

“Education for All” in India:

**Historical development, especially in the
light of gender equality and impact on the
present day situation**

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Free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of fourteen years is the Constitutional commitment in India (Article 45).

The NPE, 1968 stressed on the elimination of disparities in the educational system and on the improvement in the quality of the school. The emphasis was more on retention rather than merely on enrollment.

The NPE, 1986 emphasized on the universal access, enrollment and universal retention of children up to 14 years of age, and substantial improvement in the quality of education. In this policy the emphasis is also given on non-formal education.

The POA, 1992 emphasized three aspects: universal access and enrollment; universal retention of children up to age 14 years; and a substantial improvement in the quality of education, to enable all children to achieve essential levels of learning at the primary education levels.

Literacy

Growth of literacy in India 1951-2001

Year	Total	Male	Female	Sex disparity
1951	16.67	24.95	7.93	0.54
1961	24.02	34.44	12.95	0.48
1971	29.45	39.45	18.69	0.38
1981	36.23	46.89	24.82	0.33
1991	42.49	52.68	32.52	0.27
2001	65.38	75.85	54.16	0.22

Note: Literacy rate for 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981 related to population aged 5 and above. Literacy rate of 1991 and 2001 related to population aged 7 and above.

Source: Census of India, 2001, Provisional Population Totals.

Gross Enrolment Ratios at Primary and Upper Primary Levels

<i>Year</i>	<i>Primary (grades I-V)</i>			<i>Upper-Primary (grades V-VIII)</i>			<i>Elementary (grades I-VIII)</i>		
	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
1950-51	60.6	24.8	42.6	20.6	4.6	12.7	46.4	17.7	32.1
1960-61	82.6	41.4	62.4	33.2	11.3	22.5	65.2	30.9	48.7
1970-71	92.6	59.1	76.4	46.5	20.8	34.2	75.5	44.4	61.9
1999-00	104.1	85.2	94.9	67.2	49.7	58.8	90.1	72.0	81.3
2000-01	107.3	85.8	96.8	76.2	53.3	65.3	97.3	75.5	86.8
2001-02	103.1	82.3	93.0	80.3	57.7	69.6	95.7	74.6	85.6
2002-03	101.4	89.4	95.6	63.2	48.6	56.3	87.1	74.4	81.1
2003-04	100.8	95.7	98.3	66.9	57.7	62.5	88.0	81.5	84.9
2004-2005	111.4	105.5	108.6	74.8	65.8	70.5	97.6	90.6	94.2

Source : SES, MHRD



EFA in the Indian context

- **Expansion of early childhood care and development activities**
- **Universal Elementary Education (UEE)**
- **Drastic reduction in illiteracy**
- **Provision of opportunities to maintain, use and upgrade their education, and provision for the facilities for developments of skills**
- **Women's equality**
- **Improving the content and process of education**

Schemes and programmes

- ***Non-Formal Education***
- ***Operation Blackboard***
- ***District Institutes of Education and Training***
- ***Mahila Samakhya***
- ***Total Literacy Campaigns***

Schemes and programmes

➤ *District Primary Education Programme*

- **Andhra Pradesh Primary Education Project (APPEP)**
- **Bihar Education Project (BEP)**
- **Utter Pradesh Basic Education Project**
- **Lok Jumbish- *People's Movement***
- **Shiksha Karmi Projects - *Creating an informal cadre of women teachers in Rajasthan***

Schemes and programmes

- ***National Programme for Nutritional Support (Mid-day Meal)***
- ***Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)***
- ***Education Grantee Scheme (EGS)***
- ***Minimum Levels of Learning***

Global commitment

Goal 1: Expand early childhood care and education

Goal 2: Provide free and compulsory primary education for all

Goal 3: Promote learning and life skill for young people and adults

Goal 4: Increase adult literacy by 50 percent

Goal 5: Achieve gender parity by 2005, gender equality by 2015

Goal 6: Improve the quality of education

Meeting Dakar Goals: The Indian Perspectives

- **Integrated Child Development Schemes being universalised- ECCE is an important component of the Scheme (Goal-1)**
- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Movement for Education for All) launched with the aim of providing 8 years of quality education to all children in the age group 6-14 by 2010 (Goal 2 & 6)**
- **A comprehensive plan for adolescents, especially girls, in the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007) (Goal 3)**

- **National Literacy Mission to provide functional literacy to all illiterates adults in the age group 15-35 years (Goal 3 & 4) Achieve sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007**
- **Special schemes targeted at girls, apart from general schemes, Removal of all disparities, including gender, in primary (class I-V) by 2007 and elementary (I-VIII) by 2010 (Goal 5)**

*The goals of Education for All (EFA)
are centrally concerned with
equality.*

Why girls are still held back?

- * Rights to education: what happens outside school**
- * Working children: a major brake on schooling**
- * In the name of tradition**
- * Disability**
- * Cost of schooling**
- * Women teachers as role models**

Can non-state providers boost girls' education?

- Rishi valley for rural schools in south India-
'self-learning' and *'learning-ladder'* approach.
- Digantar and Bodh in Jaipur, Rajasthan-
'autonomy of learning' and *'multi-level'* approach.
- Eklavya, in Gujarat - a *'multi-grade pedagogy'*.
- Girls' Education Project in Hardoi in Uttar-
pradesh.

Innovative measures for out-of-school children

- **The MV Foundation, an NGO in Andhra Pradesh.**
- **The Bodh school project in Jaipur, Rajasthan.**
- **MARG - Legal literacy, an NGO in Delhi.**
- **The Mahila Samakhya programme.**

Major achievements in the quest for UEE

- **Reduction in the number of out of school children**
- **Decline in gender and social gaps**
- **Reduction in dropout rates**
- **Improvement in Enrolment ratios**

Drop-out Rates at Elementary level

Elementary level: Class I-VIII						
Stages	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Boys	52.0	50.3	52.9	52.3	51.8	50.10
Girls	58.0	57.7	56.9	53.4	52.9	50.76
Total	54.5	53.7	54.6	52.8	52.3	50.39

Source: SES, MHRD



Under/Over-aged children in 2003-04 and 2004-05

Level	Under-aged		Over-aged		Total grossness	
	<i>2003-04</i>	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>2003-04</i>	<i>2004-05</i>	<i>2003-04</i>	<i>2004-05</i>
Primary	9.48	8.46	6.33	5.8	15.82	14.26
Upper Primary	12.18	11.11	10.80	8.65	22.98	19.76

Percentage of female students in various fields of study

		Fields of study (% female)				
<i>Year</i>	<i>Total all fields</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Social sciences, Humanities, Services</i>	<i>Natural sciences and engineering</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Health</i>
<i>1982</i>	29	53	31	16	14	36
<i>2000</i>	43	61	49	23	35	61

“Education for all” declares that everyone has a right to education. Its aim is to give everyone a chance to learn and benefit from basic education – not as an accident of circumstance, nor as a privilege, but as a RIGHT.