

Problems of Drop out Children in Elementary Education in Bihar

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Elementary education in Bihar is defined as the education from classes I to VIII, and roughly covers children from the age of 6 to 14 years. Elementary education is further divided into two stages: primary and upper primary education. Primary education lasts up to class V and covers children in the age group of 6-11 years. Upper primary covers the classes from standard VI to VIII, and includes children in the age group of 11-14 years. While this is the Bihar state picture, there are minor variations in some states. Some have primary schooling up to class IV only, while a few have upper primary up to class VII only. However in our study, elementary education has taken from class I to VIII covering children in the 6-14 age group. Primary education is taken from class I to V and upper primary from class VI to VIII covering children in the age-group 6-11 and 11-14 years respectively. It would not be unreasonable to say that the various educational facilities, such as schools, colleges and parameters such as investment in education, enrolment ratios, literacy level and levels of educational development are characterized by unequal distribution over districts of Bihar. They are biased in favour of urban areas and areas or districts, which are relatively developed, causing regional disparities. One will have to identify those areas, which have been able to draw greater benefits than others in terms of allocation of educational infrastructure against those, which have been deprived of it. One will also have to look for reasons as to ‘why’ and ‘how’ such patterns have developed.