Factors Affecting Low Enrollment and High Dropout Rate at Primary School Level in Kohat Division

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ABSTRACT

This paper is to explore “Factors Affecting Low Enrollment and High Dropout Rate at Primary school Level in Kohat Division Pakistan, using multi stage sampling. A random sample of 260 respondents was selected from three district of Kohat Division. The finding of the study indicated that poor economic condition was main factor behind low enrollment and high dropout rate in the study area. Both male and female children drop out of schools from class three on word. Teacher’s harsh attitudes, Lake of toilet and play ground in primary schools were the other factor behind dropout of children from schooling. The study suggested that appointment of a well trained teaching staff, coordination between parents and teachers and provision of toilets, playground and recreational activities may create interest among students and help to promote enrollment rate and control high dropout rate at primary school level in the study areas.

Key words: Education; Factors Affecting; Low enrollment; High dropout rate; Primary schools

Introduction

Education is a basic right of every human being (UDHR, Article 26, 1948). In sort en route for accomplish this, rigorous hard work have been made, as an outcome the elementary education organism within realm has become solitary of leading into the globe and Universalisation of primary schooling has been acknowledged as a nationwide ambition ever since 1950. (World Bank, 1997). Pakistan is a participant of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in addition to numerous additional Declaration downward the en route for the world affirmations on Education pro each and every one (EFA) (1990), the world education from: Drakar Framework for Action (2000), the Recife Declaration of E-9 countries (2000) along with the Beijing Declaration of E-9 countries on ICT and EFA (2001), however Pakistan in spite of strategy statement as well as intention locale within a choice of educational policies in addition to five years plans are still underneath the worldwide educational admittance and preservation. (UNESCO, 2003).

Drop out has been recognized as an exacting dilemma via the (UNESCO) for the previous two decades. A drop out could be distinct as a kid who get himself into the school, but fail en route for reach the next grade or on the way to full his pertinent stage of the education series by the side of the primary stage. Whereas a child repeats the similar rank because of an examination not a success, stump number of being present evidence or in favor of several additional reasons. A repeater might or might not turn into a drop out, except there is a towering possibility that she or he would be the drop outer or might not come back into the school next to a day, however there is extra possibility to she or he would stay misplaced to the educational system. (UNESCO, 1984).

Low enrollment and high dropout rate in school children is the basic dilemma of Pakistan education system. It has been found that dropout rate is high as compared to the low enrollment rate in kohat. There are total 641 serviceable government primary schools in Kohat, instead of which 378 were boy’s as well as 263 were girl’s schools, total enrolment at primary ranked were 90,052, instead of which 57,931 were boys and 32,121 were girls. The average pupils within government primary schools are 140. The numeral of entirety functional teachers within government primary school is 2,423, in which 1,487 are male and 936 are female teachers. The total drop out percentage of male children in Kohat district from class 1to class 5 is 75% and female children drop out percentage is 74%. Overall Combine percentage of drop out both male and female.
children is 75%. (Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2007). Greater part of the boys and girls may perhaps not be enrolled in the schools for the reason that of a costly schooling. Non accessibility of proper schools and no facilities intended for additional schooling. (Lakshmi, 2004). Furthermore lack of parent’s interests, big family unit, corporal punishment and lack of governmental protection are also the major factors contributed towards leaving school. (Shami, & Hussain, 2005).

The problem of low enrolment, high retention and high dropout is growing with an increasing poverty. Other equally contributing factors are low awareness on the importance of education among parents, Non conductive schooling environment, parent’s migration and a long distance to school. It was also a recommendation for the government to put in place the strategies which respond to the need and living conditions of children from the marginalized communities, especially the pastoralists in relation to the primary education. (Gould, W.T.S, 1993). While study conducted that analyzed reasons en route for remain kids away of school are mutually school associated and domestic allied. School linked factors comprise:

The numeral, qualification, category, gender with dedication of a teacher.

Location of school, societal propinquity with societal concern.

House hold allied factors comprise:

Poverty along with child labor

societal traditions and value

House hold related factors have been raised more with the passage of time when education cost increased. (Habib, 2004). Researcher suggested that a minimum five to six years of schooling is needed for the positive effect of schooling to be realized. Therefore, improving school transition rate in addition to primary school enrolment is important. (Burns et al., 2003).

**Statement of the problem**

Education is measured as most important mean of alteration for any inhabitants and the importance of primary education is more than other levels. It has been seen that only education opens the windows of opportunities for individuals. The lower attention of government, society and individual family for all segments of society cannot be denied. Low enrollment and high dropout rate keep children out of school. This creates many socio-economic problems for individual child, family, society and ultimately to the country. In view of the importance of this social research, a research has been conducted on the factors of low enrollment and high dropout rate among school going children in Kohat Division. The study tends to explore this factor which is affecting the low enrollment and is increasing in the dropout rate in the elementary Education at Kohat Division.

**Objectives of the study**

The main objectives of this paper are to investigate the factors of low enrollment and high dropout rate and to suggest the appropriate measures for policy intervention to control the dropout students and increase the enrollment of children in primary schools in the studied area.

**Methodology**

The universe of present study was Kohat Divion of Pakistan. Researcher selected three types of the respondents, 1) enrolled children, 2) dropout children, 3) parents of the children, and 260 respondents were selected for a random research area. Interview schedule was developed accordingly to collect information from all the three categories of the respondents. The composed data has been analyzed by a statistical package for social science (SPSS). Frequency table and Graphs are drawn for the representation of data, and for the attainment of frequency distribution of the personal traits of the respondents, simple percentage was calculated. The percentage was calculated by the following formula.

\[
P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100
\]

Where:

- \( P \) = Percentage
- \( F \) = Frequency
- \( N \) = Total number of frequency

**Table 1. Frequency & Percentage Distribution of Various Factor Affecting Low Enrolment & High Dropout of the respondents (Parents) on their children’s Education.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Total %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>31.2 (81)</td>
<td>10.4 (27)</td>
<td>3.1 (8)</td>
<td>14.6 (38)</td>
<td>40.7 (106)</td>
<td>100 (260)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>1.2 (3)</td>
<td>0.8 (2)</td>
<td>0.8 (2)</td>
<td>45.7 (119)</td>
<td>51.5 (134)</td>
<td>100 (260)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectarianism</td>
<td>20.0 (52)</td>
<td>13.8 (36)</td>
<td>3.5 (9)</td>
<td>29.6 (77)</td>
<td>33.1 (86)</td>
<td>100 (260)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Security</td>
<td>0.8 (2)</td>
<td>0.8 (2)</td>
<td>20.3 (53)</td>
<td>78.1 (203)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100 (260)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above table and graphs show the factors affecting low enrolment and high dropout rate of the respondents. Most (40.7 %) were of the opinion that terrorism effect their children education and they were strongly agree, (31.2 %) disagreed, whereas (14.6 %) were agree, (10.4 %) were disagree, while remaining (3.1 %) of the respondents had no opinion. These table and charts also illustrate that a majority (51.5 %) of the respondents strongly agreed that poverty affects their children education. Whereas (45.7 %) agreed, (1.2 %) strongly disagreed, (8 %) disagreed and remaining (0.8 %) had no opinion.

These table and charts reveal that the most (33.1 %) of the respondents strongly agreed that sectarianism affects their children’s education, whereas (29.6 %) were agree, (20 %) were strongly disagreed, (13.8 %) were disagreed and (20.3 %) had no opinion. These table and graphs also show that a majority (78 %) of the respondents agreed that insecurity affects their children’s education, whereas (20.3 %) had no opinion, (0.8 %) were disagreed and (0.8 %) had no opinion.

**Conclusion and discussion**

The data revealed that a majority of the low enrollment and high dropout ratio was found in government schools due to non availability of qualified teacher in their school. There were no recreational activities for the students at schools. Poverty, sectarianism, in security, kidnapping and terrorism were the basic reasons of low enrollment and high dropout. Most of the
children had no access to school. Another cause of dropout was the taunting behavior of the class fellows in school. Majority of the dropout children leave the school, due to the teachers’ aggressive behavior. Dropout children are unhappy and want to rejoin the school. Most of the enrolled children were not taking any kind of participation in debates. Most of the students were not encouraged to ask questions in the class. No famous people were invited in school for an interaction with students.

Future direction

Government should make proper policies and planning to provide the basic facilities (drinking water, toilet & playground, etc), well trained teachers and control the security situations which affects the children education. In addition a strong coordination on priority basis should be build among teachers and parents because without their coordination, it will be difficult to promote education. Moreover there should be good interaction and cooperation between education department with teachers, and government should arrange awareness program for those parents who do not send their children to schools.

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