



**FACTORS AFFECTING ENROLMENT TRENDS IN GOVERNMENT AND  
PRIVATE SCHOOLS AT ELEMENTARY LEVEL AS PERCEIVED BY TEACHERS  
AND PARENTS**

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**Abstract**

*The study was conducted in one district i.e. Hamirpur of Himachal Pradesh. The researcher tried to find out the perception of teachers and parents regarding the factors affecting enrolment trends in government and private schools at elementary level. Teachers teaching in government and private schools of Hamirpur district and parents whose children are studying in these schools were the sample of the study. The convenient sampling method was used and data analysis was performed through the percentage method. The results show that the enrolment trend in government schools is declining continuously year wise. And parents are preferring private schools for the education of their children.*



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**Introduction**

At the time of adoption of the Constitution in 1950, the aim was to achieve the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) within the next ten years i.e. by 1960. Keeping in view the educational facilities available in the country at that time, the goal was far too ambitious to achieve within a short span of ten years. Hence, the target date was shifted a number of times. Till 1960, all efforts were focused on provision of schooling facilities. It was only after the near realization of the goal of access that other components of UEE, such as universal enrolment and retention, started receiving attention of planners and policy makers. The Government of India initiated a number of programmes and projects to attain the status of universal enrolment. Despite all these significant achievements, the goal of universal elementary education remains elusive and far a distant dream. The government of Himachal Pradesh is providing free education till 8<sup>th</sup> standard along with free uniforms, books, mid day meal and scholarships so that students could get better education. Since independence better education has been given by government of India and literacy rate has

also increased. In spite of giving better education and so many facilities, the enrolment in government schools is still decreasing year

After year and enrolment in private schools increasing day by bay. Because of this, many government schools have been closed and many are in the verge of closing. The parents of students are not taking their interest in government schools and they prefer private schools for the education of their children. In view of this, it was thought worthwhile to study the enrolment trends from class I to VIII and total enrolment over the last 5 years in government schools and private schools in Himachal Pradesh at elementary level. This study will help to know the enrolment status in Himachal Pradesh from the last five years and perception of teachers and parents about the declining enrolment in Government schools. Therefore, it is thought find out the reasons why parents prefer private schools at elementary level as perceived by teachers and parents. This study will help those people who ensure the importance of government schools. The results of present study will be helpful to give suggestions to teachers and parents to increase enrolment rate in government schools. The results of present study would be beneficial to the planners and policy makers to frame a policy so that enrolment increases and quality education may be imparted to all the children. On these bases the present study is done.

### **Need and Significance of Study**

A study conducted by Kraushaar (1972) supports the evidence that the rapid growth of private schools in urban and rural. The parents take pride in admitting their children in private schools rather than in government schools. The government schools are conceived less competitive in providing quality education and other services. It is matter of discussion and concern to the education users and providers. Bharat (1990) conducted a study on certain inequalities in educational development in H.P. and found that there is a decline in enrolment rate from primary to upper primary level in total. In view of this, it was thought worthwhile to study the enrolment trends from class I to VIII and total enrolment over the last 5 years in government schools and private schools in Himachal Pradesh at elementary level. This study will help to know the enrolment status in Himachal Pradesh from the last five years and perception of teachers and parents about the declining enrolment in Government schools. A study conducted by Shatti (2011) supports the evidence that enrolment is declining in Government schools, so it is decided by the investigator to find out the reasons for declining enrolment rate of children in government schools at elementary level as perceived by teachers and parents. A study conducted by Roy (2005), strongly supports the evidence that medium of instruction in English along with discipline and status symbol associated with private

schools is responsible for preference of private schools. Therefore, it is thought find out the reasons why parents prefer private schools at elementary level as perceived by teachers and parents.

This study will help those people who ensure the importance of government schools. The results of present study will be helpful to give suggestions to teachers and parents to increase enrolment rate in government schools. The results of present study would be beneficial to the planners and policy makers to frame a policy so that enrolment increases and quality education may be imparted to all the children. On these bases the present study is done.

### **Statement of the Problem**

*“FACTORS AFFECTING ENROLMENT TRENDS IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AT ELEMENTARY LEVEL AS PERCEIVED BY TEACHERS AND PARENTS.”*

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out the enrolment trend from class I to VIII and total enrolment over the last 5 years in government school and private schools in Himachal Pradesh.
2. To find out the reasons for declining enrolment rate of children in government schools at elementary level as perceived by government school teachers with respect to the following components:
  - I. Age of Admission
  - II. Physical and Human Resources
  - III. Availability of Teachers and Working System
  - IV. Curriculum
  - V. Attitude of Parents
  - VI. Teaching-Learning Process
  - VII. Evaluation
3. To find out the reasons for declining enrolment rate of children in government schools at elementary level as perceived by private school teachers with respect to the following components :
  - I. Age of Admission
  - II. Physical and Human Resources
  - III. Availability of Teachers and Working System
  - IV. Curriculum
  - V. Attitude of Parents
  - VI. Teaching-Learning Process

VII. Evaluation

4. To find out the reasons why parents prefer private schools in the case of children enrolled in private schools at elementary level as perceived by parents whose children are studying in government schools with respect to following components :
  - I. Age of Admission
  - II. Physical and Human Resources
  - III. Availability of Teachers and Working System
  - IV. Curriculum
  - V. Attitude of Parents
  - VI. Teaching-Learning Process
  - VII. Evaluation
  
5. To find out the reasons why parents prefer private schools in the case of children enrolled in private schools at elementary level as perceived by parents whose children are studying in private schools with respect to following components :
  - I. Age of Admission
  - II. Physical and Human Resources
  - III. Availability of Teachers and Working System
  - IV. Curriculum
  - V. Attitude of Parents
  - VI. Teaching-Learning Process
  - VII. Evaluation
  
6. To find out the opinions of government and private school teachers regarding declining enrolment in government schools.

**Delimitation of Study**

The present study is delimited in the following manner:

1. The study is delimited to only Hamirpur District of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The study is delimited to Government and Private schools of Rural Area.
3. Only elementary level of education will be studied.
4. The data will be collected from parents who prefer Government and private schools for their children from elementary stage of Hamirpur District and also from the teachers teaching in Government and Private schools.

## **Methodology**

For achieving the objectives of the study descriptive survey method was adopted.

## **Sample of the Study**

Himachal Pradesh comprises of 12 districts. Out of these districts, district Hamirpur was selected purposively as it is having highest literacy rate (Census, 2011). From this selected district, 2 blocks namely Bhoranj and Tauni Devi were selected randomly. 10 schools that is 5 government and 5 private were selected randomly from each blocks. From each selected school, 5 teachers were taken randomly. Further, 5 parents of students studying in government and private schools were taken for the study.

## **Tools**

For the present study following tools were developed by the researcher herself.

1. Questionnaire for Teachers teaching in Government Schools
2. Questionnaire for Teachers teaching in Private Schools
3. Questionnaire for Parents whose children are studying in Government Schools
4. Questionnaire for Parents whose children are studying in Private Schools

## **Main Findings and Conclusion**

### **Objective No. 1**

One of the objective of the study is to study the enrolment trend from class I to VIII and total enrolment over the last 5 years in government school and private schools in Himachal Pradesh. It was found that the enrolment is declining from the year 2010 to 2015 continuously in case of boys and girls from class I to class VIII in government schools at elementary level. And it was also found that enrolment is increasing in private schools of Himachal Pradesh from the year 2010 to 2015 continuously in case of boys and girls from class I to class VIII in private schools at elementary level.

### **Objective No. 2**

The second objective of the study find out the reasons for declining enrolment rate of children in government schools at elementary level as perceived by government school teachers. The government school teachers were asked to fill the questionnaire regarding the reasons for declining enrolment rate of children in government schools at elementary level. Majority of teachers teaching in government schools expressed that vacancies of teachers are not filled timely, transfer of teachers during mid-session, working parents admit their child at the age of 3 years in private schools, more age of admission in government schools and non-availability of fourth class workers and security guards are the reasons for declining rate of enrolment of children in government schools at elementary level.

**Objective No. 3**

The third objective of the study is to find out the reasons for declining enrolment rate of children in government schools at elementary level as perceived by private school teachers. The private school teachers were asked to fill the questionnaire regarding the reasons for declining enrolment rate of children in government schools at elementary level. Teachers teaching in private schools responded that admission at the age of 3 years, less absenteeism of private school teachers, vacancies of teachers are filled timely in private schools, quality education, all round development of the children in private schools, parents are more aware and responsible for the education of their children and parents are informed regarding their children's monthly achievement in private schools are the reasons for declining enrolment in government schools.

**Objective No. 4**

The fourth objective of the study is to find out the reasons why parents prefer private schools in the case of children enrolled in private schools at elementary level as perceived by parents whose children are studying in government schools. The parents whose children are studying in government schools were asked to fill the questionnaire to give reasons why parents prefer private schools for the education of their children. Many of the parents whose children are studying in government schools opined that non-availability of playground, no toilet facility, no facility of safe drinking water, no transport facility, transfer of teachers during mid-session, teachers engaged in non-teaching activities, parents are more aware and responsible for their child's education and parents are not informed regarding their children's monthly achievement in government schools are the reasons for declining enrolment in government school.

**Objective No.5**

The fifth objective of the study is to find out the reasons why parents prefer private schools in the case of children enrolled in private schools at elementary level as perceived by parents whose children are studying in private schools. The parents whose children are studying in private schools were asked to fill the questionnaire to give reasons why parents prefer private schools for the education of their children. Majority of the parents whose children are studying in private schools responded that vacancies of teachers are filled timely, no transfer of teachers during mid-session, methods for teaching little kids are interesting, transport facility, general knowledge books in curriculum, parents are more aware and responsible for their child's education, proper co-ordination between parents and teachers of private schools are the reasons for why parents prefer private schools for the education of their children.

### **Objective No. 6**

The sixth objective of the study is to find out the opinions of government and private school teachers regarding declining enrollment in government schools. 61% and 10% of the private and government school teachers opined that duties of government school teachers in non-academic activities is the reason for declining enrolment in government schools at elementary level. 8% and 6% of the private and government school teachers said that shortage of teachers at lower primary level is the other reason for declining enrolment in government schools at elementary level. 6% and 4% of the private and government school teachers opined that teachers are not dedicated to their work in government schools is the reason for declining enrolment in government schools at elementary level.

### **Suggestions On The Basis Of Findings**

#### **Suggestions regarding Teachers**

On the basis of findings of the present study following suggestions can be given to teachers for increasing the enrolment in government schools:

- There should be no transfer of teachers during mid-session in government schools and so that students should not have to face any problem in their study during mid-session.
- Vacancies of teachers should be filled timely in government schools by the government, so that the students studying in government schools should not have to suffer in any way.
- Teachers of government schools should focus on all round development of the children.
- Teachers of government schools should inform the parents regarding their children's monthly achievement.
- There should be separate teachers for each class in government schools.
- Teachers of government schools should prepare teacher's diary daily.
- Government school teachers should make teaching easy through excursions.
- Less absenteeism of government school teachers should be ensured.
- There should be proper directions for government school teachers.
- Teachers of government schools should not be engaged in non-teaching and non-academic activities.
- Teachers should use of different teaching skills and teaching methods.
- Government school teachers should be dedicated to their work.
- Lesson plans should be prepared by government school teachers.

#### **Suggestions regarding Parents**

On the basis of findings of the present study following suggestions can be given to parents for increasing the enrolment in government schools:



- Parents of the government school students should be informed regarding the monthly achievement of their children.

### **Suggestions regarding Policy-makers**

On the basis of findings of the present study following suggestions can be given to Policy-makers for increasing the enrolment in government schools:

- Age of admission should be same in both government schools as well as in private schools.
- Such policies should be made by planners and policy-makers so that proper attention can be given on quality education in government schools.
- Methods for teaching little kids in government schools should be interesting.
- Transport facility schools should be provided for government school students.
- General knowledge books should be the part of curriculum in government schools.
- There should be proper co-ordination between parents and teachers of government children.
- Fourth class workers and security guards should be appointed in government schools.
- There should be CCTV cameras in government schools.
- English medium should be there in all government schools.
- Facilities of toilet and safe drinking water should be available in all government schools.
- Responsibility should be taken by government schools from admission to the completion of school education.
- There should be proper arrangement of furniture for sitting in government schools.
- Dress code of government schools should be attractive.
- Separate classrooms for each class should be available.
- Facilities of laboratories and library should be provided in government schools.
- Workbooks should be used in government schools.
- Curriculum should be student-centered.
- There should be a proper way of evaluation of students.
- Curriculum should be implemented properly.
- Curriculum should have diversity.
- Textbooks of the government schools should be according to the level of the students.
- Content-matter should be related to competitive examinations.
- More opportunities should be provided for co-curricular activities in government schools.



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