

Girl child enrolment, retention and dropout in primary schools of Pulwama tehsil of Kashmir, J&K

Nilofer Jan^{1*}, Neerja Sharma²

^{1,2} Department of continuing Education and Extension Barkatullah Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Abstract

The study has been carried out on girl child enrolment, retention and dropout in primary schools (EMPE) of Pulwama tehsil of district Pulwama, J&K State during 2016-2017. Results revealed that whole tehsil was found to be comprised of 04 education zones and 279 primary schools (EMPE). Results regarding enrolment & retention revealed that in tehsil Pulwama out of 966 girl students enrolled in class-I during the academic year 2010-11, 961 girl students retained in class-II, 942 students retained in class-III, 927 retained in class-IV, 920 in class V and thus 46 girl students dropped during the entire course of study. Further highest dropout (19) was reported in zone Shadimarg while lowest dropout (5) in zone Pulwama. Also highest dropout was 19 (1.94 percent) which was reported in class-III and lowest 5 (0.54 percent) was found in class-II.

Keywords: dropout, enrolment, girl child, Pulwama, retention, school

Introduction

Elementary stage of formal educational set up is known as primary education. It is the stage when a child starts learning regularly in schools. Primary education is important because it provides the basic knowledge to children to go to upper grades. If children could not attend primary school then there is high probability that they will remain illiterate for life. It is the core of the schooling system which builds the bedrock for human capital development ^[1]. Enrolment in schools represents the largest component of the investment in human capital in most society ^[2]. The rapid socio-economic development of a nation has been observed to depend on the calibre of human capital in that country. Enrolment of the students at secondary and university level of education depends upon the retention and success ratio of the students at primary level. Drop-out is complex and multifaceted and there is increasing evidence that a number of different types of students from diverse backgrounds and circumstances are leaving school ^[3]. It is not only a problem that influences the individual but it has serious implications on entire society and a hurdle in all the developmental aspects of the nation. India is the 4th largest country of drop-outs in the world. It has good primary school enrolment ratio, but three in ten drop-out by the time they reach the final grade ^[4]. It is one of the perennial problems inflicting the Indian system of education across all levels and this condition is more acute at primary stage. A lot of researches have been conducted in India and abroad consistently probed the problem of drop-out. Das ^[5] studied the wastage and stagnation at elementary level in the state of Assam and concluded that the rate of wastage and stagnation among girls was higher than that of boys. Pillai *et al.* ^[6] conducted a study of drop-out in primary school in Kerala and revealed that the percentage of drop-out was higher among boys than girls and also higher in SCs, STs and other backward communities. Devi ^[7] found no uniformity in the rate of drop-out for the whole primary stage. In comparison to boys more girls dropped-out, due to poverty, frequent transfer, repeated failures and negligence of parents. Pratinidhi *et al.* ^[8] revealed no significant difference in overall drop-out rates by both sexes. Hussain ^[9] revealed that

the rate of wastage was highest in the first two classes and single teacher schools. The study conducted by Gyaneswar ^[10] revealed that the rate of wastage and stagnation amongst pupils in rural areas was higher than that of urban schools. Vyas *et al.* ^[11] reported that the drop-out rate of girls was higher than boys; drop-out rate of urban schools was also higher than rural schools. Bhat *et al.* ^[12] investigated the wastage in primary education in Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir and concluded that the drop-out rate of primary school was 0.19 percent.

Girl child education refers to education which equips the women with all the necessary tools needed for the effective discharge of their own peculiar roles in the service of the nation and indeed, to booster their personal development as well. An educated woman understands her world and deals with society well effectively. In the opinion of Imogie ^[13] the prosperity of a country depends not only on the strength of neither fortifications nor the abundance of its income, but depends on the number of well and quality based citizens, that is character, enlightenment and women education. As per Census 2011, Jammu and Kashmir has one of the lowest female literacy rates at 58 percent besides Rajasthan (52.7 percent), Bihar (53.3 percent) and Jharkhand (56.2 percent). There is a large gap in the male and female literacy rates which is because of high girl child drop-out rate. The perusal of literature reveals that no consolidated account is available on the girl child dropout rate in primary education in tehsil Pulwama. So, an effort was made to find the extent of enrolment, retention and dropout rate of girls in primary education schools of tehsil Pulwama, Kashmir J & K.

2. Materials and Methods

This chapter presents the methodology used while conducting the present research study. It includes area of study, sample selection, tool, method of data collection and statistical analysis procedure.

2.1 Area of study

The entire Pulwama tehsil which is one of the four tehsils of Pulwama district of Jammu & Kashmir, India was selected to

conduct this study. The total geographical area of this tehsil is 288.68 square kilometre with population density of 977 per sq.km. There are 191 villages, 1 town and 4 education zones in this tehsil. As per the Census India 2011, Pulwama tehsil has 43,141 households, population of 2, 82,173 of which 1, 46,150 are males and 1, 36,023 are females. The population of children between ages 0-6 is 52,581 which are 18.63% of total population. The sex-ratio of this tehsil is around 931 compared to 889 which is average of Jammu & Kashmir state. The literacy rate of this tehsil is 49.74% out of which 57.01% males are literate and 41.93% females are literate. Out of total population, 93.47% of population lives in urban area and 6.53% lives in rural area. There is 0.07% scheduled caste (SC) and 3.3% scheduled tribe (ST) of total population.

2.3 Sample of the study

The sample for the study consisted of girl child students of primary schools (EMPE) of tehsil Pulwama. This tehsil consists of 4 education zones and 279 primary schools (EMPE). In the present study, the researcher used simple random sampling method. In this sampling every member of the population of community gets the equal chance of selection.

2.4 Population and sample size

The population of the study was consisting of girl child student’s community in all primary schools (EMPE) of all zones of tehsil Pulwama. For fulfilling the objectives of present study, the sizes of samples were calculated as follows:

Table 1

S. No.	Study	Sample size
1.	For knowing number of zones, Primary schools (EMPE) and roll of teachers in such schools of tehsil Pulwama.	All zones (4) and Primary schools (EMPE) (279).
2.	For studying enrolment, retention and girl child dropout.	All Primary schools (EMPE) (279).

In order to achieve all the objectives of present investigation, the researcher carried out the study in two phases. The first phase of which was devoted to collect information regarding the number & location of zones, number & name of schools (exclusively meant for primary education) imparting education to girl students in the age group of 6-11 and also the number of teachers (Male & Female) working in such schools of tehsil Pulwama by selecting zonal education offices as sampling units. During second phase, all the primary schools functioning in all zones of tehsil Pulwama were selected as sample to collect the information with regard to the enrolment, retention and drop-outs of girl students of all the classes in the age group of 6-11 from academic session 2010-11 to 2014-15 so as to find out their dropout rate.

2.5 Tool used in the present study

The following tools were employed to collect the data for present investigation:

Information schedule-A (for zone): was prepared and administered by the investigator to collect the information regarding number and location of education zones and primary schools (exclusively meant for primary education) existing in all zones of tehsil Pulwama. This schedule was

also administered by the researcher to collect information about the number of teachers (Male & Female) working in the primary schools (exclusively meant for primary education) of all zones of tehsil Pulwama.

Information schedule-B (for school): was prepared and administered by the investigator with the purpose to collect information regarding the enrolment, retention and the drop-out of girl students of all the classes in all primary schools (exclusively meant for primary education) of tehsil Pulwama from 2010-11 to 2014-15 so as to find out their dropout in the age group of 6-11.

2.6 Procedure for data collection

A multistage random sampling technique was used for collection of the required data from all zones and primary schools of tehsil Pulwama for present investigation. Before visiting these zones and schools necessary permission was taken from Director Education Kashmir (J&K) for collecting the required information. The whole work was divided into two phases. During first phase information was obtained regarding number and location of education zone, number & name of primary schools (exclusively meant for primary education) and number of teachers (male & female) working in such schools of tehsil Pulwama (Information schedule-A), while as during second phase of sampling, all the primary schools (exclusively meant for primary education) existing in each zone were surveyed to collect the information regarding the enrolment, retention and the drop-outs of girl students of all the classes in the age group of 6-11. In each school admission registers, attendance registers and result books from academic year 2010-11 to 2014-15 were consulted to collect required information (Information schedule-B). After collecting the required information i.e. year wise enrolment, retention & dropout of girl students from 2010-11 to 2014-15, the whole data was tabulated for analysis. Finally the dropout percentage of girl students was calculated by using the cohort method with the help following formula.

$$\text{Percent girl student dropout} = \frac{\text{Number of girl students dropout during the course}}{\text{Number of girl students enrolled for the course}} \times 100$$

2.7 Statistical analysis

The analysis of the data was done in accordance with the objectives of the study by using following statistical techniques.

1. Graphical representation.
2. Percentage statistic.
3. ‘t’ test.
4. Chi square test and ANOVA.

3. Results & Discussion

The study has been carried out in Pulwama tehsil of district Pulwama of Kashmir division of Jammu & Kashmir state during 2010-2014. Data presented in Table 1 showed that over the course of this study, the whole tehsil was found to be comprised of 04 education zones and 279 primary schools (EMPE). In addition to that the enrolment of teachers in such schools was 622, out of which 435 were male and 187 were female teachers (Fig. 1).

Further the data in Table 1 indicated that in zone Pulwama there were 49 primary schools (EMPE) in which 115 teachers

were found working of which 67 were males and 48 females; in zone Kakpora there were 69 primary schools (EMPE) and 141 teachers were working in such schools out of which 99 were males and 42 females; in zone Tahab there were 82 primary schools (EMPE) and 185 teachers were working in such schools out of which 142 were males and 43 females; in zone Shadimarg there were 79 primary schools (EMPE) and 181 teachers were found working in such schools out of which 127 were males and 54 females (Fig.1).

Data presented in Table 2 shows that in zone Pulwama out of 162 girl students enrolled in class-I during the academic year 2010-11, 161 students retained in class-II, 158 students retained in class-III, 157 retained in class-IV, 157 also in class V and only 05 students dropped during the entire course; in zone Kakpora out of 296 girl students enrolled in class-I during the academic year 2010-11, 295 students retained in class-II, 292 students retained in class-III, 287 retained in class-IV, 286 in class V and thus 10 students dropped during the entire course; in zone Tahab out of 228 girl students enrolled in class-I during the academic year 2010-11, 226 students retained in class-II, 223 students retained in class-III, 218 retained in class-IV, 216 in class V and thus 12 students dropped during the entire course while as in zone Shadimarg out of 280 girl students enrolled in class-I during the academic year 2010-11, 279 students retained in class-II, 269 students retained in class-III, 265

retained in class-IV, 261 in class V and thus 19 students dropped during the entire course. These findings agree with those of Siddiqui and Mujiaba [14] who also reported 183 girl student dropouts in primary schools of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, while as Shabnum [15] reported 95 girl child dropouts in primary schools of Aishmuqam zone of district Anantnag of Jammu and Kashmir.

Thus data presented in Table 2 finally indicated that in tehsil Pulwama out of 966 girl students enrolled in class-I during the academic year 2010-11, 961 girl students retained in class-II, 942 students retained in class-III, 927 retained in class-IV, 920 in class V and thus 46 girl students dropped during the entire course of study. Further the data also revealed that highest dropout (19) was found in zone Shadimarg while lowest dropout (5) was reported in zone Pulwama of tehsil Pulwama (Fig. 2).

Table 2: Showing the number of education zones, primary schools (EMPE) & teachers working in such Schools of tehsil Pulwama

S. No.	Tehsil	Zone	No. of Primary Schools (EMPE)	No. of Teachers		
				Male	Female	Total
	Pulwama	Kakpora	69	99	42	141
		Pulwama	49	67	48	115
		Shadimarg	79	127	54	181
		Tahab	82	142	43	185
	Total	04	279	435	187	622

Table 3: Showing the zone, class and year wise girl student enrolment, retention and dropout in primary schools (EMPE) of tehsil Pulwama (2010 -2014s4).

S. No.	Name of Zone	Year & class wise girl student enrolment & retention					Dropout during course
		Class-I 2010-11	Class-II 2011-12	Class-III 2012-13	Class-IV 2013-14	Class-V 2014-15	
1.	Pulwama	162	161	158	157	157	05
2.	Kakpora	296	295	292	287	286	10
3.	Tahab	228	226	223	218	216	12
4.	Shadimarg	280	279	269	265	261	19
Total	04	966	961	942	927	920	46

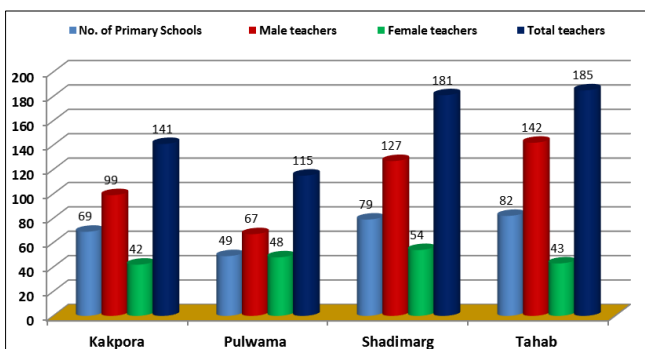


Fig 1: Number of primary schools (EMPE) and teachers in different zones of Pulwama tehsil.

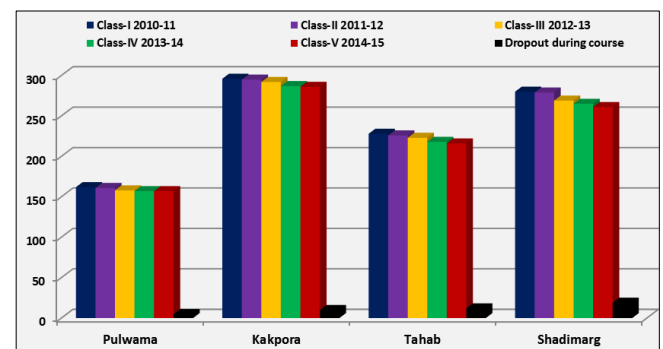


Fig 2: Class-wise girl child enrolment, retention & dropout in primary schools (EMPE) of different zones of Pulwama tehsil during 2010-2014.

Table 3 reveals that drop-out rate of girl students of all the classes in all primary schools (EMPE) of zone Pulwama from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was 3.00 percent (5) of which 0.61 percent (1) students dropped-out in class-II, 1.86 percent (3) dropped-out in class-III and 0.63 percent (1) dropped-out in class-IV while as no dropout was reported in class-V; in zone Kakpora total drop-out rate of girl students of all the classes in all primary schools (EMPE) from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was 3.30 percent (10) of which 0.33 percent (1) students dropped-out in class-II, 1.01 percent (3) dropped-out in class-III, 1.71 percent (5) dropped-out in class-IV and 0.34 percent (1) students dropped-out in class-V; in zone Tahab total drop-out

rate of girl students of all the classes in all primary schools (EMPE) from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was 5.20 percent (12) of which 0.87 percent (2) students dropped-out in class-II, 1.32 percent (3) dropped-out in class-III, 2.24 percent (5) dropped-out in class-IV and 0.91 percent (2) students dropped-out in class-V while as in zone Shadimarg total drop-out rate of girl students of all the classes in all primary schools (EMPE) from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was 6.70 percent (19) of which 0.3 percent (1) students dropped-out in class-II, 3.58 percent (10) dropped-out in class-III, 1.48 percent (4) dropped-out in class-IV and 1.50 percent (4) students dropped-out in class-V.

Finally data presented in Table 3 indicated that in tehsil Pulwama total drop-out rate of girl students of all the classes in all primary schools (EMPE) from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was 4.62 percent (46) of which 0.54 percent (5) students dropped-out in class-II, 1.94 percent (19) dropped-out in class-III, 1.51 percent (15) dropped-out in class-IV and 0.68 percent (7) in class-V. This finding is supported by the findings of Shabnum [15] who reported 2.49 percent girl child dropouts in primary schools of Aishmuqam zone of district Anantnag of Jammu and Kashmir while as Siddiqui and Mujiaba [14] reported 27.35 percent girl child dropout in primary schools

of both rural and urban primary schools of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. However, the finding of Naidu [16]; Ayodele, *et al.* [17]; and Sajjid, *et al.* [18] contradicts the present finding. Further the data also indicated that highest dropout rate (6.78 percent) was found in zone Shadimarg while lowest dropout rate (3.00 percent) was reported in zone Pulwama of tehsil Pulwama. In addition, the data in Table 3 also revealed that highest dropout was 19 (1.94 percent) which was reported in class-III and lowest was 5 (0.54 percent) which was found in class-II in all primary schools of district Pulwama (Fig. 3).

Table 4: Showing the zone, class and year wise girl student dropout percentage in primary schools of tehsil Pulwama (2010 -2014).

S. No.	Name of Zone	Girl student drop-out									
		Class-II 2011-12		Class-III 2012-13		Class-IV 2013-14		Class-V 2014-15		Total 2010-14	
		Dropout	%age	Dropout	%age	Dropout	%age	Dropout	%age	Dropout	%age
3	Pulwama	01.00	00.61	03.00	01.86	01.00	00.63	00.00	00.00	05.00	03.08
4	Kakpora	01.00	00.33	03.00	01.01	05.00	01.71	01.00	00.34	10.00	03.37
5	Tahab	02.00	00.87	03.00	01.32	05.00	02.24	02.00	00.91	12.00	05.26
6	Shadimarg	01.00	00.35	10.00	03.58	04.00	01.48	04.00	01.50	19.00	06.78
Total		05.00	0.54	19.00	01.94	15.00	01.51	07.00	0.68	46.00	04.62

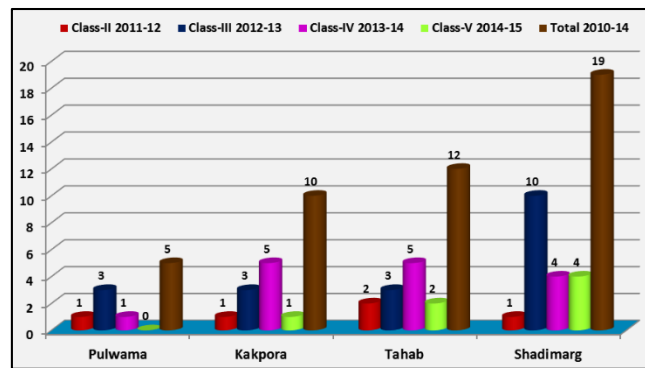


Fig 3: Class-wise girl child dropout (Primary schools) in different zones of tehsil Pulwama during 2010-2014.

Hypothesis: The hypothesis stated that “There is no significant difference in mean score of enrolment and dropout

score of girl child in primary schools of tehsil Pulwama (J&K)”.

Table 5: Difference in mean score of enrolment & retention of girl child & number of girl child dropouts.

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t	result
Enrolment & Retention of Girl child.	40	2.28	44.18	39	3.26	Significant at 0.05 level
Number of girl child dropouts.		2.27	2.25			

* Significant at 0.05 level.

In order to test the Hypothesis “There is no significant difference in mean score of enrolment and dropout score of girl child in the school in tehsil Pulwama (J&K)”. From the above table it is evident that ‘t’ value is 3.26 at 0.05 percent level of significance. The table value is 2.66. Thus the calculated’ value, i.e. 3.26 is higher than the table value 2.66 at 0.05 percent. Therefore the calculated value is significant at 0.05 percent level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. Finally, it is concluded that there is a significant difference between the mean score of enrolment and dropout score of girl child in the school in tehsil Pulwama, (J&K). The analysis is shown in Figs. 4 & 5.

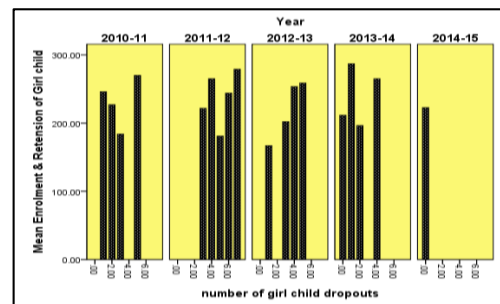


Fig 4: Year wise difference in mean score of enrolment & retention of girl child & number of girl child dropouts.

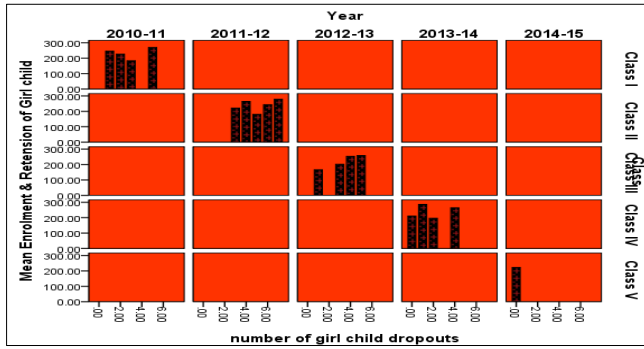


Fig 5: Class wise difference in mean score of enrolment & retention of girl child & number of girl child dropouts.

5. Conclusion

Finally it has been concluded that whole tehsil of Pulwama was found to be comprised of 04 education zones, 279 primary schools (EMPE) and enrolment of teachers in such schools was 622, out of which 435 were male and 187 were female teachers. Results regarding enrolment & retention revealed that in tehsil Pulwama out of 966 girl students enrolled in class-I during the academic year 2010-11, 961 girl students retained in class-II, 942 students retained in class-III, 927 retained in class-IV, 920 in class V and thus 46 girl students dropped during the entire course of study. Further highest dropout (19) have been reported in zone Shadimarg while lowest dropout (5) in zone Pulwama. Present study also clarified that in tehsil Pulwama total drop-out rate of girl students of all the classes in all primary schools (EMPE) from 2010-11 to 2014-15 was 4.62 percent (46) of which 0.54 percent (5) students dropped-out in class-II, 1.94 percent (19) dropped-out in class-III, 1.51 percent (15) dropped-out in class-IV and 0.68 percent (7) in class-V. Further highest dropout rate (6.70 percent) was found in zone Shadimarg and lowest (3.00 percent) in zone Pulwama. In addition, highest dropout was 19 (1.94 percent) which was reported in class-III and lowest 5 (0.54 percent) which was found in class-II.

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