At the same time, 1 (14.3%) is from Single parent family. About the age group of 15 to 18 out of 239 respondents, 233 are unmarried, and six are married.

Further, regarding the total respondents, 387; 374 are unmarried, and 13 are married. This is an alarming situation, in a progressive state like Maharashtra. Girls below the age of 18 are getting married, and out of 13 married girls, seven more than 50 per cent of girls are from the age group of 11 to 14. The researcher strongly recommends that the Department of Women and Child Development needs to conduct an in-depth study to find out the reasons behind this, and responsible persons should be given punishment.

Of 387, 374 are unmarried, of which 285 are school going, and 89 are school dropouts. Regarding marriage, 13 are married, and all are from a school going group. Here

results are pretty exciting none of the respondents is married from the group of school dropouts. This is somewhat serious that all school-going girls are married. This correctly shows the non-implementation of law. Most parents are of the mindset that girls are a burden on them. Therefore, they should get married soon to free themselves from the responsibility. Similarly, from the census of 2011, the total population of the Maharashtra state is 112374333, of which 57376896 (all ages), among which 432148 child marriages took place in the form of Maharashtra. Amaravati contributes 2.8 per cent of Maharashtra, whereas Nanded and Nashik are 6.2 and 8.8 per cent, respectively.

Of 387 respondents, 13 are married, and 11 are Muslims. It indicates that particular this community is far away from the mainstream. All the married girls are from school and in the age group of 11 to 14. The researcher feels that to find out the primary reasons, further research is required to stop early marriages.

Maximum parents of married girls are from the self-employed category, Following in the type of labourer. Despite there is law to prevent under age marriages, we have still observed through our research that 13 out of 387 girls are married. Hence we can see that the system is not working in the best efficient manner to eliminate the child marriages. The maximum of nine married girls is from families whose income is below Rs.60000 per annum. Almost all of them fall in the bracket below the 1.25 lakh category. It indicates that poverty is one of the reason for getting married early.

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