

Comparison of Scheduled Caste Youth Lifestyles and Those of Other Castes in Tamil Nadu: Youth Subculture and Identity

YOUNG

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Lalitha Subramanian¹ and Ruth Kattumuri²

Abstract

Social institutions and structures are crucial in shaping individual personalities and facilitating transitions, but systemic barriers can hinder youth's smooth transition to adulthood and participation in society. When a transition fails, an identity crisis occurs and develops identity confusion as a result they will not have a clear sense of their role in society. No research has been done on the identity problems and transition challenges faced by Scheduled Caste Youth in Tamil Nadu, India. Therefore, a study was conducted to investigate how rural youth in Tamil Nadu are influenced by socio-economic, political and cultural factors in forming their identity. Qualitative research techniques like case studies and focus group discussions were employed to examine the perspectives of youth from Katchipattu and Pattunool Chatram villages in Tamil Nadu. The results of the study highlight the significance of sub-cultural context, caste system and social exclusion in shaping youth attitudes and behaviours.

Keywords

Complexities, risky behaviours, Scheduled Caste, social institutions, structural barriers, subculture, youth identity, Youth transition

¹ Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, India.

² London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK.

Corresponding author:

Lalitha Subramanian, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu 602105, India.

E-mail: drlalitha.rgnyd@gmail.com



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