

Education as a Means of Social Change – Study with Regard to Dhankut, a Group Living In District Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

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KEYWORDS Poverty. Illiteracy. Inequality. Opportunity. Mobility. Progress

ABSTRACT Present study has been done on a group called Dhankut to analyse whether education is a means of social change with regard to them. Dhankut are mainly illiterate and economically poor residing in Dhankutypura, surrounded by Brahmins, Kayastha, Muslims and Vaish. This group is mentioned as Dhankut in district gazeteer and voter's list without any caste description of SC/ST/OBC. It is neither agricultural, occupational nor service class group. They are engaged in retail work of cereal selling, betal selling and thela pulling. Dhankut women are engaged in cow dung collection and making of cow dung cakes. Social change is influenced by many factors, education is one of them. Education helps in eradication of poverty, class discrimination and gender biasness. It promotes equality and justice in the society. It provide opportunities for progress and mobility but with regard to Dhankut Education itself is increasing social segregation and class discriminations. Study reveals that though Dhankut are aware of importance of education for improving their social status but still they are not promoting their children to take education. They feel that education is waste of time and money as it does not provide them with jobs. Thus with regard to Dhankut Education has not accelerated the process of social change.

“Education is the very foundation of good citizenship... It is principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment”

- Brown v. Board of Education 98L Ed 873 at 880; (1953) 347 US 483 at 494