

EDUCATION

2.1 Introduction

Education is the key to change. It plays vital role in bringing social development, economic prosperity and to enhance the individual's potentials. Education introduces and prepares to cope with the new orders of the modern age. As per national educational policy¹

“Our education system must provide quality education to our children and youth to enable them to realize their individual potential and contribute to development of society and nation, creating a sense of Pakistani nationhood, the concepts of tolerance, social justice, democracy, their regional & local culture and history based on the basic ideology enunciated in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.”

One of the main objective of the MDGs is improvement in the percentage of literate population. The primary objective of government policy in the last few years has been to improve the level and quality of education in Pakistan. The key objectives are as follows:

- To expand public provision of primary education.
- To increase enrolments faster than the growth in population.
- To provide and ensure equal educational opportunities to all the citizens of Pakistan.
- Great stress has been put on the primary level education because it forms the core of the literate population.
- To improve the functioning & utilisation of existing schools, improve the quality of education and increase enrolments.
- To improve access to education and expand the primary education system.

Being Islamic republic of Pakistan it is worth mentioning that Islam also places great emphasis on acquiring education for both men and women. Pakistan is one of those developing countries that face challenges like development of a comprehensive Human Resource Development (HRD) policy and coherence with other socio-economic policies of the government, developing an authentic and integrated data base for better assessment of education indicators for future planning and developing a comprehensive school language policy in consultation with provincial and area governments in its education sector. Government efforts are not only to make the education more accessible and affordable but also to provide better the quality of education for all children.

PSLM data on Education is one of the major source for monitoring MDG's accordingly, two indicators “Net primary enrolment” and “Literacy rate” under goal 2 “Achieve Universal Primary Education” and two indicators “Gender parity index” for primary and secondary education and “Youth literacy GPI” under goal 3 “Promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment” are monitored through PSLM Surveys. PSLM survey is producing key indicators on education and being a good source for the federal government as well as for the provinces to overview weak areas where serious and comprehensive efforts are required.

This chapter will cover key indicators on School attendance, Enrolment rates and Literacy.

¹National Education Policy 2009, Ministry of Education, GoP

2.2 School attendance

The population of ten years and older that have ever attended schools at National level is 61 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 60 percent in 2010-11. This proportion, in 2012-13, is much higher in urban areas than in rural areas i.e. 77 percent and 53 percent as well as in men than in women i.e. 72 percent and 50 percent respectively. Province wise comparison reveals that Punjab with 64 percent in 2012-13 has the highest proportion of population ever attended school as compared to 63 percent in 2010-11 followed by Sindh with 60 percent showing no change when compared with 2010-11, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) with 55 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 53 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan with 44 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 42 percent in 2010-11. The school attendance for Islamabad is reported to be 86 percent. While observing the district level position, Rawalpindi with 82 percent, Karachi with 83 percent, Abbottabad with 74 percent and Quetta with 70 percent are the top ranked districts within their respective provinces. On the other hand Rajanpur with 39 percent, Thatta with 37 percent, Tor Garh with 27 percent and Dera Bugti with 16 percent are the districts at the bottom within their respective provinces (Table 2.1).

At National level, population completed primary level has increased to 51 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 49 percent in 2010-11. While comparing regions, significant difference is observed i.e. 68 percent for urban and 42 percent for rural areas. Almost the same pattern is observed when compared among gender, 60 percent for males and 42 percent for females. The province wise comparison reveals that Punjab with 54 percent in 2012-13 have the highest proportion of population that have completed primary level as compared to 52 percent in 2010-11, followed by Sindh that remained stagnant at 52 percent, KPK with 44 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 41 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan with 34 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 32 percent in 2010-11. In Islamabad 81 percent population has reported to have completed primary level. While observing the district level position, Rawalpindi with 73 percent, Karachi with 75 percent, Abbottabad with 65 percent and Quetta with 60 percent are the best performing districts within their respective provinces. On the other hand Rajanpur & Thatta with 28 percent, Tor Garh with 13 percent and Dera Bugti & Kohlu with 9 percent are the lowest within their respective provinces (Table 2.2).

2.3 Primary Enrolment Rates

Gross 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 aged 5 to 9 years. The GERs are presented in this report in different ways: excluding and including the katchi class and for different age groups.

Table 2.3(a) shows the gross primary level enrolment rates excluding katchi class for the age group 5-9 years and similarly Table 2.3 (b) for age 6-10 years. The GER for the age group 5-9 years at National level has slightly decreased to 91 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 92 percent in 2010-11. The GER at primary level as evident from table 2.3a is much higher in urban areas with 105 percent than in rural areas with 86 percent. Regarding Gender gap in GER at primary level; 98 percent males are enrolled as compared to 83 percent females. Province wise

comparison shows that Punjab remains stable with primary level GER at 98 percent, Sindh shows decline to 81 percent in 2012-13 from 84 percent in 2010-11, KPK improved to 91 percent in 2012-13 from 89 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan slightly decreased to 73 percent in 2012-13 from 74 percent in 2010-11. The GER for Islamabad is 110 percent. While observing the district level position, Layyah with 120 percent & Chakwal with 119 percent, Karachi with 109 percent, Haripur with 121 percent, Mastung with 104 percent & Quetta with 100 percent are the top ranked districts within their respective provinces. Whereas Rahim Yar Khan with 65 percent, Kashmir with 54 percent, Kohistan with 58 percent and Dera Bugti with 23 percent are the bottom ranked districts within their respective provinces (Table 2.3a).

The GER at National Level is 92 percent when katchi class is included and the age group is expanded to Children 4-9 years old. The pattern within districts in the provinces is more or less similar to GERs without including katchi class (Table 2.4).

The PSLM 2012-13 collected information on enrolment in all types of schools including the private and government sectors. Table 2.5 shows the GER 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. At National level GER in government primary schools has decreased to 60 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 63 percent in 2010-11. The government school attendance is much higher in rural areas with 65 percent than in urban areas with 46 percent. Province wise comparison reveals that there is overall trend of decline in GER in government primary schools: the pattern is as follows, Punjab with 60 percent as compared to 62 percent in 2010-11, Sindh with 54 percent as compared to 59 percent in 2010-11, KPK with 66 percent as compared to 68 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan with 67 percent as compared to 70 percent in 2010-11. The GER in government schools for Islamabad is 51 percent. While observing district level position, Layyah with 94 percent, Tharparker with 79 percent, Lower Dir with 83 percent & Upper Dir with 81 percent and Mastung with 104 percent have the highest GER in government schools within their respective provinces. Results reveals that the absence of private schools leaves no alternatives and makes government schools a priority in small cities. (Table 2.5)

Net Enrolment Rates (NER)

The NER at primary level refers to the number of students enrolled in primary schools of age 5 to 9 years divided by the number of children in the same age group for that level of education. Simply primary NER is the number of children aged 5 to 9 years attending primary level class (1-5) divided by the number of children aged 5 to 9 years.

The NER at the primary level excluding katchi class for Pakistan as a whole is 57 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 56 percent in 2010-11. It is observed that girls have lower enrolment rate with 54 percent than boys with 61 percent as evident from (Table 2.6a) and this difference is markedly larger in rural areas with 54 percent than in urban areas with 67 percent. Province wise comparison reveals that Punjab slightly increased to 62 percent in 2012-13 from 61 percent in 2010-11; Sindh shows slight decrease of 52 percent in 2012-13 from 53 percent in 2010-11, KPK increased to 54 percent in 2012-13 from 51 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan decreased to 45 percent in 2012-13 from 47 percent in 2010-11. The primary level NER observed for Islamabad is 82 percent. Comparing primary level NER for districts; Chakwal with 83 percent & Jehlum with 80 percent, Hyderabad with 66 percent, Haripur with 74 percent and Mastung with 73 percent are

top ranked districts within their respective provinces. Whereas Bahawalpur with 41 percent, Thatta with 32 percent, Tor Garh with 34 percent and Dera Bugti with 9 percent are the lowest ranked districts within their respective provinces.

Table 2.8 shows the NER for government primary schools excluding katchi class. This is the number of children aged 5-9 years enrolled in government primary schools divided by the total number of children of the same age group. Like the GER 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 overall NER for Government primary schools remain stagnant at 37 percent between 2010-11 and 2012-13. The NER for government primary schools is higher in rural areas with 40 percent as compared to urban areas with 28 percent.

The primary level enrolment in government schools as a percentage of total enrolment is shown in Table 2.9 (a). The government share of primary enrolment at national level is 66 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 68 percent in 2010-11. Province wise comparison reveals that there is overall trend of decline in enrolment in government primary schools: the pattern is as follows, Punjab with 61 percent as compared to 63 percent in 2010-11, Sindh with 67 percent as compared to 71 percent in 2010-11, KPK at 72 percent as compared to 76 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan with 91 percent as compared to 95 percent in 2010-11. The primary level enrolment for Islamabad is 47 percent. While observing district level position, D. G. Khan with 86 percent & Rajanpur with 84 percent, Tharparkar with 98 percent, Tor Garh with 100 percent and Mastung with 100 percent, Awaran and Kharan with 99 percent are the top ranked districts within their respective provinces. Whereas Gujranwala with 37 percent, Karachi with 23 percent, Peshawar with 53 percent and Quetta with 72 percent have the lowest primary enrolment in government schools within their respective provinces. The above analysis reflects that developed districts have larger share of private education whereas less developed districts mainly depend on government educational facilities (Table 2.9a)

2.4 Middle Enrolment Rates

Gross Enrolment Rates (GER)

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 GER for the middle level, for Pakistan as a whole has increased to 56 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 54 percent in 2010-11. The middle level enrolment in urban areas has increased to 72 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 71 percent in 2010-11 and similar pattern is observed in rural areas i.e. 49 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 47 percent in 2010-11. Comparison by gender shows that GER for male has increased from 59 percent in 2010-11 to 61 percent in 2012-13 and female enrolment 48 percent in 2010-11 to 50 percent in 2012-13. Province wise situation also shows the increasing pattern in GER at middle level, Punjab at 60 percent as compared to 58 percent in 2010-11, Sindh remained stable at 48 percent, KPK at 61 percent as compared to 57 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan at 39 percent as compared to 35 percent in 2010-11. The GER at middle level for Islamabad is 104 percent. Comparing middle level GERs for districts; it is revealed that Chakwal with 98 percent, Karachi with 70 percent, Abbottabad with 91 percent and Quetta with 79 percent are the best performing districts within their respective provinces. While Rajanpur with 28 percent, Thatta with 21

percent, Kohistan with 16 percent and Dera Bugti with 7 percent have lowest GERs within their respective provinces.

Net Enrolment Rates (NER)

Net enrolment rate at the middle level (Age 10-12) is 22 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 20 percent in 2010-11. The NER at middle level is much lower than GER with 56 percent for the same age group. This is due to the large number of overage children enrolled in middle class which are filtered out during the calculation of NER. The provincial comparison shows increasing trend except in Sindh province which remains stable at 19 percent. The NER in Punjab, KPK and Balochistan has increased to 25 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 23 percent in 2010-11, 21 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 17 percent in 2010-11 and 14 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 13 percent in 2010-11 respectively. The NER at middle level for Islamabad has increased to 49 percent in 2012-13 from 47 percent in 2010-11. Comparison at district level, it is revealed that Chakwal with 41 percent, Hyderabad with 31 percent, Abbottabad with 34 percent and Gwadar with 27 percent are the top ranked whereas Bahawalpur with 13 percent, Thatta with 6 percent, Kohistan with 5 percent and Dera Bugti with 1 percent are the bottom ranked districts in their respective provinces (Table 2.11a).

2.5 Matric Enrolment Rates

Gross Enrolment Rates (GER)

Overall GER at matric level increased to 59 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 57 percent in 2010-11 and NER has slightly increased to 13 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 12 percent in 2010-11 (Tables 2.12a and 2.13a). A considerable gender disparity is observed in with respect to GER at matric level i.e. 67 percent for males and 49 percent for females. Similar pattern is observed in urban and rural GER. Province wise comparison reveals that Punjab slightly increased to 62 percent in 2012-13 from 61 percent in 2010-11, Sindh shows marginal decrease at 54 percent in 2012-13 from 55 percent in 2010-11, KPK increased to 58 percent in 2012-13 from 54 percent in 2010-11 and Balochistan slightly decreased to 37 percent in 2012-13 from 38 percent in 2010-11. The GER in Islamabad is observed as 101 percent. While observing district level position, Rawalpindi with 96 percent, Karachi with 85 percent, Chitral with 96 percent and Quetta with 78 percent are at the peak among their respective provinces. However, Rajanpur with 29 percent, Thatta with 25 percent, Kohistan with 15 percent and Dera Bugti with 3 percent are at the lowest level within their respective provinces. (Table 2.12a).

Net Enrolment Rates (NER)

The NER at matric level for age 13-14 years has increased to 13 percent as compared to 12 percent in 2010-11. The provincial breakdown shows upward trend except Balochistan that remained stagnant at 6 percent. The upward trend is as follows; Punjab with 15 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 14 percent in 2010-11, Sindh with 12 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 11 percent in 2010-11 and KPK with 10 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 7 percent in 2010-11. The NER for Islamabad is reported as 29 percent. District wise comparison shows that Lahore with 23 percent, Dadu with 17 percent, Haripur with 20 percent and Gwadar with 13 percent are

the top ranked districts within their respective provinces. On other hand no enrolment at matric level is reported in Dera Bugti while Bahawalpur with 9 percent, Thatta with 3 percent and Tor Garh with 3 percent are the districts with lowest NER in their respective provinces (Table 2.13a).

By changing the age group to 14-15 years the NER at matric level behaves almost the same with slight differences which is evident from Table 2.13b.

2.6 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 at National level is 60 percent during 2012-13 as compared to 58 percent in 2010-11. Literacy remains much higher in urban areas than in rural areas and much higher in men than in women. Province wise comparison reveals that Punjab leads with 62 percent followed by Sindh with 60 percent, KPK with 52 percent and Balochistan with 44 percent. Literacy rate for Islamabad is 86 percent. Comparing Literacy (10 years and above) for districts, it is observed that Rawalpindi with 82 percent, Karachi with 82 percent, Abbottabad with 73 percent & Haripur with 70 percent and Quetta with 70 percent are the top ranked districts within their respective provinces. On the other hand Rajanpur with 39 percent, Badin with 36 percent, Tor Garh with 21 percent and Dera Bugti with 16 percent are the lowest ranked districts within their respective provinces regarding literacy rates (Table 2.14 a).

Adult literacy rate for the population (aged 15 and above) is 57 percent in 2012-13 as compared to 55 percent in 2010-11. The pattern among districts within the provinces is similar to the Literacy rate of population 10 years and above (Table 2.14 b).