Research abstract

Area/Subject: Enrolment & Retention in schools
Stage: Primary
Topic: A STUDY ON ENROLMENT AND RETENTION IN GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT

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Abstract :

1.**Introduction**:
Achieving UEE is a threefold challenge. The first one involves enrolling children in schools while the second is to make sure that they are retained in the school education system.

The dropout has been a perennial problem in our society. Child that drops out of school loses its chance of educating itself is missed forever. In order to prevent dropout, and in the event of dropout has already happened, there is a need of doing something on war foot which all the responsible authorities, agencies, the community, school, and family with their own strategies and methods and resources should attempt. Otherwise dropout would be a regular feature of our society.

Some of the definitions drawn are as follows:

Net Primary school enrolment rate (%)[1]: Number of children of official primary school age who are enrolled in primary education as a percentage of the total children of the official school age population. The enrolment of the same age-group at secondary level is also included.

The **Retention Rate: It** indicates the percentage of students who remain at a school after they begin studying there. A high retention rate suggests that the school provides a supportive environment to the student to continue his studies.

The **Transition Rate** indicates the percentage of students who have transitioned from one level of education to the next. A high transition level indicates a high level of access and vice-versa.

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[1] https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/99

Out of school children-OOSC can be classified as 1.Never enrolled children and 2.Drop out children.

- ❖ **Never enrolled children:** Children who have never enrolled in school during their compulsory school age(5years 10 months to 14 years as per GoK)are categorized as "Never Enrolled Children"
- ❖ **Dropout Children:** Children who withdraw from the regular school before the completion of their compulsory school age (5years 4 months to 14 years as per GoK) are considered as dropouts.

Dropout indicates continuous absenteeism of a child to school. As per Gok.any child who is absent to class continuously for seven days in a week for any reason is a dropout.

2.**Objectives of the study.**

a) To understand the causes and consequences of dropout and the status of Retention   in the Government primary Schools.
b) To find out the major causes for children to drop out of their school in the study area.
c) To suggest the remedial measures to reduce the incidence of drop-outs.

3.Methodology:

1.**Sample**: Area of the Study—Bangalore Rural District

The district has four blocks. Owing to time constraints, the data from only 8 schools (LPS & HPS) from four blocks where the drop out problem still persists   is collected.

2. **Tools:** Tools were designed specifically to collect the information from the schools. They were the basis to interact with the teachers, members of community, parents of drop outs, dropouts and also to collect the information from school records. Information collected by using the **Interview Schedule** for teacher,parents,dropouts, member of community provided required insights into the dropout problem in the schools of the district.

3.**Procedure of data collection**: This paper is based on both the primary and the secondary data and the information regarding retention and dropout rates at the schools of Bangalore Rural District.

Primary data is collected through the field study undertaken in the four blocks of the Bangalore Rural district. The secondary data and the information are collected from the concerned Official

website of School education, GoK and also from different published sources on the problem of dropouts.

4.**Data analysis**:Data was analysed with the help of SPSS software & also used tools of Microsoft office like Microsoft excel.

Some of the important findings are enlisted here as under:

1. Dropout rate in Bangalore Rural District is marginally lower than neighboring districts such as Ramanagar, Mandya and Chikkaballapura.
2. More number of students who dropped out of school   are Muslim and SC children.
3. Major reasons for dropping out are
    - ❖ Financial constraints
    - ❖ Lack of interest on the part of children
    - ❖ Lack of parental interest
    - ❖ Migration
    - ❖ Bad influence
4. Dropout rate is less in the elementary level but high in the secondary level.
5. It has been observed that where both the SDMC president and the school HM are active positive outcomes in mainstreaming OOSC have occurred.
6. Dropout rates are different in nature in Bangalore rural district. In case of Boys it is recorded that out of 100, 40% of boys drop out due to personal reasons like lack of interest and 30% due to family reasons,25% socio- economic factors and for the remaining 5% school is the cause. This was witnessed during the field visit.
7. Number of male dropouts is more than that of female dropouts mainly because of the reason of lack of interest in studies. Another reason is that some of them are put in madrasas for getting religious education.
8. Retention rate in Bangalore Rural district in both the primary and the upper primary level is increasing marginally every year.
9. As per the dropouts information later provided by the ECOs of the taluks, extra dropouts are listed out as follows:
    - → Hosakote: Migration (29), Madrasa (01)

$\rightarrow$ Doddaballapur: Migration (03)

$\rightarrow$ Devanahalli: Short-Term dropouts (04) out of that- migration (02), Left with T.C.but did not join 6th std., (01.), and attending household work (01).

10. Library in a separate room with furniture is in existence in only a few schools. Usually books are kept in almirahs.
11. Most of the Schools lack science lab and computer lab facilities. Smart board,transportation facilities are not there in any of the schools visited.

Implications of the study for school education: If the focus is on implementing the suggestions in the best possible way it will likely be helpful in reducing the dropout rate in the district to certain extent.Findings & conclusion mentioned in the study are also important in preventing school dropouts& enhancing Retention rates.

1.It is important to provide the basic amenities for the schools.In addition, attractive ICT tools should be used for teaching & learning. Also transportation facilities for the children should be arranged wherever required.

2. To tackle situations which can impede children's education like serious illness of members of the family,death of bread winner of the family arrangements should be there to provide security & succor so that children can attend school.

3.To make school attractive to the children useful & interesting programmes chalked out with the active involvement of the community should find place in the school curriculum.

4. Programmes of the department should be so framed that there are enough opportunities to foster a strong link between school & community so that both are mutually benefitted.