



EDUCATIONAL DEMAND FOR CHILDREN BY RUBBER GROWERS OF KARBI ANGLONG DISTRICT OF ASSAM (INDIA) – A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Rubber plantation in India was started by the British. Traditionally, the rubber is grown in the Southern tip of rubber comprising the state of Kerela and Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. But with the increasing the demand of it resulted in exploring other region in the country suitable for planting rubber. Rubber plantation provides raw materials for the production of many industrialized goods required for automobiles, aircrafts, railways, textile, sports goods, engineering goods, medical surgical tools and even for building road. Education is the most essential factor for the development of the society. The Karbi Anglong district of Assam is a hilly district . The literacy rate of this district is 73.52(2011 census), where male literacy rate is 82.12 and female is 64.62. Importantly the gender difference between two gender is higher (17.50%) in the district as compared to the state level (11.66%) and the national level (16.68%).

INTRODUCTION

Rubber is considered as the modern “*Kalpavriksha*”, i.e. a tree with every part of it being useful and of economic importance. It is emerging as a highly profitable crop compared with other crops as it offers maximum returns to the growers. In addition to the attractive long term and regular income from the plantation, many derivatives like rubber wood, honey, seed-oil, furniture etc. have made this unique crop acceptable to the rural community of

North Eastern Region. Among the country, north eastern region is considered eminently suitable for extensive development of rubber plantation.

The first commercial planting of rubber in the NER (write Full form) was done by the Forest Department of the Government of Tripura in 1963. Tripura is the second largest producer of Natural Rubber (NR) in the country after Kerala. Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation from the year 1974-75 has upto now planted rubber in over 1600 hectare of land distributed in sizeable blocks mainly in the hill district of Karbi–Anglong. This Project is a part of Hilly Area Development Scheme and specially aimed at upliftment of Jhumia tribes men. Development of rubber plantation in Assam is undertaken at the state level by the Soil Conservation Department and also being promoted by the Forest Department under Soil Forestry Program. However the introduction of cultivation of rubber in govt. sector since 1978, the picture of socio economic and education sector of the entire district is gradually changed. It is to be noted that the district is under the administration of an autonomous council who give more stress on the development of education and cultivation of rubber.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- i) To study the demand pattern of education by the rubber planters for their children in the sample district.
- ii) To give some suggestions ..

METHODOLOGY:

The researcher has used Interview, Sample survey and observation method for collecting the information. Both primary and secondary data has been used in this study.

Study Area: The KarbiAnglong District is situated in the central part of Assam. The district with dense tropical forest covers hills and plains. Population of this district is predominantly tribal. The Karbianglong district has about 1,86,396 hectare fertile land suitable for growing rubber cultivation

Analytical tools : For analysis of data simple statistical procedures such as percentage, average, tables , chi- square has been used.

Sample size : 500 educated students were selected from the 300 rubber grower households in the study area by using random sampling method.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA:

Table -1 : Household occupation based distribution of sample student

Category of household	No of students	Percentage(%)
PWH	240	48
CWH	90	18
SGH	170	34
Total	500	100

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The table 1 shows that the maximum number of students is of the PWH category which includes 48 %. It is lowest in CWH category i.e. 18%. The number of students in the CWH category is very low as compared to the other two categories.

Table 2 : Type of Schooling Demand

Category of Households	Type of schooling (%)	
	Government.	Private
PWH	13	35
CWH	12	4
SGH	15	21
Total	40	60

Source :Field survey, 2011

The table 2 displays the type of Schooling chosen by the households. It reveals that the overall demand for private sector education is high i.e. 60%. The CWH 12% prefer government school rather than the private sector schools as means of their children's education.

Table 3: Level of education of children

Category of households	Education of children (in %)						
	Below primary	Primary	Middle Secondary	H.S. ¹	Graduate	PG ²	Total
PWH	2.2	6.6	10	13.2	12	4	48
CWH	4	4	6	2	2	0	18
SGH	2	6	12	6	6	2	34
Total	8.2	16.6	28	21.2	20	6	100

Source :Field survey

Table 3 shows that a majority of students (about 28%)in overall plantation households had middle secondary level of education followed by primary level of education(about 16.6%) . The overall percentage of students engaged in higher education such as higher secondary, graduation , post graduation is 47.2%

Association between occupation and gender disparity in education:

Type of occupation and respective security in income affects the demand for female education positively. Permanent occupation leads to stable and adequate income for the parents and hence they can give equal importance to both boy and girl child.

Table 4 : Distribution of students by gender

Category of households	Geder		Total(%)
	Female(%)	Male(%)	
PWH³	25	23	48
CWH⁴	6	12	18
SGH⁵	9	25	34
Total	40	60	100

Source : Field survey,2011

Table 4 shows that the percentage of male students (60%) is higher than female students (40%) for the overall plantation households. But the percentage of females who were

¹ Higher Secondary

² Post Graduate

³ Permanent Worker Household

⁴ Small Grower Household

⁵ Small Grower Household

currently studying(25%) was found to be marginally higher than the percentage of male students(23%) in the PWH . It is evident from the table that the percentage of female students has been increasing as the type of work changes from casual to small growers and to permanent workers. This signifies the positive relationship between income or occupational security of parents and female education. To satisfy the relationship statistically Chi-square test has been applied in the following sample data-

Table 5 : No of students of different household category

Household category	Male	Female	Total
PWH	125	115	240
CWH	30	60	90
SGH	45	125	170
Total	200	300	500

Let us take the hypothesis that there is no relationship between income or occupational security of parents and female education.

Expected frequencies of sample data

96	144	240
36	54	90
68	102	170
200	300	500

By applying Chi- square test it is found that the calculated value(29.24) is much greater than the table value (7.82).So, hypothesis is rejected . Hence, there is relationship between income or occupational security of parents and female education.

FINDINGS:

Following findings are drawn in this study :

1. The percentage of students in the CWH category is very low as compared to the other two categories. This indicates that there is definite impact of income on educational demand in the sample district.
2. There is less security of income for CWH and hence they are less willing to send their children to school and rather they use them in some income earning activities.
3. Prior to rubber cultivation preference of parents was to send their children to Govt. school and colleges. But due to increase income of growers leads to change in the schooling pattern of their children.
4. Most of the farmers in this area would prefer their children to study in English medium schools even it is costly.
5. With an increase in the educational level up to middle secondary the percentage of students going for higher education is seen to be falling .

SUGGESTIONS:

1. More income security to CWH by strengthening government welfare schemes like MNREGA.
2. Improving the quality of government School to retain the faith.
3. Govt. should be taken a step for providing Higher education at a minimum cost.

CONCLUSION:

Rubber is emerging as a highly profitable crop along with other crops as it offers maximum returns to the growers. With the increasing income from rubber cultivation there has been a considerable increase in the educational level of the children of Karbi Anglong district.

References:

1. Rubber statistical Bulletin

2. *Annual journal published by Rubber Board of India ;The Rubber Grower's companion,1975.*

3. *<http://www.rubber.org.in>*

4. *<http://www.rubberiec.org>*