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Main Streaming of out of School Children with Society Support

Economics

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ABSTRACT

India has 47 million youth of secondary and higher secondary school-going age dropping out of school. Surprising fact is that the enrollment in class 10 is 77 percent, but enrollment in class 11 is only 52 per cent. Enrollment declined by about half between class 11 and 12 and college. Most children drop out of school with Uttar Pradesh leading the ranking with 1.6 million out-of-school children, followed by Bihar and Rajasthan. Present study is focused on control on drop out of school students with the intervention of society members, NGO's, school teachers.

KEYWORDS:

Society Support, School Children

Introduction:

The national dropout rate at the primary level was 4.34% in 2014-15 and it was even higher at secondary level at 17.86%. India has made significant progress in raising enrollment rates for primary education. North eastern states have a low density population with numerous languages and a difficult terrain, all of which prove to be hurdles in the educational development of states. According to UDISE (Unified Distance Information System for Education) 2013-14, the average annual dropout rate for primary level was 4.67% and for upper primary level 3.13% during 2012-13 in the India. However, schools have been less successful at preventing dropouts during this critical learning phase.

There are many reasons why a child might drop out from school as migration of families, child marriage, lack of school infrastructure, drinking water, toilets etc. Poverty is big reason of dropout of children. In rural areas lack of teachers along with poor family support is a major cause of frequent dropouts. Most families prefer to keep their children engaged in household chores or field work. In a family where financial crises are existing child's education has no space. A frequent school change by students was another reason for drop outs. Distance to school also tends to increase dropout possibilities as parents deem it unsafe for a child especially girls. The child labour does not mitigate the poverty of family, it rather perpetuate poverty. This is because children engaged in child labour are deprived of facilities for education. Many of them tend to remain illiterate throughout their lives. Since they are not able to develop proper livelihood skills, they end up as labourers throughout their lives.

The central govt. is implementing several schemes in collaboration with state govt. to ensure development in education sector. The sarv shiksha abhiyan is being implemented to enhance enrolment and retention of children, with context specific intervention of SC/ST students and a multi pronged approach for reducing dropout rates. This includes strengthening of school infrastructure and facilities, residential hostel buildings, appointment of additional teachers, regular training of teachers, provision for free text books and uniform to children, residential facilities for upper primary school girls from SC, ST, OBC, minorities. Mid day meal scheme is also being implemented with a view to enhance enrollment and retention of children.

There is a need to identify out of school children in the children of age group 6-14 and to admit them into nearby school in class appropriate to their age. It is possible to achieve this goal by educating and persuading parents of identified out of school children and with the active support of society. Dropout rate rises after class V because in this age child forced to work as child labour. Local, social and cultural factors play a major role in school retention and therefore any intervention to reduce dropouts need to be rooted in local context. Early intervention can be made to bring the child back to school. The high dropout is eroding the girls being made by increasing access to education. Therefore, there is need to check the drop out rat at primary and upper primary education or to eliminate altogether the phenomenon of dropout. This is possible through educating the parents of children. They need to be sensitized about the importance of education for development of children. Education develops life and livelihood skills.

Methodology:

Investigators went one household to another in 5 selected villages and interacted with parents to identify out of school children in the age group 6-14. Investigators tried to reach these students with the help of NGO, society leaders, school teachers and social activists. Parents of this drop out students are advised to send children in school. A motivational programme was organized to promote students to sending schools. After 3 months, survey was again conducted and drop out students were marked. Collected data was converted into percentage and comparatively analyzed.

Table-1: Status of Out of School Children in Villages

Village	No. of Out of School students (%) Before Orientation Programme		No. of Out of School students (%) After Orientation Programme	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
V1	12	14	9	11
V2	11	12	7	10
V3	15	18	12	14
V4	14	16	12	13
V5	18	22	14	19

Before orientation programme in village V1, dropout boys were 12% and girls were 14%. After orientation programme dropout boys % turned into 9% and girls into 11%. In village V2, 11% dropout boys converted into 7% and 12% girls into 10%. In village V3, 15% boys decreased to 12% and 18% girls decreased to 14%. Similarly in village V4 and V5, drop out boys and girls % decreased after orientation programme.

Conclusion:

The dropout rate has been decreasing continuously over the years with better access to schooling facilities, improved school infrastructure and deployment of additional teachers under sarv shiksha abhiyan. The issue of out of school children has contributed significantly to the failure in achieving goal of education for all. The issue can be addressed appropriately by seeking support of society leaders, social activists in each village. Number of out of school children decreased after orientation programme with the help of society. School should respond quickly to early indicators of a potential dropout, such as absenteeism by counseling the students and parents.

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