

# Perception of Head Masters towards Decline Rate of Enrollment in Government Schools

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## ABSTRACT

The system of elementary education in India has yet to be analysed critically- a critique that would seek to probe the linkages between education and social change. The study seek to find out the perception of head master towards decline rate of enrollment in elementary government schools in Odisha. a sample 120 headmaster were asked about the causes of low enrollment in schools. The findings of the study revealed that socio-economic condition, parental illiteracy, distance of schools are the major causes of low enrollment in government schools.

## 1. Introduction

Education is a deliberate enterprise and all nations aim at providing good quality educational programmes to its citizens so as to significantly contribute towards the development of the nation. It plays an important role in the socioeconomic development of a country. It accelerates economic growth through knowledge and skill development. It also improves productive capacity and helps in reducing poverty by improving efficiency of the poorer sections. It enables a man to be real and perfect.

Government of Odisha has made lot of efforts for bringing back children to school and has been very much successful in the mission. Despite various schemes were launched to motivate children for admission in government schools, the student enrolment continues to decline in Odisha every year. The state-run primary schools failed to register large number of student enrolment in past few years whereas the admission rate is higher in private and English-medium schools. The government data showed that the student enrolment in private

schools has increased to 102.29% in the past eight years (Odisha Sun Times Bureau, 2018). The present tried to find out headmasters opinion about decline rate of enrollment in government elementary schools of odisha.

The objectives of the paper is to find out the attitude of headmaster towards decline rate of enrollment in government elementary schools of odisha.

### Research Design

The present study was a descriptive survey type of research. A sample of 120 headmasters working in in different schools of Bolangir of Odisha. Out of 120 headmaster, 70 male and 50 female headmasters were selected purposely for the study. An opinionaire was used to collect date from the sample. Statistical technique like percentage was used for analyzing the data.

## 2. Analysis and interpretation of the data

**Table-1 Response of headmaster towards decline rate of enrollment in government primary schools**

Sr. No.	Items	Agree	Disagree
1	Distance of government school from the children	53 (44.16)	67 (55.83)
2	Birth rate and age at admission	86 (71.66)	34 (28.33)
3	Prevalence of private schools	94 (78.33)	26 (21.66)
4	Lack of Quality Education in the Government schools	93 (77.50)	27 (22.50)
5	Preference of parents for private schools	55 (45.83)	65 (54.16)
6	Lack of quality and quantity of teachers in government schools	46 (38.33)	74 (61.66)
7	Lack of Physical facilities in the government schools	91 (75.83)	29 (24.16)
8	Inadequacy of text book	78 (65.00)	42 (35.00)
9	Excess appointment of shikshya sahayak	31 (25.83)	89 (74.16)
10	Illiteracy of parents	87 (72.50)	33 (27.50)

Paranthesis indicates percentages

It is reveled from the table-1 that the a percentage of 44.16% headmaster perceived that distance of availability of government school from the children is the causes of low

enrollment in the schools. Birth rate and early admission to the preschool is also one of the cause of low enrollment as opined by headmaster of 71.66 %. Prevalence of private school near

to village or children is another major causes of decline rate of enrollment in elementary schools as perceived by the headmaster. A high percentage like 77.50% of headmaster opined that lack of quality education in government school is also caused of low enrollment in schools. As per the opinion of headmaster regarding the lack of quality and quantity in government schools, lack of physical facilities and inadequacy of curriculum are also major causes of low enrollment in government schools. Further, the another cause of declining enrollment is illiteracy of parents as the 72.50% of headmaster said like this.

### 3. Conclusion and recommendation

Majority of headmaster viewed prevalence of private schools, lack of quality and quantity in government schools and lack of physical facilities in government schools are the major causes of low enrollment in the schools. So it may be suggested that well trained teachers should be appointed in the schools and maintained good physical facilities in the school to raise enrollment. In many cases students do not appear the final examination. After that they stop coming to

school and the problem of stagnation and drop out begins. There is an urgent need to spread awareness about the aim and objectives of UEE and SSA in the community. All the parents have to take interest in the education of their own children. Village education committee, mother teacher associations and parent teacher associations and PRI members need to play a proactive role in this regard.

Further, the headmasters opined that construction of classroom and other civil work is so difficult sometimes they feel helpless. There is unnecessary interference of community members in school activities also, inadequacy of text book, illiteracy of parents are also causes of delination of enrollment in schools. So the government should take necessary action to combat this problem by proving text book, create awareness about importance of education and maintain good standard of infrastructure in the schools. All the stakeholders need to actively participate in this mission and perform their responsibilities for the education for their wards, teachers perform willfully and children learn joyfully. Then only the universalization of elementary education becomes possible.

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