

UDISE+ 2021-22 Report: Preliminary Analysis*

By

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‘About 38 lakh children in Classes 1-8 dropped out between 2020-21 and 2021-22’

Highlights

- *It is hoped that with this publication, the Ministry will next resume and bring out the series of publications like brought from 2005-06 to 2017-18.*
- *Since UDISE+ is now said to be a completely online system, it should have taken much lesser time than it took.*
- *One of the reasons for the improvement in the Gross Enrolment Ratio, if any, in 2021-22 may also be partly because of the decline in the corresponding child population.*
- *UDISE+ data presents a comparison of a few key indicators with the previous year, but the same is presented only at the all-India level but considered a welcome addition.*
- *Only a little analysis has been presented in UDISE+ 2021-22 Report, and that too at the all-India level only. No state-specific analysis and its implications on India's efforts towards universal school enrolment are viewed or commented on.*
- *It was expected that the UDISE+ 2021-22 Report would present the entry/intake rate as comprehensive information about enrolment in Grade I is now available along with the corresponding single age-6 child population.*
- *In response to structural changes in the school structure (NEP 2020), the UDISE+ 2021-22 Report failed to present new indicators or modify the existing indicators. It continued with the old structure.*
- *The UDISE+ 2021-22 mention that "The decline in total schools is mainly due to closure of schools under private and other management" However, it has failed to mention that the number of schools managed by the Government has also declined by 9,663 schools.*
- *In the latest year, i.e., 2021-22, the total number of schools covered under UDISE+ declined by 20,021 schools (1.33 percent).*
- *UDISE+ 2021-22 covered a lesser number of schools compared to the same in 2017-18, and the difference is to the tune of hoping 69,788 schools (-4.48 percent). During the same period, schools under Government management declined by 72,157 (6.59 percent).*

- *It is hoped that the Ministry will furnish reasons for the steep decline in schools as well as the criteria used and whether RTE norms of distance were followed.*
- *School enrolment in India has never been free from limitations which is also true for UDISE+ data, especially between the years 2018-19 to the latest year, 2021-22.*
- *Total Grades I to XII enrolment in UDISE+ 2021-22 show an increase of 1.94 million, which is slightly higher than total enrolment in 2012-13 (25.43 million), the first year of unification.*
- *Both in the absolute (5.64 million) and percentage (6.40 percent) terms, the year 2021-22 see a steep decline in enrolment under private unaided management, which is higher than their share in decline in the total number of unaided schools*
- *Despite the decline in the number of government schools, enrolment is increased by a hoping 8.1 million, which is 6.10 percent of the same in 2020-21.*
- *Enrolment data indicates that all those who left private and other schools do not necessarily shift to schools under government management.*
- *Because of the decline in enrolment under private management, the share of enrolment under government management increased to 54.94 percent in 2021-22 from 52.18 percent in the previous year.*
- *The decline in secondary enrolment is to the tune of 478 thousand (-1.22 percent), which may be the decline in the transition rate from elementary to secondary level of education.*
- *Even though the total enrolment in Grades 1 to 12 in 2021-22 shows an overall increase of 1.94 million, enrolment by levels shows that the same declined at the primary level; however, the decline is only marginal.*
- *A drastic decline in elementary enrolment is observed in the case of private unaided (51,48,606, 8.03 percent), against which enrolment under the government management increased by 65,65,019 (6.28 percent).*
- *UDISE+ 2021-22 indicates that about 57.6 percent of children of 16 to 17 years are not enrolled in the corresponding level of education*
- *Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio at the primary level of education is reported to be 99.1 percent, thus indicating that only 0.9 percent of the total children of age group 6 to 11 are not enrolled in the corresponding Grades 1 to 5.*
- *Irrespective of the level of education, the Net Enrolment Ratio declined in 2021-22 over 2020-21, which is despite a decline in the child population.*
- *It is hoped that UDISE+ 2022-23 Report will present the revised set of enrolment-based indicators corresponding to changes in the school structure recommended in the NEP 2020.*
- *At the primary level of education, the dropout rate declined from 4.5 percent for cohort 2017-18 to 1.5 percent in cohort 2018-19 and further to 0.8 percent for cohort 2019-20 but again declined to 1.5 percent in 2021-22.*
- *As many as 18,30,319 students in primary grades and 19,75,625 students in upper primary grades dropped out between the years 2020-21 & 2021-22, which would have serious implications for India's efforts toward universal elementary education. About 19 percent of students who entered the system in 2014-15 through Grade I couldn't reach*

Grade VIII in 2021-22 and dropped out of the system before the completion of the elementary stage of education.

- *The UDISE+ dropout rate is computed based on all schools instead of common schools, which had been a practice during 2005-06 to 2017-18; this is not free from errors.*
- *As many as 15 states at the primary and eight states at the upper primary level reported zero dropout rate, which, in fact, is negative but reported zero.*
- *The UDISE+ authorities may like to switch over to the previous methodology adopted during 2005-06 to 2017-18 and, in the future, must compute and present flow rates based on common schools.*
- *Dropout at the upper primary level increased to 3 percent in 2021-22 from 1.9 percent per annum during the previous year; this has widespread implications for UEE.*
- *If India has to attain the status of universal school education, there is no option but to improve the efficiency of the education system.*
- *UDISE+ authorities must explain sudden ups and downs in enrolment and present the reasons for the same, especially in the recent past.*
- *In view of revamping SDMIS in sync with the UDISE+ 2022-23, the states must be strengthened to ensure that schools have adequate computer facilities with internet connectivity.*
- *The system is yet to be fully evolved as a true online, paperless, and real-time system.*
- *Apart from online verification of data by local authorities/officials, let there be verification of data by a third-party agency on a sample basis, and it must be initiated by the Ministry on a pan-India basis.*

****Report on UDISE+ 2021-22: Flash Statistics was released on 3rd November 2022, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India.***

For more details, please visit <https://educationforallinindia.com>
[Download UDISE+ 2021-21 Report: Flash Statistics](#)

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UDISE+ 2021-22: Preliminary Analysis*

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The UDISE+ 2021-22 data collected as of 30th September 2021 was released by the *Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education* on 3rd November 2022. The Report briefly presents analysis at the all-India level and state-specific statements for all the States & Union Territories. It may be recalled that UDISE+ is now being managed by the Ministry from 2018-19, and the present Report is the third in the series prior to which UDISE between the period 1994-95 to 2017-18 was managed and nurtured by NIEPA. *It is hoped that with this publication, the Ministry will resume and bring out the rest of the publications brought out during 2005-06 to 2017-18.*

The time lag in educational statistics at one point in time was a year at the national level, which is now surely on the increase. However, 2021-22 has taken a little less time than the same in the case of the UDISE+ 2020-21. *Since UDISE+ is now said to be a completely online system, it should have taken much lesser time than it took.* The UDISE+ data is yet to be made real-time as envisaged as the Report mentioned that the data released is as of 30th September 2021.

Here are some quick observations.

Age-specific Child Population

Like UDISE+ 2019-20 & 2020-21, UDISE+ 2021-22 enrolment indicators are based on child population provided by the *Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections*, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health, and Family Welfare (July 2020), which are considered to be the *official projections*.

The projected child population reveals that the 6 to 13 years population declined to 188.39 million in 2021-22 from 189.59 million in 2020-21, thus showing a decline of 1.20 million in absolute terms or 0.63 in percentage form. The secondary age population, i.e., 14 to 15 years, declined by 4,75,200, and that of the higher secondary age group, i.e., 16 to 17 years, by 40,94,00. *Reasons for the improvement in the Gross Enrolment Ratio, if any, in 2021-22 may also be partly because of the decline in the corresponding child population.*

UDISE+ statistical tables

Like the Flash Statistics in the previous years (up to 2017-18), none of the UDISE+ 2021-22 tables have time-series information, in the absence of which, one has to refer to individual year's data which is to be downloaded from the portal. *However, 2021-22 UDISE+ data presents a comparison of a few key indicators with the previous year, but the same is presented only at the all-India level but considered a welcome addition.*

**Report on UDISE+ 2021-22: Flash Statistics was released on 3rd November 2022, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India.*

1. At the national level, while UDISE+ 2019-20 rightly compared indicators with 2012-13 UDISE data, the first year of the unification of DISE and SEMIS, in UDISE+ 2020-21& 2021-22 Flash Statistics, indicators have only been compared with 2018-19 and 2019-20, or the year from which the UDISE is managed by the Ministry of Education. However, from the portal, one can download both state and all-India indicators from 2012-13 onwards.
2. Only a little analysis has been presented in UDISE+ 2021-22 Report, and that too at the all-India level only. No state-specific analysis and its implications on India's efforts towards universal school enrolment are viewed or commented on. The Report failed to flag issues that need immediate attention from planners. It is hoped that the UDISE+ 2021-22 Report will soon be followed by a detailed analysis in the form of an *Analytical Report on School Education: Where do we stand?*

Table 1: Age-specific Projected Child Population

Year	6 to 10 Years			11 to 13 years		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2019-20	62093000	56354000	118446400	37587800	34760400	72346800
2020-21	62147000	55998000	118144200	37063400	34386200	71448400
2021-22	62201000	55642000	117842000	36539000	34012000	70550000
Change over the Previous Year			-302200	-898400		
	14 to 15 Years		Total	16 to 17 Years		Total
2020-21			48900200			50056400
2021-22			48425000			49647000
Change over the Previous Year			-475200	-409400		

Source: UDISE+ 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22, DoSE&L, Ministry of Education

3. A few new indicators in the form of percentages such as the provision of sufficient books in the school library, academic enrichment activities undertaken by schools, the introduction of peer learning in schools, training to students on the psycho-social aspect, orientation on cyber safety to students, identification of hard spot in learning, teaching tools created by teachers for teaching and learning, creating outcome-based assessment items by teachers for learning, have been introduced in UDISE+ 2021-22 for the first time which is a welcome step which was incorporated in *Samagra Shiksha* in response to NEP 2020 recommendations.
4. In addition to indicators, like the previous year's Report, most of the tables present absolute numbers, which are of limited use and should have been avoided. *To the extent possible, all the numbers should have been presented in the percentage/ratio form wherever possible or both in the absolute and percentage form.*
5. *It is expected that the UDISE+ 2021-22 Report would present the entry/intake rate as comprehensive information about enrolment in Grade I is now available along with the corresponding single age-6 child population.* No meaningful planning can be undertaken without analyzing the entry rate; bringing all children of age six under the umbrella of education is the necessary condition to move towards universal school education, as envisaged in the NEP 2020.
6. *In response to structural changes in the school structure (NEP 2020), the UDISE+ 2021-22 Report failed to present new indicators (such as the enrolment ratio at the foundation stage, the transition rate from the foundation to the preparatory stage, etc.) or modify the existing indicators even though raw data to compute such indicators are available through UDISE+ in ready to use form.*

UDISE+ 2022-23: Coverage of Schools:

Total Schools declined by 20,021 schools (1.33 percent) & Schools during 2017-18 to 2021-22 declined by 69,788 schools (4.48 percent)

Like UDISE+ 2020-21, UDISE+ 2021-22 is also silent on the number of schools covered and starts its analysis directly on enrolment. However, under the para on the Impact of COVID - 19 Pandemic on Enrolment, casually, it has mentioned that **"The decline in total schools is mainly due to closure of schools under private and other management."** However, it has failed to mention that the number of schools managed by the Government has also declined by 9,663 schools which is a little less than a percent of the total Government schools (0.94 percent) during the previous year.

It may be recalled that the number of schools covered under UDISE+ 2019-20 declined by 43,292 schools (-2.8 percent), and the same in the case of schools under the Department of Education management declined by 51,177 thousand schools (4.72 percent), but no explanation is presented in UDISE+ Report on reasons behind the drastic decline in coverage of schools under UDISE+ 2019-20. *In the latest year, i.e., 2021-22, the total number of schools covered under UDISE+ is lesser by 20,021 schools (1.33 percent), and that of schools managed by the Government, 9,663 schools (0.94 percent). Were all these schools, as mentioned in the UDISE+ 2021-22 Report closed down or also declined because of the merger of the schools?*

At the time of taking over the responsibility of UDISE from NIEPA, as many as 15,58,903 schools were covered under UDISE in 2017-18, which has come down to 14,89,115 schools; thus indicating that *UDISE+ 2021-22 covered a lesser number of schools compared to the same in 2017-18 and the difference is to the tune of hoping 69,788 schools (-4.48 percent)*. This indicates that about 5 out of every 100 schools covered in 2017-18 are not covered in 2021-22. It is hoped that the Ministry will furnish reasons for the steep decline in schools as well as the criteria used and whether RTE norms of distance were followed.

Table 2: Number of Schools (All Schools): All-India

Year	Total Number of Schools	Increase/ Decrease	%age Change	Total Government/ DoE Schools	Increase/ Decrease	Total Private Schools	Increase/ Decrease
2017-18	15,58,903			1094543		322201	
2018-19	15,51,000	-7,903	-0.5	1083747	-10796	326228	4027
2019-20	15,07,708	-43,292	-2.8	1032570	-51177	337499	11271
2020-21	15,09,136	1,428	0.09	1032149	-521	343314*	5815
2021-22	14,89,115	-20,021	-1.33	1022386	-9663	335844	-7470
2017-18 to 2021-22		-69,788	-4.48%	-72,157	-6.59 %	13,643	4.23%

Source: UDISE & UDISE+, different years. *Number of published schools were 3,40,753 schools in 2020-2.

Enrolment

School enrolment in India has never been free from limitations which is also true for UDISE+ data, especially between the years 2018-19 to the latest year, 2021-22. However, this year there has been a justification for the enrolment shift from private to government management which is largely attributed to COVID.

Table 3: Enrolment

Management	2017-18	%age to Total Enrolment	2019-20	%age to Total Enrolment	2020-21	%age to Total Enrolment	2021-22	Change Over Previous Year	%age to Total Enrolment
Government	131771929	52.5	128142596	51.06	132425644	52.18	140498718	8073074	54.94
Aided Management	27988493	11.15	27014238	10.76	26446332	10.42	26647860	201528	10.42
Private Unaided	83311659	33.19	88913012	35.43	88089385	34.71	82450325	-5639060	32.24
Others	7917112	3.15	6901837	2.75	6843100	2.7	6143720	-699380	2.40
Total I to XII	250989193	100	250971683	100	253804461	100	255740623	1936162	100

Source: UDISE+ It may be recalled that the highest ever total enrolment recorded was 26,05,96,960 reported in the year 2015-16.

Total Grades I to XII enrolment in UDISE+ 2021-22 show an increase of 1.94 million, which is slightly higher than total enrolment in 2012-13 (25.43 million), the first year of unification. However, the highest-ever enrolment of 260.60 million was recorded in the year 2015-16. The UDISE+ 2021-22 data was recorded on 30th September 2021, because of which the impact of COVID may still not be fully reflected in UDISE+ 2021-22. More shift of students to government schools is expected to be reflected in 2022-23 data.

The number of Government schools covered under UDISE+ 2021-22, as presented above, declined by 9,663 schools (6.59 percent) compared to which the schools under the Private Unaided management, declined by 7,470 schools (4.23 percent) which is very much reflected in total enrolment of 2021-22.

Both in the absolute (5.64 million) and percentage (6.40 percent) terms, the year 2021-22 see a steep decline in enrolment under private unaided management, which is higher than their share in decline in the total number of unaided schools covered under UDISE+ 2021-22.

Despite the decline in the number of government schools, enrolment is increased by a hoping 8.1 million, which is 6.10 percent of the same in 2020-21. In addition, enrolment under aided management is also increased by 0.20 million. Other managements have also shown a decline in the total enrolment, which is to the tune of 0.70 million.

Both together unaided and other managements show a decline of 6.34 million as against a total increase of 8.27 million under Government and aided managements. Even if we assume that all those who left private schools are shifted to Government and aided schools, there is still a gap of around 1.63 million. Where these children come from is a mute question that must be answered. The gap between the two indicates that all those who left private and other schools do not necessarily shift to schools under government management.

Because of the decline in enrolment under private management, the share of enrolment under government management increased to 54.94 percent in 2021-22 from 52.18 percent in the previous year, i.e., 2020-21. Subsequently, the share of enrolment under private management declined to 32.24 percent in 2021-22 from a high of 35.43 percent in the year 2019-20.

Even though the total enrolment in Grades 1 to 12 in 2021-22 shows an overall increase of 1.94 million, enrolment by levels shows that the same declined at the primary level; however, the decline is only marginal.

Further, the decline in secondary enrolment is to the tune of 478 thousand (-1.22 percent), which is likely to be reflected in the corresponding enrolment ratio, one of the reasons for which may be the decline in transition rate from elementary to secondary level of education.

On the other hand, upper primary enrolment increased by 936 thousand, with an overall increase of 757 thousand (0.40 percent) at the elementary level of education. Further, a drastic decline in elementary enrolment is observed in the case of private unaided (5,148,606, 8.03 percent) and other management (6,86,987, 10.64 percent), against which enrolment under the government management increased by 65,65,019 (6.28 percent).

Table 4: Level-specific Enrolment: 2020-21 & 2021-22

Level	2020-21	2021-22	Change	%age Change
Primary	122021291	121842250	-179041	-0.15
Upper Primary	65854199	66790692	936493	1.42
Elementary	187875490	188632942	757452	0.40
Secondary	39006375	38528631	-477744	-1.22
Higher Secondary	26922596	28579050	1656454	6.15
Total, 1 to 12	253804461	255740623	1936162	0.76

Source: UDISE+, different years

Table 5: Enrolment at Elementary Level: 2021-22

Management	2017-18	%age	2019-20	%age	2020-21	%age	2021-22	Change Over Previous Year	%age	% Share of Elementary to Total Enrolment, 2021-22
Government	105828898	56.34	101682222	54.5	104492647	55.62	111057666	6565019	6.28	58.88
Aided Management	13978909	7.44	13366824	7.16	12828918	6.83	12856944	28026	0.22	6.82
Private Unaided	60860037	32.4	64999102	34.84	64098229	34.12	58949623	-5148606	-8.03	31.25
Others	7158778	3.81	6511942	3.49	6455696	3.44	5768709	-686987	-10.64	3.06
Total 1 to 8	187826622	100	186560090	100	187875490	100	188632942	757452	0.40	100

Source: UDISE+, different years.

School Enrolment Ratio: 2021-22

UDISE+ 2021-22 presents a variety of enrolment ratios, all of which suggest that barring the primary level, the goal of universal school enrolment is still a far distant dream; at other levels of school education, the unfinished task is challenging to achieve by 2030 as envisaged in NEP 2020. For example, UDISE+ 2021-22 indicates that about 57.6 percent of children of 16 to 17 years are not enrolled in the corresponding level of education as compared to about 27.2 percent of 14-15 years of children not enrolled in the secondary level of education. Further, about 3.5 percent of children of age 6-13 years are also found unenrolled, which needs immediate attention.

Adjusted Net Enrolment Ratio at the primary level of education is reported to be 99.1 percent, thus indicating that only 0.9 percent of the total children of age group 6 to 11 are not enrolled in the corresponding Grades 1 to 5. However, the same at the secondary level of education is only 64.7 percent indicating that 35.3 percent of the total children of the age group 14-15 are not enrolled in the corresponding grades.

Table 6: Enrolment Ratio: All-India, 2020-21 & 2021-22

Level	GER		NER		Adjusted NER		ASER*	
	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
Primary	103.3	103.4	92.7	88.6	98.6	99.1	98.6	99.1 (6-10 years)
Upper Primary	92.2	94.7	74.1	71.3	84.4	87.3	91.6	92.2 (11-13 years)
Elementary	99.1	100.1	92.1	90.5	96.0	96.5	96.0	96.5 (6-13 years)
Secondary	79.8	79.6	52.5	47.9	61.8	64.7	73.4	72.8 (14-15 years)
Higher Secondary	53.8	57.6	34.7	34.2	-	-	46.3	42.4 (16-17 years)

Source: UDISE+ 2020-21 & 2021-22 *ASER: Age-specific enrolment ratio.

It is hoped that the UDISE+ portal will present enrolment indices at the disaggregated levels, such as block and district levels, and due attention will be given while formulating the school education *Annual Work Plan & Budget* under the ongoing *Samagra Shiksha* program of the *Department of School Education & Literacy*. The improvement visible in the enrolment ratio (adjusted-NER), especially at secondary and higher secondary levels, is termed marginal. In fact, irrespective of the level of education, the Net Enrolment Ratio declined in 2021-22 over 2020-21, which is despite a decline in the child population against which the Press Release of MoE (dated 3rd November 2022) presents that GER improves in 2021-22 which presents only the half story.

It may also be important to observe that because of changes made in the school structure, not only the existing set of indicators will be required to be relooked into, but a set of new indicators will be required to be worked out for each of the phases of education, such as (i) Foundational Stage of School Education (3 years of Pre-primary education including Grades 1 and 2 with corresponding age-group 3 to 8 years) (ii) Preparatory phase consisting of 3 years, i.e., Grades 3, 4 and 5 (iii) Middle School Education of 3 years (Grades 6, 7 and 8) and (iv) Secondary Education phase of 4 years consisting Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. It is hoped that UDISE+ 2022-23 Report will present the revised set of enrolment-based indicators corresponding to changes in the school structure recommended in the NEP 2020.

School Efficiency Indicators: Dropout Rate increased at Primary & Upper Primary levels in 2021-22

Indicators through which one can judge the efficiency of the education system have been presented both at the all-India and state levels. Attaining 100 percent NER is a necessary condition, but the sufficient condition to achieve universal enrolment is to ensure that whosoever has entered into the system is retained. Good to observe a steep decline in the average annual dropout rate in recent years but the same in 2021-22 has again increased both at primary and upper primary levels of education which will adversely affect efforts being made toward universal elementary education.

At the primary level of education, the dropout rate declined from 4.5 percent for cohort 2017-18 to 1.5 percent in cohort 2018-19 and further to 0.8 percent for cohort 2019-20 but again declined to 1.5 percent in 2021-22, which needs further analysis. The UDISE+ dropout rate is computed based on all schools instead of common schools, which had been a practice during 2005-06 to 2017-18, which produced an underestimate of the dropout rate and misleading and

absurd results. In 2021-22, as many as 15 states at the primary and eight states at the upper primary level reported zero dropout rate, which, in fact, is negative but reported zero.

The UIDSE+ authorities may like to switch over to the previous methodology adopted during 2005-06 to 2017-18 and, in the future, must compute and present flow rates based on common schools. In addition, they must re-compute the same during the years 2018-19 to 2021-22 and replace the same with the current rates so that the same can be used in the Annual Work Plan & Budget formulation under ongoing Samagra Shiksha. Or the UDISE+ authorities highlight the benefit of considering all schools, if any, instead of common schools. It is a wonder how targets on dropout, transition, and retention rates are currently being set out and how the implementing authorities monitor the progress and take corrective measures.

The dropout at the upper primary level increased to 3 percent in 2021-22 from 1.9 percent per annum during the previous year. As many as 17,69,309 students in primary grades and 19,88,7975 students in upper primary grades dropped out between the years 2020-21 & 2021-22, which would have serious implications on India's efforts toward universal elementary education. About 19 percent of students who entered the system in 2014-15 through Grade I couldn't reach Grade VIII in 2021-22 and dropped out of the system before the completion of the elementary stage of education.

The dropout at the secondary level is reported to be 12.6 percent per annum. Further, the transition rate reveals that about 22 percent of students dropped out from the system between secondary to higher secondary level of education and the retention rate at this level of education is only 65 percent indicating a high dropout of 35 percent in between the system. Even the retention rate at the elementary level of education is reported to be 81.2 percent, thus indicating about 19 percent of children dropped out between the system from one level of education to another. If India has to attain the status of universal school education, there is no option but to improve the efficiency of the education system.

Table 7: Efficiency Indicators

Indicator 2021-22	Boys	Girls	Total	2019-20	2020-21
Dropout Rate					
Primary	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	0.8
Upper Primary	2.7	3.3	3.0	2.6	1.9
Secondary	13.0	12.3	12.6	16.1	14.6
Transition Rate					
Primary to Upper Primary	93.1	93.4	93.2	92.8	92.1
Elementary to Secondary	89.7	87.8	88.8	91.4	91.3
Secondary to Higher Secondary	77.6	79.3	78.4	71.6	73.3
Retention Rate					
Primary (1 to 5)	94.9	96.0	95.4	87.0	95.3
Elementary (1 to 8)	80.5	82.1	81.2	74.6	80.9
Secondary (1 to 10)	64.9	64.5	64.7	59.6	61.5
Higher Secondary (1 to 12)	43.1	44.2	43.6	40.2	42.8

Source: UDISE+, different years.

Further, enrolment all through the recent years is observed to be erratic in view of which it is not an easy task to ascertain the trends in enrolment. The UDISE+ authorities must explain sudden ups and downs in enrolment and present the reasons for the same, especially in the recent past.

Apart from online verification of data by local authorities/officials, let there be verification of data by a third-party agency on a sample basis, and it must be initiated by the Ministry on a pan-India basis.

Computer, Internet Facilities

UDISE data over a period of time suggests that most of the facilities in schools are improving. However, the availability of computers and internet connectivity in schools is far than satisfactory even though the same is improved in 2021-22 over the previous year.

Only 45 percent of schools had a computer, and 34 percent had internet connectivity in 2021-22. This is also crucial for UDISE+, which aims to be an online paperless, real-time system (with no reference date). It is easy to imagine how schools manage an online information system without internet connectivity and computer in the schools. School officials/teachers rush to block-level offices (i.e., BRC) or the nearest cyber café to upload and update data online.

In one of the larger states, namely Bihar, the majority of schools do not have computers or access to internet facilities in school in view of; which the state has adopted a '*Man with Machine*' approach and ensured a laptop with the Computer Operator in each block of the state for UDISE+ data entry. In this way, can we develop an online paperless real-time data system?

In view of revamping SDMIS in sync with the UDISE+ 2022-23, the states must be strengthened to ensure that schools have adequate computer facilities with internet connectivity, else the whole of the UDISE+ 2022-23 data collection may be derailed as the total number of the student records are to the tune of 256 million.

Table 8: Computer, Internet Facilities

Facility	All Schools		2021-22
	2019-20	2020-21	
Electricity	80.2	83.9	86.6
Internet	22.3	24.5	33.9
Computer	39.0	41.3	44.9

Source: UDISE+, different years.

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