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## Education In Mising Tribes: A Brief Overview Of Prospects And Challenges

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### Abstract

A society can ultimately change through education, which can lead to the emergence of a progressive, democratic society. Education is the sole means of illuminating knowledge and eradicating ignorance. Education is therefore considered to be one of the most important weapons for social transformation. Any country's capacity to transform society for sustainable development depends on how effectively it approaches education. Thus, the educational prospects and challenges is topical issue to be more research for transforming the entire society. The Mising tribes are the second largest tribal community in Assam right after the Bodo tribe and they usually reside on the bank of the riverside. Because of their isolation and lack of access to modern education, the Mising tribes are still trailing behind other advanced populations. Thus, the prospects and challenges that Mising tribe experience in the field of education are attempted to be addressed thoroughly in this study.

**Keywords:** Education, Mising tribe, Prospects, Challenges.

### Introduction:

The Misings are a peaceful tribe that has existed for a long time. They frequently prefer to reside in isolated locations near riverbanks. They chopped down jungles in search of fertile ground and settled in the riverine areas because their main source of income is agriculture. Since their language is similar to that of the Tibetan people, they are also referred to as Tibetan Burmese and are known to be of Mongolian ancestry. Though different historians agree differently on their origins, the Mising people are thought to be the second-largest tribe in Assam. Since ancient times, the Misings, a tribal ethnic group, have been labeled as a backward ethnic group in many places. However, recent years have seen modest development.

Education, which is an important tool in nation-building process, is also used to build civilization. Without education, a sustainable history of civilization can't be constructed. Education is the means by which civilization and development can be achieved. Education is essential for the overall development of society, whether it is an individual or a society. The development of a country depends on the quality of education provided by that country. In other words, when a society's citizens are educated, the

government is bound to create well-thought-out development plans and policies for the society's overall development. On the other hand, the government pays little attention to carefully thought-out policies and schemes when the percentage of illiteracy is high. Particularly in tribal areas, including the region dominated by the Mising, the literacy rate is generally low. Additionally, the percentage of highly educated or highly skilled individuals in Mising society is also fewer than other forward community. So, it is necessary to study the educational environment of Mising and its prospects and challenges so that a sustainable way can be develop through a systematic study, and this study is mainly focusing on those issues.

### **Demarcation of the Study:**

The proposed study is demarcated into the following:

- This study has demarcated only the Mising tribe of Assam.
- This study has demarcated the education of the Mising tribes.

### **Methodology:**

The descriptive and analytical methods have been used to justify the objectives of the study and are based on secondary data and published articles in different books, journals, and newspapers, as well as on the internet.

### **Objectives:**

The proposed study is conducted to fulfill the following objectives:

- To study the prospects and challenges of education in the Mising tribe.
- To evaluate the entire educational background of the Mising tribe.

### **Discussion:**

The tribals have consistently caught the attention of policymakers since independence because of their geographic remoteness, technological lag, social awkwardness, and other basic characteristics. Although they have been living in remote areas practically in their society, women and men can participate equally in any activity or occasion and are allowed to do most things freely. Therefore, women and men are equally privileged to acquire education or other fields. The Mising community is also part of the tribal community so men and women can also participate in any activity almost equally in their society. Although there is no caste discrimination among the Misings, they are still known as a backward tribe compared to other civilised groups due to the late introduction of education in their society. Analysing the reasons why the educational environment of a society where freedom and rights are equally and freely attained but not improved to date should be considered a matter of urgent study and this issue requires in-depth study

too. This paper provides some analytical explanations of the factual reasons for the underdevelopment of the educational environment in a society full of such potential and the role of the state.

A child needs the support and constructive mindset of the parents to make academic progress. This is a result of the lack of constructive mentality of the parents in the Mising community, which harms the education of the children. This means that many parents are illiterate and unable to respond to their children's education in the way they should. Therefore, many promising Mising children are deprived of quality education. The awareness of the parents of the Mising community is very important to create a progressive awareness in the education of their children. In parallel, a mindset of responsible and constructive responses to children's education must be developed.

Economically, the Mising society is one step behind other developed communities. As a result, they fail to provide all the necessary equipment for the overall education of their children. Thus, many children have to drop out of school halfway. And hence, agriculture is the main source of livelihood for their families. In this way, parents are unable to give adequate time to their children while they are busy struggling for a livelihood and facing financial difficulties. So, their parents prefer to engage their children in remunerative employment which supplements the family income. This is the reason most children are forced to finish their schooling halfway and help their parents with their livelihoods. Therefore, progress in the educational field of the Mising society will be possible only when the Mising families become economically strong and their livelihoods become self-sufficient by farming according to modern scientific models rather than using only outdated agricultural methods. So, the economic conditions of the Mising community can be regarded as a challenging factor in the improvement of education in their society.

The quality of education and literacy rate in Mising society is relatively low due to the narrow mindset of many parents. Many parents from the past still have misconceptions about women's education. Most parents think there is no point in educating their daughters because one day they will have to get married; therefore, they believe that it is more important to give girls the kind of education they need to run a household than formal education. Such negative attitudes are the reason for the relative decline in education in Mising society as a whole. Thus, representatives of national organisations must play an important role in eliminating such negative attitudes from their parents for the sustainable development of the educational environment in Mising society.

The tendency to marry at an early age has significantly reduced the educational standards of the Mising society. Lack of awareness of sex education, inattention of parents, and unrestrained freedom of children are such negative factors that many children get married before they reach adulthood and bring their golden stage of education to a full stop. This means that getting married before adulthood makes it

difficult for them to complete their education. This is because as soon as the children enter marriage, the responsibility of running the household falls on them and education comes to a big full stop. Therefore, a drastic awareness must be created to improve the educational standards of the Mising community by eliminating the tendency to marry at an early age.

There is no doubt that the educational environment in Mising society has been destroyed due to excessive alcohol consumption and the tendency to sell drugs without any rules. Many times, parents drink too much alcohol and fight at home to create an unpleasant atmosphere. This has a significant negative impact on children's studies. In parallel, many families are seen selling Apong (Rice Beer) or Sulai at any point in time, creating an unhealthy educational environment. In particular, the Apong is also sold at a time when it is time for children to wash their hands and feet and study. Thus, the situation has destroyed the educational environment of the family and society as a whole. Therefore, society must play an important role in creating a healthy educational environment by taking an exemplary role in Apong use.

The mother tongue teaching in schools in Mising-populated areas should be encouraged to improve the educational standards in the Mising community. This is because a child can master any subject very quickly and easily in his mother tongue. Therefore, it is necessary to provide student scholarships to improve the education of Mising students, and teachers should show commitment to strengthening the educational environment by maintaining frequent contact with the Mising society. They should also make the people aware of Articles 46, 154 (4), and 350 (A) of the Constitution of India to facilitate their enjoyment of the constitutional rights granted to the backward castes and tribes under those Articles. The Mising society must move forward with a progressive attitude and thinking in the field of education in order to keep pace with modern civilization. This is because education is the primary means through which an overall change in society can be achieved. That is why Nelson Mandela, an opponent of apartheid and former President of South Africa, and the first black president, said that education is the most powerful weapon with which to change the whole world.

### **Suggestion:**

Here are some suggestions for the improvement of the educational sector of the Mising tribes;

- 1) First of all, Literacy Campaign should be conducted among the Mising community to make parents more aware of the importance of education.
- 2) Residential schools should be built in Mising populated areas to educate students and keep motivating parents.
- 3) Study materials should be provided in the local language if possible. This is because learning in the local language will make it easier for students to learn and will increase their interest in learning.

- 4) The indiscriminate use of Apong must be stopped as the indiscriminate use of Apong affects the home learning of students and destroys the educational environment in the village.
- 5) Parents need to change their mindset so that they can focus on educating their children with proper education. Appropriate counseling should be provided for the attitudinal change of parents.
- 6) Mising Autonomous Council (MAC) and the Government of Assam must develop appropriate schemes to bring about an economic revolution in the Mising community and make them self-reliant so that they do not deprive their children of education due to financial crisis.

### **Conclusion:**

The state has a lot to do in developing a sustainable educational environment, and the state has to take a proactive role in improving the educational standards of students from socio-economically backward communities like the Mising Tribe. The state machinery should take positive steps for economic self-reliance, and workshops should be conducted to raise awareness of livelihood among the Mising community. This will enable them to become financially independent and make them capable of providing proper education to their children. The state must always take a proactive role to change the mindset of elderly parents and keep the parent community up to date by organising awareness meetings from time to time. National parties and organisations must take constructive and strong leadership in ensuring the proper and timely use of the Apong culture. So, it is necessary to prevent Apong from being abused in the name of culture and stop darkening the future educational life of their children. In the interest of developing quality education for Mising students, the state and national organisations should focus on teaching in the mother tongue in Mising populated areas. This is because students can easily master any subject if taught in their mother tongue. In this way, the joint efforts of the state and national organisations can play a significant role in developing a sustainable educational environment in the challenging Mising community. Hence, Prof. Amartya Sen recently emphasized education as an important parameter for any inclusive growth in an economy. Education is the key to the development of any society. Though the development of the tribes is taking place in India, the pace of development has been rather slow. If govt. will not take some drastic steps for the development of tribal education, the status of education among tribes like Misings will be a story of distress, despair, and death. Hence the time has come to think seriously about tribal education and inclusive growth. So, there is an urgent need for various govt. interventions, planners, and policymakers to address this problem and allocate more funds in the central and state budgets for tribal education. Easy access and more opportunities should be provided to the tribal children in order to bring them to the mainstream of economic development.

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