Peep into the Present Status of Enrolment of Students'of Secondary Educationunder RMSA Scheme

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Abstract

The present investigation compares the enrolment status of High and Senior Secondary school students running under RMSA Scheme of two districts of Punjab, Mohali and Patiala. The main focus of the study is to evaluate the status of enrolment of students of secondary education and to ensure the universal access of secondary education by 2017 (GER of 100%), and universal retention by 2020. For the purpose of the research work, data was collected from Head Teachers/Principals in the form of questionnaires made by the investigator herself. Data was analyzed using SPSS Version 22. Chi-Square and Fisher's Exact Test were used to compare the difference in the enrolment status of High and Senior Secondary school students of Mohali and Patiala districts, Session-wise from 2013 to 2016 at 5% level of significance. Results of the study reveal that there is no significant difference on the basis of their enrolment status in High schools and in Senior Secondary schools in both the districts – Mohali and Patiala. But, it is worth-mentioning, here, that there is a little different view if district-wise status has been taken into consideration. A decreasing trend has been exhibited in both the districts namely, Mohali and Patiala in relation to their enrolment status.

Keywords: Rmsa, Enrolment, Secondary, Education.

Introduction

Education is considered as the third eye of the man and a task of the welfare of the mankind. The success of every system of a country largely depends upon the success of its education system. A dynamic, planned, systematic and healthy educational system is the foundation of the success and growth and development of a particular nation. Among all levels of educational systems, the secondary education is the most crucial aspect in the formation of the character of an individual and destiny of nation at large. Before discussing the other aspects of RMSA one has to understand its concept.

In Indian context, universalization of elementary education stands for its sense of education is the birthright of every individual between the age group of 6 to 14 years. To achieve the article 45, the state and central government started some scheme like SSA, RMSA, Paro Punjab and many more. Only eight years of education is not significant for a child to become responsible and competent citizen, so there is a need felt that there should be secondary education accessible to all. Keeping this view in consideration, Government of India has taken the initiative to achieve the universalization of secondary education (USE).

RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA) is aimed at expanding and improving the standards of standards of secondary education- Classes VIII to X. The RMSA would take secondary education to every corner of the country by ensuring a secondary school (upto class X) within a radius of 5 Km for every neighbor-hood. The main purpose of the scheme was to provide quality education and, hereby, increasing the access to secondary education and enhance its quality. It would ensure the universal access of secondary education by 2017 (GER of 100%), and universal retention by 2020. It would also provide access to secondary education with special reference to economically weaker sections of the society, the educationally backward, the girls and the disabled children residing in rural areas and other marginalized categories like SC, ST, OBC and Educationally Backward Minorities (EBM).

Different education commission gave recommendations about the aims of secondary education and various reforms were made from time to

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time to bring desirable changes in education system. Large number of policies was implemented. Though the Punjab's literacy rate is higher from other states, but secondary education is the weakest connection in our educational machinery, so several students quit studies while reaching secondary education and, hence, the strength in secondary as well as higher studies decreases.

One of the major goals of RMSA Scheme is to evaluate the status of enrolment of High and Senior Secondary school students.

Review of Literature

Patel (1973) revealed that the enrolment of students, and the salary paid to the teachers was very low.

Sunita (2011) discussed Dropout in Secondary Education: A Study of Children Living in Slums of Delhi. It revealed that both the family and school related factors were responsible and appeared to be highly correlated with each other. It was also found that adolescents dropout not merely due to poverty and financial constraints but also because the schools did not respond appropriately to their special educational needs forcing them to dropout.

Vishwanath (2002) said that all the measures taken by NCERT for affective implementation of SSA was laudable, provided that they did not affect the autonomy of the stress in the matter of school education.

Sharma (2009) revealed that literacy and school attendance are very important in India. 'Operation Blackboard' and 'Sarva Shisha Abhiyan' are the schemes of the State that started to achieve the universal enrolment.

Kaur (2016) studied School Effectiveness at Secondary stage: An Evaluative study pointed out that school effectiveness was related with human as well as non- human resources.

Statement of the Problem

Peep Into the Present Status of Enrolment of Students' of Secondary Education under RMSA Scheme.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the present study is:

1. To compare the enrolment status of 9th Class students of High schools of Mohali and Patiala districts.
2. To compare the enrolment status of 9th Class students of Senior Secondary schools of Mohali and Patiala districts.

Delimitations of the Study

The study was delimited in the following respects:

1. The proposed study is limited to the one Government High and one Government Senior Secondary School in each block of two districts namely, Mohali and Patiala of Punjab.
2. The study is delimited to assess the percentage of enrolled students of 9th class only.

Methodology

Descriptive Survey Method is used to obtain precise information concerning the current status of local, state, national and international issues. It is more than just a collection of data: it involves measurement, classification, analysis, comparison, and interpretation. This method is used in the present study to focus on describing the nature of a demographic segment i.e. students and Head Teachers/Principals answer questions administered through the questionnaires.

Population of the Study

The population of the study is contained of one Government High and one Government Senior Secondary School in each block of two districts namely, Mohali and Patiala of Punjab.

Sample of the Study

Sample must be such that it represents adequately the whole data. For the present study, one Government High and one Government Senior Secondary School in each block of Mohali and Patiala districts have been selected by simple random sampling technique. The sources of information for the collection of data are Head Teachers/Principals. Enrolment status of the years from 2013 to 2016 has become a part of the study of both the districts.

Tools Used In the Study

In the present investigation, Self- Structured Questionshave been used to collect data regarding enrolmentstatus of the students of secondary education from the Head Teachers/Principals and scheme implementation was made by the investigator herself. These are the measurers of assessing the clear enrolment ratio in High and Senior secondary schools of both the districts.

Administration and Procedure

From Mohali and Patiala districts, Head Teachers/Principals who were administering in Government High and Senior Secondary schools were randomly selected and questions were asked about the status of the enrolment of students in which the number of boys and girls admitted in the particular session were asked and in total also. The purpose of the study was explained to both the High and Senior Secondary schools' Head Teachers/Principals who were working under RMSA Scheme.

Statistical Analysis

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the scoring of tool and tabulation of data has been done. Data was analyzed using SPSS Version 22. Chi-Square and Fisher's Exact Test were used to compare the enrolment status of the students in secondary education under RMSA Scheme at 5% level of significance.

Results of the Study

After collecting the data, analysis and interpretation of data are made in accordance with the objectives of the study. The status of enrolment of students of Government High and Senior Secondary Schools of Districts Mohali and Patiala is shown in Table No. 1 and its diagrammatical representation is shown in Figure No. 1.

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Table No. 1

Enrolment Status of Students of Government High Schools of Districts Mohali and Patiala

Year	Mohali		Patiala	
	Number of students	Percentage	Number of students	Percentage
2013-2014	1547	33.60	3322	33.60
2014-2015	1548	33.60	3288	33.20
2015-2016	1511	32.80	3287	33.20
p value	0.861			

*Not Significant

Fig No. 1: Bar Graph Showing Enrolment Status of High School Students
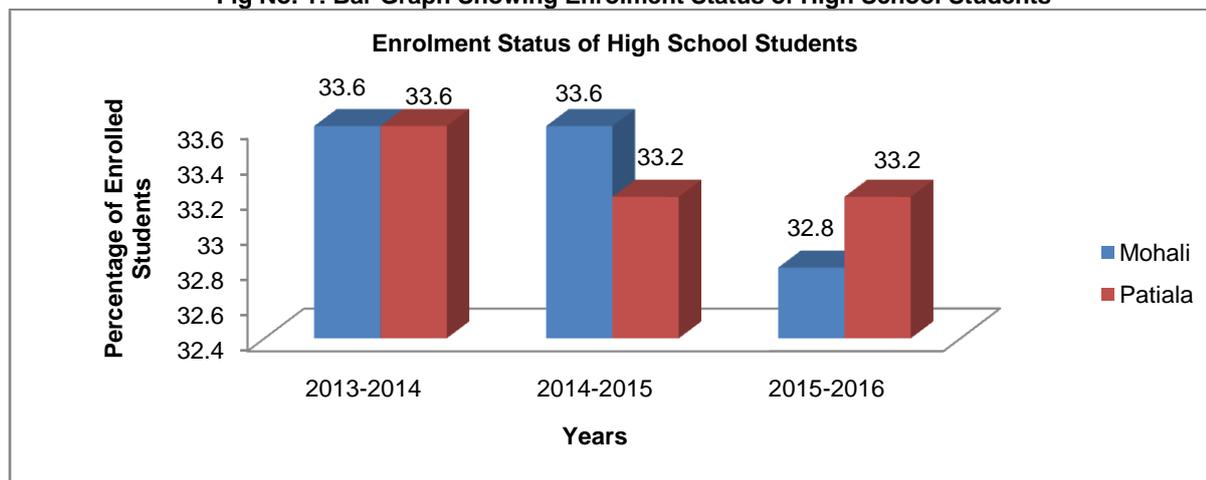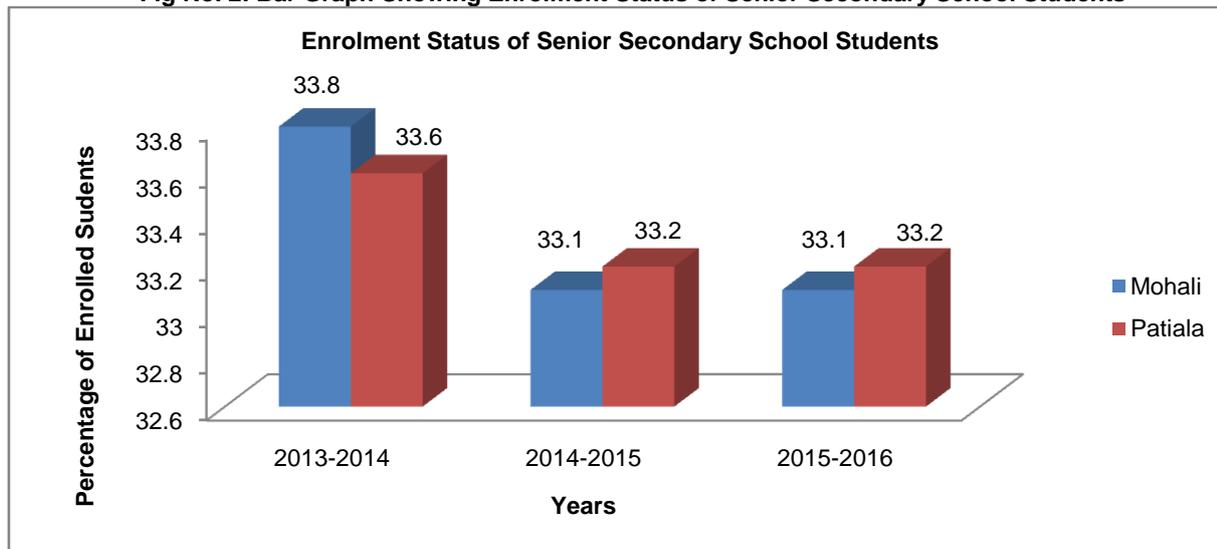

From the above Table andFigure No. 1, it has shown the status of the enrolment of the students of 9th class in each district from the year 2013 to 2016. From the Session 2013 to the Session 2015, it is indicating that there is almost similar percentage of students enrolled in both the districts. Beginning from the year 2013-14, the percentage of enrolled students of 9th class of both the districts is same i.e 33.60. In the year 2014-15, the percentage of enrolled students is slightly higher in Mohali (33.60) as compare to the district Patiala (33.20). Lastly, in the year 2015-16, the percentage of enrolled students is higher in Patiala (33.20) as compare to Mohali (32.80). Hence, it is indicating that there is no statistical difference in both the districts on the basis of their enrolment status as their p value is 0.861 which is non-significant at 5% level of significance.

Table No. 2

Enrolment Status of Students of Government Senior Secondary Schools of Districts Mohali and Patiala

Year	Mohali		Patiala	
	Number of students	Percentage	Number of students	Percentage
2013-2014	4250	33.80	10249	33.60
2014-2015	4175	33.10	10143	33.20
2015-2016	4175	33.10	10141	33.20
p value	0.948			

*Not Significant

Fig No. 2: Bar Graph Showing Enrolment Status of Senior Secondary School Students

It is clearly representing the status of the enrolment of the students of 9th class in each district from the year 2013 to 2016 from the Table and Figure No. 2. From the Session 2013 to the Session 2015, it is indicating that there is almost similar percentage of students enrolled in both the districts. Beginning from the year 2013-14, the percentage of enrolled students is slightly higher in Mohali (33.80) as compare to the district Patiala (33.60). In the year 2014-15, the percentage of enrolled students is higher in Patiala (33.20) as compare to Mohali (33.10). Lastly, in the year 2015-16, the percentage of enrolled students is higher in Patiala (33.20) as compare to Mohali (33.10). Hence, it is indicating that there is no statistical difference in both the districts on the basis of their enrolment status as their p value is 0.948 which is non-significant at 5% level of significance.

Discussion of the Results

The results of the present study showed that there is no significant difference between two districts as far as their status of enrolment of students is concerned. But, it is worth-mentioning, here, that there is a little different view if district-wise status has been taken into consideration. A decreasing trend has been exhibited in both the districts namely, Mohali and Patiala in relation to their enrolment status. It is a concluding remark to say that in the last two years from 2014-16, the trend of enrolled students in High schools under RMSA Scheme in district Patiala is identical, whereas, decreasing in Mohali district. It is identical in the case of Senior Secondary School students enrolled in the last two years i.e. from 2014-16, no decreasing trend is evident. The results of the present study went in line with the result of Nair (2003), who had showed a decline in education due to economic constraints resulting from quantitative growth of sector. The situation in the secondary schools is not very different. The dropout rates particularly in the 9th and 10th standards were quite high.

Conclusion

On the basis of the analyses of data, it can be concluded that the enrolment status of the students of secondary education under RMSA Scheme is almost same from the years 2013-16.

It is concluded:
1. There is no significant difference in both the districts on the basis of their enrolment status in High schools.
2. There is no significant difference in both the districts on the basis of their enrolment status in Senior Secondary schools.

Government must take stern steps to increase the enrolment percentage of students every year in every kind of school where RMSA Scheme has been implemented. Head Teachers/Principals as well as subject teachers can arrange awareness programmes for parents and guardians to sustain their children, especially girl child, for high and higher school education. In order to ensure greater participation of students, RMSA has targeted schools in the neighbor-hood to make access easier for girls, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, free text books, free uniforms, and separate toilets for girls etc. In addition to this, RMSA Scheme envisages the quality of education by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level, removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers.

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