

2. EDUCATION

2.1 Introduction

No doubt literacy and primary school enrolment rates in Pakistan are low compared with the countries of the region. But there are strong indicators that these are improving over the passage of time due to Government policies through different programmes such as SAP, PRSP etc by extending universal primary education and improving the quality of education. Education commands a large share of the overall PRSP budget. The PRSP strategy for the sector includes, improving the functioning, utilisation of existing school, improving the quality of education, increase enrolment, improving access to education and expanding the primary education system.

This chapter will cover key indicators on school attendance, enrolment rates and literacy at district levels

2.2 School attendance

The population of ten years and older which is 55% in 2004-05 compared to 51% in 2001-02. This proportion is much higher in urban areas than in rural areas and much higher in men than in women. Punjab and Sindh have the highest proportions that have ever attended school. Islamabad being geographical as part of the Punjab has been included in the Punjab indicate that 85% of the population age ten & over has ever attended the school followed by Rawalpindi at 77% , Muzaffargarh & Rajanpur districts at 40% are at the lowest. In Sindh Karachi with 78% is at the top and Jaccobabad with 34% is at the bottom. In case of N.W.F.P , Abbotabad with 67% and upper Dir with 34% are at the top and bottom respectively. In Balochistan , Quetta district with 64% is at the top however Jhal Magsi with 20% is lowest in the Balochistan as well as in the entire country.

44% of the proportion of the population 10 years and over that has completed primary level or higher has been observed in 2004-05, (Table 2.2). Similarly the districts which have highest and lowest “Ever School Attendance” also follow the same pattern of completed primary level or higher education.

2.3 Primary Enrolment rates

The GER, sometimes referred to as the participation rate, is the number of children attending primary school divided by the number of children who ought to be attending. The GERs are presented in this report in two different ways: excluding and including the katchi class and for different age groups.

Table 2.3(a) shows the gross primary level enrolment rates at National/ Provincial/ District levels excluding katchi for the age group 5-9 years and Table 2.3 (b) for age 6-10 years. The GER at National level during 2004-2005 is 86 percent. Provinces of Punjab & Sindh have shown noticeable increase in 2004-05, Table 2.3(b)-GER

primary level has been added by changing age group from 5-9 to 6-10 for reader's information. In the Punjab, Narowal district primary GRE (Age 5-9) is 130% is at the top whereas district Muzaffargarh with 66% is at the bottom. In Sindh Karachi with 111% and Jaccobabad with 43% are at the top and bottom respectively. In N.W.F.P, Abbotabad district is at the top with 117% and Kohistan district with 52% is at the bottom. In Balochistan Ketch district (110%) and Jafarabad district (33%) are at the top and bottom respectively. Jafarabad district has the lowest GRE in the entire country.

The gross enrolment rate at National Level is 82% when katchi is also included and the age group is expanded to 4-9 year olds (Table 2.4). The pattern within districts in the provinces is more or less similar to GREs when Katchi class is excluded .

The PSLM 2004-05 collects information on enrolment in all types of school including the private and government sectors. Table 2.5 shows the gross enrolment rate in government primary schools. It is calculated as the number of children enrolled in government primary schools divided by the number of children of primary school age. One of the main strategies of the Government of Pakistan is to expand public provision of primary education and this measure can be used to assess whether government schools have increased their coverage of the population, by increasing enrolments faster than the growth in population. In the Punjab province , Attock district with 96% enrolment in government schools is at the top whereas Lahore with 37% is at the bottom. In Sindh Nowshero Feroze 74% and Jaccobabad 41% are at the top and lowest in the ranks. Mansehra with 88% and Shangla with 42% in N.W.F.P are at the highest and lowest ranks respectively. In Balochistan Ketch 108% and Nasirabad 32% are at the top and bottom respectively.

The NER at primary level refers to the number of students enrolled in primary school of primary school age divided by the number of children in the age group for that level of education. In other words, for Pakistan, the official primary NER is the number of children aged 5 to 9 years attending primary level divided by the number of children aged 5 to 9 years.

The NER for Pakistan as a whole in 2004-05, is 52 per cent (Table 2.6 a). NER for primary level has been added by changing age group from 5-9 to 6-10 for reader's information. Comparing NERs for districts within the provinces, it is revealed that in the Punjab Province Sialkot 84% and Bahawalpur 38% are at the top and bottom respectively. In case of Sindh Karachi with 65% is at the top and Jaccobabad with 25% is at the lowest . For N.W.F.P, Abbotabad 70% and Kohistan 24% are at the highest and lowest levels respectively. In Balochistan, district Ketch 63% and Qilla Abduallah 19% are the top and bottom respectively. Sialkot in the Punjab is the best performing district and Qila Abduallah (Balochistan) is the worst for overall Primary NER. Generally girls have a lower enrolment rate than boys and the difference is markedly larger in rural areas than in urban areas.

Table 2.8 shows the NER for government primary schools. This is the number of children aged 5-9 years enrolled in government primary schools divided by the total

number of children aged 5-9. Like the gross enrolment rate for government schools, it measures the extent to which publicly provided education is reaching its target group. However, this measure excludes overage children who are enrolled in primary school. The NER for Government primary school within districts in the provinces follow similar pattern as observed for NERs for the entire primary enrolment.

The percentage of primary school students who are enrolled in government schools is shown in Table 2.9 (a). The government share of primary enrolment is 72 per cent in 2004-05. The district wise comparison among districts within the provinces revealed that in the Punjab provinces, districts of Bhakkar 97% and Lahore 34% are at the top and bottom respectively. In Sindh, Tharparkar with 97% and Karachi with 40% govt primary enrolment are at the highest and lowest ranks respectively. In N.W.F.P districts of Upper Dir 95% and Peshawar 64% are at the top and bottom respectively. In Balochistan with the exception of Quetta (76%) all remaining districts are over 90%. The above analysis reflects that developed districts have larger share of private education whereas less developed districts mostly depend on government educational facilities.

2.4 Middle and Matric Enrolment Rates

Gross and net enrolment rates for the middle level with age group 10-12 years old are presented in Tables 2.10(a) and 2.11(a). The gross enrolment rate for the middle level, for Pakistan as a whole, is 46 percent. The middle level enrolment in urban areas, stands at 64 percent compared to 38 percent in that of rural areas. Islamabad (Federal Capital) with 97% GER for middle class is at the top. However, district Chakwal 81% is next to Islamabad district in the Punjab and Muzaffargarh with 28% is at the bottom. In Sindh, Karachi with 67% and Thatta with 17% are at the top and bottom respectively. In N.W.F.P Chitral with 77% is at the top and Kohistan with 18% is at the lowest rank. In Balochistan Ketch/ (62%) and Kharan (11%) are the highest and lowest ranks respectively. Tables 2.10(b) and 2.11(b) have been added for GER & NER respectively for middle level by changing age group from 10-12 to 11-13 for reader's information.

Net enrolment rates at the middle level are much lower than gross enrolment rates (Table 2.11A). This is due to the large number of overage children that are enrolled in these classes. The district level comparison within the provinces depict that more or less NERs have the same patterns which are observed for GREs. Islamabad with 36% is at top in all districts.

At matric level, gross enrolment stands at 44 per cent and net enrolment rate at 11 per cent (Tables 2.12 a and 2.13a). The GRE for matric level for Rawalpindi (80%) and Lodhran (23%) are at the top and bottom respectively in the Punjab province. In Sindh province Karachi with 79% and Thatta with 20% are the highest and lowest ranks respectively. The districts of Chitral 83% and Kohistan & Bonair 18% in N.W.F.P are at the top and bottom of ranks respectively. In Balochistan Quetta 65% is at the top and Kharan 13% is at the bottom. More or less same pattern is observed for NERs among districts within provinces. Tables 2.12(b) and 2.13(b) have been added for GER & NER respectively for matric level by changing age group from 13-14 to 14-15 for reader's information.

2.5 Literacy

Literacy is an important indicator of education because its improvement is likely to have an impact, in the longer run, on other important indicators of welfare. The literacy rate for population 10 years and above is 53 percent during 2004-05, (Table 2.14 a). Literacy remains much higher in urban areas than rural areas and much higher in men than women. Islamabad (Federal Capital) with 84% followed by Rawalpindi district with 75% in the Punjab province is at the top whereas Lodhran district with 34% is at the lowest. In Sindh, Karachi 78% and Jaccobabad 34% are at the highest and lowest of ranks respectively. Abbotabad with 65% and Kohistan with 25% are ranked top and bottom districts in N.W.F.P. In Balochistan province, Quetta 65% and Jhal Magsi 20% are at the highest and lowest of the ranks respectively. Adult literacy rate for the population aged 15 and above is 50% and has been incorporated first time for users information. The patterns among districts within the provinces are similar to the Literacy Rate of population 10 years and above.