



STATUS OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN INDIA: AN INTERSTATE ANALYSIS OF BIHAR AND JHARKHAND

Renu Gupta

Research Associate,
Institute for Economics & Social Development,
Ranchi, Jharkhand

Elementary education is the backbone of economic development. Only through proper elementary education, a nation can prosper and speed up the intensity of economic, social, cultural and sustainable development. The findings that have emerged out of my paper on the status of elementary education in India, suggests that both states of Bihar & Jharkhand have performed well in recent years but more attention is needed by the governments to reach the level of national average and other best performing states.

Keywords: Education, GER, GPI, PTR

INTRODUCTION

Elementary education is a basic key for life changing human right to achieve human resource development and sustainable development. It provides equity, independence, justice and equality based development which is essential for converting demographic burden in to boon for any developing or underdeveloped countries. Education plays a key role in the ability of a developing country to absorb modern technologies and to develop the capacity for self-sustaining growth and development.

"The progress of Elementary Education is an index of the social, general, and economic growth of the nation as a whole."² Strong elementary education systems are most important for the overall development and solutions of all socio-economic problems of the nation, especially in the case of Bihar and Jharkhand states. This is main cause of giving higher priority for achieving the goal of Universal Elementary Education (UEE) by both central and state governments. The educational planning and strategies have given enough for the improvement of the status of elementary education across the India.

Many efforts have been made by governments for improving literacy, schools infrastructure, and other indicators for giving free, compulsory and quality education at micro levels. The paper analyses the status of elementary education in India with an interstate comparison of Bihar and Jharkhand.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The paper is based on following objectives-

- I. To study the literacy scenario in India and selected states.
- II. To highlight the infrastructural status of elementary education in India.
- III. To discuss the trends of educational indicators in Bihar and Jharkhand.
- IV. To examine the services provided by the schools.

DATA AND METHOD

The present paper is based on the analysis of the secondary data. The secondary data have been collected from Ministry of Education Government of India, State Dept. of School Education, National University of Educational Planning and Administration- School Report Cards and Census data.

The interstate comparison of Bihar and Jharkhand is based on the data base of 2014-15 to 2015-16 and for the purpose of the comparative study the paper has been classified in to four sub- sections-

- Literacy Status.
- School Infrastructure / Basic Amenities based status.
- Enrolment/ Dropout/ Teachers based status.
- Provision of Services- MDM, Uniform, Text books.

LITERACY STATUS

Literacy is one of the important indicators of educational and economical development of any country and it shows the ability of a person to read and write. Literacy and status of elementary education are closely interlinked. "Illiteracy is caused by numerous factors, including absenteeism, school's availability in rural areas, repetition, and dropping out of school. Low enrolment rates in schools are caused by both in-school factors, such as the quality, efficiency and availability of schools, and out-of-school factors, such as direct and indirect (opportunity) costs." ⁴ To understand the clear picture of literacy rates in India and in selected states an interstate comparison has been done in the table 1.

Table 1: Interstate Comparison of Literacy Rates

Sr. No.	State	Male	Female	Total
1	Bihar	73.4	53.3	63.8
2	Jharkhand	78.5	56.2	67.6
3	India	82.1	65.5	74.4

Source: Census 2011

It is evident from perusal of the above Table 1 that the literacy rate of Jharkhand (67.6%) is lower than the national average (74.4%) of both for the male and female. Table also shows interstate comparison of literacy rate of Jharkhand and Bihar. Jharkhand (78.5%) is one step ahead to Bihar (73.4%), which has lowest male literacy rate in whole country.

INFRASTRUCTURE BASED STATUS

Under this section to discuss the interstate status of elementary education indicators like- Number of Schools, Single Class Room Schools and Status of Basic Amenities (Play Ground,

Boundary Wall, Electricity Facility, & Computer) have been used.

Number of Schools

The need of elementary education is realized by the governments and therefore governments have established of many schools as per the growing needs for elementary education institutions in various places. The table- 2 gives a detail of the number of schools including Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand during 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Table 2 : Interstate Comparison of the Number of Schools

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	43223	43405	266	292	79196	80166
Jharkhand	27845	28018	95	133	46773	47441
India	847118	840564	147388	147544	1445807	1449078

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

It is visible from the table 2 that numbers of schools are increasing consistently in India as well as Bihar and Jharkhand. Being the largest state in terms of population Uttar Pradesh holds top position in both the primary and upper primary levels. Total number of schools including primary, Upper Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary and others has increased by 3271 in numbers during 2014-15 to 2015-16.

Single- Classroom Schools

Single classroom schools were very much prevalent in the initial stages of the universalization of elementary education programme. But by the efforts by the governments there is a positive improvement.

Table 3: Percentage of Single- Classroom Schools

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	3.1	3.1	0.4	0.7	2.2	1.9
Jharkhand	1.1	1.1	6.3	9.8	0.9	0.9
India	6.4	6.1	1.8	1.7	4.4	4.2

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16 NUPA, N. Delhi

The parentage of single classroom is one of the negative indicators for universal and quality education. It is admirable achievement of both the central and state governments that the parentage of single classrooms has been declined from 2014-15 to 2015-16.

Student Classroom Ratio (SCR)

SCR is one of the crucial components considered under District Information System for Education to examine the average number of pupils per classroom. The interstate data of the neighbor states of Jharkhand show that in all levels positive trends can be seen at primary and upper primary levels between the years 2014-15 and 2015-16. Bihar holds highest SCR around 50% at all schools states while Jharkhand and West Bengal have high SCR at upper primary schools.(Table 4)

Table 4: Student Classroom Ratio Interstate Trends

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	50	48	57	55	52	51
Jharkhand	20	19	37	35	27	26
India	24	25	25	24	27	27

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

Status of Basic Amenities in Schools

Basic amenities are prerequisite requirement for the smooth functioning of any institution. Under this section of the paper the status of basic amenities at elementary levels has been evaluated.

Play ground Facility at Schools

The requirements of sports are not just limited to physical fitness, but have positive effects on educational achievements like- academic performance, fitness, mental and emotional development, skill development. The values and emotions impacted in this time control human being throughout the whole life.⁴

Table 5: Schools with Play ground Facility (in Percentage)

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	24.7	25.2	55.3	52.7	35.0	35.3
Jharkhand	28.8	37.2	68.4	59.4	32.7	40.5
India	53.4	54.1	66.8	67.3	59.8	60.6

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

It is evident from the table that 60.6% of the total schools are having play ground facility for their students. In the ranking order of the selected states once again Bihar is lower than Jharkhand and national average. (See Table 5)

Boundary Wall

Although there is significant increase in school buildings but many schools are functioning and running without any boundary wall. Situation is still humiliating that around 45% primary, 45% upper primary schools, and 37% of total schools (Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary) are still running without boundary wall as per the estimation of DISE (2015-16). The interstate comparison shows that Bihar is in better position than Jharkhand and is just equal to the national average. (Table 6)

Table 6: Schools with Boundary Wall

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	38.9	38.0	74.4	74.7	53.1	52.5
Jharkhand	17.0	17.5	66.3	57.9	27.6	28.5
India	54.9	55.2	54.1	54.7	63.3	63.8

Source: Elementary Education in India: Trends 2015-15, NUEPA New Delhi

Toilet Facility for Girls Student

Toilet facility for male and female students is of the key indicator of educational status. According to the Analytical Tables: Elementary Education in India: Progress towards UEE 2015-16, it is clear that more than 96% of Total Schools (Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary) including government and private unaided schools, are having girls' toilet facility out of which 97% are functional.

Table 7: Schools with Girl's Toilet

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	58.4	84.3	85.3	97.5	71.2	89.9
Jharkhand	81.2	96.2	90.8	80.0	84.2	96.8
India	83.5	97.0	85.9	96.3	87.1	97.6

Source: Analytical Tables 2015-16, MHRD, Govt. of India.

It is clearly evident from the perusal of table 7 that schools are having sufficient toilet facility for female students at both primary and upper primary levels. Among the interstate comparison Jharkhand is providing higher facilities than Bihar and is just near to national average.

Toilet Facility for Boys Student

Facility of boys' toilet is just similar to girl's toilet at every level of school education including government, management and private aided schools but the state of Bihar is lagging behind the national average and Jharkhand.

Table 8: Schools with Boy's Toilet

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	68.2	83.8	92.7	95.4	79.8	89.0
Jharkhand	87.6	96.1	93.8	94.9	90.1	96.5
India	94.0	96.5	94.5	96.0	95.4	97.1

Source: Analytical Tables 2015-16

Drinking Water Facility

Efficient and drinking water is an essential facility to be made available in all institutions. The data of the DISE show that the government and private schools both have available drinking water facility, but slight variation can be observed in government. As far as interstate comparison of water facility at elementary level is concerned, in 2015-16 Bihar has the highest percentage at both primary level (93.3) and at upper primary level 99.3% than Jharkhand; and national average.

Table 9: Schools with Drinking Water Facility

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	37.5	93.3	99.2	99.3	92.5	94.2
Jharkhand	89.4	91.7	95.8	88.0	91.8	93.5
India	94.9	95.8	94.8	95.6	96.1	96.8

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

Schools with Electricity Facility

Electricity facility at schools is also an important requirement for quality education. This

indicator of the status of the elementary education requires more attention of government because 47.2% of primary schools and 41% of upper primary schools have the facility in 2015-16. The state wise distribution of primary and upper primary schools with electricity facility show that only both the state are lagging behind the national average and the status of Jharkhand at elementary level is much lower with 15.1%.

Table 10: Schools with Electricity

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	12.8	21.0	29.7	43.5	22.6	34.9
Jharkhand	5.5	6.3	50.5	45.9	13.6	15.1
India	44.8	47.2	39.7	41.0	54.8	57.3

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

Computer Facility at Schools

"In India Only 13% of primary and 37% upper primary government schools have computers in their schools. On the other hand there is huge difference between secondary and higher secondary, their percentages are 60% and 70% respectively. At state level, two states - Jharkhand and Bihar are lowest with around 3.5% primary schools have computer facility in 2015-16".5

Table 11: Schools with Computer Facility

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	2.3	2.4	11.7	11.6	6.7	7.6
Jharkhand	3.2	3.5	40.0	27.1	9.2	9.8
India	10.3	10.4	19.4	19.8	25.2	26.0

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

Teachers Per School

Average teachers per school are essential requirement for quality education. As per the report card (2015-16) for educational development, in India there were 80.8 million teachers in 2015-16 while in 2014-15 the number was 79.6 million in elementary schools. The schools (Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary, and Higher Secondary) all have an average of 5.9 teachers at India level in 2015-16. Jharkhand average (2.1) is lowest in terms of Bihar and national average but at upper primary level Bihar holds better position than Jharkhand and just near to national average.

Table 12: Average Teachers per School

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total#	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	3.3	3.4	8.3	8.0	5.7	5.8
Jharkhand	2.0	2.1	5.0	3.7	3.7	3.8
India	3.2	3.1	3.8	3.9	5.9	5.6

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

ENROLMENT RELATED INDICATORS

Enrolment numbers at different school levels show the progress of government initiatives towards universalisation of elementary education. "The enrolment in primary levels increased from 101.16 million during 2002-03 to 131.85 million in 2006-07 and further increased to 133.41 million in 2009-10, 135.21 in 2010-11 and 137.10 million in the year of 2011-12 and after that it has decreased to 134.78 million in 2012-13 to 132.43 million in 2013-14, to 130.50 million in 2014-15 and 129.12 million in 2015-16. At upper primary schools the enrolment numbers heightened consistently from 66.47 million in 2013-14 to 67.17 million in year 2014-15 and to 67.59 million in 2015-16. The Gross Enrolment Ratio and Net Enrolment Ratio is 99.21 and 87.30 and 92.81 and 74.74 respectively at Primary and Upper Primary schools. GER of Scheduled Cast at Primary level / Upper Primary schools are 110.90 and 102.40 correspondingly and the GER for Scheduled Tribes at primary level is 106.74 and for upper primary, it is 96.71 in 2015-16."6

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is a statistical tool to measure the number of individuals who are actually enrolled in an appropriate level of education per the number of students who are of the official enrolment age-group. According to the data of UDISE, 2015-16 the current GER at Primary level is 99.2% and 92.8% at Upper Primary level.

Table 13: Trends of Gross Enrolment Ratio at Elementary Level

Year	Primary (I-V)			Upper Primary (VI-VIII)		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
2005-06	105.8	112.8	109.4	66.4	75.2	71.0
2006-07	108.0	114.6	111.4	69.6	77.6	73.8
2007-08	112.6	115.3	114.0	74.4	81.5	78.1
2008-09	114.0	114.7	114.3	76.6	82.7	79.8

2009-10	113.8	113.8	113.8	79	84.3	81.7
2010-11	116.3	114.9	115.5	82.9	87.5	85.2
2011-12	107.1	105.8	106.5	81.4	82.5	82.0
2012-13	107.2	104.8	106.0	84.6	80.6	82.5
2013-14	102.6	100.2	101.4	92.8	86.3	89.3
2014-15	101.4	98.9	100.1	95.3	87.7	91.2
2015-16	100.7	97.9	99.2	97.6	88.7	92.8

Source: *Educational Statistics at a Glance 2016, MHRD Govt. of India*

It is comprehensible from the Table 13 that the GER is reducing from primary to upper primary levels. The GER at Primary level was 109.4 (Male -112.8 % Female 105.8) in 2005-06 and in 2015-16 it is showing 99.2 at primary level. At Upper Primary level 92.8 with 88.7 male and 97.6 female.

Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)

NER is a ratio of the enrolment of the total number of students in the official age-group at a given level of education, expressed as a percentage of the specific population of that age group. The data of the Report Card 2015-16 state that among all the states, West Bengal holds the highest value (96.86) of NER and Jammu & Kashmir ranked lowest with 71.32 NER. Trends of NER in India at Primary to Senior Secondary levels can be analyzed by the figure 1 during 2015-16.

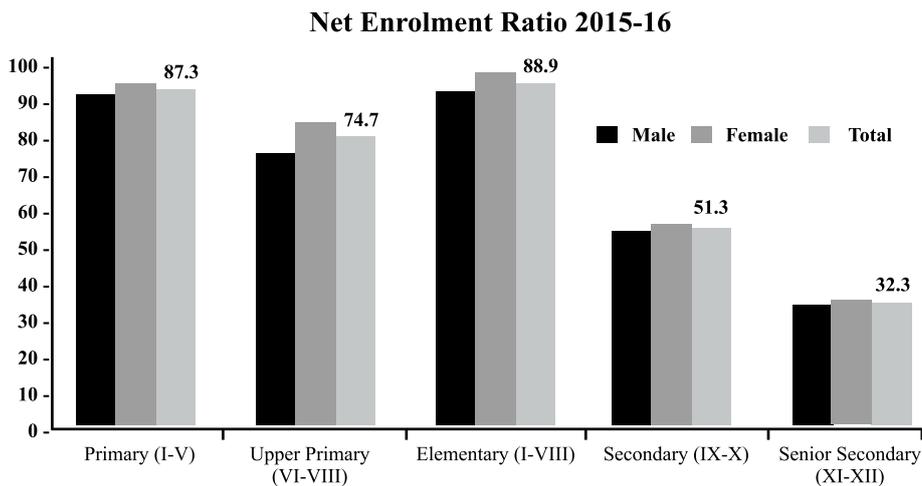


Table 14: Interstate Comparisons of GER & NER

States		Bihar	Jharkhand	India
Primary	GER	107.67	109.22	99.21
	NER	-	97.21	87.30
U. Primary	GER	107.89	102.73	92.81
	NER	96.88	89.12	74.74

Source: School Education in India, Flash Statistics, U-DISE, 2015-16.

Female Enrolment to Boys

The easiest way to know the participation of female in education is female enrolment to boys, which measures the female enrolment to per 100 boys or number of girl's enrolled per hundred boys enrolled. These indicators help us to measure the existing gender gap at elementary level. The increasing numbers of female enrolment is over the years is clearly providing the achievements of government schemes for female education.

Table 15: Female Enrolments to per 100 Boys

Year	Primary Level	Upper Primary Level
2000-01	78	69
2001-02	79	72
2002-03	88	78
2003-04	88	79
2004-05	88	80
2005-06	87	81
2006-07	88	83
2007-08	91	84
2008-09	92	89
2009-10	92	88
2010-11	92	89
2011-12	94	95
2012-13	94	95
2013-14	93	95
2014-15	93	95

Source: Educational Statistics at a glance 2016, School Education in India: U-DISE 2015-16

The data mentioned in table 15 represent the positive trends and achievements of the government initiatives towards universal education and increasing girl's enrolment. During the year 2000-01 the numbers of female enrolment at both primary and upper primary levels were 78 and 69. After the implementation of SSA it have reached around 90 in 2007-08 and in present in all levels (Primary & Upper Primary) of elementary education, more than 90 female were enrolled against 100 male students during 2015-16.

Table 16: Interstate Share of Girl's Enrolment

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary		Total School	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	50.1	50.1	49.2	49.8	49.8	49.8
Jharkhand	49.9	49.9	49.5	51.7	49.3	49.3
India	49.3	49.4	52.1	51.9	48.3	48.4

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

Table 16 is showing the current status of the percentage of girls' enrolment over the period of 2014-15 to 2015-16. During 2014-15 at national level the percentage of primary classes was 43.38 and upper primary classes were 47.6. The share has been shifted to 49.4 and 51.9 in 2015-16. It is observed from the table that at primary level all the neighbor states have reached to national average and Odisha is lowest among all in 2015-16 and at upper primary level West Bengal is highest with 50% of share.

Status of Gender Parity Index (GPI)

Elementary education in all the levels of education is the most crucial component for ensuring gender empowerment with equality. GPI is the ratio of Gross Enrolment Ratio of female students to that of male students at a specific level of education. In other words we can say that GPI is a tool in education to measure gender equality. The interstate variation provides the comparative picture of the gross enrolment ratio (GER) of female students to that of male students at a specific level of education in all the selected states of the present research work. It is clear from the table 2.19 that Odisha is the lowest sate with vale of 0.98 at primary and 0.99 at upper primary level while Uttar Pradesh is highest with value of 1.13GPI during 2015-16 at elementary level. Jharkhand is just near to national average but Bihar is showing more positive achievement than Jharkhand at all the levels. (Table: 17)

Table 17: Interstate Variation of GPI (2015-16)

State	Primary Level	Upper Primary Level	Elementary Level
Bihar	1.07	1.22	1.11
Jharkhand	1.01	1.11	1.04
India	1.03	1.10	1.05

Source: School Education in India: U-DISE 2015-16

Drop-out Rate

The Drop-out Rate is a percentage of students those give up schools from a given grade or level of education in a given year. It is evident from many studies that the major cause of drop out for male is "engagement in earning activities and for female is "engagement in domestic activities" for rural as well as urban areas. "There were around 60% total drop out in 5-15 age group in rural areas whereas around 55% total drop out in age 16-25 in urban areas including both genders. As per MHRD report 2013-14, drop-out rates during 2013-14 were reported as 21.20 and 18.30 at primary level, 39.20 and 32.90 at upper primary level for male and female respectively. The rates of drop-out have decreased from 28.70% in 2005-06 to 21.0% in 2013-2014 for male and from 21.77% to 18.30% for female at primary level while for upper primary classes it has dropped from 48.7% to 39.2% for male and 49.0% to 32.9% in same corresponding year."7 (Table 18)

The Average Drop-out Rate calculates the average of grade-based drop-out rates in primary levels and is measured by using the standard methods by considering grade-based enrolment in last year and the current year and grade-specific number of repeaters in the current year.

Table 18: State Level Variations of Drop-Out Rates

States	Bihar	Jharkhand	India
Primary	-	5.48	4.13
U. Primary	4.08	8.99	4.03

Source: *Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi*

It is visible from the table 18 that at primary level Jharkhand (8.99) is higher than Bihar (4.08). As for as national average is concerned Jharkhand has to control dropout rate at upper primary level.

Pupil- Teacher Ratio (PTR)

The time series data trend of PTR shown in the table depicts that the PTR has gradually increased from 2014-15 to 2015-16 at both primary and upper primary levels. In case of Bihar PTR is still in high numbers than Jharkhand and national average.(See Table- 19)

Table 19: Interstate Variation of PTR at Elementary Levels

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary School		Total School	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	47	49	55	58	49	50
Jharkhand	32	30	45	39	38	36
India	27	27	27	25	25	24

Source: *Elementary Education in India, Progress towards UEE, 2015-16.*

Single - Teacher Schools

Single Teacher Schools are another indicator of quality education. It provides the percentage of schools having single teacher. The main reason for the low quality of basic education in government schools is the massive number of single teacher schools.

Table 20: Interstate Status of Single - Teacher Schools

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary School		Total School	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	8.9	7.5	2.6	2.1	5.1	4.2
Jharkhand	25.2	25.9	12.6	8.3	16.4	16.4
India	11.1	10.7	12.1	9.5	8.1	7.5

Source: Elementary Education in India, Progress towards UEE, 2015-16.

STATUS OF SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE SCHOOLS

This part of paper analyzes the current trends and status of schools services like MDM, Uniform and Text Books in all the selected states as well as national average. For providing free, compulsory and quality education at micro levels both the central and states governments have initiated numbers of schemes in which MDM is most important scheme.

Implementing Status of MDM (Mid Day Meal)

MDM is a centrally sponsored programme, launched in 1995, of the Government of India for improving the nutritional status and education of school-age children in all the states. Under this programme free meal are provided on working days in primary and upper primary schools in all types of schools. The programme is secured by constitutional right and is covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

Table 21: Percentages of Schools Providing MDM

State	Primary Only		Upper Primary School		Total School	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Bihar	95.1	95.5	97.0	97.5	96.1	96.5
Jharkhand	98.8	99.1	100.0	46.6	98.0	98.2
India	97.9	98.7	95.8	97.3	96.9	97.6

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

It is evident from the Table 21 that the MDM services are well providing around 95 to 99% in the country. Only at upper primary level in Jharkhand the figure is little contradictory due the reason of the upgradation of upper primary schools to higher schools.

Text books Services

During 2015-16 there were more than 7 cores students at primary level and more than 4 cores at upper primary levels were received free text books form schools. Among the beneficiaries of books 22.82% (17910714) and 14.39% (11292144) were belonging from SC & ST groups respectively at primary level. From the data analysis of table 23, it is clear that between the tribal populated states in India Jharkhand and Bihar hold 33.76% & 34.95% respectively at primary classes in 2015-16.

Table 23: Category wise Beneficiaries of Text books at Elementary Levels

States	Primary School			Upper Primary School		
	Total	SC	ST	Total	SC	ST
Bihar	12775828	2714008	239582	5715788	1095589	91620
Jharkhand	3109924	528986	1049981	1564960	236307	442958
India	78461666	17910714	11292144	45915796	10357468	5666932

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA, N. Delhi

Distribution of Uniforms at Elementary Levels

Distribution of uniforms in schools at elementary level is a strongest step of government towards universalisation of elementary education in India. The scheme is not only improving school enrolment and dropout but it is also creating social balances. During 2015-16 at national level total 56569651 students in primary classes and 31596409 in Upper Primary classes were benefited under the scheme.

Table 24: Social Groups wise Beneficiaries under the scheme of Uniform Distribution

States	Primary School			Upper Primary School		
	Total	SC	ST	Total	SC	ST
Bihar	10742347	2320655	208487	4655580	881322	76194
Jharkhand	153686	27446	68198	79806	13603	30378
India	56569651	14049694	7412654	3159640977	82092	3730068

Source: Elementary Education in India, State Report Cards 2015-16, NUPA

From the analysis of the table: 24 it is understandable that the percentage share of SC & ST stand around similar at primary and upper primary level with 25 and 12 percentage. Being a tribal populated state Jharkhand is having more beneficiaries at both levels than SCs with 44.37% at primary level and 38.06% at upper primary level.

CONCLUSION

After the implementation of various government programmes both by central and state governments of Jharkhand and Bihar to improve the educational status of elementary education there is improvement in all four sanctions of elementary education. Although there are some positive trends in respect to number of schools and infrastructural status but the intensity of the achievement and improvement is slow than national average and best performing states in terms of elementary education and literacy.

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