

Awareness among the Prospective Teachers towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Rte) Act 2009 in Tamilnadu

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Abstract: *The study was conducted to find out the level of awareness towards RTE Act 2009 among the prospective teachers in the selected districts of Tamil Nadu. Normative survey method was adopted in which stratified random sampling technique is used to select the 10 Districts in Tamil Nadu. 750 prospective teachers were constituted as samples from the ten districts. The researcher constructed the self-developed tool i.e., "Awareness on RTE Act 2009 among the prospective teachers in Tamil Nadu" was used in this study. The internal consistency of reliability in this tool was established by using co efficient of consistency of Cronbach's alpha. The formulated hypothesis of the study "there is no significant difference in the level of awareness among the prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to their Districts" was testified by using ANOVA technique in statistics. The major findings of the study revealed that the majority of the prospective teachers are in the moderate level of general, administrative and overall awareness towards RTE Act with respect to their District. And there is significant difference in general and overall awareness towards RTE Act among the prospective teachers and there is no significant difference in the administrative awareness among the prospective teachers with respect to selected districts in Tamil Nadu. The investigator suggested that the content of the RTE Act and its implementation procedure may be incorporated in the B.Ed curriculum.*

Key word: *General and administrative awareness on RTE Act 2009, prospective teachers.*

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I. Introduction

The preamble of Indian constitution pledges to secure 'Equality of status' and 'Equal opportunities' to all citizens. Article 14 deals with Equality before law and Article 15 deals with equality for all citizens irrespective of color, caste, creed or religion. Besides, it makes special provisions for women and children. The entire education agrees with the fact that the curriculum should be more than a Procrustean B.Ed., in which students are filled in, rather it should be adaptable. In order to satisfy Article 45, many of the educational institutions are overcrowded. This has a lot of repercussion in education. In most of these causes, the educational institution provides members of the society, what they want and not what society needs.

Need And Significance Of The Study

When the Prospective teachers are deputed to the schools for internship, they should be aware of the government policies, programmes and schemes for teachers to maintain quality education. They should support teachers to ensure the quality education with free and compulsory education. Hence, it is necessary for the Prospective teachers to know the government norms, standard, policies and programmes for the effective functions of the school by involving parents. Hence, the investigator had conducted a study to find out the level of general and administrative awareness among the Prospective teachers and at what extent their level of awareness towards RTE Act 2009 is persistent among them.

The Prospective teachers will access to the young generation in the future course of action. An investigation into their awareness is essential for the building up of an enlightened society when they are appointed as teachers. Awareness among them will contribute towards the betterment of whole society and to deal with the students in a better manner. The study will help the prospective teachers towards the provision made by the Government for quality and free education to understand the issues in the RTE Act for the enrolled children in accessing education even in private schools. This study might promote the consciousness about the norms and standard for schools according to RTE Act to the future researcher as well as academicians.

Objectives of The Study

- To find out the level of General, administrative and overall awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act among the prospective teachers with respect to selected Districts in Tamil Nadu.
- To examine the significant difference among the prospective teachers in their awareness towards Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act with respect to selected Districts in Tamil Nadu.

Hypothesis Of The Study

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in the level of general, administrative and overall awareness among the prospective teachers towards the RTE Act 2009 with respect to their Districts.

Methodology

Method: The investigator adopted the Normative Survey method which was found suitable to gather the essential and relevant data for the study.

Sampling procedure: A stratified random sampling technique was used in the study. There are 32 Districts in Tamil Nadu. Out of 32 Districts 10 Districts were selected purposively viz. Chennai, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Salem, Karur, Madurai, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur, Krishnagiri and Kanniyakumari. The prospective teachers are the population of the study. They were selected on multi stage stratified random sampling technique.

Selection of B.Ed College: 10 B.Ed colleges from each District were selected. From each college 75 prospective teachers were selected on simple random sampling procedure. Altogether 750 prospective teachers were constituted as the sample for the study.

Delimitation Of The Study

- The study was focused to examine the level of awareness of RTE Act on general awareness, administrative awareness and overall awareness.
- The overall awareness was the scores combined with general and administrative awareness
- Only 10 districts were selected for the study purposively such as Krishnagiri, Salem, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Chennai, the Nilgiris, Theni, Madurai, Kannaiyakumari and Karur.

Tool For The Data Collection

The researcher constructed the self-developed tool viz., “**Awareness on RTE Act 2009 among the prospective teachers in Tamil Nadu**” The researcher standardized the tool by consulting with the educational experts and found reliability through Cronbach’s alpha. It is a measure of internal consistency scale for reliability.

Table1: Reliability statistics for Questionnaire on Awareness towards RTE ACT 2009 among the prospective teachers

Sl No	Dimensions	No of items	Cronbach’ Alpha
1	General awareness	30	0.8788
2	Administrative awareness	30	0.9013

The internal consistency of reliability of this tool was established using co efficient of consistency of Cronbach’s alpha was found to be 0.8788 for general awareness and 0.9013 for administrative awareness. Only each 30 items were selected from 37 and 36 respectively for prospective teachers.

- **Scoring procedure:** There are 60 items in the questionnaire, each 30 for general awareness and administrative awareness. Five point scales was used to measure the level of awareness. The scores allotted for positive questions are as; 5 for very much true, 4 for partially true, 3 for true to some extent, 2 for cannot be decided and 1 for Not at all true. The scores for negative questions in reverse order. The overall awareness was the scores combined with general and administrative awareness. Percentage analysis and ANOVA were used to testify the hypotheses and objectives of the study.

Testing The Objectives Of The Study

To find out the Level of General, administrative and overall awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act among the prospective teachers with respect to selected Districts in Tamil Nadu.

Table 2: Percentage analysis showing the level of General, administrative and overall awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act among the prospective teachers with respect to selected Districts in Tamil Nadu

Sl. N.	District Name	General Awareness			Administrative Awareness			Overall Awareness		
		High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Low
1.	Krishnagiri	10.7	68.0	21.3	6.7	76.0	17.3	9.3	69.3	21.3
2.	Salem	10.7	70.7	18.7	6.7	78.7	14.7	9.3	74.7	16.0
3.	Ariyalur	9.3	72.0	18.7	6.7	77.3	16.0	9.2	74.8	16.1
4.	Nagapattinam	13.3	72.0	14.7	6.6	78.7	14.7	16.0	70.7	13.3
5.	Chennai	18.7	69.3	12.0	12.0	66.7	21.3	17.3	73.3	9.3
6.	The Nilgiris	21.3	64.0	14.7	21.3	62.7	16.0	26.7	66.7	6.7
7.	Theni	24.0	66.7	9.3	16.0	66.7	17.3	28.0	65.3	6.7
8.	Madurai	18.7	70.7	10.7	12.0	68.0	20.0	16.0	74.7	9.3
9.	Kanniyakumari	29.5	61.3	9.3	18.7	69.3	12.0	26.7	72.0	1.3
10	Karur	29.3	61.3	9.3	21.3	61.3	17.3	24.0	69.3	6.7

The above table shows that that the majority of the prospective teachers are in the moderate level of general, Administrative and overall awareness towards RTE Act with respect to selected Districts in Tamil Nadu.

Hypothesis Testing

There is no significant difference in general, administrative and overall awareness among the prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to districts

Table 3: Difference between the mean scores on General, administrative and overall awareness among the Prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to Districts

Awareness of RTE Act	Source	Sum of squares	df	Mean square variance	'F' value	'P' Value	Remarks
General awareness	Between groups	3588.44	9	398.71	3.28	0.00*	Sig
	Within groups	89791.22	740	121.33			
	Total	93379.67	749				
Administrative awareness	Between groups	1367.71	9	151.96	1.30	0.23	Not Sig
	within groups	86207.78	740	116.49			
	Total	87575.49	749				
Overall Awareness	Between groups	8613.40	9	957.04	2.93	0.00*	Sig
	within groups	240964.66	740	325.62			
	Total	249578.07	749				

The above table reveals that the difference in the mean scores on general, administrative and overall awareness among the Prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to District.

The calculated P value for general and overall awareness are 0.00 respectively was less than 0.05 and those are significant at 0.05 level. Further, the P value for the Administrative awareness is 0.23 and it is greater than 0.05 and it is not significant at 0.05 level.

Table 3 (a) Duncan post hop test showing the Difference among the mean Scores of Prospective teachers on General awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act with respect to Districts

DISTRICTS	N	Subset for alpha = .05			
		1	2	3	4
Ariyalur	75	71.78			
Krishnagiri	75	71.97	71.97		
Salem	75	72.30	72.30		
Nilgiris	75	74.68	74.68	74.68	
Nagapatinam	75	75.20	75.20	75.20	75.20
Chennai	75	75.38	75.38	75.38	75.38
Madurai	75	75.50	75.50	75.50	75.50

Theni	75		75.93	75.93	75.93
Karur	75			77.16	77.16
Kanniyakumari	75				78.89
P value		0.07	0.05	0.23	0.07

The Duncan post hoc test shows that the mean score on General awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act among the prospective teachers with respect to Districts.

- ❖ The prospective teachers of Ariyalur, Krishnagiri, Salem, The Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Chennai and Madurai are in the same sub set for alpha and they do not differ with each other on General awareness towards the RTE Act.
- ❖ The prospective teachers of Krishnagiri, Salem, The Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Chennai Madurai and Theni are in the same sub set for alpha and they do not differ with each other on General awareness towards the RTE Act.
- ❖ The prospective teachers of The Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Chennai Madurai, Theni, and Karur are in the same sub set for alpha and they do not differ with each other on General awareness towards the RTE Act.
- ❖ The prospective teachers of Nagapattinam, Chennai Madurai, Theni, Karur and Kanniyakumari are in the same sub set for alpha and they do not differ with each other on General awareness towards the RTE Act.
- ❖ The prospective teachers of Ariyalur and Kanniyakumari Districts are significantly differing on General awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act with other districts.

Table 3 (b) Duncan post hoc test showing the Difference among the mean scores of prospective teachers on Overall awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act with respect to Districts

DISTRICTS	N	Subset for alpha = .05		
		1	2	3
Krishnagiri	75	142.05		
Ariyalur	75	142.40		
Salem	75	142.94	142.94	
Chennai	75	146.62	146.62	
Nagapattinam	75	146.76	146.76	
Madurai	75	146.80	146.80	
Nilgiris	75	147.98	147.98	147.98
Theni	75	148.57	148.57	148.57
Karur	75		149.37	149.37
Kanniyakumari	75			153.65
P value		0.05	0.05	0.07

The table 3 (b) indicates that the Overall awareness of Prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to selected Districts of Tamil Nadu. All the 10 districts are included into sub set of alpha.

- ❖ The prospective teachers of Krishnagiri, Ariyalur, Salem, Chennai, Nagapattinam, Madurai, The Nilgiris and Theni are in the same sub set for alpha and they do not differ with each other on overall awareness towards the RTE Act.
- ❖ The prospective teachers of Salem, Chennai, Nagapattinam, Madurai, The Nilgiris, Theni and Karur are in the same sub set for alpha and they do not differ with each other on overall awareness towards the RTE Act.
- ❖ The prospective teachers of The Nilgiris, Theni, Karur and Kanniyakumari are in the same sub set for alpha and they do not differ with each other on overall awareness towards the RTE Act.
- ❖ The prospective teachers of Kanniyakumari significantly differ on overall awareness towards the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Act with other districts.

Hence the null hypothesis “There is no significant difference in General, administrative and overall awareness among the prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to districts” is not accepted except in administrative awareness.

Findings Of The Study

1. The majority of the prospective teachers are in the moderate level of general awareness, administrative awareness and overall awareness towards RTE Act with respect to their Districts
2. There is significant difference in General awareness among the prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to districts.

3. There is no significant difference in the level of administrative awareness among the prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to districts.
4. There is significant difference in the level of overall awareness among the prospective teachers towards the RTE Act with respect to districts

Educational Implication Of The Study

In order to maintain the quality in education and provide free and compulsory education up to 14 years, the RTE Act was implemented in India. The prospective teachers must understand and equip themselves to be aware of their roles and responsibilities, formation of school management committees and its function, mobilizing the fund to develop the infrastructural facilities, teacher eligibility test for appointing as teachers, curriculum and its evaluation procedures. The prospective teachers should aware about the government programmes and policies for ensuring the quality of education.

Hence, it is suggested that;

- ❖ The content of the RTE Act and its implementation procedure may be incorporated in the B.Ed curriculum.
- ❖ Organization of seminars, conference, workshop and symposium may be encouraged in the college of education.
- ❖ The teacher trainees may be instructed to prepare a detailed report on the RTE Act, its implementation procedures, challenges faced by the Headmasters, teachers and the educational authorities.
- ❖ In the college of education, there should be seminars and workshop to be organized for the teacher trainees towards the RTE Act with special reference to Section 23 of RTE Act “Qualifications for appointment and terms and conditions of service of teachers” and Section 24 of RTE Act “Duties of teachers and redressal of grievances” so that the teacher trainees may understand their qualification and their nature of duties as a teacher in the school apart from teaching.
- ❖ Management functions may be reviewed and obstacles in implementation of the RTE Act to be identified. Planning and monitoring of programs is as significant as developing the quality of education imparted. Both planning and monitoring require different set of skills. Hence the stakeholders must be properly trained to monitor and rectify the obstacles in the implementation of the RTE Act in an effective manner.

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