ABSTRACT

Access to education is a basic human right and essential to human well-being. Formal education is one of the instruments for accelerating the process of social mobility. Elementary school education generally gives students the confidence that they can improve their lives. It also has the potential to make them aware of the difficulties and obstacles that may hinder their paths. Apart from that education has long been identified as one of the most important determinant of economic growth. It is considered to be both an indicator and instrument of economic development. So, the country which is achieved the Universalisation of Elementary Education, it is confirmed that the country has been developed. Hence, the present study is a descriptive as well as analytical study which analyses the various issues like programmes and policies of elementary education, growth pattern of enrollment and drop-outs in elementary schools, school infrastructure indicators and the socio-economic determinants of enrollment in schools and so on. The analysis has been conducted first for India level then Karnataka level and the particular for Chamarajanagara district mainly where the education level is truly deprived.

The present study is very interesting and also relevant to the present situations of the few states which are educationally backward. Because, it has been highlighted the present as well as global level issues like enrollments and drop-outs and it has analyzed such things by using appropriate statistical tools like Exponential Growth Model, ANOVA and Multiple Regression Analysis and come out with the exact results, facts and major findings. It has been found from the study that the enrollment is growing rapidly in private schools whereas in government schools the level of enrollment is declined. The drop-out trend is declining steadily due to the implementation of various policies and programmes. The boys’ enrollment is very high compared to the girls in both primary and upper primary levels due to gender bias and lack of awareness. In India, the ST’s are dominant in enrollments but in Karnataka, the SC’s are in better position. Similarly, there is a significant difference in enrollments ad drop-outs in rural and urban area schools and also between government and private schools. The programme MDM and the fee relaxations are having high influence on the enrollment and also creating awareness among the parents. Majority of the elementary schools are having the infrastructure facilities but
not properly maintained due to lack of maintenance fund. It is also found that, the majority of the schools have the teacher related problem like lack of teachers and teacher absenteeism. Likewise, it is also found from the primary data analysis, the majority of the respondents are landless labourers who are migrating from rural to urban areas for seeking jobs. The annual income of the majority of the households is low and they don’t have the saving habit of income. Basically, the study area is distressed economically and agriculturally due to the occurrence of drought and lack of irrigation which leads to push them into educational and economical backwardness. The majority of the respondents have been sent their children to government schools due to lack of income. Further, it is also found from the regression analysis that, the socio-economic factors like Income, urban population, female literacy are having a positive relationship with enrollment and negatively related with the drop-outs but the level of poverty has the positive influence on the enrollment and negatively influenced on the drop-outs in elementary schools. These are the various important findings proved from the primary analysis.

Hence, the present study suggested some major implications related to the above issues to come out from such issues which are discussed above. So, the study suggested that there is a need of strong regulation to control the non-recognized growth of private schools. There is a need of effective implementation of the RTE act and also the programmes like MDM and fee relaxation which have high impact on enrollments. So, the government has to modify such programme systematically. The step has to be taken to improve the quality of education like Medium of Instructions and curriculum activities in government schools in order to improve the enrollments. It is also suggested that, the government should give proper funds to maintain the infrastructure of the schools. The government has to take a savior step to solve the problem of irrigation in order to improve their economic condition which leads to get more education opportunities. So, these are the policy implications strongly suggested by the present study.