

Dropouts in Some Selected Schools of Shnongrim Village, East Jaintia Hills District

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Abstract: Education is very important in our life. It is important for our personal, social and economic development. It gives knowledge about good values, ethical and moral responsibilities in life. Being educated a person can fight various social evils and feel empowered to eradicate such problems. UNICEF response on primary education “the Sustainable Development Goals call for all children to complete free, equitable and quality primary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes by 2030. However dropouts still persist and continued to be one of the serious problems. Therefore this study is to find out the dropout rate and its cause in some selected schools of shnongrim village. The data collected from the 3 selected schools comprise of 24 students, 9 teachers and also 8 dropout students and was analysis using simple statistical. This study reveals that in these schools the dropout students are still more in number during these past five years, the dropout numbers of boys are more than girls, there is a lack of support from parents in student’s education and most of the dropout students dropped out of schools because they get low grades and lack of motivation, some students find schools not fun and enjoyable.

Keywords: Education, Effective Learning Outcomes, School Dropouts, Shnongrim Village

Introduction

Education plays a vital role in ensuring the all-round development of the children It simply enables them to gain knowledge and skills which is important for them to have a successful life and mold them into accomplished individuals in the society. Thus, they can actively contribute to the progress and development of the society and to the nation as a whole.

Education is being viewed as the fundamental or foundation for the development of children. According to UNICEF, the Sustainable Development Goals call for all children to complete free, equitable and quality primary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes by 2030.¹

Meaning of Dropout: In simple meaning, dropout is the ultimate withdrawal from school, or in other words when a student who was once enrolled into a school, college or university but dropout before completing a qualification.

Dropout usually starts from primary or upper primary schools; it is one of the serious problems in school which makes an early intervention necessary to try to prevent children from continuing their path. Dropout does not affect only the life of the children but it also affects the socio economic development as well. According to the report given by The Unified District Information System for education Plus (UDISE+), the dropout rate among primary students went up from 0.8% in 2020-2021 to 1.45% in 2021-2022 and the dropout rate for upper primary students spiked from 1.9 to 3.02%.²

Statement of the Problem

Although most states in India have done well in enrolling more children in recent years, the inability of schools to retain the children has still continued to be one of the problems and therefore the dropping out of school of the students still persist. Boys are likely to dropout from school in order to support household income, while girls are more likely to dropout in order to carry out domestic chores. Hence, this study was done under the Topic- “**Dropouts in some selected schools of Shnongrim Village**” that is to find out the rate of the dropout students in these schools and also to find out the factors and root causes leading to school dropout.

¹ Primary education – UNICEF <https://www.unicef.org/education/primary-education>

² More young children dropped out of school in 2021-2022, but school students up, says ministry report <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/nov/04/school-dropout-new-enrollment-both-on-rise->

Scope of the Study

Generally the reasons that most students dropped out of school is because of dislike of school and a view that school is boring and not relevant to their needs. Low academic achievement or academic failure and financial problem are also some of the main causes of dropouts. However this study was conducted in order to bring changes to the students in this particular area by identifying their problems and to help them understand that education is one of the most important instrument for bringing development and eliminating illiteracy in the society.

Objectives

1. To find out the rate of the dropout students in primary school
2. To examine the cause of dropout
3. To suggest remedial measure for reducing school dropout

Methodology

The investigators used descriptive method. Both primary data and secondary data have been used. Sites Investigation of the study was carried out in Shnongrim village East Jaintia Hills District Meghalaya. The population of the study consists of 140 students, 18 teachers and 11 dropout students. The sample size consists of 24 students and 9 teachers and 8 dropout students and simple random and purposive sampling technique was use for selecting the sample. For data collection constructed structured questionnaires were used for teachers and students and interviews were used for dropout students.

Review of Literature

Gouda M, Sateesh and T V Sekher, (2014), published a paper on “Factors Leading to School Dropouts in India: An analysis of National Family Health Survey-3 Data”. The article tried to understand the differentials and factors associated with school dropouts in India and based on the data from National Family Health Survey-3, it was found that only 75% of the children in the age group 6 to 16 years were attending school. About 14% of the children never attended the school and 11% dropped of school for various reasons. It was observed that he dropout was high among the children belong to Muslim Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families. Parental characteristics also play a significant role in determining school education. The dropouts among the children belonging to illiterate parents were four times higher than that of the literate parents. It was also observed that if parents were working, the possibility of dropout among their children was relatively high. The study suggests that unless and until there is considerable improvement in the economic status of households and change in the social attitudes of parents, achieving the goal of universalisation of school education will remain a major challenge for India.³

Ahmad Koka, Aabib,(2019) published a paper on “Causes of School Dropouts in Jammu and Kashmir with Special Reference to District Pulwama”. The study found that there are three types of causes; school related causes, family related causes and personal causes. As far as school related causes are concerned poor accommodation is the main cause. In the category of family related causes, the most important cause is that the parents feel that girls are only meant for household activities. The third category is the personal causes. The most important cause in this category is the reluctance of parents.⁴

Kalita, Kangkan (2022), published an article on the dropout rates where Meghalaya and Manipur have been the highest among all the states in the country in 2021-2022 in primary standards (classes 1 to 5). The figures of the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) plus data published by the union Education Ministry recently has revealed that the dropout rate for Manipur and Meghalaya deteriorated further from 8.6% and 7.4%, recorded in 2020-2021 to 13.3% and 9.8% in 2021-2022. Whereas Assam has showed the highest deterioration in dropout rates that is doubled at both primary as well as upper primary level in comparison with the previous years. From 3.3% in 2020-2021, it has dropped to 6% at the primary level and from 4.6% to 8.8% at the upper primary level (classes 6 to 8). In the latest version of the data it has

³ Factors leading to school dropouts in India: An Analysis of National Family Health of Survey -3 Data
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm/SSRN_ID3377286

⁴ Causes of school dropout in Jammu and Kashmir with Special Reference to District Palwama
<https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?>

showed that if both primary and upper primary dropouts are counted, then all seven north-eastern states will have much higher dropout rates than the national average which was recorded to be 1.5% and 3% for both primary and upper primary levels.

Some states managed to tackle the challenges of the pandemic and successfully reverse the trend. Tripura managed to bring down the dropout rates significantly from 4.2% in 2020-2021 to 1.1% in 2021-2022 at the primary level. Mizoram has also showed improvement from 8.1% to 6.4% and Nagaland from 5.9% to 5% in primary standard. In Arunachal Pradesh the dropout rates at the primary level has been 9.3%. Excluding Mizoram which recorded a dropout rate of 2.7% in 2021-2022, the rest of the Northeast states at the upper primary level have showed higher rates of dropouts than the national average. Arunachal and Mizoram are the only states in Northeast which have been able to show some improvement in dropout rates from the previous year's rates of 7.7% and 5.2%.⁵

Findings

The study has revealed that there are dropout students in the past five years that is from the year of 2018 to 2022. There are 3 students who dropout from school in 2019, 8 students in 2020, 7 students in 2021 and 3 students in 2022. The dropout number of boys is more than the girls. There are students whose parents are not able to help them in their studies or doing their homework/ assignment, not able to attend every parents meeting. The students with low attendance tend to get low grades and failed frequently in the examination. There are students that are not able to do their homework without help. The study also revealed that the cause of dropouts is because most of the students get low grades, lack of learning support from the parents and their education depends only on the teachers, lack of motivation and students thought of schools as boring and not fun. However during the year of 2020-2021 most of the students' dropout from schools is due to the effect of pandemic.

Suggestions

1. Motivation: Many of the students quite schools because they find school boring and not enjoyable, therefore the school system should be improve in a way that it is more enjoyable for the students. Students should have good relationship with the teachers who motivate them and subject should also be interesting to keep the students happy
2. Family support: family plays a big impact on the motivation of the students. The student tends to have poor grades if there is a problem in the family and the student has no motivation. Therefore the support of the family is very important for the student's success.
3. In order to make schools a fun place, there should be extra – curricular activities as it could also be a great solution because the students can be more motivated to go to school and can get good grades because they have activities that they like.
4. General parent meeting should be organized to enable the parents to meet the teachers and discuss problem affecting their children's education. These parents should be advice on the need to motivate their children to remain in school.
5. School should have effective remedial programs for students who are lacking behind in to improve their learning capacity and keep them on track.

Conclusion

School dropout is a very serious problem, it can negatively effect in a number of ways including unemployment, lower income, socio economic development etc. This study also reveals that the dropout of the students is still persisting in these selected schools of Shnongrim village. Therefore it is necessary to prevent pupils from continuing on this path.

⁵ Highest school dropouts in Manipur, Meghalaya in 21-22 https://m.timesofindia.com/city/guwhati/highest-school-dropouts-in-manipur-meghalaya-in-21-22/amp_articleshow/

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