

2. EDUCATION

2.1 Introduction

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

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

2.2 School attendance

The population of ten years and older that have ever attended schools is 59 percent in 2008-09 as compared to 57 percent in 2006-07 (Table 2.1). This proportion is much higher in urban areas than in rural areas and much higher in men than in women. Punjab and Sindh have the highest proportions that have ever attended school. Islamabad (86 percent), Lahore (81 percent) in Punjab, Karachi (80 percent) in Sindh, Abbotabad (74 percent) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Ziarat (69 percent) in Balochistan are the top districts in this regard. On the other hand, the districts at the bottom are Rajanpur (26 percent) in Punjab, Jaccobabad (40 percent) in Sindh, Kohistan (31 percent) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Kohlu (9 percent) in Balochistan. Kohlu has the lowest ratio of the population having ever attended school not just in Balochistan but the entire country. Whereas Islamabad (86 percent) has the highest value in the country. As far as gender based differences are concerned, the greatest disparity is found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan where Hangu (77 percent male and 18 percent female) and Kalat (64 percent male and 13 percent female), respectively have larger differences between male and female population having ever attended school. However, the lowest female enrolment is in Kohistan (4 percent) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kohlu and Dera Bugti (2 percent each) in Balochistan.

49 percent of the population 10 years and over in 2008-09 has completed primary or higher level education, as compared to 46 percent in 2006-07 (Table 2.2). Islamabad with 78 percent, Lahore with 72 percent in Punjab, Karachi with 71 percent in Sindh, Abbotabad with 64 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Ziarat with 59 percent in

Balochistan is the best performing districts. Whereas Rajanpur with 18 percent in Punjab, Thatta with 29 percent in Sindh, Kohistan with 15 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kohlu with 6 percent in Balochistan are the worst performing districts. Islamabad (78 percent) surpasses all other districts in Pakistan whereas once again Kohlu (6 percent) falls behind all other districts. Here again the widest gender differences are observed in Hangu district (58 percent male and 12 percent female) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Awaran and Zhob (50 percent male and 9 percent female each) in Balochistan. Again the lowest female population that has ever attended school is found to be in Kohistan (1 percent) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Kohlu and Dera Bugti (1 percent each) in Balochistan.

2.3 Primary Enrolment Rates (GER)

The GER, sometimes referred to as the participation rate, is the number of children attending primary schools divided by the number of children who ought to be attending. The GERs are presented in this report in two different ways: excluding and including the katchi class and for different age groups.

Table 2.3(a) shows the gross primary level enrolment rates at National/ Provincial/ District levels excluding katchi for the age group 5-9 years and Table 2.3 (b) for age 6-10 years. The GER at National level during 2008-09 remains stable at 91 percent. In provinces, Sindh (from 79 percent to 84 percent), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (from 82 percent to 87 percent) and Balochistan (from 72 percent to 75 percent) have shown noticeable boost in 2008-09 as compared to 2006-07, (Table 2.3 a). However, Punjab shows decrease from 100 percent in 2006-07 to 97 percent in 2008-09. Jehlum with 130 percent, Karachi with 115 percent, Haripur district with 116 percent and Ziarat district with 124 percent are the peak districts whereas Rajanpur with 63 percent, Shahdadtot with 58 percent, Tank district with 65 and Kohlu & Dera Bugti district with 30 percent each are at the bottom in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan respectively. In Balochistan Province some of the districts like Mastung (65 percent), and Ketch (88 percent) have reported Primary GER at considerable lower side in 2008-09 as compared to 2006-07. While observing gender differences a huge gap was found in male and female GER in Kohistan district (131 percent male and 21 percent female) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Similar difference was also prevalent in the district Qilla Saifullah (114 percent male and 37 percent female) in Balochistan. Kohlu and Dera Bugti have the lowest GER (30 percent) in the country and Jehlum (130 percent) has the highest GER.

The gross enrolment rate at National Level is 90 percent when katchi is included and the age group is expanded to 4-9 year olds (Table 2.4). The pattern within districts in the provinces is more or less similar to GERs when Katchi class is excluded.

The PSLM 2008-09 collected information on enrolment in all types of schools including the private and government sectors. Table 2.5 shows the gross enrolment rate in government primary schools. It is calculated as the number of children enrolled in government primary schools divided by the number of children of primary school age. One of the main strategies of the Government of Pakistan is to expand public provision of

primary education and this measure can be used to assess whether government schools have increased their coverage of the population, by increasing enrolments faster than the growth in population. Layyah district with 100 percent enrolment in government schools is at the top in Punjab and in overall Pakistan also. Whereas, Lahore with 37 percent is at the bottom. In Sindh, Tharparker with 85 percent and Karachi with 37 percent are at the highest and lowest ranks. Batagram with 89 percent and Peshawar with 51 percent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are at the top and bottom, respectively. In Balochistan, Ziarat 98 percent and Dera Bugti 29 percent are at the peak and bottom, respectively. Here an interesting fact is observed that apart from Islamabad, which has a rich facility of Government schools and colleges, the general trend in all other big cities is the preferences of private educational facilities over those provided by the government. The absence of alternatives make government schools a priority in small cities.

The NER at primary level refers to the number of students enrolled in primary schools of primary school age divided by the number of children in the age group for that level of education. In other words, for Pakistan, the official primary NER is the number of children aged 5 to 9 years attending primary level divided by the number of children aged 5 to 9 years.

The NER for Pakistan as a whole in 2008-09 is 57 per cent (Table 2.6 a) as compared to 56 percent in 2006-07. Comparing NERs for districts within the provinces, it is revealed that Chakwal with 82 percent, Karachi with 66 percent, Haripur with 71 percent and Gwadar with 65 percent are at the zenith, whereas Bahawalpur with 41 percent, Jamshoro with 33 percent, Swat with 36 and Kohlu 6 percent are in the abyss in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, respectively. Chakwal with 82 percent in Punjab is the best performing district and Kohlu with 6 percent in Balochistan is the worst for overall Primary NER. Generally girls have a lower enrolment rate than boys and the difference is markedly larger in rural areas than in urban areas.

Table 2.8 shows the NER for government primary schools. This is the number of children aged 5-9 years enrolled in government primary schools divided by the total number of children aged 5-9. Like the gross enrolment rate for government schools, it measures the extent to which publicly provided education is reaching its target group. However, this measure excludes overage children who are enrolled in primary schools. The NER for Government primary schools within districts follows a similar pattern as observed for NERs for the entire primary enrolment.

The percentage of primary school students who are enrolled in government schools is shown in Table 2.9 (a). The government share of primary enrolment is 70 per cent in 2008-09 as compared to 69 percent in 2006-07. The district wise comparison among districts within the provinces reveals, districts of Bhakhar with 91 percent and Lahore with 34 percent are at the best and worst performing districts correspondingly. In Sindh, Tharparkar with 99 percent and Karachi with 32 percent government primary enrolment are at the highest and lowest ranks, respectively. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, districts of Upper Dir 96 percent and Peshawar 57 percent are at the top and bottom in that order. In Balochistan, Kohlu, Kalat, Awaran, Washuk and Musa Khel districts with

100 percent government enrolment are at the top whereas Quetta with 76 percent is at the bottom. The above analysis reflects that developed districts have larger share of private education whereas less developed districts mostly depend on government educational facilities.

2.4 Middle and Matric Enrolment Rates

Gross and net enrolment rates for the middle level with age group 10-12 years old are presented in Tables 2.10(a) and 2.11(a). The gross enrolment rate for the middle level, for Pakistan as a whole, is 53 percent as compared to 51 percent in 2006-07. The middle level enrolment in urban areas stands at 71 percent (69 percent in 2006-07) as compared to 46 percent (43 percent in 2006-07) in rural areas. Islamabad (Federal Capital) with 103 percent for middle class is at the top in Pakistan. Rajanpur with 17 percent is at the bottom in Punjab. In the other three provinces Karachi with 69 percent, Abbotabad district with 100 percent and, Ziarat with 74 percent are the best performing districts while Thatta with 25 percent, Kohistan with 25 percent and Dera Bhugti with 6 percent are the worst performing districts in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Gender based differences are more prevalent in Ketch (male 68 percent, female 17 percent) in Balochistan and in Charsada district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (86 percent male and 27 percent female). Once again the lowest female GER at middle level is in Kohistan district (1 percent) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dera Bugti (0 percent) in Balochistan. Tables 2.10(b) and 2.11(b) have been added for GER & NER, respectively for middle level by changing age group from 10-12 to 11-13 for reader's information.

Net enrolment rates at the middle level are much lower than gross enrolment rates (Table 2.11a). This is due to the large number of overage, children that are enrolled in these classes. The district level comparison within the provinces depicts that more or less NERs have the same patterns which are observed for GERs. Chakwal with 37 percent is at top in among all districts. Kohlu with no enrolments is at the bottom in the entire country showing that it is an area that needs special attention.

At matric level, gross enrolment stands at 54 per cent as compared to 48 percent in 2006-07 and net enrolment rate is at 12 per cent (Tables 2.12 a and 2.13a). Chakwal (102 percent) has the highest and Kohlu (4 percent) has the lowest performance in the entire country. Chakwal with 102 percent, Karachi with 76 percent, Abbotabad with 88 percent and Ziarat with 80 percent are at the peak. However, Rajanpur with 22 percent, Tandu Muhammad Khan with 18 percent, Kohistan with 10 percent and Kohlu with 4 percent are at the lowest level in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the greatest gender based disparity in Lakki Marwat (122 males and 18 female) and Balochistan in Zhob (103 for males and 30 for female). One striking feature is that female GER has the worst situation for matric level enrolment especially in Balochistan where in four districts there is no female enrolment i.e Musa Khel, Jhal Magsi, Kohlu and Dera Bugti. More or less same pattern is observed for NERs among

districts within provinces. Tables 2.12(b) and 2.13(b) have been added for GER & NER, respectively, for matric level by changing age group from 13-14 to 14-15 for readers' information.

2.5 Literacy

Literacy is an important indicator of education because its improvement is likely to have an impact, in the longer run, on other important indicators of welfare. The literacy rate for population 10 years and above is 57 percent during 2008-09, as compared to 55 percent in 2006-07 (Table 2.14 a). Literacy remains much higher in urban areas than in rural areas and much higher in men than in women. Islamabad with 84 percent leads all districts in terms of literacy and Kohlu with 9 percent lags behind all districts in terms of literate population 10 years and older. Islamabad (Federal Capital) fares well with 84 percent 10 years and older literate population. Rawalpindi with 79 percent is at the top whereas Rajanpur district with 27 percent is at the lowest rank in Punjab. In Sindh, Karachi with 78 percent and Jaccobabad & Tharparkar with 39 percent are at the highest and lowest of ranks, respectively. Abbotabad with 72 percent and Kohistan with 30 percent are ranked top and bottom districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Balochistan province, Ziarat 71 percent and Kohlu 9 percent are at the peak and bottom. Kohlu and Dera Bugti in Balochistan (2 percent) and Kohistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (3 percent) exhibit the lowest female literate population in the entire country. Adult literacy rate for the population aged 15 and above was 54 percent in 2008-09 as compared to 52 percent in 2006-07 (table 2.14b). The pattern among districts within the provinces is similar to the Literacy Rate of population 10 years and above.