

## Gender and School Dropout in India: A Comparative Study

Kamruzzaman Mollah\*, Prof. (Dr.) Manjusha Tarafdar\*\*

\*(Research Scholar, Department of Education, Seacom Skills University,

P.O: Kendradangal, Bolpur, Dist: Birbhum, West Bengal, Pin-731236)

\*\* (Former Vice-Chancellor, Seacom Skills University, P.O: Kendradangal, Bolpur,

Dist: Birbhum, West Bengal, Pin-731236)

### Abstract:

The present study focus on enrolment and dropout percentage of children up to the secondary stage of education in India during the last ten year 2004-05 to 2013-14 in relation to gender. All the children are enrolled in school, but they gradually drop out in the different stages of school education. The present study shows that overall performance in enrolment and dropout decline percentage, girls are better than boys which is a positive indicator for our country, as well as growing awareness of the girls' children education among the Indian masses. The present study is purely secondary data-based, revealing that the enrolment percentage of girls has improved over twofold. On average, nearly 25.43 % of students' Dropout by the time they reach the primary level and 42.78 % by upper primary level, and 54.43 % by secondary level each year. A positive improvement in girls' child education compared to 26.88% boys, 23.68% girls' Dropout by the time they reach in primary level and 43.46% boys, 41.77% girls' Dropout by the time they reach upper primary level. So many positive aspects are there to improve the girls' child education, but the discouraging aspect is that compared to 54.03% boys, 54.94% girls' Dropout by the time they reach at the secondary level. There has been considerable improvement in the enrolment and dropout percentage. But in the meantime, special attention is to be carried forward for girls with additional support. This special attention is also important for the education of boys. This special attention is only for girls, it is also important to provide for the education of boys.

**Keywords:- Gender, Dropout, Enrolment, Secondary Education, Upper Primary Education, Primary Education.**

### I. INTRODUCTION:

In our life, the prime objectives of education are self-realization, personality development, formation of moral character and social adjustment. In real meaning, education built up a high level of awareness, knowledge, comprehension, application, skill, values and attitude, aptitude and ultimate peace among the peoples of any country in the world. Education is the main pillar of human rights, democracy, sustainable development and peace. No country can develop with her illiterate masses (Ali,2014). As per the census data 2011 Govt.

of India, India is a country of 1.21 billion people in the world; it is the second populous country of the world after china. The most exciting event about the population of India is that India is rated as the youngest country, for the fact more than 65% population of the country is below 35 years of age and more than 13% population of the country is in the age group of 0-6 years. The literacy rate of India as per the 2011 census is 74.04% (where male literacy is 82.14% and female literacy 65.46%), which has improved by 9.21 % since 2001, when the literacy rate of India was 65.46 % with male literacy

75.26% and female literacy 53.67 %. In 2011 census, male and female literacy has improved 6.88% and 11.79%, respectively with respect to 2001 census (Census, 2011). Indian School education system is divided into four stages: primary stage includes class I to V, Upper primary stage includes class VI to VIII, Secondary stage includes class IX to X and senior secondary stage includes XI to XII. When the education system of our country has become good and approachable with the best facilities to every child of the nation. Then there is not only the problem of wastage and stagnation but also Dropout is one of them. It is general phenomenon that drop out exists in each and every class level of the school (Siddique, 2013). School dropout is a worldwide issue facing by education departments throughout the world. Asper C.V.Good. (1973) "Most often designates an elementary or secondary school pupil who has been a member during the regular school term and who withdraws or is dropped from membership for any reason except death or transfer to another school before graduating or before completing an equivalent progress of studies; such an individual is considered a dropout whether his dropping out occurs before or after he has passed the compulsory school attendance age and, where applicable, whether not or he has completed a minimum required amount of school work"

## **II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:**

Educational outcomes on the basis of gender difference has been on international research agenda in the last few decades and which is challenging issue in the country Malaysia. Gender gap in educational outcomes concludes that girls achieve better than boys ( Nor Aniza, Zalizan & Manisha 2011). More than 27 million children in India who joined in class I in 1993, only 10 million of them reached class X.(Reddy and Sinha, 2010). In India the high rate of Dropouts remained at secondary level among the four stages of school education system. This is an alarming signal in our education system and the modern trends in average annual dropout rate in school education system, girls are higher than boys (MHRD,2016) . School-level

drop out in our country means leaving the students from the school before completion of stipulated cycle of school education. In the Secondary stage, the main causes of Dropout are poor achievement motivation, highly neurotic condition, choice of subject of learning, poverty, ignorance of parents and unsympathetic attitude of parents (Mohan, 1981). The findings of the study of Mathila and Saxena(2008), in Uttaranchal, 34 % middle school level students were found as dropped from school, amongst them 41 % girls 27 % boys. The main reason for that dropping out were the poverty of family and educational backwardness of parents (Mathila and Saxena, 2008). In Primary education, ill-health of students', household work, poverty, the largeness of family, lack of educational interest among the parents and economic backwardness are being influential in Dropout in Kerala and the dropout rate of boys is higher than girls (Pillai, Benjamin &Nair, 1980). According to Ramesh Paddita (2015) the enrolment percentage of girls has improved more than boys. The average annual dropout percentage of girls remained better to that of boys. Average nearly 29.63% students Dropout by the time they reach primary level and 47.05% students' by upper primary and 58.75% by secondary level each year (Pandita, 2015).

In this study, the researcher tries to highlight dropout and enrolment percentage of children in school level based on gender in India up to the secondary level of education, during the last one decade, viz., for the period 2004-2005 to 2013-2014. This study also analyzed the trend of overall enrolment and drop out percentage among the boys and girls.

## **III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- 1) To search out the trends of the overall enrolment and Dropout up to the secondary level of education in India.
- 2) To make a comparison between boys and girls in Dropout of all stages of education up to the secondary level in India.
- 3) To make a comparison between the boys and girls enrolment up to the secondary level of school education in India.

**IV. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:**

The data of the present study have been collected from the secondary source of data such as the website of the ministry of human resource development, Govt of India on December 02, 2016 accessible at the address [http://mhrd.gov.in>ststistic>ESG2016\\_](http://mhrd.gov.in>ststistic>ESG2016_). The website of UDISE Govt. of India [www.dise.in](http://www.dise.in) and the website of Census of India [www.census.gov.in](http://www.census.gov.in) are the sources of secondary data. Collected data from different sources are analyzed statically and represented graphically on the basis of gender with the help of computer application software Microsoft Excel.

**V. Limitation of the study**

The present study is restricted within only the data of upto secondary school level from the year 2004-05 to 2013-14 which are retrieved from the official website of M.H.R.D. and U.D.I.S.E. The findings of the present study only reflect the overall trend of students enrolment and Dropout in school education up to secondary level on the basis of gender during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14 in India.

**VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:**

The data of present study has been tabulated on the basis of gender. For the calculation of percentage, data has been drawn up to two decimal places as such may reflect slight variation when the figure are computed for 100 percent

Annual corresponding growth and corresponding decline percentage have been computed by using formula:

CG: Corresponding Growth

CD: Corresponding decline

$$CG = ((\text{End value} - \text{First Value}) / \text{First Value}) \times 100$$

$$CD = ((\text{End Value} - \text{First Value}) / \text{First Value}) \times 100$$

Table1: Enrolment of all school children in India during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14

Year	Enrolment figure in million of class						Total	CG% on Total
	Primary(I-V)		Upper Primary(VI-VIII)		Secondary (IX-X)			
	Enrolment	CG%	Enrolment	CG%	Enrolment	CG%		
2004-05	130.80		51.20		24.30		206.30	0.00
2005-06	132.10	0.99	52.20	1.95	25.00	2.88	209.30	1.45
2006-07	133.70	1.21	54.50	4.41	25.90	3.60	214.10	2.29
2007-08	135.50	1.35	57.30	5.14	28.20	8.88	221.00	3.22
2008-09	135.30	-0.15	58.40	1.92	29.40	4.26	223.10	0.95
2009-2010	133.60	-1.26	59.50	1.88	30.70	4.42	223.80	0.31
2010-11	134.80	0.90	61.90	4.03	31.90	3.91	228.60	2.14
2011-12	139.80	3.71	63.00	1.78	34.10	6.90	236.90	3.63
2012-13	134.80	-3.58	65.00	3.17	34.60	1.47	234.40	-1.06
2013-2014	132.40	-1.78	66.40	2.15	37.30	7.80	236.10	0.73
Average:	134.28	0.14	58.94	2.64	30.14	4.41	223.36	1.37
Total		1.40		26.44		44.11		13.68

CG%-Corresponding Growth percentage

Data Sources :(i) data for 2004-05, and 2012-13 to 2013-14: UDISE Govt. of India, (ii) data for 2005-06 to 2011-12: Ministry of human resource development.

The total average enrolment during the decade is 223.36, whereas primary, upper primary and secondary level total average enrolments are 134.28, 58.94, and 30.14 respectively during the same period of study. The above data shows that enrolment in secondary level (ix-x) in India during the period of study is minimum among the all stages of school education up to secondary level.

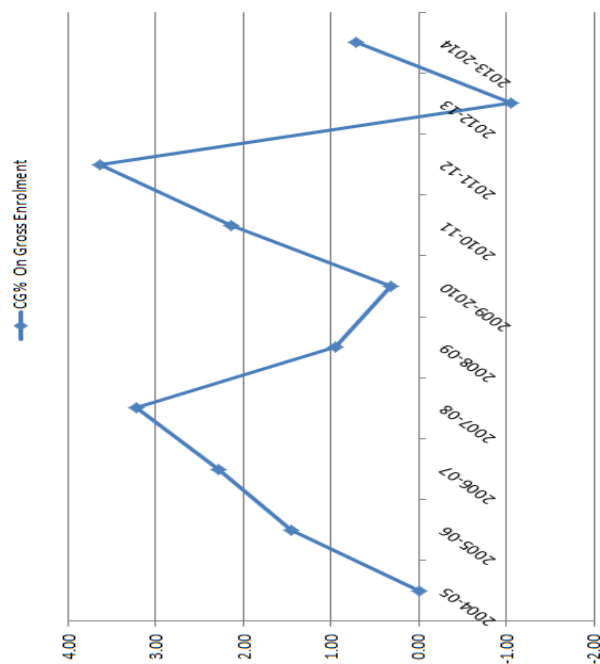


Figure1: Graphical representation of corresponding growth percentage in gross enrolment for all children

During the period (2004-05 to 2013-14), the gross enrolment for all classes has increased by 13.68%, whereas during the same period, the total growth enrolment up to primary level has increased by 1.40% and for upper primary level, has increased by 26.43% and for secondary level by 44.11%. According to table1, on year to year basis a constant and continuous corresponding growth has been observed except for the year 2012-13 in the enrolment of children which on average has grown at 1.37% annually. In 2012-13 the CG% of enrolment dropped by -1.06

Table 2: Dropout percentage for all school children in India during the period (2004-05 to 2013-14)

Year	Primary (I-V)			Upper Primary (VI-VIII)			Secondary (IX-X)			TOTAL	CD% On Total
	Dropout	CD%	Dropout	CD%	Dropout	CD%	Dropout	CD%			
2004-05	29.00		50.80		61.90		47.23				
2005-06	25.70	-11.38	48.80	-3.94	61.60	-0.48	45.37	-3.95			
2006-07	25.60	-0.39	45.90	-5.94	59.90	-2.76	43.80	-3.45			
2007-08	25.10	-1.95	42.70	-6.97	56.70	-5.34	41.50	-5.25			
2008-09	27.80	10.76	39.30	-7.96	54.20	-4.41	40.43	-2.57			
2009-2010	30.30	8.99	42.50	8.14	52.70	-2.77	41.83	3.46			
2010-11	27.40	-9.57	40.80	-4.00	49.20	-6.64	39.13	-6.45			
2011-12	22.30	-18.61	40.80	0.00	50.30	2.24	37.80	-3.41			
2012-13	21.30	-4.48	39.90	-2.21	50.40	0.20	37.20	-1.59			
2013-2014	19.80	-7.04	36.30	-9.02	47.40	-5.95	34.50	-7.26			
Average	25.43	-3.37	42.78	-3.19	54.43	-2.59	40.88	-3.05			
Total:		-33.68		-31.90		-25.92		-30.47			

CD%-Corresponding Decline percentage

Data Sources :(i) data for 2004-05, and 2012-13 to 2013-14: UDISE Govt. of India, (ii) data for 2005-06 to 2011-12: Ministry of human resource development.

The overall average annual Dropout for all classes in the period of study is 40.88% whereas, the average annual Dropout during the same period of study for primary, upper primary and secondary school level are 25.43%, 42.78% and 54.43% respectively. As per data, average Dropout at secondary stage (ix-x) remained higher among the all stages of school education. The overall Dropout for all the classes during the decade has decreased by 30.47%, whereas, during the same period Dropout up to primary, upper primary and secondary has decreased

by 33.68%, for upper primary level has decreased by 31.90% and for secondary level of education has decreased by 25.92%.

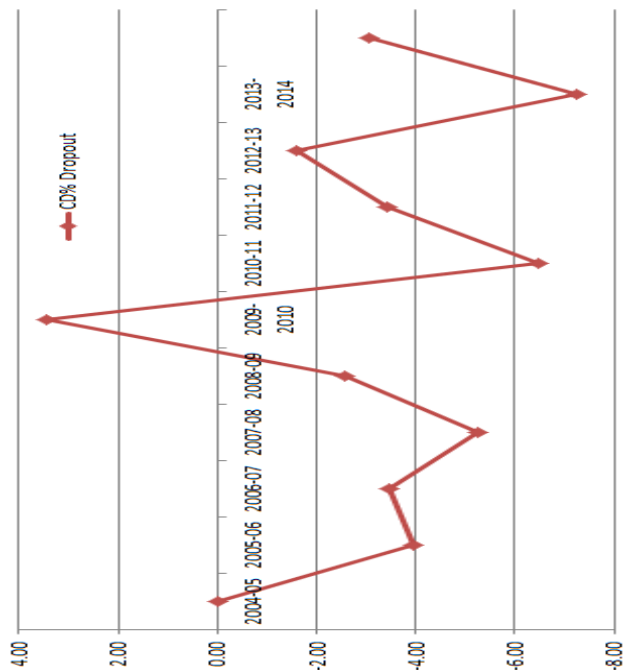


Figure2: Graphical representation of corresponding decline percentage in total Dropout for all children

During the decade, the average annual dropout decline remained 3.05%. It is noteworthy, that there has been a constant and continuous decline in the dropout percentage of children during the each corresponding year, except for the year 2009-10, when the decline of Dropout was recorded (increased by +3.46%).

Table3: Enrolment of all school children in India on gender basis during the period (2004-05 to 2013-14)

Year	Boys										Girls									
	Enrolment Figure In Millions of Classes					CG% On Total	Enrolment Figure In Millions of Classes					CG% On Total								
	Primary(I-V)		Upper Primary(VI-VIII)		Secondary (IX-X)		Primary(I-V)		Upper Primary(VI-VIII)		Secondary (IX-X)									
	I-V	CG%	VI-VIII	CG%	IX-X	CG%	I-V	CG%	VI-VIII	CG%	I-X	CG%								
2004-05	69.70		28.50		14.20		112.40		61.10		22.70		10.10		93.90					
2005-06	70.50	1.15	28.90	1.40	14.50	2.11	113.90	1.33	61.60	0.82	23.30	2.64	10.50	3.96	95.40	1.60				
2006-07	71.10	0.85	29.90	3.46	14.90	2.76	115.90	1.76	62.60	1.62	24.60	5.58	11.00	4.76	98.20	2.94				
2007-08	71.10	0.00	31.10	4.01	15.90	6.71	118.10	1.90	64.40	2.88	26.20	6.50	12.30	11.82	102.90	4.79				
2008-09	70.60	-0.70	31.40	0.96	16.50	3.77	118.50	0.34	64.70	0.47	27.00	3.05	13.00	5.69	104.70	1.75				
2009-2010	69.70	-1.27	31.70	0.96	16.90	2.42	118.30	-0.17	63.90	-1.24	27.80	2.96	13.80	6.15	105.50	0.76				
2010-11	70.10	0.57	32.70	3.15	17.50	3.55	120.30	1.69	64.60	1.10	29.20	5.04	14.30	3.62	108.10	2.46				
2011-12	72.60	3.57	33.10	1.22	18.60	6.29	124.30	3.33	67.20	4.02	29.90	2.40	15.50	8.39	112.60	4.16				
2012-13	69.60	-4.13	33.30	0.60	18.30	-1.61	121.20	-2.49	65.20	-2.98	31.70	6.02	16.30	5.16	113.20	0.53				
2013-14	68.60	-1.44	34.10	2.40	19.70	7.65	122.40	0.99	63.80	-2.15	32.30	1.89	17.60	7.98	113.70	0.44				
Average:	70.36	-0.14	31.47	1.82	16.70	3.37	118.53	0.87	63.91	0.45	27.47	3.61	13.44	5.75	104.82	1.94				
Total:		-1.41		18.18		33.65		8.67		4.54		36.09		57.54		19.43				

CG%-Corresponding Growth percentage  
 Data Sources :(i) data for 2004-05, and 2012-13 to 2013-14: UDISE Govt. of India, (ii) data for 2005-06 to 2011-12: Ministry of human resource development  
 Analyzing the table 3, we get some fundamental differences between girls and boys. The overall enrolment growth percentage in Indian school during the period of study of boys has increased 8.67% and girls have increased by 19.43% which is more than

twofold higher than the enrolment growth of boys during the same period. During the decade the overall enrolment growth percentage of boys in primary has decreased by 1.41% in upper primary level of education has increased by 18.18% and in secondary level has increased by 33.65%.

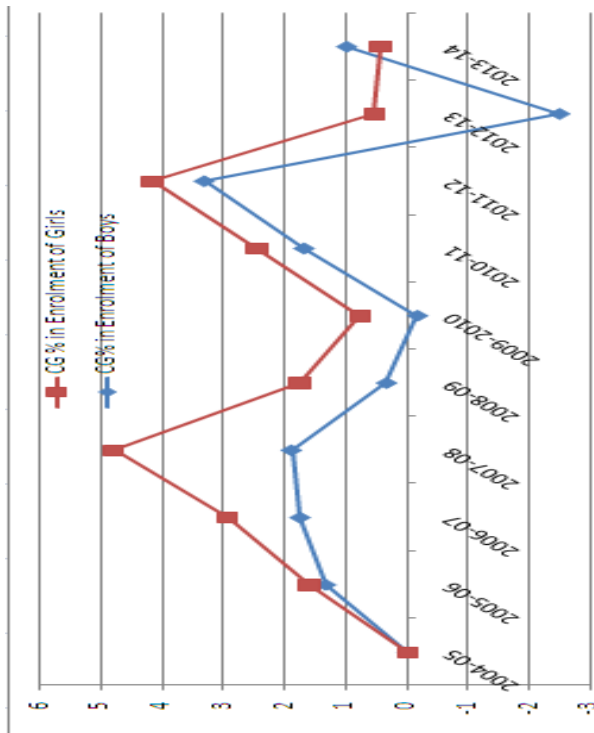


Figure3: Graphical representation of corresponding growth percentage in total enrolment for boys and girls

On the other hand, during the decade the overall enrolment growth percentage of girls in primary has increased by 4.54 %, in upper primary level of education has increased by 36.09% and in secondary level has increased by 57.53%. All stages up to secondary school education system , primary, upper primary and secondary level the enrolment growth percentage of girls is higher than boys which is positive sign for our country.

Table4: Dropout of all school children on gender basis during the period (2004-05 to 2013-14)

YEAR	Boys						Girls					
	Dropout Percentage Figure Of Classes			CD% ON			Dropout Percentage Figure Of Classes			CD% on		
	Primary (I-V)	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	Secondary (IX-X)	TOTAL	TOTAL	Primary (I-V)	Upper Primary (VI-VIII)	Secondary (IX-X)	Total	Total	Total	Total
2004-05	31.80		60.40	47.57		25.40	51.30	63.90		46.87		
2005-06	28.70	-9.75	60.10	45.83	-3.64	21.80	49.00	63.60	-4.48	44.80	-0.47	44.80
2006-07	24.60	-14.29	58.60	43.20	-5.75	26.80	45.20	61.50	-7.76	44.50	-3.30	44.50
2007-08	25.70	4.47	56.60	42.00	-2.78	24.40	41.30	57.30	-8.63	41.00	-6.83	41.00
2008-09	29.60	15.18	54.00	41.57	-1.03	25.80	36.90	54.40	-10.65	39.03	-5.06	39.03
2009-10	31.80	7.43	53.30	42.07	1.20	28.50	44.20	51.80	19.78	41.50	-4.78	41.50
2010-11	29.00	-8.81	50.20	39.93	-5.07	25.40	41.20	47.70	-6.79	38.10	-7.92	38.10
2011-12	23.40	-19.31	41.50	37.83	-5.26	21.00	40.00	52.20	-2.91	37.73	9.43	37.73
2012-13	23.00	-1.71	50.40	38.40	1.50	19.40	35.70	50.30	-10.75	35.13	-3.64	35.13
2013-14	21.20	-7.83	48.10	36.17	-5.82	18.30	32.90	46.70	-7.84	32.63	-7.16	32.63
Average	26.88	-3.46	54.03	41.46	-2.66	23.68	41.77	54.94	-4.00	40.13	-2.97	40.13
Total		-34.61		-22.16	-26.64		-25.48		-40.03		-29.72	

CD%-Corresponding Decline percentage  
Data Sources :(i) data for 2004-05, and 2012-13 to 2013-14: UDISE Govt. of India, (ii) data for 2005-06 to 2011-12: Ministry of human resource development.

During the decade, the aggregate average annual dropout percentage for girls is 40.13%, whereas, boys is 41.45% which is more than girls dropout

percentage during the same period of study. It is noticeable fact that during the period of study the average annual Dropout declined for boys and girls by 2.66% and 3.46% respectively. The average annual dropout percentage, for boys and girls in primary 26.88% and 23.68% respectively, in upper primary level boys and girls 24.55 and 40.03 respectively and in secondary level boys and girls 22.16 and 29.72 respectively.

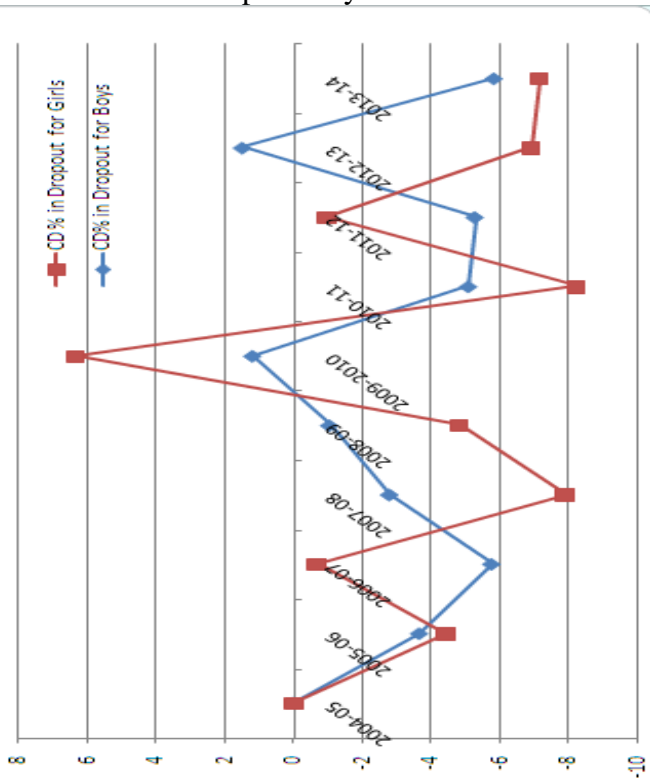


Figure4: Graphical representation of corresponding decline percentage in total Dropout for boys and girls

The average annual dropout percentage of girls in primary, upper primary and secondary level of education remained 23.68%, 41.77% and 54.94% respectively.

**VII. DISCUSSION:**

This paper outlines the scenario of engagement and Dropout on the basis of gender aspect upto secondary level education in India. The findings in this study enlightened two facts such as, the enrolment growth and dropout decline. Especially,

enrolment performance of girls in all stages of education up to secondary level is better than boys. It is also found that overall Dropout decreasing percentage of girls is better than boys. The finding of upliftment of girls education indicates that growing up the awareness among all the parents and Indian masses about the education of their girl children. In school education, overall engagement tendency of girls is better than boys.(Schaufeli et al.2002 ;Frederiks et.al.2004) .

As per data analysis, it is quite evident, that girl child in our society has started receiving positive treatment at per with boys and is no more deprived from fundamental education. Although, there has been considerable improvement in the enrolment and dropout percentage of girls child, but at the same time, attention needs to be carried forward with additional support and there should be no letup in this regard. (Pandit, 2015)

**VIII. CONCLUSION:**

India is a progressive country and for the all-around development, Dropout is a dangerous phenomenon. The key factor for the development of a country like India is her human resource. Of late, though the rate of women's education in India has increased, it is not enough. To decrease the dropout rate in our nation, it is mandatory to provide different kinds of incentives for girls and not only this it is also important to provide the same for the education of the boys. It is a fact that all the children are enrolled in school, but gradually Dropout in different stages of education.

In the present study, it has shown that the enrolment percentage of girls has improved over two fold to that of boys. This study reveals that on average, nearly 25.43 % students' Dropout by the time they reach primary level and 42.78 % by upper primary level and 54.43 % by secondary level each year. A finding of positive improvement of girls' child education compared to 26.88% boys, 23.68% girls' Dropout by the time they reach primary level and 43.46% boys, 41.77% girls' Dropout by the time they reach upper primary level. In spite of so many positive improvement of the girl child education, the discouraging aspect is that compared to 54.03% boys,

54.94% girls dropout by the time they reach at secondary level.

There must be projects and schemes to spread awareness of the ill effects of Dropout not only among girls but also among boys. The central, state Govt. and different NGO should give focused emphasis on the dropout issue both at the primary level, upper primary level and especially at the secondary level. The secondary stage of education (ix-x) should be brought under the of Right To Education Act (RTE Act) in order to tackle the dropout problem. The boundary of cooked mid-day meal (MDM) program should be broadened to include at least class X.

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