A Path for Empowering Tribal Girls through Holistic Education: 
A Case Study of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), 
Bhubaneswar

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ABSTRACT:
Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) and Kalinga Institute of 
Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Odisha has become an important 
education hub in the eastern part of India. Both the institutes are 
considered as the leading deemed to be university in Odisha. Now 
KISS is recognized as the State Private Tribal University by University 
Grants Commission (UGC). This university imparts education from 
the class 1st to 10th in the school process, 11th and 12th at the higher 
secondary school process, Graduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. at the 
University process. Only tribal students are permissible to pursue 
education from 1st to Ph.D. level. Almost 60% of the total students are 
girl student from various corner of the district of Odisha state as well 
as from other parts of the country. The KISS is a residential 
environment where the tribal students stay and pursue education 
without paying any amount for the purpose. In addition to the study, 
the tribal students are given holistic education for increasing their 
knowledge and skill. These holistic education are reflected in the form 
of value added training programme, education on monther tounge 
based multi lingual education, life skill and sexual health, education 
through english language learning and communication development, 
training programme on social entrepreneurship, special coaching 
classes, training on personality development, grooming, special 
counselling, mentoring, international voluntary programme, education 
on vocational training and there is a provision for free proffessional 
education admission in KIIT. Such advanced academic curriculum 
gives educational empowerment to tribal girls students at KISS.

KEY WORDS: Holistic Education, Tribal, Women Empowerment, 
KISS, Training

Introduction
This paper aims to analyse the concept of holistic education in KISS 
(Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) and to study the impact of KISS 
in empowering tribal girls through holistic education. In general sense, 
"Education is one of the most important means of empowering women
Holistic Education

Holistic education is a philosophy of education by which “a person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to the community, to the natural world, and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace”. It aims to call forth from people “an intrinsic reverence for life and a passionate love of learning”. This is done, not through an academic “curriculum” that condenses the world into instructional packages, but through direct engagement with the environment. Holistic education nurtures a sense of wonder. It fosters to develop one’s internal knowledge, skill and art. Not only the governmental approach enforces holistic education but also the private institutions pay attention on imparting holistic education. Different events and curriculum such as vocational training, art designing and outreach activities has been emphasized by the private institutions in Indian and Odisha. In Odisha, KIIS is imparting holistic education to the tribal girls for which KIIS is occupied a unique position in eastern part of India.

KISS in Odisha

Odisha has the largest number of tribes amongst all the states of India. They constitute 24 % of the total population of the state. Despite several initiatives of the government, the poor illiterate tribal people are yet to take the advantage of these initiatives. Realizing the problem behind the sluggish pace of transformation into mainstream society and drawing clue from the time tested wise words “poverty creates illiteracy and literacy eradicates poverty”, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) was founded by Achyuta Samanta in the year 1993, and has been accorded Special Consultative Status since 2015 by the United Nations ECO-SOC (Economic and Social Council) with the philosophy that empowerment through

<table>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>Overall Literacy</th>
<th>ST Literacy</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>64.83</td>
<td>75.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>63.08</td>
<td>75.35</td>
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Source: Census 2011
education is the only way for concrete emancipation of the tribal population of the state. What started as a fledging institute with only 125 tribal students in 1993, KISS has grown in all dimensions to become the world’s largest residential institution meant for the tribal population (covering more than 62 tribes including 13 primitive tribes). It provides education (from Standard I to Ph.D), accommodation, food, health care, study material, clothing, vocational training (farm and non-farm sector), games and sports, computer education, state-of-the-art pedagogy and facilities for 30,000 students of tribal origin totally free of cost.

This holistic integral education at KISS prepares the tribal children growing into young men and women with knowledge, skills, progressive outlook, willing to experimentation and above all, believing in dignity of work. All these substantial steps and solutions offered and implemented by KISS have been systematically contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). KISS has been able to achieve near 100% results in the 10th and 12th board examinations consecutively for the last 7 years. Not only in academics but also in other activities, the students of KISS have excelled, beginning from winning world rugby events internationally to participating in world level conferences. The students of KISS have gloriously accepted the way of change and are becoming the future agents in their societies.

Source: KISS Brochure

**Holistic Education in KISS:**

i) **Education on Life Skill and Sexual Health**

KISS in partnership with UNFPA had undertaken the project “Empowering young people with life skills through building institutional capacity, imparting life skills education and broadening research base for Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) and Life Skills Education (LSE)” in the year 2009. This project is focusing on adolescent’s holistic development through life skills education by trained teachers as resource persons and by trained students as peer educators in school and college. The major chunk of the project activities entirely deal with adolescents and youth. In this adolescent period, girls face physical, social and psychological transformation. These influence in bringing change in their life.

ii) **Education on Language expression**

KISS has been taking an effort for developing the english language expression of tribal students including girls. One programme named as “Micro-scholarship Programme” is launched with support of US Department of State which aims to give learning experience on English language. Basically, it is given to the age group of 13 to 20 years of students. The purpose of the course is to upgrade the students’ skill in reading, writing and speaking english. It has been continuing from the year 2009 and still it reaches in a good position on imparting
language communication. The tribal students face difficulties in the initial stage to capture English language, but in later part they become well versed in speaking, writing English through such procedures. This programme helps them in developing their personality and effectiveness in study. Such acquired knowledge of the tribal students are shared by the eminent guests, visitors, foreign academicians. The students also get chance to exchange their ideas with the visitors. It helps them to participate in many of the competitions, programmes, anchoring and basically at the special functions organized by the KISS. This opportunity also assists students in their regular academic activities. It helps students and teachers to visit foreign countries to exchange their ideas.

iii) Education through Language transformation during childhood

KISS has taken an important step for developing mother tongue language based education starting provision. The tribal students fails to understand the Odia / English language except their own tribal language during the admission in the early childhood. To acquaint with the modern language KISS initiated early Childhood Development Programme through “Mother Tongue based Multilingual Early Childhood Education” (MT-MLE). Its aim is for learning home-based language and gradually transferring to other languages. The tribal students, both boys and girls, become expert in the field of learning, participation, adoption of skills and build foundation for career development. TLM were prepared keeping in view how these could address the physical, social, psycho-social and emotional development processes of children. These TLM were then used in the classrooms. It has been observed that the students were more comfortable in the classroom and could communicate more effectively with their teachers when they were taught in their Mother Tongue. Such programme assists tribal students to capture holistic education. The tribal students are being taught in their own native or local language as well as the modern language. But in the initial part or in the beginning of the study the tribal students are taught by their own language by the concerned teachers.

iv) Training programme on social entrepreneurship

This programme has ben taken by the KISS institute to improve the technical knowledge of tribal girls. Under this scheme training will be provided to the few number of students. They are designated as master. The master’s duty is to give training to other students. Different vocational training programmes are conducted for enhancing social entrepreneurship. The money earned by the students on producing the materials shall be given to the students or to their parents. So that the tribal girls become self earner with continuing the study. KISS has collaborated with British Council for promoting this social entrepreneurship scheme. It is named as “Young Women Social Entrepreneurship Development Programme”.

v) Education through Coaching Classes

KISS has taken a remarkable attempt to provide education through coaching classes. This is an additional class attended by the tribal students for clearing doubts. Under this process they express their doubt and understand the topic well manner. In KISS, it is called as “Specialization Classes”. Here in “Specialization Classes” an intensive and meticulous care has been taken by the concerned teacher to develop the aptitude, increasing the communications skill, practicing the day to day life adjustments. Not only the programme tries to develop their communication skills needed for the market but also to provide the technical precision needed for the young men and women to get into
higher services like administrative, judiciary and technical services but also to be smart and savvy corporate positions.

vi) Training on Personality Development
The tribal students of KISS get opportunity to interact with national and international level scientists, players, singers, artists, politicians, bureaucrats and dignitaries in various domains which inspired them for their self development. With this exposure, the students get opportunity to work like a change agent in their communities/localities on issues relating to health, education, sanitation, and fight against the causes of poverty, illiteracy and exploitation.

vii) Training on special counselling
KISS gives training on special counselling by the eminent psychologists, and subject experts. The counselling activities strengthen the minds of adolescent girls. The counselling process is conducted in a specialized room where different types of posters, banners, reading materials are available on the counselling related subjects. The medical related counselling in KISS is done by lady doctors who have been counselling students on healthy practices. Different approaches have been adopted like-one to one confidential counselling and group counselling. In order to reach the targets there are various methods are being adopted. These include question box method, referral by the peers and mentors.

eviii) Education through mentoring classes
In KISS a thorough check or mentoring classes are being organized on regular basis. It is done specially on Sunday for guiding on the subjects like value education, personality development, health and hygiene, sports and game activities etc. The aim of the programme is to exercise the brain of the students and to develop receivable capacity. As the students come from different areas, culture, language, habit and living style, so a common culture is developed by mentoring process to cope with the KISS environment. This gives an immense opportunity to learn from the children about their feelings on education, their personal health and hygiene aspects.

ix) Education through International Voluntary programme
KISS has been able to attract global attention towards the plight of deprived populace of society and advocated working together towards creating an equal platform for all. This aspect is taken care of through the International Volunteer Program (IVP) of KISS, wherein students from various universities across the world get the chance to experience, working with the tribal children of KISS. This not only enhances the confidence level of the students of KISS but also gives a sense of helping for the participating students from other parts of the world. Every year students from different countries of the world visit KISS through IVP and participate in different activities. These activities have not only instilled a sense of confidence but also have invoked leadership qualities among the children.

x) Education through Vocational Training Centre
KISS imparts different type of trainings to youths outside its campus to strengthen their earning capacities. The vocational training includes tailoring work, mobile repairing work, computer work, toy making, art designing, bag preparing etc. Such training is given only to increase the earning capacity along with the study. The earning amount is credited to her account or sent to her father. This programme is called as “Earn while they learn”. A good number of students are engaged in such

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activities with their sole interest. The senior students play an important role in giving training and motivating the junior students. Even the elder brother and sister of any student assists to indulge with vocational work. In reality, KIIS achieved a remarkable assessment on this programme “Earn while they learn”.

xi) Empowering through Technical Education

KISS is the sister institute of KIIT. These two institutes are managed by the dynamic educationist Dr. Achyut Samanta. KIIT is a self-financed Deemed to be university imparting technical, professional education. It is interesting part that 5% of the seats are reserved for the KISS pass out students for taking admission at KIIT with free of cost. So, the qualified tribal girls join in the KIIT University in any course as per the option of the students. The streams are available in KIIT, namely, MBBS, BDS, B.Tech, M.Tech, MBA, MCA, LL.B, BBA, BCA, Diploma, B.Sc Nursing, Bio Technology, ITI etc. After completion of the course the students re placed in KIIT or KISS or in any public undertakings.

Conclusion

KISS plays a vital role in empowering tribal girls through holistic education. The initiative of KISS nurtured the talents to build confidence in children to excell in the field of education. Vocational education imparted in KISS proved the foundation of future empowerment. Looking into that aspect “Earn while you learn” programme in KISS, girl students are empowered to support their parents mentally and financially. KISS has been sensitizing students regarding different governmental service providing agencies and their policies for eradicating poverty in an innovative way. In that context, the students of KISS are exposed to different public utility places. In long run, they would be able to know the activities of service providing agencies and avail the benefits of those provisions. KISS also conduct many National/International seminar, student exchange programmes, and special programme like Young Women Social Entrepreneurship Development Programme. This programme provides advanced social enterprise training to female master trainers who in torn cascade their knowledge by training aspiring and early-stage female social entrepreneurs in India.

The students of KISS are not only acquiring knowledge but also they involve themselves in different community development activities in their community. KISS is not only educating tribal childrens but also making them change agent in their society. Power is the basic requirement of the empowerment which comes through wealth and knowledge that are acquired through education.

There is a very strong correlation between triple ‘E’. Triple ‘E’ means Education, Economy and Empowerment. Education brings “economic development” which in turn leads to empowerment. KISS is empowering the tribal girls by providing holistic education.
**Impact of KISS on Tribal girls and their Communities**

- Awareness about Different Firms and Programmes
- Financial Support through "Earn while Learn"
- Vocational education promotes Entrepreneurship
- Tribal Children Reading at KISS acting as Change Agents in their community
- Reducing Child Marriage by Promoting Girl’s Education
- Combating Child Labour by providing free education
- Promoting National integration by mainstreaming tribal
- Preserving Tribal Culture
- Improved Health Conditions, Reduced Mortality and Mortality

**References**


**Internet Source**


