

# Education is not for Free! ش

**A info pack on Education in India: 2007-08  
Participation and Expenditure - NSS 64<sup>th</sup> Round**

**Report released in May 2010**

**Indian people  
Spend Rs. 58170 Crore  
Annually for  
General Education**

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## Right to Free Education: Pay the price!

We have 'Right to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009' but would it ensure free education or children still need to huge cost to get their fundamental right to education? Educations have always been a top priority of development, necessitating intervention by government for its easy large scale access. However NSSO report 64<sup>th</sup> round reveals that utmost expenditure done on education is a private expenditure. Private expenditure on education refers to expenditure incurred in the form of payment of fee of different kinds (tuition fees, examination fees, other fees etc), purchase of books, stationery & uniform, expenses on conveyance, private coaching etc. In Madhya Pradesh, families pay an average of Rs.837 per child in rural areas whereas Rs.3911 in urban areas. But are the poor parents are really capable to afford such a high private expenditure on education. According to government estimates (Arjun Sen Gupta report), 77% of the country lives on less than Rs 20 a day. This is 7,300 p. year. And even if we follow the per capita income of Madhya Pradesh at constant prices is merely 13299 per year. The monthly per capita expenditure of Madhya Pradesh is quite below the national average of 772 in rural areas & 1472 in urban areas while the rural MPCE of Kerala in rural areas is 79% that of national average. Financial constraint evidently affects the enrollment & continuation of education of students of 5-29 years of age & also has deep impact upon the quality of education that has been imparted to these students. Thus the targets of universalization of education can never be achieved unless & until education is made completely free through government institution.

The remarkable step towards the rights of the children 6-14 years has been endorsed with the enactment of Right to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009 after 63 years of India's independence. Struggle for right to education begins 95 years back & constitution of India enacted in 1950 endowed education with the status of constitutional right under Article 45. The implementation of Right to Free & Compulsory Education Act, 2009 begins only on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. But it is still suspicious whether the present allotment of budgetary provisions would really enable the children to Madhya Pradesh to really enjoy the legal rights to education as revealed by the recently released report 'Education in India' under NSS 64<sup>th</sup> Round by Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Govt. of India. The present report opens the size of market of education and its political economy in India. There has been non-clarity of what actually mean by Free Education in India. This report by NSSO opens the magnitude of this confusion.

**Free Education** – Education is free of tuition fee in government schools in most of the states and also in private schools in some states up to a certain level of education. There are some schools where students up to a certain level are not required to pay tuition fees. Nevertheless, a fixed sum of money has to be paid such as development fee, library fee etc. Education in such schools is still considered to be free. This applies to the institution as whole and not to the specific situation obtaining for the student.

- ❖ The survey on “Participation and Expenditure in Education” conducted by National Sample Survey Organization (Government of India). The survey surveyed 445960 persons from 63318 rural households and 37263 urban households in 7953 villages in rural India and it also covered 4682 blocks in urban areas. In Madhya Pradesh, it covered 25885 persons from 3556 rural households and 1978 urban households in 447 villages from rural areas and it also covered 248 blocks in urban areas of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The survey collected detailed information on education for persons in the age group 5-29 years.
- ❖ Major components of private expenditure on education with their percentage share (for rural area) includes Tuition fee (25%), exam fee & other fee(15%), books & stationery(25%), uniform(12%), transport(8%) & private coaching(10%).
- ❖ According to this report Rs. 58163 Crore are being spent annually just for general education, ie school education in India. Out of this amount Rs. 15967 Crore were charged as tuition fees, Rs. 8028 Crores for conducting exams, 12534 for books and stationery, Rs. 6245 Crores for Uniform, and Rs. 8187 Crores for private education among other expenditures.
- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh the total number of students age 5-29 years pursuing general education are 15021600 out of which 11295300 are from rural areas while in urban areas the total number of students is 3726300. General education in this survey includes general school education from primary to the higher secondary level, normal university education for a degree.
- ❖ Becoming educated is surely one of the toughest tasks of life, as far as economy is concerned. 241614400 students pursuing any kind of education (school, technical or vocational) spent Rs. 73883.00 Crore in just a year. A gender segregation of this expenditure shows that something is missing in favor of Women in education. Out of this total expenditure an amount of Rs. 29723 Crore was spent on Female students, which is around 40% of the total expenditure incurred by the families in India.
- ❖ As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned just Rs. 285.06 Crore were spent, whereas spending on Female students was Rs. 102.49 Crore.

## Poor Monthly per Capita Expenditure on Education

*(Household Consumer Expenditure in India – 2007-08, Report No. 530, released in March 2010. 64<sup>th</sup> Round of NSS Survey)*

Household consumer expenditure is measured as the expenditure incurred by a household on domestic account during a specified period, called reference period. It also includes the imputed values of goods & services, which are not purchased but procured otherwise for consumption. Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) is the household consumer expenditure over a period of 30 days divided by household size. It includes both food & non-food items of expenditure.

The average MPCE for rural India is 772 with the average household size of 4.7 & urban areas have average household size of 4.2 have MPCE of 1472. The states like Andhra Pradesh (816), Kerala (1383), Karnataka (819), Maharashtra (868), Rajasthan (801), Tamil Nadu (834) & even Bihar (799) are having rural MPCE above the national average. But rural MPCE for Madhya Pradesh is lying below the national rural MPCE. MPCE of rural Kerala is 79% that of national average.

Education is one of the most important components among the non food group items of monthly per capita expenditure. However, the average MPCE on education is less than 0.1 percent. This means that common men are not in a position to bear private expenditure on education. In rural India the average MPCE on education is 28.33 while for urban areas it is 104.33. The vast difference in rural & urban MPCE on education pointed out towards the ground reasons for high drop-out rate & discontinuation of education in rural areas.

Difference in MPCE reflects the capacities of parents in the two states to bear the educational cost through private expenditure. The average monthly per capita expenditure of rural Karnataka & Kerala is Rs.70.30 & Rs.57.92 while for Madhya Pradesh is merely Rs.13.33. Similarly the urban monthly per capita expenditure for urban Madhya Pradesh (96.43) is far behind the national urban average of Rs.104.83.

<b>Average monthly per capita expenditure (Rs) on Education : States and all-India (Rural &amp; Urban)</b>		
<b>States</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>
Andhra Pradesh	26.29	114.21
Bihar	12.89	85.74
Karnataka	70.30	114.72
Kerala	57.92	112.96
Madhya Pradesh	13.33	96.43
Maharashtra	29.92	114.59
Rajasthan	22.53	100.71
Tamil Nadu	39.26	86.21
<b>India</b>	<b>28.33</b>	<b>104.83</b>

## Average per student Expenditure on Education: No Money - No Education

Average Expenditure (Rs.) per student of age 5-29 years pursuing general education by all board levels of education for each state							
State	Expenses on Education			No. of students			Total expenditure (in Crore Rs.)
	Rural	Urban	Per student exp. rural+urban	Rural	Urban	Total students	
Andhra Pradesh	1739	5384	2780	11102600	4441400	15544000	4321.23
Arunachal Pradesh	1586	3312	2059	191900	72500	264400	54.44
Bihar	790	4437	1209	15568600	2020500	17589100	2126.52
Delhi	2836	6448	6149	234300	2596300	2830600	1740.53
Kerala	3234	4913	3629	4829600	1488100	6317700	2292.69
Madhya Pradesh	837	3911	1599	11295300	3726300	15021600	2401.95
Maharashtra	1361	5074	2883	12195500	8469700	20665200	5957.77
Rajasthan	1845	4902	2572	11363500	3542000	14905500	3833.69
Tamilnadu	1988	4160	2907	7457400	5465200	12922600	3756.59
Uttar Pradesh	1292	4306	1846	39161800	8816100	47977900	8856.72
West bengal	1833	6707	2840	13107400	3415300	16522700	4692.45
<b>Total India Exp in Crore</b>	<b>27345</b>	<b>30825</b>	<b>58170</b>	<b>176286100</b>	<b>60111300</b>	<b>236397300</b>	<b>58170</b>
<b>Average per student exp. in Rs.</b>	<b>1551</b>	<b>5128</b>	<b>2461</b>				

The proportion of students pursuing education through government institutions in rural areas is significantly high. Rural areas have 11295300 students pursuing general education while it is 3726300 for urban areas. However the average expenditure per students of age 5-29 years in rural areas is 837 while is it four times higher for urban areas.

**Average expenditure (Rs.) per student of age 5 to 29 years pursuing general education by board level of education for each state/UT - Urban and Rural both**

State	Broad level of education						Total no. of students	Total expenditure (in Crore)
	Primary	Middle	Sec./hr. secondary	above hr. sec.	all			
Andhra Pradesh	1643	2046	4194	7973	2780	15544000	4321.23	
Arunachal Pradesh	1517	1946	2866	6867	2059	264400	54.44	
Bihar	613	1206	3574	4665	1209	17589100	2126.52	
Delhi	4719	5630	8940	10601	6149	2830600	1740.53	
Kerala	3039	2763	4300	6630	3629	6317800	2292.69	
Madhya Pradesh	797	1446	3435	7031	1599	15021500	2401.93	
Maharashtra	1696	2400	4157	6813	2883	20665200	5957.77	
Rajasthan	1594	2243	4596	8002	2572	14905500	3833.69	
Tamilnadu	2297	1915	3615	9617	2907	12922500	3756.57	
Uttar Pradesh	1053	1694	3453	5567	1846	47977900	8856.72	
West bengal	1166	2626	6283	9348	2840	16522700	4692.45	
all India	1413	2088	4351	7360	2461	236397300		
<b>Total exp. in Crore Rs.</b>	<b>16739</b>	<b>12343</b>	<b>20548</b>	<b>8496</b>	<b>58170</b>			
<b>Estimated no. of students</b>	<b>1184370</b>	<b>591200</b>	<b>472291</b>	<b>115443</b>	<b>2363973</b>			

In Madhya Pradesh 905 students per thousand at primary level, 894 at Middle level & 829 per 1000 students from rural areas of age 5-29 years studies in government schools. Average Expenditure (in Rs.) per student of age 5-29 years pursuing general education by all board levels of education for the state of Madhya Pradesh for rural & urban areas is just Rs.1599 while the national average expenditure is 2461. Average Expenditure (in Rs.) per student pursuing general education by all board levels of education in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh is also very low with 837 in contrasts national average of 1551. Similar difference of Rs.1217 exists at the urban level (3911) in comparison to national level (5128). Low expenditure on education in contrast to national expenses raises the question towards the quality of education in the state.

The average expenditure per student is rural students is quite low in contrast to the urban student which indicates that urban areas have more of private expenditure on education while rural areas more & more students are dependent on government or municipal schools in lack of private resources. In rural Madhya Pradesh 905 per thousand students are pursuing education in government institutions while only 70/1000 students are enrolled in private schools. However scenario is little different for urban areas where the percentage of students pursuing education in private schools are moderately higher. In urban Madhya Pradesh 458 students are from private unaided

schools & 136 are studying in private aided schools and mere 395 students per 1000 students are pursuing education in government institutions.

One believes that education up to the Middle School must have been free under the various policy and legal frameworks of education. But NSSO reports that 118437000 students studied at primary level in India paid Rs. 16735 Crore (Rs. 1413 per student) and 59120000 students studied in Middle paid 12344.00 Crore in a year, each student paid Rs. 2088.00 annually. And Similarly in Madhya Pradesh 85425 students studying in primary pay an average Rs.797 student resulting in total expenses of Rs.68083725 per year while 35975 students of middle standard paid Rs.5202 crores (Rs.1446 per student) per year.

One should be clear on this point that Government and Local Body schools in India are also charging fees and other expenditures from the students. According to the report 87972500 students from this category were charged with an average amount of Rs. 1316.00 annually. It means an amount of Rs. 11577.00 Crore has been paid to the Government and local body schools.

## Private Expenditure: A Reality of Education

Average per student of 5-29 years Item wise expenditure details for Urban and Rural sectors																
State	Item of expenditure - Rural								Item of expenditure - Urban							
	Tutuion fee	exam fee and other	books & stationery	uniform	transport	private coaching	othr. Exp.	total	Tutuion fee	exam fee and other	books & stationery	uniform	transport	private coaching	othr. Exp.	total
Andhra Pradesh	695	144	411	197	220	40	33	1739	3137	361	882	326	366	216	98	5386
Arunachal Pradesh	160	169	425	514	30	59	228	1586	527	443	836	665	44	267	530	3312
Bihar	62	82	320	48	29	188	61	790	1386	441	907	323	343	890	147	4437
Delhi	762	364	590	379	44	518	179	2836	2869	905	810	494	572	559	239	6448
Kerala	865	266	667	417	519	362	134	3230	1531	443	854	552	757	617	161	4915
Madhya Pradesh	92	168	225	157	69	64	63	837	1204	856	722	285	312	374	156	3909
Maharashtra	144	172	389	259	155	183	59	1361	1487	482	785	356	495	1313	156	5074
Rajasthan	571	272	344	330	179	52	97	1845	2051	840	620	451	446	331	164	4903
Tamilnadu	497	460	355	333	188	75	80	1988	1577	790	631	408	379	259	115	4159
Uttar Pradesh	262	206	434	170	67	82	71	1292	1422	657	906	340	273	576	132	4306
West Bengal	76	123	515	119	62	874	64	1833	922	671	1148	237	521	2830	376	6705
<b>total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1551</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>5127</b>
<b>Total national exp. (in Crores)</b>	<b>5344</b>	<b>3830</b>	<b>7429</b>	<b>3923</b>	<b>2258</b>	<b>3228</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>27344</b>	<b>10623</b>	<b>4198</b>	<b>5105</b>	<b>2323</b>	<b>2576</b>	<b>4959</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>30819</b>



## Financial Constraints for Private Expenses: A Roar to Right

The states with higher average per student expenditure on various items of expenditure are shows outstanding performance in comparison to Madhya Pradesh. For example Dehli has average expenditure of Rs. 6154; Kerela, Tamil Naidu, Maharastra and Andhra Pradesh have the average expenditure of 3627, 2907, 2883, 2780 respectively. Madhya Pradesh has average expenditure of Rs.1599 only including the cost of tuition fees, exam fees, books & stationary cost, uniform expenses & expenditure on transport, private coaching etc.

If we calculate the total expenditure incurred on general education in the state of Madhya Pradesh, we trace that 15021500 students have paid Rs 24019378500 annually on education with average expenses of Rs. 1599 per student age 5-29 years. However, according to estimates of Dr.Saxena committee 66.55% population are below poverty line in the state while it is 53.6% as per Tendulkar Committee report. On the one hand when, we a huge percentage of population below poverty line & on the other hand we are forced to pay huge amount of private expenditure to receive general education for the students age 5-29 years. The financial constraints are the one of biggest reason for non enrollment & discontinuation of education in Madhya Pradesh.

Financial constraint has always been major reason prevalent for discontinuation of education in almost all the states nationwide. In India among every 1000 population under age 5-29 years, 214 students discontinue their education due to lack of financial resources needed to continue their education. In Madhya Pradesh also 127 per 1000 students discontinued their education in mid way due to financial constrains. The discontinuation is highest in the age group 10-14 & 15-24 years with 133 & 142 students discontinued their education respectively in our state. The proportion of students never enrolled is also significant in the state where 107 person in the age 5-29 months are never enrolled due financial implications. In all proportion of students per thousand who are never enrolled are 138. Thus the right to free & compulsory education would continue to remain a day dream for a larger section of the community with poor monthly per capita expenditure capacities until & unless education is actually made free & exempted from all cost that are currently paid from private pockets . The vulnerable marginalized poor are still kept out of their right owing to the private expenditure on education. Rural female are the worst sufferers due the gender discrimination with the average national expenditure of merely Rs.1386 & situation is more critical for rural girls in Madhya Pradesh with average expenditure of Rs.605 only.

Per 1000 distribution of drop-out/discontinuing under different age groups 5-29 years due to financial constraints for states				
State	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	All age group 5-29
Andhra Pradesh	116	156	232	214
Arunachal Pradesh	0	137	136	138
Bihar	388	197	219	216
Delhi	16	251	147	138
Kerala	0	80	120	125
Madhya Pradesh	48	133	142	127
Maharashtra	103	216	195	189
Rajasthan	142	161	178	182
TamilNadu	0	215	243	228
Uttar Pradesh	423	318	274	268
West Bengal	236	376	378	360
<b>All India</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>214</b>