2. EDUCATION

2.1 Introduction

One of the main objectives of the MDGs is the improvement in the percentage of literate population. Unfortunately literacy rates in Pakistan are very low when compared to other SAARC countries. The primary objective of government policy in the last few years has been to improve the level and quality of education in Pakistan. 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. Great stress has been put on the primary level education because it forms the core of the literate population. Literacy and primary school enrolment rates in Pakistan have shown improvement during last five years but they are still low when compared to the countries of the region. The problem lies with the basic infrastructure and the simultaneously multiple systems of education that prove to be a stumbling block in imparting quality education. Scarcity of resources and the provision of adequate facilities and training are retarding the proper growth of educational system in Pakistan. However the current government strategy for the sector includes improving the functioning & utilisation of existing schools, improving the quality of education, increasing enrolment, improving access to education and expanding the primary education system.

Under the 18th Amendment Ministry of Education has been devolved and has become a provincial subject. For this purpose changes have been made in key areas of education sector i.e. Curriculum and syllabus, Centres of Excellence, Standards of education up to Grade 12, and Islamic Education Transferred to Provinces.Whereas Planning and Policy and Standards of education beyond Grade 12, covered under Federal Legislative List.

PSLM data on Education is a good source to monitor the progress in education sector with detailed comparison between the data results before and after the implementation of devolution. Federal Bureau of Statistics through PSLM survey will continue to produce key indicators on education with PSLM district/provincial level indicators on education being a good source for all provinces to overview weak area of province where serious and comprehensive efforts are required.

This chapter will cover key indicators on school attendance, enrolment rates and literacy.

2.2 School attendance

The population of ten years and older that have ever attended schools is 60 percent in 2010-11 as compared to 59 percent in 2008-09 (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 (85 percent) in Punjab, Karachi (80 percent) in Sindh, Abbottabad & Haripur (71 percent each) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Quetta (65 percent) in Balochistan are the top ranked

districts. On the other hand, the districts at the bottom are Rajanpur (34 percent) in Punjab, Thatta (36 percent) in Sindh, Kohistan (22 percent) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Dera Bugti and Barkhan (15 percent) in Balochistan. These two Districts have the lowest Percentage of the population having ever attended in the entire country. Whereas, Islamabad (85 percent) has the highest value. As far as gender based differences are concerned, the greatest gender disparity is found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan where Lakki Marwat (72 percent male and 15 percent female) and Pashin (75 percent male and 9 percent female) and Ziarat (73 percent male and 7 percent female). However, the lowest female enrolment is in Kohistan (6 percent) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dera Bugti (1 percent) in Balochistan.

Population having completed primary level remaining unaltered (49 percent) when compared with 2008-09 (Table 2.2). Islamabad with 76 percent in Punjab, Karachi with 72 percent in Sindh, Haripur with 61 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Quetta with 54 percent in Balochistan are the best performing province wise top ranked districts. Whereas Rajanpur with 23 percent in Punjab, Thatta with 28 percent in Sindh, Kohistan with 13 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dera Bugti and Barkhan with 9 percent in Balochistan are the lowest in terms of school attendance. Islamabad (76 percent) surpasses all other districts in Pakistan whereas Dera Bugti and Barkhan (9 percent) fall behind in the lowest ranking. The widest gender differences are observed in Lakki Marwat district (61 percent male and 10 percent female) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pashin (66 percent male and 6 percent female) in Balochistan. Again the lowest female population that has ever attended school is found to be in Kohistan (2 percent).

2.3 Primary Enrolment Rates

Gross 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 2010-11 slightly increased to 92 percent. In provinces, Punjab shows marginal increase from 97 percent in 2008-09 to 98 percent in 2010-11. Sindh remained stable with 84 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa improved from 87 percent to 89 percent and Balochistan decreased slightly (from 75 percent to 74 percent) (Table 2.3 a). Chakwal with 125 percent, Karachi with GER of 106 percent, Haripur district with 116 percent and Mastung district with 121 percent are the top ranked districts whereas Bahawalpur with 71 percent, Tando Muhammad Khan with 53 percent, Kohistan district with 41 percent and Musa Khel district with 22 percent each are at the bottom ranked districts in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan respectively. While observing gender differences, wider gap found in Hangu district (102 percent for male and 52 percent for female) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Qilla Abdullah (118 percent for male and 37 percent for female) in Balochistan.

The gross enrolment rate at National Level is 91 percent when katchi class is included and the age group is expanded to Children 4-9 years old (Table 2.4). The pattern within districts in the provinces is more or less similar to GERs without including katchi class.

The PSLM 2010-11 collected information on enrolment in all types of schools 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. Mianwali with 92 percent, Umer kot with GER at 89 percent, Upper Dir district with 99 percent and Mastung district with 119 percent are the top ranked districts whereas Gujranwala with 40 percent, Karachi with 28 percent, Kohistan district with 40 percent and Musa Khel district with 22 percent each are at the bottom GER in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan respectively. Here an interesting fact is observed that apart from Islamabad, which has a rich facility of Government schools and colleges, the general trend in all other big cities is the preferences of private educational facilities over those provided by the government. Results reveals that the absence of private schools leaves no alternatives and makes government schools a priority in small cities.

NET Enrolment Rates (NER)

The NER at primary level refers to the number of students enrolled in primary schools 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 2010-11 is 56 per cent (Table 2.6 a) as compared to 57 percent in 2008-09. Comparing NERs for districts within the provinces, it is revealed that Chakwal with 81 percent, Hyderabad with 67 percent, Haripur with 72 percent and Mastung with 70 percent are at the top ranked districts, whereas Bahawalpur with 40 percent, Tando Muhammad Khan with 30 percent, Kohistan with 20 and Dera Bugti with 12 percent are the lowest ranked districts in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, respectively. Chakwal with 81 percent in Punjab is the best performing district and Dera Bugti with 12 percent in Balochistan is the lowest 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 schools. The NER for Government primary schools within districts follows a 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 68 per cent in 2010-11 as compared to 70 percent in 2008-09. Rajanpur with 94 percent, Umer kot with 95 percent, Kohistan district with 97 percent and Pashin, Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Harnai, Kharan, Awaran, Panjgur, Barkhan, Musa Khel, Jhal Magsi, Sherani and Bolan districts with 100 percent are the top ranked districts whereas Gujranwala with 36 percent, Karachi with 27 percent, Peshawar district with 55 and Quetta and Sibbi districts with 81 percent each are at the bottom in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan respectively. 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 Enrolment Rates

Gross Enrolment Rates (GER)

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, remained almost same as 2008-09 i.e. 54 percent. The middle level enrolment in urban areas remained same as in 2008-09 i.e. 71 percent as compared to a 47 percent (46 percent in 2008-09) in rural areas. Islamabad with 103 percent for middle class is top ranked in Pakistan. Rajanpur with 20 percent is at the bottom in Punjab. In the other three provinces Karachi with 72 percent, Chitral district with 93 percent and, Sibbi with 83 percent are the best performing districts while Tando Muhammad Khan with 21 percent, Kohistan with 16 percent and Dera Bugti with GER 2 percent are the worst performing districts in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Gender based differences are more prevalent in Ziarat (male 78 percent GER, female 11 percent) in Balochistan and in Lakki Marwat (81 percent male and 21 percent female) district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is worth mentioning that Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dera Bugti of Balochistan has shown no female middle level. 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 (NER)

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 depicts that more or less NERs have the same patterns which are observed for GERs. Islamabad with 47 percent is at top in among all districts. Dera Bugti and Barkhan with 1 percent enrolments are at the bottom in the entire country showing that these are areas that need special attention.

2.5 Matric Enrolment Rates

At matric level, gross enrolment stands at 57 percent as compared to 54 percent in 2008-09 and net enrolment rate is stable at 12 percent (Tables 2.12 a and 2.13a). Rawalpindi 103 percent has the highest and Musa Khel 6 percent has the lowest performance in the entire country. Rawalpindi with 103 percent, Karachi with 88 percent, Haripur with 88 percent and Harnai with 69 percent are at the peak. However, Rajanpur with 19 percent, Thatta with 25 percent, Kohistan with 11 percent and Musa Khel with 6 percent are at the lowest level in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Lakki Marwat with 85 percent for males and 15 percent for female in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pashin with 153 percent for males and 18 percent for females have the greatest gender disparity in matric level. One striking feature is that female GER has the worst situation for matric level enrolment where there is no female enrolment in four districts i.e. Musa Khel, Panjgur, Kohlu and Dera Bugti.

NET Enrolment Rates (NER)

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 readers' 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 58 percent during 2010-11, as compared to 57 percent in 2008-09 (Table 2.14 a). Literacy remains much higher in urban areas than in rural areas and much higher in men than in women. Province wise Punjab leads with 60 percent followed by Sindh with 59 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 50 percent and Balochistan with 41 percent. Comparing Literacy (10 years and above) for districts within the provinces, it is revealed that Islamabad with 82 percent, Karachi with 79 percent, Haripur with 70 percent and Quetta with 64 percent are at the top ranked districts, whereas Rajanpur with 34 percent, Thatta with 36 percent, Kohistan with 26 and Dera Bugti & Barkhan with 6 percent are the lowest ranked districts in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, respectively. Dera Bugti in Balochistan (1 percent) and Kohistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (6 percent) exhibit the lowest female literate population in the entire country. Adult literacy rate for the population aged 15 and above was 55 percent in 2010-11 as compared to 54 percent in 2008-09 (table 2.14b). The pattern among districts within the provinces is similar to the Literacy Rate of population 10 years and above.