

## ABSTRACT

This study explores the crucial role of family dynamics in shaping the educational outcomes of tribal children in Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal. Despite the presence of government policies aimed at inclusive education, tribal communities continue to face significant challenges such as poverty, geographic isolation, cultural resistance, and systemic discrimination. Using a mixed-methods research design, the study integrates quantitative surveys from 300 tribal households across three administrative blocks—Balurghat, Tapan, and Kumarganj—and qualitative interviews with 15 teachers to examine the interplay of socioeconomic conditions, cultural practices, parental literacy, and institutional barriers.

Grounded in Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Systems Theory, Paulo Freire’s Critical Pedagogy, and Amartya Sen’s Capability Approach, the study identifies how family involvement, economic status, and traditional values influence children’s academic participation, performance, and retention. The findings reveal that strong parental engagement and higher literacy levels correlate with better academic outcomes, while economic hardships and subsistence labor demands often lead to early dropouts and absenteeism. Cultural and geographic barriers, along with low awareness of educational policies and digital divide issues, further exacerbate these challenges.

The research also highlights successful community-based practices and the importance of culturally inclusive curricula in fostering motivation among tribal students. It calls for targeted interventions such as adult literacy programs, improved infrastructure, transport facilities, financial support, and inclusive teacher training. By bridging the gap between policy intent and ground realities, the study offers practical, evidence-based recommendations for improving educational access and equity in tribal regions.

**Keywords:** *Family Dynamics, Tribal Education, Educational Outcomes, Parental Literacy, Socioeconomic Barriers, Inclusive Curriculum*