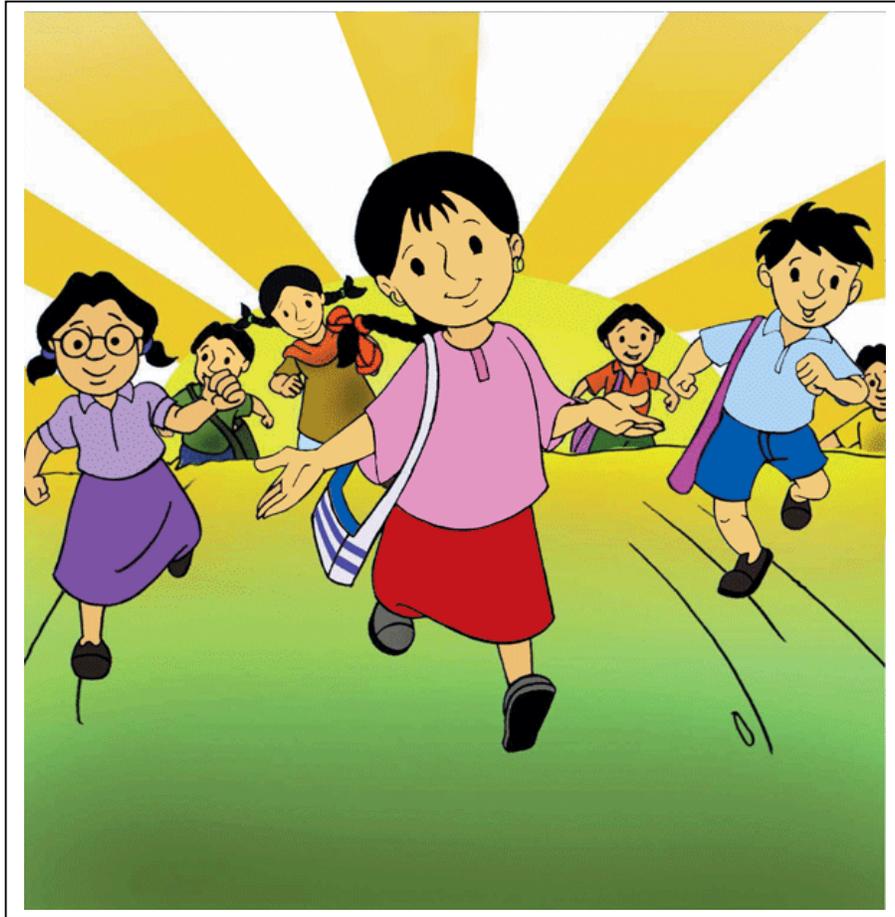


**STUDY OF STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY
&
UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOLS**



Abridged Report



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Summary and Main Findings

1. The study was conducted in major states of the country to assess the students' attendance rate and teachers' absence rate by visiting schools on three different occasions and actually counting the students and teachers who were present. A representative sample of 300 to 400 schools in each state was selected for this study. The total sample was of 6745 schools drawn from 286 districts of 20 states. Out of these, 5188 schools were primary schools and 1557 were upper primary schools. In all, 5623 schools were from rural area and 1122 schools from urban area.
2. It was found that overall average attendance rate of students was 68.5% and 75.7% at primary and upper primary levels respectively.
3. For teachers, the average attendance rate was 81.7% and 80.5% respectively in primary and upper primary schools.
4. The attendance rate of girls was a little higher than that of boys. The average attendance rate of boys and girls at primary level in the first hour was 69% and 70.6% respectively, and at upper primary level, 75.2% and 78.7% respectively.
5. The average attendance rate in first hour was a little lower for SC and Muslim students at primary level (68.7% and 66.4% respectively) compared with that of overall but at upper primary level there is not much difference between attendance rates of different social groups; these were between 76% and 79%.
6. The lowest attendance rate was in class I, (65.6%) it increased gradually after that by 2 to 3 percentage points from one class to the next; only there was no such increase from class IV to V.
7. The overall average attendance was a little lower in rural schools than urban schools (68.0% and 71.2% respectively at primary level), but in some states, the opposite was the case. Similar was the trend at upper primary level (73.7% in rural schools and 79.9% in urban schools).
8. The main reasons for children absenting from schools given by head teachers, teachers and VEC members were (a) lack of adequate facilities in school, (b) Teacher shortage and overcrowded classrooms, (c) children being required for household work or sibling care at home and (d) children required to help parents in agriculture or occupational work or participation in other income generating activity and (e) parents' indifference or lack of interest in child's education.
9. Parents mostly felt that lack of facilities in school and child's unwillingness to go to school were main reasons for child's frequent absence from school.
10. Among the measures suggested by the community for improving students' attendance rate are (1) motivating parents to send children to school and (2) providing incentives for regularity in attendance and (3) improvement in teaching-learning at school.
11. The remedial measures to be taken for reducing absence rate of students would include improvement in school facilities, school environment and teaching-learning in classrooms, making parents aware of the importance of sending children to school regularly and ensuring that children are not much involved in household work and income generating activity at home, which requires poverty alleviation measures to be taken in rural areas.

At a glance information

At a glance information: Average Attendance Rate of Students and Teachers based on Headcount during 3 unannounced visits to schools in 2006-07

States	Students		Teachers	
	Primary Stage	Upper Primary Stage	Primary Schools	Upper Primary Schools
Andhra Pradesh	72.7	76.6	78.1	77.3
Assam	81.3	84.5	79.2	55.2
Bihar	42.2	36.8	75.8	74.9
Chhattisgarh	67.7	75.0	75.7	73.5
Delhi	73.1	NA	95.0	NA
Gujarat	75.0	78.6	70.0	87.6
Haryana	82.2	85.1	86.9	91.9
Himachal Pradesh	94.6	93.2	80.0	88.0
Jammu & Kashmir	78.5	77.5	80.8	83.1
Karnataka	86.2	86.9	83.9	84.0
Kerala	91.4	92.0	84.5	85.3
Madhya Pradesh	72.1	69.8	70.4	67.0
Maharashtra	89.0	89.0	87.8	87.1
Orissa	66.8	69.0	87.4	86.6
Punjab	81.7	74.7	83.5	78.1
Rajasthan	62.7	78.9	81.1	79.8
Tamil Nadu	88.3	87.8	86.6	89.6
Uttar Pradesh	57.4	60.5	77.8	82.6
Uttarakhand	80.0	83.2	83.0	77.7
West Bengal	74.2	70.2	96.3	98.1

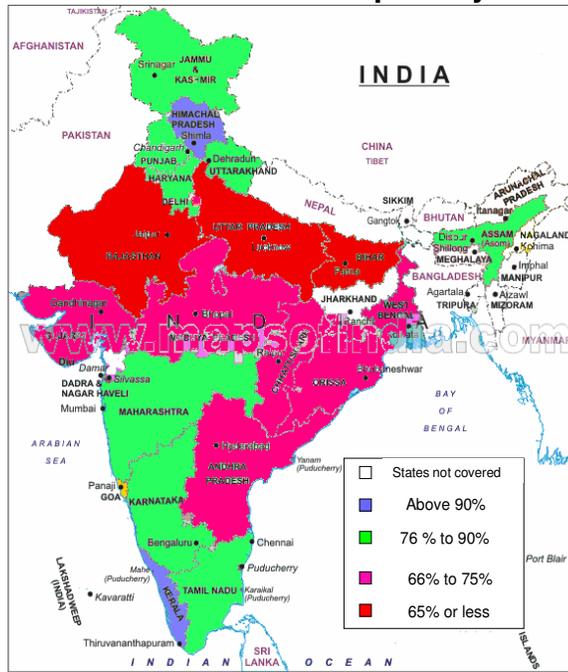
Overall Average attendance rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	69.9	67.2	68.5	81.5	81.9	81.7
Upper primary	76.8	74.7	75.7	81.2	80.3	80.5

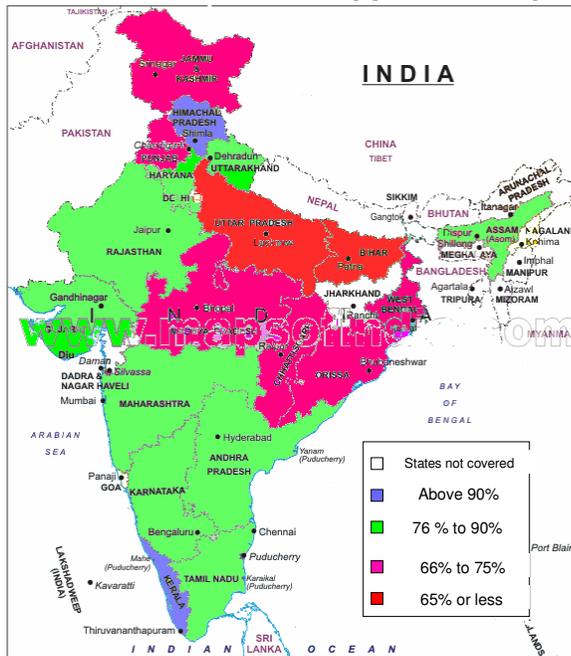
Attendance Rate of students by gender and social group at primary and upper primary stage (during first hour) and by area (overall)

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	68.9	75.2
Girls	70.6	78.7
SC	68.7	76.5
ST	70.5	76.5
Muslim	66.4	79.1
Rural	68.0	73.7
Urban	71.2	79.9

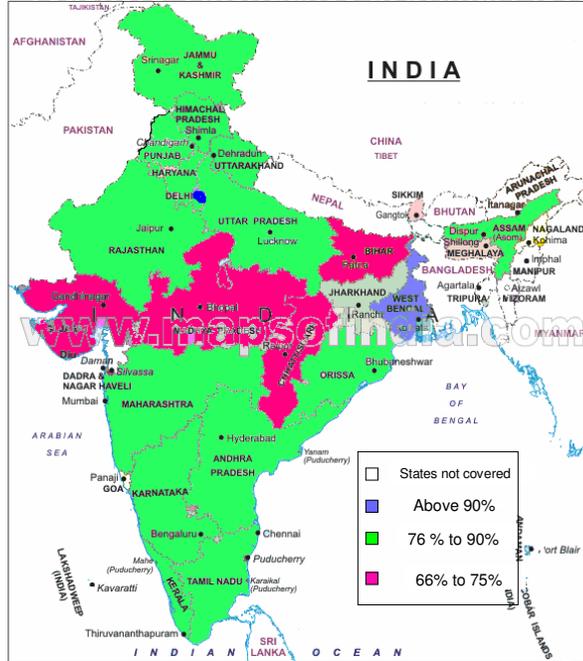
Students attendance at primary level



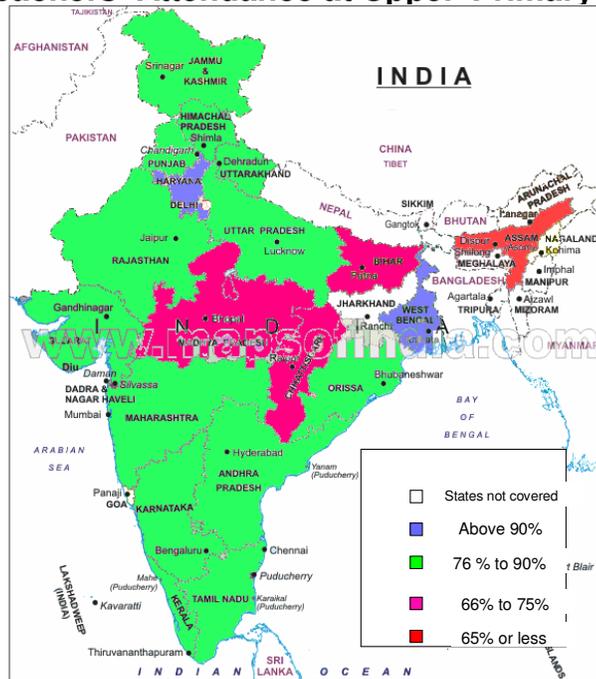
Students' Attendance at Upper Primary level



Teachers' Attendance at primary level



Teachers' Attendance at Upper Primary level



Chapter 1- THE CONTEXT

1.1 Background

The goal of SSA launched in 2001 is to achieve universalisation of elementary education by the year 2010. Substantial progress has already been made toward achieving this goals. However, the quality of education is still not upto the mark. In order to provide education of satisfactory quality, it is important to have sufficient teachers in schools and also to ensure that teachers remain available in the school and teach what they are supposed to teach. Also the students have to remain in the class when teaching is going on. Studies have shown that any lapse in the process of learning on account of students' absence from school, particularly of a longer duration, impacts their learning adversely.

Students' attendance is normally recorded in the attendance registers daily maintained in schools but in many cases it is not done systematically and regularly. Hence, the need was felt for a study that provides more reliable data on students' and teachers' attendance - Such a study was commissioned by MHRD in all major states. The states covered in the study are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and National Capital Territory of Delhi.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

- i. To assess the students' attendance on the basis of head count of students present in the school.
- ii. To find out the difference between attendance rate of boys and girls and of students belonging to different social groups and rural /urban areas at primary and upper primary stages.
- iii. To find out the reasons of students missing classes and remaining absent from school as perceived by teachers, parents, and community.
- iv. To assess how students' attendance is related to quality as indicated by repetition and drop out rates and achievement in annual examination result.
- v. To identify school and home related factors largely responsible for child's absence from school
- vi. To suggest measures for improving attendance rate of students where it is low.

1.3 Sampling

The sample size of schools in different states varied with the size of the state. The following table shows the sample size decided for the different states.

Category	Sample Size	State Name
1.	400	Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal
2.	360	Assam, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu
3.	320	Kerala, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttrakhand.
4.	300	Delhi

For sampling of schools two stage stratified sampling procedure was adopted. Each state was divided into a few Socio-Cultural Regions (SCR) based on Census 2001 data. Each SCR consisted of a number of contiguous districts. Within each SCR, the first stage sampling unit for rural schools were the sub districts, which were selected by using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) with replacement, and the second stage units, schools, were selected by using simple circular systematic sampling within each sub-district. In urban areas, cities/towns were further divided into two sub strata: (1) cities with one million more population (Urban 1) and (2) cities/towns with less than one million population (Urban 2). Selection of schools for Urban 1 sub stratum was done by using simple circular systematic sampling from the list of all schools belonging to this sub stratum. In the case of Urban 2, from the list of all urban schools of those districts to which sampled sub-districts belonged, the sample of schools was selected by using simple circular systematic sampling. Besides schools, the other sampling units were teachers and parents. The teachers teaching the sampled classes constituted the sample of teachers. Information on parents' education, occupation and of students marks in examinations was also recorded from a sample of maximum 20 students of each class in each school. Further, from each sampled class six students were selected in such a way that three of them had the lowest attendance and the other three students had the highest attendance during 2005-06; their parents constituted the sample of parents who were interviewed. For that, a sample of 2 classes of primary level and two of upper primary level were drawn in each school by adopting circular systematic sampling procedure. It was thus ensured that all classes were represented equally in the total sample of schools. These parents were interviewed for getting their views on reasons of children's absence.

Except Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir where the coverage was a little less than 50%, there was no state in which less than 90% schools were covered. In Delhi upper primary schools could not be covered and in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh was left out. Out of 7260 schools included in the sample, 6745 (i.e.92.9%) were covered. These schools were from 286 districts of the 20 states. Among them, 5623 schools were from rural areas and 1122 from urban areas. The number of teachers covered in the sample was 16,977. In addition, data on reasons of dropping was collected from 6559 VEC members and 65,557 parents.

1.4 Data Collection Strategy

Eleven agencies listed at Annexure II, were assigned the task of conducting the study at state level. Two of these agencies conducted the study in 5 states each. Tools to be used for data collection, lists of sampled schools and data analysis plan were supplied to the concerned agencies by Research Evaluation & Studies Unit of Ed.CIL's Technical Support Group for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The list of tools used for data collection is given in Annexure III.

For collecting data on attendance, investigators made 3 unannounced visits to schools at intervals of 2 to 4 weeks to record attendance by actual head count of students and teachers. However, in Gujarat only 2 visits to schools were made and in Kashmir valley only 1 visit was made. Counting was done two times on the day of visit – one soon after opening of the school and the other about half hour before closing time. Data on students' attendance was also collected from attendance registers for the year 2005-06. Data collection for this study took place during 2nd half of 2006 in most states.

1.5 Data Analysis

Average attendance rates were calculated by dividing the number of students who were found present in their classes during the three visits to schools by the number of students who were enrolled in the relevant class or level of education. These have been expressed in the form of percentage. For the students of any particular category, the data on the number of students found present and the number of those who were enrolled in that category, was used.

Over all average attendance rate

For calculating the overall average attendance rates of **students** (based on the total of all the states) weighted average of state-wise attendance rates of students was calculated in which the weights were the total state level enrolment figures of the relevant category of students. For calculating the average attendance rate of teachers, the weights used were the number of **teachers** in primary and upper primary schools in the state.

Given below is the formula for calculation of weighted average for the total of all the 20 states:

If N_i is total enrolment at primary level in the state i ($i=1$ to 20) and p_i is the average attendance rate at primary level derived from the data on enrolment and students found present during the three visits to the sampled schools, then the weighted average for the total of all the states is

$$\frac{\sum N_i p_i}{\sum N_i}$$

To obtain the average attendance rate for any particular category of students such as SC students at primary level, N_i to be used for weighting is the number of SC students at primary level in the entire i^{th} state.

Effect of other factors on students' attendance

In order to study how the school and teacher variables and students' gender, social class, parents' education affected students' attendance, correlations were calculated and also regression analysis was carried out. Similarly, regression analysis was used to study the relationship between students' attendance rate and their repetition rate, dropout rate and achievement in examinations.

In the case of repetition and dropout, the school was the unit of analysis whereas in the case of achievement of students, students were the units of analysis. To study the contribution of attendance rate to their achievement in annual school examination, regression analysis was done in which the scores of students in mathematics and language and the total, were dependent variables, their attendance during 2005-06, their age, gender, repetition status, father's occupation and education, mother's education and social class were independent variables in the regression analysis.

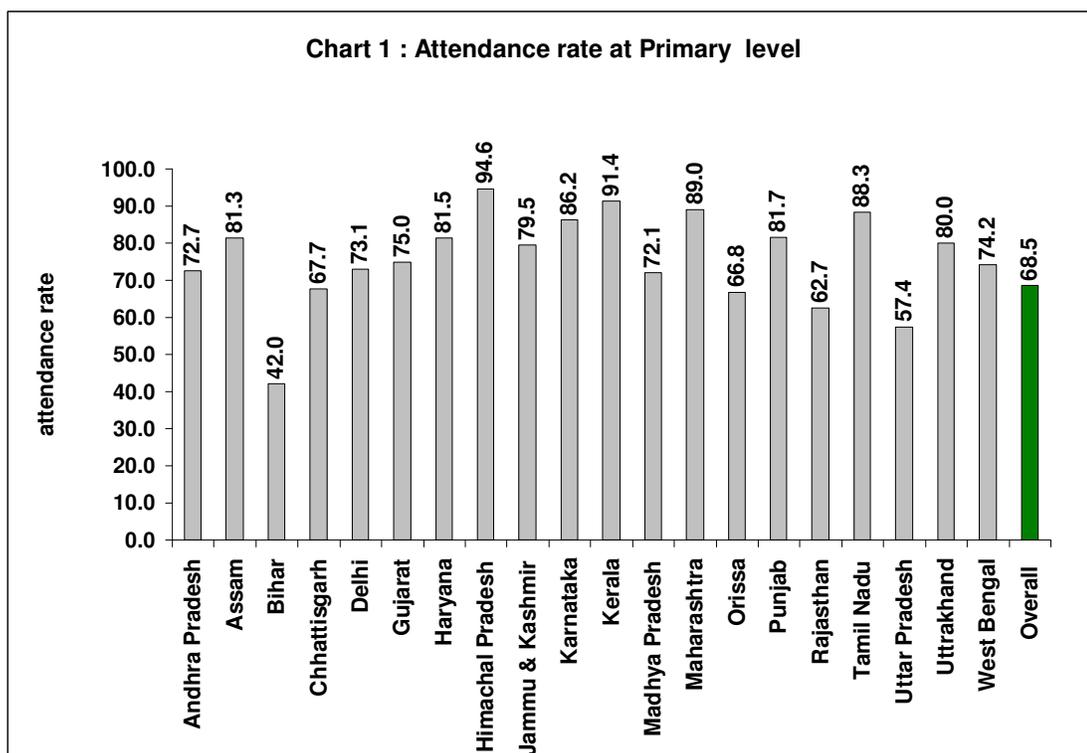
CHAPTER 2- ATTENDANCE RATES OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

2.1 This chapter discusses students' attendance rate based on head count during unannounced visits to schools for different categories of students and also for schools categorized according to their location (rural/urban) and level of education (primary/ upper primary). The students' attendance was also recorded from attendance registers for the academic session 2005-06 in order to see the gap between the two. Further, this chapter also includes teachers' attendance rate on the basis of head count.

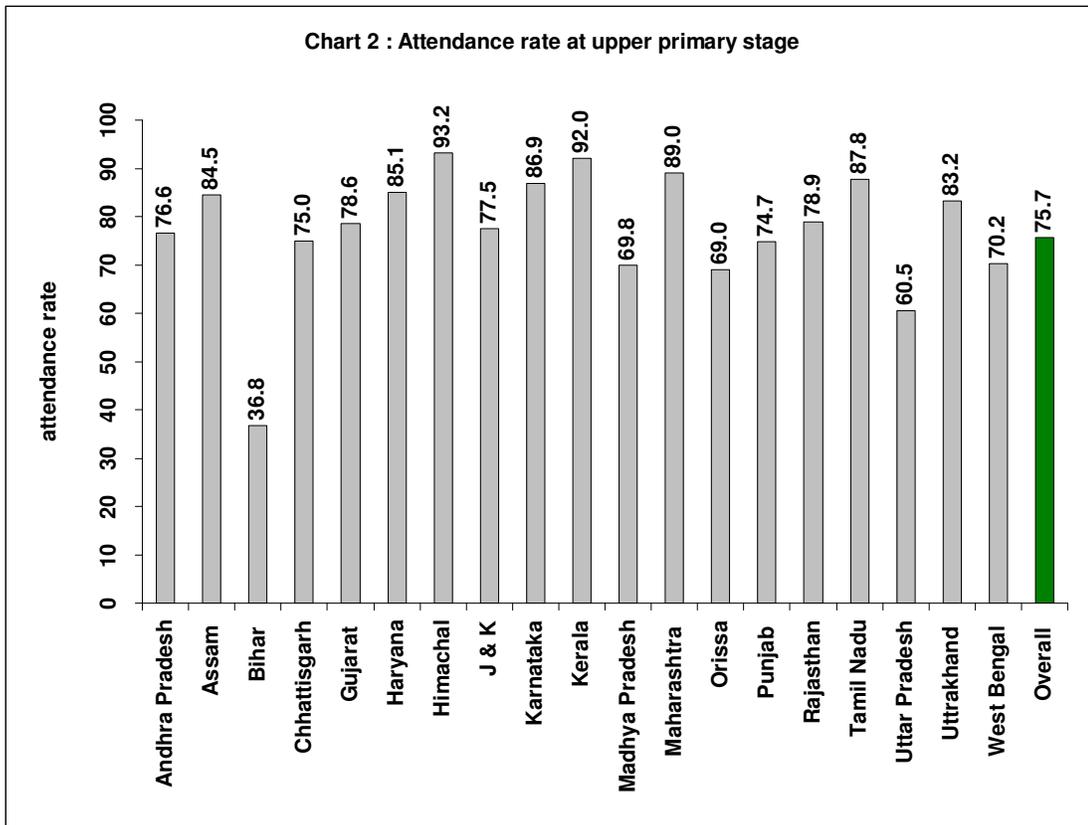
The overall students' attendance rates reported in this chapter were derived by computing weighted average of the attendance rates of different states using appropriate state level enrolment figures as weights, as described in section 1.5 of the previous chapter. The overall attendance rates obtained in this way from the state-level attendance rates are shown in charts 3 to 7.

2.2 Attendance Rate at Primary and Upper Primary Levels.

The overall attendance rate of students at primary level is 68.5%. The states having 75% or less attendance rate are Bihar (42.2%) Rajasthan (62.7%) and Uttar Pradesh (57.4%). Further, the states having over 90% students' attendance rate are Himachal Pradesh (94.6%) and Kerala (91.4%). Chart 1 shows students attendance rate at primary level for all the 20 states as well as the overall average of all states.

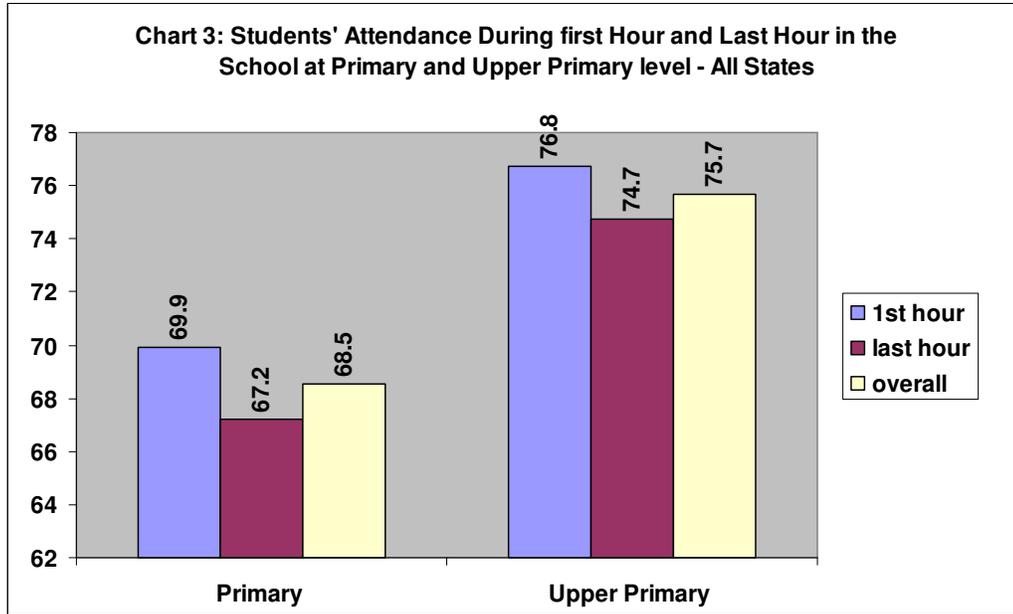


At the upper primary level, the overall attendance rate is 75.7%, which is higher than that of primary level by 7.2% points. Bihar (36.8%) and Uttar Pradesh (60.5%) have very low attendance rate. The states having more than 90% attendance rate are Himachal Pradesh (93.2%) and Kerala (92.0%). Chart: 2 shows students attendance rate at Upper Primary level for the different states as well as the overall average rate of all states.



2.3 Difference Between Attendance Rates of 1st and last hours of school

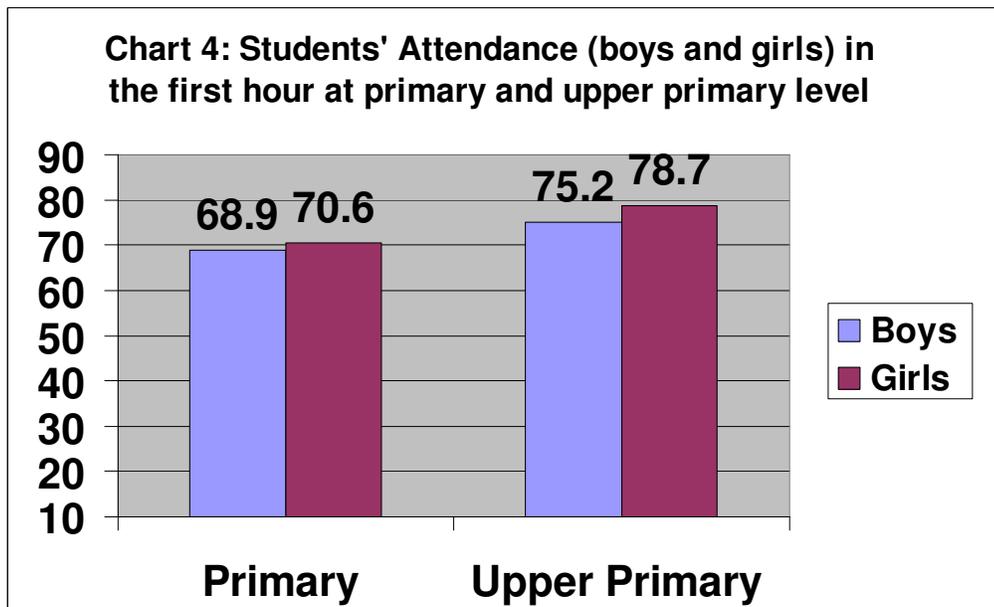
It was found that some children leave school early and hence the attendance rate in the last hour of school was lower than that of the first hour at both primary and upper primary levels, except in Punjab and West Bengal. The average gap in attendance rate between first and last hour of the school working hours is 2.7% points at the primary stage and 2.1% points at the upper primary stage. In Punjab state the first hour attendance at primary level is lower by 1.6% points than that of the last hour but in West Bengal the difference between the two is negligible. The gap between the first and last hour attendance rates at primary level is large in the case of Bihar (3.6% points), Rajasthan (7.2% points) and U.P. (4.4% points). At the upper primary level, the difference between attendance rates of the first and last hours is large in Haryana (5.8% points), J&K (3.4% points) and Rajasthan (4.5% points). In all other states, the difference is less than 3% points at both primary and upper primary levels (see state data sheets).



2.4 Difference between Attendance Rates of boys and girls

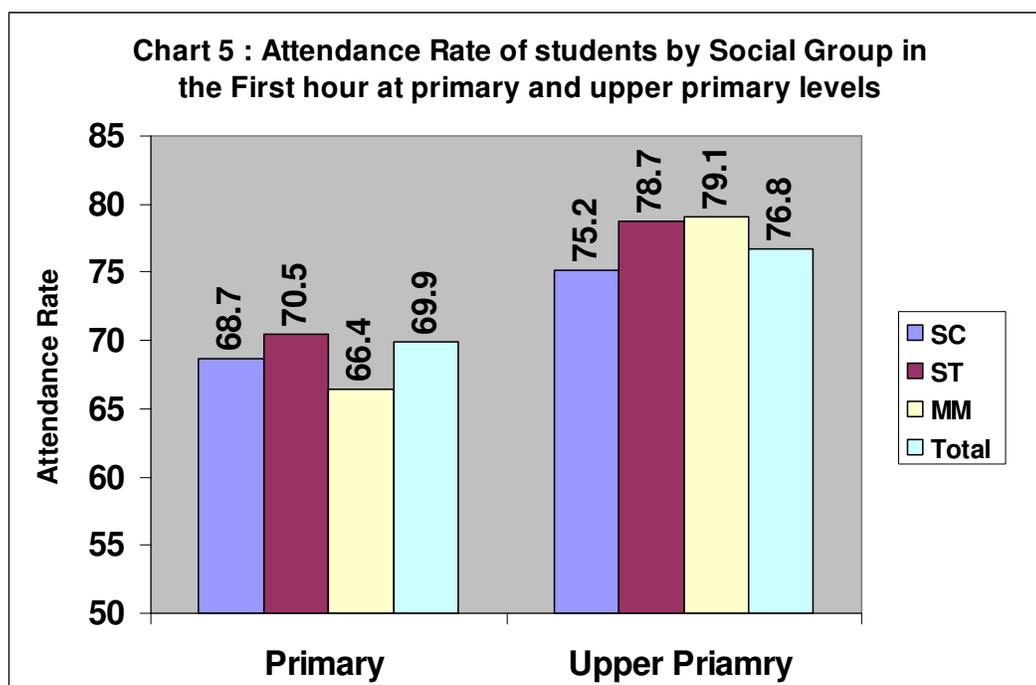
Chart 4 shows the average attendance rate of boys and girls for primary and upper primary levels based on the data of the first hour only. Overall girls attendance rate is higher than that of boys by 1.7% points at primary level and by 3.5% points at upper primary level. However, the difference between attendance rate of boys and girls is negligible in most of the states. The only state in which girls attendance rate is higher than that of boys by more than 2 percentage points at primary level is Uttar Pradesh where the difference is 2.8% points. On the other hand, Rajasthan is the only state where attendance rate of boys exceeded that of girls and that too by 4.3% points (see state data sheets).

At the upper primary level, the states in which girls attendance rate exceeded that of boys by 2 to 3 percentage points are Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Madhya Pradesh, whereas in Orissa, girls attendance rate was higher by 5.8% points. In all other states, the gender difference was less than 2% points at upper primary level (see state data sheets).



2.5 Attendance Rate of Students Belonging to Different Social Groups

Chart 5 shows the average attendance rate of children belonging to SC, ST, Muslims categories along with that of total students at primary and upper primary levels. These rates are based on the attendance data of the first hour only.



At primary level, the average attendance rate of SC and Muslim students in first hour is lower (68.7% and 66.4% respectively) than that of total (69.9%) students. At the upper primary level, there is not much difference between attendance rate of children of different social groups.

The states in which the attendance rate of SC students at primary level is more than 5% points lower than that of others are Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Utrakhand and West Bengal. At upper primary level, this statement is true in the case of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Utrakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In Uttarakhand, attendance rate of SC students is higher than that of others by about 6% points at both primary and upper primary levels (see state data sheets).

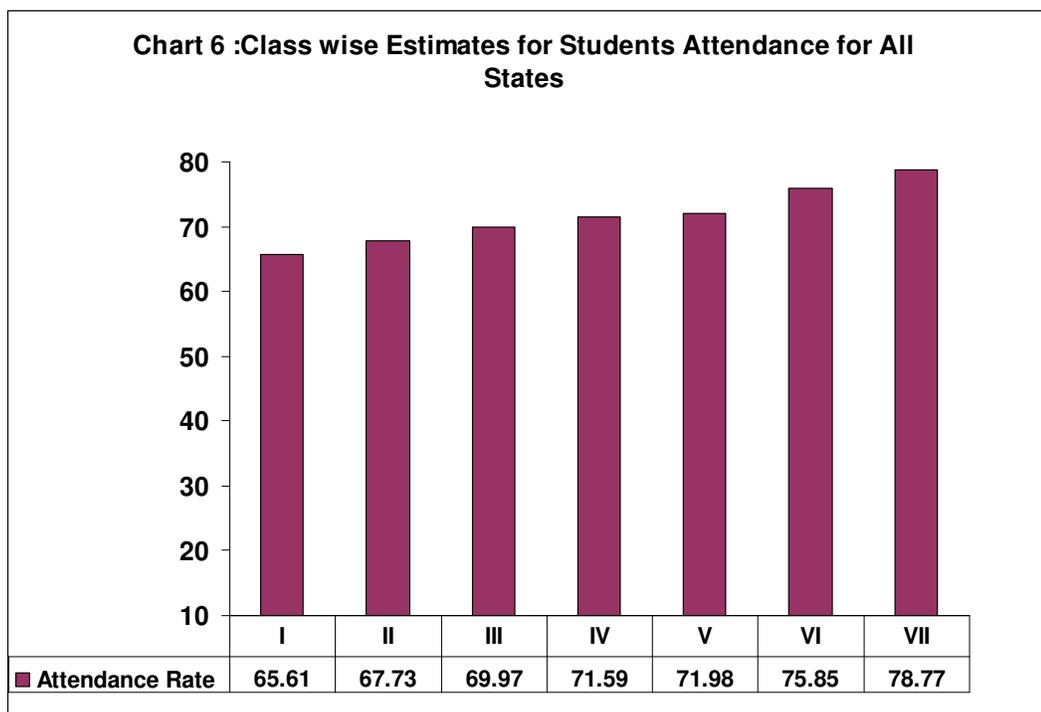
The states in which the attendance rate of ST students at primary level is lower by more than 5% points than that of others are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The maximum difference of over 10% points is in Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

At upper primary level, the states in which attendance rate of ST students is much lower than that of others (that is, by more than 10% points) are Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, which are the states with large ST population.

So far as Muslims are concerned, the attendance rate is at par or slightly lower than that of others in most states. Only in AP, Orissa and Uttarakhand the attendance rate of Muslim children is lower than that of others by more than 7% points at both primary and upper primary levels.

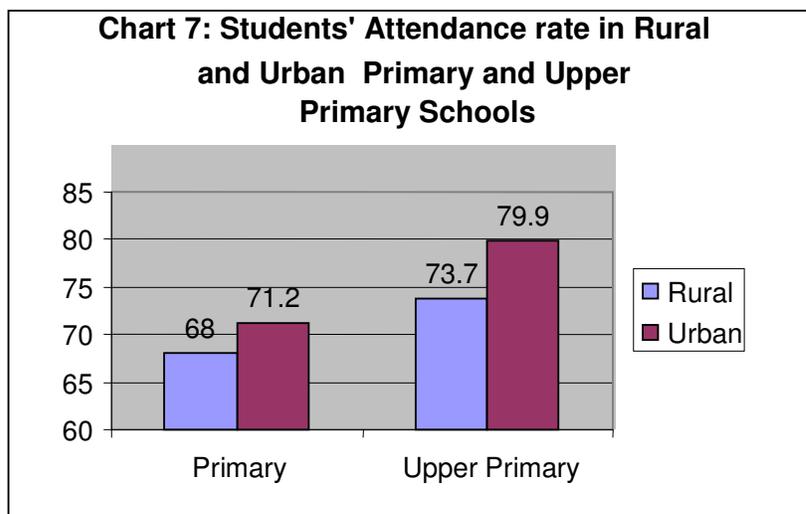
2.6 Class-wise Attendance Rates

Chart 6 shows the attendance rate of students studying in different classes. The attendance rate is lowest in class I (65.6%). It increases gradually from class I to VII (78.8); Class VIII is not shown as five states (AP, Assam, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra) did not have class VIII in upper primary schools. As such meaningful average for class VIII that could be compared with that of other classes could not be derived.



2.7 Students' Attendance In Rural And Urban Schools

The overall attendance rate in rural primary schools was 68.0% as against 71.2% in urban primary schools. At the upper primary level also the overall students' attendance rate was lower in rural schools and the difference was fairly large (6.2% points) between attendance rates of rural and urban schools.



The attendance rate in primary schools in rural schools is not less than that of urban schools in every state. The states in which attendance rate in rural schools at the primary stage is higher than that of urban schools are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

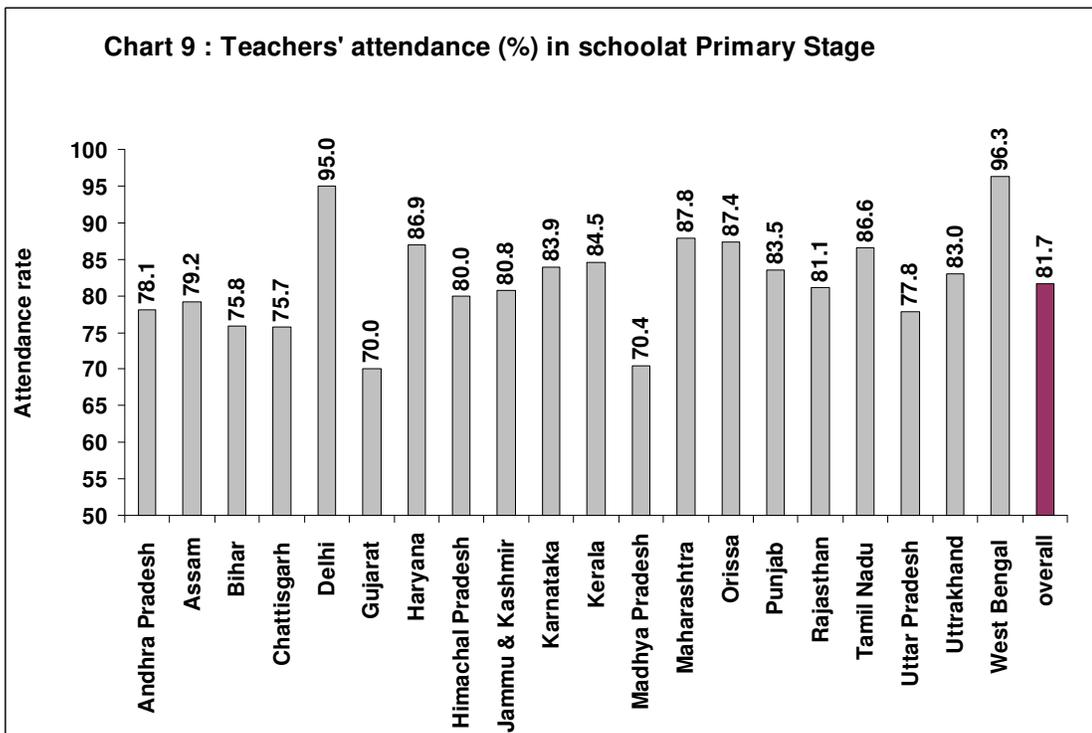
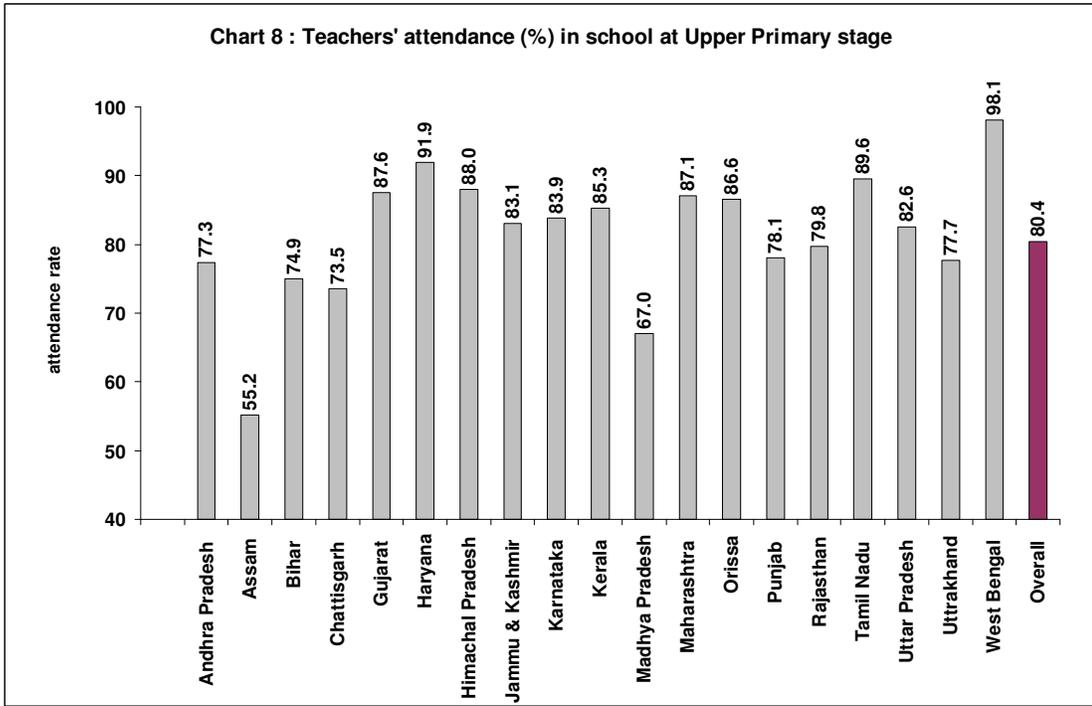
The states in which attendance rate of students at upper primary stage in rural schools is higher are Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. In all other states, the attendance rate in urban areas exceeds that of rural areas.

2.8 Teachers' presence in Schools

During school visits, the teachers who were present were also counted for comparison with the number of teachers who were posted in the school. The average attendance rate of teachers was calculated by dividing the total number of teachers who were present by the number of teachers who were posted in the sampled schools. The total number of teachers in primary and upper primary schools in the states was used as weight for calculating the national level average teacher attendance at these levels.

The average teacher attendance in primary and upper primary schools is 81.7% in primary schools and 80.5% in upper primary schools. Thus, only about 18% teachers in primary schools and about 19% in upper primary schools were found absent. Charts 8 and 9 show state-wise teachers' attendance rates in primary and upper primary schools respectively.

Less than 10% teachers were found absent in primary schools in West Bengal and Delhi. The highest absence rate was in Gujarat (30.0%) and Madhya Pradesh (29.6%). At the upper primary level, the average absence rate of teachers was less than 10% in West Bengal and Haryana. It was quite high in MP (33%) and highest (44.8%) in Assam. The reasons for low attendance need to be explored in these states.



2.9 Over view of findings

Overall the study covered 6745 schools, that is 92.9% out of 7260 schools in the sample spread over 286 districts in 20 states Of these 5188 were primary schools and 1557 were Upper Primary schools . In all 5263 schools were from rural areas and 1122 were from Urban area. In all states except Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir over 90% of the schools were covered.

Out of 20 major states in the country Jharkhand could not be covered. In Delhi upper primary schools could not be covered and in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh region was left out

The students in primary classes in the 20 states covered in the study accounted for 92% of total students in these classes in the country and the students of upper primary classes accounted for about 94% of total upper primary students in the country.

Attendance rates are based on actual head count of students who were present out of the enrolled students during 3 unannounced visits to the sampled schools, except in Gujarat where the schools were visited only twice and in Kashmir region of J&K where schools were visited only once. Teachers attendance rate were also determined in the same way. Number of teachers covered in the sample was 16,977.

Along with the attendance rate of students at primary and upper primary stages attendance rates for the different groups of students (boys/girls; SC/ST/Muslims) and for schools in rural and urban areas were also calculated. The overall weighted average derived from the state-wise attendance rates are given below.

a) Overall Average attendance rate

	Students			Teachers
	Rural	Urban	All	All
Primary	68.0	71.2	68.5	81.7
Upper primary	73.7	79.9	75.7	80.5

b) Attendance Rate of students by gender and social group at primary and upper primary stage (during first hour)

	Boys	Girls	SC	ST	Muslims	All
Primary	68.9	70.6	68.7	70.5	66.4	69.9
Upper primary	75.2	78.7	76.5	76.5	79.1	76.8

c) Difference between attendance rates in first hour and last hour

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Difference	First hour	Last hour	Difference
Primary	69.9	67.2	2.7	81.5	81.9	-0.4
Upper primary	76.8	74.7	2.1	81.2	80.3	0.9

CHAPTER 3 – REASONS FOR STUDENTS’ LOW ATTENDANCE AND MEASURES FOR IMPROVING ATTENDANCE RATE

3.1 Reasons given by Head teachers, Teachers, Village Education Committee members

Head teachers, teachers, Village Education Committee or School Management Committee members and parents of students were asked to give the reasons for students’ low attendance. They were presented with a set of possible reasons and were asked to endorse the three reasons they considered most important. The responses of these stake holders has been summarized in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 for primary and upper primary schools respectively.

Table 3.1 Reasons for low attendance of students at primary level as given by 50% or more head teachers, teachers and Village Education Committee/School Management Committee members

Reasons	Head Teachers	Teachers	VEC members
Child helps in household work/ sibling care	Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (5)	Bihar , Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, U.P. , Uttarakhand, West Bengal(13)	Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, M.P. Rajasthan, U.P., West Bengal (11)
Poverty/Child needed to help parents in their occupational work	Andhra Pradesh, Assam , Bihar, Chattisgarh , Gujarat, Haryana, J & K , M.P., Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh Uttarkhand, (12)	Bihar , Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, M. P., U.P., West Bengal (7)	Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, MP, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P, J & K. (12)
Temporary Migration	Delhi	-	Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal ,(6)
Parents’ indifference/ lack of interest	Punjab, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, J & K (4)	Bihar, Chattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, H.P. , J & K, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarkhand, West Bengal (11)	Assam, Delhi, J & K, Karnataka, U.P., H.P., Tamil Nadu (7)
Illness of the child	Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal (5)	Assam, H.P., Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (5)	-

Note: In the states shown in bold letters, the percentage of respondents giving a particular reason was more than 70%.

Lack of interest of the children in education was also cited as a reason by over 50% of head teachers in West Bengal; poor learning ability of child by teachers in Jammu & Kashmir and participation in religious/ social functions by more than 50% teachers in Tamil Nadu.

Table 3.2 Reasons for low attendance of students at Upper primary level as given by over 50% head teachers, teachers and VEC members

Reasons	Head Teachers	Teachers	VEC members
Child helps household in work/ sibling care	UP, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and West Bengal (5)	Bihar , Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, J & K , Maharashtra, M.P. Rajasthan , U.P., Uttarakhand and West Bengal (11)	Assam, Bihar, Gujarat , Chhattisgarh , U.P. Haryana , Karnataka, Rajasthan , M.P. and West Bengal .(10)
Poverty/Child needed to help parents in their occupational work	Andhra Pradesh, Assam , Bihar, Chhattisgarh , Haryana, J & K, Punjab Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan ((9)	Bihar , Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, M.P., Punjab, U.P.,(7)	A.P., U.P., Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana , J&K, Karnataka, M.P. , Punjab, Rajasthan West Bengal, (12)
Temporary Migration		Maharashtra and Punjab (2)	A.P. , Assam , Gujarat, Haryana, Tamilnadu and Uttarakhand. (6)
Parents' indifference/ lack of interest	J &K , Punjab, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh (4)	Bihar , Chattisgarh, Haryana, J & K, Punjab, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, U.P. Uttarkhand , West Bengal, H.P., M.P., Rajasthan (14)	Assam , Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka , Uttar Pradesh , Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal(6)
Illness of the child	Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal (3)	Assam, H.P. and Kerala, (3)	
Note: Upper Primary schools of Delhi were not covered. In the case of states shown in bold letters, the percentage of respondents giving a particular reason is over 70%.			

In majority of the states, head teachers felt that poverty or child's involvement in agriculture or other income generating work of parents was the major reason for child's absence from school. Teachers in most states give importance to the reason that the child was needed at home to help in household work or sibling care' and also to 'parents' indifference or lack of interest in child's education'. VEC/SMC members in maximum number of states felt that children were needed at home to help parents in household work or in contributing to family income and that , was the main reason for their absenting from school.

3.2 Opinion of teachers on school related factors responsible for low attendance

Teachers were asked to give opinion about 5 school related variables responsible for low attendance. They were asked to indicate which factors were more responsible for child remaining absent from school out of 5 given factors. Teachers' responses showed that in only five states (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, J&K and West Bengal) these factors needed special attention as teachers' response was more than 40% on these variables. In the remaining states, less that 40% teachers mentioned any of the school variables as responsible for low attendance of students. Many felt that the problem of students absence was not serious and hence did not respond.

Table 3.3 Teachers' Opinion about school related factors responsible for children's absence from school

Factors	Assam		Bihar		Chhattisgarh		Jammu & Kashmir		West Bengal	
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.
Lack of Basic Facilities	**	**	***	***	-	-	***	***		
Overcrowded class rooms	**	*	**	**	-	-	*	*		
Accessibility of schools,							**	*		
Unattractive Environment,			*							
Teacher Shortage	*	*	**		*	**	***	**	**	***

*40%<-50%; ** 50%<-75%; ***75 and above

Lack of basic facilities in schools was considered serious by most teachers in Assam, Bihar and J&K. Overcrowded classrooms lowered students' attendance in Assam, Bihar and J&K in the opinion of large number of teachers. Difficult access to school appeared to be a problem that discourages students to attend school regularly in J&K. Teacher shortage was highlighted by most teachers as a problem in Bihar (at primary level only), Chhattisgarh, J&K, West Bengal and to some extent in Assam. They felt that students tend to become irregular when there are not enough teachers in school. Unattractive school environment was not considered as a disincentive to students to attend school, except by a few teachers in primary schools of Bihar.

3.3 Reasons of child's absence from school given by parents

Parents of students were asked to give reasons for their wards being irregular or remaining frequently absent from school. Many parents felt that their children were attending school regularly and hence did not give any reason. However, quite a few parents responded and the data on reasons that they endorsed (in case more than 10% endorsed a particular reason) are shown state-wise in Table 3.4.

Table 3.3 Reasons given by parents for low attendance of children

State	Temporary Migration	Lack of facilities	Learning difficulty	Child does not like going to school	Unhappy with teacher behaviour
1.Andhra Pradesh	•		•		
2. Assam	•	•••		••	
3. Bihar	•	•••		•	
4. Chhattisgarh		•	•	•	
5. Delhi	••		•	•	
6.Gujarat	•	•	•	••	
7. Haryana			•	•	•
8. Himachal Pradesh		•			
9. Jammu & Kashmir	••	••	•	••	
10.Maharashtra	••			••	
11.Madhya Pradesh	•	••	•	••	•
12.Orissa		•		••	
13. Punjab	••		•	•	
14. Rajasthan				•	
15. Tamil Nadu		••			
16. Uttarakhand		•	•		•
17.West Bengal		•		•	
No. of States	9	11	9	13	3

•10%<-20%; •• 20%<-40%; ••• 40%and above

In three states (Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala) less than 10% parents endorsed one or more of the reasons for low attendance and these are not shown in the table.

In most states (13 out of 20), 10 to 40 percent parents said that the main reason was that the child does not like going to school. The next important reason given by parents was that 'school lacked facilities'. This reason was supported by over 40% parents in Assam and Bihar. The third reasons that emerged as important was 'temporary migration of the family'. It was given greater weightage in Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra and Punjab, where more of migrant families come to work.

In 9 states between 10% and 20% parents felt that children absented form school due to experiencing difficulty in learning. Very few felt that teachers' behavior was responsible for discouraging children to attend school. Only in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, 10 to 20 percent parents felt that this was the reason for child not going to school.

The reasons given by parents are mostly school related reasons. They felt that improvement in facilities and teaching learning at school will make students more regular. In a few states, where families from other states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh came for a few months to work, parents felt that temporary migration of the family also affected school attendance rate of children.

3.4 Focussed Group Discussion with community members

Informal focus group discussions (12 per state) were held by supervisors and investigators in each state to find out what the community felt about reasons of children being absent from school. The issues emerging from these discussions have been summarized in the following table.

Table 3.5 Reasons of children's absence from school emerging from FGD with Community members

State	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8
Andhra Pradesh	•	•	•	•	•			
Assam			•	•				
Bihar	•			•	•	•		•
Chhattisgarh		•		•	•		•	
Delhi				•	•	•		•
Gujarat				•				•
Haryana			•	•				
Himachal Pradesh		•	•		•	•		
Jammu & Kashmir		•	•		•			
Karnataka	•		•		•	•	•	
Kerala			•		•	•		
Maharashtra					•	•	•	•
Madhya Pradesh	•		•	•		•		•
Orissa	•	•		•	•		•	•
Punjab		•	•		•			
Rajasthan		•	•	•	•	•	•	
Tamil Nadu	•		•					
Uttar Pradesh	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Uttarakhand	•			•	•	•		•
West Bengal		•			•	•	•	
No. of States	8	9	12	12	15	11	6	7

R1: Poor quality of teaching; **R2:** Shortage of teachers; **R3:** Poor accessibility/ lack of transport; **R4:** Poverty; **R5:** Poor facility in schools; **R6:** Parents indifference; **R7:** Illness of child/ family members; **R8:** Household work/ sibling care.

It appears that in majority of the states (15 out of 20), the main reason for child remaining frequently absent from school that emerged from group discussions, was that 'facilities in school' were poor. The other reasons emerging from group discussions in 11 to 12 states 'were poor accessibility or lack of transport for going to schools', 'poverty' and 'parents indifference'. 'Child's illness' or 'being pre occupied with household work or sibling care' emerged as reason for children's absence from school in only 6 or 7 states. School factors such as 'shortage of teachers' and 'poor quality of teaching' emerged as reasons of low attendance of children in 8 or 9 states.

3.5 Measures proposed by VEC members for increasing students' attendance rate

VEC members were asked to choose the two most important measures out of 5 given measures for increasing students' attendance rate. The measures preferred by them are shown in Table 3.6 in terms of the median values of the percentages of respondents who preferred a given reason in different states.

Table 3.6 Measures proposed by VEC members for Reducing Students' absence rate

Measure	% of VEC members (median)
1. Motivate parents to send children to school	79.5
2. Establish more Anganwadis to free children from sibling care	24.3
3. Improve teaching in school	23.8
4. Provide scholarships/ incentives for regularity in attendance	38.3
5. Make schools more attractive	16.2

It appears that most of them (79.5%) felt that parents should be motivated to send children to school regularly in order to reduce absence rate. The next most important measure suggested by them (38.3%) was to provide scholarships or other incentives for regularity in attendance. Improving teaching-learning in schools and making schools attractive were given relatively lower rating (23.8% and 16.2% respectively). The parents also gave importance to establishment of Anganwadis as a measure for freeing older children from sibling care so that they could attend school more regularly.

3.6 Effect of student and school variables on students' absence rate

Regression analysis was carried out for every state using individual student's absence rate as dependent variable and set of school variables and students' personal and home background variables as independent variables. The sample in this case was of six students from each class. Among them, three were those who had maximum attendance rate and three were those whose attendance rate in the class was lowest. The absence rate was for the year 2005-06 as derived from attendance registers. It was found that regression coefficients for school variables were not significant or made negligible contribution to child's absence, the reason being that variation between schools in respect of students' attendance was not large enough to show any school characteristic to be contributing to increase or decrease in attendance rate. The variation in absence rate was more between students within a school.

Among child related variables, a few contributed to absence rate and a few did not. On the basis of the results of regression analysis of most states, the following conclusions were derived. The variables that boosted attendance rate were:

- (1) Child belonging to non-SC, non-ST category.
- (2) Child getting help in studies at home.
- (3) Child feeling that facilities and teaching in school were satisfactory.
- (4) Parents meeting teachers from time to time to discuss the child's progress.

The variables that did not contribute or made nominal contribution to individual child's absence from school were:

- Sex of the child.
- Age of the child.
- Class in which child is studying
- Father's educational level.
- Father's occupation.
- Mother's educational level.

3.7 Relationship between students' attendance and achievement

For studying the relationship between students' attendance and achievement analysis was done separately at two levels (i) School Level and (ii) student level.

- (i) At school level correlations between the average attendance rate of students of classes IV/V and VII/VIII and the percentage of students who scored more than 50% marks in their annual examination were derived to explore the relationship. This crude measure of achievement was used since there was no other option for studying relationship between attendance rate and achievement in the absence of test scores based on a common test for all students of the sampled schools. The standard of examination varies across schools, and hence high correlation between attendance rate and achievement measured in this way, was not expected even though child's school attendance rate affects his/her achievement in examinations.

We found the correlation between attendance rate of class IV/ V children and percentage of students scoring more than 50% marks in examinations to be positive and significant in Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, but except in Uttarakhand where the correlation was 0.63, the correlations were between 0.10 and 0.20. In other states, the correlations were not significantly different from zero.

For class VII/VIII, the correlations were significant in Bihar (0.25), Maharashtra (0.20), Uttarakhand (0.72) and West Bengal (0.35). In all other states, these were not significant. The low correlations could be partly due to the criterion of 'percentage of students scoring over 50% marks' being a crude one and not uniform across schools of the state. Also, besides attendance rate, several other factors affect achievement.

- ii) At student level the relationship of marks obtained by the individual students in their annual school examination of class IV/V and VII/VIII with their attendance rate was examined. For this purpose, regression analysis was carried out with scores in annual examination (in language, mathematics and total of all subjects) of 20 students' of class IV/V in each school as dependent variable and attendance rate derived from school attendance registers and students' personal characteristics as independent variables. School variables were ignored in this analysis. The

analysis showed that the child's school attendance rate and some student background variables such as social group (SC/ST/others) and whether the child is a repeater or not, had significant effect on child's achievement. The effect of child's attendance on achievement scores was positive and visible in several states as the regression coefficient of the variables 'attendance rate' was significant in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In other states the regression coefficients were statistically significant but quite low indicating that other variables overshadowed the effect of attendance rate. Positive and statistically significant regression coefficients implied that the higher the attendance rate, the higher were the achievement scores adjusted for the contribution of other student variables like gender, social group, rural/urban and whether the child is a repeater or not.

Similar regression analysis in the case of the students of upper primary level (class VII/VIII) showed similar results. In this case, the regression coefficients were found to be significant in the same way in the all the above mentioned states (except Delhi where the upper primary level was not covered in the study) and not in other states .

3.8 Relationship between Attendance Rate and Repetition Rate

Correlations between attendance rate and repetition rate of students were calculated for every class from the school level data on attendance during 2005-06 and the data on repeaters in each class in 2006-07. The repetition rate derived from such data on repeaters is expected to be low when the attendance rate is high. We found that the correlations were negative and significant in a number of classes at both primary and upper primary levels but not in all the classes in all the states, as the following table shows. Negative correlations indicate that the higher the attendance rate in a class, the lower is the repetition rate in that class.

Table 3.7: Correlation between Attendance Rate and Repetition Rate in Different Classes

State	Class							
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Andhra Pradesh	-0.19	-0.19	-0.21	-0.24	-0.17	-0.17	-0.20	
Delhi		-0.22				-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-0.16	-0.16			-0.26		-0.11	-0.17
Maharashtra	-0.64	-0.15	-0.16	-0.12				
Orissa	-0.11	-0.19	-0.11	-0.14				
Punjab						-0.25		
Rajasthan	-0.23	-0.26	-0.43	-0.37	-0.20	-0.18	-0.23	-0.27
Uttarakhand	-0.49	-0.67	-0.59					
West Bengal	-0.17				-0.76			-0.27
Chhattisgarh	-0.31	-0.35	-0.25	-0.35	-0.25			
Tamil Nadu			-0.21					
Karnataka	-0.15	-0.30	-0.42	-0.37	-0.33	-0.47		NA
Bihar			-0.15		-0.16			

Note : Only the correlations that were statistically significant are reported in the above table.

The correlations were not significant in any class of primary stage in Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and in any class of upper primary stage in Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Kerala.

The reasons for insignificant correlation could be very low values of repetition rate or there being not much variation in repetition rate across schools. Also it could be due to larger effect of other factors such as quality of teaching and atmosphere for studies at child's home, and not only the absence rate which determine whether the child would repeat or not.

3.9 Relationship between Attendance Rate and Dropout rate

It is expected that the lower the attendance rate, the higher is the possibility of the child dropping out from school. The correlation between attendance rate and dropout rate should therefore, be negative. Table 3.8 shows the values of correlation between attendance rate in each class during 2005-06 and the dropout rate for that class. In this table only the correlations which were negative and statistically significant are reported; the values of correlation which were not significant are not shown.

Table 3.8 Correlation between Attendance Rate and Dropout Rate for Different Classes

State	Class							
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Andhra Pradesh	-0.15	-0.14	-0.11	-0.10	-0.10		-0.14	
Haryana			-0.32					
Himachal Pradesh	-0.14							
Jammu & Kashmir					-0.25	-0.56		
Madhya Pradesh							-0.26	-0.19
Maharashtra					-0.11	-0.18	-0.18	
Orissa	-0.30	-0.23	-0.29	-0.28	-0.28		-0.30	
Punjab	-0.39							
Rajasthan	-0.15	-0.21	-0.28	-0.18			-0.23	-0.22
Uttarakhand	-0.14				-0.34		-0.33	
West Bengal	-0.81	-0.16	-0.11	-0.18	-0.13			-0.80
Tamil Nadu		-0.13				-0.26	-0.32	-0.41
Karnataka	-0.13	-0.43	-0.38	-0.44	-0.44	-0.26	-0.43	
Bihar	-0.26		-0.19	-0.24	-0.17		-0.30	
Kerala					-0.30			

Note : Only the correlations that were statistically significant are reported in the above table.

The correlations were not significant in any primary class in Assam, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Kerala. Also the correlations were not significant in any class of the upper primary stage in Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

In the classes and the states in which the correlation is not significant, it may be due to predominant influence of other factors on dropping out or due to lack of variation in the dropout rate across schools. Actually there are several home related factors responsible for dropping out of children from school and only attendance rate is not the crucial factor.

CHAPTER 4 – CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1 The study was conducted in 19 major states of India and National Capital Territory – Delhi mainly to estimate the average attendance rate of children in primary and upper primary schools. The students in primary classes in the 20 states covered in the study accounted for 92% of total students in these classes in the country and the students of upper primary classes accounted for about 94% of total upper primary students in the country. The estimates were derived from the data on the number of students who were enrolled and the number of students who were found to be actually present in school during three unannounced visits to schools by the investigators. Attendance was observed twice on the days of visit to school, first after about ½ hour of opening of school and next, about ½ hour before closing of school. It was a sample study in which 300 to 400 schools per state were selected depending on the size of the state.

4.2 On pooling up the data of all the 20 states, we find that the average attendance rate of students at primary level was 68.5% and at upper primary level, 75.7%. The attendance rate of girls was a little higher than that of boys at both primary and upper primary levels. At primary level, the difference was of only 1.6 percentage points while at the upper primary level, the difference was of 3.5 percentage points.

There was not much difference between attendance rate of different social groups. The attendance rate of Muslim children was a little less than that of total children (66.4%) at primary level. The attendance rate of the different social groups was in the range of 76% to 79% at the upper primary level. There was significant class to class variation in attendance rate. It was lowest in class I (65.6%); it gradually increased to 72.0% in class V and further to 78.8% in class VII. Obviously the students of upper classes do not abstain from going to school as frequently as those of lower classes do.

4.3 Among the states, the attendance rate of students at primary level was below the overall average of 68.5% in Bihar (42.0%), Chhattisgarh (67.7%), Orissa (66.8%), Rajasthan (62.7%), and Uttar Pradesh (57.4%) . The state in which the attendance rate was quite high (80% or more) were Assam (81.3%), Haryana (81.5%), Karnataka (86.2%) , Maharashtra (89.0%), Punjab (81.7%), Tamil Nadu (88.3%) and Uttarakhand (80.0%).

- 4.4** At the upper primary level, the states in which the attendance rate was below the overall average of 75.7% were Bihar (36.8%), Chattisgarh (75.0%), Madhya Pradesh (69.8%), Orissa (69.0%), Punjab (74.7%), Uttar Pradesh (60.5%) and West Bengal (70.2%). The states in which the attendance rate was relatively very high (above 85%) are Haryana (85.1%), Himachal Pradesh (93.2%), Kerala (92.0%), Maharashtra (89.0%) and Tamil Nadu (87.8%).
- 4.5** In this study, data was collected on teacher absence also during school visits by finding out how many teachers out of those posted in the school, were present {the overall average attendance rate of teachers in primary schools was 81.7% implying that their average absence rate was 18.3%. The states in which the attendance rate of teachers at primary level was found below the overall average were Andhra Pradesh (78.1%) Assam (79.2%), Bihar (75.8%) Chattisgarh (75.7%), Gujarat (70.0%), HP (80.0%), Madhya Pradesh (70.4%), Jammu and Kashmir (80.8%), Uttar Pradesh (77.8%)} teacher attendance rate was quite high (over 90%) in Delhi (95%) and West Bengal (96.3%).
- 4.6** The average attendance rate of teacher in upper primary schools was (80.5%) implying that their average absence rate was (19.5%). The attendance rate of teachers was found to be less than the overall average attendance in Andhra Pradesh (77.3%), Assam (55.2%), Bihar (74.9%), Chattisgarh (73.5%), Madhya Pradesh (67.0%) Punjab (78%), Rajasthan (79.8%), and Uttrakhand (77.7%). Teachers attendance rates were quite high (over 90%) in Haryana (91.9%) and West Bengal (98.1%).
- 4.7** Some of the reasons of students' frequent absence from school given by teachers and VEC members were school related and some were home related. The prominent school related reasons were lack of adequate facilities in school, teacher shortage and over-crowded class rooms. The common home related reasons were mainly economic such as child being required to do household work at home or child being required to help parents in work related to agriculture or business. Some felt that parents' indifference or lack of interest was also responsible for child's frequent absence. Parents, on the other hand, felt that schools were ill-equipped there was; they also blamed the child for his/her lack of interest in studies and being disinterested in going to school.

4.8 The remedial measures suggested by the community members for improving attendance rate were (i) bring about improvement in school facilities, school environment and teaching-learning in classrooms (ii) educate parents about the importance of sending children to school regularly and not involving them too much in household work or income generating activity. Poverty alleviation measures will help in relieving children from such work and making them more regular in attending school.

4.9 Based on the views expressed by teachers, parents and community members in the course of focused group discussions, the following suggestions are being made for improving attendance rate of children.

- (i) Facilities in school and school environment should be improved to make schools more attractive for the children. It should be ensured that there is no teacher shortage in schools and classrooms are not over-crowded.
- (ii) The quality of education in schools should improve so that parents feel that the child is learning something worthwhile in school and they no longer remain indifferent about the child's education and unconcerned about whether he/she attends school regularly or not.
- (iii) Teachers in school should be more child friendly and classrooms should be attractive so that children feel enthusiastic about going to school instead of being reluctant or unwilling.
- (iv) The VECs and community members should assume greater responsibility for ensuring regularity of children is going to school. If children are found to be missing classes, the matter should be brought to the notice of parents and teachers who should take necessary corrective action .
- (v) To reduce the absence rate because of illness or poor health, regular health check up of students should be carried out and arrangements should be made to enhance medical facilities for school going children.

State data sheets

- Andhra Pradesh
- Assam
- Bihar
- Chhattisgarh
- Delhi (only Primary)
- Gujarat
- Haryana
- Himachal Pradesh
- Jammu & Kashmir
- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Orissa
- Punjab
- Rajasthan
- Tamil Nadu
- Uttar Pradesh
- Uttarakhand
- West Bengal

Attendance rates given in the state data sheets are based on actual head count of students who were present out of the enrolled students during 3 unannounced visits to the sampled schools, except in Gujarat where the schools were visited only twice and in Kashmir region of J&K where schools were visited only once. These data sheets also include attendance rate of teachers determined in the same way

Along with the attendance rate of students at primary and upper primary stages attendance rates for the different groups of students (boys/girls; SC/ST/Muslims) and for schools in rural and urban areas are also given for every state in these data sheets.

The Reasons for low attendance as given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC and parents are also being presented in the data sheets. The issues emerging out of Focus group discussions (12 in each state) have also being compiled along with.

Parents' response in affirmative, for participation of their wards in wage earning activities and /or engagement in household work /sibling care. is marked only when 10% or more parents reported frequent involvement of their wards in such activities.

Andhra Pradesh

Sample : 400 schools from 20 districts; Primary-302, Upper Primary-98, Urban-110 , Rural-290
Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	73.3	72.0	72.7	78.9	77.2	78.1
Upper primary	77.5	75.7	76.6	78.2	76.4	77.3

Attendance rate in **first hour** by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	73.3	77.4
Girls	73.4	79.4
SC	73.1	76.2
ST	72.1	72.5
Minority (Muslim)	69.9	76.1
OBC	75.4	81.4
Others	81.4	84.4

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	75.9	78.2
Urban	69.6	77.4

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC ,parents and Focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	63.9	64.4	21.5	18.3	40.8	62.1	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	25.6	25.6	35.5	26.2	49.0	24.1		√
Lack of Interest in child's education	46.9	47.8	39.7	31.5	35.7	37.9	√	
Temporary migration	43.3	43.3	30.9	18.0	76.5	82.8		√
Child's illness	26.4	23.3	17.9	10.0				
Participation in religious and social function	8.3	12.2	4.0	3.2				
Lack of facilities in school	3.2	3.3	15.5	10.8	13.3	3.4	√	√
Shortage of teachers			8.0	7.1				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			8.9	5.6	14.3	6.9	√	√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			3.0	3.5			√	

Assam

Sample : 330 schools from 12 districts;
Primary-252, Upper Primary-78, Urban-33 , Rural-297

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	82.2	80.4	81.3	77.7	80.6	79.2
Up.primary	84.6	84.4	84.5	56.5	53.7	55.2

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	82.5	83.0
Girls	82.0	86.0
SC	82.9	85.6
ST	77.6	85.5
Minority (Muslim)	86.3	80.4
OBC	78.3	83.9
Others	81.5	89.0

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	80.5	84.3
Urban	81.3	85.4

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and Focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	73.8	74.4	48.1	42.4	34.5	29.5	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	31.0	37.2	39.7	34.4	69.0	69.2		√
Lack of Interest in child's education	33.7	32.1	42.2	46.9	70.2	80.8	√	
Temporary migration	24.2	24.4	32.1	24.0	78.2	87.2		√
Child's illness	43.7	46.2	65.5	69.8				
Participation in religious and social function	11.1	12.8	26.9	32.6				
Lack of facilities in school	8.7	5.1	57.1	54.7	8.3	7.7	√	√
Shortage of teachers			42.3	44.6				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			29.8	31.1	8.3	2.6		√
Difficult access to school due to river etc.			28.4	28.0			√	

Bihar

Sample : 368 schools 26 districts
Primary-296, Upper Primary-72, Urban-63 , Rural-305

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	44.0	40.4	42.2	74.8	76.8	75.8
Upper primary	38.4	35.3	36.8	74.3	75.6	74.9

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	43.8	36.1
Girls	44.3	41.8
SC	46.4	42.2
ST*	61.6	84.0
Minority (Muslim)	45.3	40.0
OBC	46.6	38.1
Others	72.8	40.0

*High attendance rate of ST is due to small number of ST students in the sample.

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	41.9	36.6
Urban	43.9	37.3

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U. Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	66.7	61.8	84.4	86.5	64.2	57.4	√	
House hold work/sibling care	52.0	44.9	79.0	75.5	57.7	56.4		
Lack of Interest in child's education	44.1	49.4	85.3	83.7	21.2	24.5		
Temporary migration	6.6	5.6	20.2	19.0	39.1	40.4		√
Child's illness	5.7	5.6	4.6	3.4				
Participation in religious and social function	12.5	13.5	7.6	10.6				
Lack of facilities in school	14.7	25.8	82.5	72.2	39.4	37.2	√	√
Shortage of teachers			67.7	60.3				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			42.5	33.5	23.4	24.5		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			16.1	12.4				
Poor quality of mid day meal							√	

Chhattisgarh

Sample :365 schools from 9 districts
Primary-284, Upper Primary-81, Urban-37 , Rural-328

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	68.4	67.1	67.7	75.2	76.2	75.7
Upper primary	75.3	74.7	75.0	74.4	72.6	73.5

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	68.0	70.5
Girls	68.5	80.7
SC	69.2	74.9
ST	67.9	74.6
Minority (Muslim)	80.3	79.6
OBC	69.3	77.5
Others	84.8	90.7

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	68.3	74.2
Urban	65.3	77.4

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	76.0	79.3	51.9	46.6	58.3	54.8	√	
House hold work/sibling care	36.0	36.6	63.3	59.5	79.1	69.9		
Lack of Interest in child's education	52.7	59.8	83.6	77.9	45.7	47.9	√	
Temporary migration	17.0	4.9	33.4	38.2	47.1	43.8		√
Child's illness	12.5	11.0	22.6	22.9				
Participation in religious and social function	27.9	25.6	10.0	24.4				
Lack of facilities in school	4.6	4.9	29.6	24.4	11.9	13.7	√	√
Shortage of teachers			51.0	34.4			√	
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			17.9	24.4	4.3	4.1	√	√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			14.1	10.7				

Delhi

Sample : 124 schools from 9 districts
Primary-124, Urban-94 , Rural-30

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	74.1	72.1	73.1	95.2	94.8	95.0

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary
Boys	74.6
Girls	73.7
SC	74.7
ST	78.4
Minority (Muslim)	70.3
OBC	73.0
Others	70.6

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary
Rural	73.0
Urban	73.1

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %	Teachers %	VECs %	Focus Group Discussion	Parents
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	39.2	75.4	27.9	√	
House hold work/sibling care	44.2	51.1	63.1	√	
Lack of Interest in child's education	25.0	75.4	71.3	√	
Temporary migration	60.8	59.4	82.8		√
Child's illness	13.3	26.6			
Participation in religious and social function	28.3	27.3			
Lack of facilities in school	4.2	10.5	6.6	√	√
Shortage of teachers		10.0			
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school		7.5	5.7	√	√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season		5.3			

Sample : 345 schools from 13 districts

Primary-53, Upper Primary-292 (243 with primary section), Urban-51 , Rural-294

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	76.5	73.6	75	70.4	70.0	70.0
Upper primary	80.2	77.1	78.6	87.7	87.4	87.6

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	76.5	80.3
Girls	76.5	80.7
SC	79.7	82.5
ST	73.1	77.5
Minority (Muslim)	76.0	77.5
OBC	79.4	80.9
Others	79.7	84.1

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	70.7	75.5
Urban	70.6	79.5

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC, parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	54.9	58.8	29.4	34.2	55.9	60.5	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	52.9	50.0	61.8	69.3	73.5	78.0	√	√
Lack of Interest in child's education	21.6	17.3	38.2	38.9	38.2	21.5	√	
Temporary migration	21.6	29.4	28.4	33.2	41.2	54.8	√	√
Child's illness	23.5	18.0	32.4	35.8				
Participation in religious and social function	27.5	27.2	38.2	43.8				
Lack of facilities in school	-	-	1.8	12.9	2.9	6.2		√
Shortage of teachers			2.2	17.4				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			0.7	6.4	-	0.6		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			1.5	10.5				

Haryana

Sample :300 schools from 13 districts
 Primary-247, Upper Primary-53, Urban-77 , Rural-223

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	83.1	81.3	82.2	87.0	86.8	86.9
Upper primary	88.0	82.2	85.1	91.9	91.9	91.9

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	82.7	88.1
Girls	83.5	88.0
SC	83.6	86.8
ST	91.3	87.5
Minority (Muslim)	82.9	84.1
OBC	81.8	88.6
Others	83.7	89.6

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	79.1	80.6
Urban	77.2	77.1

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	65.9	66.7	64.7	68.8	83.8	77.4	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	56.1	56.9	64.6	70.7	69.6	66.0		√
Lack of Interest in child's education	26.0	25.5	76.3	67.3	41.3	12.1	√	
Temporary migration	15.2	11.8	21.8	18.8	46.6	52.9		√
Child's illness	11.4	17.6	24.2	17.3				
Participation in religious and social function	15.0	21.1						
Lack of facilities in school	4.9	3.9	17.6	8.5	6.9	7.3		√
Shortage of teachers			30.8	9.5				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			8.2	4.5	3.6	3.8		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			5.5	5.0			√	

Himachal Pradesh

Sample :320 schools from 9 districts
Primary-245, Upper Primary-75, Urban -14, Rural-306

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	95.1	94.1	94.6	80.2	79.6	80.0
Upper primary	93.6	92.8	93.2	88.8	87.0	88.0

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	95.0	93.1
Girls	95.3	94.1
SC	94.1	92.4
ST	95.1	94.6
Minority (Muslim)	90.8	94.0
OBC	97.4	94.0
Others	95.4	94.1

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	94.9	93.1
Urban	92.0	94.7

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and Focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	37.6	33.3	15.1	14.7	49.4	52.0	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	27.8	48.0	33.5	36.3	48.6	49.3		√
Lack of Interest in child's education	70.0	33.3	50.6	52.5	54.7	58.7	√	
Temporary migration	6.1	8.0	11.8	13.3	2.1	2.7		√
Child's illness	43.3	34.7	55.9	50.7				
Participation in religious and social function	41.2	40.0	42.0	45.3				
Lack of facilities in school	2.9	6.7	9.4	10.7	11.8	20.0	√	√
Shortage of teachers			22.9	22.7				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			10.2	10.7	17.1	12.0	√	√
Difficulty in understanding Teaching language					22.5	18.7		

Jammu & Kashmir

Sample : 150 schools from 9 districts
Primary-122, Upper Primary-28, Urban-7 , Rural-143

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	80.9	78.1	78.5	80.8	80.8	80.8
Upper primary	79.2	75.8	77.5	89.4	77.2	83.1

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	80.4	80.0
Girls	81.6	78.0
SC	77.3	74.8
ST	94.7	38.5
Muslim	81.2	80.9
OBC	79.8	85.8
Others	81.2	78.2

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	75.8	76.4
Urban	82.4	77.8

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and Focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	79.1	67.8	51.3	58.3	81.9	61.4	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	23.4	32.5	55.9	74.5	16.1	19.4		
Lack of Interest in child's education	57.8	74.3	65.7	59.3	66.9	66.9	√	
Temporary migration	25.0	22.8	1.7	1.1	30.0	35.6		√
Child's illness	19.6	19.0	15.2	20.2				
Participation in religious and social function	9.1	15.2	1.6	0				
Lack of facilities in school	3.1	2.6	78	78	59.1	71.6	√	√
Shortage of teachers			71	63				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			17	21	12.0	9.7		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			62	52			√	

Karnataka

Sample : 366 schools from 15 districts
Primary-296, Upper Primary-70, Urban-64, Rural-302

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	86.3	86.1	86.2	83.5	84.3	83.9
Upper primary	87.2	86.7	86.9	83.8	84.2	84.0

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	86.4	84.4
Girls	86.3	89.9
SC	85.1	89.1
ST	78.7	79.3
Minority (Muslim)	87.8	90.4
OBC	86.9	88.6
Others	92.9	92.8

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	85.9	84.9
Urban	87.0	91.7

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	37.3	43.7	18.4	30.2	59.7	52.2		
House hold work/sibling care	35.9	39.4	43.3	49.5	61.7	68.1		
Lack of Interest in child's education	46.1	39.4	56.7	59.2	70.0	79.7	√	
Temporary migration	21.7	15.5	30.5	29.3	45.9	45.3		√
Child's illness	54.6	46.5	47.7	38.7				
Participation in religious and social function	42.4	47.9	45.6	40.8			√	
Lack of facilities in school	1.4	1.4	29.5	28.1	20.7	15.9	√	√
Shortage of teachers			18.1	25.4				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			12.8	7.6	10.3	2.9		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			7.2	8.8			√	

Kerala

Sample : 318 schools from 12 districts
Primary-230, Upper Primary-88, Urban -68, Rural-250

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	91.7	91.1	91.4	84.6	84.3	84.5
Upper primary	92.4	91.6	92.0	85.8	84.8	85.3

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	91.5	92.2
Girls	92.0	92.7
SC	90.1	94.8
ST	85.9	89.8
Minority (Muslim)	91.8	93.7
OBC	91.9	94.5
Others	96.6	97.3

Attendance rate (overall) of students by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	91.1	91.4
Urban	93.3	92.6

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	24.1	41.1	3.8	11.2	15.2	21.6		
House hold work/sibling care	2.6	7.8	7.2	5.6	9.5	9.8		
Lack of Interest in child's education	23.2	24.4	23.6	27.1	39.0	37.3	√	
Temporary migration	10.5	8.9	8.2	7.5	39.0	43.1		√
Child's illness	69.7	67.8	65.9	70.1			√	
Participation in religious and social function	23.7	26.7	18.3	23.4			√	
Lack of facilities in school	1.8	2.2	9.1	3.7	32.4	23.5	√	√
Shortage of teachers			6.7	2.8				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			4.3	2.8	22.9	25.5		√
Difficult access to school –lack of transport facility			15.9	11.7			√	

Madhya Pradesh

Sample :375 schools from 20 districts;
Primary-290, Upper Primary-85, Urban-78 , Rural-297

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	73.3	70.9	72.1	69.7	71.1	70.4
Upper primary	70.8	68.9	69.8	66.8	67.3	67.0

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	72.8	69.6
Girls	73.9	72.0
SC	73.3	71.4
ST	69.5	67.4
Minority (Muslim)	75.6	74.6
OBC	75.5	73.0
Others	78.5	78.6

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	73.8	70.1
Urban	73.3	73.2

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	59.0	58.0	50.0	59.0	69.0	75.0	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	41.0	39.0	64.0	61.0	60.0	61.0	√	
Lack of Interest in child's education	29.0	31.0	52.0	58.0	22.0	17.0	√	
Temporary migration	19.0	12.0	28.0	21.0	48.0	49.0	√	√
Child's illness	19.0	14.0	25.0	18.0			√	
Participation in religious and social function	22.0	20.0	28.0	25.0			√	
Lack of facilities in school	-	-	41.0	37.0	12.0	8.0	√	√
Shortage of teachers			44.0	39.0				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			25.0	23.0	6.0	2.0		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			42.0	22.0			√	

Maharashtra

Sample : 400 schools from 20 districts
Primary-398, Upper Primary-2, Urban-80 , Rural-320

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	90.0	89.0	89.0	88.1	87.4	87.8
Upper primary	90.0	89.0	89.0	87.4	86.8	87.1

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	90.0	90.0
Girls	90.0	91.1
SC	87.9	88.5
ST	85.1	89.8
Minority (Muslim)	88.7	90.1
OBC	92.8	92.2
Others	92.4	91.0

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	87.0	88.0
Urban	92.0	89.0

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	43.0	41.0	19.0	28.0	29.0	37.0		√
House hold work/sibling care	17.0	11.0	54.0	68.0	41.0	44.0	√	
Lack of Interest in child's education	21.0	16.0	42.0	62.0	49.0	49.0		
Temporary migration	25.0	18.0	43.0	50.0	43.0	40.0	√	√
Child's illness	31.0	13.0	54.0	38.0			√	
Participation in religious and social function	13.0	5.0	19.0	9.0				
Lack of facilities in school	4.0	0.0	33.0	23.0	7.0	11.0	√	√
Shortage of teachers			16.0	30.0				
Unattractive school/ Lack of interest in going to school			15.0	15.0	16.0	19.0		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			16.0	10.0				

Orissa

Sample : 400 schools from 15 districts
Primary-369, Upper Primary-31, Urban-60 , Rural-340

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	67.8	65.8	66.8	86.8	87.9	87.4
Upper primary	69.5	68.6	69.0	86.9	86.2	86.6

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	67.3	66.7
Girls	68.2	72.5
SC	63.2	65.3
ST	62.8	64.2
Minority (Muslim)	65.2	62.1
OBC & Others	72.6	72.9

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	67.6	68.7
Urban	64.0	69.9

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	19.4	25.9	21.0	22.0	38.0	37.0	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	30.4	24.7	27.7	29.0	21.0	18.0	√	
Lack of Interest in child's education	2.8	5.9	31.3	24.0	21.7	24.0	√	
Temporary migration	8.3	2.4	2.5	0	21.7	24.0	√	√
Child's illness	5.3	3.5	4.0	8.0				
Participation in religious and social function	14.1	14.1	7.3	11.0				
Lack of facilities in school	0	2.4	25.3	21.0	3.3	5.0	√	√
Shortage of teachers			29.3	30.0			√	
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			16.3	13.0	0.67	5.0		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			23.3	23.0				

Punjab

Sample :295 schools from 12 districts
Primary-227, Upper Primary-68, Urban-48 , Rural-247

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	80.9	82.5	81.7	84.2	82.7	83.5
Upper primary	74.2	75.1	74.7	78.9	77.4	78.1

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	82.4	74.4
Girls	79.2	74.0
SC	79.9	76.1
ST	90.6	99.4
Minority (Muslim)	83.0	77.2
OBC	84.0	74.6
Others	80.6	72.2

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	82.3	76.1
Urban	80.1	70.8

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	65.2	98.5	28.5	24.9	30.8	32.4	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	45.4	16.2	49.6	48.5	56.4	58.8		√
Lack of Interest in child's education	63.0	67.6	76	76.6	66	57.4	√	
Temporary migration	20.7	4.4	58.7	64.2	72.2	67.6		√
Child's illness	39.2	16.2	27.2	24.0				
Participation in religious and social function	12.3	5.9	27.0	28.4				
Lack of facilities in school			11.1	7.7	9.7	10.3	√	√
Shortage of teachers			5.3	2.4				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			8.3	6.5	6.2	1.5	√	√
Difficult access to school /lack of proper roads & transport facility			5.3	2.4			√	

Rajasthan

Sample : 398 schools from 13 districts
Primary-277, Upper Primary-121, Urban-48 , Rural-350

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	66.3	59.1	62.7	81.2	81.0	81.1
Upper primary	81.1	76.6	78.9	80.2	79.4	79.8

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	68.5	81.2
Girls	64.2	81.1
SC	65.3	80.2
ST	57.8	70.8
Minority (Muslim)	67.8	83.3
OBC	69.4	83.6
Others	69.6	86.3

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	62.5	78.4
Urban	63.2	80.4

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	62.8	61.6	28.1	28.6	65.1	71.4	√	
House hold work/sibling care	61.4	71.9	80.5	78.5	84.4	88.4		
Lack of Interest in child's education	21.3	22.3	45.3	52.7	34.6	33.4	√	
Temporary migration	16.3	21.5	30.8	28.9	47.2	44.5		√
Child's illness	33.9	28.1	22.3	18.7				
Participation in religious and social function	25.6	31.4	36.9	36.6				
Lack of facilities in school	4.3	0.8	13.9	14.6	20.1	17.3	√	√
Shortage of teachers			15.9	16.6			√	
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			7.3	6.4	10.8	10.2		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			5.1	3.7				

Tamil Nadu

Sample : 353 schools from 13 districts
Primary-281, Upper Primary-72, Urban-54 , Rural-299

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	89.1	87.6	88.3	86.9	86.3	86.6
Upper primary	88.2	87.5	87.8	92.5	86.7	89.6

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	88.6	88.0
Girls	89.5	88.2
SC	88.3	88.2
ST	82.9	86.2
Minority (Muslim)	88.1	99.5
OBC	90.6	81.5
Others	100	90.3

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	89.0	87.7
Urban	86.0	88.3

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	22.1	33.3	8.4	20.7	38.7	44.6		
House hold work/sibling care	14.9	36.1	27.8	41.4	38.7	39.0		
Lack of Interest in child's education	26.0	33.3	27.5	38.6	55.2	47.0		
Temporary migration	21.7	22.2	18.5	21.4	62.8	63.9		√
Child's illness	68.0	61.1	60.7	49.0			√	
Participation in religious and social function	47.0	36.1	56.2	44.8				
Lack of facilities in school	0.4	0	10.8	10.5	25.3	18.1	√	√
Shortage of teachers			15.8	31.0				
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			5.6	6.9	10.0	10.8	√	√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			7.2	7.6			√	

Uttar Pradesh

Sample : 400 schools from 24 districts
Primary-323, Upper Primary-77, Urban -80, Rural-320

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	59.6	55.2	57.4	76.9	78.7	77.8
Upper primary	61.8	59.2	60.5	82.3	82.9	82.6

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	58.2	61.4
Girls	61.0	62.3
SC	59.6	62.8
ST	48.6	75.0
Minority (Muslim)	56.1	65.9
OBC	63.3	65.2
Others	71.6	70.0

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	58.2	59.8
Urban	53.1	62.8

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	69.8	71.3	88.3	76.3	78	75.6	√	
House hold work/sibling care	62.4	59.8	78.0	64.1	68.3	65.1		
Lack of Interest in child's education	49.8	49.4	58.4	64.1	68.9	69.8	√	
Temporary migration	9.6	8.0	18.9	16.7	23.6	19.8		√
Child's illness	3.2	3.4	21.2	34.1				
Participation in religious and social function	14.5	10.3	15.3	18.5				
Lack of facilities in school	3.9	8.0	15.7	12.5	11.0	19.8	√	√
Shortage of teachers			37.1	29.9			√	
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			8.8	8.3	5.5	3.5		√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			3.7	5.6				

Uttarkhand

Sample : 320 schools from 9 districts
Primary-257, Upper Primary-63, Urban-20 , Rural-300

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	81.1	79.0	80.0	83.9	82.4	83.0
Upper primary	83.1	83.2	83.2	78.3	77.1	77.7

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary	Upper primary
Boys	80.5	82.8
Girls	81.5	83.3
SC	81.5	83.0
ST	88.5	79.2
Minority (Muslim)	76.1	77.1
OBC	77.7	80.2
Others	89.4	89.9

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	79.0	82.0
Urban	76.0	67.0

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	51.0	54.0	20.0	13.0	17.7	20.9	√	√
House hold work/sibling care	34.6	44.4	68.0	76.0	24.9	24.3	√	
Lack of Interest in child's education	73.3	73.0	74.0	75.0	24.7	28.4	√	
Temporary migration	8.2	3.2	13.0	11.0	15.3	10.8		√
Child's illness	33.5	30.2	31.0	19.0				
Participation in religious and social function	19.8	15.9	33.0	33.0				
Lack of facilities in school	5.1	0	14.0	17.0	6.0	6.8	√	√
Shortage of teachers			31.0	29.0				
Unattractive school/ Lack of interest in going to school			7.0	3.0	3.9	2.0	√	√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			10.0	18.0				

West Bengal

Sample : 388 schools from 13 districts
Primary-310, Upper Primary-78, Urban-80 , Rural-308

Attendance Rate

	Students			Teachers		
	First hour	Last hour	Overall	First hour	Last hour	Overall
Primary	74.0	74.5	74.2	96.5	96.1	96.3
Upper primary	69.9	70.6	70.2	98.2	97.9	98.1

Attendance rate in first hour by gender and social group

	Primary(I-IV)	Upper primary (V-VIII)
Boys	73.2	71.1
Girls	75.2	68.9
SC	72.1	66.2
ST	69.2	71.0
Minority (Muslim)	68.8	66.4
OBC	81.1	77.6
Others	82.3	73.9

Attendance rate (overall) by area

	Primary	Upper primary
Rural	75.9	72.1
Urban	65.8	64.0

Reasons of low attendance given by head teachers, teachers, VEC/SMC , parents and focus group discussion

Reasons	Head teachers %		Teachers %		VECs %		Focus Group Discussion	Parents
	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.	Pr.	U.Pr.		
Poverty/Involvement in income generation activities	29.0	48.7	54.2	64.3	67.4	73.1		
House hold work/sibling care	41.9	60.4	60.0	60.2	72.6	50.0		√
Lack of Interest in child's education	32.9	23.1	65.8	64.1	39.0	51.3	√	
Temporary migration	2.9	10.3	17.4	10.2	19.4	9.0		√
Child's illness	68.1	65.4	27.4	26.9			√	
Participation in religious and social function	32.6	24.4	26.8	21.8				
Lack of facilities in school	-	-	32.6	39.7	12.6	1.3	√	√
Shortage of teachers			62.9	73.1			√	
Unattractive school /Lack of interest in going to school			26.8	19.2	4.8	3.8	√	√
Difficult access to school especially in rainy season			18.7	19.2				
Lack of proper monitoring to bring children to school							√	

**LIST OF AGENCIES WHICH CONDUCTED
THE STUDY IN DIFFERENT STATES**

Name of Agency	State
Deptt. of Education, Rabindra Bharti University, Kolkata-	West Bengal
Deptt. of Commerce, Himachal Pradesh University	Himachal Pradesh
Centre of Advanced Study in Education, Department of Education, MS University of Baroda,	Gujarat
TNS Mode Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi	Karnataka, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Chhatisgarh, Kerala
Mode Services Pvt. Ltd. Delhi	Madhya Pradesh
Progressive Research Aids Pvt. Ltd. Pune	Maharashtra
Centre for Action Research and Training, Bhuvaneshwar	Orissa
Social Policy Research Institute, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Rajasthan
The Indian Institute of Public Opinion Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	Uttarakhand
Social & Rural Research Institute – IMRB International , New Delhi	Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh
ORG Centre for Social Research New Delhi	Assam, Haryana, J&K, Punjab, Delhi

**LIST OF SCHEDULES USED TO COLLECT DATA
FOR THE STUDY**

I.	INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATION SCHEDULESA 1	
II.	SCHOOL SCHEDULE	SA 2
III.	ATTENDANCE RECORD (2005-06)	SA 2.1
IV.	ATTENDANCE RECORD (2006-07)	SA 2.2
V.	STUDENTS RECORD IN PRIMARY CLASSES (2005-06)	SA 3
VI.	STUDENTS RECORD IN UPPER PRIMARY CLASSES (2005-06)	SA 3.1
VII.	DROP OUT STUDENTS RECORD (2005-06)	SA 3.2
VIII.	TEACHER SCHEDULE	SA 4
IX.	PARENTS' SCHEDULE	SA 5
X.	INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR VEV/SMC	SA 6
XI.	GUIDELINES FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS	SA 7