

Universal Secondary Education in India and in Telugu States: Prospects and Challenges

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Nizamia Observatory Campus, Hyderabad
July 2018**

Context

- In the year 2005, Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) committee recommended for universal secondary education by 2015
- Target is universal enrolment, full retention and mastery learning in all kinds of learning tasks by more than 60% learners by 2020.
- RMSA in partnership with State governments seeks to universalize enrolment in grades 9 and 10 across the country.
- The goal is to universalize entry into secondary school by the end of 2017 and achieve universal completion of grade 10 by 2020.
- SDG-4 also contemplate in India “*ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*” by 2030

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- India has made remarkable improvements in enrollment but there are hurdles to achieve the goal of universalization of secondary education
- Special emphasis on the education of women is crucial as it is important for human capital development.
- Disparities across regions, genders, social groups, etc., are other areas of serious concern.
- UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring reports reveal that India is expected to achieve the universalization of secondary education by 2060
- Also reveal, India would be more than half a century late for the 2030 SDGs deadline
- It is suggested that worse-off among the marginalized groups need to be given preference over better-off to achieve equity in education.
- Young Lives panel and longitudinal study, IndiaSpend reports and other studies reveal that there is still large disparity in achievement of basic skills, such as reading and mathematics, where there has been a decline in learning outcomes.

Literacy rates in united A P and at All India

- Literacy rate among 7+ population also play an important role in the universalization of secondary education.
- The literacy rate in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states together was always lower than the All India average (74)
- The combined state of Andhra Pradesh with a person or total literacy rate of 68 is among the four least literate states in India.
- Other three least literate states are Bihar (64), Rajasthan (67) and Jharkhand (68).
- Within Telugu states, Hyderabad (83), and Rangareddy district (76) in TS, West Godavari (75) and Krishna (74) in AP are closure to India
- Rural literacy rates are also disheartening
- Some of the low literate districts such as Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh and erstwhile Mahabubnagar in Telangana are also having relatively high gender differences in literacy rates
- Results flown from the analysis of sex ratio strongly recommend that the rural mandals with child sex ratio less than 950 need special attention
- Adverse child sex ratio will have implications on gender equity and literacy of future generation.

Universalizing secondary education - All India

Data Sources and Methodology

- Study used four rounds of data collected by the NSSO i.e. 50th (1993-94), 61st (2004-05), 66th (2009-10) and 68th round (2011-12).
- Data used relate to never attended, drop-out, currently attending and educational levels of children in the specified age groups.
- This will facilitate to estimate trend growth rates along with its precision levels and estimate their values for the specified future years.
- Study used Probit model to find out the factors impacting the secondary completion rates by location and by different social groups.
- We confined to the age groups 14-15 years and 16-17 years at all India.
- **Probit model**
- $Y = a + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + \dots + b_nx_n + e$
- Where $Y=1$, if the student completes secondary education, and $= 0$ otherwise
- X_1 = father's education; X_2 = mother's education; X_3 = share of education expenditure in total expenditure; X_4 = enrolment in government school=1, and =0 otherwise and e = error term

Net Enrolment Rates (NER) in the age group 14-15 and 16-17 years at all India

- Net enrolment rate is the number of pupils who are enrolled in school as a percentage of the total children of the specified age group of population.
- NER in the age group 14-15 years reveals an increase from 32.2 in 1993-94 to 51.7 by 2011-12 and trend growth rate is 2.7 and it is significant.
- At this growth rate of 2.7, we expect that only 62.1% of children in the age group of 14-15 years would be enrolled in the educational institutions by 2020
- Around three fourths of the children from economically rich households (top quintile) and 55% of poor households (bottom quintile) would be net enrolled in schools by 2020
- However, projected values for 2020 shows that the difference between OCs and other marginalized groups is narrowing down
- We should note that given the rate of growth, 100% net enrolment of children (net completion) in the age group 14-15 years would be achieved only by 2038.
- In the age group 16-17 years, at all India, around 30% of the children alone are enrolled in schools in 1993-94 and it increased to 39.1% by 2011-12 with a growth rate of 1.1%
- At this rate of growth, 41.5% of children in age group 16-17 years alone would be enrolled in schools by 2020.
- Children from poor households and ST households are the most deprived ones and they need special attention.
- It will take 80 years beyond 2020, to achieve 100% net enrolment in the age group 16-17 years.

Never enrolled and dropouts

- Taking the clue from the previous years, it is estimated that by 2020, around 2.2% of children in the age group 14-15 years would be never enrolled.
- There are huge differences in the never enrolled between children from poor and rich households.
- Similar results hold-good in case of children aged 16-17 years. More percent of girls compared to boys are likely to be never enrolled.
- It is true that there is a drastic decline in the dropout rates among the school going children in the age groups 14-15 and 16-17 years
- Given the trend, nearly one tenths of children aged 14-15 years would be dropping out by 2020 which would be a hurdle in achieving the universalization of secondary education.
- In case of children in the age group 16 -17 years, around one fourths are likely to be dropped out of school by 2020
- We also observed gender differences and differences between poor and rich, and between social groups in school dropouts.

Secondary completion rates by 17 years (SCR17) at All India

- We expect all children to complete secondary level by the time they reach the age of 17 years.
- SCR of children at the age 17 years indicates an increase from around 40.0 in 1993-94 to 63.1 in 2011-12 with a trend growth rate of 2.6
- At this rate, we expect that about 72.5 % of the 17 year old children would be completing secondary level by 2020.
- SCR of girls is higher than that of the SCR of boys in the urban areas and it is simply the reverse in the case of rural areas and the same holds across all the social groups
- SCR of children in the rich households reaches 100 by the year 2019 whereas the picture is gloomy in the case of the children belonging to the poorer households.
- Overall, it will take 13 years beyond 2020, to achieve 100% in secondary completion rates of 17-year-olds.
- Children from poor households would achieve 100% only by 2039 and children from ST households by 2038.

Determinants of Secondary Completion Rates (SCR17)

- Salient findings emerged through Probit analysis are as follows
- Father's and mother's education have significant positive impact on the SCR of OC children whereas it has no impact on SC and STs.
- Share of household expenditure on education of children has significant positive impact on the SCRs of all the OC children and all the SC children (except urban boys) and on ST urban boys only.
- Per capita monthly consumer expenditure has significant positive impact on the SCRs of all the OC children only.
- SCR of the children studying in government and private aided schools is significantly higher than the SCR of children studying in private un-aided schools in some categories.
- There are no significant differences in all the other cases.

Prospects of universalizing the secondary education in Telugu states

- We used NSSO data, Young Lives panel data and other related studies conducted in CESS to assess the prospects in Telugu states
- Due to time constraint, we used 50th and 68th rounds of NSSO, that too for net enrolment of 6-14 years.
- NSSO data reveals that there is substantial improvement in the net enrolment rates in both the states i.e. Telangana and new Andhra Pradesh.
- For instance, in **Telangana**, NER was 52% in 1993-94 and increased to 78% in 2011-12 registering a growth rate of 2.2%.
- At this rate, NER of 6-14 years would be 95% by 2020.
- Within the state, erstwhile Hyderabad, followed by Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal and Adilabad are laggard districts by 2020 and there is need to pay attention on these erstwhile districts.
- We observed substantial improvement in enrolment by 2011-12 in most laggard districts such as erstwhile Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda and these districts would likely to achieve 100% enrolment before 2020.
- But one should be cautious in the interpretation because it is due to higher growth rate owing to low base value.
- Telangana state will achieve 100% enrolment of children aged 6-14 years by 2022 at this growth rate, erstwhile Karimnagar by 2049 and Hyderabad not in the near future even in case of 6-14 years.

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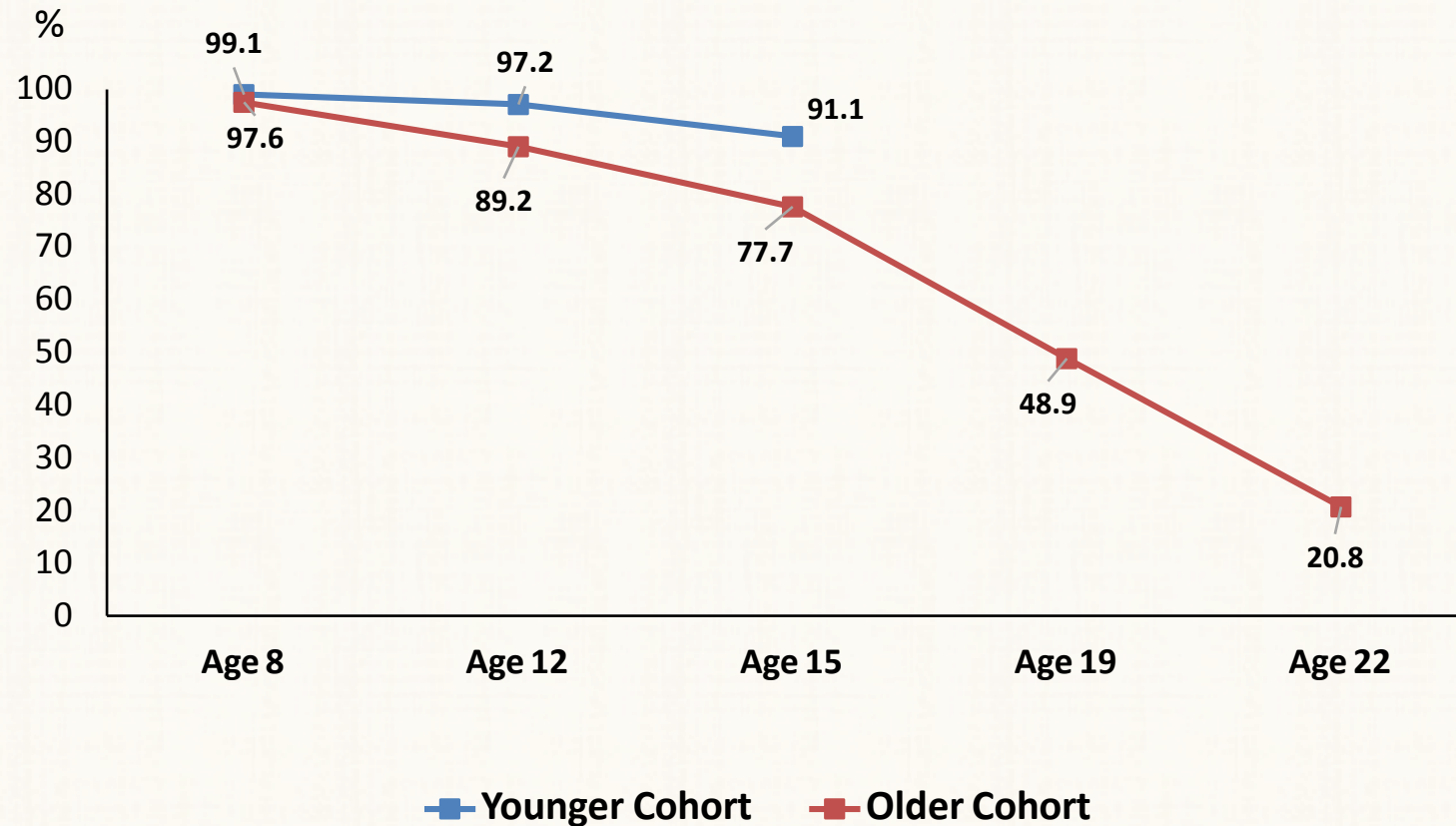
- In case of **new Andhra Pradesh**, like Telangana, 95% of the children in the age group 6-14 years are likely to be enrolled by 2020
- An increase of 41 percentage points over 1993-94.
- You are all aware that dropout rates will be much higher in the age group 16-17 years
- The state of Andhra Pradesh would achieve 100% NER by 2023
- Visakhapatnam district will achieve 100% NER by 2059
- Kadapa district will achieve 100% enrolment in the age group 6-14 only by 2036 and Srikakulam by 2030.
- There is need to concentrate on these laggard districts to achieve the goal of universalization of secondary education in near future.

What does the Young Lives longitudinal panel study reveal?

- Young Lives is a longitudinal panel study in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana following 3000 children – (2000 younger cohort and 1000 older cohort) and their households since 2002
- In 2002, Younger cohort were 1 year old and older cohort – 8 year old
- Five rounds of data collection completed by 2016 and by 2016, younger cohort were 15-year-olds and older cohort were 22-year-olds
- This panel study enables us to compare 15-year-olds in 2016 (YC) with 15-year-olds of older cohort in 2009, on all important parameters including education – i.e. changes that had happened in a 7 year time for the same age children
- Overall, 91% in AP and 92% in TS were in school at age 15. There is a substantial improvement in the enrolment of 15-year-olds in both the states compared to the same age in 2009.
- 79% of 15-year-olds were enrolled as on 2009 in A P as against 76% in TS
- We find greater increase in enrolment in Telangana and differences between socio-economic groups continue to exist

Enrolment Across Time

Enrolment at Different Ages by Cohorts



Source: OC and YC Children, Young Lives Longitudinal Survey (2002 – 2016)

What about Learning outcomes?

- The target is universal enrolment in secondary education, full retention and mastery learning in all kinds of learning tasks by more than 60% learners by 2020.
- Young Lives study facilitate comparison of learning outcomes as we posed same comparable questions for 15-year-olds in 2009 and in 2016
- The questions include: additions (with decimals); reading a pie chart and approximating annual sales from weekly data.
- Results reveal that a quarter of the 15-year-olds did not answer any comparable questions correctly in both the states, more so, in Telangana either in 2009 or in 2016.
- Around 12% of the students answered all the comparable questions correctly in 2009 and only 10% in 2016 i.e. a two percentage points decline in the performance.
- The decline in learning outcomes in Telangana is much more (4.5 percentage points) compared to A P.
- There are huge socio-economic differences in the learning achievement and it is true in both the states.
- Thus, both the states are far away from the contemplated target in terms of learning achievement though some sections are better placed in enrolment.

What the recent survey on out of school children in Telangana by CESS reveal?

- We conducted a survey in 2018 covering 3357 households spread over in the four newly formed districts in the state of Telangana.
- Out of 3357 listed, 1949 households reported the presence of 6-16-year-old children.
- The main objective of the study is to estimate the out of school children (OoSC) i.e. never enrolled plus dropouts and assess the reasons for out of school.
- The results reveal that 17% of households which have 6-16-year-olds reported presence of out of school children that comprise of 14% as dropouts and 3% as never enrolled in the state of Telangana
- It varies across districts and within the social groups, STs recorded the highest with 18.8% of OoSC, followed by BCs (16%), SCs (15%) and OCs (14%).
- Among the dropouts, overall, 41% of the children aged 6-16-years are dropping out in the primary classes (i.e. up to grade-5). Another 42% dropping out in the elementary classes (i.e. grades-6, 7 and 8), and 16.6% in the secondary and higher secondary classes (i.e. grades-9, 10 and 11).
- On an average, these children have completed only grade-6.
- Given the trend, universalization of secondary education is a distant dream and we have to work on a mission mode to achieve this.

Summary and Conclusions

- Government of India's target is universal secondary school enrolment, full retention and mastery learning in all kinds of learning tasks by more than 60% learners by 2020.
- RMSA in partnership with state governments working in this direction (grades 9 and 10) across the country.
- SDG also contemplate to ensure *inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all* in India by 2030.
- But the literature shows wide disparities in enrolment and in learning levels across socio-economic groups and expressing concern on the possibilities of achieving universalization of secondary education.
- Results show that only 62% of children in the age group 14-15 years would be enrolled by 2020 and given the trend, 100% NER would be achieved only by 2038
- Similarly, it will take 80 years beyond 2020, to achieve 100% net enrolment of children in the age group 16-17 years.
- Parental education and the share of expenditure on education are some of the factors that are determining the completion rates.
- From this perspective, we note that universalizing secondary education is only a distant dream.

- Telangana state will achieve 100% enrolment of children aged 6-14 years only by 2022 and new Andhra Pradesh by 2023.
- Young lives, a panel and inter cohort study shows an increase of 11 percentage points in enrolment of 15-year-olds from 2009 to 2016, i.e. around 91% of 15-year-olds were in schools in 2016.
- It is by and large true in both the states.
- In case of 6-16-years-old, the out of school children are around 17% in Telangana as per the research report 2018, and the average grade completed by those dropped out is only grade-6.
- All these show that universalizing the secondary education in Telugu states is also a distant dream.
- Apart from the enrolment, the learning levels in both the states are declining which is a major concern that needs the attention of the policy makers.



THANK YOU

Think Twice