



REVIEW ARTICLE

WASTAGE AND STAGNATION IN SECONDARY EDUCATION IN JHARKHAND: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS (2000-2020)

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ABSTRACT

This article focuses on the problem of wastage and stagnation in secondary education in Jharkhand, which is a major obstacle to the social and economic development of the state. The article examines the causes, effects, and possible solutions to this problem, analyzing data from 2000 to 2020. The article found that poverty, social discrimination, lack of quality education, and child marriage are the major causes of this problem. Additionally, wastage and stagnation lead to a shortage of skilled workers, unemployment, poverty, and social inequality. The article also suggests some strategies to address this problem, such as increasing investment in education, improving the quality of teachers, and conducting awareness campaigns.

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INTRODUCTION

Jharkhand, which came into existence as the 28th state of India on 15 November 2000 by separating from Bihar, is a region known for its rich tribal culture, abundant mineral resources, and dense forests. However, the development path of this state is fraught with many challenges, one of the most important of which is the problem of wastage and stagnation in secondary education. Secondary education, which lays the foundation for higher education and vocational training, is crucial for the social and economic development of the state. Unfortunately, students dropping out of school or repeatedly failing the same grade at the secondary level continues to be a serious problem in Jharkhand. This problem not only affects the future of individual students, but also has a profound impact on the overall development of Jharkhand. Lack of education leads to shortage of skilled workers, unemployment, poverty and social inequality. Therefore, it is essential that we analyze the causes, impacts and possible solutions to this problem. In this article, we will examine the economic and social impacts of wastage and stagnation in secondary education in Jharkhand, analyzing data from 2000 to 2020, and consider possible strategies to address this complex issue.

Socio-economic Background of Jharkhand: The geographical and socio-economic conditions of Jharkhand further complicate the problem of wastage and attrition in

secondary education. Lack of schools, inadequate infrastructure and unavailability of qualified teachers is a serious issue in the remote rural and tribal areas of the state. Challenges such as financial constraints, social discrimination and child marriage prevent students from continuing their education. About 26% of Jharkhand's population is tribal, and the state is one of the poorest states in India. The state's economy is mainly dependent on agriculture and mining, and industrial development has been slow. In rural areas, most people live below the poverty line. Social inequality, casteism and gender discrimination are also prevalent in the state.

Definition and Types of Wastage and Attrition:

- **Wastage:** Wastage means leaving a course or class midway after enrolling in it without completing it. In the context of secondary education, it is students dropping out of school or discontinuing studies without completing secondary education.
- **Stagnation:** Retention means holding back a student in a class for more than a year. This happens when the student fails in an exam or is unable to move to the next class for some other reason.

Causes of attrition and retention

Financial constraints

- Poverty is a major issue in Jharkhand. Many families cannot afford to send their children to school, especially

at the secondary level, when education becomes more expensive.

- Especially in agriculture-based families, children are forced to contribute to the family income.
- The cost of school fees, books, uniforms and other educational materials is difficult for poor families to afford.
- Many times children are sent for labour which disrupts education.

Social discrimination

- Discrimination on the basis of caste, tribe and gender forces students to drop out of school.
- Girls are often married off at an early age, which disrupts their education.
- In tribal areas, traditional attitude towards education also becomes a barrier.
- Children from socially weaker sections face discrimination in schools.

Lack of quality education

- Schools in many rural areas lack basic facilities and qualified teachers.
- This makes students lose interest in education.
- Inadequate teaching materials and poor teaching methods also affect students' academic performance.
- Schools lack computers, libraries and laboratories.
- Teachers are not given regular training.

Child marriage

- Jharkhand has a high rate of child marriage, which severely affects girls' education.
- Early marriage forces girls to drop out of school.
- Social customs also promote child marriage.

Parental apathy

- Some parents do not understand the importance of education and do not show interest in sending their children to school.
- There is a lack of awareness towards education, especially in tribal and rural areas.
- Parents feel that children should help in farm or household chores.

Distance to schools

- In many remote areas, students have to travel long distances to attend school, which hinders their education.
- Lack of transport facilities is also a problem.

Language barriers

- In many tribal areas, students face differences between their mother tongue and the school language.
- This affects their understanding and learning ability.

Physical and mental health

- Students suffering from malnutrition, diseases and mental health problems are unable to concentrate on their education.
- Lack of health facilities in schools is also a problem.

Economic impact

Lack of skilled workers

- Due to wastage and stagnation, Jharkhand has a shortage of skilled workers.
- This hinders the economic development of the state.
- Industrial development and expansion of the service sector require skilled workers.

Increase in unemployment

- Due to lack of education, youth are unable to get good jobs, which leads to unemployment.
- People with less education earn less, which perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

Cycle of poverty

- People with less education earn less, which perpetuates the cycle of poverty.
- Due to poverty, children are unable to get education, and this cycle continues from generation to generation.

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