

IMPACT OF ILLITERACY ON THE LIFE OF MAN

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ABSTRACT

This study adopted explanatory research design, cross-sectional research strategy, research approach used was qualitative research approach, the sampling design were survey of research papers published by academic journals and papers published at the various websites, the population of the study was 8 authors, the source of collecting data was primary source and the method of data collection was research. The problem statement of the study was "Impact of illiteracy on the life of man". The objectives of the study were achieved. With the literature review, the study considered authors who had written about the topic under study. The background of the study was brief introduction of illiteracy. The found out the history of illiteracy, causes of illiteracy, effects of illiteracy, United Nations views on illiteracy, facts about illiteracy, solution for illiteracy and argument about inborn knowledge. The study concluded that illiteracy had negative effect on the life of man. The study recommended that actors and actresses ought to act films to educate to understand the relevance of education and government should make a policy to ensure free education right from primary school through JHS level.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Introduction

Illiteracy is a state of being whereby a person is not able to read and write. In short illiteracy is a situation where one lacks knowledge. People who have acquired basic education encountered challenges in reading and writing. Illiteracy

also implies lack of knowledge in specific course of study. Mistakes in reading and writing are the characteristics of illiteracy. 1out of 5 people are illiterates and 3 billion people in the world with basic education have difficulty in reading and writing. This has created economic, social and health effects for individuals and the society at large.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the history of illiteracy
- To find out the causes of illiteracy
- To find out the effects of illiteracy
- To find out if knowledge is inborn
- To find out United Nations views on illiteracy
- To find out solution for illiteracy

THE HISTORY OF ILLITERACY

Many people had been illiterate and at feudal society level reading and writing were important to only clergy and aristocrats. There was no record of "literate laymen" until the end of 14th century. Illiteracy became a problem after the invention of printing in 15th century. The rate of illiteracy fell due to reformation. This happened when the Bible was translated into vernacular and Protestant converts were taught how to read the Bible. In 18th - 20th centuries Revolutionary Political Movement aimed at illiteracy including Soviet Union, China and Cuba and were successful in the 20th century (infoplease,2021). The challenges of illiteracy go beyond gender, age, race, geographical locations and culture (imp,2017).

THESIS STATEMENT: The problem statement was " Impact of illiteracy on the life of man". The study found out the history of illiteracy, causes of illiteracy,

effects of illiteracy, argument about inborn knowledge, United Nations views on illiteracy solution to illiteracy and facts about illiteracy.

CAUSES OF ILLITERACY

Parents: A lot of illiterate parents do not value education and do not have interest in sending their children to school. This happened in remote areas where people of the older generation did not attend school.

Family: This occur to children who find it difficult to read and write due dyslexia. In this case the family conclude that the children are not clever and it is not everyone who will be able to attend school.

Employment: Many people know the main purpose of education are to get good job in the future and make good life. If educated people are not getting job to do, then education becomes useless to those who think education is the means to make good life. In a country where educated ones are not working, the illiterates feel disappointed to send their children to school. The illiterates see it as a waste of time and energy to spend money on education.

Awareness: In rural areas where they are not enlightened about the essence of education. The rate of illiteracy in the Urban centers are lower than the rural areas. People in towns and cities are privileged to be enlightened about the need to come out illiteracy.

Barriers: A lot of social barriers like restriction on girl-child education. Girl-child education has been a problem in some parts of the world which has led to formation of different organizations aimed at championing women's education.

Educational facilities: People who live in rural areas lack educational facilities which kill their interest in education.

Poverty: Poor parents find it hard to pay their children school fees and unable to provide their basic needs.

Medical problem: Dyslexia and dysorthographia cause illiteracy. Dyslexia is a medical condition where children find it hard to read. Dysorthographia is a medical condition whereby children find it difficult to write. Physical disability also cause illiteracy such as blindness, deafness and dumbness.

Parental support: Children whose parents are dead may be adopted by another family as slaves. When government does not make policies for these children, many of them become street beggars and criminals.

Culture: Certain culture restricts girl-child education.

Child-labor: A lot of children work to assist their parents at home. These children work for more hours and don't have time for education.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A lot of authors have written articles concerning illiteracy and educated the general public to send their children to school. Despite the contribution of the authors, the study investigated into impact of illiteracy on the life of man. Due to this, the study found out authors who had written about the subject under study. In reference to (Wikipedia,n.d) an article written entitled "Literacy" specifies that functional illiteracy is condition whereby one is unable to read and write properly and apply educational skills for the benefits of his own life including the community. Functional illiteracy is failure to read broad to administer life and employment tasks which demand reading above basic level or incapable to understand text that is complex irrespective of one's educational status and it differs from primary illiteracy. In reference to (foundationalhabetisation,n.d) an written entitled "The causes of illiteracy in Quebec" states that people who are born to parents with low level of education are likely to become illiterates. It is possible for these people to experience learning difficulties. This is known as intergenerational transmission illiteracy. Those who are illiterates encounter hindrances to forward in life. The illiterates lack the skills to meet the present requirements of the labor market. With respect to the views of the authors, the study investigation into the history of illiteracy, causes of illiteracy,

effects of illiteracy, argument about inborn knowledge, United Nations views on illiteracy solution to illieracy and facts about illiteracy.

THE EFFECTS OF ILLITERACY

According to World Literacy Foundation illiteracy and low level of education was estimated to cost the global economy about 800 Euro yearly. In 2018 illiteracy cost U.K. 80 Euro because of cost associated with welfare, unemployment and social programs but they declined government tax revenue and productivity. The global economy is developing to knowledge economy and literacy has become a tool for individuals and states to cope with the gobal economy. A lot of positions in a country remain vacant when there is high rate of adult population with poor literacy skills. Because few individuals qualify to occupy positions. This slows makes GDP growth in the long term. Many of the illiterate parents do not send their children to school and at certain point in time force their children to marry early. They do this so that the children will not become burden to them. Some of the parents regard early marriage as a way to get money to assist the rest of the family members. In some cultures the girl-child is regarded as a property whose job is to trade to help the family to make ends meet. This is common in areas where many people are illiterates. Most of the illiterate people find it hard to get good job which releases them from the cycle of poverty. They find it difficult to

provide for themselves the basic needs in life such as shelter, clothing and food. Illiteracy makes people to feel social misfit and become a tool of ridicule and experience stress. Illiteracy creates high rates of unemployment. More prison yards will be put up because of misappropriation of government fund. Iliteracy create high rate of drug abuse. Iliteracy is accepted as a disease to some people. Iliteracy makes society and nation to become undeveloped.

People with low levels of education get poor jobs opportunities couple with low income. This creates problems such as welfare dependency, low self-esteem and high rate of crime. Illiterate parents value work more than education and their children who are not able to complete school follow the footsteps of their parents. This causes cycle of illiteracy through generations. Illiteracy causes poverty because education enables one to acquire skills and becomes qualified to do white-collar job and earns good salary. The illiterate people don't have this privilege and the responsibilities of the dependent family members creates burden. The illiterate people are in danger in their daily lives and they refuse to vote during elections era. The illiterates do not have knowledge about the political system and how it works. This hinders them to involve in the ekectroal system. Because the illiterates do not have knowledge, they don't care about their countries preventing them not to vote. According to studies few

people vote during elections time and the illiterates are included. The illiterates find it difficult to understand ideas and unable to make contribution. The illiterate people in the rural areas encounter many problems which prevent their growth and development due to illiteracy. Illiteracy has affected the quality of their living standard. Through illiteracy, they lack access to basic education, social amenities. Child mortality is common among illiterates mothers and maternal mortality is also common in rural areas among illiterate women.

ARGUMENT ABOUT INBORN KNOWLEDGE

The word "Empiricism" is derived from the Greek word known as "Empeiria" meaning "experience". Empiricism stress on conducting experiment to gather evidence so that theories are applied to the world of observation and kept as empirical data. According to the theory of empiricism man was not born with knowledge but we acquired knowledge and ideas through what we experienced in life. However, the theory of innatism discredited the theory of empiricism by proving that the human brain is born with ideas, knowledge and beliefs so at birth the brain is not blank. Innatism claims that all knowledge cannot be acquired through experience including the senses. Innatism was developed by Plato and Rene Descartes who were philosophers. Innate knowledge is inherited and known before knowledge.

UNITED NATIONS VIEWS ON ILLITERACY

United Nations confirm that 1 out of 5 adults - about 774 million are illiterates and have no access to written communication. About 75 million Children are not attending school and million of young people drop out of school without getting certificate to be productive in the society. Illiteracy has impact on human health. It hinders people from being capable to read the instructions on a medicine bottle. It implies that people are not able to know facts about AIDS, Malaria and other infectious diseases. Two thirds of illiterates are women and girls who care for the sick people in their families. That is, they will not know the prevention, help service and how to use life- saving medicine and other treatment. About 800 million people cannot read and write but illiteracy promotes social ill like poverty, sickness and threatens the stability of nations. Illiteracy creates cycle of poverty, poor health and weakens communities and understeem democratic process through marginalization and exclusion. These destabilize societies. Illiteracy progress to affect million of women and girls. In 2009 two thirds of the world's were illiterates which were 773 million adults female. In the same year 67 million primary school-aged children and 72 million we're not allowed to have access to formal education. According to UNESCO 11 countries more than half of the adults were illiterates. The

countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

FACTS ABOUT ILLITERACY

Statistics prove that 30 percent of the world's population are illiterates. In 1820 12 percent of the population of the world could not read and write but today the percentage had increased to 14 percent of the population being illiterates in 2016. Illiteracy rate among adults around 15 years and older was 34.7 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2019. The illiteracy rate in South Asia was 29.1 percent, illiteracy rate in Arab States was 20.6 percent, Latin America and Caribbean was 6.5 percent, East Asia and the Pacific was 4.2 percent and Europe and Central Asia was 1.5 percent. UNESCO report in 2013/14 confirm that there are 781 million people who are illiterates. This implies that 10 person's in the world cannot read and write properly. About 500 million illiterates stay in only 10 countries and half of them are Indians.

SOLUTION FOR ILLITERACY

Free education: Government of the countries should make provision for free education from primary school up to Junior High School. This will help to decrease illiteracy rates.

Grants: offering grants, subsidies and scholarship to students would reduce

financial burden on parents and help students to focus on learning without hindrances to complete school.

Night classes: Those are working can attend classes after closing from work. They will be going to work during daytime.

Free books: Government and Non-governmental organizations ought to give books free of charge to schools to motivate to improve upon their reading habit.

Digitization: We are in the era of technology and information, creating digital platform for learning help to decrease the rate of illiteracy in the society. Digital libraries paves way for people living in the rural areas to build upon their knowledge.

Education: It is great privilege to invest in education but is costly to finance one's education. A lot of graduates are not able to finish the courses due to huge debts in the form of students loan so government should reduce the cost education. The cost of university education has become political and social issues in many countries.

Culture: The best solution to illiteracy is to create culture that value reading and improves functional reading skills at the early stage of life.

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter deals with research design, research strategy, research approach, the population of the study, sampling design, the source of data collection and the method of data collection. The research design used for the study was explanatory research design because it was the best for achieving of the objectives of the study. The research strategy used was cross-sectional survey. Through this, the study considered some authors as case study. The research approach used was qualitative research approach. With qualitative research approach, study was able to discover the impact illiteracy had on the life of man. The population of the study, sampling design, source of data collection and method of data collection were thoroughly examined.

SAMPLING DESIGN: The study considered published by academic journals and papers at the various websites.

POPULATION OF THE STUDY: The study considered 8 authors as the population of the study.

THE SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION: The source of data data was primary source.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: The method of collecting data for the study was research.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study found out that illiteracy was a state of being whereby a person was not able to read and write. At the federal society level reading and writing were important to Clergy and the Aristocrats in the ancient days. A lot of illiterate parents did not value education and refused to send their children to school. Poor parents found it hard to pay their children school fees and unable to provide their basic needs. Man acquired knowledge, beliefs so human brain was not blank at birth. United Nations confirmed that 1 out 5 adults were illiterates and had no access to written communication.

According to statistics 30 percent of the world's population we're illiterates. World Literacy declared that illiteracy and low level of education were esteemed to cost the global economy 800 Euro yearly.

CONCLUSION

The study discovered the history of illiteracy, the causes of illiteracy, United Nations views on illiteracy, causes of illiteracy, effects of illiteracy, argument about inborn knowledge solution for illiteracy and the facts about knowledge. Due to the above mentioned factors, the study generalized that illiteracy had negatively affected the life of man.

RECOMMENDATION

Actors and Actresses: The actors and actresses should act films to educate the public to know and understand the relevance to mankind. They must teach the public to understand the side-effects illiteracy.

Education

Authors must write books about the consequences of illiteracy to educate the public to know and understand the need to send their children to school.

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