



ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES OF EDUCATION IN JHARKHAND: AN ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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Education is the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation and is the second traditional, important and decisive factor of Social Sector Development. Education helps in the achievement of a better social order, grater literacy and enables individuals to make better use of available economic opportunities. Jharkhand has made some noticeable improvement in education in the recent years. The rate of literacy in Jharkhand has increased from 53.56 percent in 2001 to 66.41 percent in 2011 and, the state has made progress in the inclusive coverage of almost all the educational parameters.

Key Words: Gender Gap, GER, GPI, Drop-out, Pupil Teacher Ratio

INTRODUCTION

Education is the most important element for growth and prosperity of a nation and is the second traditional, important and decisive factor of Social Sector Development. Education helps in the achievement of a better social order, grater literacy and enables individuals to make better use of available economic opportunities. Thus it is not merely a service but a critical resource, essential for the State's economic as well as all growth. Though the major indicators of development viz, the growth rate of economy, birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate and literacy rate especially women literacy all are inter connected, the literacy has been a major determinant of rise and fall of other indicators.

Jharkhand, was formed as 28th state of India in November 15 2000, is one of the richest states in India in terms of mineral and forest wealth. According to Multi-dimensional Poverty Index of Jharkhand 74.8 percent people are poor compared to the national average of 53.7 percent.(UNDP) On the other hand educational achievements of Jharkhand state appears very poor in comparison of other states of India. According to the 2011 Census, the state's literacy ranking is 32nd (with a rate of 67.63 percent as against 74 percent of the national average) among 35 Indian states and Union Territories.

Jharkhand has made some noticeable improvement in education in the recent years. The rate of literacy in Jharkhand has increased from 53.56 percent in 2001 to 66.41 percent in 2011 and, the state has made progress in the inclusive coverage of almost all the educational parameters in this time period. Certain identifiable factors on which the government has worked are minimizing poor attendance, increasing gross enrolment ratio, reducing the number of drop-outs and imparting quality education to the children.

Objectives Of The Study

The objectives of the paper are as follows-

- To study the status of elementary education in India and Jharkhand.
- To study the gender gap in elementary education in India and Jharkhand.
- To analyze the interstate variation of the status of elementary education in India.
- To study the inter district level of Literacy in Jharkhand.

METHOD

The paper is based upon secondary data. For the purpose of the study literacy rate- rural, urban, male, and female, gender gap, GER, GPI, Dropout SCR and other indicators have been used. For interstate comparison data of Jharkhand's neighbor states (Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, and Chhattisgarh) have been used. Main sources of secondary data are- Census 2001, Census 2011, NSSO 71st round survey, 2014, Statistics of School Education 2011-12, Economic Survey 2017-18 Govt. of India, Economic Survey 2016-17 Govt. of Jharkhand and Elementary Education Report Card 2015-16.

Challenges and positive sign of elementary education in Jharkhand can be analyzed by the following indicators-

LITERACY SCENARIO OF JHARKHAND

The study analyses the literacy scenario of Jharkhand under four points by the help of Census 2001, 2011 and NSSO 71st round survey, 2014- 1(a) Literacy Rate in Jharkhand and India; 1(b) Gender Gap in Literacy Rate; 1(c) Inter-State Comparison of Literacy Rate; 1(d) Inter District Comparison of Literacy Rate; 1 (e) Literacy Rate by Social Groups.

Literacy Rate In Jharkhand And India

The literacy rate in Jharkhand is less than the national rate. It was 7.63% less than the literacy rate of the country in 2011 (In 2001 it was 11.28% less). As far as annual growth rate of literacy of Jharkhand is concerned it was more (2.40%) than India (1.42%) between 2001 and 2011. The NSSO, 2014 results also narrate the same story. According NSSO survey, the literacy rate of Jharkhand increased at an annual rate of 1.95% from 2011 to 2014; from 66.41 percent in 2011 it increased to 70.3% in 2014, while India achieved an annual growth of 0.61%. The female literacy rate in the Jharkhand has remained lower than the male literacy rate at all three (2001, 2011, and 2014) parameters but the annual growth rate of the female literacy rate has been higher (4.26% between 2001-2011) than that of the male literacy rate (1.42%). This is positive sign for state government initiatives towards girls' education. (Table: 1)

Table: 1 Literacy Rate In Jharkhand And India

	2001			2011			2014		
	Male Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate	Total Literacy Rate	Male Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate	Total Literacy Rate	Male Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate	Total Literacy Rate
Jharkhand	67.30	38.87	53.56	76.84	55.42	66.41	79.6	59.9	70.3
India	75.26	53.67	64.84	82.14	65.46	74.04	83.2	67.1	75.4
Gap with India	7.96	14.8	11.28	5.3	10.04	7.63	3.6	7.2	5.1

Source: Census 2001 and 2011, and NSSO 71st round survey, 2014

Gender Gap In Literacy Rate

Gender gap in literacy is calculated by the formula (Male literacy - Female literacy)/ Male literacy x100. There is an improvement in gender gap in literacy rate. In 2001 the gender gap was 42.24% in Jharkhand which got reduced to 27.88% in 2011 and 24.75% in 2014. The state is also slowly converging with the national gender gap. The difference between India and Jharkhand was 13.56% in 2001 which is 7.57% in 2011 and 5.40% in 2014. (Table: 2)

Table: 2 Gender Gap In Literacy Rate

S.N.	Year	Jharkhand	India	Gap from India
1	2001	42.24	28.69	13.56
2	2011	27.88	20.31	7.57
3	2014	24.75	19.35	5.40

Source: Census 2001 and 2011, and NSSO 71st round, 2014

Inter-State Comparison of Literacy Rate: For inter-state comparison of literacy rate paper undertakes all the five neighbor states of Jharkhand- Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh.

Table: 3 Inter-State Comparison of Literacy Rate

S.N.	State	Total Literacy	Male Literacy	Female literacy
1	Jharkhand	66.4	76.8	55.4
2	Bihar	61.8	71.2	51.5
3	West Bengal	76.3	81.7	70.5
4	Uttar Pradesh	67.7	77.3	57.7
5	Orissa	72.9	81.6	64.0
6	Chhattisgarh	70.3	80.3	60.2

Source: Census 2011

It is evident from the table 3 that Jharkhand's literacy rate has improved and holds better position in comparison to Bihar in total literacy as well as male and female literacy rate. But when compares to other neighbor states Jharkhand still lacking behind them.

Inter District Comparison of Literacy Rate

Under this section paper analyses districts wise comparison of literacy rates- male, female and gender gap analysis using census 2001 and 2011 data.

Table: 4 Inter District Comparison of Literacy Rate

District	Total		Male Literacy		Female Literacy		Gender gap	
	2001	2011	Growth	2001	2011	2001	2011	2011
Garhwa	39.2	62.18	22.98	54.4	74	22.9	49.43	24.57
Chatra	43.2	62.14	18.94	55.6	71.85	30.2	51.91	19.94
Kodarma	52.2	68.35	16.15	70.9	81.25	33.6	54.77	26.48
Giridih	44.5	65.12	20.62	62.1	79.08	26.6	50.33	28.75
Deoghar	50.1	66.34	16.24	66.4	79.13	32	52.39	26.74
Godda	43.1	57.68	14.58	57.5	69.56	27.4	44.9	24.66
Sahibganj	37.6	53.73	16.13	47.9	62.65	26.6	44.31	18.34
Pakur	30.6	50.17	19.57	40.2	59.02	20.6	41.23	17.79
Dhanbad	67	75.71	8.71	79.5	85.68	52.4	64.7	20.98
Bokaro	62.1	73.48	11.38	76	84.5	46.3	61.46	23.04
Lohardaga	53.6	68.29	14.69	67.3	78.62	39.6	57.86	20.76
Purbi Singhbhum	68.8	76.13	7.33	79.4	84.51	57.3	67.33	17.18
Palamu	44.9	65.5	20.6	58.9	76.27	29.9	53.87	22.4
Latehar		61.23		71.8		50.26	21.54	
Hazaribagh	57.7	70.48	12.78	71.8	81.15	42.9	59.25	21.9
Ramgarh		73.92		83.51		63.49	20.02	
Dumka	47.9	62.54	14.64	62.9	75.17	32.4	49.6	25.57
Jamtara		63.73		76.85		50.08	26.77	
Ranchi	64.6	77.13	12.53	76.6	85.63	51.7	68.2	17.43
Khunti		64.51		75.33		53.71	21.62	
Gumla	51.7	66.92	15.22	63.5	76.87	40	56.97	19.9
Simdega		67.59		75.84		59.38	16.46	
Pashchimi								
Singhbhum	50.2	59.54	9.34	65.6	72.18	34.4	47.01	25.17
Saraikela-Kharsawan	68.85		81.01	56.19	24.82			
Jharkhand	53.6	67.63	14.03	67.3	78.45	38.9	56.21	22.24

Source: Census 2001 & 2011

It is clear from table that as per the census 2011 Ranchi holds Ist rank among all other districts of Jharkhand but in terms of decadal growth rate of literacy Garwah holds Ist rank with 22.98%. Pakur is abysmally low (50.17%); but its gender gap in literacy (17.8 %) is much lower when compared to the gender gaps in some districts with higher literacy rates (Deoghar, which has an overall literacy rate of 66 % and gender gap in literacy of 27 %; Garhwa, Giridih and Kodarma, whose corresponding figures are 62 percent and 25 percent point; 65 percent and 27 percent point; 68 percent and 27 percent point). Lohardaga and Hazaribagh districts have recorded higher literacy rate in 2011 with higher decadal growth than state average (14%) and lower gender gap than state average (22.2%). On the negative side, Paschim Singhbhum recorded lower literacy rate than the state average, with lower decadal growth and higher gender gap than state average in 2011 census. The districts, which usually have high literacy rate, have also high female literacy rate. The highly urbanized districts of the state like Ranchi, East Singhbhum, Dhanbad, Ramgarh and Bokaro have more than 60% literacy rates, respectively, whereas, the comparatively less urbanized districts like Godda, Sahibganj and Pakur have less than 50% literacy rate.

Literacy Rate By Social Groups In Jharkhand

The table (5) below represents current status of literacy rates among social groups. It can be said that social groups still lag behind in literacy rate. However, in Jharkhand, there is very little difference between the literacy rates of the two most marginalized groups - the SCs and STs. The literacy rates of the SCs and STs living in the rural areas are almost the same. However, there is difference in the literacy rates in the urban areas.

Table: 5 Literacy Rate By Social Groups

Location	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes			Total		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
Rural	53	64	41	55	67	44	61	73	49
Urban	67	77	57	75	83	68	82	88	76
Total	56	67	44	57	68	46	66	76	55

Source: Census 2011

DROP-OUT AT PRIMARY AND UPPER PRIMARY LEVELS

The drop-out rate is the percentage of pupils who drop out from a given grade or cycle or level of education in a given school years. The drop-out rates of class I-V & class VI-VIII of neighbor states along with Jharkhand and national average are given in table 6. As per the statistics of school education 2011-12 at level of class I-V the position of Jharkhand is not good with 42.9% (Boys- 42.6& Girls 42.9) of drop-out among neighbors states and at upper primary level the data of Bihar, Orissa, and Jharkhand are approximately same. (Table:6)

Table: 6 Drop-out at Primary and Upper Primary Levels

State/ India	Class I-V			Class VI- VIII		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Bihar	38.0	30.7	34.8	58.6	51.1	55.5
West Bengal	27.6	20.8	24.3	46.2	37.8	42.1
Uttar Pradesh	15.3	22.2	18.6	49.2	51.3	50.2
Orissa	17.4	13.5	15.5	55.8	58.8	58.3
Chhattisgarh	28.8	29.8	29.3	43.6	43.8	43.7
Jharkhand	42.6	43.2	42.9	54.2	49.5	52.0
India	23.4	21.0	22.3	41.5	40.0	40.8

Source: Statistics of School Education 2011-12, MHRD, Government of India, 2014

Gender Parity Index: GPI is one of the important parameter of measuring gender equality and empowerment in education. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is the ratio of the number of female students enrolled at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education to the corresponding number of male student in each level. A GPI more than 1 means that there are proportionately more girls than boys attending school. A score of 1 reflects equal enrolment rate for boys and girls. Thus GPI (based on GER) provides picture of gender equality in education. Table: 7 represents GPI during 2011-12 for neighbor sates at Class I-V and Class VI- VIII levels. Jharkhand has archived substantial progress towards gender parity in education in recent years but at both levels it is more than one which is sign of gender disparity. (Table7)

Table: 7 Gender Parity Index At Primary And Upper Primary Level (all Categories)

State/ India	Class I-V	Class VI- VIII
Bihar	0.98	0.96
West Bengal	1.03	1.13
Uttar Pradesh	1.03	0.92
Orissa	0.98	0.98
Chhattisgarh	0.97	0.95
Jharkhand	1.02	1.02
India	1.01	0.99

Source: Statistics of School Education 2011-12, MHRD, Government of India, 2014

Table: 8 Elementary Education Report Card 2015-16

Performance of Indicators (in percentage)	Jharkhand		India	
	Primary	Primary with U.P.	Primary	Primary with U.P.
Single-Classroom Schools	1.1	0.2	6.1	0.4
Single-Teacher Schools	25.9	3.0	10.7	1.4
Schools Approachable by All Weather Road	44.0	63.8	86.6	91.7
Schools with Playground Facility	37.2	41.2	54.1	64.4
Schools with Boundary wall	17.5	39.6	55.2	79.3
Schools with Girls' Toilet	96.2	97.8	97.0	99.0
Schools with Boys' Toilet	96.1	97.3	96.5	98.4
Schools with Drinking Water	91.7	95.9	95.8	98.7
Schools Provided MDM	99.1	99.5	98.7	97.8
Schools with Electricity	6.3	22.5	47.2	74.6
Schools with Computer	3.5	13.1	10.4	45.5
Schools with Ramp, if needed	70.4	80.4	83.8	82.9
Schools Established Since 2001	70.1	15.6	28.8	25.2
Schools with Kitchen-shed	62.4	79.6	79.8	85.6
Schools with Enrolment ≤ 50	48.9	4.3	46.5	10.9
Schools with SMC	99.6	99.4	93.9	96.7
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	30	41	27	29
Student-Classroom Ratio	19	28	23	27
Average Teachers per School	2.1	5.4	3.1	7.2
Female Teachers	31.2	32.6	47.3	49.2
Girls Enrolment	49.9	49.6	49.4	47.6

The following two types (Achievements & Challenges) major result can be observed from table 8-

Achievements Of Jharkhand

- The percentages of Single-Classroom Schools at both the primary and Primary with Upper Primary levels (1.1% & 0.2%) are lesser than the national percentage (6.1% & 0.4%).

- The percentages of Schools with Girls' Toilet and Schools with Boys' Toilet in Jharkhand are approx (Above 96%) equal to national level.
- In terms of schools with drinking water facility at both levels Jharkhand and India are above 91%.
- More than 80% of elementary schools are having ramp facility for disabled in the state at elementary level. The data for India also represents the same picture.
- The percentage of schools controlled by Management Committee is more than national level as compared to Jharkhand state.
- Girl's enrolment also represents positive sign for state because state holds 49.6% at elementary level while India's percentage is 47.6%.

Challenges For Jharkhand

- The percentage of Single- Teacher Schools is still high (25.9%) at primary level than national average.
- The percentage of all weather approachable road to schools is just half (44.0%) to national average (87%) at primary level in the state.
- Only 37.3% primary and 41.2% of primary with upper primary schools are having playground facility in the state.
- Schools with boundary wall are presenting a very faded picture for the state because it is three times low (17.5%) as compared to India (55.2%) at primary level and half at elementary level.
- The percentage of schools with electricity facility in Jharkhand at primary level is in single digit (6.3%) and at elementary level it shows the figure of 22.5% which is also very low to national level (47.2% at primary level & 74.6 at elementary level).
- School with computer facility is very low it scores only 3.5% at primary level and 13.1% at primary with upper primary levels.
- Student-Classroom Ratio, Average Teachers per School and Female Teachers in state are low than national average.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above analysis it is clear that Jharkhand has improved in many indicators related to elementary education not only in the comparison of neighbor states but also at national level. Focus should be given on the points of challenges of elementary education in the state to provide quality education for all and overall development of the children. Programmes of the both central and state governments related to elementary education should be implemented properly and effectively at micro level.

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