



# Commercialization of education: A comparative study of infrastructure of government and private primary schools in Bihar

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**Abstract:** *From ancient time, Bihar has been a one of the best choice for study. Schools are always called the temples of learning. Children are in need of quality education to become the pillars of the nation's growth and development. This is an attempt to compare the infrastructure of government and private primary schools in Bihar. The aim of this study is to know the current scenario of government and private primary schools infrastructure and the level of commercialization of education. The data was collected by using questionnaire and observations from the headmasters of five government and five private primary schools of Bihar, India. The analysis of data revealed that the physical infrastructure conditions of the private schools are better than the government primary schools. The conditions of the country primary educational institutions are pathetic without the access to electricity, toilets and teachers. It is true that only a great infrastructure can not provide the effective teaching, but those are the essential means for peace of mind.*

**Keywords:** *Private, Government, Primary schools, Education, Infrastructure..*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Child is sometimes called the father of a man. The most important issue in present times is to impart the quality education to primary school children. They are supposed to act as the future nation builders. Bihar is the third most populous state in India and have 85.9 percent share of the rural population of the country (Alam & Sharma, 2015). In terms of educational development challenge remains of providing equal opportunities for quality education to ever-growing number of students and extending the frontiers of knowledge. Merely increasing the number of higher educational institutions and their enrollment capacity will not achieve the national developmental goals without concurrent attention to quality and access to the desirable person at the grass root level.

The term “commercialization” is an umbrella term referring to many different educational programs and policies. As an overall definition, “commercialization” refers to complex process through which human wants are satisfied. It removes the barrier of person, place and time with an aim to earn profit. The study shows there are several factors appear to govern the growth of the private schooling in Bihar. Growth of private schools, more especially fee paying ones is itself, of course, a symptom of rising demand for education but it is the rising demand in the face of falling quality of government schools which appears most important. There were private schools in four of the twelve villages without a government primary school and such villages were therefore responding to a lack of schools, but all the rest of the villages had one or more government primary school. The villages which did not have a government primary school were responding to its absence with a private school. But the major motivation for opening the schools where a government primary school existed already did not appear to be a differentiated demand for innovative curriculum, or the community desire for a different linguistic or cultural orientation. Nor did it appear to be a social service type of orientation (De, Majumdar, Noronha & Samson, 2000).

The 2013-14 edition of the District Information System for Education (DISE) report shows that India's schooling system is overwhelmingly skewed towards primary schools. There are five times more primary schools than there are secondary schools. At the state level, this discrepancy becomes even starker. The worst performer in this regard is Bihar with a ratio of 13.3:1 while the most balanced is Chandigarh with a ratio of 1.2:1.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

**The main objectives of the study are:**

- i. To know the level of commercialization of primary schools in Bihar.
- ii. To make a comparison between the government and private primary schools in respect to the infrastructure facility.

### III. METHODS ADOPTED FOR THE STUDY

The study is descriptive in nature. Quantitative approach was used. A sample of ten (Five government and five private schools) was selected randomly. The data has been collected from sample survey through the questionnaire designed by the researcher for the study. Interview was conducted and observation was made.

### IV. SAMPLE SELECTED FOR DATA COLLECTION

Ten schools (Five government and five private primary schools) were selected for the sample of the study in different districts of Bihar.

### V. TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

Tools are utmost important for collecting data in any research work. The questionnaire containing 15 items was developed by the researcher themselves. Structured interview was conducted. The observation was made by the researchers to verify the actual infrastructure of the school.

### VI. DATA ANALYSIS

This study is useful to find out the comparative infrastructure in respect of government and private primary schools. Commercialization of education has increased the opportunity by increasing the scope of admission for students. In general, Government schools play an important role in influencing the quality of human resources by providing the opportunity of education to backward class, who has no adequate resources to attend the private schools, which basically established with an objective of earning profit. But it is most important for the backward sections as it is the media of exchanging ideas, thoughts and beliefs over time and space. On the basis of primary data collected through the schedules, following tables were developed according to the objectives of the study.

**Table 1: No. of Teachers and Students in Government and private Primary Schools**

SL. No. of Schools	Government Schools		Private Schools	
	No. of teacher	No. of Students	No. of teacher	No. of Students
1	17	900	21	642
2	18	842	25	750
3	12	636	18	756
4	19	749	15	552
5	12	802	17	462
Total	78	3929	96	3162
Average	15.6	785.8	19.2	632.4
<b>Student Teacher Ratio</b>	<b>50.37</b>		<b>32.94</b>	

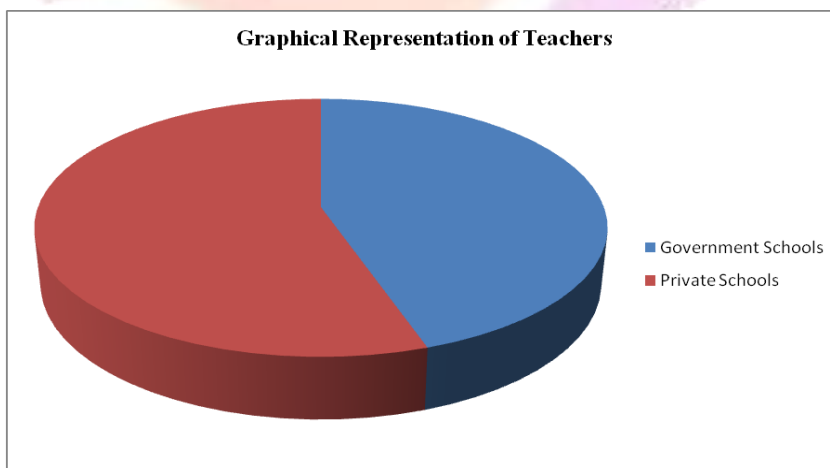


Figure: 1.

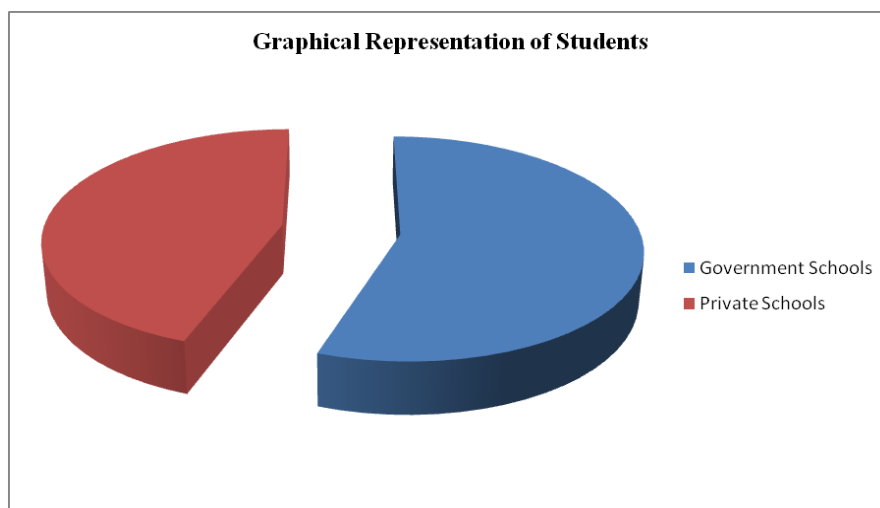


Figure: 2

The student-teacher ratio in Bihar seems stands at 50:1 across in government schools at primary level. However, as per the Right to Education Act stipulation of a ratio is 30:1. The above tables and figures show comparison of average number of teachers and students of Govt. and private primary schools. In Govt. schools, the number of students is more in comparison with private schools. While in case of teachers it is higher in private schools but lower in Govt. schools.

**Table: 2 Equipment's and facilities of the School**

Sl. No.	Facilities	Government School		Private School	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
1.	School Building	4	1	5	0
2.	Library	0	5	3	2
3.	Play ground	3	2	4	1
4.	Computer/ Internet	0	5	5	0
5.	Separate Toilet for Girls and Boys	2	3	5	0
6.	Electricity	1	4	5	0
7.	Medical Facility	0	5	2	3
8.	Sports Material	0	5	3	2
9.	Pure Drinking Water	0	5	5	0
10.	Furniture	2	3	5	0
11.	Teaching and Learning Material	1	4	5	0
12.	Common Room	0	5	4	1
13.	Extra- Curricular activities	1	4	3	2

It is well known that the Govt. is providing free and compulsory primary education to all the children between 6-14 years of age group. Because of this initiative the numbers of students are growing in Govt. schools but there is a lot of work is required to do for the development of infrastructure.

#### VII. DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study is delimited to

- i. Infrastructure facility of the schools.
- ii. Primary schools only.
- iii. The schools of Bihar state only.
- iv. Commercialization of school education.
- v. Five government and five private schools only.

#### VIII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings of the study have been given below:

- i. The private schools have adequate number of teaching staff in comparison to government primary schools.
- ii. The number of enrolments in government schools is better than private schools.



- iii. The government schools have the scarcity of infrastructure facility and are in of some immediate developments.
- iv. The study reveals that in comparison to government primary schools serves better amenities and facilities.
- v. Teacher absenteeism with low performance, crowded classrooms and poor physical conditions etc. are the main reason behind the lack of quality education in Govt. schools, whereas private schools are totally different in these cases.

#### IX. CONCLUSION

Even within larger schools, the level of infrastructure needs a lot of work. The study shows that government schools do not have the proper electricity supply system. DISE data shows that only 6 out of every 10 schools in the country have access to electricity. Bihar is the worst offender with only 10% of its schools having access to electricity. Toilets are sometimes only appearing on paper and have no relation with the reality on the ground. Commercialization has no doubt increased the quality of schools but in case of quantity of student's enrolment, government schools secure the better position. Government schools are dedicated in imparting education free of cost, whereas the private schools charge high amount of fee.

#### X. RECOMMENDATION

The current education policy was formulated by then prime minister Sri Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. It is high time it was updated and these are just some of the issues that need to be addressed in the new policy. There is a need to substantially enhance the level of funding for primary education in the country. This is high time when government should take immediate steps to resolve the issue.

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