



The Educational Status in Banjarawala Cluster of Dehradun (Uttarakhand)

KEYWORDS

education, primary, gender, social, teacher-student ratio

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ABSTRACT *This paper analyses the educational development of Uttarakhand in general and cluster Banjarawala in particular ten years after the formation of the state in 2000. The micro study is based on secondary data collected at cluster level and throws light on the important educational indicators like school enrollment and gender and social fabric of the class and teacher-student ratio.*

INTRODUCTION

Higher education has become a topic of discussion among our policy makers only in the recent past. This is because universalisation of primary education itself was not a right before 2009. When higher education in India is studied one comes across two major flaws one is the inability of our high education system to empower our youth and make them employable and other is the weak foundation of the students enrolled in higher education. This weakening began right at the time when their basic education began. Hence one cannot aim for a strong higher education system without focusing on the primary education of any state.

Education in India has many dimensions including both quantitative and qualitative. Though qualitative dimensions hold equal importance, in this paper education indicators – the quantitative measures have been studied. These dimensions vary with different geographical regions. Some areas show low turnout of students belonging to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes while others have hardly any girls appearing in the schools for primary education. The government has been coming out with various schemes to encourage children to attend school ever since independence. These schemes include Mahila Samakhya, Mid Day Meal Scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, etc.

EDUCATION IN UTTARAKHAND

Uttarakhand is a perfect example of blending tradition with technology, religious philosophy with scientific temper. There is unlimited serenity and tranquility in the state due to its rich biodiversity. It is the 27th state of India and has immense potential for developing tourism, agro-based and forest-based industries. Uttarakhand's gross State domestic product for 2009-10 was estimated at Rs 40159 crore at current price. The current literacy rate in Uttarakhand is 71.65 which is higher than the national literacy rate of 65.38%. The female literacy rate in Uttarakhand is 59.63%.

The district with highest literacy rate is Dehradun (78.99%) while Haridwar has the lowest literacy rate. Since our current study revolves around elementary education, only the primary and upper primary portion of entire school education will be focused. As per 2009-10 figures, the state has around 4296 senior basic schools, 488127 students studying in these schools and 15300 teachers teaching them. Sarva shiksha abhiyan was launched in the whole country including the hilly state of Uttarakhand in 2000 to be continued for next ten years. For operational proficiency each

district is divided into blocks which are further divided into clusters. Each cluster has eight to ten schools which are coordinated by the cluster resource coordinator. The cluster Banjarawala of Raipur block of Dehradun district was chosen for carrying out the study.

The secondary data for conducting the analysis was taken from the reports which the Cluster Resource Coordinator forwards to the Block Resource Coordinator. The table drawn below depicts the class wise student enrolment status of the cluster for the month of December, 2010. It includes both government and government aided schools in the cluster.

STUDENT ENROLMENT STATUS (AS ON DECEMBER 2010)

PRIMARY AND UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS BANJARAWALA CLUSTER, RAIPUR BLOCK, DEHRADUN DISTRICT

NUMBER OF CHILDREN				
CLASS	Govt. PS.	Govt. Aided PS/UPS	Recognised PS/UPS	TOTAL
I	290	0	208	498
II	238	0	179	417
III	213	0	153	366
IV	182	0	121	303
V	152	0	114	266
VI	144	32	76	252
VII	191	27	70	288
VIII	155	34	65	254
TOTAL	1565	93	986	2644

PS-Primary School (I-V)

UPS- Upper Primary School (VI-VIII)

The total number of students is 2644. The second table given below shows the gender based division of the students in different classes. A ratio of 1.05 exists between the total number of boys and total number of girls enrolled. As compared to other semi rural areas, there is enough awareness towards female education.

GENDER BASED DIVISION OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN

CLASS	NUMBER OF BOYS	NUMBER OF GIRLS	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN
I	271	227	498
II	220	197	417
III	196	170	366
IV	161	142	303
V	143	123	266
VI	117	135	252
VII	128	160	288
VIII	119	135	254
TOTAL	1355	1289	2644

There is further caste based division of the students. This was done to get an idea of the social fabric of the class. The figures prove participation of students from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes as well as minorities in the schools.

CASTE BASED DIVISION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Class	Gen eral			SC			OB C			Minori ty		
	boys	girl s	tot al	boy s	girl s	tot al	boy s	girl s	tot al	boys	girl s	tot al
I	165	143	308	23	21	44	20	18	38	63	45	108
II	136	122	258	21	20	41	26	23	49	37	32	69
III	123	88	211	16	26	42	23	25	48	34	31	65
IV	103	85	188	13	15	28	17	15	32	28	27	55
V	80	61	141	17	21	38	27	14	41	19	27	46
VI	57	69	126	17	17	34	19	16	35	24	33	57
VII	75	82	157	11	10	21	9	23	32	33	45	78
VIII	62	82	144	9	10	19	19	13	32	29	30	59
Total	801	732	1533	127	140	267	160	147	307	267	270	537

An important parameter of the quality of education taken into consideration while framing policies both nationally and globally is the existing teacher-student ratio. As per the extracted data, as shown in the table below, the teacher student ratio turns out to be 31.32 which implies that there is availability of one teacher for every 30 students.

TEACHER STUDENT RATIO

Name of school	Number of students	Number of teachers	Teacher student ratio
P S Banjarawala	228	6	38
Bandh Visthapit Banjarawala	37	2	18.5
PS Kedarpur	40	2	20
PS Kargi I	236	6	39.33
PS Kargi II	38	2	19
PS Moth-rowala	103	3	34.33
PS Daudwala	69	2	34.5
PS Ramgarh	32	2	16
total	783	25	

Average teacher student ratio in the cluster=783/25=31.32

CONCLUSION

Education holds the key to economic growth, social transformation, modernization along with national integration. Education is the single and strongest agent of social change that paves way for community development in a holistic manner. It is both a means and a medium to enhance the individual's potential as well as its use in most effective way. Education and primary education in particular is all the more important as it is the manner in which a child interacts with the outside world in an organized manner. From the above study one can conclude that –

- i) 2644 students are enrolled in primary schools in the cluster
- ii) Out of this 1355 are boys and 1289 are girls
- iii) 1533 belong to general category, 267 to SC, 307 to ST and 537 to Minority
- iv) There is teacher-student ratio of 31.32

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