

GIRLS' EDUCATION IN INDIA

FACTSHEET

60+
MILLION



children are out of school in India.¹

#1

the highest number
of out of school
children of any
country in the world.

IN INDIA



2X

Girls are twice
as likely as boys
to have less than
4 years of
schooling.²



NEARLY

40%

of adolescent girls
aged 15-18 are
not attending
any educational
institution.³



30%

of girls from the
poorest families
have never
set foot inside
a classroom.⁴

OF ALL BOYS AND GIRLS IN INDIA:



25%

of boys and girls
are unable to read
Std 2 level text⁵



36%
GIRLS

38%
BOYS

are unable to read
words in English.⁶



42%
GIRLS

39%
BOYS

are unable to do
basic subtraction
arithmetic.⁷



Centre for Budget
and Policy Studies



Purva Bharati Educational Trust
To Seek to Serve and not to Yield

A FULL CYCLE OF QUALITY EDUCATION



India's Right to Education Act 2009 guarantees every child between the ages of 6 and 14 the right to free and compulsory schooling. However, the act is not widely implemented, with rate of compliance as low as 9% across India.⁸ What's more, it excludes secondary school children between 15 and 18 years of age, leaving many children, and girls in particular, without the education they need to build a better future for their families, communities and country.

Many of those who are able to access schools leave without the knowledge and skills they need to enter the labour markets. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) data shows secondary school children's foundational reading and math abilities are poor. Average achievement scores of Class V students have declined in all subjects between 2011 and 2014.⁹

This is partly down to a shortage of trained teachers. Data shows 17.5% of elementary and 14.8% of secondary teaching posts are vacant.¹⁰ What's more, only 70% of teachers at primary level are adequately trained and qualified.¹¹

India's education system is critically under-resourced, with the Government only spending 2.7% of GDP on education (2015-16).¹² This represents a drop from 3.1% in 2012-13. Spending remains significantly below the 2015 Incheon Declaration¹³ and Kothari Commission¹⁴ recommendations of allocating at least 6% of GDP to education.

THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATING ALL GIRLS UP TO CLASS XII

EMPLOYMENT



- Education, particularly formal secondary education, is the most effective way to develop the skills needed for work and life. As such, it is widely considered one of the best investments to expand prospects of skilled and adequately paid employment.¹⁵
- Those with access to quality senior secondary education are significantly less likely than workers with only a lower secondary education to be in vulnerable employment or to work informally without a contract or social benefits.¹⁶

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Quality education can counteract the social factors that hinder women's labour market participation. Earnings increase by approximately 10% for each additional year of schooling¹⁷ - meaning that education not only helps to grow the economy but also fights poverty.
- Increasing the share of girls completing secondary education by 1% increases economic growth by 0.3%.¹⁸



EMPOWERMENT



- Education serves as an important tool to empower women and girls, and is one of the most powerful investments to prevent child marriage and early pregnancy. With each year of secondary education reduces the likelihood of marrying as a child before the age of 18 by five percentage points.¹⁹



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **REVERSE** declining expenditure on education by increasing expenditure to at least 6% of GDP, with specific allocations dedicated to senior secondary education.
- **EXTEND** the of RTE Act to include higher secondary education for children up to 18 years.
- **IMPROVE** education outcomes of children, and girls in particular, by reducing the shortage of trained and qualified teachers at all levels of the school system.

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