

Causes of Dropout among Boys and Girls at Primary Level in Chilton Town of Quetta City

NAJEEB ULLAH

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Education
Alhamd Islamic University, Quetta
Email: Khannajeebullah034@gmail.com

DR. JAHANGIR KHAN ACHAKZAI

Associate Professor

Department of Allied Medical Sciences, Alhamd Islamic University Quetta
Email: Jahangir.biochemist@yahoo.com

DR. SIDRA KIRAN

Assistant Professor, Department of Education
Alhamd Islamic University, Quetta

DR. IFFAT BASIT

Assistant Professor, Department of Education
Alhamd Islamic University, Quetta

Email: iffat.basit@alhamd.pk

PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD ANWAR PANEZAI

Dean Faculty of Life Sciences

University of Balochistan Quetta

DR. F. A. JAFFER

HOD, Department of Allied Medical
Sciences, Alhamd Islamic University Quetta

HAFSA JAFFAR

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Education
Alhamd Islamic University, Quetta

ARFA AZIZ

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Education
Alhamd Islamic University, Quetta

Email: aefaaziz1988@gmail.com

KHALIL ULLAH KAKAR

M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Education
Alhamd Islamic University, Quetta

Email: khalilullahkakar@yahoo.com

MUHAMMAD AKBER

M.Phil scholar, Department of Education
Alhamd Islamic University, Quetta, Pakistan

AZMAT ALI

Balochistan Study Centre, University of Balochistan
Quetta, Pakistan

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to know and investigate the main causes of dropout among boys and girls at primary level in two union councils kuchlak and baleli Chilton town Quetta City. As these were the most affected areas regarding dropout, and in past no research work had been conducted in these areas at primary level to investigate the causes behind dropout which no doubt was an alarming issue not only for the education department but also for the parents of the children. Quantitative research method was adopted, random sampling method was use and data was collected through questionnaires from some 50 primary school teachers, 100 primary school students and 50 parents of the concerned area.

Keywords: Education, Dropout, Primary level, Teacher, Lc's /Supervisors, DDEO, DEO, Quetta.

INTRODUCTION:

Education all over the world is considered as the backbone and development of a nation; no societies can progress and be prosper until quality education is not provided to its people, because these are the people of a nation who are considered as human resource of the development of a nation in future. No nation of the world will be able to develop and achieve its goals without considering education as the most important source of development, because education is considered to be the most important part of human life in every society, the modification and lifestyle of every individual member of a society has a deep concern with education whether men or women, gone are the days when education was considered only for the male members of the society and female members an important part of the society were only restricted to household works and their sole duties were only to look after their children inside the Homes. Now the world has been progressing day by day and every human whether men or women have an equal opportunity of getting education and playing their important part in the Development of stable and prosper societies.

Islam also Forces all men and women to get education, as in the first verse it says to “read” (1) al Quran (96). and “those who knows are not equal to those who does not” (2) al Quran (surah az-

zumar 39;1-9) Knowledge has always been supported and promoted by every religion of the world and because of knowledge human beings have distinction over angels as Quran says “And Adam was told all the names” (3) Al Quran (2;31) and, with ahadees of the last prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) The importance of seeking knowledge is also emphasised in different ways and on different occasions like he says “every Muslim man and woman shall seek knowledge” (4) al hadees (sunan ibne maja 224) and, further elaborating the importance of education he suggested to “Get it even if someone has to go to China for sake of it” (5) al hadees.

According to Plato, the aim of education is the welfare of both the individual and the Society. It is the source through which society seek discipline and make the individuals of the society capable and knowledgeable through which they can find out solutions to their problems. Education sector has always been remained the most important source of development for all nations of the world, today the world is moving from backwardness to development with the help of providing quality education to its people which produces them human resource of high quality and stable position in today's globalised world.

It is the responsibility of a state to provide basic primary education to every child because it is the most important and fundamental need of a child's education without which it will not be possible for us to compete the world in education sector.

In our country Pakistan children having age of 5 to 9 attend primary schools which starts from kachi to class five in government and private schools and some religious institutions called madrasas in two languages Urdu & English.

Children who are not going to schools are considered as out of school's children, in constitution article (25 -A) the age of school going children is 5 to 16 years. Out of school children are of two types. Children who have never been to school and those who attended school and then left it for some reasons are called out of school children (6).

Pakistan has been suffering from serious education crisis, millions of children in Pakistan do not go to schools, and those in schools have been facing so many problems like teacher's absentees,

lack of facilities, corporal punishment, and not enough good learning environment. In Pakistan dropout is a serious issue and is not solved yet in educational history and disturbs the socioeconomic stability of the state. So the issue should be solved and defined appropriately before it gets worst. (7) Farooq, M.S (1948). In educational process one of the main causes of dropout is low per capita, social capital needs to be increased to gain the tendency of students to end the issue of high dropout in schools (8).

Reports at national and International level verifies that there are 150,129 schools in which 131,376 88 % are govt and 18,753 12 % are private and the number of children who are not enrolled in schools is 5 million with girls 60% and boys 40% (9).

The condition of education in balochistan is even worse where some 70 % children are not going to schools in which 78 % are girls and 67 % are boys of primary school age and the reason behind this is the distance of their homes from schools (10) (unicef). Baluchistan is the largest province of Pakistan by area, where children have to travel and walk every 30 kilometres to reach a primary school, 260 kilometres and 360 kilometres to reach middle and high schools. (11). Keeping in view the distance from homes to schools there is always a risk of insecurity for school children specially for female students which can also be a cause of dropout.as female education in Pakistan is already effected and the ratio of dropout among them is high and the causes behind are parent's role, traditional and social norms, lack of Educational facilities (12).

There might be many causes of drop out but some of the most serious causes are schools with large numbers of students, Teachers poor behaviour with students, Poor teaching methods, Changes in curriculum on regular basis, Lack of parent's interest in children's education, no extra Co-curricular activities, and long distance from schools are those major issues responsible for high dropout (13).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Quality education is considered to be the most important factor for the development of a nation, and as nation, Pakistan has been suffering from Ups and downs in education sector and this is because its

allocation budget on education is not good enough and the result of which is that we have 102nd position out of 120 in in education sector in today's modern world which is not satisfactory at all with allocation of only 2.3% of GDP on education annually (14).

The present education system of Pakistan is more than 80 years' old which was imposed on us by British colonial, since then we have been following the same educational system. But now experts believe that it is time to Bring changes in our educational system because that much old educational system cannot fulfil our educational needs in 21st century. In Pakistan There are mainly three main Education system 1st Government education institutions for the middle classes of the nation 2nd private sector for the elite class of the nation and 3rd Religious Educational institutions like madaris for the poor.

Public schools in Pakistan are the largest and free source of education for the people in which the environment for teaching and learning is worse. Having issues like Lack of resources, Recruitment of teachers without merit, large number of students, Low schools budget and poor monitoring system (15).

Father of the nation Quid e azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the first education conference in November 1947 explaining the importance of education said that: “We as a nation cannot progress without education and it should be our First priority to provide education to every child so that we can make well educated people for Pakistan” (16).

Though all important initiatives have been taken and numerous educational policies have been developed and conferences conducted since the Independence Day but still positive results regarding satisfactory educational programmes have not been achieved yet.

Education conference in 1947 clearly defines the Provision of education for all. According to commission on national education 1959 unstable political situation is the reason Because of which the targeted goals could not be achieved. In education policy of 1970 all possible opportunities regarding Opening of the educational institutions and maintenance of teaching staff in all schools were considered most important. Education policy of 1972-80 promises the

provision of education without gender discrimination with educational services for all backward adults of the nation, Teachers, Students and parents were also considered the important part in educational process.

It was decided in 1977 national educational conference that there should not be any discrimination for boys and girl's students in schooling. Both will be provided same facilities in the country regarding education. Some most important and serious initiatives had also been taken in national education policy 1998-2010 in which a target of literacy rate from 39 percent to 55 % in 5 years and 70 % by the year 2010 was in policy and a target of 90% enrolment between 5 to 9 years of age was to be enrolled in schools. Provision of all facilities in schools was considered mandatory. PMLN in his regime announced national education policy 2017-2025 with the Responsibility of providing free and quality education, All Modern and instructional facilities for students in schools with friendly learning atmosphere, it was also targeted that Large number of special children will be enrolled in special education sector.

Single national curriculum 2020-2021 also focuses on free and fair opportunities of education for all children without any discrimination of cast, creed, religion and colour. (17) Suhag, A. K., & Khan, N. (2020) Pakistan since its date of creation has been trying its level best to overcome the problems that she has been facing regarding education. Every elected government in her Time of Tenure Has tried to present and implement its best education policies to overcome the Problems in education sector. But very unfortunately there are still numerous problems in our education system that needs the utmost attention of government and education policy makers.

At current Pakistan's literacy rate is just 58% which is very low as compare to our neighbor countries Iran with literacy rate of 85%, China with 80% and India with 74% of literacy rate. And the female literacy rate in the country is very low. Pakistan stands the second highest nation with out of school children which is 22.8 million children from age 5 to 16 years with representation of 44% of its population.5 million children from age 5 to 9 have never been enrolled in school (18).

In Balochistan the condition of education as compared to other provinces of the country is even worse where more than one million children are out of schools in which 78% of girls and 68% are of boys (19). Dropout from schools is a serious issue, there are many reasons behind it but some of them cannot be neglected which can be social, cultural, economic, and political. Poverty has a link with dropouts from schools (20).

Poverty is one of the root causes of dropout, in many schools dropout ratios each year is very high and economic factors are considered as cause of dropping out from school, a child who belongs to a poor family will definitely work and earn some money (21). Migration of a child's family from one place to another is another major cause of dropout which severely disturbs the attendance and academic performance of a child (22).

Punishing children very harshly and in unskilled ways is nowadays a trend in schools and it has long lasting negative effects on a child's personality which only develops negative personality traits in him/her, such as fear of teachers, problems in learning, escaping and absenteeism from school, which finally ends with drop out from the school (23). School distance is another factor because of which many of the students are at risk of dropping out from school, if the distance of school is too far from their homes especially young girls are at more risk because of sexual harassment (24).

Early marriages also contribute to drop out of female students from school. Parents no more consider education beneficial for girls and arrange their marriages early (25). Teachers' absenteeism from schools is another factor of high dropout which not only affects students' achievement but can also cause the absenteeism in students too (26).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quantitative research methodology was adopted, and the details of research methodology are as under:

Population of the study

The present study was designed to know the “causes of dropout among boys and girls at primary level in two union councils of Chilton town Quetta city kuchlak and beleli” primary school teachers, students of primary schools and parents of the students of above mentioned area were the population of the study.

Sampling method

Random sampling method was used to select a representative sample for generalisation of results in which 50 primary school teachers, 100 primary school students and 50 parents of the students were selected randomly.

Data collection tool

Both primary and secondary data were collected, close ended questionnaire was designed based on 3 point Likert scale followed as Yes, to some extent and No. Questionnaire was also designed in simple Urdu language as to achieve satisfactory answers from the respondents, and the researcher personally distributed and collected the questionnaire from the respondents.

Pilot testing of questionnaire

Pilot testing of questionnaire was conducted through 15 primary school teachers 20 primary school students and 15 parents of the students and after conducting the test No errors were found in the questionnaire, no problem was faced by the researcher in data collection and all the respondents responded well and the refusal were almost none.

Data analysis

The collected data was then analysed and presented with pie charts having percentages.

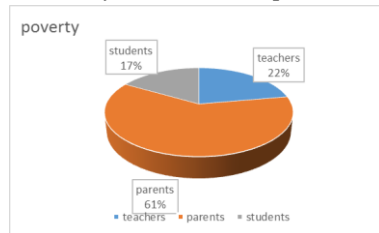
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

After achieving the results the following main causes were identified responsible for the dropout of students from schools.

Poverty

Poverty is one of the major cause of dropout, according to large number of parents they could not afford the expenses for their children's education. The data in Figure No 1 shows that 61% of the parents, 22% of the teachers and 17% of the students Consider poverty as one of the major cause of drop out from schools.

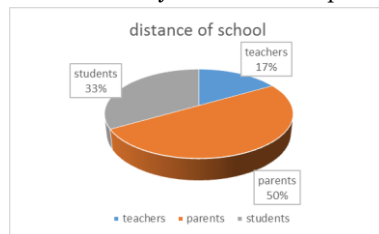
Figure 1: shows the views of respondents in percentages about poverty the major cause of dropout.



Distance of schools

Distance of school is another major cause of dropout, according to respondents Students face many problems reaching their schools like security, Sexual harassment, harsh weathers etc. which results high dropouts of students from schools. in Figure 2, 50 % of the parents, 33 % students, and 17 % of the teachers Consider school distance as another major cause of drop out.

Figure 2: Shows the views of respondents in percentages about distance of schools as major cause of drop out.

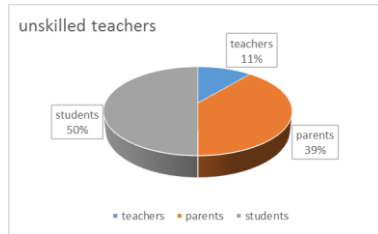


Unskilled teachers

It was observed that many of the teachers were unskilled and they were not facilitated with professional trainings. a large number of students were not satisfied with the teaching methods of the teachers.

50 % of the Students, 39% of the parents, and 11% of the teachers Considered unskilled teachers responsible for high dropout as given in Figure 3.

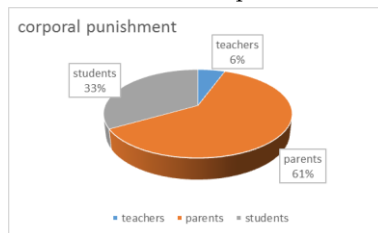
Figure 3: Shows the views of respondents in percentages about unskilled teachers another major cause of dropout.



Corporal punishment

It was observed during teaching and learning process that the behavior of most of the teachers with their students was very harsh. In Figure 4, 61% of the parents, 33% of the students Have Witnessed corporal punishment in schools and only 6% of the teachers Accepted It Which is another major cause of dropout.

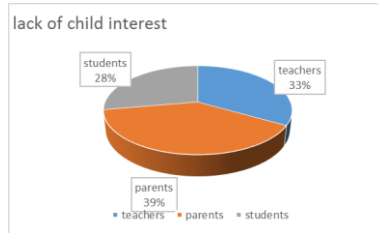
Figure 4: Shows the views of respondent about corporal punishment as major cause of dropout.



Lack of child's interest

It was also noted that most of the students were not taking interest in their studies. They used to delay their homework and daily tasks of the school According to the parents and teachers of the school. Which is also a major cause of dropout as given in figure 5 with 39% of parents, 33% of teachers and 28% of students views.

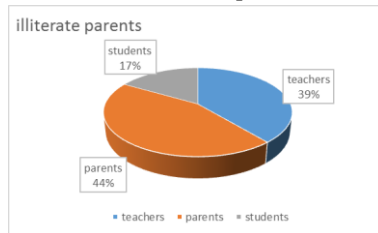
Figure 5: shows the views of respondents about lack of child's interest as major cause of dropout



Illiterate parents

Majority of students' dropout from schools Because their parents are illiterate and are unaware with the importance of education. 44% of the parents, 39% of the teachers, and 17% of students Consider the illiteracy of parents a Major cause of dropout as shown in figure 6.

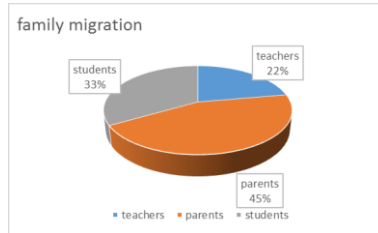
Figure 6: Show the views of respondents about illiteracy of parents as major cause of dropout.



Family migration

Migration of families from one place to another is noted as another Major cause of dropouts. According to 45% of the parents, 33% of the students and 22% of the teachers as given in figure 7 Migration is also one of the major cause of drop out Because of which the students have to abandon the studies.

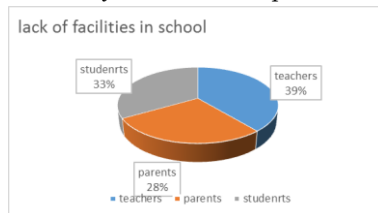
Figure 7: shows the views of respondents about family migration as major cause of dropout.



Lack of facilities in schools

Unavailability of basic facilities in the schools were observed by the researcher. Most of the schools were deprived of basic facilities like Suitable washrooms, furniture, gas, electricity, and boundary walls. The respondents 39% teachers, 33% students and 28% parents declared it as major cause of drop out as shown in figure 8.

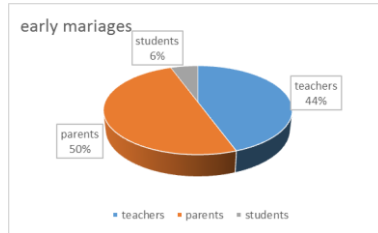
Figure 8: Shows the views of respondents about lack of facilities in schools as major cause of dropout.



Early marriages

Most of the students especially female students abandoned their studies because of early marriages. 50% Parents were of the view that Instead of giving education to their daughters they mentally prepared them for marriages. The response of teachers was 44% and students 6% as given in figure 9.

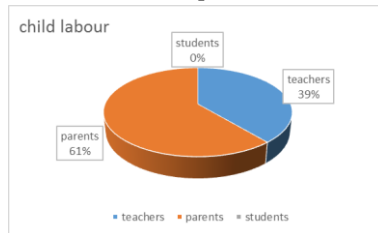
Figure 9: Shows the views of respondents about early marriages as another major cause of dropout especially of female students.



Child labour

Most of the students Dropped out because of child labour as most of them belong to poor families and they work to earn some money 61% of the parents and 39% of the teachers considered child labour as major cause of dropout as shown in Figure 10.

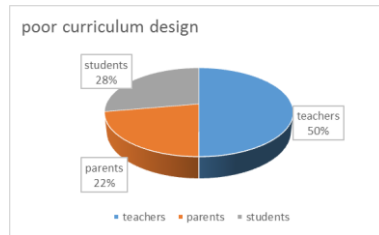
Figure 10: Shows the views of respondents about child labour as major cause of drop out.



Poor curriculum

According to 50% of the teachers as shown in figure 11 The curriculum in schools they teach is not According to the needs of students. 28% of the students were also not satisfied with the books in their bags, 22% parents consider it a burden on students.

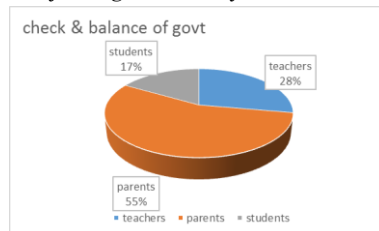
Figure 11: Shows the views of respondents about poor curriculum designs as another major cause of dropout.



Negligence in check and balance by govt

Proper and systematic supervision from govt was denied by 55% of the parents, 28% by the teachers, and 17% by the students for checking the performance of TEACHERS, LC'S/SUPERVISORS, DDEOS and DEOS and considered it a major cause of dropout as shown in figure 12.

Figure 12: Shows the views of respondents about the negligence in check and balance by the govt as major cause of dropout.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were several causes of dropout but most major causes in the research area observed with this study Were poverty, Corporal punishment, distance of schools, early marriages, absenteeism of teachers, Migration of families, illiteracy of parents, Child labour and negligence in check and balance by government.

These and many more causes of dropout needs to be investigated and it is the responsibility of the government, Education department, NGOs, Teachers, parents, and community members to come forward for the solution of The problem, Government must have cheque and balance in this area, Ensuring the presence of teachers in

the schools, paying regular visits to schools and Provide all basic facilities in all schools of this area.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest.

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