



IMPACT OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (SSA) ON GIRLS EDUCATION IN CHAMBA DISTRICT, (H.P.)

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Abstract

Gender biased in favour of boys is prevalent in Indian society. There is a lack of enthusiasm and negative attitude towards girls education in our society at all levels. Under SSA many interventions such as free text books, separate toilets for girls, KGBV (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya), Mid-day meal, uniform etc. are given to enhance the enrolment girls in schools, including free education in KGBV. The study paper is likely to evaluate the impact of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on Girl's education in Chamba District, of Himachal Pradesh.



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Introduction

In our society, the education of girl has suffered a lot due to many reasons. SSA has recognized that, ensuring girls education, require changes not only in the education system but also societal norms and attitude. So bridging all gender gaps at primary stages by 2007 and at upper primary stages by 2010 is one of the main objectives of SSA.

Out of total 5 educational backwards blocks of Himachal, 4 lies in Chamba district where the female literacy rate in 2001 census (48.85%) is below the national average (54.16%) and also below the state average of 68.08%. But according to 2011 census our female literacy rate has been raised to 61.67% which is however still below the state female literacy rate of 76.60%.

This paper will evaluate various schemes/ interventions under SSA, how they have enhanced the girls enrolment and their literacy in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

Objectives of the Study

Objectives of the present study are as under:

1. To study the key initiatives taken by SSA for enhancing enrolment, retention and qualitative changes in girls education.
2. To study literacy rate at elementary level after implementation of SSA.
3. To study basic facilities such as girls toilets in elementary school.

Study Area

This study is done in all the fifteen educational blocks of the Chamba district (It also includes eight KGBV hostels namely Bagheigarh, Tissa, Himgirikothi, Kihar, Bharmour, Karian, Mehla, Sach).

It is pertinent to note that there are 283 panchayats in Chamba district of which 159 panchayats are backward and three blocks namely Bharmour, Garola and Pangi are tribal blocks (45 Panchayats). Blocks such as Tissa, Kalhel, Salooni, Sundla, Mehla, Hardaspura, Gehra are under backward panchayats and in rest of the blocks maximum part are in backward panchayats.

Methodology

The data was collected by U-DISE from all the schools in all the 15 educational blocks. As the data is captured in DCF (Data Capture Format) every year in September throughout the country)

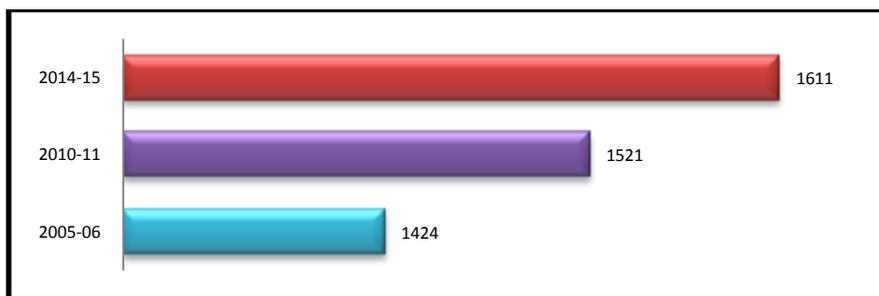
The structured collection tool was used to collect the primary data from the respondents (BRCCs & KGBV Warden/Accountant through personal interview). The study is from 2005-06 to 2014-15 i.e. for 10 years for some interventions and three years data for other interventions.

Results

Schools

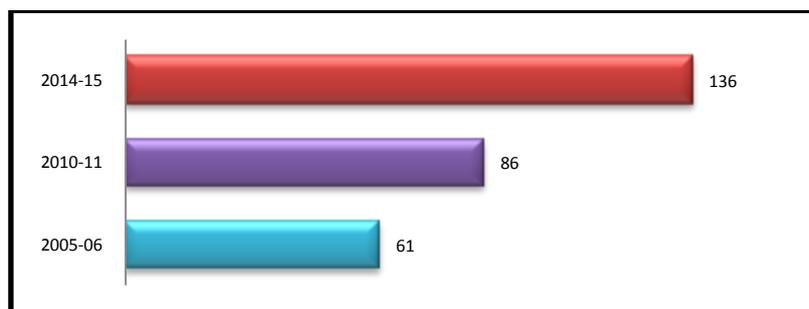
From 2005-06 to 2014-15 number of Government schools went up from 1424 to 1611, a total of 187 Government schools were opened during this period. The number of private schools were increased from 61 to 136 from 2005-06 to 2014-15. Thus a total of 75 private schools were opened during this period. The percent increase in schools was 13% and 122% among Government and private schools respectively.

Figure 1: Number of Government Schools



Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

Figure 2: Number of Private Schools

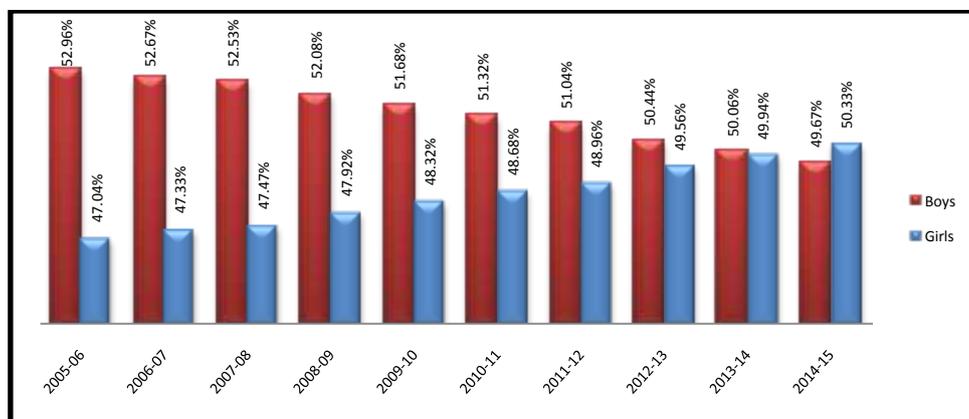


Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

Girls Enrolment

Growth and access to schools has shown a considerable increase in girls enrolment in schools. Comparison of girl’s enrolment in government schools indicates that more and more girls are being enrolled in government schools, and it is interesting to note that gender gap has reduced from 5.92 percent point to -0.67 percent point from 2005-06 to 2014-15. Thus we can say that girl’s enrolment in government schools is quite satisfactory and gender gap is in favour of girls. This increase in girls enrolment shows that there is universal enrolment and retention of girls which may be attributed to growth and access to schooling facilities.

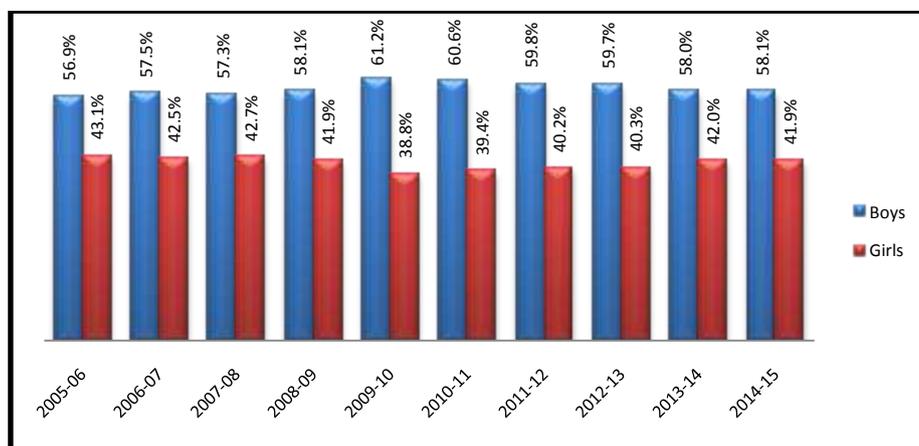
Figure 3: %Age of Girls Enrolment (Govt. Schools)



Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

In case of private schools, gender gap is increasing, in other words private schools are preferred choice for boys both at primary and upper primary levels. In private schools gender gap increased from 13.9 percentage points to 16.1 percentage points from 2005-06 to 2014-15.

Figure 4: %Age Of Girls Enrolment (Private Schools)

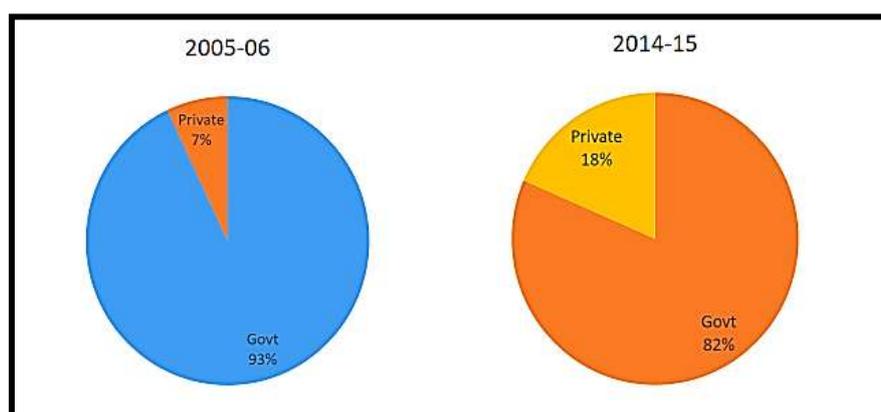


Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

Education in private schools is becoming increasingly popular, which again is more significant in case of enrolment of boys, that is most of the families who can afford private schools prefer to send at least their male child to those schools, sparing government schools for poor boys and for girls (who may or may not be poor).

It may also be noted that gender gap is increasing in private schools and have increased from 14 percent point to 16 percent point as shown above in the graphical representation.

Figure 5: %Age Share of Students among Govt. And Private Schools (Primary Classes)

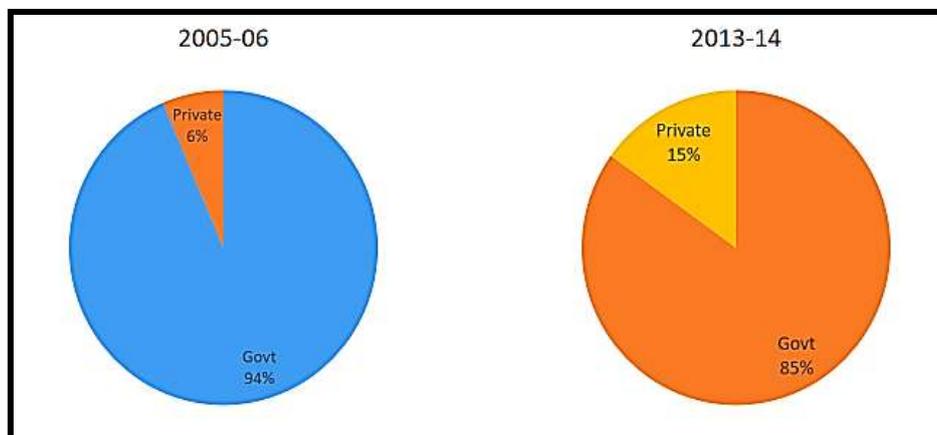


Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

As a result of shifting of students from government to private schools, the percent share of students in government schools is decreasing, the data also shows that at primary level private schools had enrolled only 7% of total students compared to 93% in government

schools in 2005-06 which increased to 18% in 2014-15 and students in government schools reduced to only 82%.

Figure 6: %Age Share of Students among Govt. And Private Schools (U. Primary Classes)

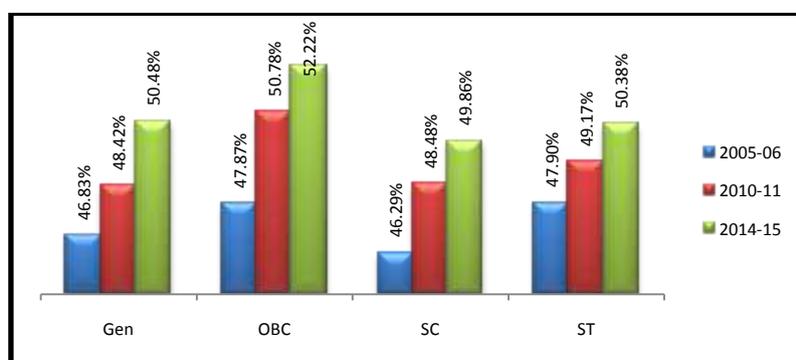


Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

In upper primary level also the percentage of students in private schools increase from 6% in 2005-06 to 15% in 2014-15 and correspondingly the share of government schools decreased from 94% to 85% from 2005-06 to 2014-15.

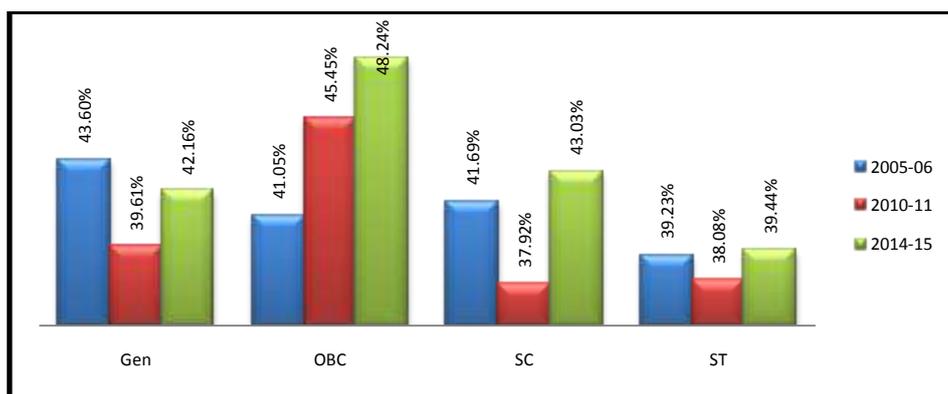
The enrolment of general girls at elementary level was 46.83% in 2005-06 got increased to 50.48% in 2014-15. The bigger challenge is to enrol SC, ST and OBC girls. Data however shows that there is also an increasing trend in the enrolment of disadvantaged girls over the years. Among SC students, the enrolment of SC girls at elementary level has climbed up from 46.29% in 2005-06 to 49.86% in 2014-15. Also, among ST students, the enrolment of ST girls at elementary level has gone up from 47.90% in 2005-06 to 50.38% in 2014-15. Similarly among OBC students, the enrolment of OBC girls at elementary level has gone up from 47.87% in 2005-06 to 52.22% in 2014-15.

Figure 7: Category Wise %Age of Girls (Government Schools)



Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

Figure 8: Category Wise %Age Of Girls (Private Schools)



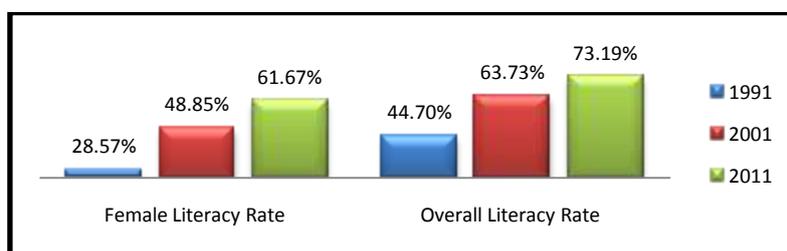
Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

So, from the above it is crystal clear that enrolment of girls in every category is increasing, which is an encouraging factor.

Female Literacy Rate

There is a steady increase in the female literacy rate in Chamba district. As per the census data, the female literacy of Chamba district has observed a continuous increasing trend from 28.57% to 61.67% from 1991 to 2011 census, but still it has to reach the goal of 100%.

Figure 9: Female Literacy Rate

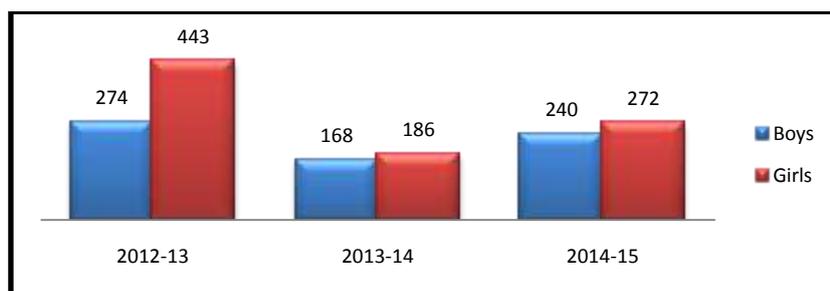


Source: Census of India.

Out of school Children

For out of school children comparison of three sessions i.e. from 2012-13 to 2014-15, in the session 2012-13, 443 girls were out of school compared to 274 out of school boys and in the session 2014-15, 276 girls were out of school compared to 236 out of school boys. Of the total out of school children percentage of girls were 61.78% (in 2012-13) and 53.90% (in 2014-15). It is also found that most of the out of school children comprise of minority children belonging to minority community. Thus it is clear that more of the girls are out of school than boys.

Figure 10: Out of School Children

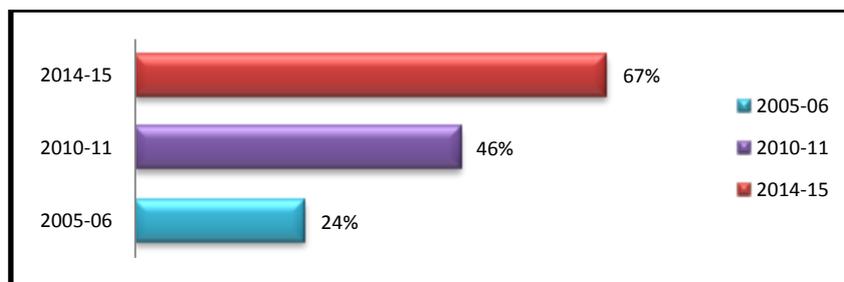


Source: Block Resource Coordinators

Facilities at School

It is interesting to report that most of the school have separate toilet for girls and boys, drinking water facility, with adequate number of rooms. More than 70% schools in the district have electrification.

Figure 11: Availability of Separate Toilet for Girls



Source: NUEPA, www.schoolreportcards.in Website.

Mid-Day Meal (MDM)

Mid-Day Meal (MDM) is a programme aiming at addressing hunger in schools by serving hot cooked meal, helping children to concentrate on classroom activities, providing nutritional support, encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections of society to attend the school regularly especially girl child. All of the schools in Chamba are providing Mid-Day Meal to students.

School Uniforms and Free Text Books

The purpose of school uniform is to inspire sense of belongingness to school. So, two sets of uniforms for all girls SC, ST, in government schools are being provided by SSA however remaining students up to class 10th are being provided by state government. To encourage students for regular schooling and retention free text books for SC, ST Students are being provided by Government of HP and to remaining students free text books are being provided by SSA.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalya (KGBV) Hostels

There are eight KGBV hostels Model-III (Hostels in existing schools for 50 girls) which are

located at Bagheigarh, Tissa, Himgirikothi, Kihar, Bharmour, Karian, Mehla, and Sach.

After interviewing KGBV hostel staff and analysing the questionnaire, it was found that the following facilities are available in the KGBV hostels.

All the KGBV hostels are using cooking gas in their kitchen, they are provided with water tap connection by Irrigation and Public Health Department. None of them have Hand Pump/Well, and only one of them have underground water facility.

All the eight KGBV hostels have storage water tanks, placed at the ground except one at Karian, which is having water tank placed on the terrace. Three of them have placed the water tank near the kitchen.

All the KGBV hostels have sewage tanks and six of them also have the sewage tanks connected to the drainage lines.

All the KGBV hostels have concealed electricity wiring except one at Bharmour which is having the open wiring.

Girls in almost all of the hostels are provided with daily need items.

All of the hostels are maintaining proper records in the Hostel Register, Standard Wise/Class Wise Attendance Register , Storage Register , Teacher's Attendance Register , Parent's Meeting Register , Inward Register , Outward Register , Stationary Register , Dead-Stock Register, Visitor's Register, except three of them (Tissa Bharmour and Karian) were not maintaining any record related to Leaves availed by the girls, as that data is maintained at the schools.

All the KGBV hostels are provided with facilities like Dormitory , Kitchen/Shed , Gas/Fire Wood , Storeroom , Water Pot , Broom , Wipe , Cupboard , Chair , Table , Toilet , Bathroom, Boiler. R.O. Water purifiers are available in four of the hostels only (Kihar,Bharmour, Karian, Mehla, Sach). Only one of them has science kit (Bharmour). Most of them are lacking the entertainment items like Tabla, Dholak, Cricket Set, Volley Ball , Mattress(for Yoga).

Summary and Conclusions

According to the reports of the Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) there are 1158 government primary schools and 453 upper primary schools and their ratio being 13:5(approximately). A total of 187 new schools were opened between the years 2005-06 and 2014-15. At present there is no need for opening of new schools however existing school infrastructure should be improved.

The share of students in government schools is decreasing. At primary level there are 7% students in private compare to 93% in government schools in 2005-06, which increased to

18% in 2014-15 and there were only 82% students in government schools. At upper primary level there were 6% students in private schools compared to 94% students in government schools in 2005-06. Enrolment of students at upper primary level in private sector increased to 15% and consequently enrolment in government schools decreased to 85% in 2014-15. It is a disturbing trend, so to increase the enrolment in government schools special focus should be on the quality education. So that the wards of the students may re-think and send their children back to government schools. Enrolment trends also shows that there is almost equal number of boys and girls in government schools. It is also pertinent to mention that girls enrolment in government schools is more than boys which is again a healthy sign.

Number of dropout children is very low in Chamba district. The out of school children are higher in Tissa, Kalhel, Salooni, Chamba and Hardaspura block. The dropout seems to be more prevalent in girls. The data regarding out of school children has been provided by the concerned BRCCs however no household survey has been carried out and there is a compelling need for such survey so that actual status of out of school children may be available which will help to devise proper strategies to plug this gap in future planning.

Among the out of school children, 37% in 2012-13, 32.76% in 2013-14 and 41.99% in 2014-15 were from minority community especially Muslim gujjars. For enrolling out of school and sustaining these children in schools special training camps may be started and community need to be mobilised by organising the mobilisation and motivational camps. The community participation in different school level activities is not that much satisfactory. So efforts should be made to mobilise community for participation in every activity of schools. Infrastructure facilities such as classrooms, separate toilets for boys and girls, drinking water facility etc are found to be adequate in most of the schools however there is dire need to construct girls toilets in remaining 33% schools.

Electricity, ramps and handrails and boundary walls requires urgent intervention, so as to make them RTE compliant.

It has been found that KGBV is a great success in Chamba district and should be extended/ upgraded so as to accommodate more girls. Water purifiers, science kits and entertainment items should be provided to all KGBV hostels. There should be a robust mechanism for monitoring the KGBV hostels. It is also suggested to start KGBV hostel for class 9th to 12th so as to enable these girls to continue their studies after 8th class.

Thus it may be concluded from above discussion overall status of girl child education is improving in the district, however this is still far behind the ultimate goal of universalisation of education in general and girls in particular.

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