Some Statistical Aspects of Major Operational Incentive Schemes in Indian Schools

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Abstract

This paper considers some statistical aspects of major operational incentive schemes prevailing to attract children in the Indian schools. Attempts have been made to analyse the availability of major incentive schemes in the schools, such as schemes on free uniforms, free textbooks, attendance scholarship for girls, mid-day meals at primary stage in the country. The present paper is based mainly on secondary data on school education collected during Seventh All India School Education Survey conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training under administrative and financial control of Government of India.

Introduction

The success of democracy depends on the growth of a spirit of cooperation, disciplined citizenship and the capacity of ordinary citizens to participate intelligently in the public affairs. Prior to Independence in 1947, the colonial regime established a system of education that was accessible to only few people and hence masses were denied of education in India. It gave greater emphasis on conformism to socioeconomic and political system

established during those times. Lord McCauley (founder of educational system under British regime) explicitly stated that the objective of educational system was to create a new breed of the Indians as similar to Europeans as possible. It was on this account that the Indian National Movement developed a strong critique of the British System that only imparted *Learning Skills* and not *Life Skills*. To achieve it, the Indian Constitution had required that within

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10 years of its commencement, free and compulsory education should be provided to all children up to the age of 14 years (Singh, 2004).

Proposals for educational reform generally focus on teachers and curricula. But the most important factor in education may be the student himself or herself. A growing number of states in India and elsewhere have established programmes that provide financial rewards in the form of merit scholarships to students who perform well academically. However, such programmes are controversial with some educators, and the structure of many existing programmes in the states makes it difficult to evaluate rigorously the impact of such incentive programmes because it is hard to identify for comparison a credible group of students who were not eligible for the programme. On the other hand, the low-income families or economically weaker section of the society leave their children feeling isolated, and do not send their children to the school mainly due to economic reasons. Many parents worry from one term to another about how they will afford the cost of next year's schooling and hate having to tell their children that they cannot afford an extracurricular activity. The economic situations of such families who simply can't meet the costs of sending their children to school has received considerable attention, and accordingly the public authorities, being conscious of the situation and considering such

economic deprivations as impediments to implementation of educational policies and programmes at the grassroots level, have made some landmark provisions through providing incentive schemes/programmes, and evolving mechanism for proper operation thereof in the schools.

Major Operational Incentive Schemes: A Brief Resume

Despite constitutional efforts at free and compulsory elementary education, several states but not all [12 States and 4 Union Territories] in India have enacted legislation for free and compulsory primary education stage. All States have exempted children from tuition fees up to upper primary classes. However, it will be required to remodel the education system at elementary level in regard to the education as a fundamental right of children in the light of constitutional amendment, and accordingly the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (Education for All) programme has been initiated in the mission mode in recent past in the country to ensure that all children are enrolled in the schools. It has also paid special attention to several incentive schemes including free uniforms, free textbooks, scholarships, mid-day meals, etc.

The Indian States/UTs have introduced a number of incentive schemes including scholarships to attract children in the schools and achieve gender equality¹. Some of these major incentive schemes are listed hereunder:

^{1.} Based on compilation from various websites of the State Governments in India, and an unpublished report titled "Seventh All India School Education Survey: State Policies and Practices on School Education" developed by the Department of Educational Surveys and Data Processing, National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi.

- 1. All students from Class I to V in government primary schools are served mid-day meals in various forms.
- 2. Free supply of uniforms and textbooks to students based on parental income, social groups (SC/ST/OBC etc.), and other relevant criteria, namely, students who have secured 75% of attendance during the preceding academic year with satisfactory performance).
- 3. Distribution of free textbooks to the children of certain disadvantaged social groups (SC/ST/OBC etc.), and all girls under *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA).
- 4. Free transport facility to girl students in rural areas to pursue their studies.
- 5. IRDP scholarships to all children of families living below poverty line.
- 6. Scholarships to all children of SC/ ST/OBC and general category students.
- 7. Girl attendance scholarships to boost attendance of girls in schools.

Materials and Methods

Keeping in view the importance of incentive schemes as described in preceding paragraphs, the All India Educational Surveys have been enumerating information on various aspects of the incentive schemes. Besides, the most recently conducted seventh survey (in year 2002) has assessed the availability of incentive schemes and beneficiaries in the schools covering incentive schemes on free uniforms, free textbooks, supply of free textbooks, attendance scholarship for girls and beneficiaries thereof, respectively including mid-day meals and types thereof at primary stage in the country. The present paper is based mainly on the secondary data on school education collected during sixth survey and seventh survey [NCERT (1998) and NCERT (2007)].

This paper will provide an analytical overview and discuss in the ensuing paragraphs keeping in view the impact of incentive schemes in school education on some of the prominent and major incentive schemes and beneficiaries thereof enrolled in the schools for all communities, which are further being segregated by social groups, namely, scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) including educationally backward minority community (Muslims) in the country (NCERT, 2007). The data are processed and analyzed by simple statistical approach to have better understanding in uncomplicated terms as well as to provide the directions on incentive schemes operating in the schools that are taking place in recent years in India.

Results and Discussions

We shall, now, present our major findings regarding the incentive schemes, beneficiaries and temporal comparisons thereof on above-captioned key parameters associated with operating incentive schemes in school education in the country. It will certainly provide the necessary areas of intervention to be undertaken by the public authorities concerned in this regard. For convenience, the major findings of incentive schemes on free uniforms, free textbooks, supply of free textbooks, attendance scholarship for Some Statistical Aspects of Major Operational Incentive...

girls and mid-day meals are considered by area (rural and urban) and school category (primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary) as given hereunder in five parts.

Part I: Free Uniforms

The children of weaker section of the society do not attend the schools mainly due to lack of suitable clothing for going to school. In this regard, Table 1 provides information about number of schools by area and by school category having the scheme, and number of beneficiaries by social group and by sex in the country.

The seventh survey reveals that out of 10, 30,996 schools in the country, 2, 40,778 (23.35%) schools have incentive scheme of free uniforms in the country. The total number of beneficiaries is 2, 03, 33,930 children (10.09%) consisting of 7.79 per cent boys and 12.87 per cent girls, respectively in the country. These figures on beneficiaries of free uniform scheme by social group comes around 14.50 per cent for SC, 14.61 percent for ST, 8.40 per cent for EBMC including 8.40 per cent for others, respectively.

Area-wise, this distribution of beneficiary of free uniforms for all communities is found on higher side in rural area (10.99 %) as compared to urban area (8.03 %) in the country. The proportion of SC and EBMC beneficiaries are having a very marginal difference in rural and urban areas in terms of per cent points, whereas the ST beneficiaries of free uniforms are found higher in rural area (13.70%) as compared to urban area (5.12%).

During sixth survey, incentive scheme for free uniform has been available to 2,307,45 schools thereby it reflects a longitudinal growth of 4.35 per cent over a period of nearly one decade that is at the time of seventh survey. Besides, the number of beneficiary students of this scheme has been reported 84,98,982 students, and in that way it has provided a growth of 139.25 per cent points in the country.

The information in regard to schools having incentive schemes of free uniforms and number of beneficiaries by area and school category are presented in the succeeding paragraphs.

Primary Schools

As per the seventh survey, out of 6, 51,064 primary schools 1, 65,242 schools (25.38 %) provide free uniform incentive scheme to the students in the country. Around 96,76,566 students (11.96 %) have been beneficiaries of free uniform scheme in primary schools, and this distribution by sex has been 8.03 per cent for boys and 16.33 per cent for girls, respectively. By social group, the beneficiaries of free uniform scheme have been 15.24 per cent for SC, 13.74 per cent for ST, 8.86 per cent for EBMC including 11.08 per cent for others, respectively. The proportion of schools having this scheme in rural area is 25.87 per cent as against 21.79 per cent in urban area. In primary schools, the distribution of beneficiary of free uniforms for all communities is found on lower side for rural area (11.44%) as compared to urban area (14.34%) in the country. The proportion of EBMC beneficiaries of free uniform scheme for primary schools is found lowest in terms of per cent points (8.86%) as compared to other social groups in the country.

						Numl	Number of Beneficiaries	res		
		Total	Schools				Educationally		To	Total
Categories of School	Area	Number of Schools	Having the Scheme	All Communities	Schedule Castes	Schedule Tribes	Backward Minority Community (Muslims)	Others	Boys	Girls
1	7	З	4	ß	9	7	8	6	10	11
	Rural	5,72,814	1,48,191	75,74,741	23,95,205	9,89,103	8,53,558	33,36,875	25,21,569	50,53,172
			(25.87)	(11.44)	(14.48)	(13.99)	(8.26)	(10.33)	(7.22)	(16.14)
Daimont	Urban	78,250	17,051	21,01,825	5,77,013	54,095	3,42,606	11,28,111	8,95,673	12,06,152
FIIIId			(21.79)	(14.34)	(19.43)	(10.38)	(10.83)	(14.09)	(11.72)	(17.19)
	Total	6, 51, 064	1,65,242	96,76,566	29,72,218	10,43,198	11,96,164	44,64,986	34,17,242	62,59,324
			(25.38)	(11.96)	(15.24)	(13.74)	(8.86)	(11.08)	(8.03)	(16.33)
	Rural	1,93,947	52,491	63,41,741	14, 15, 927	9,89,733	5,31,000	34,05,081	31,32,781	32,08,960
			(27.06)	(16.15)	(20.92)	(21.58)	(12.50)	(14.40)	(14.34)	(18.43)
Upper	Urban	51,375	8,568	19,12,511	5,08,933	1, 14, 249	4,26,670	8,62,659	9,14,010	9,98,501
Primary			(16.68)	(12.77)	(20.86)	(16.43)	(14.58)	(9.67)	(11.37)	(14.39)
	Total	2,45,322	61,059	82,54,252	19,24,860	11,03,982	9,57,670	42,67,740	40,46,791	42,07,461
			(24.89)	(15.22)	(20.90)	(20.91)	(13.35)	(13.10)	(13.54)	(17.27)
	Rural	63,576	7,233	9,20,819	2,56,665	1,83,685	71,025	4,09,444	4,06,555	5, 14, 264
			(11.38)	(4.82)	(7.56)	(10.98)	(3.50)	(3.41)	(3.75)	(6.23)
Cecondomy	Urban	27,165	2,094	3,14,077	1,08,190	15,937	42,687	1,47,263	1,26,554	1, 87, 523
accounded			(7.71)	(2.82)	(7.31)	(3.39)	(2.76)	(1.93)	(2.16)	(3.55)
	Total	90,741	9,327	12,34,896	3,64,855	1,99,622	1, 13, 712	5,56,707	5, 33, 109	7,01,787
			(10.28)	(4.08)	(7.49)	(9.32)	(3.18)	(2.83)	(3.19)	(5.18)
	Rural	22,847	2,541	5,92,156	1,98,315	48,537	41,583	3,03,721	3,08,784	2,83,372
			(11.12)	(3.75)	(7.06)	(5.16)	(2.41)	(2.94)	(3.17)	(4.67)
Higher	Urban	21,022	2,609	5,76,060	1,95,390	17,273	76,857	2,86,540	2,72,986	3,03,074
Secondary			(12.41)	(2.84)	(7.54)	(3.07)	(3.16)	(1.95)	(2.44)	(3.34)
	Total	43,869	5,150	11,68,216	3,93,705	65,810	1, 18, 440	5,90,261	5,81,770	5,86,446
			(11.74)	(3.24)	(7.29)	(4.38)	(2.85)	(2.36)	(2.78)	(3.87)
i										

Schools having Incentive Scheme of Free Uniforms and Number of Beneficiaries, 2002 Table 1

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Note: Figures within parentheses indicate percentage with respect to total number of enrolment in respective categories.

Upper Primary Schools

There are 2,45,322 upper primary schools in the country, of which 61,059 upper primary schools (24.89 per cent) give free uniforms to 82,54,252 students (15.22 per cent) that is distributed among 13.54 per cent boys and 17.27 percent girls in the country, respectively. Further, among these beneficiaries, the free uniform incentive scheme has covered 20.90 per cent SC, 20.91 per cent ST, 13.35 per cent EBMC including 13.10 per cent others, respectively. Among the beneficiaries, 16.15 per cent are studying in rural area and this proportion is comparatively on higher side as compared to 12.77 per cent in urban area. The distribution of beneficiaries of free uniforms for SC and ST are found nearly 20.90 per cent for both social groups, respectively as compared to other social groups in the seventh survey.

Secondary Schools

The incentive scheme of giving free uniforms to students is available in 9,327 secondary schools (10.28%) in the country, thereby 12,34,896 students (4.08%) have been covered under free uniform scheme. In secondary schools, 3.19 per cent boys and 5.18 per cent girls are covered under this scheme at the time of seventh survey. The beneficiaries of free uniform scheme studying in the secondary schools belong to 7.49 per cent SC, 9.32 per cent ST, 3.18 per cent EBMC including 2.83 per cent for others, respectively. The proportion of schools having this scheme in rural area is 11.38 per cent as against 7.71 per cent in urban area. In secondary schools, the distribution of beneficiary of free uniforms for all communities is found on higher side for rural area (4.82%) as compared to urban area (2.82%) in the country. The EBMC beneficiary of free uniform scheme in secondary schools is found lowest in terms of per cent points (3.18%) as compared to other social groups in the country. The proportion of secondary schools having this scheme is relatively higher in rural area (11.38%) as against in urban area (7.71%). In secondary schools, 12,34,896 students (4.08%) are the beneficiaries of free uniforms for all communities, and those are also found on higher side in rural area (4.82%) as compared to urban area (2.82%) in the country.

Higher Secondary Schools

At the time of seventh survey, the distribution of free uniforms to 11,68,216 students (3.24%) as an incentive scheme are available in 5,150 higher secondary schools (11.74%) covering 2.78 per cent boys and 3.87 per cent girls, respectively in the country. By social group, the beneficiaries of free uniform scheme pertains to 7.29 per cent SC, 4.38 per cent ST, 2.85 per cent EBMC including 2.36 per cent for others, respectively. The EBMC beneficiary of free uniform scheme in higher secondary schools is found lowest in terms of percent points (2.85%) as compared to other social groups in the country. The proportion of higher secondary schools having this scheme is relatively higher in urban area (12.41%) as against in rural area (11.12%). In higher secondary schools, 11,68,216 students are the beneficiaries of free uniforms for all communities,

and are found on higher side in rural area (3.75%) as compared to urban area (2.84%) in the country.

Part II: Free Textbooks

In a bid to encourage the student community, and thereby to achieve the millennium development goals on education for all, the incentive of free textbooks scheme are undertaken by several states/UTs Governments as a policy measure despite huge financial constraints in the country. The incentive scheme of free textbooks and its distribution to students is primarily given to attract children to schools, and to retain them there by the public authorities. Table 2 provides information about number of schools by area and school category having the scheme, and number of beneficiaries by social groups and sex in the country.

It is revealed by the seventh survey data that out of 10,30,996 schools in the country, 6,84,742 schools (66.42%) have free textbooks scheme covering nearly 7,86,36,584 students (39.03%) consisting of 35.71 per cent boys and 43.04 per cent girls, respectively. Based on social stratification, these figures for beneficiary students of free textbooks have come around 56.43 per cent for SC, 51.33 per cent for ST, 36.17 per cent for EBMC including 32.23 per cent for others, respectively.

The free textbooks incentive scheme by area for all communities is found on higher side in rural area (46.45%) as compared to urban area (21.97%) in the country. The proportion of SC beneficiary students has been highest (62.75%), followed by ST (48.63%) and EBMC (42.41%) in rural area, and these proportions in rural area are almost 18 to 20 per cent points higher than in urban area with respect to the social stratification of communities in the

country. As compared to sixth survey, the free textbooks incentive scheme to students has been available in 4,32,568 schools, thus longitudinally it provides a growth of 58.30 per cent over a period from 1993 to 2002. In addition, the number of beneficiary students of this scheme has been reported 1,77,94,631 students in sixth survey, and in that way the seventh survey reflects a growth of 341.91 per cent points in the country.

The free textbook scheme and number of beneficiaries based on the seventh survey data by area and school category are presented in the succeeding paragraphs.

Primary Schools

The seventh survey database records that 4,94,717 primary schools (75.99%) have free textbooks incentive scheme for the students, and this scheme covered nearly 4,83,02,182 students (59.71%) befitting to 56.39 per cent boys and 63.38 per cent girls enrolled in primary schools in the country. Based on social stratification of the communities as adopted in the survey, the beneficiaries of free textbooks scheme have been 75.20 per cent for SC, 62.93 per cent for ST, 53.33 per cent for EBMC including 53.73 per cent for others. Area-wise the proportion of primary schools having scheme in rural area is 79.02 per cent as against 53.79 per cent in urban area. The distribution of beneficiaries of free textbooks for all communities is found higher in rural

							Nur	Number of Beneficiaries	iaries		
			Total	Schools				Educationally		Tot	tal
	Categories of School		Number of Schools	Having the Scheme	All Communities	Schedule Castes	Schedule Tribes	Backward Minority Community (Muslims)	Others	Boys	Girls
Rural $5,72,814$ $4,52,629$ $4,17,24,731$ $1,29,95,141$ $45,47,756$ $58,77,782$ $1,83,04,052$ $2,07,80,946$ $2Urban78,250(62.99)(78,57)(78,57)(78,57)(79,02)(56,57)(59,50)(55,57)(59,50)(59,50)(59,50)(55,57)(42,21)(42,21)(42,21)(41,09)(41,29)(41,29)(42,21)$	1	2	3	4	5	9	7	8	6	10	11
		Rural	5,72,814	4,52,629	4,17,24,731	1,29,95,141	45,47,756	58,77,782	1,83,04,052	2,07,80,946	2,09,43,785
				(79.02)	(62.99)	(78.57)	(64.32)	(56.90)	(56.67)	(59.50)	(66.88)
(53.79)(43.87)(56.41)(44.09)(41.67)(41.90)(42.21)Total(5,1,0644,94,7174,83,02,1821,46,70,5547,77,61471,96,0602,16,57,9542,40,06,0402Total(75.99)(55.71)(75.20)(62.93)(53.33)(53.73)(56.39)2Rural1,93,9471,72,8151,72,66,47036,30,15925,51,27613,07,7359,777,30087,78,8212Lurban51,37516,55142,57,0239,774,4192,60,5708,30,47121,88,5631,00,19)2Lurban51,37516,55142,57,0239,774,4192,60,5708,30,47121,88,5631,08,50,1882Lurban51,37516,55142,57,0239,774,4192,60,5708,30,47121,88,5631,08,50,1881Lurban2,45,3221,39,3665,10,322130,78346,07,57828,11,84621,33,2061,19,65,8631,08,50,1881Lurban2,45521,30,50913,74728,33912,87,6301,08,793122,77,9372Lurban27,16529,31812,5732130,75312,5732130,753136,791121Lurban27,16528,417311,5733135,7323135,7323135,7323222227Lurban27,16325,6431,57,53223,77323135,73331222273Lurban<		Urban	78,250	42,088	65,77,451	16,75,413	2,29,858	13, 18, 278	33,53,902	32,25,094	33,52,357
	Frindery			(53.79)	(44.87)	(56.41)	(44.09)	(41.67)	(41.90)	(42.21)	(47.76)
m(75.99)(59.71)(75.20)(62.93)(53.33)(53.73)(56.39)(56.39)Rural1,93,9471,22,8151,72,66,47036,30,15925,51,27613,07,73597,77,30087,78,8218Urban51,37516,55142,57,0239,77,4192,60,5708,30,47121,88,56320,71,3672Urban51,37516,55142,57,0239,77,4192,60,5708,30,47121,88,56320,71,3672Urban51,37516,551(40.07)(37.47)(38.38)(24.54)(30.50,1881Urban51,37629,39844,37,12812,74,8685,12,3244,32,64122,17,29525,677982Rural63,57629,39844,37,12812,74,8685,12,3244,32,64122,17,29525,677982Urban27,1656,80312,74,8685,12,3244,32,64122,17,29525,77,9372Urban27,1656,80312,74,8685,12,3244,32,64122,17,29525,77,9372Urban27,1656,80312,74,6416,61,3215,86,2136,28,2136,28,2136,31,7225,77,9372Urban27,1656,803115,69316,61,3215,86,2136,28,21328,49,01728,45,7352Urban27,1656,803115,739(12,613)(15,73)(12,658)7,84,7929,75,161Urban27,1736,2476,11,3215,86,2136,28,213 </td <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td>6,51,064</td> <td>4,94,717</td> <td></td> <td>1,46,70,554</td> <td>47,77,614</td> <td>71,96,060</td> <td>2,16,57,954</td> <td>2,40,06,040</td> <td>2,42,96,142</td>		Total	6,51,064	4,94,717		1,46,70,554	47,77,614	71,96,060	2,16,57,954	2,40,06,040	2,42,96,142
Rural $1,93,947$ $1,22,815$ $1,72,66,470$ $36,30,159$ $25,51,276$ $13,07,735$ $97,77,300$ $87,78,821$ $87,78,821$ $87,78,821$ $87,78,821$ $87,78,821$ $87,78,821$ $87,78,821$ $87,78,821$ $81,71,800$ $87,78,821$ $81,71,800$ $87,77,300$ $87,78,821$ $81,73,120$ $81,73,75$ $16,551$ $42,57,023$ $9,77,419$ $2,60,570$ $8,30,471$ $21,88,563$ $20,71,367$ $20,71,372$ $20,77,372$ 2				(75.99)	(59.71)	(75.20)	(62.93)	(53.33)	(53.73)	(56.39)	(63.38)
(63.32)(43.98)(53.63)(55.64)(30.78)(41.34)(40.19)Urban51,37516,551 $42,57/023$ $9,77,419$ $2,60,570$ $8,30,471$ $21,88,563$ $20,71,367$ 2 Urban51,37516,551 $42,57/023$ $9,77,419$ $2,60,570$ $8,30,471$ $21,88,563$ $20,71,367$ 2 Total $2,45,322$ $1,39,669$ $2,15,23,493$ $46,07,578$ $28,11,846$ $21,33,206$ $1,19,65,863$ $1,08,50,188$ 1 Total $2,45,322$ $1,39,690$ $(50,04)$ (53.25) (29.80) (36.74) (36.31) $26,779$ Rural $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ $2Urban27,165(40.24)(23.22)(30.64)(51.33,264122,17,29525,77932Urban27,165(40.24)(23.22)(30.64)(21.34)(18.46)(20.91)2Urban27,165(25,03)(36,453)(25,12)(29.213)(12.65)2,77,9552,77,9552,77,9552,77,956Urban27,165(30,79)(11.56)(26,13)(36,415)(12.65)(12.65)(17.03)(17.03)Urban27,165(25,03)(30,79)(12.65)(21.99)(27.37)(12.56)(24,57)(17.03)Urban21,0225,623(18,03)(27.31)(25,65$		Rural	1,93,947	1,22,815	1,72,66,470	36,30,159	25,51,276	13,07,735	97,77,300	87,78,821	84,87,649
Urban $51,375$ $16,551$ $42,57,023$ $9,77,419$ $2,60,570$ $8,30,471$ $21,88,563$ $20,71,367$ 2 Total $(22,5,32)$ (23.493) (40.07) (37.47) (28.38) (24.54) (25.77) Total $2,45,322$ $1,39,366$ $2,15,23,493$ $46,07,578$ $28,11,846$ $21,38,206$ $1,19,65,863$ $1,08,50,188$ 1 Total $2,45,322$ $1,39,366$ $2,15,23,493$ $46,07,578$ $28,11,846$ $21,38,206$ $1,9,65,863$ $1,08,50,188$ 1 Rural $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ 2 Rural $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ 2 Rural $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,635$ (20.91) (36.74) (36.31) (36.91) (36.91) (36.91) (36.91) (36.91) Urban $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,636$ $3,86,453$ $73,889$ $1,95,572$ $6,31,722$ $5,77,937$ (20.91) Urban $27,165$ $(20,91)$ (17.53) (15.63) (26.31) (15.63) $(27,33)$ $(27,97)$ $(28,45,735)$ $(29,61)$ Votal $29,741$ $36,201$ $57,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ $(28,22)$ $(28,45,735)$ $(28,45,735)$ $(21,79)$ Votal $20,741$ $36,201$ (11.56) $(21,32)$ $(27,31)$ $(12,65)$				(63.32)	(43.98)	(53.63)	(55.64)	(30.78)	(41.34)	(40.19)	(48.74)
(32.22)(28.42)(40.07)(37.47)(28.38)(24.54)(25.77)Total $2,45,322$ $1,39,366$ $2,15,23,493$ $46,07,578$ $28,11,846$ $21,38,206$ $1,19,65,863$ $1,08,50,188$ 1 Total $2,45,322$ $1,39,366$ $2,15,23,493$ $46,07,578$ $28,11,846$ $21,38,206$ $1,19,65,863$ $1,08,50,188$ 1 Rural $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ 2 Rural $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ 2 Rural $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $20,17,295$ $22,67,798$ 2 Rural $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,636$ $3,86,453$ $73,889$ $1,95,572$ $6,31,722$ $5,77,937$ 2 Total $90,741$ $36,201$ $57,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ $6,28,213$ $6,28,213$ $28,49,017$ $28,45,735$ 2 Total $90,741$ $36,201$ $57,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ $6,28,213$ $6,28,213$ $28,49,017$ $28,45,735$ 2 Total $90,741$ $36,201$ $57,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $23,6955$ $1,6490$ (17.03) 1 Rural $22,847$ $8,835$ $17,96,453$ $(18,61,73)$ $(12,68)$ $1,76,856$ $7,84,792$ $9,75,161$ Rural $22,847$	Upper	Urban	51	16,551	42,57,023	9,77,419	2,60,570	8,30,471	21,88,563	20,71,367	21,85,656
Total $2,45,322$ $1,39,366$ $2,15,23,493$ $46,07,578$ $28,11,846$ $21,38,206$ $1,9,65,863$ $1,08,50,188$ 1 Kural $(55,71)$ (50.94) (50.04) (53.25) (29.80) (36.74) (36.31) (36.71) Rural $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ $2Rural63,57629,39844,37,12812,74,8685,12,3244,32,64122,17,29522,67,79522,67,7982Rural27,165(803)12,87,6363,86,45373,8891,95,572(6,31,722)5,77,9372Vuban27,165(25.04)(11.56)(26.13)(15,73)(12.65)(8.277)(9.86)2Votal90,74136,20157,24,76416,61,3215,86,213(12.65)(8.277)(9.86)Votal90,74136,20157,24,76416,61,3215,86,213(12.65)(8.277)(9.86)Votal90,74136,20157,24,76416,61,3215,86,213(12.65)(12.63)(17.03)Votal90,74136,20157,24,76416,61,32158,62,213(12.65)(12.49)(17.03)Votal80,731(27,37)(17,53)(27,37)(17,53)(27,37)(17,63)(17,03)Votal22,8478,835(11.37)(21$	Primary			(32.22)	(28.42)	(40.07)	(37.47)	(28.38)	(24.54)	(25.77)	(31.49)
(56.81) (39.69) (50.04) (53.25) (29.80) (36.74) (36.31) $(Rural$ $63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ $(Rural$ $(63,576$ $29,398$ $44,37,128$ (37.55) (30.64) (21.34) (18.46) (20.91) $(Urban$ $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,636$ $3,86,453$ $73,889$ $1,95,572$ $6,31,722$ $5,77,937$ $(Urban$ $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,636$ $3,86,453$ $73,889$ $1,95,572$ $6,31,722$ $5,77,937$ $(Irban$ $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ (12.65) (8.27) $9.86)$ $(Irban$ $90,741$ $36,201$ $57,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ (17.65) (8.27) 9.86 $(Irban$ $27,165$ (11.37) $(18,93)$ $(15,73)$ (17.65) (17.03) (17.03) $(Irban$ $21,925$ (11.37) (21.99) (27.37) (17.69) (17.03) (17.03) $(Irban$ $21,022$ $5,623$ $17,96,453$ (11.37) (21.99) (25.19) (9.08) (7.60) (10.02) $(Irban$ $21,022$ $5,623$ $12,89,6922$ $4,46,521$ $6,54,652$ $6,36,236$ (7.69) (10.02) $(Irban$ $21,022$ (6.36) (11.37) (21.99) (25.19) (12.68) (12.26) (12.26) $(Irban$ $21,022$ $($		Total	2,45,322	1,39,366		46,07,578	28, 11, 846	21, 38, 206	1, 19, 65, 863	1,08,50,188	1,06,73,305
Rural $63;576$ $29;398$ $44,37,128$ $12,74,868$ $5,12,324$ $4,32,641$ $22,17,295$ $22,67,798$ 2 11261 146.24 $(23:22)$ (37.55) (30.64) $(21:34)$ (18.46) (20.91) 1 11261 $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,636$ $3,86,453$ $73,889$ $1,95,572$ $6,31,722$ $5,77,937$ 1 11261 25.04 (11.56) (26.13) $(15,73)$ (12.65) (8.27) $9.86,573$ 1 11261 $35,201$ $5,724,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ $6,28,213$ $28,49,017$ $28,45,735$ 1 11261 $36,201$ $57,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ (17.65) (17.03) 1 1 11271 $36,201$ $57,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ (17.65) (14.49) (17.03) 1 11271 $39,89$ (18.93) (18.93) (34.09) (27.37) (17.58) (14.49) (17.03) 1 11271 $23,845$ (11.37) (21.99) (27.37) (17.58) (14.49) (17.03) 1 11281 $8,835$ $(17.96,453)$ (11.37) (21.99) (25.19) (25.97) $(24,652)$ $9,75,161$ 1 11281 $8,835$ (11.37) (21.99) (25.19) (25.97) $(24,652)$ $6,36,236$ 1 1 111271 $21,022$ $5,6233$ $12,89,6922$ $4,46,521$ $6,24,652$ $6,36,236$ $1,4,6$				(56.81)	(39.69)	(50.04)	(53.25)	(29.80)	(36.74)	(36.31)	(43.82)
(46.24)(23.22)(37.55)(30.64)(21.34)(18.46)(20.91)Urban $27,165$ $6,803$ $12,87,636$ $3,86,453$ $73,889$ $1,95,572$ $6,31,722$ $5,77,937$ Urban $27,165$ $(6,803)$ $12,87,636$ $3,86,453$ $73,889$ $1,95,572$ $6,31,722$ $5,77,937$ Total $90,741$ $36,201$ (11.56) (20.13) $(15,73)$ (12.65) (8.27) $99,86)$ Total $90,741$ $36,201$ $5,7,24,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ $6,8,213$ $28,49,017$ $28,45,735$ Total $90,741$ $36,201$ $5,22,4,764$ $16,61,321$ $5,86,213$ (17.58) (14.49) (17.03) Rural $22,847$ $8,835$ $17,96,453$ $6,17,851$ $2,36,955$ $1,56,855$ $7,84,792$ $9,75,161$ Rural $22,847$ $8,835$ $17,96,453$ $6,17,851$ $25,36,955$ $1,56,855$ $7,84,792$ $9,75,161$ Urban $21,022$ $5,623$ 11.377 (21.99) (25.19) (9.08) (7.60) (10.02) Urban $21,022$ $5,623$ $12,89,692$ $4,46,521$ $65,548$ $1,52,971$ $6,24,652$ $6,36,236$ Urban $21,022$ $5,623$ $10,64,372$ $3,02,503$ $3,09,826$ $14,09,444$ $16,11,397$ Urban $21,023$ (8.55) $(10,64,372)$ $3,02,503$ $3,09,826$ $14,09,444$ $16,11,397$ Urban $43,269$ $(8,55)$ $(10,71)$ (20.13)		Rural	63,576	29,398	44,37,128	12,74,868	5,12,324	4, 32, 641	22,17,295	22,67,798	21,69,330
				(46.24)	(23.22)	(37.55)	(30.64)	(21.34)	(18.46)	(20.91)	(26.27)
	Concerned on		27,165	6,803	12,87,636	3,86,453	73,889	1,95,572	6,31,722	5,77,937	7,09,699
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	Secondary			(25.04)	(11.56)	(26.13)	(15.73)	(12.65)	(8.27)	(9.86)	(13.45)
		Total	90,741	36,201	57,24,764	16,61,321	5,86,213	6,28,213		28,45,735	28,79,029
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$				(39.89)	(18.93)	(34.09)	(27.37)	(17.58)	(14.49)	(17.03)	(21.27)
		Rural		8,835	17,96,453	6,17,851	2,36,955	1,56,855	7,84,792	9,75,161	8,21,292
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$				(38.67)	(11.37)	(21.99)	(25.19)	(9.08)	(7.60)	(10.02)	(13.53)
$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	Higher	Urban		5,623	12,89,692	4,46,521	65,548	1,52,971	6,24,652	6,36,236	6,53,456
43,869 14,458 30,86,145 10,64,372 3,02,503 3,09,826 14,09,444 16,11,397 (32.96) (8.55) (19.71) (20.13) (7.45) (5.63) (7.70)	Secondary			(26.75)	(6.36)	(17.24)	(11.66)	(6.29)	(4.25)	(5.68)	(7.21)
(8.55) (19.71) (20.13) (7.45) (5.63) (7.70)		Total	43,869	14,458	30,86,145	10,64,372	3,02,503	3,09,826	14,09,444	16, 11, 397	14, 74, 748
				(32.96)	(8.55)	(19.71)	(20.13)	(7.45)	(5.63)	(7.70)	(9.74)

Table 2
 Schools having Incentive Scheme of Free Textbooks and Number of Beneficiaries, 2002

Some Statistical Aspects of Major Operational Incentive...

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area (62.99 per cent) as compared in urban area (44.87 per cent) in the country. The proportion of EBMC beneficiaries of free textbooks scheme for primary schools is found lowest in terms of percent points (53.33 per cent) as compared to other social groups in the country. This scheme has provided maximum benefit to the SC (75.20 per cent) community covering maximum number of beneficiaries (78.57 per cent) in rural area in terms of percent points with respect to the total SC students enrolled in primary schools in the country, and followed in decreasing order by the ST and others.

Upper Primary Schools

Nearly 1,39,366 upper primary schools (56.81%) out of total 2,45,322 upper primary schools provide free textbooks to 2,15,23,493 students (39.69%) at the time of seventh survey in the country. These textbooks are distributed among 36.31 per cent boys and 43.82 per cent girls with respect to total number of boys and girls enrolled in upper primary schools, respectively. In addition, the free textbooks incentive scheme has benefited to 50.04 per cent SC, 53.25 per cent ST, 29.80 per cent EBMC including 36.74 per cent other students. Area-wise, 43.98 per cent beneficiaries are enrolled in rural area, which is substantially on higher side as compared to the 28.42 per cent in urban area. The beneficiaries of free textbooks incentive scheme in upper primary schools for ST has been highest, and found nearly 53.25 per cent as compared to SC (50.04%), Others (36.74%) and EBMC (29.80%) with respect to total number of students enrolled of the respective

communities in upper primary schools in the country.

Secondary Schools

Out of 90,741 secondary schools, the free textbooks incentive scheme is available in 36,201 secondary schools (39.89%) in the country, and provided benefit to 57,24,764 students (18.93%) covering 17.03 per cent boys and 21.27 percent girls under this scheme at the time of seventh survey. Further, beneficiaries of free textbooks scheme by social groups belong to 34.09 per cent SC, 27.37 per cent ST, 17.58 per cent EBMC including 14.49 per cent for others in secondary schools with respect to total number of students in respective social groups. In secondary schools, the distribution of beneficiaries of free textbooks for all social groups is found on higher side in rural area as compared to urban area in the country. In rural area, this scheme exists in 46.24 per cent secondary schools as against 25.04 per cent secondary schools in urban area. In secondary schools in terms of per cent points, the beneficiaries of free textbooks for all communities are also found on higher side in rural area (23.22%) as compared to urban area (11.56%) in the country.

Higher Secondary Schools

The incentive scheme on free textbooks is available in 14,458 higher secondary schools (32.96%) out of total 43,869 higher secondary schools, and total number of beneficiaries covered under this scheme have been 30,86,145 students (8.55%), and these beneficiaries students are further distilled in 7.70 per cent for boys and 9.74 per cent for girls with respect to their total number in higher secondary schools in the country. Moreover, the beneficiary students of free textbooks by social groups belong to 19.71 per cent SC, 20.13 per cent ST, and 7.45 per cent EBMC including 5.63 per cent for others in respect to their total number of students, respectively. This information reveals that the social group, namely, others as beneficiaries of free textbooks scheme in higher secondary schools is having lowest coverage in terms of percent points as compared to other social groups getting school education in the country. Areawise, the higher secondary schools having free textbooks scheme are relatively higher in rural area (38.67%) as against in urban area (26.75%). Also, out of total beneficiary students of free textbooks for all communities are found substantially on higher side in rural area (11.37%) as compared to urban area (6.36%) in the country.

Part III: Supply of Free Textbooks to Students

In preceding part (Part II), the findings of seventh survey on incentive scheme of free textbooks and beneficiaries thereof in schools are presented in brief. The seventh survey also canvassed information on the practices followed in supply of free textbooks to beneficiaries by system of school education in the country. Accordingly, Table 3 depicts information on supply of free textbooks to students during the academic session 2001-2002 in schools that is collected on three points of time interval during the session, namely within three months, between three to sixth months, and between six to nine months.

Regarding incentive scheme of free textbooks, it is mentioned elsewhere in this paper that 6,84,742 schools (66.42%) out of 10,30,996 schools in the country have free textbooks incentive scheme of which 5,52,753 schools (80.72%) are providing free textbooks to their students within three months during the referred session. Besides, 1,00,017 schools (14.61%) are supplying free textbooks during referred session between three to six months, and remaining 31,972 schools (4.67%) are supplying free textbooks between six to nine months during referred session in the country.

In rural area, the supply of free textbooks during session within three months is observed in 80.06 per cent schools. Moreover, 15.07 per cent schools are distributing the textbooks to students between three to six months, and 4.87 per cent schools are providing free textbooks to students between six to nine months during referred session. However, the proportions of supply of free textbooks to students are on lower side in rural area as compared to urban area over all three points of time interval during the session considered under seventh survey.

By area and school category, the succeeding paragraphs furnish information regarding supply of free textbooks scheme over different periods of interval to students during academic session 2001-2002 in the country.

Primary Schools

During seventh survey, the incentive scheme of free textbooks is available in 4,94,717 primary schools (75.99%) during academic session 2001-2002.

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			Number	Number of Sci	Number of Schools Supplying Free Textbooks	ree Textbooks
Categories of School	Area	Total Number of Schools	of Schools having Scheme	Within Three Months	Between 3rd and 6th Month	Between 6th and 9th Month
1	2	m	4	ഹ	9	7
	Rural	5,72,814	4,52,629	3,54,962	73,802	23,865
			(79.02)	(78.42)	(16.31)	(5.27)
	Urban	78,250	42,088	35,794	5,005	1,289
Frimary			(53.79)	(85.05)	(11.89)	(3.06)
	Total	6,51,064	4,94,717	3,90,756	78,807	25,154
			(75.99)	(78.99)	(15.93)	(5.08)
	Rural	1,93,947	1,22,815	1,02,214	15,258	5,343
			(63.32)	(83.23)	(12.42)	(4.35)
Upper	Urban	51,375	16,551	14,433	1,549	569
Primary			(32.22)	(87.20)	(9.36)	(3.44)
	Total	2,45,322	1,39,366	1,16,647	16,807	5,912
			(56.81)	(83.70)	(12.06)	(4.24)
	Rural	63,576	29,398	26,215	2,651	532
			(46.24)	(89.17)	(9.02)	(1.81)
	Urban	27,165	6,803	6,116	538	149
Securinary			(25.04)	(89.90)	(7.91)	(2.19)
	Total	90,741	36,201	32,331	3,189	681
			(39.89)	(89.31)	(8.81)	(1.88)
	Rural	22,847	8,835	7,929	785	121
			(38.67)	(89.75)	(8.89)	(1.37)
Higher	Urban	21,022	5,623	5,090	429	104
Secondary			(26.75)	(90.52)	(7.63)	(1.85)
	Total	43,869	14,458	13,019	1,214	225
			(32.96)	(90.05)	(8.40)	(1.56)

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 Table 3

 Schools having Incentive Scheme of Supplying Free Textbooks to Student during the Session 2001-2002

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Note: Figures within parentheses indicate percentages

The number of primary schools that is 3,90,756 schools (78.99%) are providing free textbooks to their students within three months, 78,807 schools (15.93%) are providing free textbooks between three months to six months, and others between six to nine months during the referred academic session.

The supply of free textbooks within three months after start of academic session is found in 78.42 per cent rural primary schools. Apart from this, 16.31 per cent schools are distributing the free textbooks between three to six months, and remaining 5.27 per cent other primary schools are providing free textbooks between six to nine months to students during the referred academic session. The supply of free textbooks in rural area is on lower side in comparison to urban area over all three points of time interval during academic session.

Upper Primary Schools

The incentive scheme of free textbooks is available in 1,39,366 upper primary schools (56.81%) during academic session 2001-2002. The number of upper primary schools that is 1,16,647 schools (83.70%) are providing free textbooks to their students within three months, 16,807 schools (12.06%) are providing free textbooks between three to six months, and others between six to nine months during the referred academic session.

The supply of free textbooks within three months after start of academic session is found in 83.23 per cent rural upper primary schools. Apart from this, 12.42 per cent schools are distributing the free textbooks between three to six months, and remaining 4.35 per cent other upper primary schools are providing free textbooks between six to nine months to students during referred academic session. The supply of free textbooks in rural area is on lower side in comparison to urban area on all three points of time interval as stated herein during academic session.

Secondary Schools

The seventh survey data on free textbooks incentive scheme reveals that 36,201 secondary schools (39.89%) are having the scheme during academic session 2001-2002 and out of these 32,331 secondary schools (89.31%) are providing free textbooks to their students within three months. Nearly 3,189 secondary schools (8.81%) are providing free textbooks between three to six months, and remaining 681 secondary schools (1.88%) are supplying free textbooks between six to nine months during the referred academic session.

Area-wise supply of free textbooks in rural area is having same trend with a marginal change in percent points akin to the primary and upper primary schools, and this trend has been on lower side in comparison to urban area over all three points of time interval during the academic session.

Higher Secondary Schools

The supply of free textbooks incentive scheme is available in 14,458 higher secondary schools (32.96%). During the academic session 2001-2002, nearly 13,019 higher secondary schools (90.05%) are providing free textbooks to their students within three months, and 1,214 higher secondary schools (8.40%) are providing free textbooks between three to six months including other 225 higher secondary schools (1.56%) are distributing free textbooks between six to nine months.

Akin to other categories of schools, supply of free textbooks in rural area is having same trend with a marginal change in percent points as compared to urban area over all three points of time-interval during academic session 2001-2002 at the time of seventh survey in the country.

Part IV: Attendance Scholarship for Girls

The public authorities have developed a growing number of programmes in the form of incentive schemes that provide scholarships based on merit, social and gender criteria in the country. Eventhough, only girls are offered scholarships for attending schools in the country, and perhaps the most interesting finding in this regard is that the scholarship programmes increased student attendance for girls improving a reduction in absenteeism of girls from the schools. The attendance scholarship for girls are instituted by the public authorities with an objective to bring the girls of school age going to school and retain them there to peruse the studies. Table 4 presents information about schools having incentive scheme of attendance scholarship for girls and number of beneficiaries in the country.

The seventh survey reported 10,09,390 schools (97.90%) with girls' enrolment, and out of these schools with girls' enrolment nearly 1,22,054 schools (12.09%) are covered by the incentive scheme of attendance scholarship for girls which is distributed over in 13.33 per cent rural schools and 5.95 per cent urban schools, having 32,22,122 beneficiary girl students (3.53%), and these beneficiary girl students by social group belong further to 9.00 per cent SC, 8.99 per cent ST, 1.99 per cent EBMC and 1.36 percent others with respect to total number of girl students enrolled in the respective social groups in formal school system. These proportions of beneficiary girl students in rural area are found substantially higher than in urban area, and arithmetically are almost double except SC group in the country.

During sixth survey in 1993, the incentive scheme of attendance scholarship for girls has been made available in 1,23,154 schools, thus seventh survey in 2002 provides a longitudinal negative growth of -0.89 per cent over a period from 1993 to 2002 reflecting a sorry state of public affairs. In addition, the number of beneficiary girl students of this scheme is reported nearly 19,67,968 students in sixth survey, and in that way the seventh survey in 2002 reflects a growth of 63.73 per cent points in the country.

Based on seventh survey, a brief analytical overview on attendance scholarship for girl students and beneficiaries thereof by area and school category are given in following paragraphs.

Primary Schools

The seventh survey reveals 6,41,090 primary schools (98.64%) with girls' enrolment. Out of these, 71,947 primary schools (11.22%) are covered by the incentive scheme of attendance

Schools k	ıaving In	centive Sch	eme of Atten	Table 4 dance Scholar	ship for Girl	s and Numbe	Table 4 Schools having Incentive Scheme of Attendance Scholarship for Girls and Number of Beneficiaries, 2002	ies, 2002
		1-7-4	Schools		Numł	Number of Beneficiaries	iaries	
Category of School	Area	Iotat Number of Schools with Girls' Enrolment	Having Attendance Scholarship Scheme for Girls	All Communities	Schedule Castes	Schedule Tribes	Educationally Backward Minority Community (Muslims)	Others
1	2	с	4	ъ	9	7	8	6
	Rural	565042	67,623	14,30,564	8,57,832	2,66,134	86,760	2, 19, 838
			(11.97)	(4.57)	(11.05)	(8.07)	(1.79)	(1.43)
Dation	Urban	76048	4,324	1,67,781	1, 13, 790	8,638	20,882	24,471
L'IIIIAI Y			(5.69)	(2.39)	(8.02)	(3.47)	(1.36)	(0.64)
	Total	641090	71,947	15,98,345	9,71,622	2,74,772	1,07,642	2,44,309
			(11.22)	(4.17)	(10.58)	(7.74)	(1.69)	(1.27)
	Rural	190853	35,389	8,51,038	2,67,883	2,80,662	47,417	2,55,076
			(18.54)	(4.89)	(9.11)	(14.15)	(2.56)	(2.40)
Upper	Urban	49176	3,284	1,54,692	52,777	20,741	28,077	53,097
Primary			(6.68)	(2.23)	(4.69)	(6.48)	(1.99)	(1.30)
	Total	240029	38,673	10,05,730	3,20,660	3,01,403	75,494	3,08,173
			(16.11)	(4.13)	(7.89)	(13.08)	(2.32)	(2.09)
	Rural	62208	6,522	2,20,601	1,00,116	38,250	17,866	64,369
			(10.48)	(2.67)	(00.2)	(5.68)	(1.98)	(1.23)
Coccordom	Urban	25426	1,193	60,847	30,578	4,514	7,885	17,870
accultual			(4.69)	(1.15)	(4.33)	(2.07)	(1.02)	(0.50)
	Total	87634	7,715	2,81,448	1,30,694	42,764	25,751	82,239
			(8.80)	(2.08)	(6.12)	(4.80)	(1.54)	(0.93)
	Rural	22273	2,466	1,62,413	72,830	28,881	22,942	37,760
			(11.07)	(2.68)	(7.11)	(8.77)	(3.48)	(0.93)
Higher	Urban	18364	1,253	1,74,186	82,475	9,167	28,512	54,032
Secondary			(6.82)	(1.92)	(7.33)	(3.91)	(2.55)	(0.82)
	Total	40637	3,719	3,36,599	1,55,305	38,048	51,454	91,792
			(9.15)	(2.22)	(7.23)	(6.74)	(2.89)	(0.86)
Note: Figures	within par	entheses indic	ate percentage	with respect to to	tal number of	enrolment in r	Note: Figures within parentheses indicate percentage with respect to total number of enrolment in respective categories.	es.

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scholarship for girls. Of these primary schools, 11.97 per cent schools in rural area and 5.69 per cent schools in urban area are having the incentive scheme with respect to total number of schools with girls' enrolment in respective areas. These primary schools provide the attendance scholarship to 15, 98,345 girl students (4.17%) out of total girls enrolled. Further, these beneficiary girl students by social groups belongs to 10.58 per cent SC, 7.74 per cent ST, 1.69 per cent EBMC and 1.27 per cent others with respect to total number of girl students enrolled in respective social groups in primary schools. The proportions of beneficiary girl students for social groups are found higher in rural area as compared in urban area.

Upper Primary Schools

In regard to upper primary schools, the seventh survey reveals 2,40,029 upper primary schools (97.84%) with girls' enrolment, and 38,673 upper primary schools (16.11%) out of referred total upper primary schools with girls' enrolment that have provision of attendance scholarship for girls in the country. Area-wise, 18.54 per cent and 6.68 per cent upper primary schools are situated in rural and urban areas, respectively and are having the girls' attendance scholarship scheme with respect to total number of schools with girls' enrolment. The number of beneficiary girl students of attendance scholarship is nearly 10, 05,730 girl students (4.13%) with respect to total number of girls enrolled in upper primary schools. Further, out of total girl students enrolled by social groups, the beneficiary girl students belong to

7.89 per cent SC, 13.08 per cent ST, 2.32 per cent EBMC including 2.09 per cent others in the country. The proportions of beneficiary girl students for various social groups are found on higher side in rural area as compared in urban area.

Secondary Schools

There are 87,634 secondary schools (96.58%) with girls' enrolment, and 7,715 secondary schools (8.80%) out of total secondary schools with girls' enrolment that have the provision of attendance scholarship for girls. In rural area, 10.48 per cent secondary schools are providing attendance scholarship to girl students as against to 4.69 per cent in urban area with respect to total number of schools with girls' enrolment in the country. Nearly 2,81,448 girl students (2.08%) with respect to total number of girls enrolled are getting the benefit of this scheme in the secondary schools. Of these, out of total girl students enrolled by social groups, the beneficiary girl students belong to 6.12 per cent SC, 4.80 per cent ST, 1.54 per cent EBMC including 0.93 per cent others in the country. The proportions of beneficiary girl students for various social groups are found on higher side in rural area as compared in urban area.

Higher Secondary Schools

Out of 43,869 higher secondary schools, 40,637 higher secondary schools (92.63%) are with girls' enrolment in the country, and nearly 3,719 schools (9.15%) out of these referred number of schools with girls' enrolment are providing incentive scheme of attendance scholarship for girls which is distributed over in 11.07 per cent rural schools and 6.82 per cent urban schools with respect to total number of schools available in these areas which are having 3,36,599 beneficiary girl students (2.22%). These beneficiary girl students by social group belong further to 7.23 per cent SC, 6.74 per cent ST, 2.89 per cent EBMC and 0.86 per cent others with respect to total number of girl students enrolled in the respective social groups. These proportions of beneficiary girl students in rural area are found substantially higher than in urban area akin to other category of schools as mentioned herein in preceding paragraphs.

Part V: Mid-day Meals

The role of health in promoting student achievement and relationship between children's nutritional status and school indicators like age at enrolment, absenteeism, performance, etc., on selective cognitive tasks including concentration in the classroom has been well-established through several studies in India and elsewhere in the world of human kingdom. It is also agreed that protein-energy malnutrition temporary hunger and micronutrient deprivation adversely affect the achievement of children, and can easily be treated efficiently in schools. It is generally accepted that such types of deficiencies can easily and efficiently be treated in schools (Lockheed and Verspoor, 1991).

Accordingly, the introduction of mid-day meals programme in schools has been a right step in this direction in India and elsewhere in the world. In India under mid-day meals programme, the Government of India has been sharing the cost of implementing nutritional support for elementary education by providing required food grains. The Government of India launched the present mid-day meals programme in the States/UTs in 1995-96. However, the States/UTs are free to have their own specific programme in this regard with appropriate infrastructure and delivery system. There are three main options for delivery of nutritional support that are supply of hot meal, pre-cooked food, and food grains (Saxena et al. 2000). In view of the significance of mid-day meals programme, Table 5 reveals based on seventh survey data about number of schools having incentive scheme of midday meals and types thereof at primary stage.

The seventh survey reveals 10, 30,996 schools and out of these schools, 8, 50,421 schools (82.49%) have primary stage of school education in the country. The survey data indicates that nearly 6, 62,792 schools (77.94%) are having mid-day meals scheme with primary stage for the children enrolled in the formal system of school education. Area-wise 5, 97,596 schools (83.46%) in rural area and 65,196 schools (48.51%) in urban area provide the incentive scheme of mid-day meals to the children.

The seventh survey also imparts data on the type of mid-day meals, viz., foodgrains, pre-cooked foods, cooked meals that are being provided by the schools to children in the country. The survey records that nearly 67.01 per cent schools do not provide either pre-

Number of Schools Providing	ked Cooked i Meal	2	8 1,41,128	(28.73)	6 14,074	(30.03)	4 1,55,202	(28.84)	50,010	(48.27)	7,029	(41.04)	57,039	(47.24)	1,264	(59.57)	351	(55.98)	1,615	(58.75)	367) (60.56)	334) (57.29)	701	(58.96)
er of Scho	Pre-cooked Food	9	1,998	(0.41)	1,546	(3.30)	3,544	(0.66)	280	(0.27)	116	(0.68)	396	(0.33)	23	(1.08)	47	(7.50)	70	(2.55)	6	(1.49)	46	(7.89)	55	(4.63)
Numb	Foodgrains	ഹ	3,48,136	(70.87)	31,240	(66.67)	3,79,376	(70.50)	53,316	(51.46)	9,981	(58.28)	63,297	(52.43)	835	(39.35)	229	(36.52)	1,064	(38.70)	230	(37.95)	203	(34.82)	433	(36.42)
Number of Schools havina Mid-dau	Meals Scheme at Primary Stage	4	4,91,262	(85.76)	46,860	(59.88)	5,38,122	(82.65)	1,03,606	(77.36)	17,126	(41.82)	1,20,732	(69.04)	2,122	(29.93)	627	(7.41)	2,749	(17.68)	606	(27.40)	583	(8.67)	1,189	(13.30)
Number of Schools	having Primary Stage	m	5,72,814		78,250		6,51,064		1,33,922		40,953		1,74,875		7,089		8,456		15,545		2,212		6,725		8,937	
	Area	2		RUTAL	Tath a to	Urban Total		10141	Rural		T about	UIDAII	T_0 + 01	10141	Rural		Urban		Total		Rural		Urban		T1	1 OLAL
Category	of School	1				rmary					Upper	Primary	J				Concerdio	Securitary					Higher	Secondary		

Note: Figures within parentheses indicate percentages.

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cooked or cooked meals to the children. Area-wise, percentage of schools that do not provide either pre-cooked or cooked meals are recorded 67.36 per cent in rural and 63.89 per cent in urban areas, respectively with respect to number of schools having primary stage in the area.

The sixth survey conducted in year 1993 provides information in regard to incentive scheme of mid-day meals in the country. Accordingly, 1,18,364 schools have mid-day meals scheme; therefore, the seventh survey provides longitudinally a growth of 459.96 per cent over a period from year 1993 to 2002. In addition, obvious impressive jumps in growth of mid-day meals have been recorded in rural and urban areas in the country.

The succeeding paragraphs furnish information in regard to schools by area and category having the scheme of midday meals and types thereof in the country.

Primary Schools

The seventh survey records that out of 6,51,064 primary schools in the country, 5,38,122 schools (82.65%) are having incentive scheme of mid-day meals. The proportion of schools having this scheme in rural area is 85.76 per cent as against 59.88 per cent in urban area with respect to number of schools in respective area.

As per the findings of survey, 70.50 per cent schools do not provide either pre-cooked or cooked meals to children, and area-wise this is being recorded 70.87 per cent in rural and 66.67 per cent in urban areas, respectively with respect to number of schools having primary stage in the area.

Upper Primary Schools

There are 2,45,322 upper primary schools in the country, of which 1,74,875 upper primary schools (71.28%) are having primary stage. Out of these upper schools having primary stage in the school, 1,20,732 upper primary schools (69.04%) are providing mid-day meals to the children enrolled in the schools. In respect to area-wise distribution of these schools, 77.36 per cent schools of rural area and 41.82 per cent schools of urban area are having the referred scheme.

The survey also documents that 52.43 per cent upper primary schools having primary stage in schools do not provide either pre-cooked or cooked meals to the children, and area-wise such proportions are found 51.46 per cent in rural area and 58.28 per cent in urban area, respectively with respect to number of schools having primary stage in the area.

Secondary Schools

In 2002 at the time of seventh survey, it is found that 15,545 secondary schools (17.13%) are having primary stage. Out of these secondary schools, 2,749 secondary schools (17.68%) are having incentive scheme of mid-day meals at primary stage for children enrolled in these schools in the country. Further, the proportion of these schools having scheme in rural area has been 29.93 per cent and relatively high as against 7.41 per cent in urban area.

In regard to schools providing type of mid-day meals, the survey provides that secondary schools are having better status in terms of serving meals in

comparison of primary and upper primary schools, and it maybe due to better infrastructure available within the schools premises. In terms of percent point, nearly 58.75 per cent secondary schools have provided cooked meals followed by 2.55 per cent precooked meals/ foods in the country. Area-wise cooked meals are provided by 59.57 per cent rural schools as compared to 55.98 per cent urban schools, whereas on the other hand, the pre-cooked meals/foods are provided by 1.08 per cent rural schools as compared to 7.50 per cent urban schools in the country. However, the survey provides sorry state of affairs by revealing that 38.70 per cent secondary schools having primary stage in schools do not provide either pre-cooked or cooked meals/ foods to the children. Area-wise such proportions are found 39.35 per cent in rural area and 36.52 per cent in urban area, respectively with respect to number of schools having primary stage in the area.

Higher Secondary Schools

The seventh survey counts the number of higher secondary schools having primary stage, and accordingly 8,937 higher secondary schools (20.37%) are having primary stage in the country. Out of these higher secondary schools having primary stage, 1,189 schools (13.30%) are having incentive scheme of mid-day meals/ foods at primary stage for children enrolled in these schools in the country. Area-wise proportion of these schools having scheme has been 27.40 per cent in rural area, and found relatively high as against 8.67 per cent in urban area. As far as issue of providing type of mid-day meals/foods is concerned, the survey provides a comparatively better status in terms of serving meals/foods as compared to primary and upper primary schools in the country, and it follows the patterns akin to the secondary schools as described elsewhere in this part. The probable reasons in serving meals may be due to better infrastructure available within the schools premises.

Proportion-wise, 58.96 per cent higher secondary schools provide cooked meals/foods followed by 4.63 per cent pre-cooked meals/foods vis-àvis 63.59 per cent schools in the country. The cooked meals/foods are being provided in 60.56 per cent rural schools as well as in 57.29 per cent urban schools, while 1.49 per cent rural and 7.89 per cent urban higher secondary schools provide pre-cooked meals/foods akin to the secondary schools in the country. However, the survey provides a sorry state of affairs akin to the secondary schools by revealing that 36.42 per cent higher secondary schools having primary stage in schools do not provide either precooked or cooked meals/foods to the children. Area-wise such proportions are found 37.95 per cent in rural area and 34.82 per cent in urban area, respectively with respect to number of schools having primary stage in the area.

Conclusions

Based on above statistical aspects, results and discussions, following conclusions have been emerging on Some Statistical Aspects of Major Operational Incentive...

major operational incentive schemes in school education in India.

• Free Uniform Scheme

The total number of beneficiaries is 2,03,33,930 children (10.09 per cent) consisting of 7.79 per cent boys and 12.87 percent girls, respectively, in the country. By social group, the beneficiaries of free uniform scheme in primary schools have been 15.24 per cent for SC, 13.74 per cent for ST, 8.86 per cent for EBMC including 11.08 per cent for respectively. others. Further. among these beneficiaries, the free uniform incentive scheme in upper primary schools has covered 20.90 per cent SC, 20.91 per cent for ST, 13.35 per cent for EBMC including 13.10 per cent others, respectively. The beneficiaries of free uniform scheme studying in the secondary schools belongs to 7.49 per cent SC, 9.32 per cent ST, 3.18 per cent EBMC including 2.83 per cent for others, respectively. In higher secondary schools by social group, the beneficiaries of free uniform scheme pertains to 7.29 per cent SC, 4.38 per cent ST, 2.85 per cent EBMC including 2.36 per cent for others, respectively.

• Free Textbooks

Based on social stratification, the figures for beneficiary students of free textbooks comes around 56.43 per cent for SC, 51.33 per cent for ST, 36.17 per cent for EBMC including 32.23 per cent

for others, respectively. Area-wise the higher secondary schools having free textbooks scheme are relatively higher in rural area (38.67 per cent) as against in urban area (26.75 per cent).

Supply of Free Textbooks to Students

Nearly 1,00,017 schools (14.61 per cent) are supplying free textbooks during referred session between three to six months, and remaining 31,972 schools (4.67 per cent) are supplying free textbooks between six to nine months during referred session in the country. Area-wise supply of free textbooks in rural area is on lower side in comparison to urban area over all three points of time-interval during the academic session.

Attendance Scholarship for Girls

Nearly 1,22,054 schools (12.09 per cent) are covered by the incentive scheme of attendance scholarship for girls in the country. The scheme is distributed over in 13.33 per cent rural schools and 5.95 per cent urban schools, having 32,22,122 beneficiary girl students (3.53 per cent). The beneficiary girl students by social group, further, belong to 9.00 per cent SC, 8.99 per cent ST, 1.99 per cent EBMC and 1.36 per cent others with respect to total number of girl students enrolled in the respective social groups in the schools.

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• Mid-day Meals

The data analysis reveals that 82.49 per cent schools have primary stage of school education in the country of which 83.46 per cent in rural and 48.51 per cent in urban areas having primary stage school education are providing the incentive scheme of mid-day meals to the children. The study also points out that nearly 67.01 per cent schools do not provide either pre-cooked or cooked meals to the children, although the public authorities are fully concerned on this issue in India.

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