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Research Article

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SCHEDULE TRIBE (ST) STUDENTS OF DHALAI DISTRICT OF TRIPURA IN H.S (+2) STAGE EXAMINATION

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ABSTRACT

The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in India, comprising over 10.2 crores individuals, represents one of the most economically disadvantaged and marginalized groups in the country, accounting for 8.6 percent of the total population (Census of India, 2011). Tripura, one of the states in India, has a population of 36,73,917. According to the 2011 Census of India, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in Tripura accounts for 31.76 percent of the total population. ST students from every districts of Tripura faces numerous challenges in education, leading to a higher dropout rate compared to other communities. These challenges stem from socio-economic weaknesses, and addressing them through education is crucial for improving their socio-economic status. The objective of this study is to address the academic performance of Scheduled Tribe students at Dhalai district in Tripura.

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INTRODUCTION

Education is widely recognized as a potent tool for alleviating poverty and reducing inequality among individuals. It holds immense significance for both societal and national development. The tribal population in India faces arduous challenges in terms of survival and progress. Given their substantial numbers, their development is crucial for the overall progress of the country. Unfortunately, they are often deprived of equal opportunities, which can result in socio-economic development. Literacy and human development serve as pivotal factors in driving both quantitative and qualitative social transformations, significantly influencing demographic behavior. The implementation of reservation policies has opened up educational avenues for the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. Education is generally regarded as a key indicator of societal and individual advancement. Academic performance stands as a fundamental component for evaluating an individual's capabilities and overall potential. Our society witnesses a significant disparity in the academic achievements of children from different backgrounds. Privileged groups tend to outperform disadvantaged groups in schools and other educational domains. Tribal does, in particular, require more time to unfold their abilities within our society. In the modern era, academic achievements play a pivotal role in individual and national development. The effectiveness of the education system, both quantitatively and qualitatively, relies on students' academic accomplishments. Consequently, academic achievement holds

great importance as one of the foremost priorities for educational institutions, serving as an outcome that reflects the extent to which students, teachers, or institutions have attained their educational objectives.

Tripura is the third smallest state of India. In India's North-Eastern area, it is known as one sister of seven sisters.. Tripura is mixed culture and it is divided into 8 districts where populations are found i.e. Tribal and Non-Tribal peoples. Among these 8 districts Dhalai is the largest and its academic performance is very low compared to the other districts of Tripura. The district has an total area of 2,400 sq km and the Population of Dhalai in 2022 is estimated to be 4, 99, 264 inhabitants, among them the majority population belongs to ST community.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the study are mentioned below:

1. To study the academic performance of Schedule Tribe (ST) students of different schools of Dhalai District in H.S (+2) Stage examination.
2. To compare the academic performance between Arts & Science among Schedule Tribe (ST) students' of different schools in H.S (+2) Stage examination over the previous five years.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A literature review is an essential and very significant part of any research. The review of literature give us a clear understanding of the term use, the methodological issues

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involved, and the developments in historical perspectives. It also brings to light the unexplored aspect and in a way which helps in providing guidelines for carrying out the research.

Deb, Kamal and Bhattacharjee, Baishakhi (2016) titled "Academic Achievement of Schedule Tribe Secondary Level Schools Students of Rural and Urban Areas in Tripura" showed no discernible differences in academic achievement between boys and girls. Furthermore, the descriptive analytical survey approach was used in 21 secondary level schools in Tripura and the results of the study showed that there were notable variations in academic attainment between boys and girls.

Debbarma, Newton (2022) titled "Study on the problems of ST students in Tripura at Elementary Education" shows the problems faced by ST students at Elementary Education and also provide suggestions how to reduce the dropout rate of ST students at Elementary level.

Dr. Sahidul Ahmad (2017) titled "Quality of Secondary Education. A case study of Tripura" shows the status of Secondary Education in Tripura, learning achievements of the students of Tripura and give suggestion how to improve the quality of Secondary education in Tripura.

Timothy Tripura (2020) titled "Issues and Challenges Faced by the Indigenous Students of Tripura in Primary-level to Higher Education: An overview" shows the critical issues and challenges faced by the tribal students of Tripura in primary level to higher education from the perspective of their socio-economic status, medium of instructions in school, attitude of parents, teachers and peer groups etc. It will also give an analysis of the status of literacy rate, gross enrolment ratio and gender parity index.

M. Rani (2000) titled "Tribal languages and Tribal Education" observed in her study that due to the language barrier the tribal children are unable to establish communication link with the teacher and thus leading to the termination of their education in some point or the other.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The survey method is the practice of interviewing people face-to-face or asking them questions about a survey or research in order to collect data for a study. People with specific information, ideas, or experiences connected to the subject are typically surveyed by researchers. Formal lists of questions are created by researchers and may be given one-on-one to participants.

Population and sample of the study

All the Schedule Tribe (ST) students appearing H.S (+2) Examination from all the schools of Dhalai District are the population of the present study.

All the H.S (+2) appearing Schedule Tribe (ST) students from randomly selected Six schools of Dhalai District are the sample size for the present study.

Tools used for data collection

In order to gather data for our survey, we first choose schools and collect the relevant data by conducting face-to-face interviews with the head of school authority.

For our survey first we collect data through face to face interview with the help of Principal or Head Master of our selected schools in Dhalai District. We analyze the data by using tabulation and graphical representation.

Analysis and interpretation of data

Objectiv - I : To study the academic performance of Schedule Tribe (ST) students of different schools of Dhalai District in H.S (+2) Stage examination.

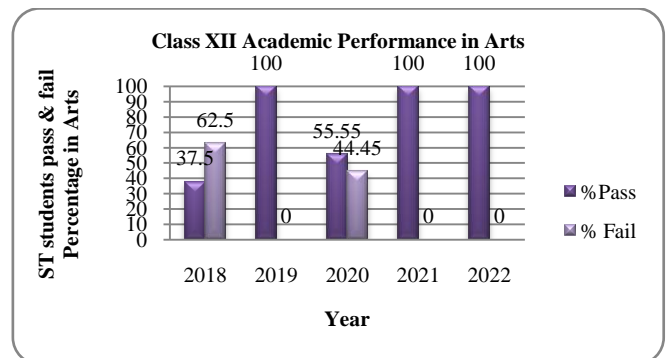
Higher Secondary (+2 Stage) Examination Results from 2018 to 2022

K.C. Girls' Class XII School

Table 1 Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Arts for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at K.C. Girls' Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in Arts	Total ST Students Appeared in Arts	Total pass ST Students in Arts	Pass Percentage (%) in Arts	Average of Percentage
2018	61	08	03	37.50	76.92
2019	54	03	03	100	
2020	70	09	05	55.55	
2021	66	06	06	100	
2022	78	13	13	100	
Total	329	39	30		

Table 1: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Arts at K.C. Girls' Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students' performance level changes from year to year. In K.C. Girls' Class XII School, ST students' engagement and academic achievement have grown over the past two years. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage in Arts roughly 76.92%.

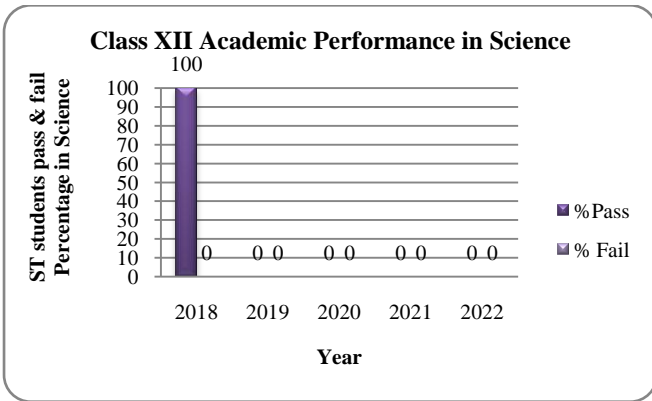


The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the K.C. Girls' Class XII School is displayed in Graph 1.

Table 2 Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Science for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at K.C. Girls' Class XII School.

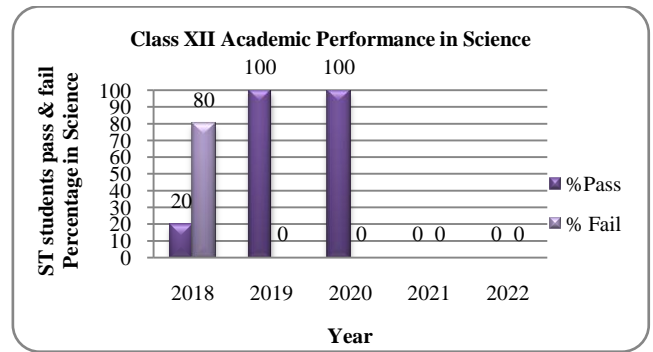
Year	Total Students Appeared in science	Total ST Students Appeared in Science	Total pass ST Students in Science	Pass Percentage (%) in Science	Average of Percentage
2018	17	03	03	100	100
2019	19	Nil	Nil	Nil	
2020	05	Nil	Nil	Nil	
2021	05	Nil	Nil	Nil	
2022	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Total	58	03	03		

Table 2: Shows the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Science at K.C. Girls' Class XII School. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that students at K.C Girls XII School have not shown any interest in science during the past four years.



Year	Total Students Appeared in Science	Total ST Students Appeared in Science	Total pass ST Students in Science	Pass Percentage (%) in Science	Average of Percentage
2019	28	01	01	100	42.85
2020	09	01	01	100	
2021	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	
2022	35	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Total	128	07	03		

Table 4: Shows the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Science at Kamalpur Class XII School. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that students at Kamalpur Class XII School have not shown any interest in science during the past two years. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage in Arts roughly 42.85%.



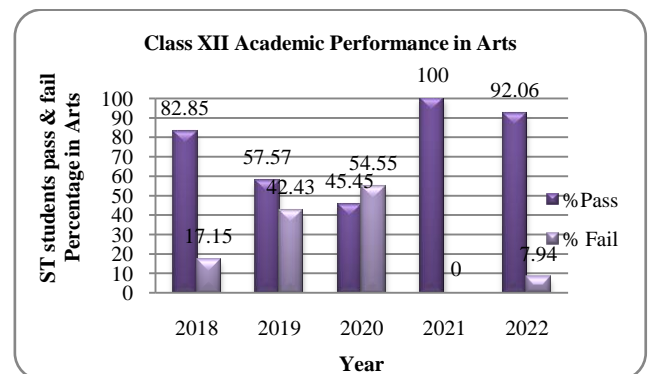
The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Kamalpur Class XII School is displayed in Graph 4. Here we can see that the students at Kamalpur Class XII School have not shown any interest in science during the past two years.

Halhali Class XII School

Table 5: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Arts for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Halhali Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in Arts	Total ST Students Appeared in Arts	Total pass ST Students in Arts	Pass Percentage (%) in Arts	Average of Percentage
2018	126	35	29	82.85	80.31
2019	115	33	19	57.57	
2020	114	22	10	45.45	
2021	161	35	35	100	
2022	221	63	58	92.06	
Total	737	188	151		

Table 5: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Arts at Halhali Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. In Halhali Class XII School, ST students' engagement and academic achievement have grown over the past two years. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage in Arts roughly 80.31%.



The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Kamalpur Class XII School is displayed in Graph 3.

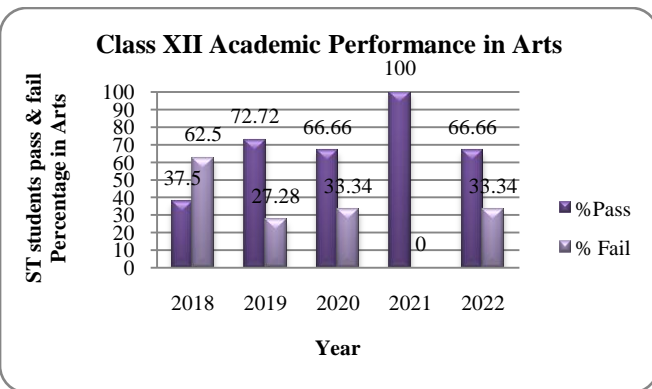
The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the K.C. Girls' Class XII School is displayed in Graph 2. Here we can see that the students at K.C Girls XII School have not shown any interest in science during the past four years.

Kamalpur Class XII School

Table 3: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Arts for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Kamalpur Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in Arts	Total ST Students Appeared in Arts	Total pass ST Students in Arts	Pass Percentage (%) in Arts	Average of Percentage
2018	55	08	03	37.5	70.21
2019	59	11	08	72.72	
2020	59	12	08	66.66	
2021	55	10	10	100	
2022	59	06	04	66.66	
Total	287	47	33		

Table 3: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Arts at Kamalpur Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students' performance level changes from year to year. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage in Arts roughly 70.21%.



The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Kamalpur Class XII School is displayed in Graph 3.

Table 4: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Science for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Kamalpur Class XII School.

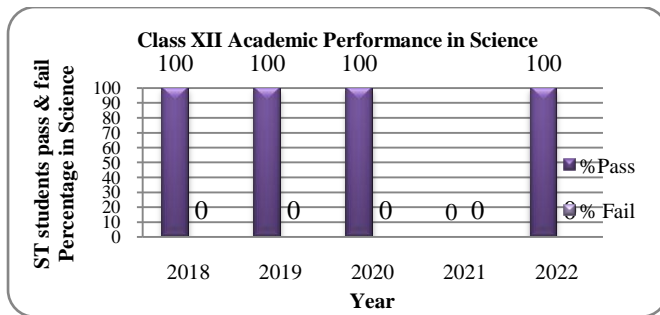
Year	Total Students Appeared in science	Total ST Students Appeared in Science	Total pass ST Students in Science	Pass Percentage (%) in Science	Average of Percentage
2018	33	05	01	20	

The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Halhali Class XII School is displayed in Graph 5.

Table 6: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Science for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Halhali Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in science	Total ST Students Appeared in Science	Total pass ST Students in Science	Pass Percentage (%) in Science	Average of Percentage
2018	20	03	03	100	100
2019	37	08	08	100	
2020	14	03	03	100	
2021	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	
2022	45	10	10	100	
Total	139	24	24		

Table 6: Shows the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Science at Halhali Class XII School. Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. In Halhali Class XII School, ST students' engagement in Science is less but their academic performance is very good. In 2021 at Halhali Class XII School there is no ST student engaged in science stream. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage in science is 100%.



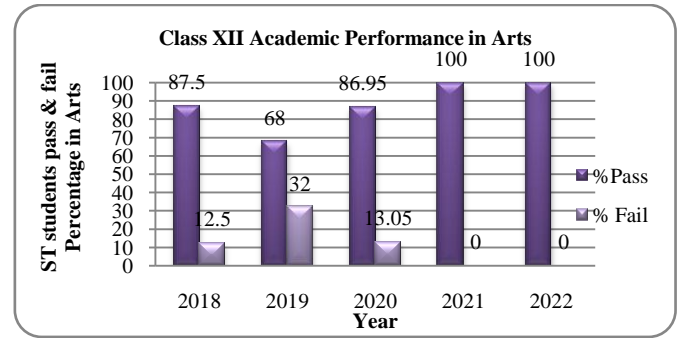
The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Halhali Class XII School is displayed in Graph 6 and we observed that their engagement is less but their academic performance is very good.

Baralutma Class XII School.

Table 7: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Arts for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Baralutma Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in Arts	Total ST Students Appeared in Arts	Total pass ST Students in Arts	Pass Percentage (%) in Arts	Average of Percentage
2018	56	16	14	87.50	90.71
2019	71	25	17	68	
2020	55	23	20	86.95	
2021	67	17	17	100	
2022	106	59	59	100	
Total	355	140	127		

Table 7: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Arts at Baralutma Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. In Baralutma Class XII School, ST students' engagement and academic achievement have grown in the last year. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribes have an average success percentage in Arts roughly 90.71%.



The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Baralutma Class XII School is displayed in Graph 7.

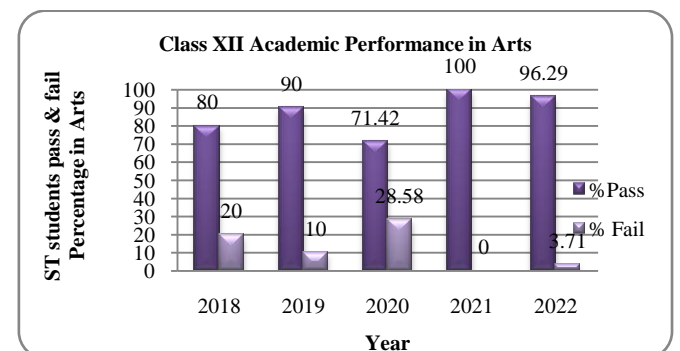
During our data collection time, we observed that the ST students at Baralutma Class XII School have not shown any interest in science during the past five years.

Salema Class XII School

Table 8: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Arts for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Salema Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in Arts	Total ST Students Appeared in Arts	Total pass ST Students in Arts	Pass Percentage (%) in Arts	Average of Percentage
2018	76	10	08	80	88.17
2019	62	20	18	90	
2020	78	21	15	71.42	
2021	72	15	15	100	
2022	101	27	26	96.29	
Total	389	93	82		

Table 8: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Arts at Salema Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. In Salema Class XII School, ST students' engagement and academic achievement is good. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage in Arts roughly 88.17%.

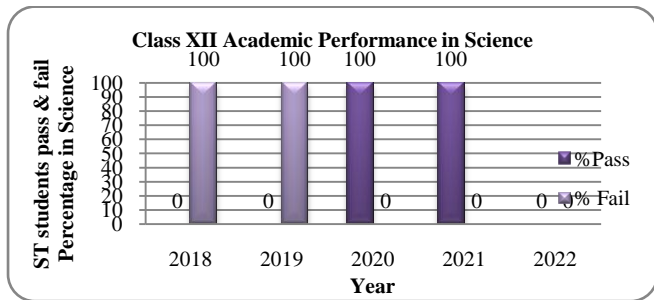


The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Salema Class XII School is displayed in Graph 8.

Table 9: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Science for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Salema Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in science	Total ST Students Appeared in Science	Total pass ST Students in Science	Pass Percentage (%) in Science	Average of Percentage
2018	19	03	00	00	57.14
2019	25	03	00	00	
2020	17	02	02	100	
2021	33	06	06	100	
2022	29	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Total	123	14	08		

Table 9: Shows the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Science at Salema Class XII School. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that ST students engagement very less and their academic performance is very poor in Science at Salema Class XII School and also they have not shown any interest in science last year.



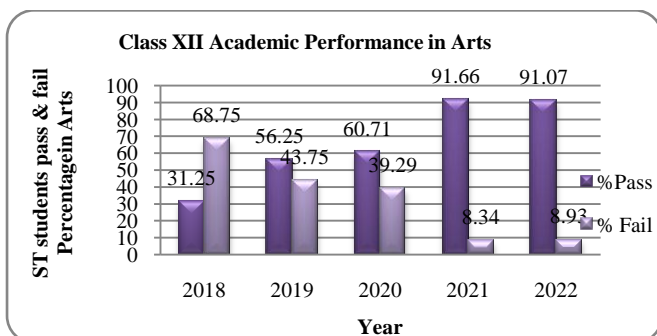
The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Salema Class XII School is displayed in Graph 9. Here we can see that the students of Salema Class XII School have not shown any interest in science and their performance is very poor.

Kulai Class XII School

Table 10: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Arts for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Kulai Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in Arts	Total ST Students Appeared in Arts	Total pass ST Students in Arts	Pass Percentage (%) in Arts	Average of Percentage
2018	96	16	05	31.25	75.65
2019	119	16	09	56.25	
2020	128	28	17	60.71	
2021	144	36	33	91.66	
2022	136	56	51	91.07	
Total	623	152	115		

Table 10: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Arts at Kulai Class XII School for the last five years (2018 to 2022). Additionally, it has been shown that students performance level changes from year to year. For the past five years, students from scheduled tribe have an average success percentage in Arts roughly 75.65%.

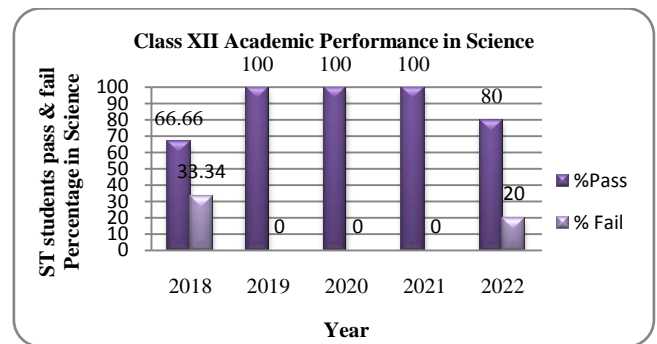


The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Kulai Class XII School is displayed in Graph 10.

Table 11: Displays the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage (%) in Science for the past five years (2018 to 2022) at Kulai Class XII School.

Year	Total Students Appeared in science	Total ST Students Appeared in Science	Total pass ST Students in Science	Pass Percentage (%) in Science	Average of Percentage
2018	22	03	02	66.66	88.88
2019	21	04	04	100	
2020	17	02	02	100	
2021	23	04	04	100	
2022	25	05	04	80	
Total	108	18	16		

Table 11: Shows the class XII Scheduled Tribe students pass percentage in Science at Kulai Class XII School. Additionally, it has been demonstrated that ST students engagement is very less but their academic performance is good in Science at Kulai Class XII School.



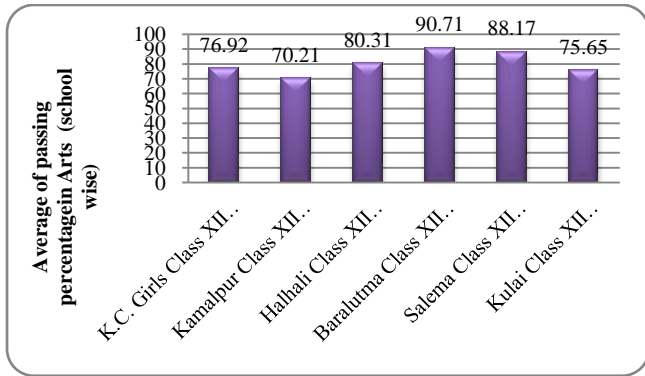
The academic performance of S.T. Students in Class XII Examination from 2018 to 2022 at the Kulai Class XII School is displayed in Graph 11. Here we can see that ST students engagement is very less but their academic performance is good in Science at Kulai Class XII School.

Objective-II : To compare the academic performance between Arts & Science among Schedule Tribe (ST) students' of different schools in H.S (+2) Stage examination over the previous five years.

School Wise Comparison at H.S.(+2Stage) Level in Arts Stream

Sl No	Name of the school	Average of passing percentage (school wise 2018-2022)
1	K.C. Girls Class XII School	76.92
2	Kamalur Class XII School	70.21
3	Halhali Class XII School	80.31
4	Baralutma Class XII School	90.71
5	Salema Class XII School	88.17
6	Kulai Class XII School	75.65

Table 2: Showing the average passing percentage of ST students in Arts stream at H.S.(+2stage) Examination for the last five years between the six schols in Dhalai district. Here we can see that the Baralutma Class XII School has the highest passing rate and Kamalpur Class XII School has the lowest passing rate compare to other schools.

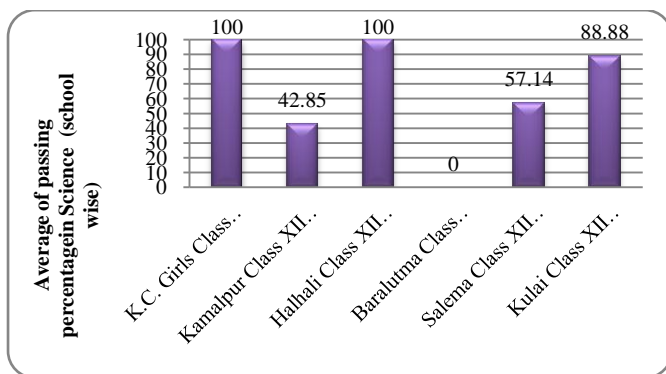


Graph 12: Showing the Comparison of Last five years Academic Performance in Arts stream in the above mentioned schools. Here, Baralutma Class XII School has the highest percentage of passing rate in Arts in H.S(+2 stage) Examination.

School Wise Comparison at H.S.(+2Stage) Level in Science Stream

SI No	Name of the school	Average of passing percentage (school wise 2018-2022)
1	K.C. Girls Class XII School	100
2	Kamalur Class XII School	42.85
3	Halhali Class XII School	100
4	Baralutma Class XII School	Nil
5	Salema Class XII School	57.15
6	Kulai Class XII School	88.88

Table 3: Showing the average passing percentage of ST students in Science stream at H.S.(+2stage) Examination for the last five years between the six schols in Dhalai district. Here we can see that the Baralutma Class XII School has no ST students enrolled in Science stream since last five years. K.C. Girls class XII School and Halhali Class XII School have the highest passing rate but we observed that there is no enrollment of ST students in K.C. Girls Class XII School since 2019 to 2022 and also Halhali Class XII School had zero enrollment of ST students in 2021.



Graph 13: Showing the Comparison of Last five years Academic Performance in Science stream in the above mentioned schools.

MAJOR FINDINGS

After analyzing all the collected data from Dhalai district, we found some key factors that affects the academic performance of ST students over the past five years (2018-2022), which are given below:-

1. One of the major issue we found that the enrollment rate of the ST students are very low compared to other community students.

2. We found that most of the ST students did not continue their higher education compared to madhyamik.
3. Those students who are appeared in higher secondary examination the rate of success is low compared to others.
4. Through our analysis we found that a student from ST community has less interest in Science compared to Arts stream.
5. Language barrier one of the key reasons for their poorer academic performance and also their erratic attendance.
6. Dhalai district is educationally backward. The infrastructure facilities, family background, and their availability are not sufficient to fulfill the educational needs.

CONCLUSION

From the study we can conclude that the enrolment rate of ST students of our selected schools in Dhalai district is less compared to other community students in last five years. Although the students who are enrolled in madhyamik their academic performance is between 56-87 percent. We found that ST students have less interest in taking science in their higher secondary level. We also observe that the academic performance of tribal students is not quite impressive due to various reasons like irregular attendance, language problems, financial crisis and distance of the school from their home. Conducting regular awareness program in the villages by the teachers to spread the importance of education. It will be helpful for the ST students if the medium of instruction are given in their mother tongue parallel to other languages. ST students will be benefited if the hostel facilities provided by every schools. Providing free coaching classes in hostels to increase their academic performance.

The academic performance of Schedule Tribe students is important for both the overall development of student life and for better societal development, so we can anticipate that challenges faced by these students will be resolved in the coming days by implementing various innovative ideas and strategies.

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