

THE STUDY OF ENROLMENT AND RETENTION OF CHILDREN OF WEAKER SECTIONS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF DELHI

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METHODOLOGY & FINDINGS

A replicative as well as comparative study between the total number of pupils; boys and girls; SC/ST, Non SC/ST Pupils and SC/ST, Non SC/ST Boys and Girls enrolled in Class I and their retention through all the classes till they reached Class V, in all the schools and selected schools of South Zone of Municipal Corporation of Delhi was carried out. The calculation was done by using cohort method for the two successive years, with two sets of data. The major findings are:

- 1 There was an increase of 3.56% in enrolment of pupils in all the schools of South Zone from 1991-92 to 1992-93.
- 2 The enrolment of SC/ST pupils had an increase of 1.29% from 1991-92 to 1992-93.
- 3 The Non SC/ST pupils had an increase of 4.85% in enrolment from 1991-92 to 1992-93.
- 4 The enrolment of girls had an increase of 2.33% in enrolment from 1991-92 to 1992-93.
5. Retention rate of pupils of resettlement colonies schools is far behind the retention rate of all schools of South Zone and still far away from the target of hundred percent retention.
- 6 Retention rate of boys in both the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 was higher in the resettlement colonies as compared to the retention rate of boys schools of rural areas in the same years.
- 7 The retention rate of girls in 1995-96 was higher in the rural areas schools as compared to the resettlement colonies schools.
- 8 The retention rate of girls in 1996-97 was appreciably higher in the resettlement colonies schools as compared to the girls schools of rural areas and boys schools of both the areas.
- 9 The girls of rural areas schools showed higher retention rate in both the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 than the boys retention rate during the same period in the selected schools of same rural areas.
- 10 The retention rate of SC/ST students was much lower as compared to the retention rate of total number of students and Non SC/ST students of all the schools (N-148) in both the years 1995-96 and 1996-97.
- 11 Though the retention rate of SC/ST boys, the main recipients of incentives, was higher than the retention rate of Non SC/ST boys in selected rural and resettlement colonies Boys schools (N-6) but this higher retention rate was marginal and non satisfactory. It was far behind the target. So this increase in the retention rate of SC/ST boys can not be attributed to the effect of the incentives.
- 12 Though a major part of the incentives provided by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi

was given to SC/ST pupils but the lower retention rate in the case of SC/ST boys and girls in all the schools (N-148) of South Zone indicate that these incentives did not seem to have helped in achieving our target of cent percent transference in Class V.

13 The contribution of SC/ST boys to the retention rate of total SC/ST Pupils of all schools (N-148) of South Zone was more than the contribution of girls.

14 The contribution of Non SC/ST boys to the retention rate of total Non SC/ST pupils of all schools (N-148) of South Zone was more than the contribution of girls.

15 Though in the year 1996-97 the retention rate of girls in selected schools (N-3) of resettlement colonies was higher than the retention rate of girls in resettlement colonies and of boys in both rural and resettlement colonies but the girls are far behind the retention rate of boys in case of retention rate of total SC/ST pupils and total Non SC/ST pupils of all schools (N148) of South Zone.

16 The M.C.D. in order to have cent percent retention of pupils in its schools had started a novel strategy of giving Mid-day meals to all the pupils of primary schools from the session 1995-96. But it is disheartening to note that retention rate of pupils of all the schools of South Zone (N-148) and sample schools of the study has reduced in the year 1996-97 than its previous year.

While going through the data and discussing all aspects regarding the enrolment number and retention rate of pupils in primary schools one point is clear that in spite of all efforts by the authorities we are still lagging behind the goal of cent percent enrolment and cent percent retention as envisaged by our Constitution.