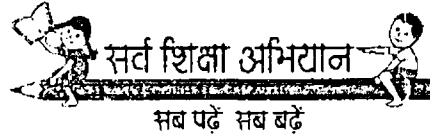


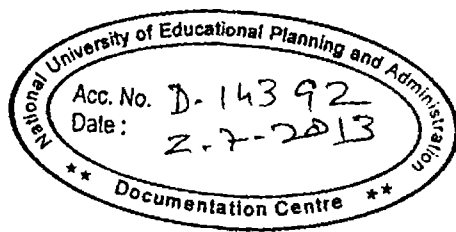
STUDY OF STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY & UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

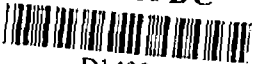


Abridged Report



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Summary and Main Findings

1. The study was conducted in major states of the country to assess the students' attendance rate and teachers' absence rate by visiting schools on three different occasions and actually counting the students and teachers who were present. A representative sample of 300 to 400 schools in each state was selected for this study.
2. It was found that overall average attendance rate of students was 68.5% and 75.7% at primary and upper primary levels respectively.
3. For teachers, the average attendance rate was 81.7% and 80.5% respectively in primary and upper primary schools.
4. The attendance rate of girls was a little higher than that of boys. The average attendance rate of boys and girls at primary level in the first hour was 69% and 70.6% respectively, and at upper primary level, 75.2% and 78.7% respectively.
5. The average attendance rate in first hour was a little lower for SC and Muslim students at primary level (68.7% and 66.4% respectively) compared with that of overall but at upper primary level there is not much difference between attendance rates of different social groups; these were between 76% and 79%.
6. The lowest attendance rate was in class I, (65.6%) it increased gradually after that by 2 to 3 percentage points from one class to the next; only there was no such increase from class IV to V.
7. The overall average attendance was a little lower in rural schools than urban schools (68.0% and 71.2% respectively at primary level), but in some states, the opposite was the case. Similar was the trend at upper primary level (73.7% in rural schools and 79.9% in urban schools).
8. The main reasons for children absenting from schools given by head teachers, teachers and VEC members were (a) lack of adequate facilities in school, (b) Teacher shortage and overcrowded classrooms, (c) children being required for household work or sibling care at home and (d) children required to help parents in agriculture or occupational work or participation in other income generating activity and (e) parents' indifference or lack of interest in child's education.
9. Parents mostly felt that lack of facilities in school and child's unwillingness to go to school were main reasons for child's frequent absence from school.
10. Among the measures suggested by the community for improving students' attendance rate are (1) motivating parents to send children to school and (2) providing incentives for regularity in attendance and (3) improvement in teaching-learning at school.
11. The remedial measures to be taken for reducing absence rate of students would include improvement in school facilities, school environment and teaching-learning in classrooms, making parents aware of the importance of sending children to school regularly and ensuring that children are not much involved in household work and income generating activity at home, which requires poverty alleviation measures to be taken in rural areas.

Chapter 1- THE CONTEXT

1.1 Background

The goal of SSA launched in 2001 is to achieve universalisation of elementary education by the year 2010. Substantial progress has already been made toward achieving this goal. However, the quality of education is still not upto the mark. In order to provide education of satisfactory quality, it is important to have sufficient teachers in schools and also to ensure that teachers remain available in the school and teach what they are supposed to teach. Also the students have to remain in the class when teaching is going on. Studies have shown that any lapse in the process of learning on account of students' absence from school, particularly of a longer duration, impacts their learning adversely.

Students' attendance is normally recorded in the attendance registers daily maintained in schools but in many cases it is not done systematically and regularly. Hence, the need was felt for a study that provides more reliable data on students' and teachers' attendance - Such a study was commissioned by MHRD in all major states. The states covered in the study are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and National Capital Territory of Delhi.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

- i. To assess the students' attendance on the basis of head count of students present in the school.
- ii. To find out the difference between attendance rate of boys and girls and of students belonging to different social groups and rural /urban areas at primary and upper primary stages.
- iii. To find out the reasons of students missing classes and remaining absent from school as perceived by teachers, parents, and community.
- iv. To assess how students' attendance is related to quality as indicated by repetition and drop out rates and achievement in annual examination result.
- v. To identify school and home related factors largely responsible for child's absence from school
- vi. To suggest measures for improving attendance rate of students where it is low.

1.3 Sampling

The sample size of schools in different states varied with the size of the state. The following table shows the sample size decided for the different states.

| Category | Sample Size | State Name |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 1. | 400 | Andhra Pradesh , Bihar ,Karnataka , Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa , Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal |
| 2. | 360 | Assam , Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu |
| 3. | 320 | Kerala, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh ,Jammu & Kashmir ,Punjab ,Uttarakhand. |
| 4. | 300 | Delhi |

For sampling of schools two stage stratified sampling procedure was adopted. Each state was divided into a few Socio-Cultural Regions (SCR) based on Census 2001 data. Each SCR consisted of a number of contiguous districts. Within each SCR, the first stage sampling unit for rural schools were the sub districts, which were selected by using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) with replacement, and the second stage units, schools, were selected by using simple circular systematic sampling within each sub-district. In urban areas, cities/towns were further divided into two sub strata: (1) cities with one million more population (Urban 1) and (2) cities/towns with less than one million population (Urban 2). Selection of schools for Urban 1 sub stratum was done by using simple circular systematic sampling from the list of all schools belonging to this sub stratum. In the case of Urban 2, from the list of all urban schools of those districts to which sampled sub-districts belonged, the sample of schools was selected by using simple circular systematic sampling. Besides schools, the other sampling units were teachers and parents. The teachers teaching the sampled classes constituted the sample of teachers. Information on parents' education, occupation and of students marks in examinations was also recorded from a sample of maximum 20 students of each class in each school. Further, from each sampled class six students were selected in such a way that three of them had the lowest attendance and the other three students had the highest attendance during 2005-06; their parents constituted the sample of parents who were interviewed. For that, a sample of 2 classes of primary level and two of upper primary level were drawn in each school by adopting circular systematic sampling procedure. It was thus ensured that all classes were represented equally in the total sample of schools. These parents were interviewed for getting their views on reasons of children's absence.

Except Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir where the coverage was a little less than 50%, there was no state in which less than 90% schools were covered. In Delhi upper primary schools could not be covered and in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh was left out. Out of 7260 schools included in the sample, 6745 (i.e.92.9%) were covered. These schools were from 286 districts of the 20 states. Among them, 5623 schools were from rural areas and 1122 from urban areas. The number of teachers covered in the sample was 16,977. In addition, data on reasons of dropping was collected from 6559 VEC members and 65,557 parents.

1.4 Data Collection Strategy

Eleven agencies listed at Annexure II, were assigned the task of conducting the study at state level. Two of these agencies conducted the study in 5 states each. Tools, to be used for data collection, lists of sampled schools and data analysis plan were supplied to the concerned agencies by Research Evaluation & Studies Unit of Ed.CIL's Technical Support Group for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The list of tools used for data collection is given in Annexure III.

For collecting data on attendance, investigators made 3 unannounced visits to schools at intervals of 2 to 4 weeks to record attendance by actual head count of students and teachers. However, in Gujarat only 2 visits to schools were made and in Kashmir valley only 1 visit was made. Counting was done two times on the day of visit – one soon after opening of the school and the other about half hour before closing time. Data on students' attendance was also collected from attendance registers for the year 2005-06. Data collection for this study took place during 2nd half of 2006 in most states.

CHAPTER 2- ATTENDANCE RATES OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

2.1 This chapter discusses students' attendance rate based on head count during unannounced visits for different categories of students and also for schools according to their location (rural/urban) and level of education (primary/ upper primary). The students' attendance was also recorded from attendance registers for the academic session 2005-06 to see the gap between the two. Further, this chapter also includes teachers' attendance rate on the basis of head count.

The overall students' attendance rates reported in this chapter were derived by computing weighted average of the attendance rates of different states using appropriate state level enrolment figures as weights, as described in section 1.5 of the previous chapter. The overall attendance rates obtained in this way from the state-level attendance rates are being given below and also shown in charts 3 to 7.

TOTAL - 20 STATES

Sample : 6745 schools from 286 districts in 20 states

Primary-5188, Upper Primary-1557, Urban-1122 , Rural-5623

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 69.9 | 67.2 | 68.5 | 81.5 | 81.9 | 81.7 |
| Upper primary | 76.8 | 74.7 | 75.7 | 81.2 | 80.3 | 80.5 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 68.9 | 75.2 |
| Girls | 70.6 | 78.7 |
| SC | 68.7 | 76.5 |
| ST | 70.5 | 76.5 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 66.4 | 79.1 |

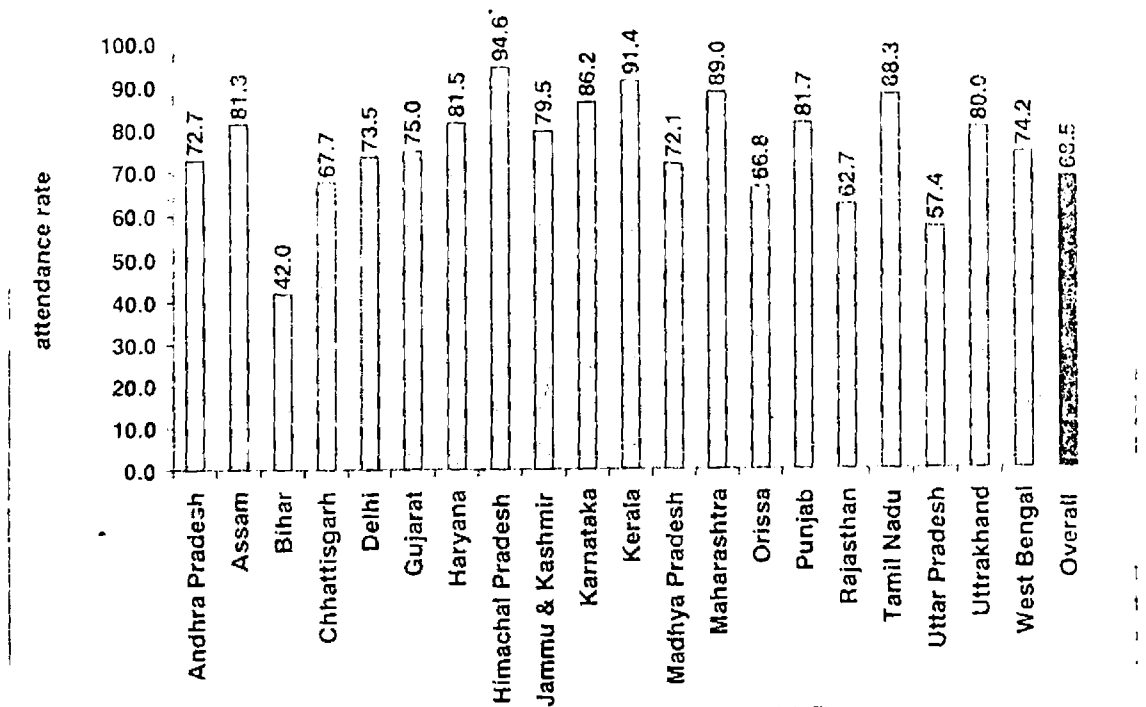
Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 68.0 | 73.7 |
| Urban | 71.2 | 79.9 |

2.2 Attendance Rate at Primary and Upper Primary Levels.

The overall attendance rate of students at primary level is 68.5%. The states having 75% or less attendance rate are Bihar (42.2%) Rajasthan (62.7%) and Uttar Pradesh (57.4%). Further, the states having over 90% students' attendance rate are Himachal Pradesh (94.6%) and Kerala (91.4%). Chart 1 shows students attendance rate at primary level for all the 20 states as well as the overall average of all states.

Chart 1 : Attendance rate at Primary level



At the upper primary level, the overall attendance rate is 75.7%, which is higher than that of primary level by 7.2% points. Bihar (36.8%) and Uttar Pradesh (60.5%) have very low attendance rate. The states having more than 90% attendance rate are Himachal Pradesh (93.2%) and Kerala (93.2%). Chart: 2 shows students attendance rate at Upper Primary level for the different states as well as the overall average rate of all states.

1.5 Data Analysis

Average attendance rates were calculated by dividing the number of students who were found present in their classes during the three visits to schools by the number of students who were enrolled in the relevant class or level of education. These have been expressed in the form of percentage. For the students of any particular category, the data on the number of students found present and the number of those who were enrolled in that category, was used.

Over all average

For calculating the overall average attendance rates (based on the total of all the states) of **students** weighted average of state-wise attendance rates of students was calculated in which the weights were the total state level enrolment figures of the relevant category of students. For calculating the average attendance rate of teachers, the weights used were the number of **teachers** in primary and upper primary schools in the state.

Following is an example for calculation of weighted average for the total:

If N_i is total enrolment at primary level in the state i ($i=1$ to 20) and p_i is the average attendance rate at primary level derived from the data on enrolment and students found present during the three visits to the sampled schools, then the weighted average for the total of all the states is

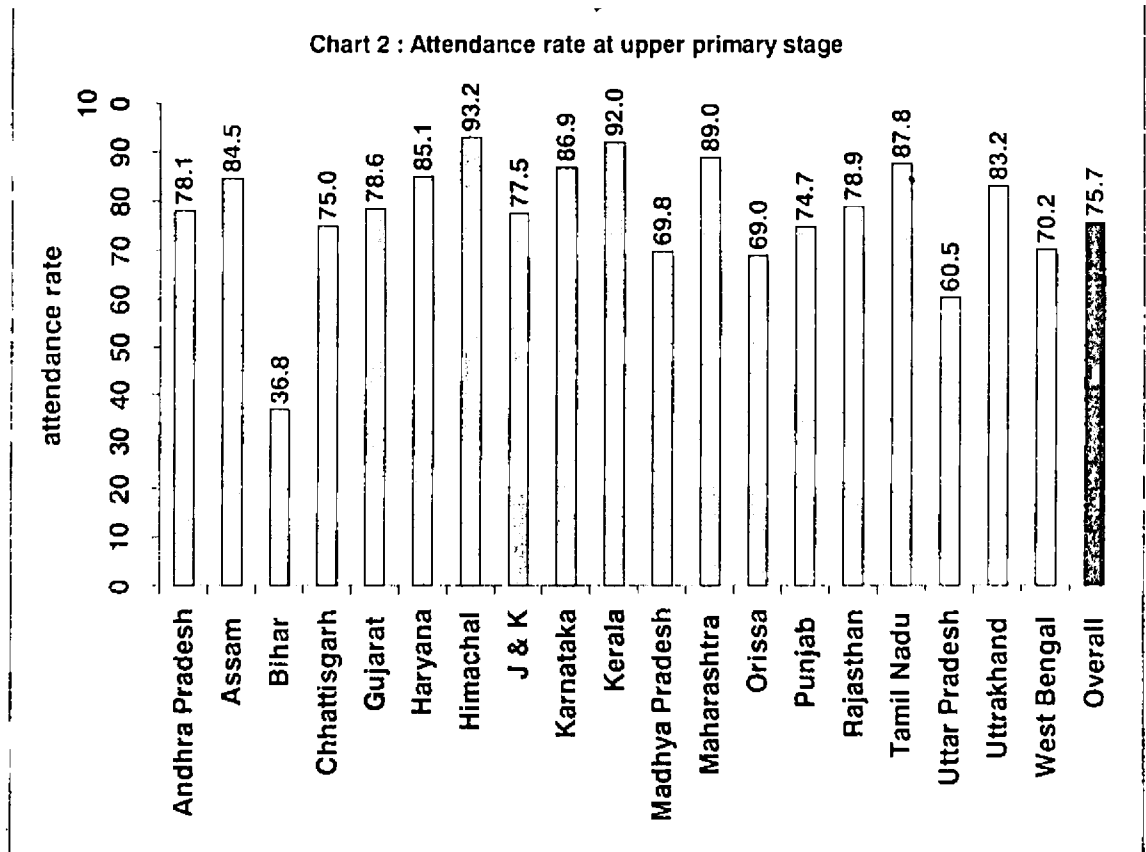
$$\frac{\sum N_i p_i}{\sum N_i}$$

To obtain the average attendance rate for any particular category of students such as SC students at primary level, N_i to be used for weighting is the number of SC students at primary level in the entire i^{th} state.

Effect of other factors on students' attendance

In order to study how the school and teacher variables and students' gender, social class, parents' education affected students' attendance, correlations were calculated and also regression analysis was carried out. Similarly, regression analysis was used to study the relationship between students' attendance rate and their repetition rate, dropout rate and achievement in examinations.

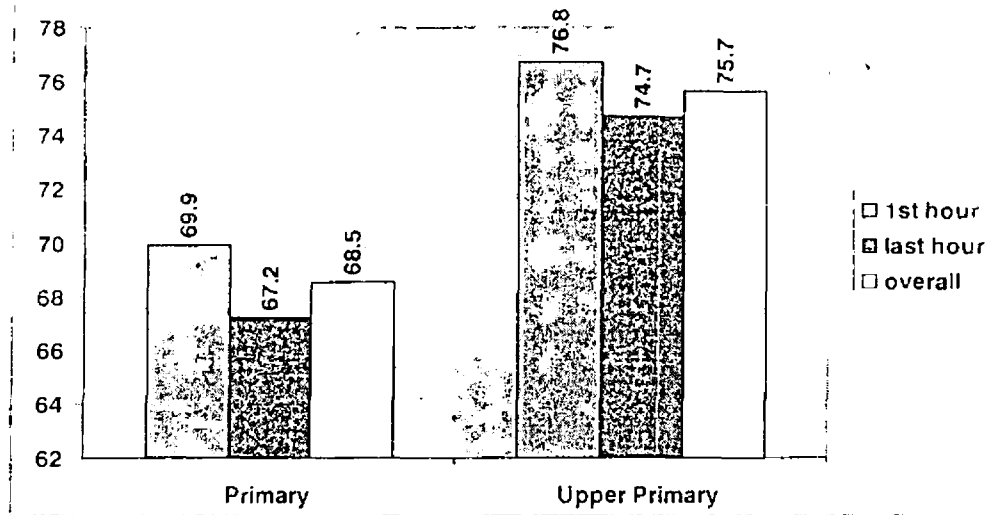
In the case of repetition and dropout, the school was the unit of analysis whereas in the case of achievement of students, students were the units of analysis and their attendance during 2005-06, their age, gender, repetition status, father's occupation and education, mother's education and social class were independent variables in the regression analysis.



2.3 Difference Between Attendance Rates of 1st and last hours of school

It was found that some children leave school early and hence the attendance rate in the last hour of school was lower than that of the first hour at both primary and upper primary levels, except in Punjab and West Bengal. The average gap in attendance rate between first and last hour of the school working hours is 2.7% points at the primary stage and 2.1% points at the upper primary stage. In Punjab state the first hour attendance at primary level is lower by 1.6% points than that of the last hour but in West Bengal the difference between the two is negligible. The gap between the first and last hour attendance rates at primary level is large in the case of Bihar (3.6% points), Rajasthan (7.2% points) and U.P. (4.4% points). At the upper primary level, the difference between attendance rates of the first and last hours is large in Haryana (5.8% points), J&K (3.4% points) and Rajasthan (4.6% points). In all other states, the difference is less than 3% points at both primary and upper primary levels (see state tables).

Chart 3: Students' Attendance During first Hour and Last Hour in the School at Primary and Upper Primary level - All States

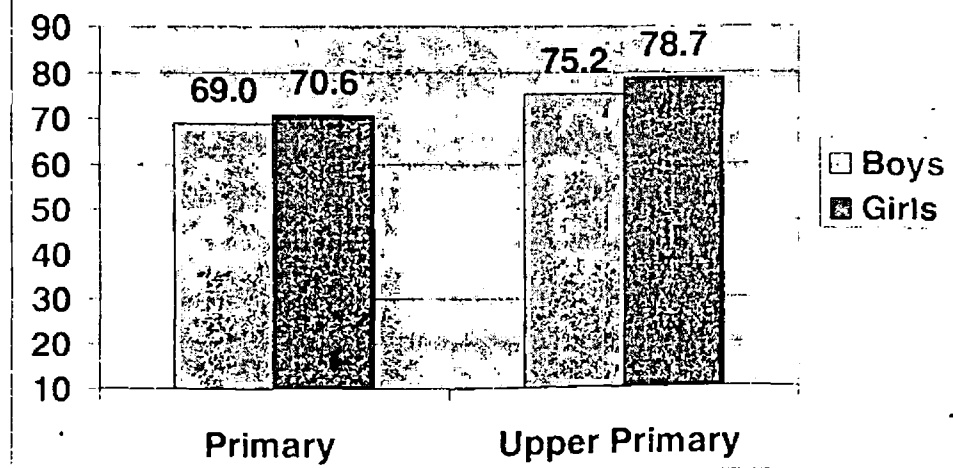


2.4 Difference between Attendance Rates of boys and girls

Chart 4 shows the average attendance rate of boys and girls for primary and upper primary levels based on the data of the first hour only. Overall girls attendance rate is higher than that of boys by 1.6% points at primary level and by 2.5% points at upper primary level. However, the difference between attendance rate of boys and girls is negligible in most of the states. The only state in which girls attendance rate is higher than that of boys by more than 2 percentage points at primary level is Uttar Pradesh where the difference is 2.8% points. On the other hand, Rajasthan is the only state where attendance rate of boys exceeded that of girls and that too by 4.2% points (see state data sheets).

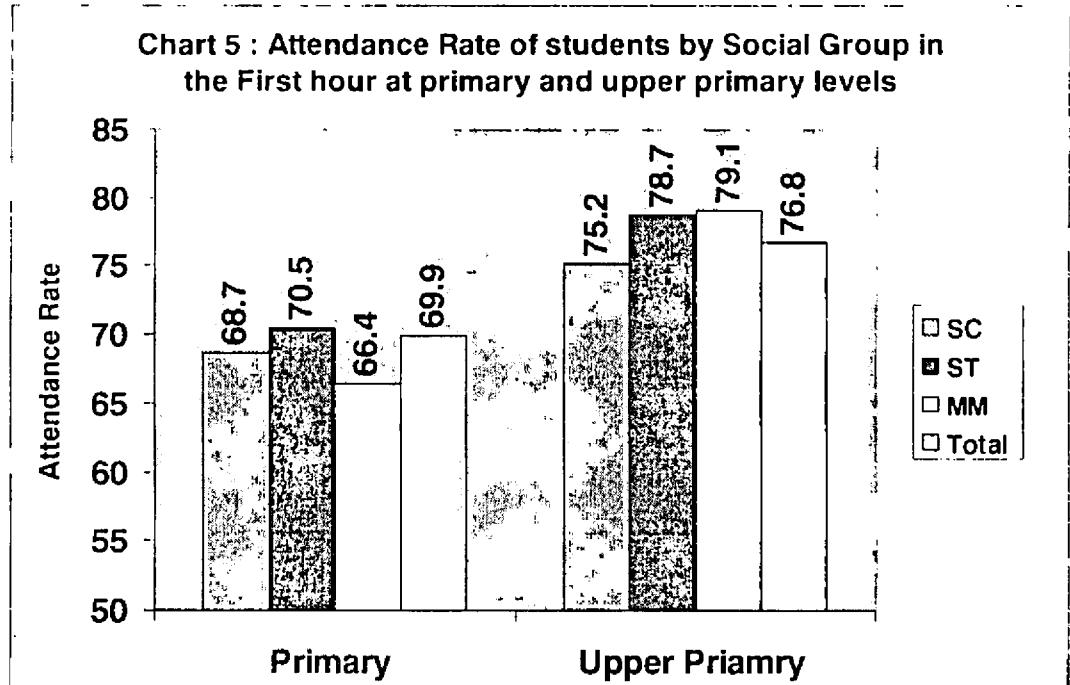
At the upper primary level, the states in which girls attendance rate exceeded that of boys by 2 to 3 percentage points are Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Madhya Pradesh, whereas in Orissa, girls attendance rate was higher by 5.8% points. In all other states, the gender difference was less than 2% points at upper primary level (see state data sheets).

Chart 4: Students' Attendance (boys and girls) in the first hour at primary and upper primary level



2.5 Attendance Rate of Students Belonging to Different Social Groups

Chart 5 shows the average attendance rate of children belonging to SC, ST, Muslims categories along with that of total students at primary and upper primary levels. These rates are based on the attendance data of the first hour only.



At primary level, the average attendance rate of SC and Muslim students is lower (68.7% and 66.4% respectively) than that of total (69.9%) students. At the upper primary level, there is not much difference between attendance rate of children of different social groups.

The states in which the attendance rate of SC students at primary level is more than 5% points lower than that of others are Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. At upper primary level, this statement is true in the case of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In Uttarakhand, attendance rate of SC students is higher than that of others by about 6% points at both primary and upper primary levels (see state data sheet).

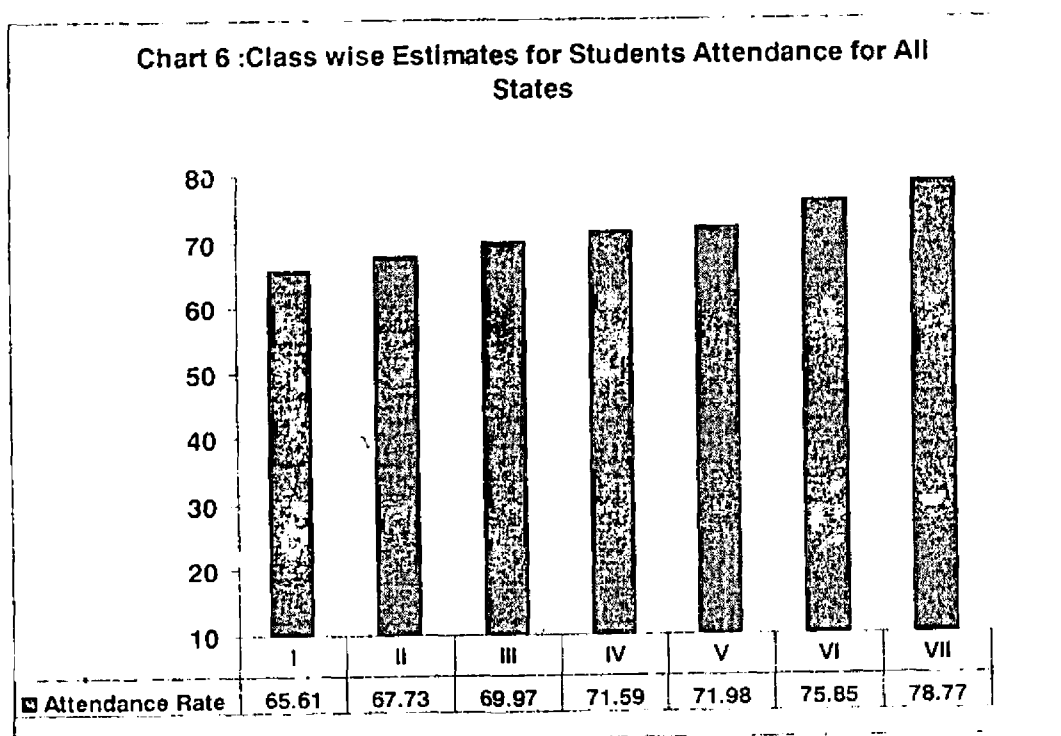
The states in which the attendance rate of ST students at primary level is lower by more than 5% points than that of others are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The maximum difference of over 10% points is in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

At upper primary level, the states in which attendance rate of ST students is much lower than that of others (that is, by more than 10% points) are Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, which are the states with large ST population.

So far as Muslims are concerned, the attendance rate is at par or lower than that of others in most states. Only in AP, the attendance rate of Muslim children is lower than that of others by more than 10% points at both primary and upper primary levels. The attendance rate of Muslim children is higher than that of others in Orissa and Uttarakhand.

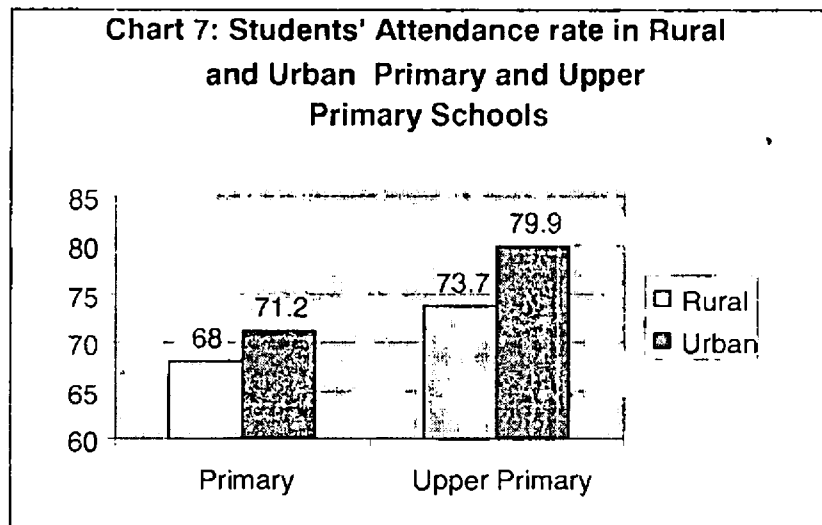
2.6 Class-wise Attendance Rates

Chart 6 shows the attendance rate of students studying in different classes. The attendance rate is lowest in class I (71.8%). It increases gradually from class I to IV; is highest (77.4%) in class IV, and thereafter declines slightly with every class, till it becomes 75.8% in class VII. Class VIII is not shown as five states (AP, Assam, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra) did not have class VIII in upper primary schools. As such meaningful national average for class VIII that could be compared with that of other classes, could not be derived.



2.7 Students' Attendance In Rural And Urban Schools

The overall attendance rate in rural primary schools was 68.0% as against 71.2% in urban primary schools. At the upper primary level also the overall students' attendance rate was lower in rural schools and the difference was fairly large (6.2% points) between attendance rates of rural and urban schools.



The attendance rate in primary schools in rural schools is not less than that of urban schools in every state. The states in which attendance rate in rural schools at the primary stage is higher than that of urban schools are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The states in which attendance rate of students at upper primary stage in rural schools is higher are Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. In all other states, the attendance rate in urban areas exceeds that of rural areas.

2.8 Teachers' presence in Schools

During school visits, the teachers who were present were also counted for comparison with the number of teachers who were posted in the school. The average attendance rate of teachers was calculated by dividing the total number of teachers who were present by the number of teachers who were posted in the sampled schools. The total number of teachers in primary and upper primary schools in the states was used as weight for calculating the national level average teacher attendance at these levels.

The average teacher attendance in primary and upper primary schools is 81.7% in primary schools and 80.8% in upper primary schools. Thus, only about 18% teachers in primary schools and about 19% in upper primary schools were found absent. Charts 8 and 9 show state-wise teachers' attendance rates in primary and upper primary schools respectively.

Less than 10% teachers were found absent in primary schools in West Bengal and Delhi. The highest absence rate was in Gujarat (29.8%) and Madhya Pradesh (29.6%). At the upper primary level, the average absence rate of teachers was less than 10% in West Bengal and Haryana. It was quite high in MP (33%) and highest (44.9%) in Assam. The reasons for low attendance need to be explored in these states.

Chart 8 : Teachers' attendance (%) in school at Upper Primary stage

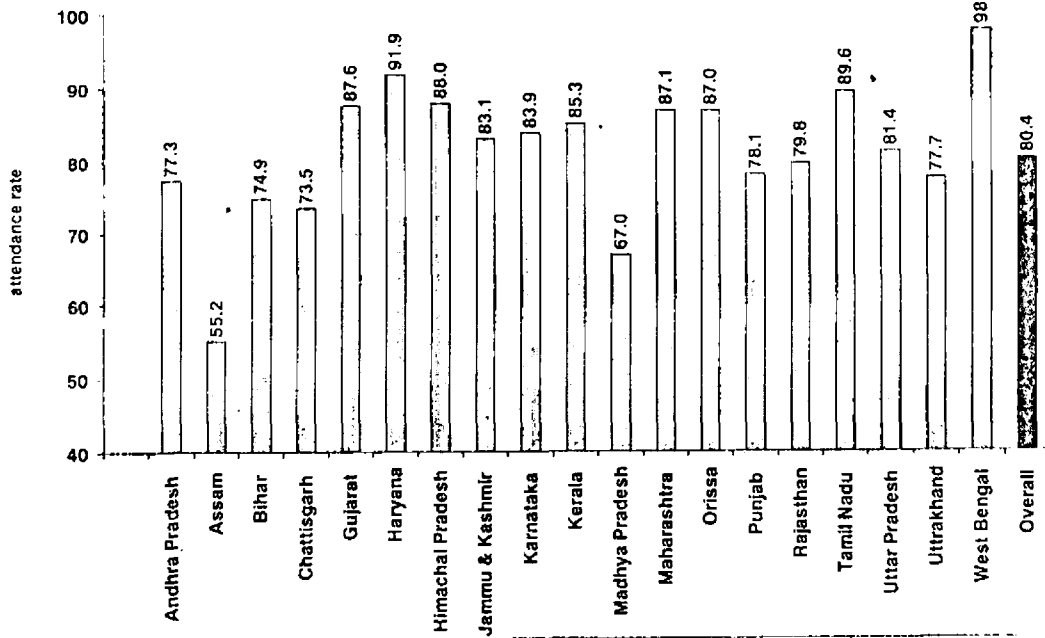
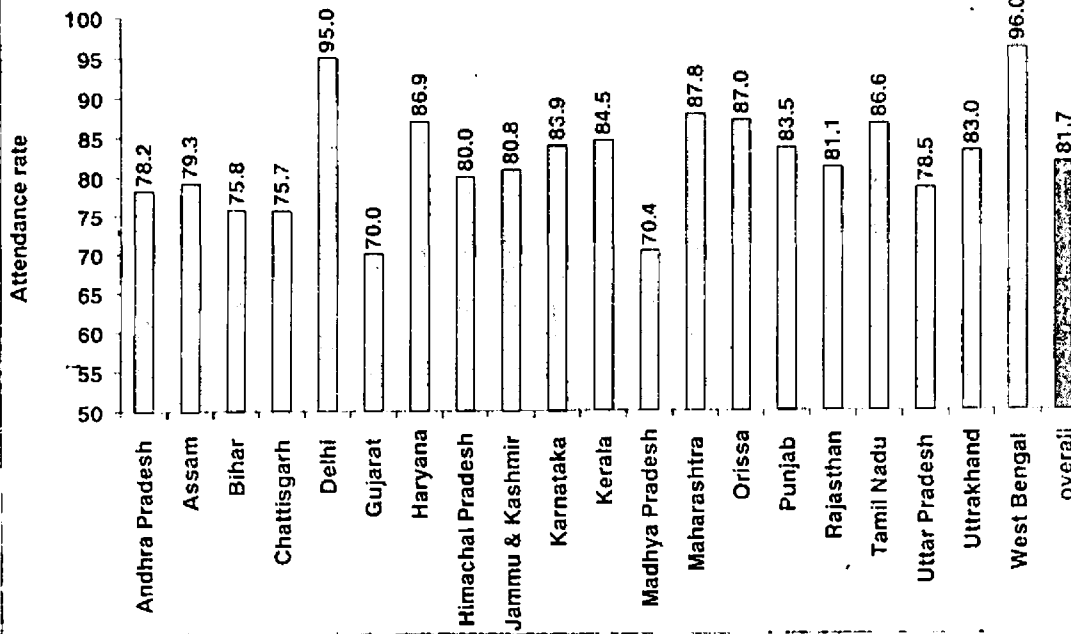


Chart 9 : Teachers' attendance (%) in school at Primary Stage



CHAPTER 3 – REASONS FOR STUDENTS' LOW ATTENDANCE AND MEASURES FOR IMPROVING ATTENDANCE RATE

3.1 Reasons given by Head teachers, Teachers, Village Education Committee members

Head teachers, teachers, Village Education Committee or School Management Committee members and parents of students were asked to give the reasons for students' low attendance. They were presented with a set of possible reasons and were asked to endorse the three reasons they considered most important. The responses of these stakeholders has been summarized in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 for primary and upper primary schools respectively.

Table 3.1 Reasons for low attendance of students at primary level as given by 50% or more head teachers, teachers and Village Education Committee/School Management Committee members

| Reasons | Head Teachers | Teachers | VEC members |
|--|--|--|--|
| Child helps in household work/ sibling care | Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (5) | Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, U.P., Uttarakhand, West Bengal(13) | Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, M.P. Rajasthan, U.P., West Bengal (11) |
| Poverty/Child needed to help parents in their occupational work | Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K, M.P., Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh Uttarkhand, (12) | Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, M. P., U.P., West Bengal (7) | Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, MP, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P, J & K. (12) |
| Temporary Migration | Delhi | - | Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, (6) |
| Parents' Indifference/ lack of interest | Punjab, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, J & K(4) | Bihar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, H.P., J & K, Karnataka, Punjab, U.P., Uttarkhand, W. Bengal (11) | Assam, Delhi, J & K, Karnataka, U.P., H.P., Tamil Nadu (7) |
| Illness of the child | Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal (5) | Assam, H.P., Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (5) | - |

Note: In the states shown in bold letters, the percentage of respondents giving a particular reason was more than 70%.

Lack of interest of the children in education was also cited as a reason by over 50% of head teachers in West Bengal; poor learning ability of child by teachers in Jammu & Kashmir and participation in religious/ social functions by more than 50% teachers in Tamil Nadu.

Table 3.2 Reasons for low attendance of students at Upper primary level as given by over 50% head teachers, teachers and VEC members

| Reasons | Head Teachers | Teachers | VEC members |
|--|--|---|--|
| Child helps household in work/ sibling care | UP, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and West Bengal (5) | Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K, Maharashtra, M.P., Rajasthan, U.P., Uttarakhand and West Bengal (11) | Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, U.P., Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, M.P. and West Bengal. (10) |
| Poverty/Child needed to help parents in their occupational work | Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, J & K, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan (9) | Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, M.P., Punjab, U.P., (7) | A.P., U.P., Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, J&K, Karnataka, M.P., Punjab, Rajasthan West Bengal, (12) |
| Temporary Migration | | Maharashtra and Punjab (2) | A.P., Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Tamilnadu and Uttarakhand. (6) |
| Parents' indifference/ lack of interest | J & K, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh (4) | Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, J & K, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, U.P. Uttarkhand, W. Bengal, H.P., M.P., Rajasthan (14) | Assam, J & K, Karnataka, U.P., H.P., West Bengal (6) |
| Illness of the child | Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal (3) | Assam, H.P. and Kerala, (3) | |
| Note: Upper Primary schools of Delhi were not covered. In the case of states shown in bold letters, the percentage of respondents giving a particular reason is over 70%. | | | |

In majority of the states, head teachers felt that poverty or child's involvement in agriculture or other income generating work of parents was the major reason for child's absence from school. Teachers in most states give importance to the reason that the child was needed at home to help in household work or sibling care' and also to 'parents' indifference or lack of interest in child's education'. VEC/SMC members in maximum number of states felt that children were needed at home to help parents in household work or in contributing to family income and that , was the main reason for their absenting from school.

3.2 Opinion of teachers on school related factors responsible for low attendance

Teachers were asked to give opinion about 5 school related variables responsible for low attendance. They were asked to indicate which factors were more responsible for child remaining absent from school out of 5 given factors. Teachers' responses showed that in only five states (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, J&K and West Bengal) these factors needed special attention as teachers' response was more than 40% on these variables. In the remaining states, less than 40% teachers mentioned any of the school variables as responsible for low attendance of students. Many felt that the problem of students absence was not serious and hence did not respond.

Table 3.3 Teachers' Opinion about school related factors responsible for children's absence from school

| Factors | Assam | | Bihar | | Chhattisgarh | | Jammu & Kashmir | | West Bengal | |
|---------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|--------------|-------|-----------------|------|-------------|------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr | Pr. | U.Pr | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr | Pr. | U.Pr |
| Lack of Basic Facilities | ** | ** | *** | *** | - | - | *** | *** | | |
| Overcrowded class rooms | ** | * | ** | ** | - | - | * | * | | |
| Accessibility of schools, | | | | | | | ** | * | | |
| Unattractive Environment, | | | * | | | | | | | |
| Teacher Shortage | * | * | ** | | * | ** | *** | ** | ** | *** |

*40%-<50%; ** 50%-<75%; ***75 and above

Lack of basic facilities in schools was considered serious by most teachers in Assam, Bihar and J&K. Overcrowded classrooms lowered students' attendance in Assam, Bihar and J&K in the opinion of large number of teachers. Difficult access to school appeared to be a problem that discourages students to attend school regularly in J&K. Teacher shortage was highlighted by most teachers as a problem in Bihar (at primary level only), Chhattisgarh, J&K, West Bengal and to some extent in Assam. They felt that students tend to become irregular when there are not enough teachers in school. Unattractive school environment was not considered as a disincentive to students to attend school, except by a few teachers in primary schools of Bihar.

3.3 Reasons of child's absence from school given by parents

Parents of students were asked to give reasons for their wards being irregular or remaining frequently absent from school. Many parents felt that their children were attending school regularly and hence did not give any reason. However, quite a few parents responded and the data on reasons that they endorsed (in case more than 10% endorsed a particular reason) are shown state-wise in Table 3.4.

Table 3.3 Reasons given by parents for low attendance of children

| State | Temporary Migration | Lack of facilities | Learning difficulty | Child does not like going to school | Unhappy with teacher behaviour |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.Andhra Pradesh | • | | • | | |
| 2. Assam | • | ••• | | •• | |
| 3. Bihar | • | ••• | | • | |
| 4. Chhattisgarh | | • | • | • | |
| 5. Delhi | •• | | • | • | |
| 6.Gujarat | • | • | • | •• | |
| 7. Haryana | | | • | • | • |
| 8. Himachal Pradesh | | • | | | |
| 9. Jammu & Kashmir | •• | •• | • | •• | |
| 10.Maharashtra | •• | | | •• | |
| 11.Madhya Pradesh | • | •• | • | •• | • |
| 12.Orissa | | • | | •• | |
| 13. Punjab | •• | | • | • | |
| 14. Rajasthan | | | | • | |
| 15. Tamil Nadu | | •• | | | |
| 16. Uttarakhand | | • | • | | • |
| 17.West Bengal | | • | | • | |
| No. of States | 9 | 11 | 9 | 13 | 3 |

•10%-<20%; •• 20%-<40%; ••• 40%and above

In three states (Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala) less than 10% parents endorsed one or more of the reasons for low attendance and these are not shown in the table.

In most states (13 out of 20), 10 to 40 percent parents said that the main reason was that the child does not like going to school. The next important reason given by parents was that 'school lacked facilities'. This reason was supported by over 40% parents in Assam and Bihar. The third reasons that emerged as important was 'temporary migration of the family'. It was given greater weightage in Delhi, J&K, Maharashtra and Punjab, where more of migrant families come to work.

In 9 states between 10% and 20% parents felt that children absented form school due to experiencing difficulty in learning. Very few felt that teachers' behavior was responsible for discouraging children to attend school. Only in Haryana, MP and Uttarakhand, 10 to 20 percent parents felt that this was the reason for child not going to school.

The reasons given by parents are mostly school related reasons. They felt that improvement in facilities and teaching learning at school will make students more regular. In a few states, where families from other states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh came for a few months to work, parents felt that temporary migration of the family also affected school attendance rate of children.

3.4 Focussed Group Discussion with community members

Informal focus group discussions (12 per state) were held by supervisors and investigators in each state to find out what the community felt about reasons of children being absent from school. The issues emerging from these discussions have been summarized in the following table.

Table 3.5 Reasons of children's absence from school emerging from FGD with Community members*

| State | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Andhra Pradesh | • | • | • | • | • | | | |
| Assam | | | • | • | | | | |
| Bihar | • | | | • | • | • | | • |
| Chhattisgarh | | • | | • | • | | • | |
| Delhi | | | | • | • | • | | • |
| Gujarat | | | | • | | | | • |
| Haryana | | | • | • | | | | |
| Himachal Pradesh | | • | • | | • | • | | |
| Jammu & Kashmir | | • | • | | • | | | |
| Karnataka | • | | • | | • | • | • | |
| Kerala | | | • | | • | • | | |
| Maharashtra | | | | | • | • | • | • |
| Madhya Pradesh | • | | • | • | | • | | • |
| Orissa | • | • | | • | • | | • | • |
| Punjab | | • | • | | • | | | |
| Rajasthan | | • | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Tamil Nadu | • | | • | | | | | |
| Uttar Pradesh | • | • | • | • | • | • | | |
| Uttarakhand | • | | | • | • | • | | • |
| West Bengal | | • | | | • | • | • | |
| No. of States | 8 | 9 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 7 |

R1: Poor quality of teaching; R2: Shortage of teachers; R3: Poor accessibility/ lack of transport; R4: Poverty; R5: Poor facility in schools; R6: Parents indifference; R7: Illness of child/ family members; R8: Household work/ sibling care.

It appears that in majority of the states (15 out of 20), the main reason for child remaining frequently absent from school that emerged from group discussions, was that 'facilities in school' were poor. The other reasons emerging from group discussions in 11 to 12 states 'were poor accessibility or lack of transport for going to schools', 'poverty' and 'parents indifference'. 'Child's illness' or 'being pre occupied with household work or sibling care' emerged as reason for children's absence from school in only 6 or, 7 states. School factors such as 'shortage of teachers' and 'poor quality of teaching' emerged as reasons of low attendance of children in 8 or 9 states.

3.5 Measures proposed by VEC members for increasing students' attendance rate

VEC members were asked to choose the two most important measures out of 5 given measures for increasing students' attendance rate. The measures preferred by them are shown in Table 3.6 in terms of the median values of the percentages of respondents who preferred a given reason in different states.

Table 3.6 Measures proposed by VEC members for Reducing Students' absence rate

| Measure | % of VEC members (median) |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Motivate parents to send children to school | 79.5 |
| 2. Establish more Anganwadis to free children from sibling care | 24.3 |
| 3. Improve teaching in school | 23.8 |
| 4. Provide scholarships/ incentives for regularity in attendance | 38.3 |
| 5. Make schools more attractive | 16.2 |

It appears that most of them (79.5%) felt that parents should be motivated to send children to school regularly in order to reduce absence rate. The next most important measure suggested by them (38.3%) was to provide scholarships or other incentives for regularity in attendance. Improving teaching-learning in schools and making schools attractive were given relatively lower rating (23.8% and 16.2% respectively). The parents also gave importance to establishment of Anganwadis as a measure for freeing older children from sibling care so that they could attend school more regularly.

3.5.1 Affect of student and school level variables on their absence rate

Regression analysis was carried out for every state using (a) students' absence rate (b) percentage of marks, in annual examination of terminal classes of primary and upper primary levels, obtained by students in mathematics, language and all subjects as dependent variables. As far as (a) is concerned, the processing unit was six students from each class which consisted three students having maximum attendance rate and another three students having lowest attendance rates. It used school variables and child's personal and home background variables as independent variables. The absence rate was for the year 2005-06 as derived from attendance registers. It was found that regression coefficients for school variables were not significant or made negligible contribution to child's absence, the reason being that variation between schools in respect of students' attendance was not large enough to show any school characteristic to be contributing to increase or decrease in attendance rate. The variation in absence rate was more between students within a school.

Among child related variables, a few contributed to absence rate and a few did not. On the basis of the results of regression analysis of most states, the following conclusions were derived. The variables that boosted attendance rate were:

- (1) Child belonging to non-SC, non-ST category.
- (2) Child getting help in studies at home.
- (3) Child's feeling that facilities and teaching in school were satisfactory.
- (4) Parents' meeting teachers from time to time to discuss the child's progress.

The variables that did not contribute or made nominal contribution to individual child's absence from school were:

- Sex of the child.
- Age of the child.
- Class in which child is studying
- Father's educational level.
- Father's occupation.
- Mother's educational level.

3.6 Impact of students' attendance on achievement

The measure of achievement at school level used in this analysis was percentage of students who scored more than 50% marks in their school examinations at the end of primary stage (class IV or V) and at the end of upper primary stage (class VII or VIII). This was the only option for studying relationship between attendance rate and achievement since no common test was given to students. The standard of examinations varies across schools, and hence high correlation between attendance rate and achievement measured in this way, was not expected even if the attendance affects achievement significantly.

The correlation between attendance rate of class IV/ V children and percentage of students scoring more than 50% marks in examinations was significant in HP, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, but except in Uttarakhand where the correlation was 0.63, the correlations were between 0.10 and 0.20. In other states, the correlation were not significantly different from zero.

The regression analysis for (b) used students' attendance rate, student's personal and school variables as independent variables. The unit of regression analysis in this case was a sample of 20 students randomly selected as prescribed in the guidelines. The analysis has indicated that the student is attendance rate, after adjusting it for student and school variable, did not contribute significantly. Mostly student's personal variable contributed significantly to achievement, although the marks obtained in the school level internal assessment is not an efficient estimators for students achievement.

At the upper primary level, the correlations were significant in Maharashtra (0.20), Uttarakhand (0.72) and West Bengal (0.35). In all other states, these were not significant. The low correlations could be partly due to the criterion of 'over 50% marks' not being uniform (not based on common examination across schools of the state). Also, besides attendance rate, several other factors affect achievement.

3.7 Relationship between Attendance Rate and Repetition Rate

The relationship between school level attendance rate and repetition rate was not found to be significant in most states. The states in which correlations with class-wise repetition rates were negative and significant are:

AP (all classes): Correlations were in the range of -0.10 to -0.20

Haryana: Class III ($r = -0.32$)

HP: Class I ($r = -0.14$)

J&K: Class V ($r = -0.25$)

Orissa: All primary classes – Correlations were between -0.23 and -0.30

Punjab: Class I & VI ($r = -0.39$ and -0.25 respectively).

Rajasthan: All classes – Correlations were between -0.15 and -0.28

Uttarakhand: Class I ($r = -0.14$)

West Bengal: Classes I to V and Class VIII – Correlations were between -0.11 and -0.28

In all other states, correlations were not significant. Negative correlations indicate that students' absence from school has contributed to child failing and repeating a grade. The higher the attendance rate, the lower is the repetition rate.

3.8 Relationship between attendance rate and dropout rate

The correlations were not significant in most of the states. Attendance may be influencing child's continuation or dropping out from school, but at school level the relationship gets obscured by several other factors that affect dropping out. However, significant negative correlations between attendance rate and drop out rate were found in upper primary classes in AP, J&K, MP, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. These correlations were in the range of -0.11 and -0.33 in classes V to VII. In other states, these correlations were not significant. Also no significant correlation was found between attendance rate and drop out rate in primary classes in any state. A possible reason could be that other family and home related factors affect the dropout rate more and these may be overshadowing the effect of school attendance factor at the primary level.

STATE - WISE ATTENDANCE RATES OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT A GLANCE

Attendance rates given in the tables are based on actual head count of students who were present out of the enrolled students during 3 unannounced visits to the sampled schools, except in Gujarat where the schools were visited only twice and in Kashmir region of J&K where schools were visited only once. These tables also include attendance rate of teachers determined in the same way

Along with the attendance rate of students at primary and upper primary stages are given, attendance rates for the different groups of students (boys/girls; SC/ST/Muslims) and for schools in rural and urban areas are also given for every state in these tables.

The Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC and parents are also being compiled along with. The issues emerging out of discussion held in Focus group discussions (12 in each state) are also being compiled along with

State data sheets

- Andhra Pradesh
- Assam
- Bihar
- Chhattisgarh
- Delhi (only Primary)
- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Himachal Pradesh
- Jammu & Kashmir
- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Orissa
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Tamil Nadu
- Uttar Pradesh
- Uttarakhand
- West Bengal

ASER

Sample : 330 schools from 12 districts;
Primary-252, Upper Primary-78, Urban-33 , Rural-297

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 82.2 | 80.4 | 81.3 | 77.7 | 80.6 | 79.2 |
| Up.primary | 84.6 | 84.4 | 84.5 | 56.5 | 53.7 | 55.2 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 82.5 | 83.0 |
| Girls | 82.0 | 86.0 |
| SC | 82.9 | 85.6 |
| ST | 77.6 | 85.5 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 86.3 | 80.4 |
| OBC | 78.3 | 83.9 |
| Others | 81.5 | 89.0 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 80.5 | 84.3 |
| Urban | 81.3 | 85.4 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and Focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 73.8 | 74.4 | 48.1 | 42.4 | 34.5 | 29.5 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 31.0 | 37.2 | 39.7 | 34.4 | 69.0 | 69.2 | | √ |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 33.7 | 32.1 | 42.2 | 46.9 | 70.2 | 80.8 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 24.2 | 24.4 | 32.1 | 24.0 | 78.2 | 87.2 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 43.7 | 46.2 | 65.5 | 69.8 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 11.1 | 12.8 | 26.9 | 32.6 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 8.7 | 5.1 | 57.1 | 54.7 | 8.3 | 7.7 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 42.3 | 44.6 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 29.8 | 31.1 | 8.3 | 2.6 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school due to river etc. | | | 28.4 | 28.0 | | | √ | |

Annex

Sample : 368 schools 26 districts
 Primary-296, Upper Primary-72, Urban-63 , Rural-305

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 44.0 | 40.4 | 42.2 | 74.8 | 76.8 | 75.8 |
| Upper primary | 38.4 | 35.3 | 36.8 | 74.3 | 75.6 | 74.9 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary (I-V) | Upper primary (VI-VIII) |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Boys | 43.8 | 36.1 |
| Girls | 44.3 | 41.8 |
| SC | 46.4 | 42.2 |
| ST | 61.6 | 84.0 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 45.3 | 42.7 |
| OBC | 46.6 | 43.3 |
| Others | 72.8 | 61.9 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 41.9 | 36.6 |
| Urban | 43.9 | 37.3 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|--------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U. Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 66.7 | 61.8 | 84.4 | 86.5 | 64.2 | 57.4 | √ | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 52.0 | 44.9 | 79.0 | 75.5 | 57.7 | 56.4 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 44.1 | 49.4 | 85.3 | 83.7 | 21.2 | 24.5 | | |
| Temporary migration | 6.6 | 5.6 | 20.2 | 19.0 | 39.1 | 40.4 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 5.7 | 5.6 | 4.6 | 3.4 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 12.5 | 13.5 | 7.6 | 10.6 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 14.7 | 25.8 | 82.5 | 72.2 | 39.4 | 37.2 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 67.7 | 60.3 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 42.5 | 33.5 | 23.4 | 24.5 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 16.1 | 12.4 | | | | |
| Poor quality of mid day meal | | | | | | | √ | |

Chhattisgarh

Sample :365 schools from 9 districts
Primary-284, Upper Primary-81, Urban-37 , Rural-328

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 68.4 | 67.1 | 67.7 | 75.2 | 76.2 | 75.7 |
| Upper primary | 75.3 | 74.7 | 75.0 | 74.4 | 72.6 | 73.5 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 68.0 | 70.5 |
| Girls | 68.5 | 80.7 |
| SC | 69.2 | 74.9 |
| ST | 67.9 | 74.6 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 80.3 | 79.6 |
| OBC | 69.3 | 77.5 |
| Others | 84.8 | 90.7 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 68.3 | 74.2 |
| Urban | 65.3 | 77.4 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 76.0 | 79.3 | 51.9 | 46.6 | 58.3 | 54.8 | √ | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 36.0 | 36.6 | 63.3 | 59.5 | 79.1 | 69.9 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 52.7 | 59.8 | 83.6 | 77.9 | 45.7 | 47.9 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 17.0 | 4.9 | 33.4 | 38.2 | 47.1 | 43.8 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 12.5 | 11.0 | 22.6 | 22.9 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 27.9 | 25.6 | 10.0 | 24.4 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 4.6 | 4.9 | 29.6 | 24.4 | 11.9 | 13.7 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 51.0 | 34.4 | | | √ | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 17.9 | 24.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | √ | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 14.1 | 10.7 | | | | |

Delhi

Sample : 124 schools from 9 districts
Primary-124, Urban-94 , Rural-30

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 74.7 | 72.2 | 73.5 | 95.2 | 94.8 | 95.0 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary |
|-------------------|---------|
| Boys | 74.6 |
| Girls | 73.7 |
| SC | 74.7 |
| ST | 78.4 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 70.3 |
| OBC | 73.0 |
| Others | 70.6 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary |
|-------|---------|
| Rural | 73.0 |
| Urban | 73.1 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group

Discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | Teachers % | VECs % | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|------------|--------|------------------------|---------|
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 39.2 | 75.4 | 27.9 | √ | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 44.2 | 51.1 | 63.1 | √ | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 25.0 | 75.4 | 71.3 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 60.8 | 59.4 | 82.8 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 13.3 | 26.6 | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 28.3 | 27.3 | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 4.2 | 10.5 | 6.6 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | 10.0 | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | 7.5 | 5.7 | √ | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | 5.3 | | | |

Gujarat

Sample : 345 schools from 13 districts

Primary-53, Upper Primary-292 (243 with primary section), Urban-51, Rural-294

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 76.5 | 73.6 | 75 | 70.4 | 70.0 | 70.0 |
| Upper primary | 80.2 | 77.1 | 78.6 | 87.7 | 87.4 | 87.6 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 76.5 | 80.3 |
| Girls | 76.5 | 80.7 |
| SC | 79.7 | 82.5 |
| ST | 73.1 | 77.5 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 76.0 | 77.5 |
| OBC | 79.4 | 80.9 |
| Others | 79.7 | 84.1 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 70.7 | 75.5 |
| Urban | 70.6 | 79.5 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC, parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 54.9 | 58.8 | 29.4 | 34.2 | 55.9 | 60.5 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 52.9 | 50.0 | 61.8 | 69.3 | 73.5 | 78.0 | √ | √ |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 21.6 | 17.3 | 38.2 | 38.9 | 38.2 | 21.5 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 21.6 | 29.4 | 28.4 | 33.2 | 41.2 | 54.8 | √ | √ |
| Child's illness | 23.5 | 18.0 | 32.4 | 35.8 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 27.5 | 27.2 | 38.2 | 43.8 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | - | - | 1.8 | 12.9 | 2.9 | 6.2 | | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 2.2 | 17.4 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 0.7 | 6.4 | - | 0.6 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 1.5 | 10.5 | | | | |

Maryana

Sample :330 schools from 13 districts
 Primary-252, Upper Primary-78, Urban-33 , Rural-297

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 83.1 | 81.3 | 82.2 | 87.0 | 86.8 | 86.9 |
| Upper primary | 88.0 | 82.2 | 85.1 | 91.9 | 91.9 | 91.9 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 82.7 | 88.1 |
| Girls | 83.5 | 88.0 |
| SC | 83.6 | 86.8 |
| ST | 91.3 | 87.5 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 82.9 | 84.1 |
| OBC | 81.8 | 88.6 |
| Others | 83.7 | 89.6 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 79.1 | 80.6 |
| Urban | 77.2 | 77.1 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 65.9 | 66.7 | 64.7 | 68.8 | 83.8 | 77.4 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 56.1 | 56.9 | 64.6 | 70.7 | 69.6 | 66.0 | | √ |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 26.0 | 25.5 | 76.3 | 67.3 | 41.3 | 12.1 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 15.2 | 11.8 | 21.8 | 18.8 | 46.6 | 52.9 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 11.4 | 17.6 | 24.2 | 17.3 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 15.0 | 21.1 | | | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 4.9 | 3.9 | 17.6 | 8.5 | 6.9 | 7.3 | | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 30.8 | 9.5 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 8.2 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 5.5 | 5.0 | | | √ | |

Himachal Pradesh

Sample :320 schools from 9 districts
Primary-245, Upper Primary-75, Urban -14, Rural-306

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 95.1 | 94.1 | 94.6 | 80.2 | 79.6 | 80.0 |
| Upper primary | 93.6 | 92.8 | 93.2 | 88.8 | 87.0 | 88.0 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 95.0 | 93.1 |
| Girls | 95.3 | 94.1 |
| SC | 94.1 | 92.4 |
| ST | 95.1 | 94.6 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 90.8 | 94.0 |
| OBC | 97.4 | 94.0 |
| Others | 95.4 | 94.1 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 94.9 | 93.1 |
| Urban | 92.0 | 94.7 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and Focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 37.6 | 33.3 | 15.1 | 14.7 | 49.4 | 52.0 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 27.8 | 48.0 | 33.5 | 36.3 | 48.6 | 49.3 | | √ |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 70.0 | 33.3 | 50.6 | 52.5 | 54.7 | 58.7 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 6.1 | 8.0 | 11.8 | 13.3 | 2.1 | 2.7 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 43.3 | 34.7 | 55.9 | 50.7 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 41.2 | 40.0 | 42.0 | 45.3 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 2.9 | 6.7 | 9.4 | 10.7 | 11.8 | 20.0 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 22.9 | 22.7 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 10.2 | 10.7 | 17.1 | 12.0 | √ | √ |
| Difficulty in understanding Teaching language | | | | | 22.5 | 18.7 | | |

Jammu & Kashmir

Sample : 150 schools from 9 districts
Primary-122, Upper Primary-28, Urban-7 , Rural-143

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 80.9 | 78.1 | 78.5 | 80.8 | 80.8 | 80.8 |
| Upper primary | 79.2 | 75.8 | 77.5 | 89.4 | 77.2 | 83.1 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|--------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 80.4 | 80.0 |
| Girls | 81.6 | 78.0 |
| SC | 77.3 | 74.8 |
| ST | 94.7 | 38.5 |
| Muslim | 81.2 | 80.9 |
| OBC | 79.8 | 85.8 |
| Others | 81.2 | 78.2 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 75.8 | 76.4 |
| Urban | 82.4 | 77.8 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and Focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 79.1 | 67.8 | 51.3 | 58.3 | 81.9 | 61.4 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 23.4 | 32.5 | 55.9 | 74.5 | 16.1 | 19.4 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 57.8 | 74.3 | 65.7 | 59.3 | 66.9 | 66.9 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 25.0 | 22.8 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 30.0 | 35.6 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 19.6 | 19.0 | 15.2 | 20.2 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 9.1 | 15.2 | 1.6 | 0 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 3.1 | 2.6 | 78 | 78 | 59.1 | 71.6 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 71 | 63 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 17 | 21 | 12.0 | 9.7 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 62 | 52 | | | √ | |

Karnataka

Sample : 366 schools from 15 districts
 Primary-296, Upper Primary-70, Urban-64, Rural-302

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 86.3 | 86.1 | 86.2 | 83.5 | 84.3 | 83.9 |
| Upper primary | 87.2 | 86.7 | 86.9 | 83.8 | 84.2 | 84.0 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 86.4 | 84.4 |
| Girls | 86.3 | 89.9 |
| SC | 85.1 | 89.1 |
| ST | 78.7 | 79.3 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 87.8 | 90.4 |
| OBC | 86.9 | 88.6 |
| Others | 92.9 | 92.8 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 85.9 | 84.9 |
| Urban | 87.0 | 91.7 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC, parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 37.3 | 43.7 | 18.4 | 30.2 | 59.7 | 52.2 | | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 35.9 | 39.4 | 43.3 | 49.5 | 61.7 | 68.1 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 46.1 | 39.4 | 56.7 | 59.2 | 70.0 | 79.7 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 21.7 | 15.5 | 30.5 | 29.3 | 45.9 | 45.3 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 54.6 | 46.5 | 47.7 | 38.7 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 42.4 | 47.9 | 45.6 | 40.8 | | | √ | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 1.4 | 1.4 | 29.5 | 28.1 | 20.7 | 15.9 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 18.1 | 25.4 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 12.8 | 7.6 | 10.3 | 2.9 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 7.2 | 8.8 | | | √ | |

Kerala

Sample : 318 schools from 12 districts
Primary-230, Upper Primary-88, Urban -68, Rural-250

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 91.7 | 91.1 | 91.4 | 84.6 | 84.3 | 84.5 |
| Upper primary | 92.4 | 91.6 | 92.0 | 85.8 | 84.8 | 85.3 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 89.6 | 92.2 |
| Girls | 90.6 | 92.7 |
| SC | 90.1 | 94.8 |
| ST | 85.9 | 89.8 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 91.8 | 93.7 |
| OBC | 91.9 | 94.5 |
| Others | 96.6 | 97.3 |

Attendance rate (overall) of students by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 91.1 | 91.4 |
| Urban | 93.3 | 92.6 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC, parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 24.1 | 41.1 | 3.8 | 11.2 | 15.2 | 21.6 | | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 2.6 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 5.6 | 9.5 | 9.8 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education. | 23.2 | 24.4 | 23.6 | 27.1 | 39.0 | 37.3 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 10.5 | 8.9 | 8.2 | 7.5 | 39.0 | 43.1 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 69.7 | 67.8 | 65.9 | 70.1 | | | √ | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 23.7 | 26.7 | 18.3 | 23.4 | | | √ | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 1.8 | 2.2 | 9.1 | 3.7 | 32.4 | 23.5 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 6.7 | 2.8 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 4.3 | 2.8 | 22.9 | 25.5 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school -lack of transport facility | | | 15.9 | 11.7 | | | √ | |

Madhya Pradesh

Sample :375 schools from 20 districts;
Primary-290, Upper Primary-85, Urban-78 , Rural-297

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 73.3 | 70.9 | 72.1 | 69.7 | 71.1 | 70.4 |
| Upper primary | 70.8 | 68.9 | 69.8 | 66.8 | 67.3 | 67.0 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 72.8 | 69.6 |
| Girls | 73.9 | 72.0 |
| SC | 73.3 | 71.4 |
| ST | 69.5 | 67.4 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 75.6 | 74.6 |
| OBC | 75.5 | 73.0 |
| Others | 78.5 | 78.6 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 73.8 | 70.1 |
| Urban | 73.3 | 73.2 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 59.0 | 58.0 | 50.0 | 59.0 | 69.0 | 75.0 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 41.0 | 39.0 | 64.0 | 61.0 | 60.0 | 61.0 | √ | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 29.0 | 31.0 | 52.0 | 58.0 | 22.0 | 17.0 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 19.0 | 12.0 | 28.0 | 21.0 | 48.0 | 49.0 | √ | √ |
| Child's illness | 19.0 | 14.0 | 25.0 | 18.0 | | | √ | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 22.0 | 20.0 | 28.0 | 25.0 | | | √ | |
| Lack of facilities in school | - | - | 41.0 | 37.0 | 12.0 | 8.0 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 44.0 | 39.0 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 25.0 | 23.0 | 6.0 | 2.0 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 42.0 | 22.0 | | | √ | |

Maharashtra

Sample : 400 schools from 20 districts
Primary-398, Upper Primary-2, Urban-80 , Rural-320

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 90.0 | 89.0 | 89.0 | 88.1 | 87.4 | 87.8 |
| Upper primary | 90.0 | 89.0 | 89.0 | 87.4 | 86.8 | 87.1 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 90.0 | 90.0 |
| Girls | 90.0 | 91.1 |
| SC | 87.9 | 88.5 |
| ST | 85.1 | 89.8 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 88.7 | 90.1 |
| OBC | 92.8 | 92.2 |
| Others | 92.4 | 91.0 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 87.0 | 88.0 |
| Urban | 92.0 | 89.0 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 43.0 | 41.0 | 19.0 | 28.0 | 29.0 | 37.0 | | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 17.0 | 11.0 | 54.0 | 68.0 | 41.0 | 44.0 | √ | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 21.0 | 16.0 | 42.0 | 62.0 | 49.0 | 49.0 | | |
| Temporary migration | 25.0 | 18.0 | 43.0 | 50.0 | 43.0 | 40.0 | √ | √ |
| Child's illness | 31.0 | 13.0 | 54.0 | 38.0 | | | √ | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 13.0 | 5.0 | 19.0 | 9.0 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 4.0 | 0.0 | 33.0 | 23.0 | 7.0 | 11.0 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 16.0 | 30.0 | | | | |
| Unattractive school/ Lack of interest in going to school | | | 15.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 19.0 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 16.0 | 10.0 | | | | |

Orissa

Sample : 400 schools from 15 districts
Primary-369, Upper Primary-31, Urban-60 , Rural-340

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 67.8 | 65.8 | 66.8 | 86.8 | 87.9 | 87.4 |
| Upper primary | 69.5 | 68.6 | 69.0 | 86.9 | 86.2 | 86.6 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

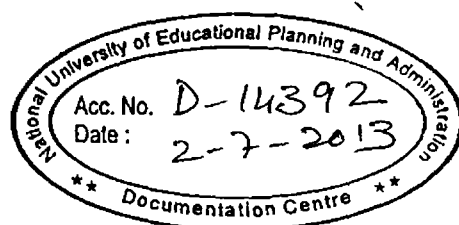
| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 67.3 | 66.7 |
| Girls | 68.2 | 72.5 |
| SC | 63.2 | 65.3 |
| ST | 62.8 | 64.2 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 65.2 | 62.1 |
| OBC & Others | 72.6 | 72.9 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 67.6 | 68.7 |
| Urban | 64.0 | 69.9 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 19.4 | 25.9 | 21.0 | 22.0 | 38.0 | 37.0 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 30.4 | 24.7 | 27.7 | 29.0 | 21.0 | 18.0 | √ | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 2.8 | 5.9 | 31.3 | 24.0 | 21.7 | 24.0 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 8.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 0 | 21.7 | 24.0 | √ | √ |
| Child's illness | 5.3 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 8.0 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 14.1 | 14.1 | 7.3 | 11.0 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 0 | 2.4 | 25.3 | 21.0 | 3.3 | 5.0 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 29.3 | 30.0 | | | √ | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 16.3 | 13.0 | 0.67 | 5.0 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school specially in rainy season | | | 23.3 | 23.0 | | | | |



Punjab

Sample :295 schools from 12 districts
 Primary-227, Upper Primary-68, Urban-48 , Rural-247

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 80.9 | 82.5 | 81.7 | 84.2 | 82.7 | 83.5 |
| Upper primary | 74.2 | 75.1 | 74.7 | 78.9 | 77.4 | 78.1 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 82.4 | 74.4 |
| Girls | 79.2 | 74.0 |
| SC | 79.9 | 76.1 |
| ST | 90.6 | 99.4 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 83.0 | 77.2 |
| OBC | 84.0 | 74.6 |
| Others | 80.6 | 72.2 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 82.3 | 76.1 |
| Urban | 80.1 | 70.8 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|---|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 65.2 | 98.5 | 28.5 | 24.9 | 30.8 | 32.4 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 45.4 | 16.2 | 49.6 | 48.5 | 56.4 | 58.8 | | √ |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 63.0 | 67.6 | 76 | 76.6 | 66 | 57.4 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 20.7 | 4.4 | 58.7 | 64.2 | 72.2 | 67.6 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 39.2 | 16.2 | 27.2 | 24.0 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 12.3 | 5.9 | 27.0 | 28.4 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | | | 11.1 | 7.7 | 9.7 | 10.3 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 5.3 | 2.4 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 8.3 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 1.5 | √ | √ |
| Difficult access to school /lack of proper roads & transport facility | | | 5.3 | 2.4 | | | √ | |

Rajasthan

Sample : 398 schools from 13 districts
Primary-277, Upper Primary-121, Urban-48 , Rural-350

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 66.3 | 59.1 | 62.7 | 81.2 | 81.0 | 81.1 |
| Upper primary | 81.1 | 76.6 | 78.9 | 80.2 | 79.4 | 79.8 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 68.5 | 81.2 |
| Girls | 64.2 | 81.1 |
| SC | 65.3 | 80.2 |
| ST | 57.8 | 70.8 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 67.8 | 83.3 |
| OBC | 69.4 | 83.6 |
| Others | 69.6 | 86.3 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 62.5 | 78.4 |
| Urban | 63.2 | 80.4 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 62.8 | 61.6 | 28.1 | 28.6 | 65.1 | 71.4 | √ | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 61.4 | 71.9 | 80.5 | 78.5 | 84.4 | 88.4 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 21.3 | 22.3 | 45.3 | 52.7 | 34.6 | 33.4 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 16.3 | 21.5 | 30.8 | 28.9 | 47.2 | 44.5 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 33.9 | 28.1 | 22.3 | 18.7 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 25.6 | 31.4 | 36.9 | 36.6 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 4.3 | 0.8 | 13.9 | 14.6 | 20.1 | 17.3 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 15.9 | 16.6 | | | √ | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 7.3 | 6.4 | 10.8 | 10.2 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 5.1 | 3.7 | | | | |

Tamil Nadu

Sample : 353 schools from 13 districts
Primary-281, Upper Primary-72, Urban-54 , Rural-299

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 89.1 | 87.6 | 88.3 | 86.9 | 86.3 | 86.6 |
| Upper primary | 88.2 | 87.5 | 87.8 | 92.5 | 86.7 | 89.6 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 88.6 | 88.0 |
| Girls | 89.5 | 88.2 |
| SC | 88.3 | 88.2 |
| ST | 82.9 | 86.2 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 88.1 | 99.5 |
| OBC | 90.6 | 81.5 |
| Others | 100 | 90.3 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 89.0 | 87.7 |
| Urban | 86.0 | 88.3 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 22.1 | 33.3 | 8.4 | 20.7 | 38.7 | 44.6 | | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 14.9 | 36.1 | 27.8 | 41.4 | 38.7 | 39.0 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 26.0 | 33.3 | 27.5 | 38.6 | 55.2 | 47.0 | | |
| Temporary migration | 21.7 | 22.2 | 18.5 | 21.4 | 62.8 | 63.9 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 68.0 | 61.1 | 60.7 | 49.0 | | | √ | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 47.0 | 36.1 | 56.2 | 44.8 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 0.4 | 0 | 10.8 | 10.5 | 25.3 | 18.1 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 15.8 | 31.0 | | | | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 5.6 | 6.9 | 10.0 | 10.8 | √ | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 7.2 | 7.6 | | | √ | |

Uttar Pradesh

Sample : 400 schools from 24 districts
Primary-323, Upper Primary-77, Urban -80, Rural-320

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 59.6 | 55.2 | 57.4 | 76.9 | 78.7 | 77.8 |
| Upper primary | 61.8 | 59.2 | 60.5 | 82.3 | 82.9 | 82.6 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 58.2 | 61.4 |
| Girls | 61.0 | 62.3 |
| SC | 59.6 | 62.8 |
| ST | 48.6 | 75.0 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 56.1 | 65.9 |
| OBC | 63.3 | 65.2 |
| Others | 71.6 | 70.0 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 58.2 | 59.8 |
| Urban | 53.1 | 62.8 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 69.8 | 71.3 | 88.3 | 76.3 | 78 | 75.6 | √ | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 62.4 | 59.8 | 78.0 | 64.1 | 68.3 | 65.1 | | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 49.8 | 49.4 | 58.4 | 64.1 | 68.9 | 69.8 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 9.6 | 8.0 | 18.9 | 16.7 | 23.6 | 19.8 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 3.2 | 3.4 | 21.2 | 34.1 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 14.5 | 10.3 | 15.3 | 18.5 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 3.9 | 8.0 | 15.7 | 12.5 | 11.0 | 19.8 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 37.1 | 29.9 | | | √ | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 8.8 | 8.3 | 5.5 | 3.5 | | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 3.7 | 5.6 | | | | |

Uttarakhand

Sample : 320 schools from 9 districts
Primary-257, Upper Primary-63, Urban-20 , Rural-300

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 81.1 | 79.0 | 80.0 | 83.9 | 82.4 | 83.0 |
| Upper primary | 83.1 | 83.2 | 83.2 | 78.3 | 77.1 | 77.7 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------------------|---------|---------------|
| Boys | 80.5 | 82.8 |
| Girls | 81.5 | 83.3 |
| SC | 81.5 | 83.0 |
| ST | 88.5 | 79.2 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 76.1 | 77.1 |
| OBC | 77.7 | 80.2 |
| Others | 89.4 | 89.9 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 79.0 | 82.0 |
| Urban | 76.0 | 67.0 |

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 51.0 | 54.0 | 20.0 | 13.0 | 17.7 | 20.9 | √ | √ |
| House hold work/sibling care | 34.6 | 44.4 | 68.0 | 76.0 | 24.9 | 24.3 | √ | |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 73.3 | 73.0 | 74.0 | 75.0 | 24.7 | 28.4 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 8.2 | 3.2 | 13.0 | 11.0 | 15.3 | 10.8 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 33.5 | 30.2 | 31.0 | 19.0 | | | | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 19.8 | 15.9 | 33.0 | 33.0 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | 5.1 | 0 | 14.0 | 17.0 | 6.0 | 6.8 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 31.0 | 29.0 | | | | |
| Unattractive school/ Lack of interest in going to school | | | 7.0 | 3.0 | 3.9 | 2.0 | √ | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 10.0 | 18.0 | | | | |

West Bengal

Sample : 388 schools from 13 districts
Primary-310, Upper Primary-78, Urban-80 , Rural-308

Attendance Rate

| | Students | | | Teachers | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | First hour | Last hour | Overall | First hour | Last hour | Overall |
| Primary | 74.0 | 74.5 | 74.2 | 96.5 | 96.1 | 96.3 |
| Upper primary | 69.9 | 70.6 | 70.2 | 98.2 | 97.9 | 98.1 |

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

| | Primary(I-IV) | Upper primary (V-VIII) |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Boys | 73.2 | 71.1 |
| Girls | 75.2 | 68.9 |
| SC | 72.1 | 66.2 |
| ST | 69.2 | 71.0 |
| Minority (Muslim) | 68.8 | 66.4 |
| OBC | 81.1 | 77.6 |
| Others | 82.3 | 73.9 |

Attendance rate (overall) by area

| | Primary | Upper primary |
|-------|---------|---------------|
| Rural | 75.9 | 72.1 |
| Urban | 65.8 | 64.0 |

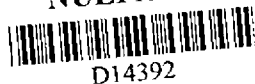
Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

| Reasons | Head teachers % | | Teachers % | | VECs % | | Focus Group Discussion | Parents |
|--|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------------|---------|
| | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | Pr. | U.Pr. | | |
| Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities | 29.0 | 48.7 | 54.2 | 64.3 | 67.4 | 73.1 | | |
| House hold work/sibling care | 41.9 | 60.4 | 60.0 | 60.2 | 72.6 | 50.0 | | √ |
| Lack of Interest in child's education | 32.9 | 23.1 | 65.8 | 64.1 | 39.0 | 51.3 | √ | |
| Temporary migration | 2.9 | 10.3 | 17.4 | 10.2 | 19.4 | 9.0 | | √ |
| Child's illness | 68.1 | 65.4 | 27.4 | 26.9 | | | √ | |
| Participation in religious and social function | 32.6 | 24.4 | 26.8 | 21.8 | | | | |
| Lack of facilities in school | - | - | 32.6 | 39.7 | 12.6 | 1.3 | √ | √ |
| Shortage of teachers | | | 62.9 | 73.1 | | | √ | |
| Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school | | | 26.8 | 19.2 | 4.8 | 3.8 | √ | √ |
| Difficult access to school especially in rainy season | | | 18.7 | 19.2 | | | | |
| Lack of proper monitoring to bring children to school | | | | | | | √ | |

**LIST OF AGENCIES WHICH CONDUCTED
THE STUDY IN DIFFERENT STATES**

| Name of Agency | State |
|---|--|
| Deptt. of Education, Rabindra Bharti University, Kolkata- | West Bengal |
| Deptt. of Commerce, Himachal Pradesh University | Himachal Pradesh |
| Centre of Advanced Study in Education, Department of Education, MS University of Baroda, | Gujarat |
| TNS Mode Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi | Karnataka, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Chhatisgarh, Kerala |
| Mode Services Pvt. Ltd. Delhi | Madhya Pradesh |
| Progressive Research Aids Pvt. Ltd. Pune | Maharashtra |
| Centre for Action Research and Training, Bhubaneswar | Orissa |
| Social Policy Research Institute, Jaipur, Rajasthan | Rajasthan |
| The Indian Institute of Public Opinion Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi | Uttar Pradesh |
| Social & Rural Research Institute - IMRB International, New Delhi | Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh |
| ORG Centre for Social Research New Delhi | Assam, Haryana, J&K, Punjab, Delhi |

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