

**Facilities in Primary and Upper Primary Schools in India**  
***An Analysis of DISE data of Selected Major States***

by

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## **Facilities in Primary and Upper Primary Schools in India : An Analysis of DISE data of Selected Major States**

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In India education has been accorded much importance since independence as it has been perceived that educational development is necessary to ensure economic and over all development of the country. In order to develop human resources in a better way it is important that education is imparted to all sections of population in the country. This is the reason that plans were developed for the expansion of educational facilities across the nook and corner of the country so that all people can avail the opportunity of participating in education irrespective of their caste, class, sex, religion or region. However, despite these provisions it has been noticed that the spread of education is not uniform and there are disparities of all kinds in the field of education. These include gender disparities (i.e. male female disparities), regional disparities (inter-state, inter-district disparities), social disparities (disparities between SC, ST and other sections) and spatial disparities (rural-urban disparities).

The country has made tremendous progress during last 50 years after independence in expanding the education system. The number of schools, teachers, enrolment have all increased many fold during this period of planned development. But unfortunately this expansion has not been uniform and some areas lag behind the others in terms of even basic facilities of education. This is not only true for higher or technical or professional education but is true even for school education. It is so much so that even provision of basic and elementary education facilities are not uniformly distributed in the country. It a serious concern that the provisions for schooling have could not be universalized so far in India.

If we look at the availability of primary and upper primary educational facilities it may be found that access in terms of availability of schools is not a major issue now. This is because more than 90 percent habitations have already got schools within reasonable distance. But real problem is observed when we look at the facilities provided to these primary and upper primary schools/sections functioning in various localities. Whether it is the availability of building or teachers or infrastructure or even basic facilities in schools we find that there are all kinds of schools functioning in the country that may represent the best schools in the world to the worst schools functioning even in the under developed countries.

In order to universalize primary or elementary education, which has a mandate in the country right from independence and is also a Constitutional directive, at the outset it is necessary to provide schools every where and also provide all necessary facilities to all the schools. This is because schools without proper infrastructure and facilities, termed as ill-equipped schools, may not be in a position to impart education properly and the quality of education in such schools will be poor. One can never expect to have good quality of education in the schools that do not have appropriate building, infrastructure and other basic facilities.

This paper looks at the situation of basic facilities provided in the primary and upper schools of various states in the country and analyses state-wise data on these aspects. It may be noted that generally the data on school facilities are provided in the All India Educational Surveys conducted by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on occasional basis. However, the District Information System of Education (DISE) is yet another source of data on this aspect. In the present paper the data have been used from the DISE only and these data have been taken from the document titled “DISE Analytical Report 2004 . It seems relevant to briefly explain here about the concept and development of this system known as District Information System of Education (DISE).

### **District Information System of Education (DISE)**

At the time of initiating DPEP in 1994 it was felt that a sound information system is essential for successful implementation and monitoring of the programme. It was also felt that an innovative model is required in order to strengthen the database for planning and management in a decentralized framework. It was realized that DPEP with a focus on decentralized planning, requires school level information, which is up-to-date, reliable and is available soon after its collection. The MHRD as a part of the DPEP national endeavor decided to design and develop a school based computerized information system. The responsibility for developing this system was given to the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi

NIEPA designed software for implementation at the district level and provided the necessary technical and professional support to DPEP districts. The first version of the software, named as District Information System of Education (DISE) was released in 1995. The district level professionals were assisted and trained in the establishment of EMIS units. The DISE data collected from schools and computerized at the district level are disseminated up to the school level in various ways. The first major review of DISE was undertaken in 1997-98. When SSA was launched the DISE software was redesigned to cater to the needs and requirements as perceived in the SSA programme.

The DISE Analytical Report 2004 covers 539 districts that are from 24 states and one union territory of the country. But the coverage in terms of number of districts in state is not total in Haryana. In case of rest of the 23 states and one union territory data from all the districts have been collected and given in the report. These 23 states that have been fully covered in terms of district are : Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

The following table (Table 1) presents the coverage of DISE 2004 as reported in the Analytical Report. It presents state wise data on number of districts in 2001, number of districts covered under DPEP and number of districts reported data that have been included in the DISE report cards.

Table 1  
**DISE 2004 : Coverage**  
 (Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. NO.	State / UT	No. of Districts (2001 Census)	Districts Covered Under DPEP	No. of Districts Reported Data
1	Andhra Pradesh	23	19	23
2	Assam	23	9	23
3	Bihar	37	20	37
4	Chandigarh	01	-	01
5	Chhattisgarh	16	15	16
6	Gujarat	25	5	25
7	Haryana+	19	7	17
8	Himachal Pradesh	12	4	12
9	Jharkhand	18	7	22*
10	Karnataka	27	17	27
11	Kerala	14	6	14
12	Madhya Pradesh	45	33	45
13	Maharashtra	35	11	35
14	Meghalaya	07	-	07
15	Mizoram	08	-	08
16	Nagaland	08	-	08
17	Orissa	30	8	30
18	Punjab	17	-	17
19	Rajasthan	32	10	32
20	Sikkim	04	-	04
21	Tamil Nadu	30	7	29**
22	Tripura	04	-	04
23	Uttar Pradesh	70	54	70
24	Uttaranchal	13	6	13
25	West Bengal	18	10	20*
	Total Districts	535	248	539

Note: + Data from all districts not reported  
 \* Including bifurcated districts  
 \*\* One district was later merged with another district

It is clear that the coverage under DISE in terms of number of DPEP states is 18. However in one of the DPEP states, i.e. Haryana, the coverage in terms of districts is not total. The paper is aimed at highlighting the situation of basic facilities in primary and upper primary schools of the above mentioned DPEP states of the country except Haryana from where all districts have not reported data. This is done by analyzing the data on availability of building and other infrastructure and basic facilities in schools as

reported in the DISE Analytical Report 2004. Thus the paper analyses data of primary and upper primary schools of 17 major states of India which altogether cover 473 districts

The paper analyses data on school facilities including type of school building, number of classrooms, single classroom and single teacher schools, schools having blackboard, drinking water, playground, boundary wall, common toilets, girls' toilets, electricity, ramps, book bank, arrangement of medical check up and provision of computers in the primary and upper primary schools. The detailed analysis has been carried out for exclusive primary (i.e. schools having only primary sections) and exclusive upper primary (i.e. schools having only upper primary sections) schools.

### Category of Schools in the States

As far as schools are concerned there are various categories of schools in the country. Table 2 presents the number of schools in the 17 states and the percentage of schools coming under various categories in these states.

Table 2  
**Percentage of Schools by Category (2003-04)**  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Total Number of Schools	% Schools having only Primary Section	% Schools having Primary with Upper Primary	% Schools having Primary with U.P, Sec. And H.S.	% Schools having only Upper Primary Section	% Schools Having U.P. with Sec. & H.S.	No Res-ponse
1	Andhra Pradesh	84579	68.44	16.39	3.83	0.35	8.02	2.97
2	Assam	39459	75.90	2.42	0.08	18.04	3.56	0.01
3	Bihar	52202	77.88	17.59	0.98	0.75	2.04	0.78
4	Chhattisgarh	35448	73.71	4.57	1.84	14.97	2.74	2.17
5	Gujarat	34786	34.00	61.51	1.28	1.02	0.44	1.76
6	Himachal Pradesh	14964	73.60	1.42	2.53	12.06	10.39	0.00
7	Jharkhand	22010	77.87	19.26	0.99	0.28	1.20	0.39
8	Karnataka	51546	49.98	45.69	1.72	0.93	0.77	0.91
9	Kerala	11988	54.76	18.91	6.14	5.56	12.73	1.90
10	Madhya Pradesh	86327	63.34	17.35	2.84	14.39	1.24	0.84
11	Maharashtra	77381	54.35	30.47	2.79	0.17	11.85	0.37
12	Orissa	49063	72.94	15.63	0.90	8.06	1.27	1.19
13	Rajasthan	78158	67.31	22.07	2.97	0.97	4.05	2.63

<b>14</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	45952	69.12	13.79	5.38	0.14	11.34	0.23
<b>15</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	134225	79.74	2.47	0.28	16.47	0.81	0.23
<b>16</b>	<b>Uttaranchal</b>	17471	70.71	2.81	0.65	14.28	473	6.82
<b>17</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	59556	82.70	0.75	0.84	3.14	11.07	1.50
	<b>India</b>	931471	68.44	16.44	2.10	6.85	4.91	1.28

The data presented in the above table shows that in the country there were more than 9.3 lakh schools out of which more than 68 percent are primary schools i.e. the schools having only primary section. Further 16.44 percent schools have primary and upper primary sections. The table reveals that about 87 percent of the total schools have primary sections and about 30.3 percent schools have upper primary sections.

Out of the abovementioned 17 states as many as 10 states have more than 68.44 percent schools having only primary section which is the percentage of exclusive primary schools in the country. However the percentage of exclusive primary schools is highest in West Bengal (82.70 percent) and lowest in Gujarat (34 percent)). Further Gujarat has the highest percentage (61.51) of schools having primary and upper primary sections while these are lowest in West Bengal (0.75 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (1.42 percent). Kerala has highest percentage (6.14) of integrated schools (i.e. schools having primary, upper primary, secondary and HS sections) while Assam has lowest percentage (0.08) of such schools.

The percentage of schools having only upper primary section is highest in Assam (18.04 percent) followed by Uttar Pradesh (16.47 percent) and Chhattisgarh (14.97 percent). However such exclusive upper primary schools are less than 1 percent in states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

States like Himachal Pradesh (10.39 percent), Kerala (12.73 percent), Maharashtra (11.85 percent), Tamil Nadu (11.34 percent) and West Bengal (11.07 percent) have sizeable proportion of schools having upper primary, secondary and HS sections. But schools coming under this category are even less than 1 percent in Gujarat, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

It may therefore be inferred that in the country more than two-third of the total schools are exclusive primary schools whereas exclusive upper primary schools are less than 7 percent. There are states like Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal where exclusive primary schools are about or more than 80 percent of the total schools in the state where as in Gujarat hardly one-third and in Karnataka only half of the total schools are exclusive primary schools. Exclusive upper primary schools are more than 18 percent of the total schools in Assam where as in a few states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) these schools are less than even 1 percent of the total schools.

## Availability of Building in Schools

Access to elementary education does not only mean the availability of schools but it also means availability of basic facilities in the primary and upper primary schools and the first and foremost important facility in this regard is the building. We cannot imagine any schools without building and further the building should be in proper and usable condition and should have enough space. However unfortunately in India still there are some schools running without building and they are found in almost all states of the country.

The following tables present data on the availability of building in the primary and upper primary schools in the selected 17 states of the country. Table 3 given below shows the percentage of primary schools having various types of building and also the percentage of primary schools that do not have building.

Table 3  
**Percentage of Schools (having Primary Section only) by Type of Building 2003-04**

(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Pucca	Partially Pucca	Kuccha	Tent	Multiple Type	No Building	No Response
1	Andhra Pra.	73.03	4.16	1.31	0.39	7.05	9.33	4.73
2	Assam	34.75	44.55	11.64	0.42	4.12	0.75	3.76
3	Bihar	71.76	7.30	0.89	0.05	10.13	7.23	2.64
4	Chhattisgarh	55.46	23.01	2.55	0.20	8.70	7.85	2.23
5	Gujarat	74.56	13.05	0.48	0.08	4.95	3.87	3.02
6	Himachal Pradesh	61.45	8.58	7.41	0.01	20.57	1.01	0.96
7	Jharkhand	82.38	3.02	1.96	0.06	5.25	4.46	2.88
8	Karnataka	83.71	3.70	0.80	0.59	6.37	4.02	0.81
9	Kerala	74.69	2.75	0.14	0.09	21.45	0.05	0.83
10	Madhya Pra.	66.22	11.38	1.72	0.09	3.81	6.32	10.45
11	Maharashtra	83.24	7.59	0.95	0.11	6.10	1.05	0.96
12	Orissa	32.01	27.16	1.76	0.08	35.28	2.73	0.97
13	Rajasthan	73.03	0.82	0.56	0.21	1.24	11.20	12.95
14	Tamil Nadu	50.34	19.86	1.44	0.04	27.67	0.00	0.65
15	Uttar Prad.	96.14	1.37	0.24	0.04	0.83	1.18	0.21
16	Uttaranchal	86.57	5.62	0.69	0.13	2.21	1.94	2.85

17	<b>West Bengal</b>	62.57	18.64	4.35	0.12	12.58	0.91	0.83
	<b>India</b>	70.62	11.19	2.20	0.16	8.40	4.04	3.40

The data presented in the above table reveal that 4.04 percent of the total primary schools in the country are running without building. But if we look at the position of building less primary schools in various states we find that percentage of such schools is negligible in Kerala (0.05 percent) and Tamil Nadu (0.00 percent). The position is worst in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh where 11.20 percent and 9.33 percent schools are without building respectively. The other states where considerable percentage of primary schools does not have building are namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh where more than 4.04 percent primary schools are building less, which is the national average.

As far as the type of school buildings is concerned all the schools need to have pucca building so that it can be used in all seasons. The data show that more than two-thirds (70.62 percent) of primary schools have pucca building in India. However, out of 17 states for which data is presented here, there are 10 states where more than 70 percent primary schools have pucca building and these states are namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. It is surprising to note that Uttar Pradesh, which is an educationally backward state, has highest percentage of primary schools (96.14 percent) having pucca building. As against this Orissa has lowest percentage (32.01 percent) of primary schools having pucca building followed by Assam (34.75 percent).

About 11.19 percent primary schools in the country have partially pucca building. This ratio is highest in Assam where about 44.55 percent primary schools have partially pucca building followed by Orissa (27.16 percent), Chhattisgarh (23.01 percent), Tamil Nadu (19.86 percent), West Bengal (18.64 percent) and Gujarat (13.05 percent).

Considerable percentage of primary schools (2.20 percent) in India has only kuccha buildings which are generally less durable and can hardly be used in extreme climatic conditions. Assam has highest percentage of such schools (11.64 percent) followed by Himachal Pradesh (7.41 percent). In a few states like Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal not even 1 percent primary schools have kuccha buildings.

Many schools in the country are reported to have multiple type of buildings. As against 8.40 percent of such primary schools in India these multiple type building schools are 35.28 percent in Orissa, 27.67 percent in Tamil Nadu, 21.45 percent in Kerala, 20.57 percent in Himachal Pradesh, 12.58 percent in West Bengal and 10.13 percent in Bihar. In rest of the 11 states the primary schools having multiple type of building are less than 10 percent.

From the data presented in the Table 3 it can be inferred that as far as the availability of primary school buildings are concerned out of the 17 states that have been

covered here the position is best in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal while it is worst in Assam.

Table 4 given below presents data on the availability of various types of buildings in upper primary schools in the country as well as in various selected states.

**Table 4**  
**Percentage of Schools (having Upper Primary Section only) by Type of Building**  
**2003-04**

(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Pucca	Partially Pucca	Kuccha	Tent	Multiple Type	No Building	No Response
1	Andhra Pradesh	68.14	4.07	1.36	0.34	14.58	2.35	9.18
2	Assam	21.47	47.93	2.43	0.52	5.77	1.22	2.66
3	Bihar	48.55	15.04	2.90	0.00	27.70	1.85	3.95
4	Chhattisgarh	51.74	14.08	1.00	0.13	5.97	23.47	3.61
5	Gujarat	94.65	3.10	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.28	1.41
6	Himachal Pradesh	57.59	7.48	7.76	0.00	7.71	15.90	3.56
7	Jharkhand	69.35	0.00	3.23	0.00	20.97	3.23	3.22
8	Karnataka	82.50	4.79	0.83	0.42	8.96	0.63	1.87
9	Kerala	68.24	1.53	0.00	0.00	29.31	0.00	0.92
10	Madhya Pradesh	41.18	6.81	0.85	0.21	1.97	39.79	9.18
11	Maharashtra	77.78	5.19	1.48	0.74	8.15	0.00	6.67
12	Orissa	35.54	33.29	8.48	0.13	19.22	2.98	0.36
13	Rajasthan	85.45	0.53	0.00	0.13	3.44	1.32	9.13
14	Tamil Nadu	41.27	17.46	7.94	0.00	33.33	0.00	0.00
15	Uttar Pradesh	94.07	1.31	0.08	0.04	1.60	2.57	0.33
16	Uttaranchal	79.00	4.62	0.52	0.52	1.65	10.02	3.67
17	West Bengal	54.91	10.90	4.03	0.16	27.43	1.18	1.40
	<b>India</b>	62.81	13.03	3.84	0.18	5.14	11.87	3.13

The data presented in the above table show that in the country about 12 percent exclusive upper primary schools do not have building. It is matter of concern that building less upper primary schools are more than that of primary schools in terms of percentage. However the state wise position shows a lot of variations. It is heartening to note that Kerala, Maharashtra and Tanil Nadu have no upper primary schools without building. On the other hand there are states like Madhya Pradesh (39.79 percent), Chhattisgarh (23.47 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (15.90 percent) where the percentage of building less upper primary schools is more than the national average.

Only about 62.81 percent upper primary schools in the country had pucca building. It ranges from as high as 94.07 percent in Uttar Pradesh to as low as only 21.47 percent in Assam. It is heartening to note that in educationally backward states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, more than 85 percent upper primary schools have pucca building while it is relatively low in advanced states like Kerala (68.24 percent), Karnataka (82.50 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (57.59 percent). There are 3 states where considerable proportion of upper primary schools has kuccha buildings and these states are Orissa (8.48 percent), Himachal Pradesh (7.76 percent) and Tamil Nadu (7.94 percent). Surprisingly Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan do not have any upper primary schools having kuccha building while in Uttar Pradesh (0.08 percent) and Uttaranchal (0.04 percent) such schools are almost negligible.

Within the school buildings it may be necessary to have sufficient number of rooms for organizing classes for teaching learning. The Operation Blackboard (OB) scheme implemented by the Government of India after the NPE 1986 resolved that all primary schools should have at least two teachers and a building having two rooms and verandah and funds were released from the Central Government to implement this scheme all over the country. However, as discussed above, even after more than one and a half decades of the implementation of OB scheme still there are schools in almost all states that do not have building of their own.

Table 5 given below presents the percentage of primary schools having 2 or more rooms and upper primary schools having 3 or more rooms in the states that have been covered in this study.

Table 5  
**Percentage of Schools by number of Classrooms (2003-04)**  
(Source : DISEAnalytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Primary Schools (having Primary Section only) Having 2 or more rooms	Upper Primary Schools (having Upper Primary Section only) Having 3 or more rooms
1	Andhra Pradesh	51.08	74.16
2	Assam	30.33	73.23
3	Bihar	74.42	69.40
4	Chhattisgarh	82.66	62.98
5	Gujarat	78.00	91.26
6	Himachal Pradesh	91.34	44.93
7	Jharkhand	84.50	75.81
8	Karnataka	70.54	82.08
9	Kerala	97.29	97.59
10	Madhya Pradesh	74.29	38.02
11	Maharashtra	78.51	85.93
12	Orissa	86.02	13.79

<b>13</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	73.37	81.35
<b>14</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	86.66	85.71
<b>15</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	96.31	91.28
<b>16</b>	<b>Uttaranchal</b>	91.82	82.28
<b>17</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	73.18	92.78
	<b>India</b>	76.92	69.21

As mentioned above after the implementation of the Operation Blackboard scheme no primary school is expected to have less than two rooms. But the data presented above show that in India only 76.92 primary schools have 2 or more rooms which thereby means that about 23 percent primary schools have less than two rooms which may include building less schools also. However, it may be noted that there are states like Kerala (97.29 percent), Uttar Pradesh (96.31 percent), Uttaranchal (91.82 percent) and Gujarat (91.34 percent) where more than 90 percent primary schools have 2 or more rooms. In some states the percentage of primary schools having 2 or more rooms is as low as 30.33 percent (in Assam) and 51.08 percent (in Andhra Pradesh).

As far as upper primary schools are concerned only 69.21 percent schools have 3 or more rooms which shows that about 31 percent upper primary schools have less than 3 rooms including the building less schools. In this regard the state wise analysis shows that in Gujarat, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal more than 90 percent upper primary schools have 3 or more rooms. But in Orissa (13.79 percent) the situation is very disappointing while in another two states namely Madhya Pradesh (38.02 percent) and Himachal Pradesh (44.93 percent) the position seems to be bad.

### Single Classroom and Single Teacher Schools

Table 6, given below, presents data on the single classroom and single teacher primary and upper primary schools in these states.

Table 6  
**Percentage of Single Classroom and Single Teacher Schools (2003-04)**  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Single Classroom Primary Schools	Single Teacher Primary Schools		Single Classroom Upper Primary Schools	Single Teacher Upper Primary Schools
<b>1</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	35.50	15.71		8.78	4.70
<b>2</b>	<b>Assam</b>	62.72	15.72		16.10	0.32
<b>3</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	15.53	15.74		2.74	2.11
<b>4</b>	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	7.21	20.74		16.31	5.54
<b>5</b>	<b>Gujarat</b>	15.34	9.99		4.23	5.63

<b>6</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	6.55	13.59		9.97	1.44
<b>7</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>	7.59	33.24		22.58	11.29
<b>8</b>	<b>Karnataka</b>	25.95	20.09		11.88	1.67
<b>9</b>	<b>Kerala</b>	1.61	0.08		2.25	0.00
<b>10</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	9.39	13.42		9.20	9.67
<b>11</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	21.06	16.45		7.41	2.22
<b>12</b>	<b>Orissa</b>	10.24	19.10		14.06	3.72
<b>13</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	4.53	38.61		5.16	2.78
<b>14</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	13.98	10.85		11.11	0.00
<b>15</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	2.36	16.08		16.48	13.39
<b>16</b>	<b>Uttaranchal</b>	3.15	23.10		2.93	2.29
<b>17</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	20.96	8.25		45.59	0.64
	<b>India</b>	15.87	17.51		14.34	7.72

There are 15.87 percent single classroom and 17.51 percent single teacher primary schools in the country. The state wise analysis of single classroom schools reveal that Assam is the worst state where as high as 62.72 percent primary schools have a single classroom. The other states where sizeable single classroom schools are found are; Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal where 35.50 percent, 25.95 percent, 21.06 percent and 20.96 percent primary schools respectively have only one classroom. Kerala has lowest percentage (1.61 only) of single classroom primary schools followed by Uttar Pradesh (2.36 percent) and Uttaranchal (3.15 percent).

Data show that at the national level 17.51 percent primary schools are single teacher schools but there are wide variations across the states in this regard. On the one hand we have states like Jharkhand and Rajasthan where more than 30 percent primary schools are single teacher schools while in Kerala single teacher primary schools are even less than 1 percent of the total primary schools. In Gujarat and West Bengal the percentage of single teacher primary schools is less than 10.

It is surprising to note that single classroom upper primary schools are also as high as 14.34 percent in the country and it clearly shows that the position in upper primary schools is no better when compared to primary schools. Further, out of the 17 states for which the data is presented here as many as 5 states have more than 15 percent single classroom upper primary schools. These states are Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and west Bengal. However Kerala has only 2.25 percent single classroom upper primary schools, which is lowest in the country.

The table further reveals that even 7.72 percent upper primary schools are single teacher schools in the country. It is a matter of great concern that in some states like Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, more than 10 percent upper primary schools have only one teacher. As against these states, in states like Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal there are hardly any upper primary schools that have only one teacher.

## Facilities in Primary and Upper Primary Schools

Apart from proper and sufficient building that can be used in all weathers the schools need to have some basic facilities also. Here data on such basic facilities provided in primary and upper primary schools of these selected states is presented.

### Primary Schools

The primary schools need to have certain basic facilities and the Operation Blackboard scheme, implemented by the Government of India after the National Policy on Education (1986), was aimed at making sure that all primary schools of the country may be able to get these basic facilities. Here the data has been presented for 17 states for primary schools having only primary sections that means exclusive or stand alone primary schools.

Table 7 presents state wise percentage of primary schools having various facilities in the schools namely Blackboard, Drinking water, Playground and Boundary wall. The data presented in the table is taken from DISE Analytical Report 2004 and pertains to the reference date of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

Table 7  
Percentage of Primary Schools having various facilities 2003-04  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Blackboard	Drinking Water	Playground	Boundary Wall
1	Andhra Pradesh	86.80	51.30	46.27	55.04
2	Assam	91.56	60.14	45.00	41.81
3	Bihar	79.26	78.85	23.41	26.18
4	Chhattisgarh	91.78	79.54	30.93	51.84
5	Gujarat	93.91	63.82	53.53	51.50
6	Himachal Pradesh	93.38	85.55	48.25	17.53
7	Jharkhand	76.45	79.74	21.74	41.36
8	Karnataka	93.62	66.03	37.45	48.79
9	Kerala	96.68	90.14	44.49	56.28
10	Madhya Pradesh	85.69	81.84	53.50	58.21
11	Maharashtra	99.82	74.04	58.75	50.11
12	Orissa	55.50	72.63	15.36	46.72
13	Rajasthan	79.82	70.19	29.52	54.31
14	Tamil Nadu	99.39	91.84	70.37	36.56
15	Uttar Pradesh	96.86	94.87	61.45	33.37
16	Uttaranchal	97.69	69.94	45.39	39.94
17	West Bengal	97.85	73.64	30.77	24.30

	<b>India</b>	91.19	76.24	44.33	43.71

The data presented in the above table reveal that about 91.19 percent primary schools in the country have blackboard. Keeping in view the importance of blackboard in teaching learning process it may be noted that availability of blackboard is necessary for not only each and every primary school but even in each class room. However, the data shows that about 9 percent primary schools do not have even this basic facility. It is surprising to note that there is not even a single state where cent percent primary schools have blackboard. It ranges from more than 99 percent schools in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to only 55.5 percent schools in Orissa. More than 90 percent primary schools have blackboard in 11 states out of which in 6 states more than 95 percent primary schools have this facility.

Drinking water is yet another facility that each primary need to have. But the data presented above suggest that about 23 percent primary schools in India do not have this basic facility. In Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh more than 90 percent primary schools have drinking water. However it is matter of concern that in states like Andhra Pradesh and Assam only 51.3 percent and 60.14 percent primary schools have this facility respectively. In 9 out 17 states, for which data is presented here, more than one-fourth primary schools do not have drinking water facility.

In order to make sure that the schools are having proper facilities for sports and other extra curricular activities it is important that each primary schools has play ground. The data, however, suggests that at the national level not even 50 percent of the primary schools have this facility in the country. Playgrounds are available in only 44.33 percent primary schools in India and therefore it is clear that children studying in about 56 percent primary schools of the country are denied the sports and games facilities. The state wise analysis of data shows that in none of these 17 states more than 71 percent primary schools have play ground facility. Except 5 states, namely Gujarat (53.53 percent), Madhya Pradesh (61.45 percent) Maharashtra (58.75 percent), Tamil Nadu (70.37 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (59.22 percent), in all other states not even 50 percent primary schools have this facility. The position is worst in Bihar (23.41 percent), Jharkhand (21.74 percent) and Orissa (15.36 percent) where not even one-fourth of the total primary schools have playgrounds.

Data show that only 43.71 percent of the total primary schools in the country have boundary wall. However, in 7 states namely Andhra Pradesh (55.04 percent), Chhattisgarh (51.84 percent), Gujarat (51.50 percent), Kerala (56.28 percent), Madhya Pradesh (58.21 percent), Maharashtra (50.11 percent) and Rajasthan (54.31 percent), more than half of the total primary schools have the facility of boundary wall. It is disappointing to note that in Himachal Pradesh only 17.53 percent primary schools have boundary wall while in West Bengal only 24.30 percent primary schools have this facility.

Table 8 presents data on percentage of primary schools (in the selected states) having facilities like common toilets, girls' toilets and electricity.

Table 8  
**Percentage of Primary Schools having various facilities 2003-04**  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Common Toilets	Girls' toilets	Electricity Connection
1	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	27.23	15.38	10.97
2	<b>Assam</b>	24.46	4.91	2.99
3	<b>Bihar</b>	12.83	3.52	0.41
4	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	8.94	3.42	7.57
5	<b>Gujarat</b>	32.45	21.35	37.99
6	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	28.16	12.94	41.05
7	<b>Jharkhand</b>	8.65	4.15	1.52
8	<b>Karnataka</b>	27.28	16.80	23.60
9	<b>Kerala</b>	76.97	46.85	59.59
10	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	23.77	13.56	13.07
11	<b>Maharashtra</b>	32.24	21.24	38.24
12	<b>Orissa</b>	22.43	7.07	4.69
13	<b>Rajasthan</b>	34.59	14.09	6.45
14	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	41.01	24.72	47.50
15	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	65.65	50.76	9.37
16	<b>Uttaranchal</b>	56.19	30.13	8.72
17	<b>West Bengal</b>	50.04	10.64	7.50
	<b>India</b>	36.16	20.61	14.57

The table reveals that only about 36 percent primary schools in the country have common toilets facility. However it ranges from about 77 percent primary schools in Kerala to only 8.65 percent in Jharkhand and 8.94 percent in Chhattisgarh. Apart from Kerala only 3 states have more than 50 percent primary schools where the facility of common toilets is available and these states are Uttar Pradesh (65.65 percent), Uttaranchal (56.19 percent) and West Bengal (50.04 percent). In 6 states namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, not even one-fourth of the primary schools have this facility.

Only about one-fifth of the primary schools have girls' toilet in the country. It is highest in Uttar Pradesh (50.76 percent) and Kerala (46.85 percent) and lowest in Chhattisgarh (3.42 percent) and Bihar (3.52 percent). In 6 states girls' toilets are available in more than 20 percent primary schools and these states are Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

The table shows that only 14.57 percent primary schools have electricity connection in India. In Kerala about 60 percent primary schools have electricity followed by Tamil Nadu where about 47.5 percent primary schools have this facility. In only 6 states excluding these two (i.e. Kerala and Tamil Nadu) more than 10 percent primary schools have electricity connections. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The following Table 9 presents data on percentage of primary Schools having facilities like availability of Computers, Book Bank, Ramp and the Medical check up facility.

Table 9  
**Percentage of Primary Schools having various facilities 2003-04**  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Computer in School	Book Bank In School	Ramp in School	Arranged Medical Checkup
1	Andhra Pradesh	4.78	41.55	2.40	66.93
2	Assam	6.92	23.48	5.94	5.50
3	Bihar	2.32	26.66	2.59	8.82
4	Chhattisgarh	3.90	47.30	8.99	81.72
5	Gujarat	3.92	22.92	2.78	88.45
6	Himachal Pradesh	2.68	38.24	5.49	53.34
7	Jharkhand	3.90	28.20	1.56	13.24
8	Karnataka	5.10	10.70	1.75	69.54
9	Kerala	12.37	22.97	9.78	70.36
10	Madhya Pradesh	6.52	57.24	12.91	68.64
11	Maharashtra	5.73	84.55	1.99	94.98
12	Orissa	2.63	12.60	3.34	24.72
13	Rajasthan	3.59	19.20	3.68	74.75
14	Tamil Nadu	4.88	31.39	6.41	92.08
15	Uttar Pradesh	2.35	64.99	5.05	45.06
16	Uttaranchal	4.97	48.58	1.49	50.59
17	West Bengal	1.22	52.25	5.47	22.44
	<b>India</b>	3.95	42.54	4.98	52.61

The table reveals that there are hardly about 4 percent primary schools in the country where computer is available. In Kerala 12.37 percent primary schools have computer which is highest in the country while West Bengal has lowest percentage of primary schools (1.22 percent) having computer. It may therefore be inferred that proportion of the primary schools having computer is very low in India. Similar is case of availability of ramp in primary schools as only about 5 percent i.e. 1 out of every 20 schools have this facility.

The primary schools are supposed to have book banks as it may inculcate the habit of reading among children. About 42.54 percent primary schools in the country have the book bank facility. In Maharashtra there are 84.55 percent primary schools having this facility while in Karnataka hardly 10 percent schools have book banks. Apart from Maharashtra there are only three states (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) where more than half of the primary schools have book bank.

Medical/ health checkup of children is expected to be arranged in primary schools regularly. However, the data show that medical checkup was arranged in only 52.61 percent primary schools. In Maharashtra (94.98 percent) and Tamil Nadu (92.08 percent) more than 90 percent primary schools arranged medical checkup. However in Assam (5.50 percent) and Bihar (8.82 percent) not even 10 percent primary schools have arranged medical checkup. In 9 states out of the abovementioned 17 states medical check up was arranged in more than two-third primary schools. These state are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

### Upper Primary Schools

The paper focuses on the analysis of the basic necessary facilities that are expected to be available in upper primary schools in selected states of the country. Here only those schools have been taken into account where there is only upper primary section i.e. the exclusive (or stand alone) upper primary schools.

Table 10 presents state wise percentage of upper primary schools having various facilities in the schools namely Blackboard, Drinking water, Playground and Boundary wall. The data presented in the table is taken from DISE Analytical Report 2004 and pertains to the reference date of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

Table 10  
**Percentage of Upper Primary Schools having various facilities 2003-04**  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Blackboard	Drinking Water	Playground	Boundary Wall
1	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	84.23	74.16	67.45	82.77
2	<b>Assam</b>	91.36	58.85	62.86	63.99
3	<b>Bihar</b>	75.46	87.07	56.73	60.87
4	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	80.65	73.98	36.42	66.29
5	<b>Gujarat</b>	99.15	94.08	87.89	88.24
6	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	85.87	74.96	44.76	35.50
7	<b>Jharkhand</b>	69.35	96.77	53.23	70.19
8	<b>Karnataka</b>	95.21	87.08	77.08	81.61
9	<b>Kerala</b>	96.25	94.74	68.77	71.43

<b>10</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	76.63	78.60	46.82	73.93
<b>11</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	98.52	95.56	84.44	65.83
<b>12</b>	<b>Orissa</b>	96.46	65.28	48.91	76.48
<b>13</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	87.17	86.90	60.05	89.76
<b>14</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	100	96.83	92.06	68.66
<b>15</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	94.38	90.41	67.02	86.41
<b>16</b>	<b>Uttaranchal</b>	96.71	65.08	44.31	54.90
<b>17</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	96.42	83.84	57.46	66.29
	<b>India</b>	89.67	78.77	56.53	72.52

The data presented in the table show that about 90 percent upper primary schools have blackboard. It means that 10 percent upper primary schools in the country have not been provided the facility of even blackboard. It may be difficult to think of an upper primary school without blackboard. So it is a serious concern. Tamil Nadu is the only state where cent percent upper primary schools have this facility. Out of 17 states for which data is reported here there are only 10 states where more than 90 percent upper primary schools have blackboard. The position is found worst in Jharkhand (69.35 percent) and Bihar (75.46 percent).

Provision of drinking water is essential for the schools but unfortunately the situation is disappointing as only 78.77 percent upper primary schools have the provision of drinking water in the country which thereby means that more than one-fifth of the upper primary schools do not have the provision of drinking water even. There are 6 states where more than 90 percent upper primary schools have provision of this facility and these states are Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. In Assam (58.85 percent), Uttaranchal (65.08 percent) and Orissa (65.28 percent) not even two-third upper primary schools have the provision of drinking water.

For upper primary schools availability of playground is necessary so that the children can take part in the sports and games which is necessary for the over all development of their personality. But the data reveal that only 56.53 percent upper primary schools have this facility. In this regard there are wide variations across the states. In Chhattisgarh only 36.42 percent upper primary schools have playground whereas in Tamil Nadu more than 92 percent upper primary schools have this facility. There are five states where not even 50 percent upper primary schools have playground and these states are Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttaranchal.

About 72.52 percent upper primary schools have boundary wall which means that in more than 27 percent upper primary schools there are no boundary walls and therefore the security of schools premises and its property and the maintenance of school building will be very difficult on such places. The availability of boundary walls seems to be more problematic in hill states namely Himachal Pradesh (35.50 percent) and Uttaranchal (54.90 percent) despite the fact that in these hill states the schools may certainly need to have boundary walls to avoid any possible untoward incident of any student falling down

the hills. Only 5 states, namely; Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, have more than 80 percent upper primary schools having boundary walls.

Table 11 presents data on percentage of upper primary schools (in the selected states) having facilities like common toilet, girls' toilets and electricity.

Table 11  
**Percentage of Upper Primary Schools having various facilities 2003-04**  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Common Toilet	Girls' Toilet	Electricity Connection
1	Andhra Pradesh	62.08	54.70	52.68
2	Assam	26.23	9.68	10.36
3	Bihar	51.45	24.54	5.80
4	Chhattisgarh	14.43	8.21	18.54
5	Gujarat	69.86	78.31	94.08
6	Himachal Pradesh	23.66	17.45	42.22
7	Jharkhand	30.65	19.35	20.97
8	Karnataka	69.58	49.38	64.58
9	Kerala	75.83	66.37	80.93
10	Madhya Pradesh	20.78	14.21	21.11
11	Maharashtra	71.11	72.59	80.00
12	Orissa	34.77	13.48	15.66
13	Rajasthan	63.89	46.96	58.86
14	Tamil Nadu	53.97	63.49	68.25
15	Uttar Pradesh	66.70	54.14	15.29
16	Uttaranchal	61.15	39.86	13.67
17	West Bengal	55.38	61.37	33.44
	<b>India</b>	44.25	32.91	20.01

The data presented in the table reveal that about 44 percent upper primary schools have common toilet whereas about one third schools have girls' toilet. In Kerala more than three-fourth (75.83 percent) upper primary schools have common toilet while in Chhattisgarh, on an average, out of 7 upper primary schools only 1 school has this facility. In 6 states namely Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, less than half of the upper primary schools have this facility.

Availability of separate girls' toilet is desirable in upper primary schools so as to ensure better participation and retention of girls in schools. Keeping this point in view it is disappointing to note that only about 33 percent upper primary schools have this facility in the country. It is serious concern that the girls' toilets are available in less than 10 percent upper primary schools in Assam and Chhattisgarh. However, in 7 states more

than 50 percent upper primary schools have this facility. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The electricity connection is available in only one-fifth of the upper primary schools in the country. However, it ranges from as high as 94 percent schools in Gujarat to as low as only 5.8 percent schools in Bihar. Apart from Gujarat there are only 6 states where more than 50 percent upper primary schools have electricity and these states are Andhra Pradesh (52.68 percent), Karnataka (64.58 percent), Kerala (80.93 percent), Maharashtra (80 percent), Rajasthan (58.86 percent) and Tamil Nadu (68.25 percent). Apart from Bihar where the situation is worst there are another 5 states where electricity is available in less than 20 percent upper primary schools. These states are Assam (10.36 percent), Chhattisgarh (18.54 percent), Orissa (15.66 percent), Uttar Pradesh (15.29 percent) and Uttaranchal (13.67 percent).

The following Table 12 presents data on percentage of upper primary Schools having facilities like availability of Computers, Book Bank, Ramp and the Medical check up facility

Table 12  
**Percentage of Upper Primary Schools having various facilities 2003-04**  
(Source : DISE Analytical Report 2004)

S. No.	State	Computer in School	Book Bank In School	Ramp in School	Arranged Medical Checkup
1	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	22.82	53.36	7.05	73.15
2	<b>Assam</b>	10.68	22.33	2.61	2.96
3	<b>Bihar</b>	5.01	34.04	2.90	8.71
4	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	4.97	57.16	6.95	72.36
5	<b>Gujarat</b>	28.73	33.24	4.79	82.54
6	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	2.38	30.64	3.27	28.35
7	<b>Jharkhand</b>	11.29	40.32	3.23	12.90
8	<b>Karnataka</b>	19.58	41.46	6.04	78.75
9	<b>Kerala</b>	29.13	25.53	8.71	68.77
10	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	12.48	52.07	7.45	60.55
11	<b>Maharashtra</b>	45.93	85.93	5.93	65.93
12	<b>Orissa</b>	3.52	24.61	2.23	16.26
13	<b>Rajasthan</b>	28.70	32.67	10.58	80.82
14	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	11.11	49.21	3.17	96.83
15	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	3.21	56.71	3.70	27.19
16	<b>Uttaranchal</b>	6.38	34.88	1.28	27.27
17	<b>West Bengal</b>	2.94	51.20	5.99	7.44
	<b>India</b>	7.14	42.23	4.69	35.30

If we perceive that the upper primary schools should have computers the data presented in the above table show a disappointing picture. The table shows that only 7.14 percent upper primary schools have computers in India. However it ranges from only 2.38 percent upper primary schools in Himachal Pradesh to about 46 percent schools in Maharashtra. There are five states where more than 20 percent upper primary schools have computers. These states, apart from Maharashtra, are Andhra Pradesh (22.82 percent), Gujarat (28.73 percent), Kerala (29.13 percent) and Rajasthan (28.70 percent). Further, in as many as 7 states not even 10 upper primary schools have computers and these states are namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

Only about 42 percent upper primary schools have book bank facility as is given in the above table. Assam (22.33 percent) has lowest and Maharashtra (85.93 percent) has highest percentage of upper primary schools having the book bank facility. In only 6 states (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) more than 50 percent upper primary schools have book bank.

In order to facilitate the physically challenged children it is necessary that upper primary schools have ramps. But unfortunately the position is very bad in the country in this regard. Hardly 4.69 percent upper primary schools have this facility in the country. Rajasthan is the only state where a little over 10 percent upper primary schools have ramp. Further only 8 states have more than 5 percent upper primary schools having this facility and these states are namely; Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and west Bengal.

Medical checkup of children are conducted in only about 35 percent upper primary schools in the country. In only 4 states more than 75 percent upper primary schools have arranged medical checkup and these states are Gujarat (82.54), Karnataka (78.75), Rajasthan (80.82) and Tamil Nadu (96.83). Three states (Assam, Bihar and West Bengal) are worst where not even 10 percent upper primary schools have arranged medical checkup.

### **Major Findings**

The data related to facilities available in primary and upper primary schools in the country and state wise analysis of these data reveal the following points that are related to the provision of elementary education at the national level and in various states of the country.

- In India more than two-third of the total schools are exclusive primary schools whereas exclusive upper primary schools are less than 7 percent. There are states like Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal where exclusive primary schools are about or more than 80 percent of the total schools (in the state) where as in Gujarat hardly one third and in Karnataka only half of the total schools are exclusive primary schools. Exclusive upper primary schools are more than 18 percent of the total schools in Assam where as in a few states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand,

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu) these schools are less than 1 percent of the total schools.

- Even after about two decades of the implementation of Operation Blackboard (OB) scheme in the country there are substantial number of primary and upper primary schools without building and such building-less schools are found in almost all the states. The DISE data reveal that in the country about 4 percent primary schools and about 12 percent upper primary schools have no buildings.
- As far as the type of primary school buildings are concerned only about 70 percent primary and 63 percent upper primary schools have pucca buildings in the country. In this regard for primary schools the position is best in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal where 96 percent and 86 percent primary schools respectively have pucca buildings. However the position is worst in Assam and Orissa where only about 35 percent and 32 percent primary schools have pucca buildings respectively. For upper primary schools, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have more than 90 percent schools that have pucca buildings while the position is worst in Assam where only 21.47 percent upper primary schools have pucca buildings.
- In the country still there are so many single teacher primary and even single teacher upper primary schools. There are 17.5 percent primary schools and 7.7 percent upper primary schools in India that have only one teacher. Further there are about 16 percent primary schools and about 14 percent upper primary schools that have only one classroom.
- There are primary schools and upper primary schools that are devoid of basic facilities like blackboard and drinking water. About 9 percent primary schools and about 10 percent upper primary schools do not have blackboard and about 24 percent primary schools and about 21 percent upper primary schools do not have drinking water facility. This is a matter of serious concern and authorities need to look at these problems seriously and resolve them at the earliest.
- The facilities like playground and boundary walls are not available even in half of the primary schools and more than one-fourth of the upper primary schools. About 56 percent primary schools and 43 percent upper primary schools do not have playground. Further about 56 percent primary schools and about 27.5 percent upper primary schools do not have boundary walls.
- Common toilets and girls' toilets are not available in more than half of the primary and upper primary schools in the country. About 64 percent primary schools and about 56 percent upper primary schools do not have common toilets. Similarly about 80 percent primary schools and about 67 percent upper primary schools do not have girls' toilets. For ensuring the participation of girls in elementary education it has a serious implication and it seems important that the issue is addressed in the district plans for ensuring universal participation of girls specifically.

- It is very disheartening to note that about 85 percent primary schools and about 80 percent upper primary schools of the country do not have electricity connection. This may be one of the reasons that 96 percent primary schools and 93 percent upper primary schools do not have computers in schools.
- The schools are expected to be conscious about the health and hygiene of the students and for that the schools need to organize regular medical checkup of the children. But it is a matter of concern that about 47 percent primary schools and about 65 percent upper primary schools have not arranged any such medical checkup. The schools also seem to be unaware about the requirements of physically challenged children. This is proved by the fact that more than 95 percent primary and upper primary schools do not have provision of ramps. It may be noted that the goal of UPE or UEE cannot be achieved if appropriate provision for the education of physically challenged children is not made.

The country's top priority in education at present is on universal elementary education as it is not only a constitutional directive but once the law is enacted it may also become a fundamental right and this will happen sooner than later. It is therefore necessary that provision for schooling, are made in the states because universal access is pre-condition for universal participation. However provision for schooling does not mean providing schools without appropriate facilities and infrastructure. This paper shows that many schools in the country are still not equipped with proper infrastructure and do not have even the basic facilities. It is therefore suggested that authorities need to focus their attention towards this aspect of elementary education. The district elementary education plans developed and implemented in all the districts of the country under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme, may propose interventions to ensure that all the schools in the district are provided with basic minimum required facilities. This will not only increase participation of children and retaining them in the schools but will also facilitate in improving the quality of education imparted in schools.

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### ***Abstract***

*The priority in the field of education at present is on universal elementary education in the country. It is therefore necessary to make provisions for primary and upper schooling facilities in every nook and corner of the country. It may be kept in view that provision does not only mean opening schools everywhere but it also means providing all basic facilities in the schools. It is in this context that this paper examines the position of basic facilities provided in the primary and upper primary schools in various states of India. It may be noted that data on facilities in schools are collected in All India Educational Surveys conducted by NCERT occasionally. Yet another source of data on this aspect is the District Information System of Education (DISE) which provides data in its district and state report cards annually. In this paper DISE data have been used that are mainly taken from the DISE Analytical Report 2004 published in 2005.*

*The paper analyses data pertaining to basic facilities in primary and upper primary schools on items such as – availability of buildings, number of classrooms, single classroom and single teacher schools, availability of basic facilities like back board, drinking water, playground, boundary walls, common toilets, girls' toilets, computers in schools, book bank, ramps in schools and the provision of medical checkup in schools.*

*The analysis of data reveals that many schools in the country are still not equipped with basic facilities. It is so much so that about 4 percent primary and 12 percent upper primary schools do not have building. Further, only 70 percent primary schools and 63 percent upper primary schools have pucca buildings. There are 17.5 percent primary schools and 7.7 percent upper primary schools in the country that have only one teacher. It is a matter of serious concern that about 9 to 10 percent primary and upper primary schools do not have even blackboards. One-fourth primary schools and one-fifth upper primary schools do not have the provision of drinking water. Playground and boundary walls are not available in more than half of the primary schools and more than one-fourth of the upper primary schools in the country. Common toilets and girls' toilets are not available in more than 63 percent and 75 percent primary schools respectively. Common toilets and girls' toilets are not available in more than half and more than two-thirds of the upper primary schools. More than 80 percent primary and upper primary schools do not have electricity connection and more than 93 percent primary and upper primary schools in the country do not have computers. These data show the position of availability of primary and upper primary schools in the country but it is more revealing to note that there are lots of inter-state variations in the provision of these facilities and these have been highlighted in the paper in greater details.*