

Lure of the Private or Deterance of Government: Study on Declining Trend of Enrollment in Government Schools

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Abstract: Education is a deliberate enterprise, and all nations aim to provide excellent quality education programmes to its citizens to significantly contributes toward the development of the nation. It also improves productive capacity and helps in reducing poverty by improving the efficiency of the more impoverished section. It enables a man to be real and perfect.

As mandated by the 86th amendment to the constitution of India making free and compulsory elementary education for the children of age 6 to 14 a fundamental right, the government of India launched the "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" programme in 2010 to achieve the goal of universalization of elementary education of satisfactory quality. According to a report of India, spends(2016) "despite the rupees 1.16 lakh crore spent on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the national programme for Universal elementary education the quality of learning is not satisfactory in government school between 2009 to 2014". The paper aims to highlight the declining trend of gross enrollment in government schools. It also analyzes the pattern of gross enrollment in private schools during the period 2004- 2005 and 2015-16 in Alwar district of Rajasthan. The paper also shades light on the reasons towards this changing behavior of parents.

Keywords: elementary, education, private, government, enrollment, decreasing.

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the significant factors, influencing the development of a nation keeping in mind International community adopted the six goals for education in the Dakar, Senegal conference during April 2000. The sixth goal of the conference is to improve all aspects of the quality of education and to ensure excellence of all, so that recognized learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills. World wild consensus has been reached to declare universalization of primary education as the 2nd Millennium development goal for achievement by 2015 only after eradication of poverty. The Government of India launched the " Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan " program to provide useful and relevant elementary Education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. In the progress of a nation and state education and literacy plays a significant role. It is such an important indicator that it has been agreed upon and focused by joint operations as a second most crucial goal out of the eight goals.

The Indian educational panorama consists of a variety of schools. Schools run by center, state and local government comprise a clear 'government' sector. The private sector consists of three types ;(i)schools which received grants in aid but are privately run, (ii)school that receives little government funding but are recognised based on specific regulations and (iii) schools which are unrecognised and might not meet the criteria such as infrastructure or teacher salaries needed for recognition. The number of private schools is increasing in a large number. In the beginning, they were established in urban areas but now have spread in rural areas also. All over the world in most of the nations, its government's responsibility to provide quality education to their children. In U.K 93%, U.S.A 92%, in Finland 98% and Srilanka 97% of the children are enrolled in government schools. Private school across the world have been the preserve of the elite, who believe that mass public education system does not meet the all-round development of their children. The research commissioned by the Institute of labor economic (IZA) showed that between 2010 to 2016 the increase in private schools was four times the number of government schools and the actual number of students enrolling in government schools decreased by 11.1 million students. In comparison to private schools, enrollment increased by 16 million in the same period.

The transition of students from government to private schools has rendered a high proportion of government schools economically unviable to the extent that 24000 government schools recently closed. Studies conducted by Indian Government education system reveals that education of India suffers from two significant deficiencies: firstly, limitation of coverage and secondly, poor standard of the education that is offered and received. While there has been some progress in former, but the quality of education in Indian schools seems to be very low. The failure of Indian government school education can be proved by the annual status of education report 2014 brought out by NGO Pratham, shows that children in a government school in class IV that can read at class 1 level or better have declined. It can be proved from the below table:

Study Area

This study is related to Alwar district of Rajasthan. Alwar district comes under Jaipur division. For administration and development, the district is divided into the subdivisions and tehsils. There are 12 Tehsil headquarters in Alwar, and for the implementation of rural development projects/ schemes under panchayat raj system, the district divided into the 14 Panchayat Samitis or blocks, the economy of Alwar district is mainly dependent on agriculture, 65.3% workers in the districts are either cultivator or agricultural laborers. Alwar district ranks 3rd in term of population, 15th regarding area and 4th regarding population density in the state. The literacy rate in Alwar district is 70.7% which is higher than the state average 66.1%, and it ranks 5th among the other districts of the state. A gender gap of the literacy rate is 27.4% in the district. Gross enrollment in government schools during the period 2015-16 is 298183 in comparison to 372457 in private schools in the same period.

Objectives

The primary objectives of the paper is to analyze:

- (1) The pattern of gross enrolment in government schools during 2004- 2005 to 2015- 2016.
- (2) The trend of gross enrolment in private schools during 2004- 2005 to 2015- 2016.
- (3) To identify the factors which are changing the attitude of parents and children towards government schools.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the research secondary data has been used which are collected from DIAS of Alwar district and government offices at district and block level. Annual reports and other reports on the issue available in related Ministries or departments and other researchers related to the area reviewed for the study.

III. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Educationists all over the world have undertaken a good number of studies to assess and examine the reasons which primarily contribute to the decreasing trend of enrollment in government schools. Some of the studies undertaken earlier have been reviewed hereunder to develop a better understanding of the subject and the problem, so that present study may be guided on the acceptable lines for better readership and more explicit empirical findings.

A study conducted by Geeta Gandhi (2017) a professor of 'education and international development at the Institute of education', London, during the period 2010- 11 to 2015-16 in 20 Indian state, shows that average enrollment in Government schools declined from 122 to 108 students per school, while it is increased from 202 to 208 in private schools. Gross enrolment in government school fell by 13 million during the period, while private school acquired 17.5 million new students in the same period. The paper analyses the factor behind the migration of these students is parents belief, that teaching practices are better in private schools are better than Government schools. A study conducted by NCAER tells that private schools enrollment increased from 28% (2004-05) to 36% (2011-12), despite the fact that it is four times costly than Government schools. Parents are shifting their children in private school.

Research commissioned by the Institute of labor economics showed that between the year 2010 to 2016 private schools increased four times than Government schools and the gross enrollment in government school decreased by 11.1 million students. Against, the number of students enrolling in private schools increased by 6 million over the same period. The transition of students from government to private institutions has rendered a high proportion of Government schools economically unviable to the extent that 24000 Government schools recently closed down.

In another research, the National Centre for Education Statistics (NCES) reported that private school enrollment increased 23% between 1990 to 2003 increase and projected to increase an additional 7% between 2003 to 2015, in comparison to 17.8% increase and a 5.5% projected to increase during the same period for government schools.

In March 2016 India spends reported that despite, the rupees 1.16 lakh crore spent on 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', the quality of learning declined in Government schools between 2009 to 2015. According to this report released by National Sample Survey organization, till 12th class student prefer private schools. The data reveals that 58.7% student believe that private schools provide a better environment for learning and 11.6% says that due to medium of they prefer private schools

A report presented by an NGO, Pratham (2014 annual status of education report) analyzes that despite, spending rupees 586085 crores over the last decade on primary education, India has been unable to arrest the decline in learning.

A study by Col. Gopal Karunakaran 2017 to improve India's public education system says that in India in 2001 nearly 18% students are enrolled in private schools, but in 2011 it increased to 30 to 40%. It is estimated that if decreasing trend of enrollment with government schools continue, 75 percent students will opt private schools till 2025.

Table1:Year-wise Gross Enrollment In Government and Private Schools in Alwar district

	Year	Govt. School Enrollment	Govt. School Enrollment(in%)	Pvt. School Enrollment	Pvt. School Enrollment(in%)	Total Enrollment
1	2004-05	305592	73.15	110087	26.4	415679
2	2005-06	425334	67.20	207430	32.78	632764
3	2006-07	440081	62.78	260874	32.71	700955
4	2007-08	408581	58.04	295371	41.96	703952
5	2008-09	383007	53.27	335906	46.72	718913
6	2009-10	363196	49.60	369100	50.40	732296
7	2010-11	341266	48.77	358493	51.23	699759
8	2011-12	336912	48.01	364808	51.99	701720
9	2012-13	336660	47.98	365028	52.02	701688
10	2013-14	309425	46.18	360628	53.82	670053
11	2014-15	284792	42.20	390141	57.80	674933
12	2015-16	298183	44.46	372457	55.54	670640

Source: Office Of The District Project Coordinator, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Alwar(Rajasthan)

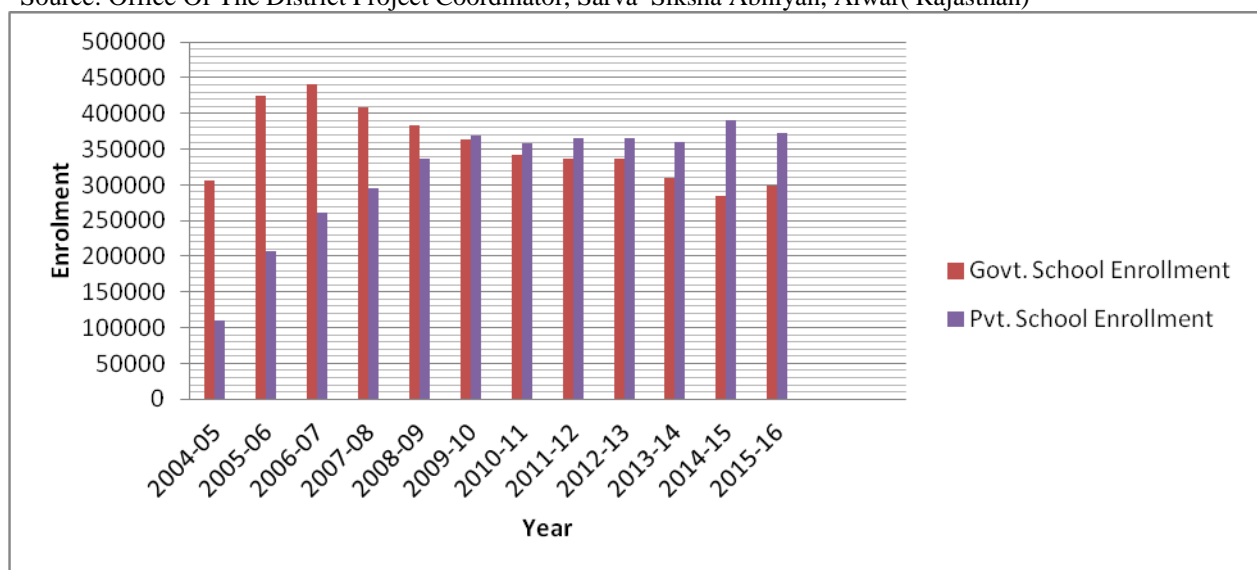


Chart1

Data collected from the office of the district project coordinator, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Alwar shows that gross enrollment in government schools decreased from 305592 to 298183 during the period 2004-05 to 2015-16. The percent enrollment declined from 73.15% to 44.46% during the same period. On the contrary, the enrollment in private schools increased from 26.4% to 55.54 %, despite the fact that the government is spending a significant amount of money on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to provide quality education, a decreasing trend of students enrolling in government schools during the whole period. Moreover, It is estimated that private education is four times more costly then government schools yet more parents are enrolling their wards in private schools for better learning.

Table2: Blockwise Gross Enrollment In Government & Private Schools In Alwar District(Rajasthan)

S.No	BLOCK	Govt. School Enrollment(1to12)	Govt. School Enrollment(1to12) in %	Private Schools Enrollment(1to12)	Private Schools Enrollment(1to12) in %	Total Enrollment (1to12)
1	BANSUR	27712	39.39	42634	60.60	70346
2	BEHRORE	12658	29.35	30476	70.65	43134
3	KATHMUR	25762	38.25	41768	62.01	67530
4	KISHANGARHBAS	33710	48.97	35128	51.03	68838
5	KOTKASIM	14861	43.33	19433	56.67	34294
6	LAKSHMANGARH	36320	46.08	42491	53.92	78811
7	MUNDAWAR	21736	45.28	26268	54.72	48004
8	NEEMRANA	13953	36.25	24534	63.75	38487
9	RAINI	19912	51.15	19015	48.85	38927
10	RAJGARH	24733	45.46	29674	54.54	54407
11	RAMGARH	40893	53.36	35748	46.64	76641

12	THANAGAJI	29859	42.38	40952	58.13	70451
13	TIZARA	42959	41.74	59951	58.26	102910
14	UMRAIN	40483	24.93	121872	75.07	162355

Source: Office Of The District Project Coordinator, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Alwar(Rajasthan)

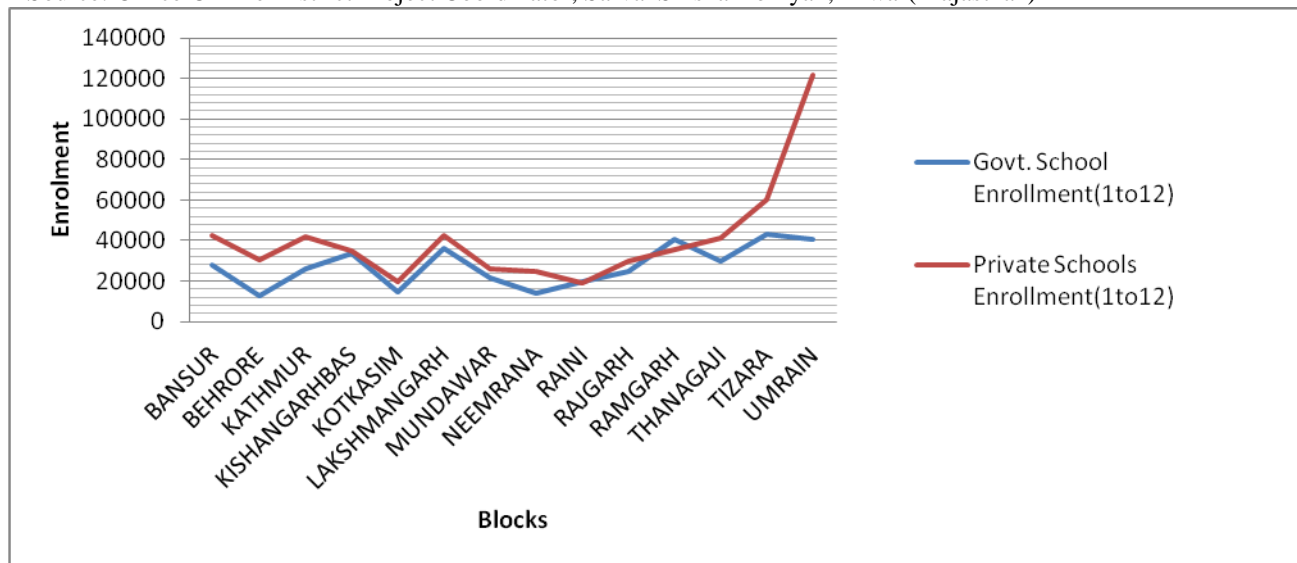


Chart2

Table2 shows blockwise gross enrolment in government and private schools in Alwar district. Data shows that in all the blocks gross enrollment in government schools varies between 24.93% (Umrain) -53.13% (Ramgarh). All the blocks except Ramgarh and Raini have gross enrollment less than 50% in 2015-16. Data also reveals that in private schools enrollment ratio is above 50% except for two blocks. The increasing trend of opting private schools is not only in Alwar district but the same trend is found in all over India, it can be proved from a study conducted by NCAER in 2004-05, which shows that private school education is four times costly than government schools despite the fact more and more students prefer private institution for their education. Along with this, a large number of studies identifies the same results across the country.

Table3:Blockwise Gross Enrollment Trends In Private Schools

S.no.	BLOCK	Gross Enrollment(1 to 8)	Gross Enrollment(1 to 8) in %	Gross Enrollment (9 to 12)	Gross Enrollment (9 to 12) in %	Total Enrollment (1to12)
	BANSUR	8156	19.23	34438	80.77	42634
	BEHRORE	8028	26.34	22448	73.66	30476
	KATHMUR	10554	25.27	31214	74.73	41768
	KISHANGARHBAS	11120	31.66	24008	68.34	35128
	KOTKASIM	2174	11.19	17259	88.81	19433
	LAKSHMANGARH	12520	29.47	29971	70.53	42491
	MUNDAWAR	6396	24.35	19872	75.65	26268
	NEEMRANA	5141	20.95	19393	79.05	24534
	RAINI	4886	25.70	14129	74.30	19015
	RAJGARH	7142	24.68	22352	75.32	29674
	RAMGARH	13052	36.55	22696	63.45	35748
	THANAGAJI	10976	26.80	29976	73.20	40952
	TIZARA	21124	35.24	38827	64.76	59951
	UMRAIN	32491	26.66	89381	73.34	121872
	TOTAL	153760	27.00	415824	73.00	569584

Source: Enrollment as Per U-DISE 2015-16, Office of the District Project Coordinator, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

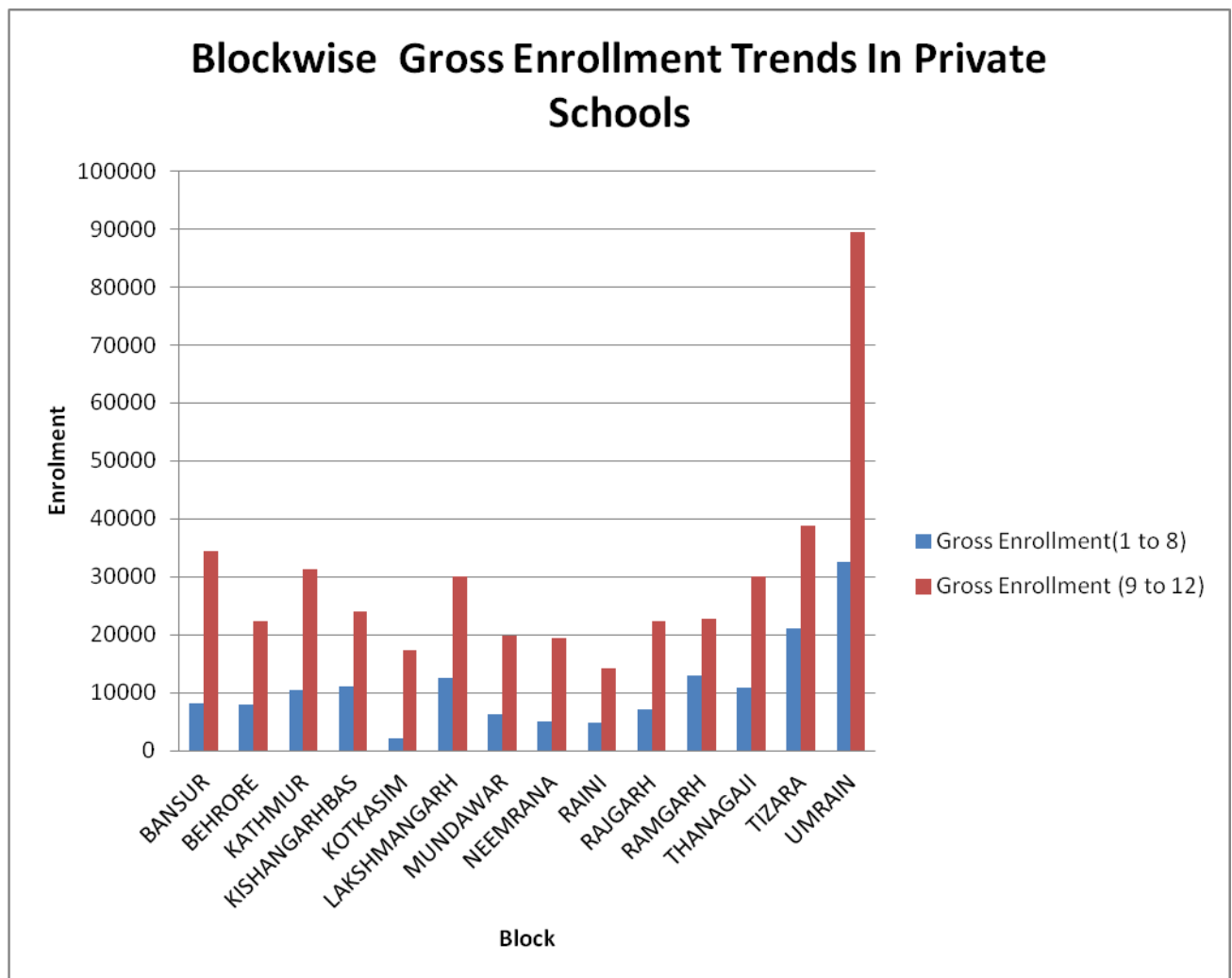


Chart3

Table3 shows a blockwise comparison of gross enrollment in private schools till upper primary classes and above that in 2015-16 in Alwar district. Data identifies a similar trend of enrollment in all the blocks. The enrollment pattern shows that after upper primary more students join private schools for the better environment of learning and extra co-curricular activities organized by private institutions. The table shows that only 27% of students out of total enrolling in private schools opt private schools in upper primary classes in comparison to higher classes, where 73% go for private institutions. This paper analyses that in upper primary section enrollment varies between 11.19% to 36.55% in all the blocks, this increased 63.45 to 88.8% in secondary and sr. Secondary classes in the district. From this table, we can see that due to lack of teaching environment, inadequate infrastructure, and other facilities after upper primary classes more students prefer private schools. Another reason for fewer enrollments in government schools is the Hindi medium.

Table4: Status of number of schools and number of teachers in government and private schools

Total No. Of Schools				Total No. Of Teachers					
S.NO.	Year	Government	Private	Government Schools			Private Schools		
				Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	2007-08	3573	1656	9454	3682	13136	9023	3298	12321
2	2008-09	3586	1731	10286	4343	14629	9385	3478	12863
3	2014-15	3064	2131	8717	4288	13005	8612	5221	13833

Source: Elementary Education: District Report Card, Alwar

The table shows that the number of government schools decreased from 3573 (2007-08) to 3064 (2014-15). On the other hand, private schools increased from 1656 to 2131. Regarding teachers, in private schools number of teachers are increasing from 12321 to 13833 on the contrary in government schools it decreased from

13136 to 13005. This decline is only in some male teachers, despite that female teachers are increasing in both the institutions.

Reasons for Declining Trends of Enrollment in Government Schools

Too many studies have been conducted that shows that till class 12th students and their parents prefer private schools for many reasons. Some of them are:

(1) Poor Quality Education

Increasing trend of enrollment in private schools indicates poor learning environment in government schools. Though the union government has made right to education a fundamental right by bringing into force the right to education act (RTE) of 2009, government schools are far behind in providing quality education. A study conducted by NGO 'PRATHAM', shows that 36%(2010) percent of children in government schools in class IV level can read class I level or better has declined to 26.9%(2014). It also identifies that the percent of students who can perform division and arithmetic by class V level has decreased from 36.2% to 17.5%.

(2) Quality and Quantity of Teachers

Teachers of government schools are well aware of their poor quality of teaching, so they send their children to private schools. It is evident that less paid private teachers of private schools, doing much better than their highly paid counterparts in government schools. According to a study conducted by ISR(2015) the performance of Indian teachers judged regarding their students learning levels have been weak in the programme to International Students Assessment (PISA) test in 2009. India ranks 73rd and China rank 2nd among 74 countries despite being paid at least four times more salaries in India (regarding their respective per capita income). It is also identified that only one in five elementary school teachers in India are trained. Despite lack of teachers available, teachers are engaging in non-academic activities during teaching days. Data shows that in 2014-15 nearly 14.11% schools are running with a single teacher and mid-session transfers of the teachers are the primary factors affecting enrollment.

(3) Inadequate Infrastructure Facilities in Government Schools

Non-availability of well equipped with modern amenities classrooms, functional libraries, furnished and clean toilets, playground, drinking water facility and electricity are major hurdles in enrollment of government schools. The table below shows poor infrastructure facilities provided by government schools. Data reveals that the number of government schools decreased from 3573 to 2161 during the period 2007-08 to 2014-15. It shows that due to declining trend of enrollment government closed many schools. Data indicates that in seven years a little improvement has been taken place in condition of government schools 14.11% schools are running with a single teacher, 69.4% schools have no playground, 67.8% schools have no electricity connection in their buildings. In 2014-15 49.28% schools has no ramp facility for children with disabilities, 21.33% have no library, and 17.12% schools are running without boundary buildings. Instead of that about 4% schools even not having their building.

Table5: Number of Government Schools not having Facilities

Year	Total No. of School	Single Teacher	Single Classroom	Play Ground	Electricity	Drinking Water Facility	Ramps	Boundry	Library	Building
2007-08	3573	597	83	2246	3103	637	2655	1217	-	160
2014-15	2161	305	19	1500	1466	151	1053	370	461	79

Source: Elementary Education : District Report Card 2007-08 & 2014-15 , Alwar

(4) English Medium As A Medium of Learning

Recently a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation(NSSO)on "Indians increasingly prefer private education 71 million take tuitions." identified that nearly 11.6% students opt private schools for studying in English medium. Government schools are not fulfilling their requirement, so they are moving towards private institutions.

(5) Lack of Modern Equipment in Classrooms in Government Schools

Unavailability of modern equipment like audio player, computer, LCD/LED, Projector in the classrooms is a major cause for low enrollment. Nevertheless, high standard curriculum in private schools is also a factor to attract students.

Besides all these factors improving economic conditions of the parents, transportation facilities provided by the private schools, helper and security guards in schools, table, and chair for children in private schools are the contributory factors for the preference of the parents for enrolling their wards in private schools.

IV. CONCLUSION

The issue of universalizing primary education and elimination of gender and social disparities in elementary education in Rajasthan is central to much of educational policy and programme formulation.

Education is one of the most critical factors influencing the development of a nation. Considering it, Government of India passed right of children to free and compulsory Education Act 2009. When the act passed, it is hoped that the accessibility and quality of education for children in India would be improved. However, the reality is quite contrary to the objective of the RTI Act, spending the significant amount on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan quality of learning in Indian elementary education is sharply declining nearby year. According to the data from server Shiksha Abhiyan Alwar, the gross enrollment is declining sharply from the Year 2004-05 to 2015- 16. Data identifies that there is a decreasing trend of gross enrolment in Government schools during the whole period, on the other hand, the continuously increasing trend of enrollment is found in private schools. Despite the fact that private schools are four times more costly than Government schools the gross enrolment increased from 26.4% to 55.54% during the period. There is a similar trend in all the blocks of Alwar district. Data identifies that students from above upper primary classes preferred more private schools then upper primary standard; they believe that they can find a better environment for learning in private schools. Nearly 63.45% to 88.18% students in private schools are from 9th to 12th class. Studies conducted by different Institutions shows that the trend of declining annual enrollment in Government schools is not only in Alwar district but all over the country.. it is well known that any educational system is tested on three pillars- axis, equity, and quality. India has been able to address successfully but success but the third quality of education however required attention. From the quote of the prime minister "enabling rather than regulating " is need of the hours. Otherwise, we are falling in a broader base in school education.

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