

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN GOVERNMENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN HIRANAGAR

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Abstract: Infrastructure of a school directly or indirectly effects the performance of a child. In this way, the school which has good facilities, such as having a good library, having a good laboratory, having sports etc. ensure that the child develops all their potentialities. Non-availability of any of these services stunts the all-round development of the children. This study was carried out to study the infrastructure facilities in government elementary schools in Hiranagar of Kathua district. To carry out this research ten elementary schools were randomly selected from 34 elementary schools. Checklist with 25 items was prepared to mark the presence or absence of particular infrastructure in the schools. The results withdrawn were calculated using percentage method. The main findings of the study were that Laboratory facility was not provided in the schools, only 40% of the schools had well maintained computer lab, all the schools had separate toilet facilities for girls' students and well maintained and working Library is not available in any of the schools.

Keywords: Elementary Education. Infrastructure, facilities in government schools, Hiranagar, Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir

Introduction:

A proper infrastructure of a school attracts students, increases interest in their studies, helps in proper development of children, enables children to get practical knowledge of things. And thus it helps in improving the performance of the children. In order to assure students' learning, the National Education Policy 2020 asked for appropriate and secure infrastructure, including "functioning toilets, pure drinking water, clean and attractive places, electricity, computer equipment, Libraries, Internet, Sports and recreational resources." The status of government schools in India is still a matter of debate.

According to research and studies done to determine the impact of infrastructure, pupils attending schools having poor infrastructure may perform worse academically than those attending schools with superior amenities. Even after receiving the funding, the committee members fail to plan or provide a proper layout for their schools, despite the fact that the government is undoubtedly providing full support in the infrastructure development for government schools. Additionally, local residents are unaware of the construction of the school infrastructure. As a result, the infrastructure of government schools is currently in poor and neglected state. For this condition time has arrived to carry out a detailed study of the infrastructure of government schools. To analyze the infrastructure facilities of the elementary schools, the Kathua was deliberately chosen, because no significant study was conducted in the said District.

Review of Related Literature

Hassan & Mishra (2017) in their study found that number of schools per thousand population have positive and significant impact on growth of expenditure of government in a long run.

Saha & Singla, (2017) in their study found that Jammu and Kashmir about one fourth of schools are functioning in buildings on rent. And only 62.2% of schools have pucca buildings and rest buildings are partially pucca. It was revealed in the study that poor microplanning was carried out in the state before launching SSA due to which the cost of construction in J&K is found to be higher than the unit cost prescribed in SSA manual.

Suri (2018) in her article wrote that in J&K, the literacy rate is 68.74 percent, while it is just 63.1 percent in rural regions (excluding the 0–6 population). One of the numerous causes of the low rates of literacy in the border state's rural districts is poor educational infrastructure. Numerous studies and analyses have revealed that Jammu and Kashmir's rural elementary schools suffer from a number of challenges, including inadequate facilities. The majority of schools in rural areas lack proper infrastructure. In addition to other issues like the absence of restrooms, play areas, libraries, etc., students are forced to sit on the floor because there is no furniture available.

Operational definitions:

Government schools: The schools run by the government under the government administration are government schools.

Elementary schools: - Elementary schools are the schools having the students from the classes 1st to 8th class.

Methods and procedure:

Sampling: There are total 1442 schools in Kathua. Out of which 386 are elementary schools. In Hiranagar there are 34 elementary schools. In this study due to limitation of time only ten elementary schools of Hiranagar were selected randomly. The Data for this study was collected in 2019.

Research tool: Checklist consists of 25 items was used to collect the data and Items were checked to mark their presence or absence.

Analysis and Data interpretation

Table Showing infrastructural facilities in terms of percentage available in the Elementary Schools under study

S.No.	Facilities	Available	Not Available	Percentage
1	Appropriate Building	9	1	90%
2	Compound Wall	10	0	100%
3	Gate	10	0	100%
4	Playground	9	1	90%
5	Examination Hall	0	10	0%
6	Recreational Hall	0	10	0%
7	Principal's Room	10	0	100%
8	Office	6	4	60%
9	Staff Room	0	10	0%
10	Library	0	10	0%
11	Laboratory	0	10	0%
12	Computer Lab	4	6	40%
13	Girls Common Room	0	10	0%
14	Boys Common Room	0	10	0%
15	Well Maintained Kitchen	10	0	100%
16	Counselling Room	0	10	0%
17	Proper Sitting Arrangement	10	0	100%
18	Cemented Flooring	10	0	100%
19	Blackboard	10	0	100%
20	Electricity	10	0	100%
21	Ventilated Classroom	10	0	100%
22	Benches, Chairs and desks	10	0	100%
23	Drinking Water facilities	10	0	100%
24	Separate toilet facilities	10	0	100%
25	Parking facilities	5	5	50%

Main findings:

In the study it was found that out of 100 percent schools under study:

1. 90% of the schools has appropriate building.
2. 100% schools have compound wall.
3. 100% schools have Gate.
4. 90% of the schools have playground sports equipment facility for the students.
5. None of the schools has examination hall conducting exams.
6. None of the schools has Recreational hall.
7. All the schools have separate room for the principal of the schools.
8. 60% of the schools have office block.
9. None of the schools has Staff Room for staff members.
10. None of the school has well maintained and working Library.
11. No school has Laboratory facilities.

12. Only 40% have well maintained computer lab.
13. No school has a Girl's common room.
14. Boy's common room is also not available in any of the schools.
15. 100% schools have well maintained kitchen for preparing mid-day meal for the students.
16. None of the schools is having Counselling room.
17. All the schools have proper seating arrangements in the classrooms.
18. All the schools have blackboard facilities available in the classrooms.
19. Basic facilities of electricity are provided by all these schools.
20. All the schools are having ventilated classrooms.
21. All the schools have Furniture like benches, chairs and desks.
22. All the schools are having proper drinking water facilities.
23. All the schools have separate toilet facilities for girl's students
24. Fifty percent of the schools have bicycle parking facilities.
25. All the classrooms are in good condition with cemented flooring.

Conclusions: Thus from the study it can be said that the condition of government elementary school school is not good. Even the basic facilities like library and laboratory are not available. This is the reason why the students of government schools do not get much help and thus they fail to compete with other students of private institutions.

According to a Project Approval Board meeting chaired by Secretary Education and Literacy in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in June 2020, Jammu and Kashmir has poor retention rate at primary, upper primary and secondary level classes. As per the minutes of the meeting, the total enrollment decline across classes is nearly 1.75 lakh in 2019-20. "The number of out of school children was just 19,000 in 2017-18. Government schools, especially up to the elementary level, are witnessing a drop in enrollment in Jammu and Kashmir due to lack of infrastructure in schools, for which the department receives a separate grant from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) (now known as Ministry of Education). It is evident from the numbers that how badly the steps are needed to be taken in this direction.

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