

Motivation

There were very few systematic studies based on nationally representative data that gave insight into the extent of provider absence in education and its causes.

Objectives

This study enabled the construction of an internationally comparable dataset on provider absences. The goals of the study were to document the extent of the problem of provider absence in a range of jurisdictions at different levels of development and with different institutional structures, characterized provider absence, and examined institutional correlates of provider absence across countries.

Absenteeism

One-quarter of government primary school teachers were absent from school, but only about one-half of the teachers were actually teaching when enumerators arrived at the schools. Absence rates were generally higher in poorer regions. Absence was fairly widespread, rather than being concentrated on a small number of “ghost” workers. Higher-ranking and more powerful providers, such as headmasters, were absent more often than lower-ranking ones. Teachers from the local area were absent less often. There was little evidence that pay strongly affected absence; by contrast, we did find evidence suggesting a role for the quality of infrastructure at the facility.

Sample design

Sampling of districts and facilities within districts was done centrally. First, the larger jurisdiction was stratified geographically. Within each region, districts will then be selected randomly on a population-weighted basis, for a total of ten districts state.

For schools, a population-based random sampling is used. We will choose randomly ten villages or towns (urban blocks) within each district, after stratifying by rural/urban location. Enumerators will then proceed to the village or town and find out from villagers where the closest government and private schools are. They will then visit up to a total of three schools and carry out the facility survey in each one.

Resources monitored**Absenteeism**

3 levels:

- national
- facility
- teacher

Contact

Nazmul Chaudhury : nchaudhury@worldbank.org

Main report

World Bank (2002) “Initial Project Description: Survey of Education and Health Providers,” Background Study for the World Development Report 2003/04 on Basic Service Delivery, World Bank Research Group on Public Service Delivery.