

Education

10.30 Education is a critical input for investment in human capital. As against the goal of 6 percent of GDP, the total expenditure on education in India is currently 3.99 percent of GDP (2001-02). Plan expenditure on education has also increased rapidly since the First Five Year Plan. A high priority has been accorded to this sector in the Tenth Five Year Plan, with an allocation of Rs.43,825 crore as against Rs.24,908.38 crore made available in the Ninth Plan, representing an increase of 76 percent. During the Tenth Plan Rs.28,750 crore has been allocated for Elementary Education.

10.31 The total Central Plan allocation for education has been enhanced from by 18.7 percent from Rs.5,920 crore in 2001-02 (BE) to Rs.7025 crore in 2002-03 (BE). Out of this, *Elementary Education* has received the highest priority with the allocation increasing from Rs.3,800 crore in 2001-02 to Rs.4,302.30 crore (excluding Rs.364.70 crore earmarked for North-East region) in 2002-03 (BE), i.e., 61 percent of total provision. For adult education, Rs.209.70 crore (Rs.23.30 crore for North East region) has been provided in 2002-03 (BE) as against Rs.200 crore made available the previous year. Rs.2125 crore have been allotted for secondary and Higher Education against Rs.1920 crore in 2001-02.

10.32 To enlist the support of all concerned and to mobilize extra budgetary resources for the education sector, *Bharat Shiksha Kosh*, a registered society has been set up for receiving contributions, donations or endowments from individuals, Central and State Governments, NRIs and PIOs for various educational purposes.

10.33 The Constitutional (93rd Amendment) Bill has been passed by both Houses of Parliament and has received the President's Assent on December 12, 2002. This is a significant measure for achieving the goal of Education for All (EFA) by making free and compulsory elementary education a fundamental right for all children in the age

group of 6-14 years. In order to fulfil this constitutional obligation, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* has been launched in partnership with the States. The programme is an effort towards recognition of the need for improving the performance of the school system through a community owned approach and ensuring quality elementary education in a mission mode to all children in the age group of 6 – 14 years by 2010. It also seeks to bridge gender and social gaps. This programme will subsume all existing programmes (except Mahila Samakhya and Mid-day-meal Schemes) including externally aided programmes in due course with its overall framework with district as the unit of programme implementation. For Annual Plan 2002-03, Rs.1485.00 crore has been provided for the programme.

10.34 Over the decades, literacy rates have shown a substantial improvement. The total literacy rate which was only 18.33 percent in 1951, rose to 52.21 percent in 1991 and further increased to 65.4 percent in 2001. According to the Census of India, 2001, the literacy rate has gone up to 75.85 percent for males and 54.16 percent for females. During the last decade, female literacy rate has shown much higher growth, increasing by 14.87 percentage points as against 11.72 for males thus reducing the male-female differential in literacy rates from 24.84 in 1991 to 21.7 in 2001 (Table 10.12).

10.35 The number of primary schools decreased from 642,000 in 1999-2000 to 638,738 in 2000-01. The number of upper primary schools increased from 198,000 in 1999-2000 to 206,269 in 2000-01. The ratio of upper primary schools to primary schools was 1:3.2. in 1999-2000 as against 1:3 in 2000-01. The total enrolment at the primary and upper primary school levels in India witnessed a steady increase (Table 10.13). During 1999-2000 and 2000-01, the growth rate of enrolment for girls at the elementary levels was higher as compared to that for boys. Participation of girls at all levels of school education has improved appreciably over the years.

10.36 The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at Primary and Upper Primary levels improved perceptibly in 2000-01 over the previous year (Table 10.14).

10.37 Out of the estimated population of 193 million in the age group of 6-14 years in 2000-01, nearly 81 percent attended school. In 1999-2000, nearly 79 percent in this age group attended schools. The student retention rate at the primary school stage was about 58 percent (1991-96). Drop-out rates at the primary and upper primary level have decreased over the years. At the primary level, the drop-out rate increased from 40.3 percent in 1999-2000 to 40.7 percent 2000-01. At the upper primary level, the drop-out rate decreased marginally from 54.5 percent in 1999-2000 to 53.7 percent in 2000-01. Though dropout rates at the elementary education stage have declined over the years, they are still relatively high especially in the case of girl students for whom the rates are 41.9 percent and 57.7 percent at the Primary and Upper Primary stages respectively, in 2000-2001.

10.38 In absolute terms, the number of teachers registered at the elementary level was 3.2 million in 2000-01. The percentage share of female teachers to total teachers was 36.7 percent in 2000-01. Despite the fact that the number of teachers has increased over the years, Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) at the Primary education level worsened to 1:43 in 2000-01, although that at the Upper Primary level increased to 1:38 in 2000-01.

10.39 Within the education sector, elementary education has been given the

highest priority in terms of sub-sectoral allocations and a number of schemes launched by the Central Government to meet the needs of the educationally disadvantaged viz. Operation Blackboard, District Primary Education Programme, Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education, Mahila Samakhya, Teacher Education, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, Lok Jumbish, Shiksh Karmi Project, Janashala Programme and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (elementary education component). Some of the selected schemes are at Box10.5.

10.40 *Secondary Education* sector prepares students in the age group of 14-18 years for entry into higher education as well as for the world of work. The number of secondary and senior secondary schools increased from 1,16,000 in 1999-2000 to 1,21,951 as on September 30, 2002, with a student enrolment of 28.8 million. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan manages 849 Kendriya Vidyalayas (as on December 31, 2001.) The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti through more than 451 institutions in predominantly rural areas, has taken up activities for extension of infrastructural facilities, introduction of vocational courses, training of teachers etc.

10.41 *Technical and professional education* in the country has played a significant role in economic and technical development by producing quality manpower. There are at present 1,203 approved engineering colleges at the degree and 1,195 colleges at the diploma level. Apart from this, 1,006

Table 10.12 : Literacy rates in India (1951—2001)

Census year	Persons	Males	Females	Male-female gap in literacy rate
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86	18.30
1961	28.30	40.40	15.35	25.05
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97	23.98
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	65.38	75.85	54.16	21.70

Source: Census of India.

Table 10.13 : Sex-wise enrolment by stages/classes since 1950-51*(in million)*

Year	Primary (I-V)			Middle/Upper primary (VI-VIII)			High/Hr.Sec./Inter/pre-Degree (IX- XII)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1970-71	35.7	21.3	57.0	9.4	3.9	13.3	5.7	1.9	7.6
1980-81	45.3	28.5	73.8	13.9	6.8	20.7	7.6	3.4	11.0
1990-91	57.0	40.4	97.4	21.5	12.5	34.0	12.8	6.3	19.1
1991-92	58.6	42.3	100.9	22.0	13.6	35.6	13.5	6.9	20.4
1992-93	57.9	41.7	99.6	21.2	12.9	34.1	13.6	6.9	20.5
1993-94	55.1	41.9	97.0	20.6	13.5	34.1	13.2	7.5	20.7
1994-95	60.1	45.1	105.1	22.1	14.3	36.4	14.2	7.9	22.1
1995-96	60.9	46.2	107.1	22.7	14.8	37.5	14.6	8.3	22.9
1996-97*	62.5	47.9	110.4	24.7	16.3	41.0	17.2	9.8	27.0
1997-98*	61.2	47.5	108.7	23.7	15.8	39.5	17.1	10.2	27.2
1998-99*	62.7	48.2	110.9	24.0	16.3	40.3	17.3	10.5	27.8
1999-2000*	64.1	49.5	113.6	25.1	17.0	42.1	17.2	11.0	28.2
2000-01*	64.0	49.8	113.8	25.3	17.5	42.8	16.9	10.7	27.6

* Provisional

Source : Selected Educational Statistics 2000-01, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Table 10.14 : Trends in gross enrolment ratios in India*(in percent)*

Year	Primary (I-V)			Upper primary (VI-VIII)			Elementary (I-VIII)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1970-71	95.5	60.5	78.6	46.5	20.8	33.4	75.5	44.4	61.9
1980-81	95.8	64.1	80.5	54.3	28.6	41.9	82.2	52.1	67.5
1990-91	114.0	85.5	100.1	76.6	47.0	62.1	100.0	70.8	86.0
1991-92	112.8	86.9	100.2	75.1	49.6	61.4	101.2	73.2	87.7
1992-93	95.0	73.5	84.6	72.5	48.9	67.5	87.7	65.7	77.2
1993-94	90.0	73.1	81.9	62.1	45.4	54.2	80.2	63.7	72.3
1994-95	96.6	78.2	87.7	68.9	50.0	60.0	87.2	68.8	78.4
1995-96	97.1	79.4	88.6	67.8	49.8	59.3	86.9	69.4	78.5
1996-97 *	98.7	81.9	90.6	70.9	52.8	62.4	88.9	71.8	80.7
1997-98 *	97.7	81.2	89.7	66.5	49.5	58.5	86.4	70.0	78.6
1998-99 *	100.9	82.9	92.1	65.3	49.1	57.6	87.6	70.6	79.4
1999-2000 *	104.1	85.2	94.9	67.2	49.7	58.8	90.1	72.0	81.3
2000-2001*	104.9	85.9	95.7	66.7	49.9	58.6	90.3	72.4	81.6

*Provisional

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01, M/O. Human Resource Development.

institutes impart courses on Master of Computer Application (MCA). There are 930 approved Management Institutes imparting MBA courses. From the current academic year, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has delegated the powers of approval of Diploma level technical institutes to the State Governments. Strong linkages have developed between technical institutions and the industry. For strengthening technical education and improving the quality of polytechnic passouts, various steps have been taken through Technician Education development programmes.

10.42 *The National Literacy Mission (NLM)* seeks to achieve full literacy i.e. a sustainable threshold level of 75 percent literacy by 2005. *The Total Literacy Campaign (TLC)* has been the principal strategy of National Literacy Mission for eradication of illiteracy in the target

group. These campaigns are area-specific, time-bound, volunteer-based, cost effective and outcome-oriented. They are implemented by Zilla Saksharata Samities and district level literacy societies.

10.43 Keeping pace with its endeavours, campaigns and programmes, the NLM has strengthened and revitalized the State Literacy Missions. State Literacy Missions have been imparted greater autonomy. They now have the authority to plan, implement and monitor literacy programmes and sanction continuing education programmes at the State level. The NLM has also come to recognize the great potential that NGOs have in furthering its programmes and schemes. Given the major role, NGOs are now allowed to receive funds from Zilla Saksharata Samities and actually run continuing education centres. The Jan Shikshan Sansthan have expanded their

Box 10.5 : Selected programmes at elementary education stage

- **District Primary Education Programme :**

Launched in 1994 in 42 districts, this is a Centrally Sponsored scheme aiming at providing access to primary education for all children, reducing primary dropout rates to less than 10 per cent, increasing learning achievement of primary school students by at least 25 per cent and reducing gender and social groups to less than 5 per cent. During 2001-02 the programme has been further expanded to 23 districts bringing the total coverage to 271 districts spread over 18 States. Rs.1330 crore have been allocated for 2002-03 as against Rs.1100 crore for 2001-02.

- **National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day meal Scheme) :**

Launched on 15th August, 1995 with the objective to boost the Universalisation of Primary Education by impacting upon enrolment, attendance, retention and nutritional needs of children studying in classes I – V. Under this programme, more than 10 crore children are being targetted for coverage. At present, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Karnataka and Delhi. are providing cooked meals. The remaining States/UTs are distributing foodgrains (wheat/rice). The Plan allocation for 2002-03 is Rs.1057 crore as against Rs.930 crore in 2001-02.

- **Lok Jumbish :**

This project started in 1992 and has completed in two phases upto June 1999. This programme is being implemented in Rajasthan and has shown a positive impact of micro-planning and school mapping process through community support. Year 2001-02 is the 3rd year of phase III of the project. The project is spread over 13 districts of the State, covering 101 blocks. Rs.60 crore have been provided in Annual Plan 2002-03 against Rs.59 crore made available 2001-02.

- **Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) :**

This programme was launched during 2000-01 and envisages Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for basic minimum services in certain priority areas. The scheme has six components covering elementary education, primary health, rural shelter, rural drinking water, nutrition and rural electrification. A minimum of 10 per cent of ACA for all components except nutrition (for which it is 15 per cent) has been fixed. The allocation for the remaining 35 per cent of ACA would be decided by the States and UTs among the components of the Scheme, as per their priorities. Funds for elementary education sector under PMGY are utilized to further the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education. During 2000-01 Rs.398.06 crore was released by Department of Expenditure to States. For 2001-02, Rs.486.16 crore has been provided out of which Rs.271.41 crore has so far been released.

outreach and are also catering to the rural segment by offering around 225 vocational training courses.

10.44 Out of 600 districts in the country 587 have since been covered under Adult Education Programmes. At present 174 districts are in progress under Total Literacy Campaigns, 212 under Post Literacy Programme and 201 under Continuing Education Programme. About 96.69 million

persons have been made literate as on 31.3.2002. Out of the total clientele group under different Adult Education Schemes, about 60 percent of the beneficiaries are women, while 22 percent and 12 percent belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively. Besides, 108 Jan Shikshan Sansthan and 25 State Resource Centres are functioning. The Directorate of Adult Education is functioning as National Resource Centre.