

## EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT OF SC AND ST CHILDREN IN KARNATAKA

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### ABSTRACT

*The paper tries to sketch the schemes meant for the school going children belonging to SC and ST category in the state of Karnataka. The schooling in general has expanded in the state and so have the enrolments. The access factor has also received good amount of attention with schools being made available within the vicinity of the villages Habitations. The enrolments of these students in the recent past have been examined along the information relating to the dropouts of the same children. Though we cannot link the performance of such schemes to these indicators, it would be useful to understand the behaviour of such indicators. The data shows that the dropouts for STs are much higher than SC students which warrant a greater study to design ST friendly schemes.*

**Keywords:** *Scheduled Castes (SC); Scheduled Tribes (ST); Educational Schemes; School Enrolment; Dropout Rates; Inclusive Education.*

### INTRODUCTION

Importance of investment in education has been well recognized both by researchers and policy makers. The benefits accruing from education especially Primary Education in developing countries have been well documented in a number of studies both within India as well as from outside. India's commitment to the spread of knowledge and freedom of thought among its citizens is reflected in its Constitution. The Directive Principles in the Constitution state **“the state shall endeavour to provide within a period of ten years from the announcement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years”**. Other provisions of the Constitution with regard to any citizen having a distinct language, script, special care of economic and educational interests of the unprivileged sections, particularly scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is laid down as an obligation. Though education is currently in the concurrent list of the Constitution, the State Governments play a very important role in the development of education especially in the Primary and Secondary Education sectors. Educational Policy and Progress have been reviewed in the light of the goal of National Development and Priorities set from time to time. In its

resolution of the National Policy on Education in 1968, an emphasis on quality improvement and a planned, more equitable expansion of educational facilities and the need to focus on the education of girls was stressed. More than fifteen years after this policy the National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986, was formulated which provided for a comprehensive policy framework for the development of education up to the end of the century and a Plan of Action (POA) which spelt out specific responsibilities for organizing, implementing and financing its proposal of NPE. India is committed to the goal of Education for All (EFA), the commitment which received international recognition at the World Conference on EFA held at Jomtien in 1990.

The Constitution of India provides certain special Constitutional safeguards for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other weaker sections of the population, so that they could take their rightful place in community. As citizens of the Republic of India, they are fully entitled to certain rights and privileges, which were denied to them in the past on the ground of Caste system and the practice of Untouchability (SC). ST communities had lost their right due to spatial isolation and cultural difference and subsequent marginalization by dominant society. Keeping in view, the Constitutional mandate, The Government of Karnataka, has been implementing various programmes for the educational advancement of these communities to ensure access, equity and quality of education. The recent move of Right to Education (RTE) has further assured relief to the marginalized sections of the society in availing admissions to the educational institutions especially at the school level. This paper tries to examine the schooling of children belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities in Karnataka state based on available secondary data.

### **Schemes in Education meant for SCs and STs in Karnataka**

Special schemes pertaining to school education of ST/ST children currently include;

- Free supply of textbooks and stationery at all stages of school education
- Free uniforms to children in government approved hostels and Ashrams schools and, in some states, also for children in regular schools
- Free education at all levels
- Pre-matric stipends and scholarships to students at middle and or high school stage

- Special scheme of pre-matric scholarships for children of castes and families engaged in unclean occupations like scavenging, tanning and flaying of animal skin
- Girls and boys' hostel for SC/ST students and lodging facilities in hostels of backward classes including SC/ST.
- Ashram schools for tribal children started with the intention of overcoming the difficulties of provision in remote regions and also rather patronizingly to provide an environment "educationally more conducive" than the tribal habitat.
- Scholarships to SC students studying in private schools, merit scholarships, attendance scholarships for girls, special school attendance prizes, remedial coaching classes, reimbursement of excursion expenses and provision of mid-day meals.

## **CURRENT PICTURE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN KARNATAKA**

The following section attempts to capture and current picture of school educational advancement of SC and ST children in Karnataka state.

### **School Education**

School education in Karnataka has progressed with regard to

Lower Primary Schools (LPS, class I to V),

Higher Primary Schools (HPS, class I to VII/VIII) and

High Schools (VIII to X).

These schools fall under three categories based on type of management, namely

A) Government schools managed by the Department of Education, Social Welfare and local self-governments

B) Government aided schools and

C) Private unaided schools. There are also a few 'other' schools consisting of assorted categories. There are 25950 Lower Primary, 34084 Higher Primary and 14194 High Schools in the year 2012-13.

It is found that around 75 per cent of the lower and higher primary schools are managed by the Department of Education. But one can find lesser degree of public participation in

secondary education as only 31 per cent of the high schools are managed by Government. Government schools are mainly located in rural areas, but private schools are largely urban based. Further, it is significant to note that 84 per cent SC/ST children in the State are in Government schools, and their share in total enrolments is 27.33 percent. Likewise, it is noted that nearly 83.19 percent of children in schools in rural areas are in the government sector. Picture is depicted in the table below.

**Table 1: Schools by Management in Karnataka**

Management	LPS		HPS		HS		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Department of Education	22105	85.2	22567	66.2	4442	31.3	49114	66.2
Social Welfare	132	0.5	553	1.6	500	3.5	1185	1.6
Local Body	3	0.0	23	0.1	43	0.3	69	0.1
Aided	222	0.9	2586	7.6	3557	25.1	6365	8.6
Un-Aided	3486	13.4	8259	24.2	5576	39.3	17321	23.3
Central Schools	2	0.0	78	0.2	71	0.5	151	0.2
Others	0	0.0	20	0.1	5	0.0	25	0.0
Total Schools	25950	100.0	34086	100.0	14194	100.0	74230	100.0

Source: DISE 2012-13, SSA Karnataka

Article 21A of the Constitution of India and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Elementary Education (RTE) Act 2009 became operative in April 2010. The State Rules under the RTE Act were notified in 2011. These developments have thrown open fresh opportunities for quality schooling for children.

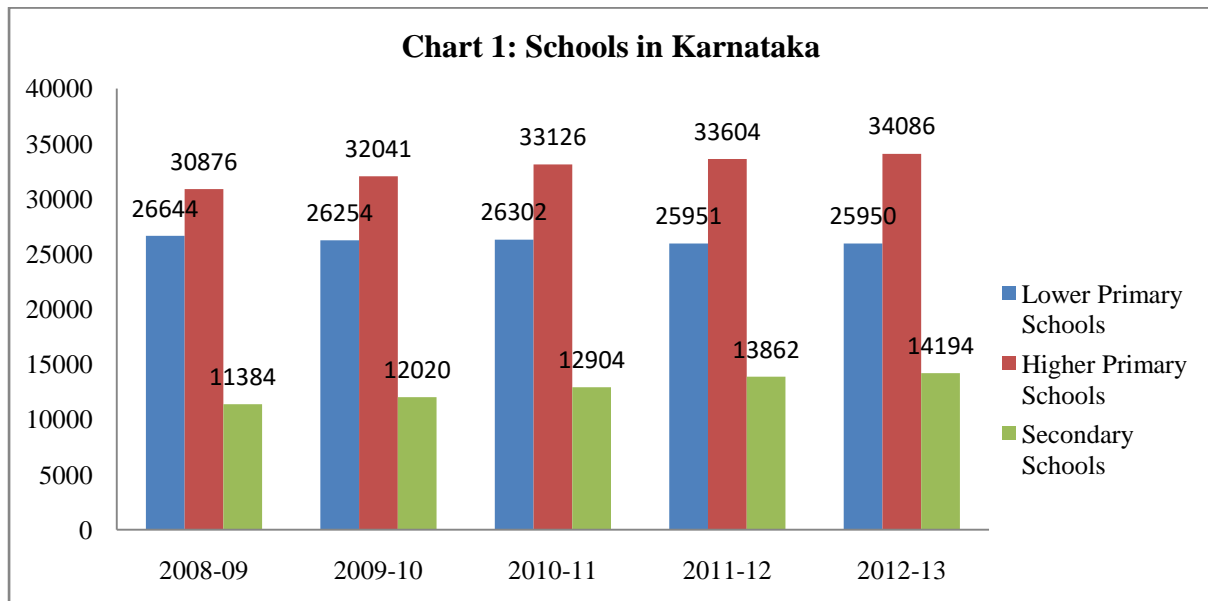
### Access

There has been significant progress in improving access to schools in the State. The state has the policy to start a new primary school within one kilometre in habitations where the population is more than 100 and child population is more than 10. HPS is provided within 3 Kilometre radius and High Schools in 5 Kilometre radius. Feeder schools or transportation facilities are provided in small and sparsely populated habitations. All habitations with a population of 100 and above now have access to a primary school within a distance of one kilometre. HPS are being upgraded to include class 8, where ever there are no High Schools within 3 Kilometres. Table 2 shows increase in the number of schools in Karnataka.

**Table 2: Schools In Karnataka**

Schools	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Lower Primary Schools	26644	26254	26302	25951	25950
Higher Primary Schools	30876	32041	33126	33604	34086
Secondary Schools	11384	12020	12904	13862	14194

Source: DISE data

**Enrolment: School Participation of SC and ST Children**

Enrolment, attendance and drop-out for SC/ST children are hampered by absence of relevant and complete statistical data. However, an attempt is made to use the DISE data in this regard.

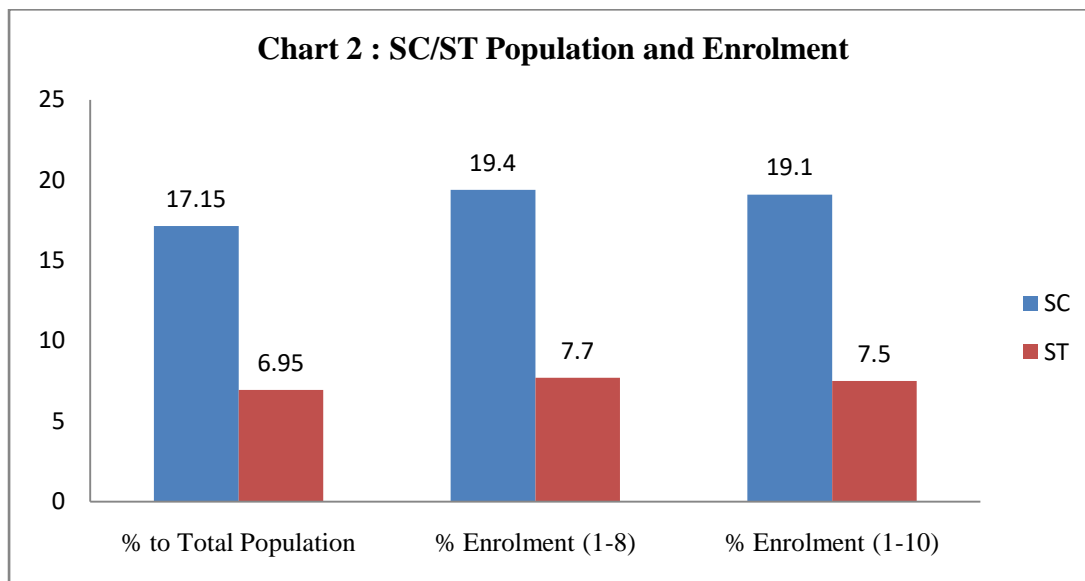
**Table 3: Category wise and Sex wise Enrolment -All Management in Karnataka**

Class	Social Category	Boys	Girls	Total	% to Total No. of Children		
					Boys	Girls	Total
1 to 7	General	617635	542074	1159709	16.0	15.2	15.6
	SC	753778	697970	1451748	19.6	19.5	19.5
	ST	295944	275794	571738	7.7	7.7	7.7
	OBC (Muslim and Other Minority included)	2186590	2057577	4244167	56.7	57.6	57.1
	Total	3853947	3573415	7427362	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Muslims out of Total	591903	570508	1162411	15.4	16.0	15.7
	Other Minority out of Total	3506	4336	7842	0.1	0.1	0.1
1 to 8	General	711865	626025	1337890	16.3	15.5	15.9
	SC	849012	781906	1630918	19.5	19.4	19.4
	ST	332998	309423	642421	7.6	7.7	7.7
	OBC (Muslim and Other Minority included)	2463628	2320732	4784360	56.5	57.5	57.0
	Total	4357503	4038086	8395589	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Muslims out of Total	656525	636218	1292743	15.1	15.8	15.4
	Other Minority out of Total	3815	4724	8539	0.1	0.1	0.1
1 to 10	General	894649	792127	1686776	17.1	16.4	16.8
	SC	1003574	919833	1923407	19.2	19.0	19.1
	ST	390768	360949	751717	7.5	7.5	7.5
	OBC (Muslim and Other Minority included)	2932538	2767648	5700186	56.2	57.2	56.7
	Total	5221528	4840555	10062083	100.0	100.0	100.0
	Muslims out of Total	761423	746116	1507539	14.6	15.4	15.0
	Other Minority out of Total	4241	5371	9612	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: DISE 2012-13, SSA Karnataka

Over the years the enrolment has decreased marginally in the primary stage due to decline in the growth rate of population, and consequent decline in school going age group (Karnataka Economic Survey –2012-13). The state is making continued efforts for successful completion of schooling at class VII and increasing retention at High School stage. Proportion of boys and girls enrolment in case of SC and ST are almost same.

The following chart compares enrolment percentage with their population percentage. It reveals that proportion of enrolment in class 1-8 and class 1-10 are higher than the proportion of SC and ST population in total population. This indicates that SC and ST children's enrolment is better in the state.

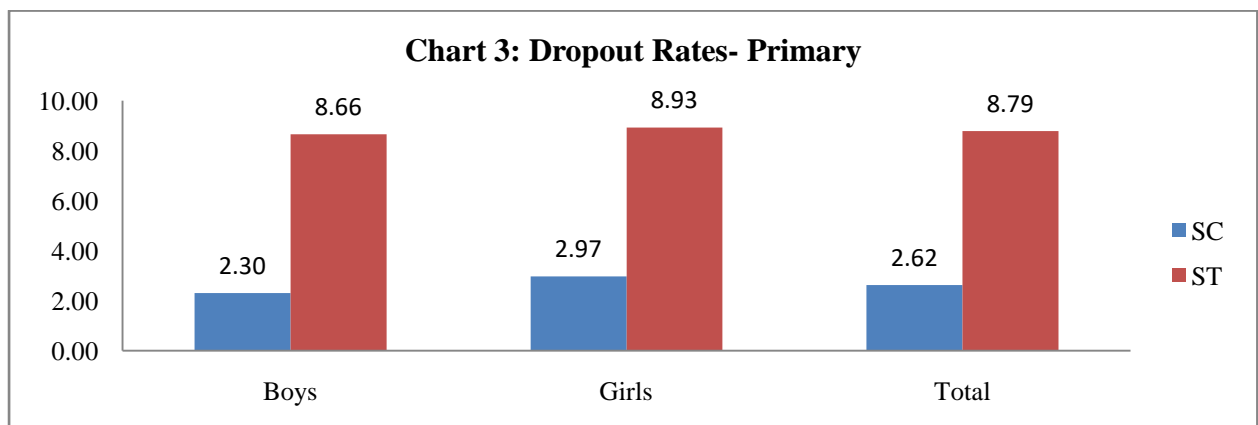


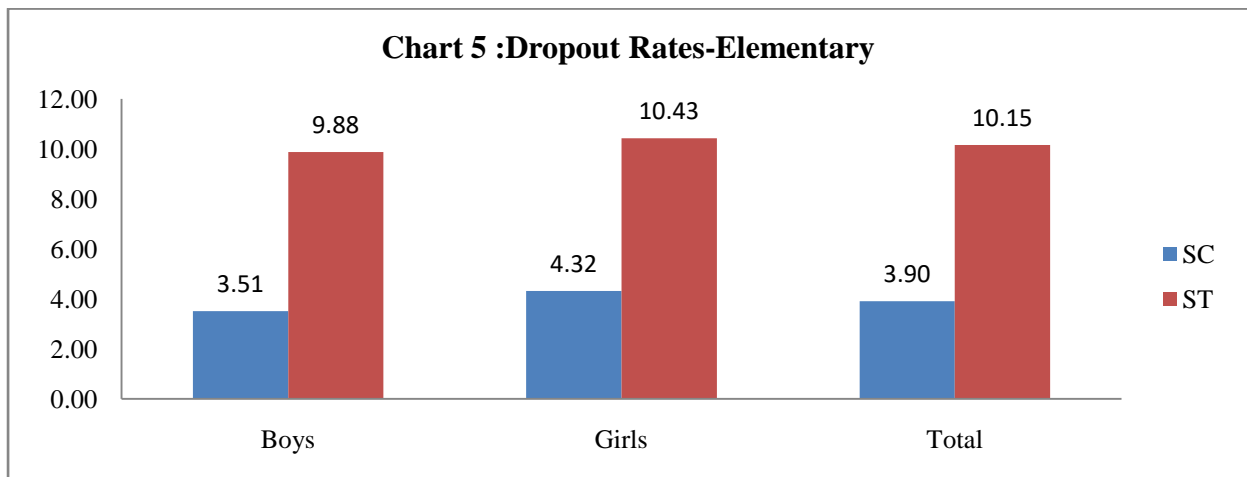
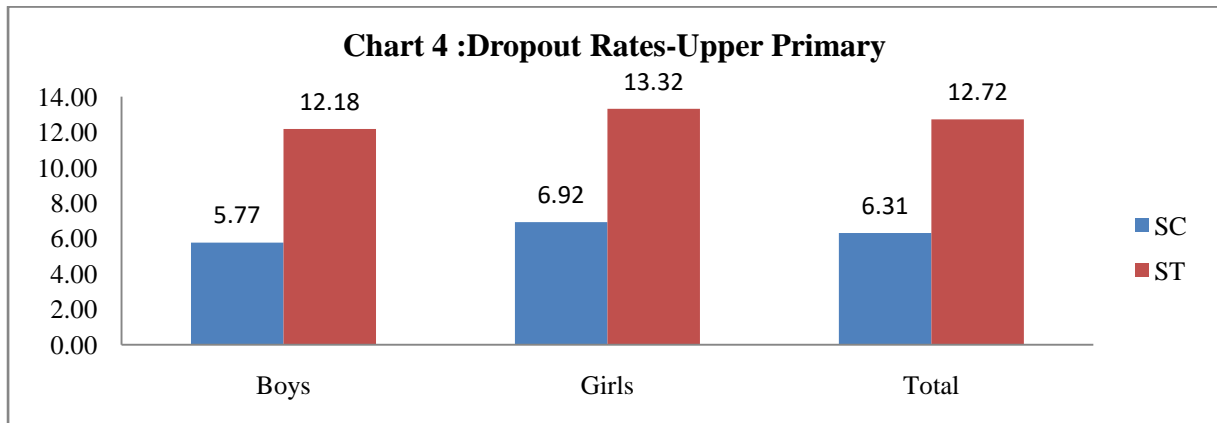
**Table 4: Caste wise Dropout Rates as per DISE 2012-13**

Social Category / Drop Outs	Primary			Upper Primary			Elementary		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
SC	2.3	2.97	2.62	5.77	6.92	6.31	3.51	4.32	3.9
ST	8.66	8.93	8.79	12.18	13.32	12.72	9.88	10.43	10.15
Muslims	3.26	3.3	3.28	7.66	7.66	7.66	4.71	4.78	4.74

Source: DISE 2012-13, SSA Karnataka

It can be observed from graphs below that the dropout rates for STs is higher as compared to the students belonging to the SC category. Within ST again one can find that the dropouts of girl children are higher which would be a cause for concern is. This calls for a closer examination of the issue in greater detail.





### BY WAY OF CONCLUSION

The paper makes a modest attempt in sketching the schemes meant of the students of SCs and STs in the state of Karnataka. Though a direct and causative impact cannot be made between the enrolments dropouts of such children with the schemes, a message does appear that the dropouts in STs are higher. Can we now think about special schemes meant for STs alone in this background? This would go along way in retaining ST students in the schooling system.



**Appendix Tables:**

<b>Primary Education</b>					
Sl.No	Particulars	2008-09	200-10	2010-11	2011-12(A)
<b>1</b>	<b>Free Uniforms,Text Books and School Bags-I to VII Standard (Number in lakhs)</b>				
	a) No.of student provided with Free Uniforms	54.06	51.75	46	57.03
	b) No.of students provided with School Bags	12.15	12.05	11.58	11.12
	C) No.of student provided with Text Books	58.89	55.51	57.19	62.57
<b>2</b>	<b>Akshara Dashoha</b>				
a)	No.of childarn provided with mid -day meal in School - Ito X standard (Number in lakhs)				
	i) Government	55.65	52.05	52.83	53.12
	ii) Aided	13.3	14.68	13.93	9.9
b)	No. of Non -Government organisations involved	112	100	100	100
<b>3</b>	<b>Distribution of Bicycles to student for vIII standard (Number in lakhs)</b>				
	a) No.of Boys	3.41	2.66	2.74	2.72
	b) No.of Girls	3.25	2.66	2.69	2.62
	c) SC	0.3	0.24	1.4	1.45
	d) ST	0.12	0.1	0.6	0.62
<b>4</b>	<b>Reimbursement of Non -Government fee (Numbers in lakhs)</b>				
	a) No.of reimbursement of non-Government fees -vIand vII	14.11	11.8	12.35	10.86
	b) of which SC	6.35	5.31	5.48	3.56
	c) of which ST	0.85	0.71	0.72	1.59

A= Anticipated, Source: Economic Survey of Kamataka 2012-13

<b>Secondary Education</b>					
Sl.No	Particulars	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12(A)
1	a) No.of secondary Schools	11753	12453	13447	13500
	b) No.of Teacher	99106	109503	122401	122500
	c) Enrolment I vIII to X				
	i) Boys	1313252	1341897	1350548	1350600
	ii) Girls	1208792	1236179	1253698	1253720
	iii) Total	2522044	2578076	2604246	2604320
<b>2</b>	<b>Uniforms and Text Books provided for VIII to Xstd.(Number in lakhs)</b>				
	<b>a) Free Uniforms</b>				
	i) Boys	5.35	5.42	6.03	6.2
	ii) Girls	5.44	5.46	4.99	5.18
	iii) Total	10.79	10.88	11.02	11.38
	<b>b) Free Text Books</b>				
	i) Boys	7.68	7.24	7.46	7.58
	ii) Girls	7.72	7.27	7.49	7.59
	iii) Total	15.4	14.51	14.95	15.17
<b>3</b>	<b>Reimbursement of Non-Govt.High Schools (Numbers in lakhs)</b>				
	a) No.of Girls Benefied	5.13	3.55	1.77	1.78
	b) SCs Benefied	2.22	1.53	0.77	0.8
	c) STs Benefied	0.38	0.26	0.13	0.2
	d) Amount Rs.Lakhs	704.22	486.59	328.66	350.68
<b>4</b>	<b>Reimbursement of Examination Fees studying in Xth Standard (Number in lakhs)</b>				
	a) No.of Girls Benefited	1.09	1.14	1.2	1.5
	b) No.of SC Benefited	2.09	2.19	2.23	2.25
	c) No.of STs Benefited	0.69	0.71	0.75	0.9
	d) Amount( Rs. In Lakhs)	429.09	650.77	1053.66	1070.68

A= Anticipated, Source: Economic Survey of Karnataka 2012-13

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