

Profile of out of school children in telangana

¹Dr.L.Umadevi, ²V. KavithaKiran,

¹Professor, Department of Human development and family studies, College of Homescience, Agricultural university, Hyderabad.

²Research associate, Department of Human development and family studies, College of Homescience, Agricultural university, Hyderabad.

ABSTRACT : *The present study was undertaken to study the profile of out of school children. The results of the study indicate that though the data shows very less number of children are out of school. The actual number in real situation shows a different picture. The investigators finds out that the children names are enrolled in school but these children never stepped in school. The status of the out school children at present is that they are working. Majority of the children in Mahabubnagar work in cotton fields and Bedi rolling. In Adilabad migration seems to be major hindrance for school participation. Most of the girls were engaged in household activities and to look after the children.*

I. INTRODUCTION

A strong education system is the cornerstone of any country's growth and prosperity. Over the last decade, India has made great strides in strengthening its primary education system and education in India has improved dramatically over the last three decades. The 2014 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), which tracks trends in rural education, indicated that enrollment rates among primary-school-aged children were about 96%, with little difference by gender. Schools are accessible to most children, both student enrollment and attendance are at their highest level, and teachers are adequately remunerated. The RTE Act guarantees a quality education to a wider range of students than ever before. In spite of all these efforts of government and Non government organisations UIS (2014) data show that 58 million children roughly between the ages of 6 and 11 years are out of school, with barely any change since 2007. According to the UIS and the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, around 43% of those out of school – or 15 million girls and 10 million boys – will probably never set foot in a classroom if current trends continue. Given the large size of the population in India, despite high enrolment, even small percentages of never-enrolled, along with dropouts, translate into an estimated 8.15 million children out of school in the 6-13 age group in the year 2009. While the enrolment is near universal in the younger age group, with only 3.7 per cent being out of school, the share of those out of school is slightly higher at 5.2 per cent for the older age group.

OBJECTIVE: To study the profile of out of school children at primary level

LOCALE OF THE STUDY: In Telanagana state two districts i.e. Mahabubnagar and Adilabad were purposively selected for the present study as these districts were found to have low illiteracy levels.

SAMPLE SIZE: 153 Out of school children

II. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES USED

Interview schedule:

The interview schedule was developed for the study, which includes general profile of respondents. It covers child related information, parents related and family related information. Child related information includes child's age, gender, birth order. Family related information includes family type and parent related information includes parental age, education, occupation income level and social category.

Questionnaire:

Questionnaire was developed to study the perception, attitudes and opinion of parents, children, principals and teachers to find the related barriers to inclusion. The questionnaire was first pilot tested on 25 sample and then standardized.

Focused group discussion

FGD sessions were planned carefully through identifying the main objective(s) of the meeting, developing key questions, developing an agenda, and planning how to record the session. The next step is to identify and invite suitable discussion participants; the ideal number was ten.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Profile of the child

N=153

S.no	Dimensions	Number	Percentage
1.	Age in years		
	5.1-8yrs	39	25.4%
	8.1-10yrs	114	74.5%
2.	Gender		
	Male	69	45.6%
	Female	84	54.9%
3.	Enrollment		
	Didn't enroll	82	53.59%
	Enrolled but not in school	71	46.4%
4.	Present status of the child		
	Working and helping at home	25	16.33%
	Working and looking after siblings	19	12%
	Helping at home and looking after siblings	29	18.9%
	Just loitering around	12	7.8%
	Working	33	21.5%
	Helping at home	17	11.1%
	Looking after siblings	18	11.7%
5.	Reasons for child not attending the school		
	Has to work for money and take care of siblings	27	17.6%
	Has to help at home and take care of siblings	34	22.2%
	Has to work	33	21.5%
	Child is not interested	22	14.3%
	Migration	37	24.18%
	Child ill health	-	-

The result of profile of the child like age, gender, present status etc was given in the table above. Three-fourth of the selected out of school children were in the age group of 8-10 years. The remaining one fourth of sample belong 5-8 years age group. Out of the selected respondents 54.9percent girls and 45.6percent of them were boys. Another interesting finding of the study was that 53.59 percent of selected sample were never enrolled in school and the remaining 45.6% were enrolled but not attending the school.

The present status of the child shows that the child is playing multiple roles of earning, taking care of siblings and helping at home. The study reveals that 16.33 percent of the sample working and helping at home while 12 percent of them have to work and also take care of siblings. It was interesting to note that 18.9 percent of sample are helping at home and taking care of siblings. It was surprising to note that only 7 percent of sample presently are loitering without doing any work and not going to school. The study further reveals that 21.5 of sample children after dropping out of school are going to work and 11 percent of them are helping at home and the remaining 11 percent are taking care of siblings. It is interesting to note that major reason for dropping out found to be child labour , migration and taking care of siblings. From the results of study it is clearly evident that nearly one fourth of sample (24%) are not attending school because of migration. And 21 percent of sample have to work to earn money while 22 percent of them are at home working and taking care of siblings. It was interesting to note that in case of 14 percent of the sample the major reason for not attending school is that they are interested. Surprisingly none from the sample selected are dropouts due to the health issue. These findings of the study are in tune with research studies conducted both in India and abroad indicating that vulnerable households can withdraw children from school as part of their coping strategy to deal with shocks to income, often in order to work, save on costs or to free other household members up to work (Boyle et al, 2002; de

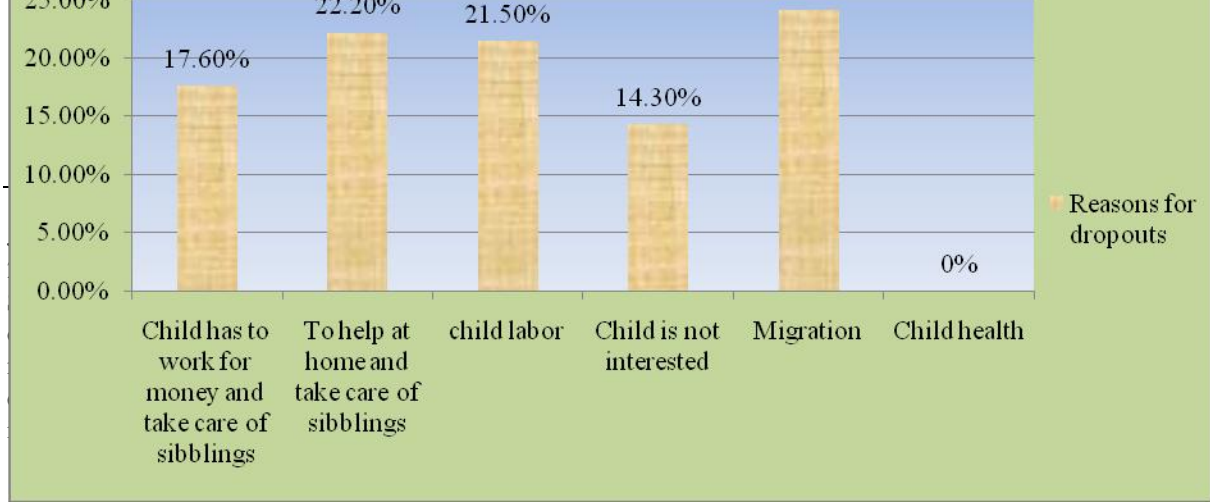


Fig1 : Reasons for dropping out of school

Table 2 : District wise reasons major barriers for school inclusion N=153

S.No	Barriers	Mahabubnagar (n=79)		Adilabad(n=74)	
		N	%	N	%
1.	Child labor	39	49.3	21	28.3
2.	Work at home and taking care of siblings	23	29.1	18	24.3
3.	Migration	10	12	32	43.2
4.	School infrastructure	4	5	1	1
5.	Teacher absence	2	2	1	1
6.	Curriculum	1	1	1	1

The major barrier to school inclusion in districts, Mahabubnagar and Adilabad of Telangana is presented in the table2. The results of study reveals that in Mahabubnagar it is child labor which is major barrier and second main barrier is found to be household work and taking care of siblings when parents are at work. In Adilabad district the major barrier was found to be migration and second main reason is child labor and to take care of siblings and household work.

Table3 Demographic Profile of parents

S.no	Profile details	Mother	Father
1.	Age in years		
	a. 25-30	43(28.1%)	30 (19.6%)
	b. 30-35	84(54.9%)	53(34.6%)
	c. 35-40	26(23.5%)	70(45.75%)
2.	Occupation		
	Agriculture	65(42.48%)	61(39.8%)
	Construction worker	19(12.41%)	26(16.9%)
	Unskill workers/ Casual laborers	24(15.8%)	35(22.87%)
	Unemployed	45(29.41%)	31(20.26%)
3.	Education		
	a. Non-literate	146(94.2%)	127 (83%)
	b. Primary school	9(5.8%)	26(16.9%)

The details of demographic profile of parents of respondents were presented in the table 3. The results indicate that half of the mother (54.9%) of out of school children are in age group of 30-35 years and remaining one fourth sample were in age group of 25-30 and other one fourth were in 35-40 years of age. Majority of fathers (45%) were in age group of 35-40 years followed by 34.6percent in age of 30-35 years. The study reveals that 42.4 percent of mothers and 39.8% fathers were agricultural labourers. The results further revealed that 16 percent of mothers and 23 percent of fathers were unskilled or casual labourers. It was interesting to note from the study that 29.4 percent mothers and 20.2 percent of fathers were unemployed. Even a (national-level)

survey has revealed that illiteracy of parents is one of the main reasons behind school dropouts in Chandigarh (Hindustantimes Jan 7 2015). Interestingly, the survey, which was released recently, highlights that the education status of children get affected with the educational status and standards of parents. The same was found in present study, which revealed that 94 percent of mothers and 83 percent of fathers of out of school children studied were illiterates.

Table 4 Family Income level of Respondents

S.no	Income	Number	Percentage
1.	3000- 5000	117	76.47%
2.	5001-7000	28	18.3%
3.	< 7000	9	5.8%

The results of the study indicate that three fourth sample have family income less than Rs.5000 and very less percentage of them have family income of Rs. 7000 per month. From this it is clearly evident that the economic condition of the families seems to be one of the major contributing factors of barrier to school inclusiveness.

Table 5 Number of children in Family

S.no	No of children	Number	Percentage
	Three	14	9%
	Four	121	79%
	More than 4	18	11%

Another important factor acting as barrier to school inclusion is size of the family. The results of the study reveal that 3/4th of selected respondents have four children in the family. The size of the family has impact on dropout rate. As number of children in a family increases the resources income accessibility decreases pushing the family into debts forcing to pull out the child from school. Even Parfait Eloundou (2000) in his found those children in large families also drop out in greater numbers. Having a large number of siblings (6+ children) was

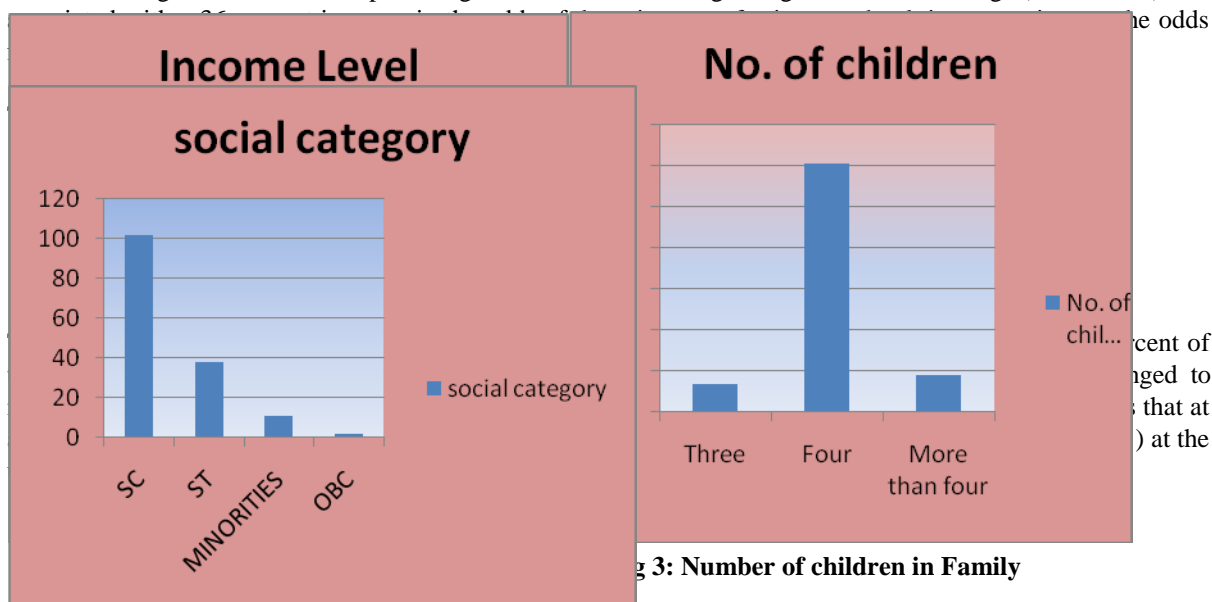


Fig 3: Number of children in Family

Fig 4 : Social category of respondents

CONCLUSION: The government should develop clear standards for monitoring children at risk of dropping out, and develop mechanisms to ensure relevant authorities undertake social mapping, especially in marginalized communities, engage with minority communities, and intervene to ensure that children who have left school can return.

It is evident that intensity of poverty is an important factor responsible for out of school children. Lack of local earning opportunities for adults affect the children schooling through migration. To tackle this problem immediate measure should be taken

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