

2. EDUCATION

2.1 Introduction

There are still strong indicators that the literacy and primary school enrolment rates in Pakistan are low compared with the countries of the region, 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 development budget and the 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 that have ever attended schools is 57 percent in 2006-07 compared to 56 percent in 2005-06 (Table 2.1). 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 indicates that 87 percent of the population age ten & over has ever attended the schools followed by Rawalpindi at 80 percent and Rajanpur district at 32 percent is at the lowest. In Sindh Karachi with 78 percent is at the top and Jaccobabad with 31 percent is at the bottom. In case of N.W.F.P, Abbotabad with 69 percent and Kohistan with 29 percent are at the top and bottom respectively. In Balochistan, Quetta district with 62 percent is at the top however Kohlu with 20 percent is lowest in the Balochistan as well as in the entire country.

46 percent of the population 10 years and over in 2006-07 compared to 44 percent in 2004-05 that has completed primary or higher level education, (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 (GER)

The GER, sometimes referred to as the participation rate, is the number of children attending primary schools 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 2006-07 is 91 percent compared to

86 percent in 2004-05. Provinces of Punjab (from 95 percent to 100 percent), Sindh (from 75 percent to 79 percent) and Balochistan (from 67 percent to 72 percent) have shown noticeable increase in 2006-07 compared to 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) with 147 percent is at the top whereas district Rajanpur with 65 percent is at the bottom. In Sindh Karachi with 112 percent and Jaccobabad with 48 percent are at the top and bottom respectively. In N.W.F.P, Abbotabad district is at the top with 114 percent and Kohistan district with 60 percent is at the bottom. In Balochistan Mastung district (121 percent) and Dera Bugti district (43 percent) are at the top and bottom respectively. Dera Bhugti district has the lowest GRE in the entire country. However in Balochistan Province some of the districts like Mastung, Awaran and Qila Saifullah have reported Primary GEE on considerable higher side in 2006-07 compared to 2004-05.

The gross enrolment rate at National Level is 88 percent 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 2006-07 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, Narowal district with 108 percent enrolment in government schools is at the top whereas Lahore with 33 percent is at the bottom. In Sindh Nowshero Feroze 80 percent and Karachi 38 percent are at the top and lowest in the ranks. Malakand with 86 percent and Shangla with 46 percent in N.W.F.P are at the highest and lowest ranks respectively. In Balochistan Awaran 107 percent and Nasirabad 29 percent 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 2006-07, is 56 per cent (Table 2.6 a) compared to 52 percent in 2004-05. 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 88 percent and Bahawalpur 42 percent are at the top and bottom respectively. In case Sindh, districts of Karachi with 66 percent is at the top and Thatta with 32 percent is at the lowest. For N.W.F.P, Abbottabad 73 percent and Kohistan 28 percent are at the highest and lowest levels respectively. In Balochistan, districts of Mastung 68 percent and Qilla Abdullah 20

percent are the top and bottom respectively. Sialkot in the Punjab is the best performing district and Qilla Abdullah (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 schools 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 69 per cent in 2006-07 compared to 72 percent in 2004-05. The district wise comparison among districts within the provinces revealed that in the Punjab provinces, districts of Bhakkar 95 percent and Lahore 30 percent are at the top and bottom respectively. In Sindh, Tharparkar with 99 percent and Karachi with 34 percent govt primary enrolment are at the highest and lowest ranks respectively. In N.W.F.P districts of Upper Dir 95 percent and Peshawar 61 percent are at the top and bottom respectively. In Balochistan Dera Bugti, Awaran and Musa Khail Districts with 99 percent government enrolment are at the top whereas Quetta with 60 percent is at the bottom. 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 51 percent compared to 46 percent in 2004-05. The middle level enrolment in urban areas, stands at 69 percent (64 percent in 2004-05) compared to 43 percent (38 percent in 2004-05) in that of rural areas. Islamabad (Federal Capital) with 96 percent GER for middle class is at the top. However, district Rawalpindi 87 percent is next to Islamabad district in the Punjab and Muzaffargarh with 33 percent is at the bottom. In Sindh, Karachi with 71 percent and Jaccobabad with 18 percent are at the top and bottom respectively. In N.W.F.P Abbotabad & Haripur districts with 97 percent are at the top and Kohistan with 16 percent is at the lowest rank. In Balochistan Quetta (73 percent) and Dera Bhugti (8 percent) 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 40 percent is at top in all districts.

At matric level, gross enrolment stands at 48 per cent compared to 44 percent in 2004-05 and net enrolment rate at 10 per cent (Tables 2.12 a and 2.13a). The GRE for matric level for Islamabad (102 percent) and Rahim Yar Khan (26 percent) are at the top and bottom respectively in the Punjab province. In Sindh province Karachi with 72 percent and Thatta with 17 percent are the highest and lowest ranks respectively. The districts of Abbotabad 78 percent and Kohistan 17 percent in N.W.F.P are at the top and bottom of ranks respectively. In Balochistan Quetta 69 percent is at the top and Kohlu 5 percent 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 55 percent during 2006-07, (Table 2.14 a), compared to 53 percent in 2004-05. Literacy remains much higher in urban areas than rural areas and much higher in men than women. Islamabad (Federal Capital) with 87 percent in the Punjab province is at the top whereas Rajanpur district with 31 percent is at the lowest. In Sindh, Karachi 77 percent and Tharparkar 29 percent are at the highest and lowest of ranks respectively. Abbotabad with 67 percent and Kohistan with 29 percent are ranked top and bottom districts in N.W.F.P. In Balochistan province, Quetta 62 percent and Kohlu 20 percent are at the highest and lowest of the ranks respectively. Adult literacy rate for the population aged 15 and above is 52 percent in 2006-07 compared to 50 percent in 2004-05. The pattern among districts within the provinces is similar to the Literacy Rate of population 10 years and above.