

## SHODH SAMAGAM

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# Higher Education Status of Muslim Community People in the Coastal Area, Trivandrum District, Kerala

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### ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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HIGHER EDUCATION STATUS OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY PEOPLE IN THE COASTAL AREA OF TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT, KERALA. MuhammedRiyazH1  
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Dr.NishaAshokan2 AssociateProfessor, CollegeofManagement.SRM. ABSTRACT This paper focuses on the educational attainment of coastal people in Vizhinjam village, Trivandrum district, Kerala.

### ABSTRACT

*This paper focuses on the educational attainment of coastal people in Vizhinjam village, Trivandrum district, Kerala. The present study mainly concentrated on the status of higher education of Muslim community in the region. Among all the religious communities, Muslims are in the least educated section of Indian Society. The backwardness among Muslims in comparison with non-Muslims in India have become a matter of concern at present. The objectives of the study are to find out the educational status of coastal people living in Vizhinjam Village and to identify the causes of their educational backwardness. In this paper I will try to delineate the present picture of the status of higher education of coastal area living people at Vizhinjam Village.*

### KEY WORDS

**Coastal people, Muslim Community, Higher Educational status, Trivandrum District, Kerala.**

### INTRODUCTION

Education is a basic factor of human development. It is the most empowering force in the world. It creates knowledge, builds confidence and breaks down barriers to opportunity. For children, it is their key to open the door to a better life. As per the report, India's average literacy rate is 77.70% & male literacy at the India level in 2021 stands at 84.70% & female literacy stands at 70.30% (National Statistical Office (NSO) data). Muslim community is one of the major minority communities in India. Sachar committee (2020) reported that the literacy rate for Muslim women

was higher than Dalit or tribal women but lower than for women of any other religious group. “South Indian Muslims, particularly of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have shown impressive progress in education, compared to their counterparts in Bihar, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana” (Hasnain). Muslims form one of the major minority communities in India. Prf. SukhdeoThorat, former chairman of UGC (2022), reiterated that Muslims have the lowest Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at 16.6% in higher education among all the communities in the country (national average is 26.3%). He also pointed out that Muslim students depend highly on government institutions (54.1%) as compared to other communities (national average 45.2%) and only 18.2% Muslim students go to private aided higher education institutions and 27.4% go to private unaided higher education institutions against a national average of 24.4% and 30.1%, respectively. According to Census (2021), Kerala state has highest literacy rate in India with 94% compared to the national average of 74%. Kerala’s sex ratio of 1084 females to 1000 males, is higher than that of the rest of India. however, the higher educational condition of Muslim community especially in the coastal areas seems to be poor. Majorly nine coastal districts are identified by Kerala State; such as Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod. The current study focuses on the Muslim Community people at Vizhinjam Village which a place comes under the part of Trivandrum District.

Vizhinjam is a region located in the city of Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of the state of Kerala in India. It is located 16km south west from the city Centre and 17km south of Trivandrum International Airport along NH66. The region is mainly covered by the Muslim peoples who are living in Vizhinjam locality. The region of coastal area includes Ambalkulam, Vaduvachal, Township Colony, Harbour, Theatre Junction and Vizhinjam junction of the village comes under Thiruvananthapuram district Municipality/ corporation body. Mainly the Minority community peoples are living in this area and their chief occupation is fishing, self-employment and many of them are working as laborer in the Gulf countries. The village area is divided into three geographical areas based on religion. It means that they are living with a group of their religion peoples. Most of the coastal areas in the district is divided like this uniformity. They are following a life cycle pattern which describe that the men get educated and find a job in gulf countries. Coastal area peoples are not giving much importance for higher education of their kids. Due to the increase in the number of Gulf migrants from this region, the education of Muslim community in Vizhinjam village has been masked. Hence, the study needs to be analyzed in depth. It is against this backdrop; the current study is initiated. The present study entitled, “Higher educational status of Muslim Community people in the coastal area of Trivandrum District” attempted to understand the status of Vizhinjam Village (coastal area) people.

## **Review of Related Literature**

Menon (1981) conducted a study on the ‘Educational Status of Muslim Women in Kerala’. He concludes that early marriage, seclusion and lack of meaningful role of the educated women in the community were the main reasons for the low level of educational attainment among Muslim women in Kerala.

Hasan and Menon (2005) conducted a study on Muslim women’s education in five cities of India. One among them was Calicut district of Kerala. The study concluded that there is a special need for the State to take proactive role in this regard to promote social justice and empowerment of Muslim women.

Manju Narula (2014) published a paper with the title ‘Educational Development of Muslim Minority: With Special Reference to Muslim Concentrated States of India’; the paper revealed that over the years the number of institutions, enrolment, teachers, physical facilities have increased; still educational progress of Muslims is not satisfactory in terms of literacy rates, enrolment, and retention

and in completion of grades. The paper also revealed gender disparity as one of the reasons of educational backwardness of the Muslim minority.

Tasneem shazli& Sana Asna (2015) conducted a study on the “Educational vision of Muslims in India: problems and concerns”. The authors that Muslims are far behind than the other communities. Their vision towards education is still traditional. They don’t want to accept modern education due to which they are suffering socially, economically and politically. Muslims have lower share in Professional education especially in management sector.

Dr. Sahala P M (2018) conducted a study on the “Educational status of Muslim women in Matriarchal families of North Malabar. Muslim women in matriarchal families of North Malabar are far better in their school level of education and seem to be poor in their higher education including Post graduation and profession. Various causes were identified by the author which stand as a stumbling block in the way of getting Muslim women highly educated. The study highlights that Muslim women need awareness, motivation and role models within the community.

Sachar (2020) pointed out that Muslims are the most economically, educationally and socially backward sections of Indian society. The literacy rate of Muslims was 59.1 % which was below the national average of 65.1%. Less than 4.4% of Muslims were graduates.

All the above mentioned studies reveal that Muslim People are backward in all aspects of development. The studies related to Muslim people in Coastal area are very scanty. This motivated the investigator to conduct the present study.

### Objectives of the Study

- ◆ To find out the higher educational status of Muslim community in the coastal area of Trivandrum District
- ◆ To identify the causes that leads to the educational backwardness of Muslim community who living in the coastal area.

### Methodology

The present study was carried out through survey method. Purposive random sampling method was used.

### Sample

The sample for the present study comprises of 320 Muslim peoples (192 male & 128 female representatives) belonging to the coastal area of Trivandrum district falling in the age group of 18 to 30 years. Self-administered questionnaire containing 20 closed ended items was used to collect data. Percentage analysis was done to analyze, tabulate and interpret data.

### Result and Interpretations

**Table1:** Respondent’s details from Vizhinjam Village.

Age group	Men	Women
18-20	44	34
21-24	61	30
25-30	59	49
Above30	28	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>128</b>

(Source: Primary Data)

**Table 2:** Educational Status of Muslim community peoples in Vizhinjam village (Coastal area)

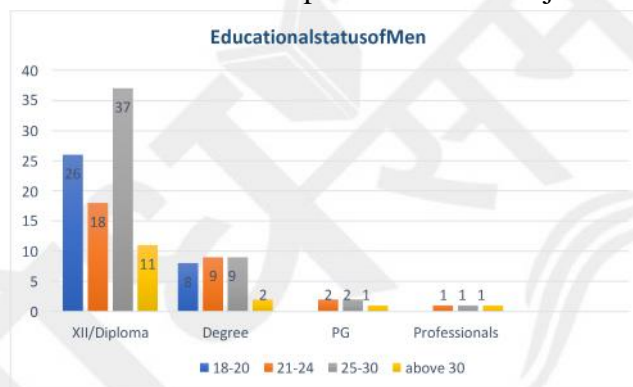
Sl.No	Age group	Educational Status				Total No. of Respondents
		XII/Diploma	Degree	P.G.	Professionals	
1	18-20	56 (M-30,F-26)	22 (M-14,F-8)			078
2	21-24	50 (M-32,F-18)	28 (M-19,F-9)	9 (M-7,F-2)	4 (M-3,F-1)	091
3	25-30	65 (M-28,F-37)	28 (M-19,F-9)	8 (M-6,F-2)	7 (M-6,F-1)	108
4	Above30	29 (M-18,F-11)	9 (M-7,F-2)	3 (M-2,F-1)	2 (M-1,F-1)	043

(Source: Primary Data)

(The letter M denoted as Male and the letter F denoted as Female. Digits outside the parenthesis represent number of respondents.)

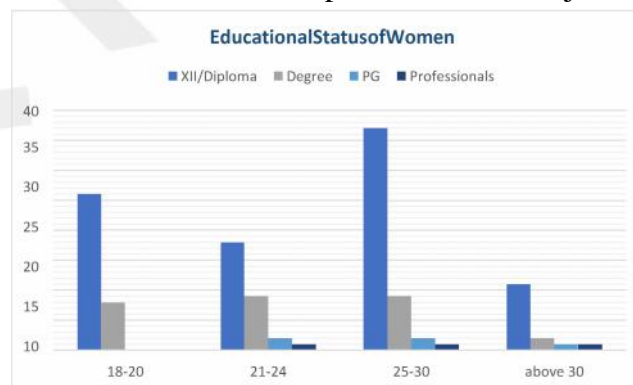
From the above Table, it is clear that the higher educational status of Muslim community peoples shows considerable increase in their educational progress in recent times. The higher educational status reveals that the enrolment rate of Muslim peoples in Post-Graduation and Professional courses is found to be very less when compared to that of graduation. As the data show, 27.18% of Muslim peoples successfully completed their higher secondary level of education. The study highlights that though there is increase in the enrolment rate of peoples for graduation courses, only few of them were able to complete it successfully.

**Graph1:** Educational Status of Men respondents in Vizhinjam Village (coastal area)



From the data, 30.72% (59 out of 192) men are successfully completed their higher education.

**Graph 2:** Educational status of Women respondents in Vizhinjam Village (coastal area)



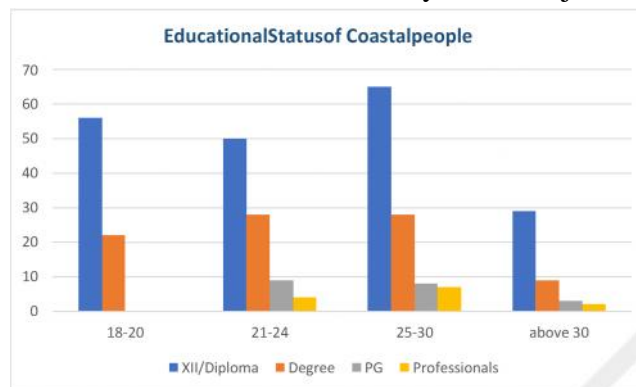
Graph 2 shows that 21.85% (28 out of 128) Women are successfully completed their higher

secondary level of education.

Only 4.06% people were employed based on their educational qualifications. 5.20% (10 out of 192) Men and 2.34% (3 out of 128) Women representatives were employed based on their educational qualification. Two Men and a Woman Government employee found in this study.

Dropout rate of men at graduation level seems to be higher due to financial problems and lack of job availability. Majority of percentage level of boys are employed in gulf countries. Drop out rate of women at graduation level seems to be higher. This is mainly related to marriage. The women who had successfully completed their Post-graduation and Professional courses were seemed to be under employed and unemployed.

**Graph3:** Educational Status of Muslim community in Vizhinjam village (coastal area)



## Major Findings of The Study

- ◆ The study found that there were no dropouts among Muslim people in schools upto matriculation. At the higher educational level, the enrolment rate of Muslim peoples found to be less and the dropout rate seem to be higher.
- ◆ Majority of the peoples were successfully completed their higher secondary level of education.
- ◆ Parents doesn't give much importance to get women educated.
- ◆ Majority of the Men in this region are migrating to gulf countries after their higher secondary education.
- ◆ The main reason for the discontinuation of the higher education in Muslim Men is related to job from gulf countries. In the case of job, at the age between 18 to 21 years is considered as a suitable age by the elder family members for getting a job from gulf countries. Instead of graduating, they undergo job-oriented Diploma courses. Men do get married earlier and they prefer least educated women.
- ◆ At the same time, the main reason for the discontinuation of the higher education in Muslim women is related to marriage. Marriage between 18 to 20 years is considered as a suitable age by the parents for getting their daughter(s) married. Only few of them were able to complete their courses even after marriage.
- ◆ There exists gender disparity, superstition and baseless custom with regard to Muslim women education.
- ◆ Due to unemployment of parents, students face financial stringency in continuing their education.
- ◆ Parents are not willing to send their daughter(s) to far off places to pursue education.
- ◆ Lack of higher educational institutions and job opportunities prevents the education of Muslim Community people.
- ◆ Family acceptance to wards higher education is not much encouraged.

- ◆ Negative attitude of parents and elderly members in the family regarding higher education; especially they have no interest of each their girls.
- ◆ Teachers are considered as the role models by the students. Most of the teachers have an assumption that Muslim peoples from this region will not complete their educational courses successfully. This negative attitude and prejudice from the part of the teachers need to be changed.

## CONCLUSION

It is evident from the study that the educational attainment of Muslim community in Vizhinjam village (coastal area) are far better in their school level of education and seem to be poor in their higher education including post-graduation and profession. Various causes were identified which stand as a stumbling block in the way of getting Muslim Men and Women highly educated. There are various causes that hinder their education. They include early marriage, gender disparity, lack of higher educational institutions and job opportunities, financial constraints, lack of educational awareness among parents, etc. The study highlights that the coastal area people need awareness, motivation and role models within the community. Religious leaders can play a vital role in the education of Muslim people through his thought provoking and insightful speech especially during Friday prayers where crowd gathers at the mosque. Therefore, this study suggests that, different stakeholders, especially policy makers and religious leaders, should take initiatives for upbringing the coastal people in Vizhinjam village into the main stream of education as they are still in a backward position compared to other sections of the same community.

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