

A Study on Awareness of RTE Act 2009 among the Parents of Minority Community of Varanasi City

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Abstract

Education is a basic need as well as the right of every child. But when children due to various reasons are not able to enjoy this right, there is a need for an Act to enforce the right. In spite of all efforts, if the Act is to be implemented in its true spirit, it is necessary for the stakeholders to have an awareness of the Act. This study is an attempt to investigate the awareness of Right to Education (RTE Act 2009) among the parents of Minority Community of Varanasi City. The sample consists of 73 Muslim minority parents selected randomly from the rural and urban localities of the Varanasi city. Descriptive survey method was used for the present study. The main objective of the study was to find out the awareness level of minority community parents related to RTE Act 2009. From the results, it was found that there is significant difference in the awareness level of RTE Act among male and female parents; male parents have higher level of awareness on RTE Act than female parents. Another finding was that the parents who send their children to private schools were more aware about the RTE Act than the parents who send their children to government schools. A significant difference was also found in the awareness level of RTE Act among rural and urban minority parents and that the urban parents are more aware of RTE Act than the rural parents.

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INTRODUCTION

After independence the major problem for the Indian policy makers was to remove the illiteracy, and educate the whole nation. Government of India had made a number of policies and Constitutional provisions to universalise the elementary education so that all the members of the country become educated citizens. In this process, Government of India had formulated Right to Education Act 2009 or Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 and became one among the 135 countries of the world who had declared that it is the right of child to get education. RTE Act mandates the right to education of all children belonging to every section of our society irrespective of their caste, religion, race, etc. To place this Act in action it is essential that all the members of our society and parents participate and take part in providing education to everyone.

Therefore, in this research an attempt is made to study the awareness level of the Muslim minority parents about the RTE Act 2009. A few researches on the RTE Act which have been reviewed are described in the following paragraphs.

Kamath, AKVD and Somashekar, TV (2013) in their study on 'Awareness on RTE Act 2009 among Teacher Educators at Secondary Level' administered a Questionnaire to a sample of 27 Teacher Educators of southern India. The study revealed

that the awareness level of teacher educators was not satisfactory as their mean score was only 33.32 per cent.

Rahman A. (2013) conducted his study on sample of 160 Primary school teachers from Kanpur. It was found that about forty-five per cent of the teachers working in the private schools were not at all aware about the basic provisions of this Act, including the age group and level/classes covered therein, of the students. The level of awareness among the teachers' of government schools is comparatively more (54.6 per cent).

Rajput G. and Aziz T. (2013) conducted a study on 200 parents of urban slum dwellers of Delhi which revealed that 88 per cent of parents were unaware of RTE Act and only 5 per cent parents were aware of the duty of the parents to send their child to school.

Sachar Committee Report (2006) revealed that around 25 per cent of Muslim children in the 6-14 year age group have either attended school or have dropped out. Muslims have the highest dropout rate in the country and the increase in enrolment in schools has been highest among SCs and STs (95 per cent) followed by Muslims (65 per cent).

Report of the Standing Committee of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities' Education (NMCME), (2012) recommends the Government to discuss and take remedial action for addressing the problem of low rates

of transition of Muslim students from primary to upper primary schools.

The above studies show that, there is a need to publicise about the RTE Act. They also indicate that the level of enrolment of children at the elementary level among the Muslim community is low. If the children are to be sent to school, parents are supposed to know about the Act. Even if the Act is formulated, unless the parents are aware of the provisions of the Act, it may not be possible to completely achieve the objectives of the Act. Therefore, it was felt that there is a need to find out as to what extent the parents of the Muslim community are aware of the RTE Act.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the awareness level of minority parents on RTE Act 2009.
2. To compare the awareness level of parents belonging to the following groups:
 Locale - Rural and Urban
 Gender - Male and Female
 Educational level - Secondary Pass and Graduate Pass.
3. To find the difference in awareness level of parents who send their children to Government, Private and Madarsa schools.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to know the awareness level of RTE Act 2009 among the Parents of Minority Community of Varanasi City;

Therefore, the survey method was selected.

SAMPLE

For the present study investigator selected a sample of 73 parents both Male and Female belonging to Muslim community. Sample was selected randomly from the rural and urban localities of the Varanasi city. Due consideration was also given to government, private as well as *Madarsa*.

TOOL

In the present study to find out the awareness of RTE Act 2009 among Muslim parents, a Questionnaire on Awareness of RTE Act 2009 was constructed by the researcher.

Investigator studied the 10 aspects of the provisions of the RTE Act related to Admission, Age, Parental responsibility, Fees and issue of T.C., Detention punishment and harassment, Equal opportunity, Facilities to be provided to students, Educationally weaker section, School Management Committee and Minority Rights.

A tool containing 20 questions of multiple choice type, with the coverage of above aspects, was prepared and used for the collection of data for the study. One parent could score a maximum of 20 marks.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

The data collected for the study were analysed using Mean, Standard

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Objective 1: To study the awareness level of Parents on RTE Act 2009

Table 1 gives the details related to awareness of the Parents.

Table 1
Overall performance of parents on awareness of RTE Act 2009

N	Mean	SD
73	9.12	2.68

Objective 2: To compare the awareness level of Male and Female parents on RTE Act 2009

Table 2 gives the details related to awareness level of Male and Female parents.

Table 2
Mean, SD and t-value of male and female parents on awareness of RTE Act 2009

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value
Male	42	10.23	2.29	71	5.61*
Female	31	7.29	2.17		

*Significant at 0.01 level

Deviation and t-test to find the significance of the means and interpret the result.

Table 1 shows the mean and SD of total Parents (73) in terms of Awareness of RTE Act 2009. Single parent can score a maximum of 20 marks on the given questionnaire. The mean score secured by the total sample is 9.12 which is slightly less than 50 per cent, i.e., 10.0. SD value is 2.68. This shows that the level of awareness is not high.

As per Table 2, the mean scores of Male parents is 10.23 and Female parents is 7.29. This reveals that

Male have greater awareness than the Female with regard to awareness of RTE Act, 2009.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act 2009 between the Male and Female parents. For df 71, the Table value of 't' to be significant at 0.01 level is 2.61. The calculated value of 't' is 5.61. This value is greater than the table value. Therefore, the Hypothesis 1 is rejected. It can be inferred that there is significant difference between the Male and Female Parents regarding awareness of RTE Act 2009. This shows that

Objective 3: To compare the awareness level of Rural and Urban Parents on RTE Act 2009

Table 3 gives the details related to awareness level of Rural and Urban Parents.

Table 3

Mean, SD and t-value of Rural and Urban Parents on Awareness of RTE Act 2009

Local	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value
Rural	34	8.51	2.70	71	2.68*
Urban	39	9.82	2.47		

*Significant at 0.05 level

Male parents have greater awareness of RTE Act 2009 when compared to Female parents.

As per the Table 3, the mean scores of Rural parents is 8.51 and Urban parents is 9.82. This reveals that Urban parents have greater awareness than the Rural parents with regard to awareness of RTE Act 2009.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act 2009 between the Rural and Urban parents.

For df 71, the Table value of 't' at 0.05 level of significance is 1.98.

The calculated value of 't' is 2.18. This is greater than the table value [1.98]. Therefore, the hypothesis 2 is rejected. It can be inferred that there is significant difference between the Rural and Urban Parents regarding awareness of RTE Act 2009. This shows that Urban parents have greater awareness of RTE Act 2009 when compared to Rural parents.

As per the Table 4, the mean scores of parents who passed only secondary is 8.86 and Graduate pass parents is 9.5. This reveals that Graduate pass parents have greater

Objective 4: To compare the awareness level of parents who are Secondary Pass and Graduate Pass on RTE Act 2009.

Table 4.4 gives the detail related to awareness level of parents who are Secondary and Graduates pass.

Table 4

Mean SD and t-value on awareness of RTE Act 2009 of parents who are Secondary pass and Graduate pass

Qualification	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value
Secondary	43	8.86	2.63	71	1.08**
Graduate	30	9.5	2.44		

**Not Significant

awareness than the Secondary pass parents with regard to awareness of RTE Act 2009.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the awareness of RTE Act 2009 between the Secondary pass and Graduate pass parents.

For df 71, the Table value of 't' at 0.05 level of significance is 1.98. The calculated value of 't' is 1.08. This is less than the table value [1.98]. Therefore, the null hypothesis 3 is accepted. It can be inferred that there is no significant difference

between the Secondary pass and Graduate pass parents on awareness of RTE Act. In other words, the level of education of the parents does not influence their level of awareness of RTE Act.

As per the Table 5, the mean scores of the parents who send their children to government schools is 8.57, private schools is 10 and *Madarsa* is 9.44. This reveals that parents who send their children to private schools are more aware about the RTE Act than the parents who send their children to government

Objective 5: To compare the awareness level of Parents who send their children to Government, Private and *Madarsa* on RTE Act 2009.

Tables 5 and 6 gives the details related to awareness level of Parents who send their children to Government, Private and *Madarsa*.

Table 5

Mean and SD on awareness of RTE Act 2009 of parents who send their children to government, private and *Madarsa*

Types of schools	N	Mean	SD
Government	21	8.57	2.87
Private	23	10	3.25
<i>Madarsa</i>	29	9.44	2.32

Table 6

Mean SD and t-value on Awareness of RTE Act 2009 of Parents who send their children to Government and Private Schools

Types of schools	N	Mean	SD	df	t
Private	23	10	3.25	52	2.04*
Government	21	8.57	2.87		

*Significant at 0.05 level

and Madarsa. However, there is a great difference in the mean (1.43) between the parents who send their children to government and private schools. It is necessary to see whether this difference is significant or not. Therefore, an attempt at testing the hypothesis 6 was felt.

Table 6 gives the information on level of significant difference between the awareness of parents who send their children to government and private schools.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference between the awareness levels of parents who send their children to government and private schools.

For df 71, the table value of 't' at 0.05 level of significance is 1.98. The calculated value of 't' is 2.04. This is greater than the table value. Therefore, the null hypothesis stated above is rejected. It can be inferred that there is significant difference between the awareness level on RTE Act among the parents who send their children to government and private schools. The parents who send their children to private schools have greater awareness when compared to the parents who send their children to government schools.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. There is a significant difference in the awareness level of RTE Act among male and female minority parents and the male parents have higher awareness than the female parents on RTE Act.
2. There is significant difference in the awareness level of RTE Act among rural and urban minority parents and urban parents are more aware of RTE Act than rural parents.
3. There is no significant difference in the awareness level of RTE Act among Secondary pass and Graduate pass parents. Both the groups have similar level of awareness of RTE Act.
4. There is significant difference in the awareness level of RTE Act among minority parents who send their children to government and private schools. The parents who send their children to private schools have greater awareness of RTE Act than who send their children to government schools.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The present study focuses on the awareness level of RTE Act among minority parents. At present, several researchers (Rajput G. and Aziz T. 2013, Rahman A. 2013) explored the problems and difficulty in the proper realisation of the objectives of RTE Act. Results of the research studies suggest the possible recommendations and measures for the effective implementation of the Act. One of the areas of research is awareness of RTE Act among the stakeholders of elementary schools of whom parents are also one.

- The study has shown that male parents have greater awareness of RTE Act as compared to

female parents. Therefore, proper measures should be taken to augment the awareness level among the female parents. In schools, during parent-teacher meetings, teachers should try to develop awareness, especially among the female parents about the RTE Act. At village level, the Village Education Committee (VEC) can also hold awareness programmes.

- The study has shown that urban parents are more aware of RTE Act than the parents of rural areas. Therefore, awareness programme should be organised in the villages and rural areas. The government body and the NGOs should take necessary steps to organise awareness programmes. Awareness could be spread through banners, slogans, pamphlets, making short

commercial advertisements in the TV and radios showing the importance and value of education and RTE Act.

- The study has shown that the parents sending their children to private schools have more awareness than parents sending their children to government schools. Therefore, it is the responsibility of government school teachers that they also inform and make the parents aware of recent policies and programmes of the government in the field of education. Teachers and other stakeholders of elementary education should spread the information of the RTE Act in the surrounding communities and localities especially in the rural areas.

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