

Elementary Education: A Study Of Enrolment Trends At Primary Level In Himachal Pradesh

Kusum Lata Azad

Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

Abstract: *The Indian Government lays emphasis on primary education up to the age of fourteen years, referred to as elementary education in India. The state has one of the widest network of elementary education in the country. The present research paper is an attempt to understand the enrolment trends at primary level across H.P. The enrolment trend indicates the preferred behavior of people and their choices of sending their wards to schools and their choices of selection of educational institutions. The extensive field study is conducted throughout H.P. to know the grassroot level realities. The secondary sources are the prime source for analysis and reaching at a conclusion.*

Keywords: *Elementary Education, Enrolment trends*

I. INTRODUCTION

That education is desirable is the opinion of all modern civilized states. Keeping in view the necessity of education every modern state has a deep quest for providing education to its young and delicate minds. The states have discussed again and again how education should be provided? This consistent quest for providing education has led to divergent views and theories. Three different theories of education have evolved and having their advocates in the present day as well.

Of these first considers that the sole purpose of education is to provide opportunities of growth and to remove hampering influences. The second holds that the purpose of education is to give culture to individual and to develop his capacities to the utmost. The third holds that the education is to be considered rather in relation to community then in relation to the individual, and that its business is to train useful citizens.

The first theory is the newest while the third is the oldest. The second and third theories have in common the view that education can give something positive, while the first regards its function as purely negative. The word educational system in the present era has an inclination towards the first theory of education.

No matter whatsoever, the governments across boundaries have made various policies and programs for a just and equitable education. India is also committed to Education at

global level as it has signed the following declaration National Policy on Education 1986, Dakar Framework for Action 2000, UNMDG 2000, The Programme of Action 1992, CEDAW 1993, The Beijing Declaration 1995, World conference Education for All.

The broad concept of education in India is under MHRD, which is further divided into two departments 1) The Department Of School Education and Literacy 2) The Department Of Higher Education. While the department of school education and literacy is responsible for development of school education and literacy in the country. There are four stages in school education structure in H.P. Primary (Age Group 0-11) classes I-V, Middle (Age group 11-14) classes VI-VIII, Secondary (Age group 14-16) classes IX-X, Senior Secondary (Age group 16-18) classes XI-XII. The SCERT has the responsibility of designing the curriculum, developing text books, education criteria and tools.

II. PRIMARY LEVEL ENROLMENT TRENDS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

	All Management*	Department of Education
Male	303937	159079
Female	277176	164308

Total	581113	323387
-------	--------	--------

* All management here means government schools i.e. the schools run by the Department of Education

Table 1.1: Share of Enrolment of Students in All Managements and Department of Education

Himachal Pradesh, the central schools run by the central governments (KVS, Navodya Vidyalayas, Tibetan schools,) as well as private aided and private unaided schools.

The share of total enrolment at primary level in department of education of Himachal Pradesh is 55.65% and remaining 44.35% are in (all managements) other schools. Out of total enrolment of girls at primary level in Himachal Pradesh 59.28% of girls are enrolled in Department of Education i.e. in government schools. Out of total enrolment of boys at primary level in Himachal Pradesh, 52.34% are enrolled under department of education.

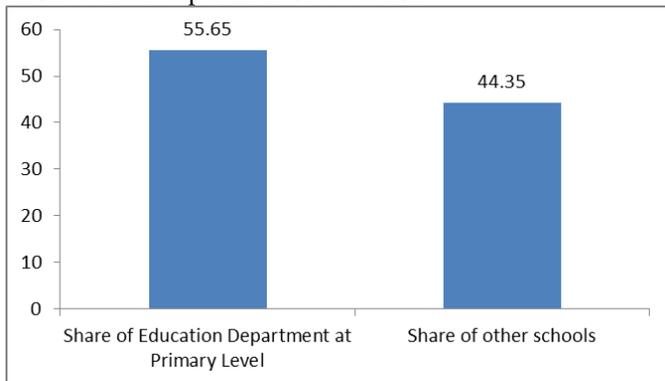


Figure 1.1: Share of Enrolment of Students in Education Department vs. Other Schools at Primary Level (Percentage-wise)

The Fig. 1.1 clearly depicts that the share of total enrolment of students at primary level is more in department of education as compared to other management. But the figure also depicts that the gap is not every wide between Department of Education and other schools.

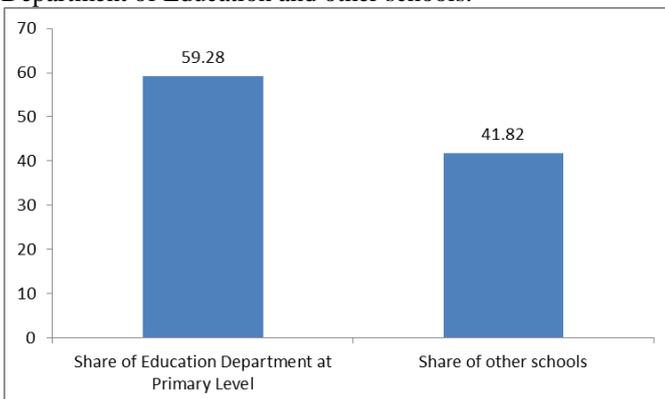


Figure 1.2: Share of Enrolment of Girl Students in Education Department vs. Other Schools at Primary Level

The Fig. 1.2 is a clear indication that more number of girls are studying in government schools at primary level than boys.

A. CATEGORY-WISE SHARE OF ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN ALL MANAGEMENT V/S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

a. SHARE OF ENROLMENT OF GENERAL CATEGORY STUDENTS IN ALL MANagements AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

	All Management	Department of Education
Male	167567	74150
Female	149252	76362
Total	316819	150512

Table 1.2

The share of total enrolment at primary level in general category under department of education of Himachal Pradesh is 47.51% and rest 52.49% are in other schools. The share of enrolment of girls in all management in general category is 47.11% while the share of girls in department of education is 50.73%. Out of total enrolment of girls at primary level in general category in Himachal Pradesh 51.16% are enrolled in Department of Education (i.e. in government schools) while 48.84% are in other schools. Out of total enrolment of boys at primary level in general category in Himachal Pradesh 44.25% are in the department of education while 55.75% are enrolled in other schools.

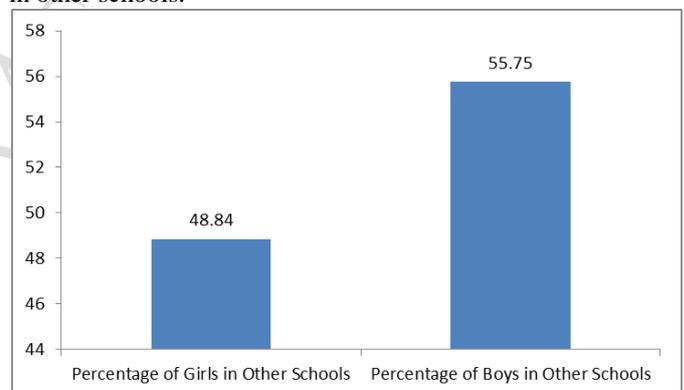


Figure 1.3: Percentage Share of girls and boys in general category enrolled in Other Schools (that is preferably private)

The above figure clearly depicts the people's preference in general category to send their male child to private schools as compared to girls children. But the above picture again depicts that the gap is not very wide.

b. SHARE OF ENROLMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES IN ALL MANagements AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

	All Management	Department of Education
Male	80258	58385
Female	76881	60003
Total	157139	118388

Table 1.3

The share of total enrolment at private level in SC category under department of education in Himachal Pradesh is 75.34% and rest 24.66% are enrolled in other schools. The share of enrolment of girls in all management for SC is

48.94% while the share of girls in SC category in department of education is 50.68%. Out of total enrolment of girls at primary level in SC category in Himachal Pradesh 78.05% are enrolled in Department of Education (i.e. in government schools) and 21.95% are in other schools. Out of total enrolment of boys at primary level in Scheduled Castes in Himachal Pradesh 72.74% are in the department of education and 27.26% are enrolled in other schools.

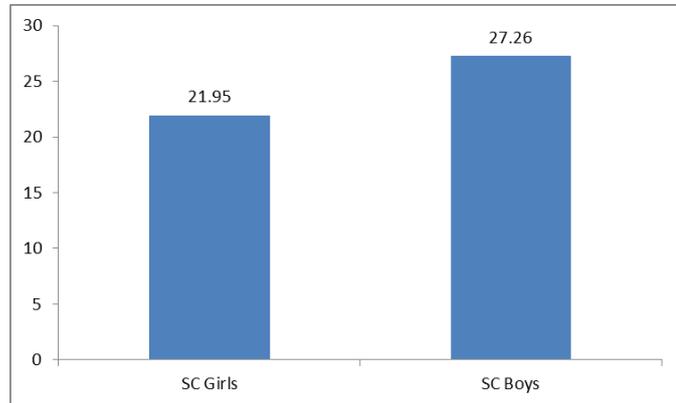


Figure 1.4: Percentage Share of girls and boys in SC category enrolled in Other Schools (that is preferably private)

The proportion of SC boys in other schools is more as compared to girls which led to conclude that the preference to send male children to other schools is prevalent. On the other hand the majority of SC boys and SC girls are studying in department of education clearly speaking in government schools.

c. *SHARE OF ENROLMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ALL MANAGERMENTS AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*

	All Management	Department of Education
Male	16261	9395
Female	15324	10003
Total	31585	19398

Table 1.4

The share of total enrolment at primary level in ST category under department of education is 61.42% and the remaining 38.58% of ST (Population of students at primary level are enrolled in other schools. The share of enrolment of girls in all management for ST is 48.52% while the share of girls in ST category in department of education is 51.57%. Out of total enrolment of girls at primary level in ST category in Himachal Pradesh 65.28% are enrolled in department of education (i.e. in government run schools) and 24.72% are in other schools. Out of total enrolment of boys at primary level in ST category in Himachal Pradesh 57.78% are in the department of education and remaining 42.22% are in other schools.

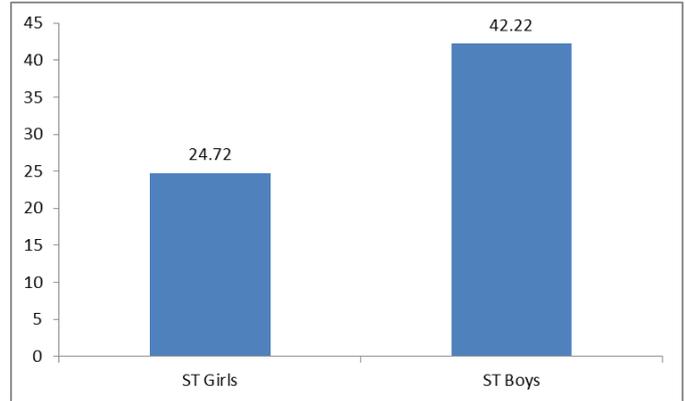


Figure 1.5: Percentage Share of girls and boys in ST category enrolled in Other Schools (that is preferably private)

The proportion of ST boys in other schools is more as compared to girls which led to conclude that the preference to send male children to other schools is prevalent. The proportion of the children going to other schools is fairly large when compared to SC category. But this proportion is far less when compared to general category.

d. *SHARE OF ENROLMENT OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASS (OBC) CATEGORY IN ALL MANAGERMENTS AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*

	All Management	Department of Education
Male	39851	17149
Female	35719	17940
Total	75570	35089

Table 1.5

The share of total enrolment at primary level in OBC category under department of education is 46.43% and remaining 53.57% are in other schools. The share of enrolment of girls in all management for OBC category is 47.27% while the share of girls in department of education is 51.13%. Out of total enrolment of girls at primary level in OBC category in Himachal Pradesh 50.26% are enrolled in department of education (i.e. in government run schools) and 49.74% are in other schools. Out of total enrolment of boys at primary level in OBC category in Himachal Pradesh 43.03% are in the department of education and remaining 56.97% are in other schools.

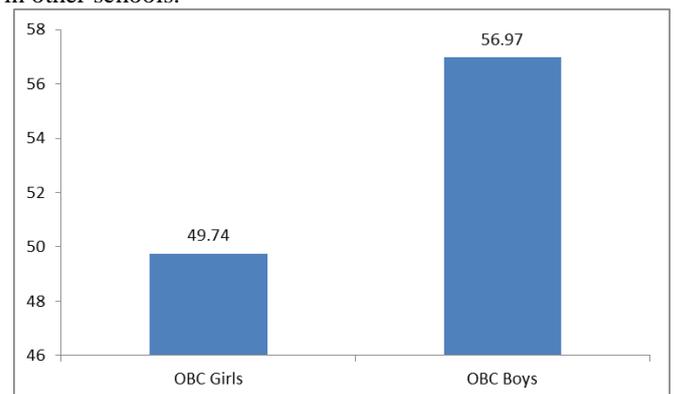


Figure 1.6: Percentage Share of girls and boys in OBC category enrolled in Other Schools (that is preferably private)

The proportion of OBC boys in other schools is more as compared to girls which led to conclude that the preference to send male children to other schools is prevalent. The other striking point here is the percentage of OBC girls going to other schools is more as compared to general category girls (i.e. 48.84%) and also the percentage of OBC boys going to other schools is fairly large as compared to general category (i.e. 55.75%).

Now let us try to understand enrolment trend at primary level in Himachal Pradesh.

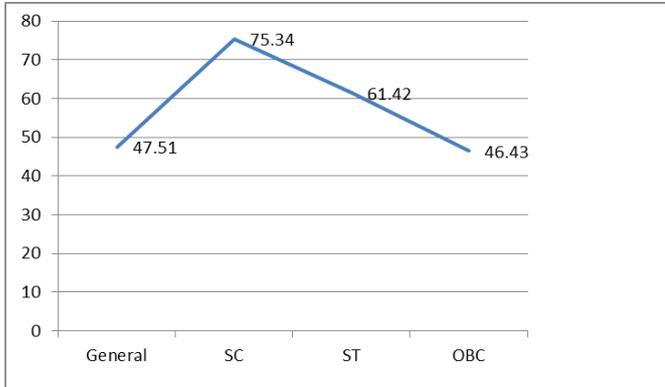


Figure 1.7: Total Enrolment (Boys and Girls) in Department of Education at Primary Level in Himachal Pradesh (Category-wise)

The above picture clearly indicates that the percentage of SC category in the government schools is highest at primary level in all categories. The figure also led to conclude that the ST category also has a fairable number in the government schools of Himachal Pradesh at primary level. The proportion of general category and OBC category in the government schools is even less than 50% of the total share of enrolment. So, collectively over viewing the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes children are the major learners in the schools run by the government at primary level across the state.

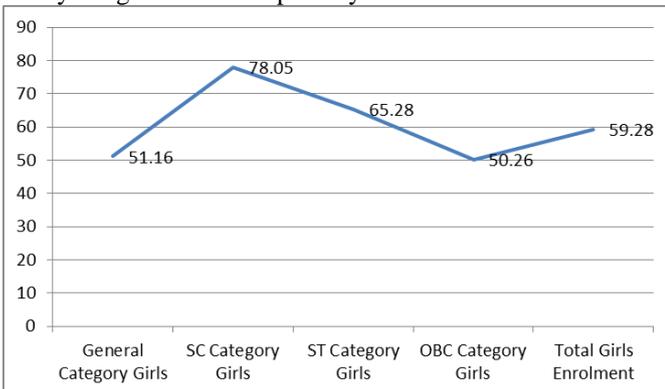


Figure 1.8: Category-wise Enrolment of girls in the Department of Education at Primary Level in Himachal Pradesh

The figure depicts clearly that the percentage of girls studying in department of education is proportionately high as compared to boys. This simply means that the more number of girls are enrolled in government schools as compared to boys at primary level in Himachal Pradesh. Secondly, among all categories the proportion of girls from SC category is highest in the government schools which clearly denotes that the girls

from the SC constitute the major learner at primary level across Himachal Pradesh. Thirdly, the girls from both SC and ST category are the major learners at government run schools.

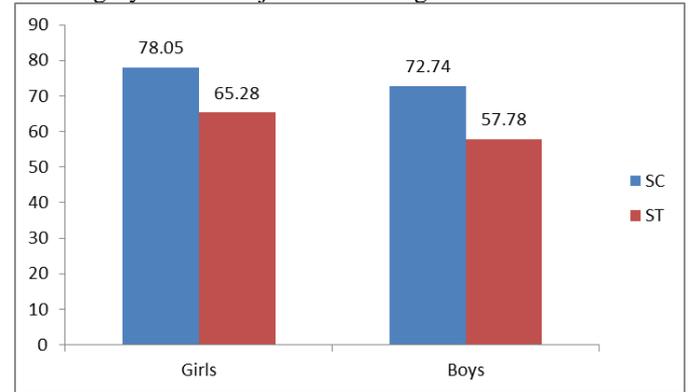


Figure 1.9: Enrolment of boys and girls of SC and ST categories in the Department of Education at Primary Level in Himachal Pradesh

It is very well clear from the figure that the share of SC and ST students/children in the department of education is quite high as compared to general category and OBC category. So, this can be well understood here that the prime learners in the government run primary schools in Himachal Pradesh are SC, ST and girls of all categories.

III. CONCLUSION

Only those parents are sending their children to government schools who are not in a position to meet the expenses of private run schools. As scheduled castes and scheduled tribes lack sufficient financial resources; thereby their wards in majority are studying in government run schools at primary level. The second striking point in all the communities were to send girls to government schools and sending their sons to private schools. This reflects the existing patriarchal norms prevalent in the society. Where the girls education is not taken very seriously. The girls are preferably given education just to meet the social norms and not to establish their careers in future. In spite of the fact girls are performing in education in Himachal Pradesh as well as in India.

REFERENCES

- [1] Avinashilingam, T.S. (1970). *Gandhi's Experiment in Education*. Ministry of Education, Delhi.
- [2] Bertrand, Russell. (1972). *Education and Social Order*. George Allen and Unwin Ltd, London.
- [3] Kumar, Krishna. (1997). *Social Character of Learning*. Sage Publications, New Delhi.
- [4] Kumar, Krishna. (1991). *Political Agenda of Education a study of Colonialist and Nationalist Ideas*. Sage Publications, New Delhi.