

STATUS OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN JHARKHAND

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The State is striving to achieve universalization of elementary education. Through this paper we have tried to highlight the progress made in the literacy and elementary education in Jharkhand between 2011-12 and 2015-16. To present this a composite index has been calculated to study the improvements achieved in the realm of elementary education in the State. Also, have tried to cover some of the initiatives taken by government for the same.

INTRODUCTION

Jharkhand Government aims for comprehensive and equitable education at elementary level, for this it is focussing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4- Quality Education, United Nation. Without addressing the challenges, the State won't be able to meet the benchmarks set out by SDGs. Thus, for providing inclusive and quality education in the State, the education department has redefined the SDGs which focusses to strengthen the schools, to promote and encourage girls' education, to create better and proper infrastructural facilities, to provide Mid Day Meal (MDM) to all eligible children uninterruptedly, and to strengthen and improve the educational institutions for teachers.

This paper tries to examine the improvements and variations existing at the elementary education level in Jharkhand. We have tried to study how the State has improved at literacy and educational parameters and also the initiatives taken by government for betterment. The first section provides the basic background and economic status of Jharkhand. The second section studied the status of literacy rate and gender parity among male and female literacy rate across the Districts of the State. The third section has tried to analyse the different indicators that states the progress in the stature of elementary education in the State. A composite index has been developed by using a range equalisation method. The index comprises of four indicators of elementary education. The index has been used to study the improvements met by the State at elementary educational level between 2011-12 and 2015-16. Further, the initiatives of the state government towards modernisation and providing quality education has been perceived in the concluding section.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN INDIA AND JHARKHAND

After the adoption of Constitution of India in 1950, the elementary education in the country has received explicit attention. Under the Article 45 of the Constitution, a provision was made for free and compulsory education for all the children up to 14 years of age. A provision was also made to promote the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and other weaker sections of the society. In spite of the rapid expansion of the formal school system at elementary education level, India has been unable to universalise the free and compulsory elementary education within the stipulated time period in the country. The upcoming of Sarv Siksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal were a step towards an effective initiative in this direction, along with the Right to Education Act which enshrined the fundamental right to demand eight years of quality elementary education for children.

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P. Rustagi and R. Menon (2013) stated that the universalisation of elementary education is the most severe challenge for the educationally backward States, especially among the tribal populations. Jharkhand which was carved by bifurcation of the southern part of erstwhile Bihar in 2000 consists of 23.66 per cent of tribals out of the total population of the State. Jharkhand although being a mineral and natural resource rich State has per capita income far below the national average and in poverty ratio it stands second next to Orissa. This shows that the richness of the State has not been permeated towards the large section of its population. Thus, poverty in Jharkhand is concentrated among the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and other weaker sections of the society.

In general, the situation of rural Jharkhand, which comprises a bulk of population with only 22 per cent in urban areas, is particularly backward in terms of most of the educational indicators.

PATTERN OF LITERACY IN JHARKHAND

Shukla and Mishra (2014) defined literacy as a term, which generally includes the three Rs namely reading, writing and simple arithmetic. Functionally, under the NAEP, literacy involves the acquisition of knowledge, information and skills to carry out day to day life activity in a more meaningful and purposive way. Ramachandran V. (2006) opined literacy rate to be one of the key indicators of a country's development. Deogharia (2015) has examined the issue and challenges of literacy and universalisation of primary education in Jharkhand. In process he has examined the enrollment rate, drop outs & children out of school. He has also examined the Gender Parity Index (GPI) to analyse the gender disparities prevailing in Jharkhand.

Although Jharkhand's literacy rate is much lower than the national rate but has shown an annual growth more than India between 2001 and 2011. Jharkhand's literacy rate has shown an annual growth of 2.40 per cent between 2001 and 2011, while India's literacy rate has grown by 1.42 per cent in the same time period. The NSSO 71st round 2014, also narrates the same story. According to this survey, the literacy rate of Jharkhand has shown an annual increment of 1.95 per cent between 2001 and 2014, while India's literacy rate has grown by 0.61 per cent during the same time period. Again, the female literacy rate of the State which has remained below the male literacy rate during 2001, 2011 and 2014, but as shown an annual growth in the literacy rate more than the male literacy.

Table 1: Overall Literacy Rate in Jharkhand

	2001	2011	2014
Female Literacy Rate	38.87	55.42	59.9
Male Literacy Rate	67.30	76.84	79.6
Total Literacy Rate	53.56	66.41	70.3

Source: 2001 and 2011 Census and NSS 2014

DISTRICT-WISE LITERACY RATE AMONG FEMALES AND SOCIAL GROUPS

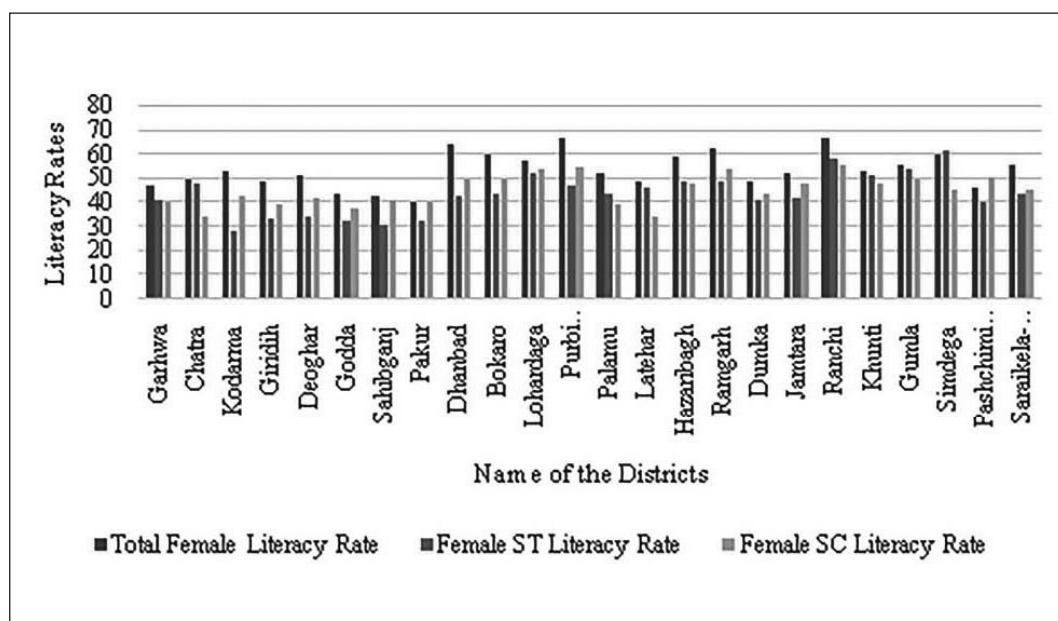
The following figure depicts the district-wise female literacy rate in the State, and also the literacy rates of the females belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. As per 2011 Census of India, the total female literacy rate of the State was 55.42 per cent in 2011. Among the Districts, Ranchi District (67.4 per cent) has recorded the highest female

literacy rate, followed by Purbi Singhbhum (66.8 per cent) and Dhanbad (64.3 per cent) while in Pakur District the female literates are the lowest.

Among the Scheduled Tribe (ST), the total female literacy rate during 2011 Census was 46.20 per cent and among the Scheduled Caste (SC) was 44.20 per cent. A high proportion of SC population reside in Garhwa, Palamu, Chatra and the nearby Districts, but the female literacy rate of SC population in these Districts is very low (Garhwa 40.85 per cent, Chatra 34.71 per cent and Palamu 39.37 per cent) as against the State average.

Similarly, Districts like Khunti and Paschimi Singhum where the proportion of ST population is more than 67 per cent have shown the lowest literacy rate among the female ST population (Khunti 51 per cent and Paschimi Singhbhum 41 per cent).

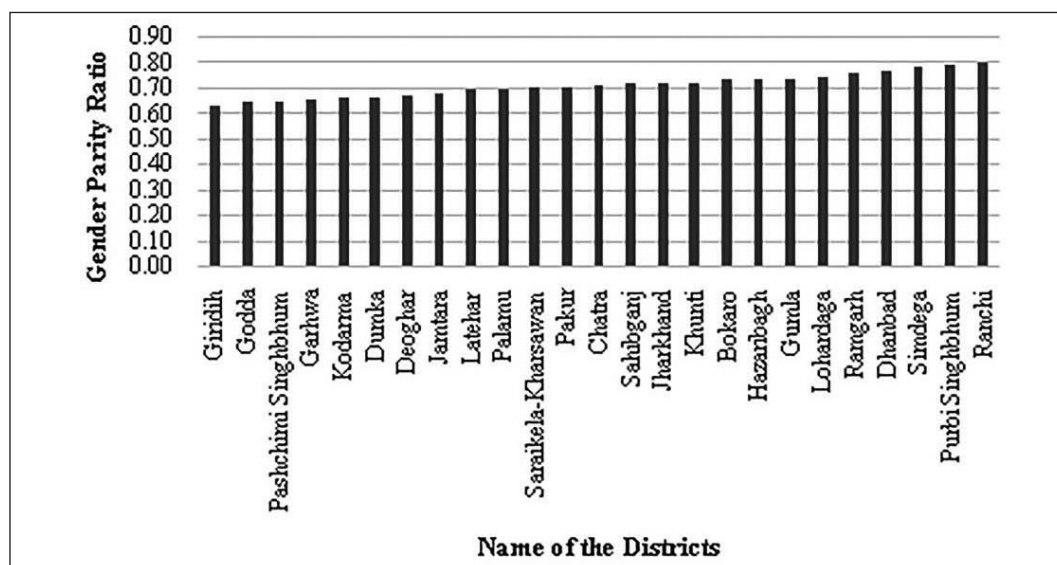
Figure1: District-wise Female Literacy Rate Among Social Groups



GENDER PARITY INDEX OF LITERACY RATE IN JHARKHAND

According to UNESCO, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) means the ratio of female to male values of a given indicator. GPI value of 1 indicates parity between females and males. In general, a value less than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of males while a value greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of females. However, the interpretation is the other way around for negative indicators like, repetition rate, dropout rate, illiteracy rates, etc. In these cases, a GPI value of less than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of females and a value greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of males.

In case of Jharkhand, the value of GPI is 0.72 for males vis-à-vis female literacy rate which shows a disparity in favour of males. In Giridih District, there exists the highest disparity in favour of males, while in Ranchi District there exists a lowest disparity in favour of males.

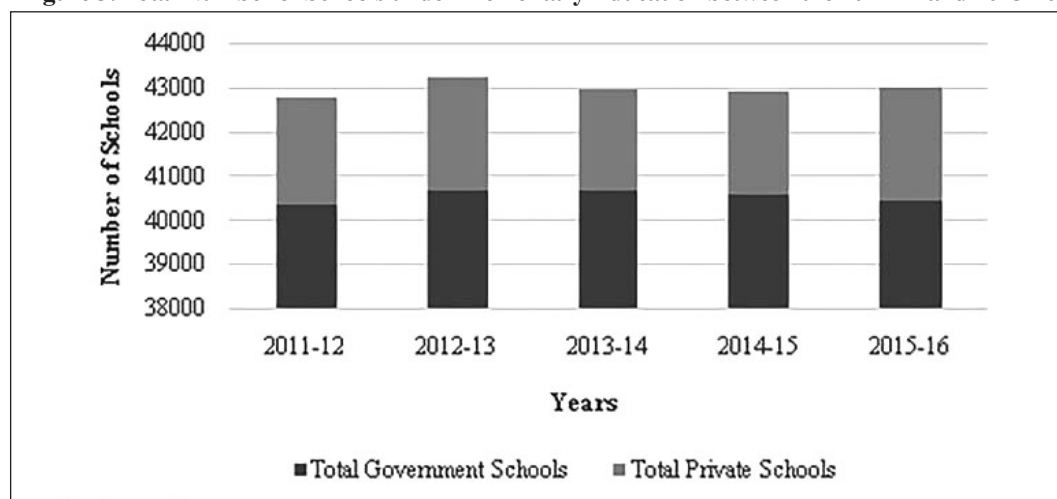
Figure 2: Gender Parity Index on Male-Female Literacy Rate in Jharkhand

Data Source: Computed from 2011 Census

LEVEL OF EDUCATION AMONG LITERATES

Status of Schools under Elementary Education

Although the total number of the government schools in the State is more than the private schools, but the private schools have witnessed a growth 4.29 per cent more than the government schools (0.23 per cent) between 2011-12 and 2015-16. Thus, showing a demand for private schools in the State.

Figure 3: Total Number of Schools under Elementary Education between the 2011-12 and 2015-16

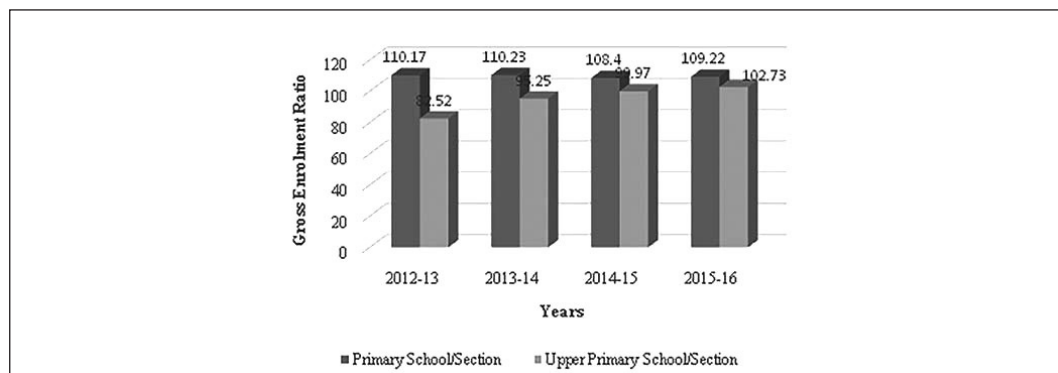
Data Source: District Information System for Education (DISE), Elementary Education: Trends, 2015-16

GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO

The gross enrolment ratio (GER) of the students at primary level is more than the upper primary level. During 2011-12 and 2015-16, the gross enrolment ratio of the students at primary level has decreased from 110.17 to 109.22, while at upper primary level it has increased from 82.52 to 102.73.

At elementary level, the GER of girls was more than boys but during 2015-16, the girls GER was 103.96 less than that of boys (104.94). Between 2013-14 and 2015-16 the GER of girls at primary level has decreased from 110.92 to 109.92 while the GER of girls at upper primary level has increased from 99.09 to 109.18 in the same time period.

Figure 4: Gross Enrolment Ratio of Students at Primary and Upper Primary Level



Data Source: U-DISE, Elementary Education, Flash Statistics 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16

Table 2: Gender Based Gross Enrolment Ratio

School Level	Gender	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Primary	Boys	109.57	107.77	108.56
	Girls	110.92	109.08	109.92
Upper Primary	Boys	91.7	95.81	97.75
	Girls	99.09	104.5	108.19
Elementary	Boys	103.44	103.72	104.94
	Girls	106.93	107.56	109.36

Data Source: U-DISE School Education India 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16

DROPOUT RATE

The average annual dropout rate hasn't shown a significant improvement. At primary level, the dropout rate has decreased from 7.21 per cent in 2012-13 to 5.48 per cent in 2014-15, but at upper primary level, the dropout rate has increased from 5.47 per cent in 2012-13 to 8.99 per cent in 2014-15.

Table 3: Average Annual Dropout Rate at Elementary Level in Jharkhand

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Primary	7.21	6.41	5.48
Upper Primary	5.47	7.42	8.99

Data Source: U-DISE, School Education in India, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2015-16

ENROLMENT RATE STATUS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AMONG SOCIAL GROUPS

The following table depicts district-wise enrolment of students at elementary level belonging to different social category. Within the social group, the highest level of enrolment has been recorded of the students belonging to other backward castes (OBC) while the lowest has been recorded among the students belonging to Muslim category. During 2015-16, the enrolment rate of OBC students was 51.76 per cent while of Muslim students was 48.39 per cent. Among all the other categories there has been an increase in the enrolment rate but it's only the Muslim students whose enrolment rate has decreased by 1.97 percentage point.

Table 4: District-wise and Social Category-wise Enrolment of Students in Elementary Education during 2011-12 and 2015-16

Districts	Scheduled Tribe		Scheduled Caste		Other Backward Caste		Muslim	
	2011-12	2015-16	2011-12	2015-16	2011-12	2015-16	2011-12	2015-16
Bokaro	42.20	49.28	49.37	48.89	49.72	55.41	51.59	56.46
Chatra	29.52	48.13	48.05	49.18	50.05	49.56	52.10	54.33
Deoghar	28.56	48.91	47.28	48.57	49.28	49.28	47.39	42.92
Dhanbad	40.69	49.29	50.86	49.50	51.81	56.04	52.06	52.23
Dumka	31.71	49.09	47.66	48.02	49.47	52.37	49.55	50.06
Garhwa	37.03	49.37	48.99	49.23	50.11	62.62	50.60	54.62
Giridih	21.34	48.88	48.48	49.11	50.63	44.49	49.57	41.06
Godda	21.49	47.75	47.47	47.63	48.51	46.80	47.17	42.15
Gumla	34.11	50.29	49.74	48.21	50.61	46.13	51.73	43.67
Hazaribag	30.77	49.86	49.83	50.90	52.13	61.12	50.81	54.33
Jamtara	38.57	49.23	47.33	49.58	48.81	49.80	47.78	42.07
Khunti	34.68	49.40	47.81	47.86	50.13	51.45	51.57	49.44
Kodarma	15.48	43.30	47.90	49.00	50.80	47.15	50.46	47.08
Latehar	38.08	49.60	47.42	49.16	50.03	53.54	51.78	50.24
Lohardaga	42.38	50.77	48.79	47.57	53.45	51.77	53.17	48.40
Pakaur	24.35	48.90	48.47	49.32	51.26	37.14	51.74	33.60
Palamu	34.69	49.29	48.61	49.45	49.99	53.86	50.46	54.28
Pashchimi Singhbhum	30.07	48.79	47.43	48.46	49.22	50.07	48.70	50.23
Purbi Singhbhum	42.69	48.93	48.86	48.10	49.25	58.94	48.73	53.01
Ramgarh	41.94	49.88	49.00	49.72	49.95	66.52	50.33	58.37
Ranchi	42.25	50.52	49.19	48.79	50.71	56.59	51.00	51.83
Sahibganj	23.97	47.52	47.22	47.61	49.76	43.29	50.61	40.08
Saraikela-Kharsawan	37.07	49.40	40.58	50.48	47.65	53.59	48.99	42.77
Simdega	35.52	49.32	49.04	48.88	50.15	44.81	50.82	48.07
Jharkhand	33.30	48.99	48.14	48.88	50.15	51.76	50.36	48.39

Data Source: District Report Cards DISE 2011-12 and 2015-16

The tribal dominated Districts are the special area of focus as not only the overall literacy rate but the enrolment is also the least and far below the enrolment rate among the social groups. The enrolment rate during 2011-12 among the ST was the lowest, around 33.30 per cent which has shown an improvement of 15.69 percentage point between 2011-12 and 2015-16 (maximum increase during this time period as compared to social categories), as the overall enrolment rate of the ST category has increased to 48.99 per cent.

Among the Districts, Kodarma (27.82 percentage point), Giridih (27.54 percentage point) and Godda (26.26 percentage point) has shown the maximum improvement in terms of enrolment of the Scheduled Tribe students.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

With State initiatives and government plans the overall infrastructural facilities in the elementary schools have improved. Among the various infrastructural indicators, the maximum enhancement has been recorded in the percentage of girl's toilet facility in the schools. The girl's toilet proportion has increased from 68.2 per cent (2011-12) to 96.8 per cent (2015-16).

Further the classroom student ratio has also improved as the number of students per classroom has decreased and schools with electricity facility has improved.

Table 5: Infrastructural Facilities in Elementary Schools between 2011-12 and 2015-16

Facility Indicators	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Student -Classroom Ratio	33	30	28	27	26
% Schools with drinking Water	90	90.8	91.2	91.8	93.5
% Schools with Boy's Toilet	75.4	60.8	89.6	90.1	96.5
% Schools with Girl's Toilet	68.2	83.7	84.8	84.2	96.8
% Schools with Boundary wall	26.5	25	26.9	30.5	31.1
% Schools with Playground Facility	30	31.3	32	32.7	40.5
% Schools with Ramp	36.6	63.6	67.5	60.1	74
% Schools having electricity	10.4	11.1	12	16.9	18.4
% Schools with computer	8.1	8.3	8.7	9.3	9.8
% Schools providing Mid-Day Meal	97.1	96.8	97.5	98	98.2

Data Source: DISE- Elementary Education: Trends

COMPOSITE INDEX

The following table presents the composite index which comprises of 4 indicators namely repetition rate, ratio of boys to girls, pupil teacher ratio and student classroom ratio. All the four are negative indicators, thus its range can be defined as the values of index closer to 1 defines the deteriorating condition of elementary education in the State while the values closer to 0 defines the improving conditions. The index has been calculated by using the range equalization method.

During 2015-16, among all the Districts of the State, Simdega was the best performing District while Garhwa was the worst performing District. Similarly, during 2011-12, Purbi Singhbhum was the best performing District while Garhwa again was the worst performing District.

Also between 2011-12 and 2015-16, among all the Districts of the State, Saraikel-Kharsawan has shown the maximum improvement and has been to earn the rank of the most improved District while Purbi Singhbhum District's whose position has deteriorated the most turned out to be the worst performing District during the same time period.

Table 6: A Composite Index showing the Development in the Elementary Education Status of Jharkhand

Districts	2011-12	2015-16
Bokaro	0.26	0.30
Chatra	0.45	0.39
Deoghar	0.47	0.43
Dhanbad	0.55	0.56
Dumka	0.31	0.28
Garhwa	0.66	0.62
Giridih	0.47	0.40
Godda	0.58	0.51
Gumla	0.33	0.36
Hazaribag	0.36	0.35
Jamtara	0.37	0.31
Khunti	0.24	0.29
Kodarma	0.46	0.34
Latehar	0.35	0.32
Lohardaga	0.21	0.27
Pakaur	0.53	0.40
Palamu	0.65	0.57
Pashchimi Singhbhum	0.48	0.48
Purbi Singhbhum	0.20	0.37
Ramgarh	0.38	0.58
Ranchi	0.24	0.28
Sahibganj	0.50	0.57
Saraikela-Kharsawan	0.50	0.20
Simdega	0.37	0.16

Data Source: District Report Card, DISE 2011-12 and 2015-16

INITIATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Jharkhand came into existence in 2000 and over these years, the education sector has made progress. Well the steps taken by the State Government cannot be neglected as it has been always making efforts for attaining universalisation and modernisation at the elementary education level.

As per the State Annual Plan 2017-18, Government of Jharkhand and Jharkhand Economic Survey 2016-17 some of the initiatives and plans of the government are as follows:

- Jharkhand Government has proposed for starting the ‘Enlightenment Scheme’ in the State. It has been proposed with a recommendation from Niti Ayog to improve the quality of education in the State. Under this Scheme, around 41,000 government schools would be given tablets, and teachers and office bearers would be provided with adequate skill training. It also includes more plans to enhance the education quality which is still in the pipeline. Further, Gyanoday Yojana has been proposed which will promote computer aided learning, computer education, use of ICT etc. at District and Block school level.
- The State has already taken a step forward by declaring 1500 panchayats within the State as ‘zero dropout panchayats’, and more 1000 panchayats are in the troll.
- Distributing scholarships through direct benefit transfer (DBT) directly into the bank account of the student is the latest initiative of the State’s Welfare Department. The benefit is applicable to the children studying in standard 2nd to 4th.
- As the State Government aims to encourage and promote education among girls belonging to SC/ST communities in the middle schools, for them, it has introduced Mukhyamantri Vidyalakshmi Yojana. The scheme tries to cover all the SC/ST girl students who have passed standard V from government or government aided schools. The eligible girl child will get an amount deposited in their bank account by the State Government within the time period of the date of deposit till the girl gets herself enrolled in standard IX in government/ government aided/ recognised high school.

CONCLUSION

Over the years, there has been improvement in the condition of elementary education in the State but along with that exists the challenges towards universalization of education.

Although the female literacy rate in the State has improved but among ST and SC female population it still continues to remain low in the ST and SC concentrated areas. Among the social groups, the enrolment of the OBC students was the highest during 2015-16 and the Scheduled Tribe students have shown the maximum increase in the enrolment between 2011-12 and 2015-16. Further, the composite index shows the District-wise progress in the elementary education achieved by the State and also highlights the Districts which have shown the maximum and the worst progress between the given time period. Thus, it can be said that the State has shown progress at elementary level of education but there is still scope for further improvement.

WAY FORWARD

However, the overall success of the educational schemes, initiatives and plan therein, depend on the way they are actually implemented in the present and in the years to come.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I : Female Literacy Rate in Jharkhand

Districts	Total Female Literacy Rate	Female ST Literacy Rate	Female SC Literacy Rate
Garhwa	47.6	41.2	40.85
Chatra	49.9	48.43	34.71
Kodarma	53.2	28.33	42.61
Giridih	48.7	33.28	39.77
Deoghar	51.8	34.41	42.34
Godda	44.1	32.29	37.98
Sahibganj	43.3	31.22	41.2
Pakur	40.5	32.34	40.02
Dhanbad	64.3	42.78	50.11
Bokaro	60.6	44.2	49.9
Lohardaga	57.7	52.83	54.21
Purbi Singhbhum	66.8	47.58	55.27
Palamu	52.1	43.95	39.37
Latehar	48.7	46.68	34.5
Hazaribagh	59	48.9	48.01
Ramgarh	63.1	49.45	54.51
Dumka	48.8	41.51	44.03
Jamtara	52.1	42.44	48.04
Ranchi	67.4	58.37	56.03
Khunti	53.7	51.19	48.46
Gumla	55.9	54.31	49.55
Simdega	59.9	61.57	45.69
Pashchimi Singhbhum	46.3	40.81	50.99
Saraikela-Kharsawan	55.9	43.8	45.45

Data Source: Census of India 2011

Appendix II : Composite Index of 2011-12

District	Ranking
Purbi Singhbhum	High
Lohardaga	High
Khunti	High
Ranchi	High
Bokaro	High
Dumka	High
Gumla	Moderate
Latehar	Moderate
Hazaribagh	Moderate
Jamtara	Moderate
Simdega	Moderate
Ramgarh	Moderate
Chatra	Low
Kodarma	Low
Deoghar	Low
Giridih	Low
Pashchimi Singhbhum	Low
Sahibganj	Low
Saraikela-Kharsawan	Least
Pakaur	Least
Dhanbad	Least
Godda	Least
Palamu	Least
Garhwa	Least

Appendix II : Composite Index 2015-16

Districts	Raking
Simdega	High
Saraikela-Kharsawan	High
Lohardaga	High
Ranchi	High
Dumka	High
Khunti	High
Bokaro	Moderate
Jamtara	Moderate

Districts	Raking
Latehar	Moderate
Kodarma	Moderate
Hazaribagh	Moderate
Gumla	Moderate
Purbi Singhbhum	Low
Chatra	Low
Giridih	Low
Pakaur	Low
Deoghar	Low
Pashchimi Singhbhum	Low
Godda	Least
Dhanbad	Least
Palamu	Least
Sahibganj	Least
Ramgarh	Least
Garhwa	Least