

Girls Education and Their Enrollment, Attendance and Absenteeism: A Study in Four Districts of Uttar Pradesh



Economics

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ABSTRACT

Education is the most important lever for social, economic and political transformation. A well-educated population, equipped with the relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills is essential for economic and social development in the twenty-first century. KGBVs are residential upper primary schools for girls from SC, ST, OBC and Muslim communities. KGBVs are set up in areas of scattered habitations where schools are at great distances and are a challenge to the security of girls. This often compels girls to discontinue their education. NPEGL is implemented in educationally backward blocks (EBB) and addresses the needs of girls who are in as well as out of school. NPEGL also reaches out to girls who are enrolled in school, but do not attend school regularly.

Introduction

Education is the most potent tool for socio-economic mobility and a key instrument for building an equitable and just society. Education provides skills and competencies for economic well-being. Education strengthens democracy by imparting to citizens the tools needed to fully participate in the governance process. Education also acts as an integrative force in society, imparting values that foster social cohesion and national identity. According to Mahatma Gandhi (Harijan 1st December, 1933) 'Educate one man you educate one person, but educate a woman and you educate a whole civilization'.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

The KGBVs scheme are residential upper primary schools was introduced by the Government of India in August 2004, then integrated in the SSA program, to provide educational facilities for girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minority communities and families below the poverty line in Educationally Backward Blocks. KGBVs are set up in areas of scattered habitations where schools are at great distances and are a challenge to the security of girls. This often compels girls to discontinue their education. KGBV addresses this through setting up residential schools, in the block itself.

National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGL)

NPEGL is implemented in educationally backward blocks (EBB) and addresses the needs of girls who are in as well as out of school. NPEGL also reaches out to girls who are enrolled in school, but do not attend school regularly. NPEGL emphasizes the responsibility of teachers to recognize vulnerable girls and pay special attention to bring them out of their state of vulnerability and prevent them from dropping out. Both NPEGL and KGBV are expected to work in tandem to complement efforts under SSA to ensure inclusion of all girls and provide them quality education.

Objective

Gender disparities still persist in rural areas and among disadvantaged communities. Looking at enrolment, attendance and absenteeism trends, there remain significant gaps of girls at the elementary level as compared to boys, especially at the upper primary levels. In this light, the main objectives of this paper are as follow:

- (1) To access girls' education in four districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- (2) To access enrolment, attendance and absenteeism trends in KGBVs and NPEGL.
- (3) To suggest some measures to improve enrolment, attendance and absenteeism.

Methodology

This paper is based on concurrent monitoring of SSA scheme in four districts of Uttar Pradesh. A total number of 3 KGBVs

schools and 5 NPEGL from Ambedkar Nagar, 3 KGBVs schools and 4 NPEGL are from Raibareilly, 3 KGBVs and 3 NPEGL from Bahraich and 3 KGBVs and 4 NPEGL schools from Gonda district have been monitored. Both Primary and Secondary data has been collected for the present study through well-structured schedule. All the primary data has been gathered from the sample schools by making a field visit. Secondary data and information has been procured from BSA office and through Internet.

Sample Design of the Study

A total number of 12 KGBVs and 16 NPEGL schools are from four Districts namely Ambedkar Nagar, Raibareilly, Bahraich and Gonda, of Uttar Pradesh has been monitored. The data tabulation and analysis was done on the computer by using SPSS package.

Girls in NPEGL

The National Programme for Girls Education at Elementary Level (NPEGL) is running in Ambedkar Nagar, Raibareilly, Bahraich and Gonda districts. We're being run in 16 Sample Upper Primary Schools. Table-1 depicts that 1365 total girls were enrolled in these NPEGL sample schools. Out of these 1365 (100 per cent) enrolled girls students, 803 (58.83 per cent) were found present, on the day of visit to these schools.

Table-1: Girls Studying under NPEGL Scheme

Sl. No.	Particulars	Ambedkar Nagar	Raibareilly	Bahraich	Gonda	Total
1	Number of NPEGL	5 (100.00)	4 (100.00)	3 (100.00)	4 (100.00)	16 (100.00)
2	Number of Girls Enrolled	508 (100.00)	629 (100.00)	74 (100.00)	154 (100.00)	1365 (100.00)
3	Number of Girls present on the day of visit	283 (55.71)	376 (59.78)	49 (66.22)	95 (61.69)	803 (58.83)

Source: Field Survey, SSA Programme, District Ambedkar Nagar, Raibareilly, Bahraich and Gonda

Table-2 shows class-wise enrollment and attendance of girls present at the time of visit to the schools for NPEGL. It also shows that a very few number of girl's, class wise, not attending schools more than 10 days. Out of a total 1365 (100 per cent) enrolled girls students only 803 (58.83 per cent) were found present. Only 46 girls were found not attending school more than ten days.

Table-2: Attendance According to School Register (NPEGEL)

Sl. No.	Particular Enrolled (No. of Girls)		Ambedkar Nagar		Raibareilly		Bahraich		Gonda	
			Enrolled (No. of Girls)	Present (No. of Girls)	Enrolled (No. of Girls)	Present (No. of Girls)	Enrolled (No. of Girls)	Present (No. of Girls)	Enrolled (No. of Girls)	Present (No. of Girls)
1	No. of Girls present at the time of visit	6 Classes	121(100.0)	61(50.41)	197(100.00)	133(67.51)	25(100.00)	15(60.00)	46(100.00)	35(76.09)
		7 Classes	167(100.0)	90(53.89)	218(100.00)	107(49.08)	29(100.00)	18(62.07)	50(100.00)	27(54.00)
		8 Classes	220(100.0)	132(60.00)	214(100.00)	136(63.55)	20(100.00)	16(80.00)	58(100.00)	33(56.90)
		Total	508(100.0)	283(55.71)	629(100.00)	376(59.78)	74(100.00)	49(66.22)	154(100.00)	95(61.69)
2	No. of Girls not attending School more than 10 days	6 Classes	121(100.0)	5(4.13)	197(100.00)	14 (7.11)	25(100.00)	--	46(100.00)	--
		7 Classes	167(100.0)	3(1.80)	218(100.00)	9 (4.13)	29(100.00)	--	50(100.00)	1(2.00)
		8 Classes	220(100.0)	3(1.36)	214(100.00)	9 (4.21)	20(100.00)	--	58(100.00)	2(3.45)
		Total	508(100.0)	11(2.17)	629(100.00)	32(5.09)	74(100.00)	--	154(100.00)	3(1.95)
	Total NPEGEL Schools		5 (100.00)		4 (100.00)		3 (100.00)		4 (100.00)	

Source: Field Survey, SSA Programme, District Ambedkar Nagar, Raibareilly, Bahraich and Gonda

Figure-1: Attendance According to School Register (NPEGEL)

Reasons of Absenteeism

In NPEGEL programme 46 students were not attending schools more than 10 days. There were eight reasons of absenteeism of girls. These were found to be the sickness, child care of siblings, family responsibilities, work for livelihood, family get together /ceremony/ relation, Social norms/ mores/ rituals, migration, and kinship (Table-3).

Table-3: Reasons of Girls' Absenteeism

Sl. No.	Reasons	Ambedkar Nagar	Raibareilly	Bahraich	Gonda
		NPEGEL	NPEGEL	NPEGEL	NPEGEL
1	Sickness (Self or Family Members)	5	11	-	2
2	Child Care of Siblings	3	-	-	-
3	Family Responsibilities	1	9	-	-

4	Work for livelihood	1	-	-	-
5	Family get together/ ceremony/ Relation	1	6	-	-
6	Social Norms/ Mores/ Rituals	-	4	-	-
7	Migration	-	2	-	-
8	Kinship	-	-	-	1
Total number of students		11	32	-	3

Source: Field Survey, SSA Programme, District Ambedkar Nagar, Raibareilly, Bahraich and Gonda

Enrollment and Attendance

Table-4 shows that the social category and class wise enrolment and present of students on the day of our visit in these KGBVs. It has been observed that the total enrolled girls from six to eight classes, highest percentage belonged to SC and OBC group followed by minority and general category. There was no girl from ST in any district. Out of a total student, 73.40 per cent students in Ambedkar Nagar, 74.49 per cent students in Raibareilly, 28.85 per cent students in Bahraich and 49.00 per cent students in Gonda district were present on the day of our visit in these KGBVs. The absentee girls were almost equal in each of the social category in Ambedkar Nagar and Bahraich district. Thus, absenteeism was the major problem of the girl studying in the KGBVs of Bahraich district. The girls those were not present on the day of our visit in the school, their application were not found in the KGBVs. In this regard, attendance of KGBVs was too low (less than 50.00 per cent) in Bahraich and Gonda districts.

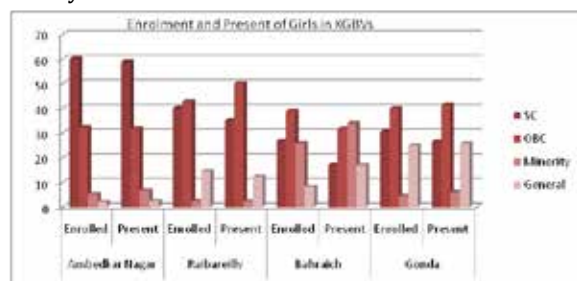
Table-4: Enrolment and Attendance of Girls in KGBVs on the day of Visit

Ambedkar Nagar									
Sl. No	Social Category	Class 6		Class 7		Class 8		Total	
		Enrolled	Present	Enrolled	Present	Enrolled	Present	Enrolled	Present
1	SC	72 (57.14)	53 (54.08)	75 (65.22)	52 (63.41)	23 (56.10)	17 (62.96)	170 (60.28)	122 (58.94)
2	OBC	39 (30.95)	31 (31.63)	34 (29.57)	25 (30.49)	18 (43.90)	10 (37.04)	91 (32.27)	66 (31.88)
3	Minority	13 (10.32)	12 (12.24)	2 (1.74)	2 (2.44)	-	-	15 (5.32)	14 (6.76)
4	General	2 (1.59)	2 (2.04)	4 (3.48)	3 (3.66)	-	-	6 (2.13)	5 (2.42)

Total	126 (100.0)	98 (100.0)	115 (100.0)	82 (100.0)	41 (100.0)	27 (100.0)	282 (100.0)	207(73.40) (100.00)
Raibareilly								
1 SC	38 (40.43)	25 (35.21)	43 (43.00)	24 (33.33)	37 (37.00)	28 (36.84)	118 (40.14)	77 (35.16)
2 OBC	40 (42.55)	35 (49.30)	41 (41.00)	37 (51.39)	45 (45.00)	38 (50.00)	126 (42.86)	110 (50.23)
3 Minority	1 (1.06)	1 (1.41)	2 (2.00)	2 (2.78)	4 (4.00)	2 (2.63)	7 (2.38)	5 (2.28)
4 General	15 (15.96)	10 (14.08)	14 (14.00)	9 (12.50)	14 (14.00)	8 (10.53)	43 (14.63)	27 (12.33)
Total	94 (100.00)	71 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	72 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	76 (100.00)	294 (100.00)	219(74.49) (100.00)
Bahraich								
1 SC	29 (21.17)	3 (12.50)	31 (33.33)	4 (14.29)	22 (29.34)	8 (22.22)	82 (26.89)	15 (17.04)
2 OBC	49 (35.77)	9 (37.50)	37 (39.78)	6 (21.43)	33 (44.00)	13 (36.11)	119 (39.01)	28 (31.82)
3 Minority	47 (34.31)	5 (20.83)	22 (23.66)	16 (57.14)	10 (13.33)	9 (25.00)	79 (25.90)	30 (34.09)
4 General	12 (8.76)	7 (29.17)	3 (3.23)	2 (7.14)	10 (13.33)	6 (16.67)	25 (8.20)	15 (17.04)
Total	137 (100.00)	24 (100.00)	93 (100.00)	28 (100.00)	75 (100.00)	36 (100.00)	305 (100.00)	88(28.85) (100.00)
Gonda								
1 SC	15 (22.06)	6 (13.64)	44 (35.20)	18 (30.00)	33 (30.84)	15 (34.88)	92 (30.67)	39 (26.53)
2 OBC	32 (47.06)	21 (47.73)	50 (40.00)	25 (41.67)	38 (35.51)	15 (34.88)	120 (40.00)	61 (41.50)
3 Minority	4 (5.88)	4 (9.09)	6 (4.80)	4 (6.67)	3 (2.80)	1 (2.33)	13 (4.33)	9 (6.12)
4 General	17 (25.00)	13 (29.55)	25 (20.00)	13 (21.67)	33 (30.84)	12 (27.91)	75 (25.00)	38 (25.85)
Total	68 (100.00)	44 (100.00)	125 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	107 (100.00)	43 (100.00)	300 (100.00)	147(49.00) (100.00)

Source: Field Survey, SSA Programme, District Ambedkar Nagar, Raibareilly, Bahraich and Gonda

Figure-2: Enrolment and Attendance of Girls in KGBVs on the day of Visit



SUGGETIONS

- Absenteeism in NPEGEL should be control by teachers of the corresponding school, by making counseling with students and parents.
- Those students are not attending school more than ten days without any information must be traced out by approaching to student's residence.
- Absenteeism was the major problem of the girls studying in these KGBV's and should be controlled strictly by the teachers of the related schools.
- Since KGBV's are residential schooling for girls for their overall development therefore head teacher should be responsible for all girl's health and good quality of education.

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