

A STUDY OF ENROLMENT AND RETENTION PATTERN OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN DISTRICT BHOPAL

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Abstract:

The study was conducted to explore the enrolment and retention pattern of male and female children in elementary education. The sample was drawn from Bhopal district. The study has brought out that Right to Education Act has definitely helped in increased enrolment rates and has also reduced the gender gap in enrolment at primary, upper-primary and elementary levels. It was also found that the retention rate in 2012-13 at primary and upper-primary level is higher than the retention rate in 2009-10. RTE has definitely increased the retention pattern of boys and girls at primary, upper-primary and elementary levels.

Key Words: Enrolment, Retention and Right to Education

Introduction:

In the era of liberalization, globalization and privatization, education plays a significant role in the multifaceted development of a nation and its people. As elementary education forms the foundation for all level of learning and development, it is imperative that it has in place strong elementary school driven education system. Therefore to achieve the goal of universalization of elementary education in India, Govt. of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Department of Education have initiated various programs. Recently Right to Education Act was enforced from April 1 2010, to ensure that every child gets the quality elementary education. Three years on, the act seem suspended in vacuum. Therefore there is need to study the enrolment and retention pattern in these aspects.

Statement of The Problem:

The study specifically reads as “A study of enrolment and retention pattern of elementary education in district Bhopal”.

Objectives of the Study:

- To study enrolment pattern of male and female children in elementary education.
- To study retention pattern of male and female children in elementary education.

Methodology:

- In the present study descriptive survey method was employed.

Tools Used:

- In present investigation data was collected through self-constructed information Blanks,

interviews and focus group discussions with DEO and other officials of Bhopal District.

Sample:

The sample of the study was drawn from the District Education Office, Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh state.

Statistical Technique Used:

The data obtained through information blank and official information was classified amongst different pre-decided categories like gender, locale, group etc., and was put to statistical treatment by way of computing percentage.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

Objective 1: To study enrolment pattern of male and female children in elementary education.

Analysis of enrolment pattern at elementary level in Bhopal district i.e. at primary level, upper primary level and elementary level was done. This analysis was made at two points of time period i.e. before the enforcement of RTE Act (2009-10) and 3 yrs after enforcement of the Act i.e. 2012-13. Enrolment pattern of children at elementary level (2009-10) is shown in table 1.

Table No.1

Enrolment Pattern of children at elementary level (2009-10)

Age-Group (6-14 Years)	Boys	Girls	Total
Population	249324	224895	474219
Enrolment	248749	224377	473126

Table no. 1 indicates that in 2009-10 out of total enrolment of 473126, the boys were 248749 and girls were 224377 which were 52.58% and 47.42% share of total enrolment of boys and girls respectively. 575 boys and 518 girls were still unenrolled. The share of boys and girls in enrolment is almost equal to the share in population. Enrolment pattern of children at elementary level 2012-13 is shown in table no. 2.

Table No.2

Enrolment Pattern of children at Elementary-level (2012-13)

Age-Group (6-14 Years)	Boys	Girls	Total
Population	217482	211426	428908
Enrolment	217089	210912	428001
Ner (Net Enrolment Rate)	9.82%	99.76%	99.79%

Table 2 indicates that in 2012-13 out of total enrolment of 428001 the boys were 217089 and girls were 210912 which were 50.72% and 49.27% share of total enrolment of boys and girls, respectively. 393 boys and 504 girls were still found un-enrolled.

Comparative enrolment pattern of male and female children:

The Enrolment pattern of male and female children in Bhopal district is given in table 3.

Table No. 3

Enrolment Pattern at Elementary Schools in Bhopal

S. No.	Enrolment	2009-10		2012-13	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1.	Primary level	52.50%	47.50%	50.78%	49.22%
2.	Upper-primary level	52.62%	47.38%	50.63%	49.37%
3.	Elementary level	52.58%	47.42%	50.72%	49.28%

The pattern clearly indicates the equality of percentage in enrolment of boys and girls in 2012-2013 and shows that girl's enrolment was less in 2009-10 which improved due to RTE. The enrolment in 2012-13 at primary and upper-primary level is higher than the enrolment in 2009-10. RTE has definitely reduced the gender gap in

enrolment at primary, upper-primary and elementary levels.

Objective2: To study retention pattern of male and female children in elementary education.

Analysis of retention pattern of children in primary and upper-primary education was also made at two points of time-before enforcement of RTE Act (2009-10) and after enforcement of RTE Act (2012-13). Table 4 shows the retention rates of children at primary and upper-primary levels before enforcement of RTE Act i.e. 2009-10.

Table No.4

Retention Rates of Children (2009-10)

Level	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Level	82.22%	75.86%	79.07%
Upper- Primary Level	86.07%	79.98%	82.82%

Source- Zila Shiksha Kendra, Bhopal

Table no.4 indicates that the retention rate at primary level is nearly 79% and at upper primary level it is nearly 83%. The gender gap at primary level in retention rate is 6.36% and at upper primary level in retention rate is 6.09%. It also indicate that the retention rate at primary level is nearly 80% and at upper primary level, it is nearly 82% in 2009-10. The gender gap at primary level in retention rate is 6.5%. The gender gap at upper primary level in retention rate is 6%.

Table No.5

Retention Pattern of Children at Primary and Upper-Primary level (2012-13)

Level	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Level	99.02%*	91.36%*	95.23%
Upper Primary Level	99.85%	92.87%	96.14%

(Source: RR & CR-Cohort study/ DISE/Average Attendance-IPMS)

* estimated on the basis of the data of Retention Rates 2009-10

Table no. 5 indicates that the retention rate at primary level is nearly 95% and at upper primary

level it is nearly 96% in 2012-13. The gender gap at primary level in retention rate is 7.5%. The gender gap at upper primary level in retention rate is 7%. It also shows that in 2012-13 there is around 16.16% increase in the retention rate at primary level and around 13.32% increase at upper primary level, as compared to 2009-10. Not detaining children up to completion of the elementary education, eliminating examination system at elementary level so that students do not feel fear and anxiety and ban of corporal punishment by RTE Act are some of the reasons which have helped in increasing retention rate.

Comparative retention pattern of male and female children:

Table No. 6
Retention Pattern at Elementary Schools in Bhopal

S. No.	Retention Pattern	2009-10	2012-13
1.	Retention pattern of boys at primary level	82.22%	99.02%
2.	Retention pattern of girls at primary level	75.86%	91.36%
3.	Retention pattern of boys at upper-primary level	86.07%	99.85%
4.	Retention pattern of girls at upper-primary level	79.98%	92.87%

It was found that the retention rate in 2012-13 at primary and upper-primary level is higher

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than the retention rate in 2009-10. RTE has definitely increased the retention pattern of boys and girls at primary, upper-primary and elementary levels.

Major Findings Of The Study:

- There is equality of percentage in enrolment of boys and girls in 2012-2013 and shows that girl's enrolment was less in 2009-10 which improved due to RTE. The enrolment in 2012-13 at primary and upper-primary level is higher than the enrolment in 2009-10. RTE has definitely reduced the gender gap in enrolment at primary, upper-primary and elementary levels.
- It was found that the retention rate in 2012-13 at primary and upper-primary level is higher than the retention rate in 2009-10. RTE has definitely increased the retention pattern of boys and girls at primary, upper-primary and elementary levels.

Suggestions for Further Studies:

1. The studies may be conducted by comparing different states.
2. Different variables like aptitude, attitude, motivation, interest and other allied variable of children may be taken into consideration in research.
3. A comparative study of private schools and government school enrolment and retention pattern can be taken up to improve the quality of education in both the type of schools.