

A critical evaluation of the educational status of women in Uttarakhand

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ABSTRACT

Education among women is the most powerful tool of attaining power in the society. Women education in India has also been a major preoccupation of both the government and civil society as educating women can play a very important role in the development of the country. Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family itself. Literacy rate is a key for socio-economics progress. As we all know that education is must for everyone but unfortunately in the male dominating society, the education of women has been neglected for a long time and we know education is a most important part in the life of every women. The state of Uttarakhand has been chosen as study area because the overall development of the state depends upon the maximum utilization of the people, both men and women. Illiteracy prevails in remote areas among women here. Thus there is an urgent need to address this issue at state level as well as district level. Educated women not only tend to promote education of their girl child but also can provide better guidance to all their children as well as to the whole society. This study will assist the policy makers and government to design the particular policy measure that will minimize hindrance of female education and enhance the enrollment of female in education.

Key Words : Education, Literacy rate

INTRODUCTION

India's effective literacy rate has recorded a 9.2 % rise to reach 74.04 % in 2011. Literacy rate improved amongst females as compared to males. Literacy rate of males is 82.14% (which shows a rise of 6.9%) whereas literacy rate of females is 65.46 % (which shows a rise of 11.8%).

Uttarakhand has had a long tradition of learning and culture. In Uttarakhand, education provided establishment of large number of public and private institutions. Literacy rate of Uttarakhand is 79.63% where male literacy rate is 88.33% and female literacy rate is 70.70%.

It is a milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life.

Education also brings a reduction in inequalities and functions as a means of improving their status within the family itself.

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Review of literature :

Linkages between education and women empowerment :

- Education is one of the means of empowering women with the knowledge skills and self confidence. It is necessary to create financial support for women to education through banking (S. Lawanya 2013)
- Education will bring reduction in inequalities and improve the status of women. (M. Suguna, December, 2011)
- Education leads to women empowerment on various fields like decision-making, earning and political participation. Essential development policies should be made that will promote gender equity and increases the welfare of women (Md. Tarique, 2013).
- Modern education and facilities have influenced much in women empowerment. Education is the key factor their empowerment and rural development (Dr. Amrita Jothi and Beena Dominic, April, 2012)
- Education is an input not only for economic development but it will also gives inner strength (Dr. Taxak, 2013)

State action taken by Government for empowering women with special focus on education :

- Education is a powerful instrument for empowering women in plans and progame. CEDEW suggests encouraging co-education (G. Sandhya Rani, 2010).
- The scheme of micro-financing through Self Help Group has the real economic power in the hands of women (Dr. M. Prakash)
- The NGO's raise to fulfill the socio-economic status of women through access to education, health facilities (M.K.Ghadoliya 2013)
- There must be recruitment of qualified teacher, good physical infrastructure and low cost schooling which are crucial for economic development and growth (Fayaz Ahmad Bhatt)
- The voluntary organization and Asha NGO's have to increase awareness among the rural women about the government policies (Chimna Ashappa, 2011)

Scope and relevance of study :

- Uttarakhand is a newly formed state
- Crucial role of women in the growing economy of the state
- Overall development of the state depends upon the maximum utilization of the people both men and women. Illiteracy prevails in remote areas among women here.
- A pre-requisite for women's participation in development process is their empowerment which can be possible only if women are educated.
- The study will assist the policy makers to develop promising strategies and take measures that will minimize hindrance of female education and enhance the enrollment of female in education

Objectives of study :

- To study the linkages between women empowerment and education.
- Programme taken by the government on Policy of Women Empowerment.
- To examine the gender gap in terms of literacy and educational attainment in Uttarakhand.

- To examine the gender gap in terms of literacy and educational attainment in hilly and non-hilly districts of Uttarakhand.
- To compare hilly and non-hilly districts of Uttarakhand from Gender Parity Index.

METHODOLOGY

- Study area: Uttarakhand
- The type of data used is secondary and time series data and cross sectional data.
- Type of analysis done is descriptive

Research questions :

- What is the present status of women education in Uttarakhand ?
- Does women education helps in reducing gender inequality and bringing women empowerment in Uttarakhand ?
- What are policies suggestions related to education which help in empowering women in Uttarakhand?

Structure of the study :

The structure of the study is divided into two main parts :

Women Education in the study state-Uttarakhand :

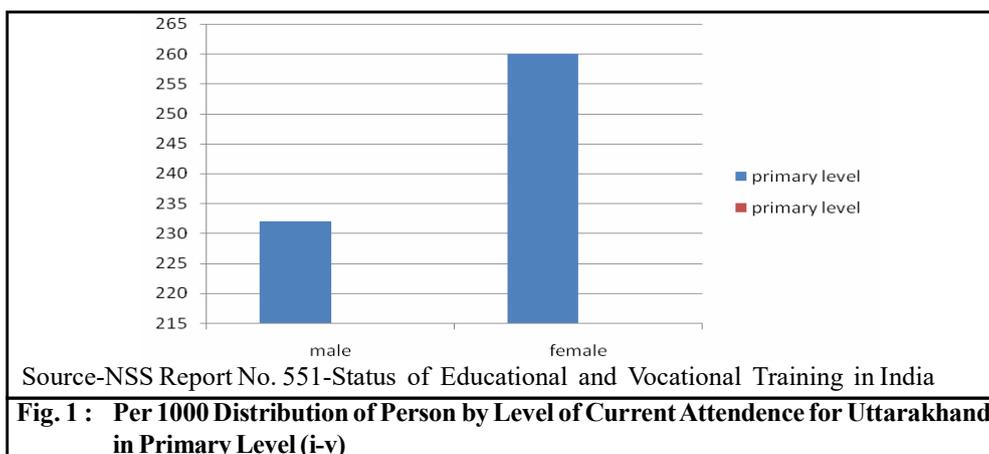
Following educational indicators are used in the study :

- Current Attendance
- Enrollment ratio
- Drop-out ratio
- Gender- Parity Index

District wise and region wise (Hilly and non-hilly) comparative analysis of educational status in Uttarakhand :

Following educational indicators used in the study :

- Literacy rate
- Enrollment ratio
- Gender Parity Index



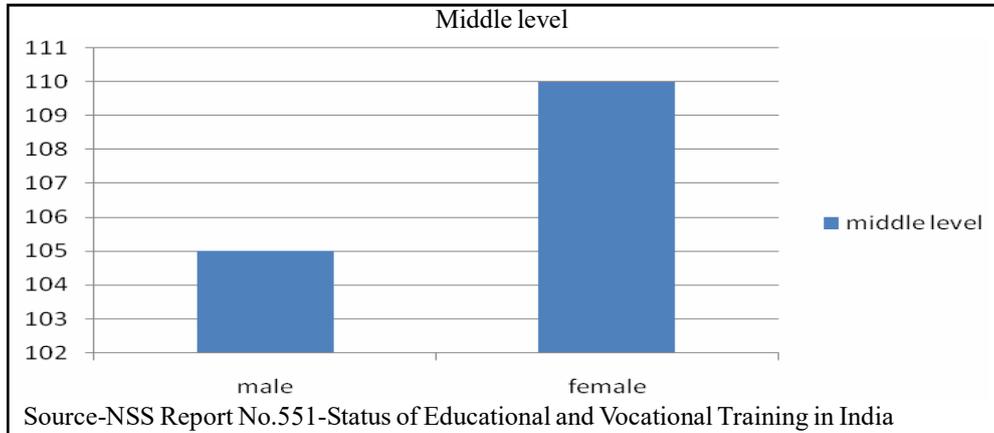


Fig. 2 : Per 1000 distribution of person by level of current attendance for Uttarakhand in middle level (vi-vii) 2009-10

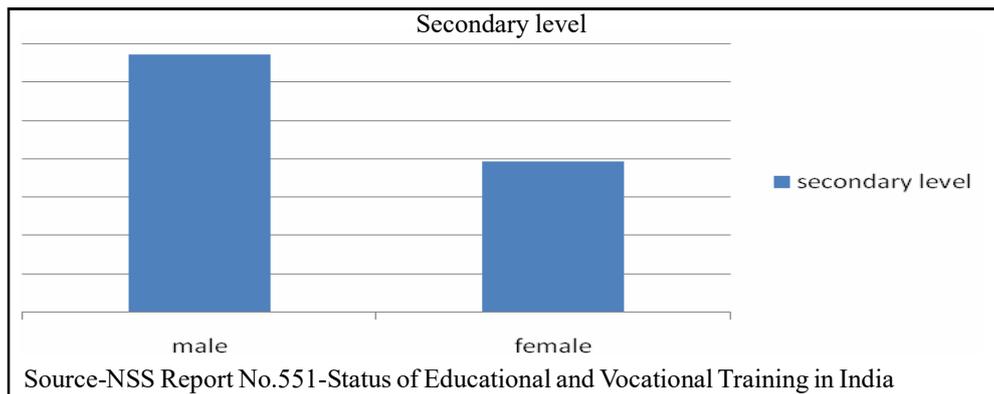


Fig. 3 : Per 1000 distribution of person by level of current attendance for Uttarakhand in secondary level and above

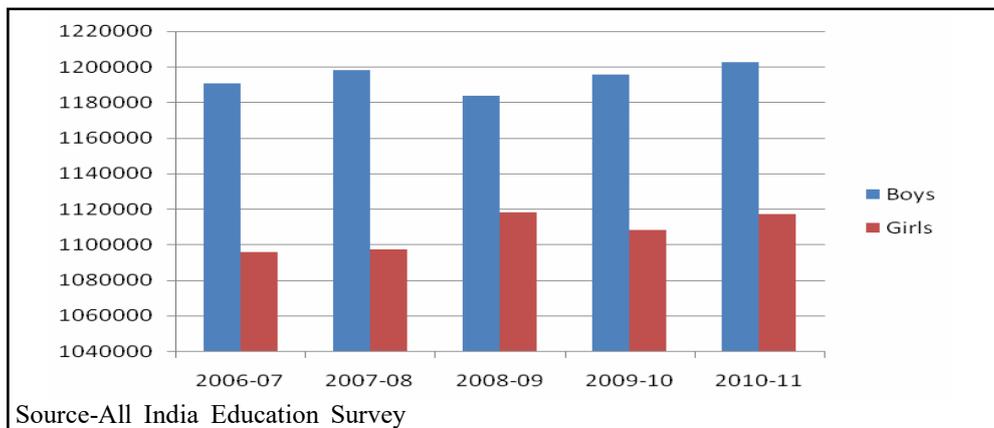


Fig. 4 : Enrollment ratio (i-xii)

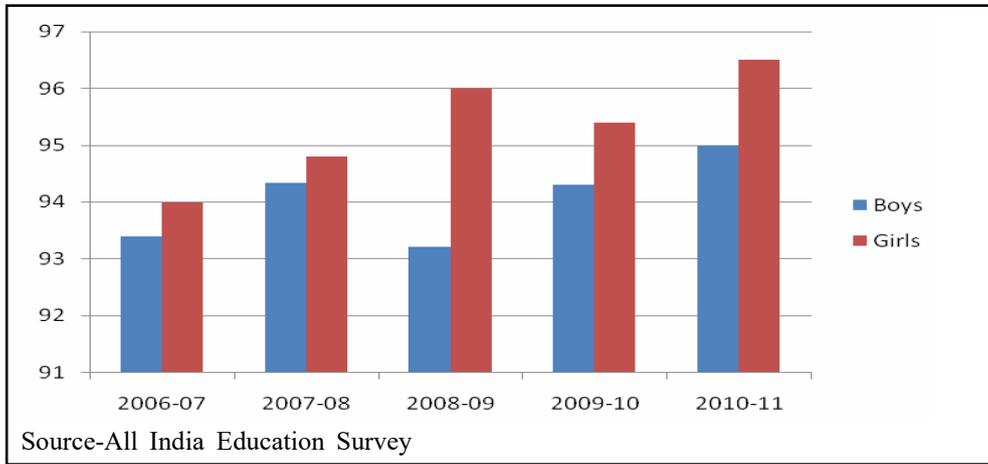


Fig. 5 : Gross enrollment ratio (i-xii)

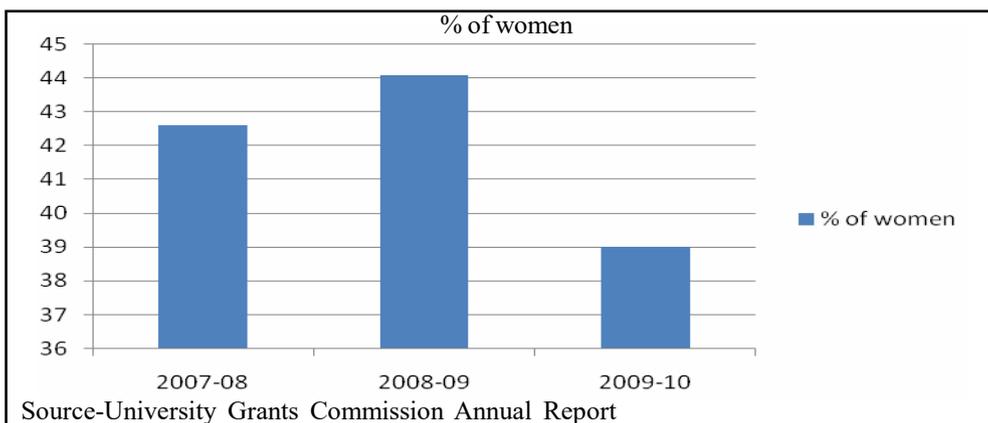


Fig. 6 : Womens enrollment in higher education

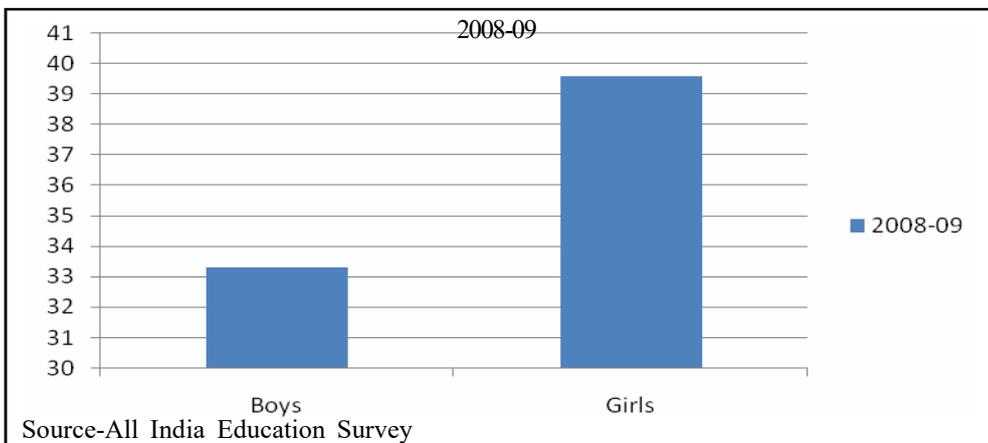
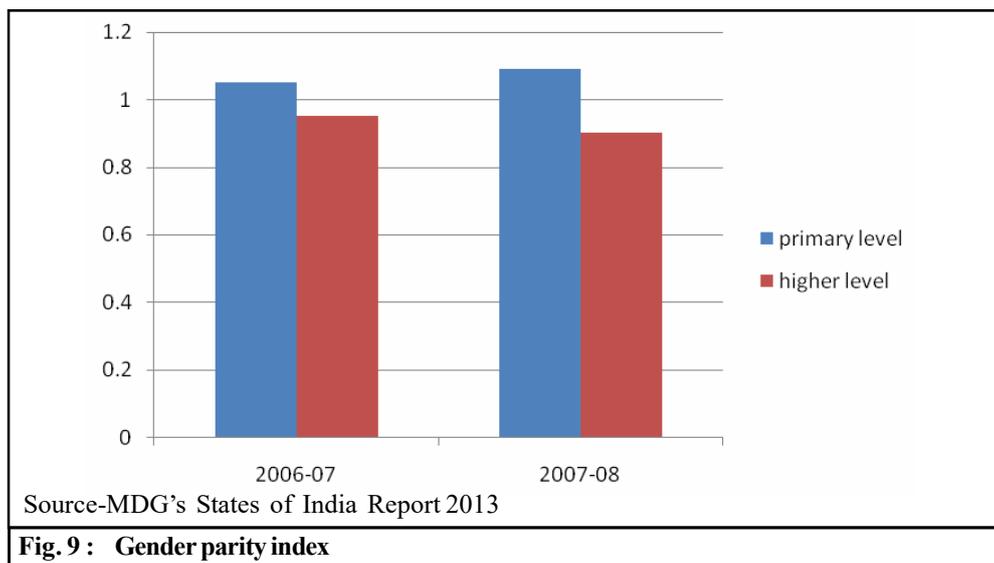
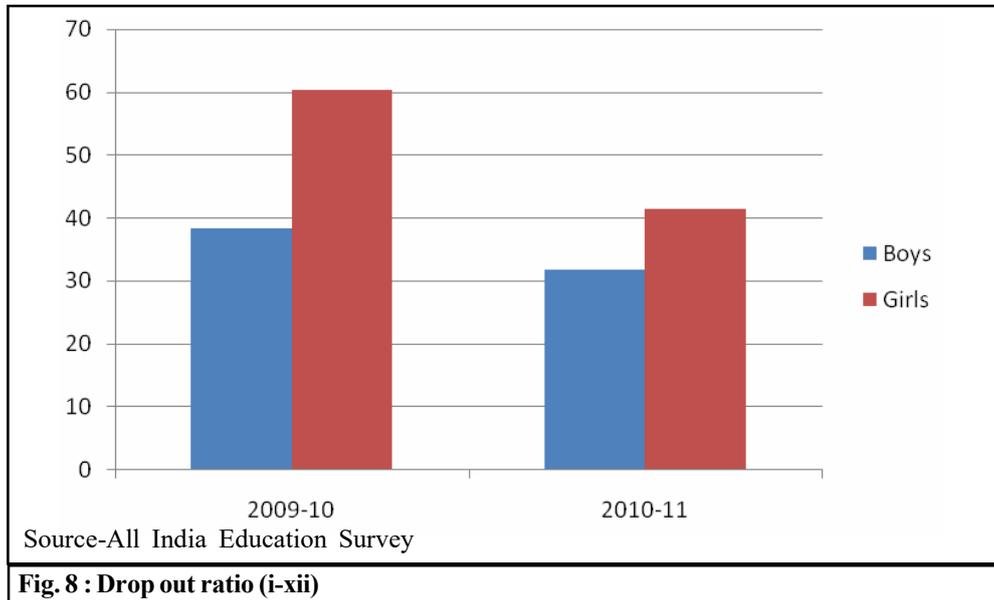


Fig. 7 : Drop out ratio (i-x)



District wise and region wise (Hilly and non-hilly) comparative analysis of educational status in Uttarakhand :

To analyze the district wise situation of women education in Uttarakhand, following educational indicators have been used-

- Literacy rate
- Enrollment ratio
- Gender Parity Index

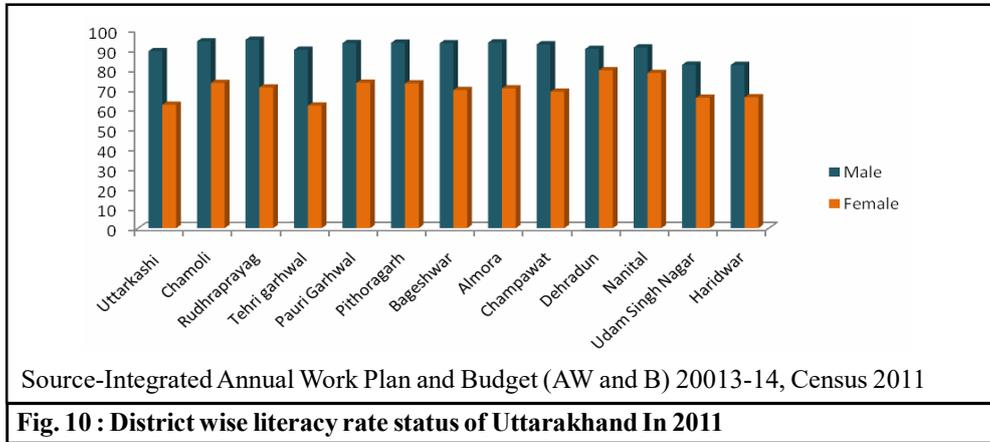


Fig. 10 : District wise literacy rate status of Uttarakhand In 2011

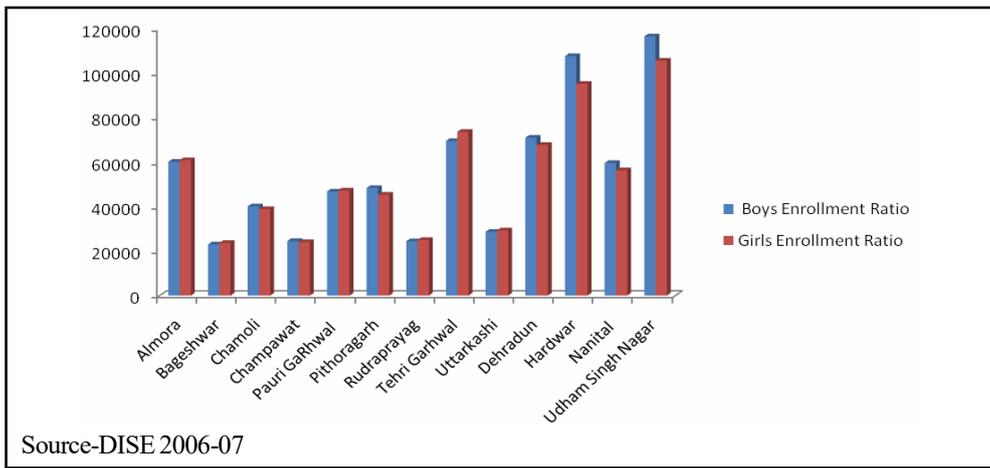


Fig. 11 : District wise enrollment ratio i-viii Grade 2006-07

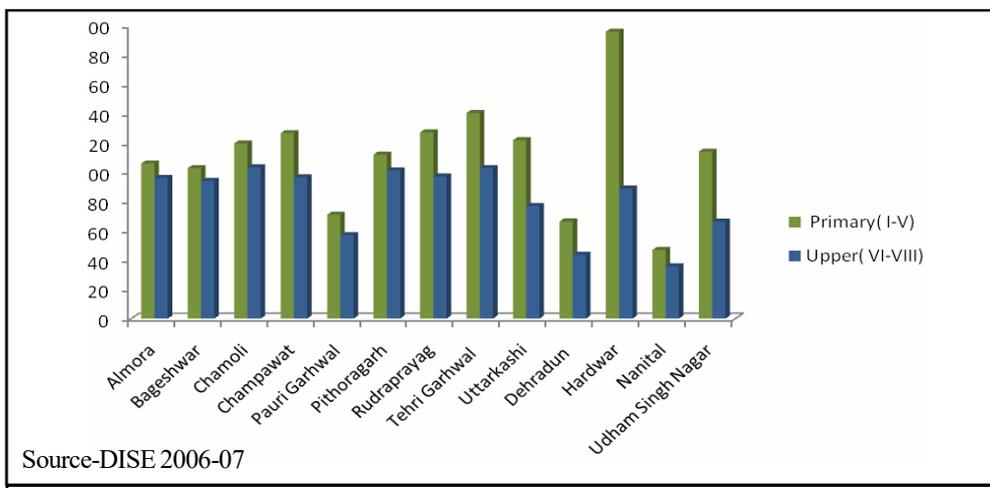
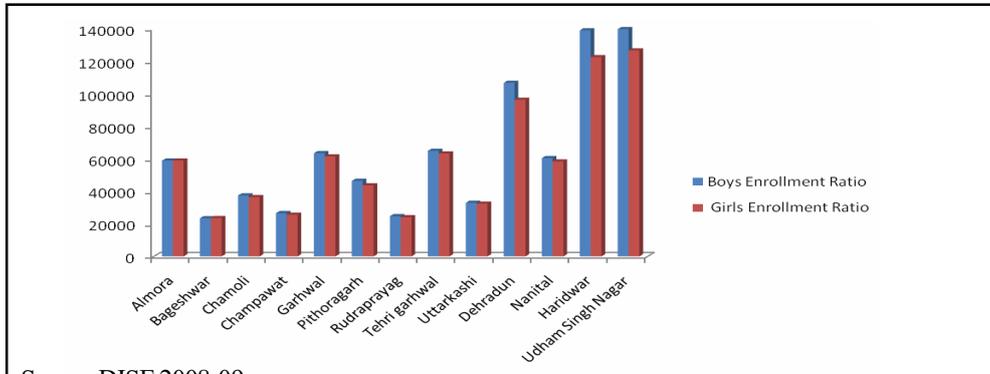
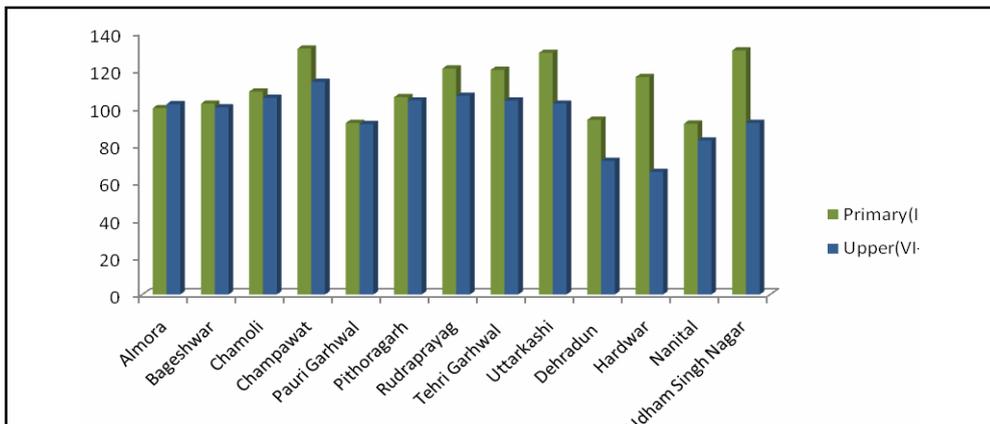


Fig. 12 : District wise gross enrollment ratio (i-vii) 2006-07



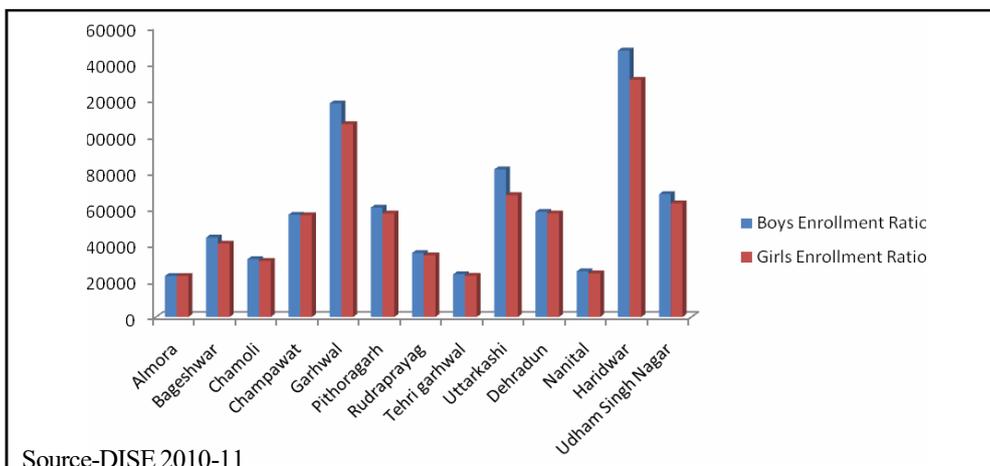
Source-DISE 2008-09

Fig. 13 : District wise enrollment ratio grade (i-viii) 2008-09



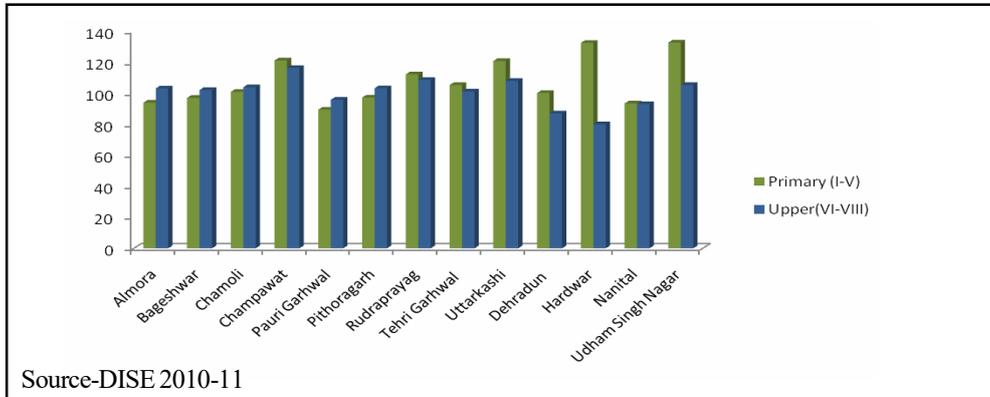
Source-DISE 2008-09

Fig. 14 : District wise gross enrollment ratio (i-viii) 2008-09



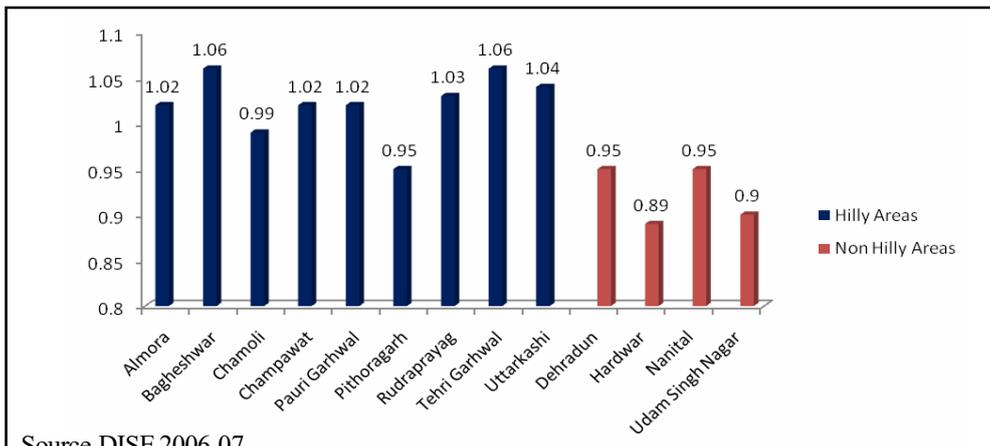
Source-DISE 2010-11

Fig. 15 : District wise enrollment ratio grade (i-viii) 2010-11



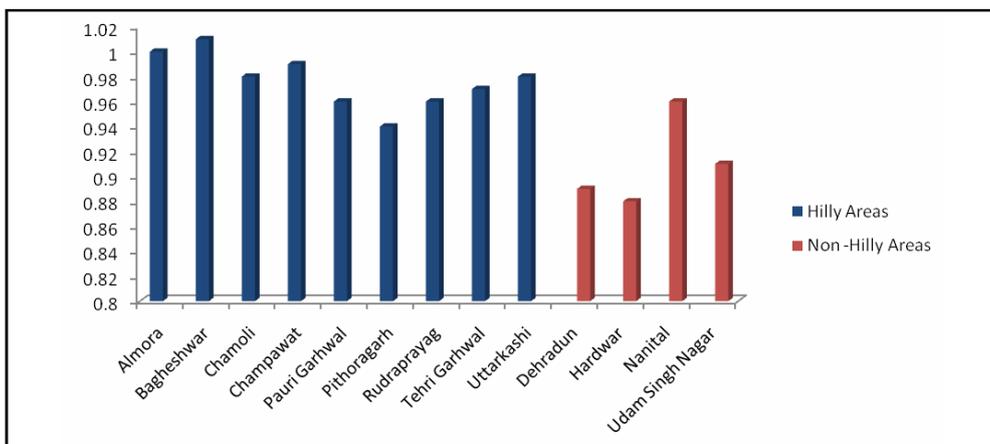
Source-DISE 2010-11

Fig. 16 : District wise gross enrollment ratio (i-viii) 2010-11



Source-DISE 2006-07

Fig. 17 : Hilly and non hilly areas on gender parity index 2006-07



Source-DISE 2008-09

Fig. 18 : Hilly and non hilly areas on gender parity index 2008-09

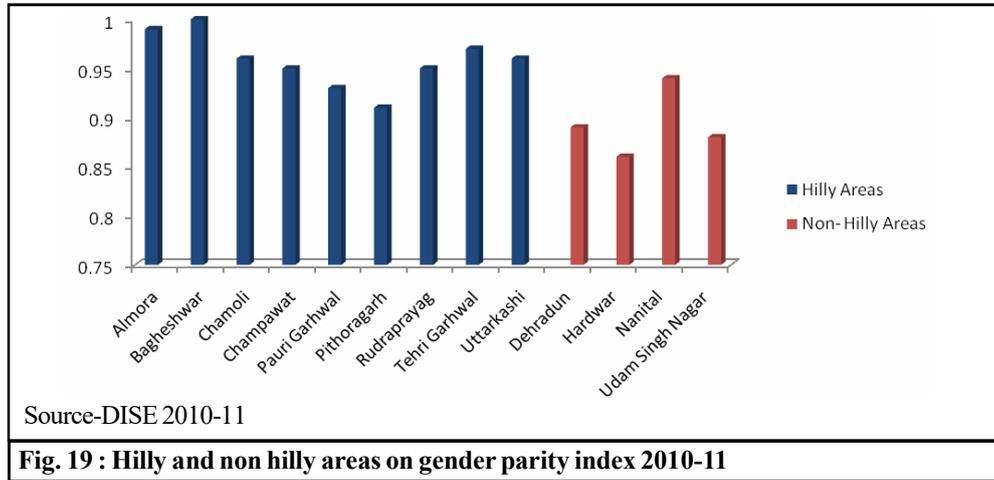


Fig. 19 : Hilly and non hilly areas on gender parity index 2010-11

Government action so far :

Sarv Siksha Abhiyan :

SSA is implemented as state’s main programme for universalizing Elementary education. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children

Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan :

It provides a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation, which should be 5kms for secondary schools and 7-10 kms for higher secondary schools.

Rashtriya Uchchattar Shiksha Abhiyan :

Improve equity in higher education by providing adequate opportunities of higher education to SC/STs and socially and educationally backward classes; promote inclusion of women, minorities, and differently disabled persons.

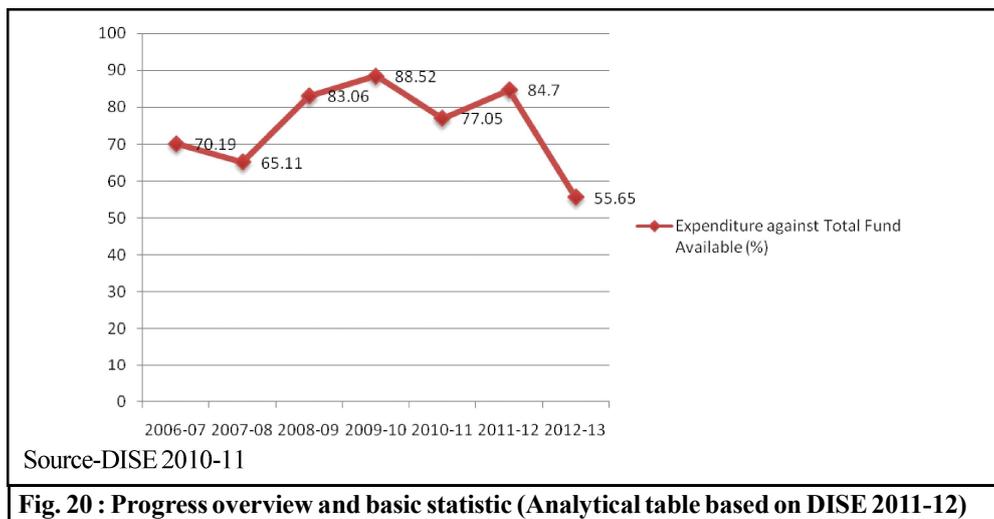


Fig. 20 : Progress overview and basic statistic (Analytical table based on DISE 2011-12)

Table 1 : Financial performance		
Year	Fund released	Expenditure
2001-02	13.11 crore	0.09 crore
2011-12	471.5 crore	399.36 crore

RMSA :

Table 2 : Financial performance		
Year	Fund released	Expenditure
2009-10	5333.67 lakh	4525.29 lakh
2011-12	5680.42 lakh	6892.99 lakh

Conclusion :

- Enrollment both at primary and upper Primary levels of education, has increased impressively over a period of time. However, in terms of ratio it is still not enough to achieve the goal of universal elementary education
- The average dropout rate being high at primary level, it needs to be checked without which neither the goal of universal primary education can be achieved.
- At district level, there was considerably increase in enrollment ratio in Haridwar and Uttarkashi in 2006-2011 in I-VIII. In 2006-2011 Bageshwar, Pauri Garhwal and Uttarkashi were considerably decreasing. In hilly areas the Gender Parity Index was in favour of girls but at the time of 2011 this disparity was declined as same as non hilly areas
- In order to bridge the gender gap and remove or minimize the disparities in educational attainment, various policies and programmes have been initiated by the Central government for education of women

Recommendations :

- Comprehensive data should be collected and made available for better analysis and policy formulation.
- Change in the attitude of Men in the Society:
- Change in the attitude of Women in the Society
- In the Academic level- it is important to create awareness about it among the younger generation especially among the student and the youth
- In the political level- one of the way by which women empowerment can become a reality is through proper policies and legislation that are woman friendly in nature

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