Vital Stats
Overview of education sector in India

The Ministry of Human Resource Development released a draft National Education Policy in July 2016. In this context, we present some data on education indicators such as enrolment of students, drop-out rates, availability of teachers and share of government and private schools.

Over the years enrolment in class 6 and above is improving

- Gross enrolment in classes 1-5 reduced from 114% in 2008-09 to 99% in 2013-14. The above-100% enrolment rate in 2008-09 indicates that students enrolled in classes 1-5 included those younger than six or older than 10 years.

- In 2013-14, enrolment in classes 1-5 was about 100%, which signals a more age appropriate (six to 10 years) class composition.

- However, in higher classes, enrolment declined.

Note: Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is the student enrolment as a proportion of the corresponding eligible age group in a given year.

Enrolment similar to developed countries in classes 1-5, but lower at senior levels

- India’s enrolment rate in primary education is comparable to that of developed countries. However, India falls behind these countries after class 6.

- For example, enrolment in classes 6-8 is 82% in India compared to 100% in countries such as China, Germany, UK, and USA.

- In higher education, India’s enrolment rate stands at about 21% compared to about 62% in UK and Germany, and 95% in USA. China’s enrolment rate in higher education at 27% is slightly higher than India’s.

90% of students transition from class 5 to class 6, but only 67% from class 10 to 11

- Transition rates indicate the proportion of students who are able to advance to a higher class. A transition rate below 100% indicates that the students are held back or have dropped out of school.

- Enrolment rate is about 74% for students in class 10. Of these, 67% students are able to transition from class 10 to class 11. Note that transition rate from class 5 to class 6 is 90%.

Note: Transition rate is the proportion of students advancing from one class to another.
More ST and SC students in class 1-8 drop-out of school

- The proportion of students between classes 1-8 who dropped out of school in 2013-14 was 36%. However, for the ST student population, the drop-out rate was 48%, and for SC students, 39%.
- The drop-out rates for all groups declined between 2008-09 and 2013-14.
- In 2013-14, the enrollment of girls (97%) was higher than that of boys (93%), while their drop-out rate (33%) is lower than that of boys (39%). This implies that girls who enter the system between classes 1-8, are more likely to complete elementary education.

Most states have at least 1 teacher for 30 students in classes 9-12

- The recommended pupil-teacher ratio under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan for classes 9-12 is 30:1. (One teacher for 30 students). A higher ratio means there are more students per teacher.
- Seven states had a pupil-teacher ratio above the recommended level, including Jharkhand (68:1), Bihar (57:1), Chhattisgarh (45:1), Uttar Pradesh (41:1), Madhya Pradesh (36:1), Gujarat (34:1) and Tripura (33:1).

Till class 12 students attend public schools; college students attend private colleges

- While more students go to government schools than private ones, the trend is reversed in higher education.
- Between 2008-09 and 2014-15, the proportion of students in classes 1-8 in government schools declined from 71% to 62%, implying an increasing preference for private schools.

Sources: School Education in India 2014-15, District Information System for Education; Statistics of Higher and Technical Education 2012; National Facts and Figures, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan; Key Indicators of Social Consumption in India Education, NSS 71st Round; PRS.