

VISHNUIAS.COM

WE PROVIDE A PATH FOR YOUR SUCCESS

ANTHROPOLOGY SNIPPET-434



(Welcome To Vishnu IAS online)

(Research and Training Institute for the best civil services preparation in India)

<http://vishnuias.com/>

Online classes: Tribal students at the receiving end, says survey



Pointing to the impact of the pandemic on learning, a survey has found that students in tribal areas received less than optimal exposure to online classes. The students in tribal locations in five districts reported that they attend less than an hour of online class on working days. The survey was conducted by Kanal Innovations, an NGO, among students (Class I to Plus II) in Palakkad (Attapadi), Malappuram (Nilambur), Wayanad, Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam.

The students who took part in the survey complained that lack of mobile phone connectivity and occasional power outage affected their virtual classroom learning. "There are a lot of students who need the support of teachers to keep them motivated to study. Any disruption will affect learning skills and it would be tough to bring them back to learning," said Anson P D Alexander, director, Kanal Innovations. The students access classes offered by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) through its television channel VICTERS. The survey also pointed out the problems being faced by students of private schools where they complained of online sessions up to seven hours a day.

"Many schools flout the direction to limit online classes to three hours. Besides, students spend more time online for tuition and homework," said Anson. The survey found that students who are not adept at typing complained of not being able to complete the exams conducted by schools using online platforms.

Most of the students in the tribal settlements across the state are struggling due to lack of resources. However, all the 16 students at the Government Tribal LP School in Puruvimala are able to continue their online education with the help of a few good samaritans who provided smartphones and televisions to them.

Children from the tribal settlements such as Thenmala, Thodumala and Puruvimala study at this LP school. After class IV, they have to travel to the city to continue their education. "Only a few children from the tribal settlements join the school and most of them stop education after class IV because of the travel involved. So, it is important that more attention be given to these children," said Akhilesh S S, one of the teachers at the school.

Last year, gadgets were distributed to about seven students by various charity organisations, Akhilesh said. "This year, the remaining students were also provided with smartphones. With the help of the alumni of 2007-2008 BEd batch of Mar Theophilus Training College, the last child was given a smartphone two weeks ago," he added.

The survey also pointed out the situation of Plus I students in government schools. "Many students in Thiruvananthapuram city have never met teachers or classmates in person. Their school WhatsApp group contains a message from the teacher intimating about the online class of the day," said Anson. The survey covered 330 students from five regions- rural, urban, tribal, coastal and high range - from 14 districts.