Demographic profile of 'out-of- school' Children in the age group of 6 – 14 yrs in the administrative Block of Khansahib (Budgam)

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Abstract: The present study, and measure the various parameters of out-of- school' Children in the age group of 6 – 14 in administrative Block of District Budgam. The study revealed that the total population of the district is 735753. The total literacy percentage of the district is 57.98%. The literacy rate among males is 68.18% and among females is 46.66% and the literacy rate among males is higher than that of females. It also depicted that the total population of the block is 220815 and total literacy percentage is 39%. Literacy rate among males is 62% and in females it is 38% and the literacy rate among males is higher than that of females. The study also revealed that there are 600 out of school children, out of which, 212 children are attending child work centres and 388 children were sitting idle and are not attending any type of child work centres, the percentage of children attending child work centres is 35.33 and that of idle children is 64.66 and the percentage of idle children is higher than that of children attending child work centres. It also shows that 212 children are engaged in various work centres, the highest no. of children i.e, 77 (36.32 %) are engaged in carpet weaving and the lowest no. of children i.e., 18(8.4%) are engaged in embroidery. The study shows that the highest number of children i.e., 68 (32.07 %) belong to the age group of 14 years and in age groups of 6,7 and 8 years, not even a single child is attending any type of work centre. It also indicates that out of 600 children, 23 (3.83%) belong to 6 yr age- group,53 (8.83%) belong to 7 yr age- group,78 (13.00%) belong to the 8 yr of age- group, 58(9.66%) belonged to the 9 yr age- group, 84(14.00%) belong to the 12 yr age- group, 98 (16.33%) belong to the 13 yr age- group and the remaining 55(9.16%) belong to the 14 yr age- group and the highest number of children i.e., 98 (16.33%) belong to the 13 yr age- group and the lowest number of children i.e,23 (3.83%) belong to the 6 yr age- group. It also indicates that most of the children i.e., 385 belong to their nuclear families and their percentage is 64.16 and the remaining 215 children belong to the joint families and their percentage is 35.83.

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1. Introduction

Education is a necessity and a birth right of every human being. It is very important for the progress of both individual and society and in present era it is regarded as a potent instrument for rapid and effective development through which the standard of living of people, their prosperity and security can be considerably improved. It furnished the individual with basic knowledge and technical skills essential for work, productivity and economic survival. Children are the future generation of a nation. They are the beings on which a nation puts all its hopes. Therefore the early childhood education should be according to the physiological and psychological needs and conditions of the child. It should be free, flexible and comprehensive in finding the best ways of getting families and schools to work together. Children from rural areas as soon as they are seven or eight years of age become an economic asset to their parents as they help them in their work. This working in a very early age, robs them off the jobs of life and stunts their physical health. In India, there is an increasing awareness of the problem of illiteracy and a grave concern about the blighting effect of the same on the economic, social and political development. The human factor in development especially in economic development is receiving much greater attention than ever before. Efficiency and productivity of the work whether are influenced by his ability to acquire knowledge and skills through education and training for which literacy is a necessary pre-condition. It was in keeping with his aim that the article 45 of Indian constitution aims to provide free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years. As such considerable resources have been mobilized for the provisions of educational facilities all over the country; schools have now been established in remote rural areas in small and scattered habitation in the hills and forests bringing elementary education to all the doors of people at large. The states of a country are

engaged in an extraordinary task of providing universal elementary education to all children in the age group of 6 - 14 years; but in spite of the large expansion at the elementary stage of education we have failed so far to get enrolled in the schools even all those children who are between the age group of 6-14years.

Need and Importance of the study

There has been a spectacular development in elementary education during the post independence period. The elementary education system of India has been explained to be one of the largest in the world. The number of primary schools increased from 476636 in 1978 to 529392 in 1986. The corresponding increase in upper primary schools was from 112404 to 138687. 94.65% of the rural population has schools within a walking distance of one kilometer and 85.40% of the rural population have an upper primary school with in a walking distance of 3 km out of total habitation 502806 (51.36%) habitation covering

(80.34%) rural populations had primary schools.

In the state of J & K there are 22 districts and the district Budgam falls in Kashmir region. The district has been divided into 8 blocks. Block Khansahib which is under study is one of them. District Budgam has a total population of 735753. Literacy of males is 68.18 % and among females it is 46.66 % so the total literacy percentage of district Budgam is 57.98%. In the light of the above information in district Budgam, the literacy percentage is 57.98% which indicates that there are near about 53.57 % people who are not in a position to read and write. Besides, there are hundreds of children who have no access to pre-primary and primary education. The children are engaged in various child labor activities. So it is the need of the hour to look into the grass root level of district Budgam especially in to the

In order to achieve the objectives formulated for the present study, the data collected has been tabulated as under:

Table 1: Population and literacy percentage of district Budgam (Sex Wise)

Total population	Total Literacy	Literacy Percentage among	Literacy Percentage
	percentage	Males	among Females
735753	57.98%	68.18%	46.66%

This table shows the population and literacy percentage of district Budgam. The table indicates that the total population of the district is 735753. The total literacy percentage of the district is 57.98%. The literacy rate among males is 68.18% and among females is 46.66% and the literacy rate among males is higher than that of females.

	Table 2. I optiation and Effect acy percentage in the block Khansamb					
Total population	Total Literacy	Total LiteracyLiteracy Percentage amongLiteracy Percentage among				
	percentage	Males	females			
220815	39%	62%	38%			

Table 2: Population and Literacy percentage in the block Khansahib

This table shows the population and literacy percentage in the Khansahib block. The table shows that the total population of the block is 220815 and total literacy percentage is 39%. Literacy rate among males is 62% and in females it is 38% and the literacy rate among males is higher than that of females.

Total No. of out of School children	No. of children attending Child work centres	No. of children who are not attending child work centres
600	212	388
Percentage	35.33	64.66

Table 3: Distribution and percentage of out-of-school children

This table shows that there are 600 out of school children, out of which, 212 children are attending child work centres and 388 children were sitting idle and are not attending any type of child work centres, the percentage of children attending child work centres is 35.33 and that of idle children is 64.66 and the percentage of idle children is higher than that of children attending child work centres.

Name of the trade	Total No. of children	Percentage			
Carpet Weaving	77	36.32			
Automobile Working	40	18.86			
Cutting and tailoring	55	25.94			
Embroidery	18	8.4			
Ice-Cream	22	10.37			
Total	212				

Fahle	4. Die	stribution	of	children	working in	different	working	centres
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The table shows the number of children working in the different work centres in the block. The table shows that 212 children are engaged in various work centres, the highest no. of children i.e.,77 (36.32 %) are engaged in carpet weaving and the lowest no. of children i.e., 18(8.4%) are engaged in embroidery.

Table 5:Sex-Wise distribution of out-of-school children working in different child work centres.

Sex	Total No. of Children	Percentage
Male	145	68.39
Female	67	31.60
Total	212	

The above given table shows the number and percentage of out-of-school children working in different work centres according to their sex. The table shows that 145 children belong to male sex and their percentage is 68.39, while 67 children belong to female sex and their percentage is 31.60 and the highest percentage of working children belong to male sex as compared to the female sex.

Table 6: Distribution	of out-of-school children	working in various	child work centres	(Age-wise)
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Age group	Total No. of children	Percentage
6 Year	Nil	Nil
7 Year	Nil	Nil
8 Year	Nil	Nil
9 Year	7	3.30
10 Year	13	6.13
11 Year	26	12.26
12 Year	43	20.28
13 Year	55	25.94
14 Year	68	32.07
Total	212	

The above table shows the age-wise distribution of out-of-school children working in various child work centres. The table shows that the highest number of children i.e, 68 (32.07 %) belong to the age group of 14 years and in age groups of 6,7 and 8 years, not even a single child is attending any type of work centre.

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Sex	No .of out-of-school children	Percentage
Male	290	48.33
Female	310	51.66
Total	600	

The above table shows the sex-wise distribution of out-of-school children in the given block. The table indicates that there are 290 out-of-school children who belong to the male sex and their percentage is 48.33, there are 310 out-of-school children who belong to female sex and their percentage is 51.66 and the highest percentage of out-of-school children belong to the female sex as compared to the male sex.

Age in years	No .of children	Percentage
6 Years	23	3.83
7 Years	53	8.83
8 Years	78	13.00
9 Years	58	9.66
10 Years	80	13.33
11 Years	71	11.83
12 Years	84	14.00
13 Years	98	16.33
14 Years	55	9.16
Total	600	

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The above given table shows the Age-wise distribution of out-of-school children in the block khansahib. It indicates that out of 600 children, 23 (3.83%) belong to 6 yr age- group,53 (8.83%) belong to 7 yr age- group,78 (13.00%) belong to the 8 yr of age- group,58(9.66%) belonged to the 9 yr age- group, 84(14.00%) belong to the 12 yr age- group,98 (16.33%) belong to the 13 yr age- group and the remaining 55(9.16%) belong to the 14 yr age- group and the highest number of children i.e, 98 (16.33%) belong to the 13 yr age- group and the lowest number of children i.e, 23 (3.83%) belong to the 6 yr age- group.

Table 9: Distribution of out-of-school children according to the nature of their families		
Pattern of family	No.	Percentage
Joint Family	215	35.83
Nuclear Family	385	64.16
Total	600	

Table 9: Distribution of out-of-school children according to the nature of their families

The above given table shows the distribution of out-of-school children according to the nature of their families. The table indicates that most of the children i.e, 385 belong to their nuclear families and their percentage is 64.16 and the remaining 215 children belong to the joint families and their percentage is 35.83.

Monthly income	No.	Percentage	
500-1000	92	15.33	
1000-2000	290	48.33	
2000-3000	139	23.16	
3000 above	79	13.16	
Total	600		

Table 10: Monthly income of families having out -of -school children

This table shows the distribution of out-of-school children according to the monthly income of their families. The table indicates that most of the children i.e, 290 belong to such families having monthly below two thousand and their percentage is 48.33 and the lowest number of children i.e, 79 belong to such families having monthly income of above three thousand and their percentage is 13.16.

Table 11. Nature of nouses of families having out-of-school children			
Nature of houses	No .of houses	Percentage	
Kaccha	107	17.83	
Pacca	87	14.05	
Mixed	406	67.66	
Total	600		

Table 11: Nature of houses of families having out-of-school children

This table shows the nature of houses of various families having out-of-school children. The table indicates that there are 107 families having Kaccha houses and their percentage is 17.83, there are families residing in Pacca houses and their percentage is 14.05, there are 406 families residing in mixed houses and their percentage is 67.66% of the families having out-of-school children were residing in mixed.

Literacy of parents	No.	Percentage
Literate	193	33.27
Illiterate	387	66.72
Total	580	

fable 12: Literad	ey of	parents of	out-of-school	children
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This table shows the Literacy of the parents of out-of-school children. The table reveals that most of the children are those having illiterate parents, that 387 (66.72%) parents (especially fathers) are illiterate and remaining 193 (33.27) are literate.

Table 15. Occupation of fathers of out-of-school enhurch			
Occupation of father	No.	Percentage	
Farmer	244	41.35	
Labourer	130	22.03	
Shopkeeper	78	13.22	
Carpenter	26	4.40	
Shepherd	25	4.23	
Driver	6	1.01	
Potter	4	0.67	
Weaver	5	0.84	
Tailor	8	1.35	
Cook	4	0.67	
Fisherman	5	0.84	
Govt. Employee	55	9.32	
Total	590		

Table 13: Occupation of fathers of out-of-school children

This table shows the parental occupation of out-of-school children. The table reveals that most of the parents are farmers, their number and percentage is 244 and 41.35 respectively and 55 parents are doing government jobs and their percentage is 10.59.

Suggestions

On the basis of the findings of the present study the investigators have formulated following suggestions.

- 1. As already pointed out that, financial difficulty is an overwhelming cause of the problem. It is therefore advisable to give financial assistance to those who deserve it. Scholarships should be provided to all these children so that they may meet their educational needs at proper time.
- 2. Vigorous campaigns of educating the parents through social organisations, film shows special programmes on both radios and televisions should be maximised in this regard.
- 3. Sympathetic treatment with young children goes a long way to develop in them positive attitudes towards education.
- 4. The present study may be replicated on a large area covering the entire district.
- 5. A deep investigation may be undertaken to study the problem of these children in detail.

6. A survey may be conducted to analyse the role of literate persons in motivating the parents to send their children to school.

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