
UNIT 1 SITUATION OF RURAL CHILDREN

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1.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This unit will enable you to understand the situation of rural children in India in its broad dimensions. The information is a prelude to developing your abilities in planning intervention programmes and implementing them for promoting the development of children.

At the end of the unit, you will be able to:

- identify indicators that are commonly used to describe the health, nutrition and educational status of children.
- identify the sources that generate information on children.
- indicate the main problem areas, which need attention.

- discuss the status of the girl child in rural India.
- describe the situation of children at work.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

India's population, which was 846.302688 million in 1991 (628.691 million in rural areas and 217.611 million in urban areas), increased to 1.027 billion in 2001. The decadal increase in population, which was 23.90% during 1981-91, fell marginally during 1991-2001 to 21.34%. Nearly 75% of the population live in rural areas.

It is estimated that India's children aged 0-19 years number nearly 400 million. A large segment of this population of children lives in rural areas. As their numbers keep increasing, more and more resources would be needed, so that children do not

- stay hungry;
- remain poor;
- suffer from preventable diseases;
- lack education and training facilities;
- Suffer from various kinds of exploitation.

We will, in this unit, give an overview of the situation of rural children through some selected indicators. These indicators will enable us to see the relative position of and measure changes in the situation of children. In the subsequent units, we will take up in greater detail some specific aspects like health, nutrition and education of rural children, and also discuss measures to protect them from exploitation in situations like work.

1.2 DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Here, we shall consider the magnitude of the child population and its age structure in rural India.

**Table 1 : Child Population 0-14 Years by Sex in Rural and Urban Areas in Major States
(Percentage), 1998**

India & Bigger States	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Andhra Pradesh	33.1	33.6	32.7	33.6	34.2	32.9	31.7	31.6	31.9
Assam	37.6	37.3	38.0	38.6	38.3	38.9	29.2	28.5	29.9
Bihar	40.8	41.3	40.2	41.3	42.0	40.7	35.6	35.2	36.0
Gujarat	32.7	33.4	32.1	33.7	34.4	32.9	30.7	31.2	30.2
Haryana	36.2	36.7	35.6	37.0	37.5	36.6	33.1	34.0	32.0
Himachal Pradesh	31.7	33.9	29.7	32.0	34.4	29.8	27.6	27.8	27.3
Karnataka	31.4	31.8	31.0	32.4	32.8	32.0	29.1	29.5	28.6
Kerala	27.3	29.0	25.7	27.9	29.7	26.3	25.3	26.9	23.8
Madhya Pradesh	38.2	38.6	37.8	39.2	39.6	38.7	33.3	33.3	33.2
Maharashtra	33.3	33.8	32.8	35.2	36.2	34.3	30.2	30.1	30.3
Orissa	34.2	34.7	33.7	34.7	35.3	34.1	30.6	30.3	31.0
Punjab	31.8	32.9	30.6	32.1	33.2	30.8	31.0	31.9	29.9
Rajasthan	38.3	38.8	37.7	39.1	39.5	38.5	34.7	35.3	34.0
Tamil Nadu	28.1	28.7	27.5	28.9	29.5	28.3	26.4	27.0	25.8
Uttar Pradesh	40.1	40.6	39.7	40.8	41.3	40.3	36.5	36.7	36.3
West Bengal	32.8	32.7	33.0	35.4	35.5	35.4	25.5	24.9	26.1
India #	35.6	36.1	35.1	37.0	37.6	36.3	30.9	31.1	30.7

Excludes Jammu & Kashmir

Sources : India, Registrar General, Vital Statistical Division. (2000). Sample Registration System Statistical Report 1998. New Delhi. P.10.

The highest percentage of child population was found in Bihar (40.8) and Uttar Pradesh (40.1), which are densely populated, while the lowest is found in Kerala (27.3) where

population is low. Although much difference was not found between the total population of male and female children, some states like Himachal Pradesh (girls 29.8%; boys 34.4%); Kerala (girls 26.3%; boys 29.7%); Punjab (girls 30.8%; boys 33.2); and Maharashtra (girls 34.3%; boys 36.2%) had less number of girls than boys in rural areas. The figures in urban areas showed lesser variation among the number of girls and boys, with the exception of Kerala (girls 23.8%; boys 26.9%); Punjab (girls 29.9%; boys 31.9%); and Haryana (girls 32%; boys 34%).

1.2.1 Age Structure

Let us first take up the age structure of the child population. You have come across this earlier too in Block 1 of RD.D.1.

Demographers use the age structure of the population in a variety of ways. Let us first consider the percentage of children aged 0-14 years in the total population. This, as you may have anticipated, is computed in the following way:

$$\frac{\text{No. of children (0-14 years)}}{\text{Total Population}} \times 100$$

You will notice that the population of India is young, a reflection of the country's high birth rate. The country has, thus, to invest heavily in child survival and child development. As can be seen in Table 1, the percentage of children aged 0-14 years to total population was about 35.6%, being 37% in rural areas and 30.9% in urban areas during 1998. The child population figures vary widely, ranging from 27.3% in Kerala to 40.8% in Bihar and 40.1% in Uttar Pradesh. Where female literacy is high, the proportion of children in the population is low, as educated mothers tend to have fewer children.

Demographers also refer to the child dependency ratio, which is a measure of the population of children (0-14 years) relative to the size of the population in the working age group, i.e. 15-60 years. The child dependency ratio is computed as follows:

$$\frac{\text{No. of children (0-14 years)}}{\text{Population 15-60 years}} \times 100$$

Demographers conventionally divide the population into age groups with a class interval of five years. Let us now try to distribute the population into age groups of less than 1 year, 1-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-13 years and 14-15 years. These are more relevant for planning purposes. As you may have guessed, the early childhood years (below 1 year and 1-2 years) are important for child survival, while the 3-5 year period is important for early childhood stimulation programmes at home and in pre-school, the period 6-11 years is relevant for primary schooling. The sheer magnitude for whom services have to be provided if all children are covered is staggering indeed.

Table 2 : Population of States/Union Territories by Sex, Percentage Share of Population in Total Population, Decadal Growth Rate, 2001.

India/States/UTs		Total Population			Percentage Share in Total Population	% Decadal Natural Growth Rate 2001
		Persons	Males	Females	Females	
India ¹		1,027,015,247	531,277,078	495,738,169	100.00	21.34
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75,727,541	38,286,811	37,440,730	7.37	13.86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,091,117	573,951	517,166	0.11	26.21
3.	Assam	26,638,407	13,787,799	12,850,608	2.59	18.85
4.	Bihar	82,878,796	43,153,964	39,724,832	8.07	28.43
5.	Chhatisgarh	20,795,956	10,452,426	10,343,530	2.03	18.06
6.	Delhi	13,782,976	7,570,890	6,212,086	1.34	46.31
7.	Goa	1,343,998	685,617	658,381	0.13	14.89
8.	Gujarat ³	50,596,992	26,344,053	24,252,939	4.93	22.48
9.	Haryana	21,082,989	11,327,658	9,755,331	2.05	28.06
10.	Himachal Pradesh ²	6,077,248	3,085,256	2,991,992	0.59	17.53
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	10,069,917	5,300,574	4,769,343	0.98	29.04
12.	Jharkhand	26,909,428	13,861,277	13,048,151	2.62	23.19
13.	Karnataka	52,733,958	26,856,343	25,877,615	5.14	17.25
14.	Kerala	31,838,619	15,468,664	16,369,955	3.10	9.42
15.	Madhya Pradesh	60,385,118	31,456,873	28,928,245	5.88	24.34
16.	Maharashtra	96,752,247	50,334,270	46,417,977	9.42	22.57
17.	Manipur	2,388,634	1,207,338	1,181,296	0.23	30.02
18.	Meghalaya	2,306,069	1,167,840	1,138,229	0.22	29.94
19.	Mizoram	891,058	459,783	431,275	0.09	29.18
20.	Nagaland	1,988,636	1,041,686	946,950	0.19	64.41

21	Orissa	36,706,920	18,612,340	18,094,580	3.57	15.94
22	Punjab	24,289,296	12,963,362	11,325,934	2.37	19.76
23	Rajasthan	56,473,122	29,381,657	27,091,465	5.50	28.33
24	Sikkim	540,493	288,217	252,276	0.05	32.98
25	Tamil Nadu	62,110,839	31,268,654	30,842,185	6.05	11.19
26	Tripura	3,191,168	1,636,138	1,555,030	0.31	15.74
27	Uttar Pradesh	166,052,859	87,466,301	78,586,558	16.17	25.80
28	Uttaranchal	8,479,562	4,316,401	4,163,161	0.83	19.20
29	West Bengal	80,221,171	41,487,694	38,733,477	7.81	17.84
	Union Territories					
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	356,265	192,985	163,280	0.03	26.94
31	Chandigarh	900,914	508,224	392,690	0.09	40.33
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	220,451	121,731	98,720	0.02	-
33	Daman & Diu	158,059	92,478	65,581	0.02	55.59
34	Lakshadweep	60,595	31,118	29,477	0.01	17.19
35	Pondicherry	973,829	486,705	487,124	0.09	20.56

Notes :

1. The population of India includes the estimated population of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district, Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat, state and entire Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamities.

2. The population of Himachal Pradesh includes estimated population of entire Kinnaur district, where the population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.
3. The population of Gujarat includes the estimated population of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district and Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district where the population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.

Source : India, Registrar General and Census Commissioner. (2001). Provisional Population Totals : Paper 1 of 2001 : Census of India 2001. New Delhi. P. xii.

Table 3 : Child Population 0-6 Years, 2001

India/States/UT		Child Population 0-6 Years 2001		
		Total	Males	Females
India		157,863,145	81,911,041	75,952,104
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9,673,274	4,926,200	4,747,074
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	200,055	102,010	98,045
3.	Assam	4,350,248	2,215,104	2,135,144
4.	Bihar	16,234,539	8,375,532	7,859,007
5.	Chhatisgarh	3,469,774	1,756,441	1,713,333
6.	Delhi	1,923,995	1,031,584	892,411
7.	Goa	142,152	73,547	68,605
8.	Gujarat	6,867,958	3,656,956	3,211,002

9.	Haryana	3,259,080	1,790,758	1,468,322
10.	Himachal Pradesh	769,424	405,618	363,806
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,431,182	738,839	692,343
12.	Jharkhand	4,796,188	2,440,025	2,356,163
13.	Karnataka	6,826,168	3,501,499	3,324,669
14.	Kerala	3,653,578	1,861,669	1,791,909
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10,618,323	5,504,422	5,113,901
16.	Maharashtra	13,187,087	6,878,579	6,308,508
17.	Manipur	312,691	159,448	153,243
18.	Meghalaya	457,442	231,571	225,871
19.	Mizoram	141,537	71,817	69,720
20.	Nagaland	280,172	141,852	138,320
21.	Orissa	5,180,551	2,656,046	2,524,505
22.	Punjab	3,055,492	1,704,142	1,351,350
23.	Rajasthan	10,451,103	5,474,965	4,976,138
24.	Sikkim	77,170	38,856	38,314
25.	Tamil Nadu	6,817,669	3,515,562	3,302,107
26.	Tripura	427,012	216,244	210,768
27.	Uttar Pradesh	30,472,042	15,903,900	14,568,900
28.	Uttaranchal	1,319,393	692,272	627,121
29.	West Bengal	11,132,824	5,671,152	5,461,672
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	44,674	22,733	21,941
31.	Chandigarh	109,293	59,238	50,055
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	39,173	19,856	19,317
33.	Daman & Diu	20,012	10,394	9,618
34.	Lakshadweep	8,860	4,488	4,372
35.	Pondicherry	113,010	57,722	55,288

Source : India, Registrar General and Census Commissioner.

(2001). Provisional Population Totals : Paper 1 of
2001 : Census of India 2001. New Delhi. P. 47-49.

**Table 4: Sex Ratio of Total Population and Child Population in the
Age Group 0-6 Years, 1991 and 2001**

India/States/UTs		Sex Ratio (Females per 1,000 Males)					
		Total Population		Child Population in the Age Group 0-6 Years		Population Aged 7 Years and Above	
		1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
India		927	933	945	927	923	935
1.	Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	964	972	980
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	859	901	982	961	829	888
3.	Assam	923	932	975	964	910	926
4.	Bihar	907	921	953	938	895	916
5.	Chhattisgarh	985	990	984	975	986	992
6.	Delhi	827	821	915	865	810	813
7.	Goa	967	960	964	933	967	964
8.	Gujarat	934	921	928	878	936	927
9.	Haryana	865	861	879	820	862	869
10.	Himachal Pradesh	976	970	951	897	980	981
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	N.A	900	N.A	937	N.A	894
12.	Jharkhand	922	941	979	966	908	936

13.	Karnataka	960	964	960	949	960	966
14.	Kerala	1,036	1,058	958	963	1,049	1,071
15.	Madhya Pradesh	912	920	941	929	905	918
16.	Maharashtra	934	922	946	917	931	923
17.	Manipur	958	978	974	961	955	981
18.	Meghalaya	955	975	986	975	947	974
19.	Mizoram	921	938	969	971	911	932
20.	Nagaland	886	909	993	975	865	899
21.	Orissa	971	972	967	950	972	976
22.	Punjab	882	874	875	793	883	886
23.	Rajasthan	910	922	916	909	908	925
24.	Sikkim	878	875	965	986	860	858
25.	Tamil Nadu	974	986	948	939	978	992
26.	Tripura	945	950	967	975	940	947
27.	Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916	863	895
28.	Uttaranchal	936	964	948	906	933	976
29.	West Bengal	917	934	967	963	907	929
	Union Territories						
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	818	846	973	965	790	830
31.	Chandigarh	790	773	899	845	772	763
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	952	811	1,013	973	937	779
33.	Daman & Diu	969	709	958	925	971	682
34.	Lakshadweep	943	947	941	974	943	943
35.	Pondicherry	979	1,001	963	958	982	1,007

Notes :

1. While working out sex ratio of child population for 1991 Census in the age group 0-6 and population aged seven and above for India, the population in the age group 0-6 and population aged seven and above of areas of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, affected by natural calamities, have been excluded. The details of affected areas are given in Note numbers two and three below.
2. To make the data comparable with Census of India, 2001, the proportion of child population for 1991 Census in the age group 0-6 and population aged seven and above shown against Himachal Pradesh for 1991 excludes population in the age group 0-6 and population aged seven and above of Kinnaur district where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.
3. To make the data comparable with Census of India, 2001, the proportion of child population for 1991 Census in the age group 0-6 and population aged seven and above shown against Gujarat excludes the population data of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district and Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district of Gujarat state where population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.

Source :

India, Registrar General and Census Commissioner. (2001). Provisional Population Totals : Paper 1 of 2001 : Census of India 2001. New Delhi. P.92.

Girl Child Discrimination

The sex ratio of women in all ages increased marginally from 927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001. However, sex ratio in the age group 0 – 6 years fell from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001. It was the lowest in Punjab (793), followed by Haryana (820), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (865),

and Gujarat (878). The adverse sex ratio in 0– 6 years age group shows that discrimination against the girl child has assumed serious proportions, and it is particularly noticeable in the North-Western region of India. Low status accorded to women and girls, and the prevailing custom of dowry are some of the factors, which influence parents to prefer sons, and abort the female foetus, or neglect the girl child, leading to higher mortality among girls. Status of girls needs to be raised by educating, and training them so that they are financially independent. Other support measures, such as shelter, should also be provided to girls and women in order to empower them.

Sex Ratio

National Average: 933 females for 1000 males (Census of India 2001)

States with Sex Ratio Above 970:

Kerala (1058), Pondicherry (1001), Chhattisgarh (990), Tamil Nadu (986), Manipur (978), Andhra Pradesh (978), Meghalaya (975), Orissa (972), HP (970)

States with Sex Ratio Between 900 and 969:

Karnataka (964), Uttarakhand (964), Goa (960), Tripura (950), Lakshadweep (947), Jharkhand (941), Mizoram (938), West Bengal (934), Assam (932), Maharashtra (922), Rajasthan (922), Bihar (921), Gujarat (921), Madhya Pradesh (920), Nagaland (909), Arunachal Pradesh (901) and Jammu & Kashmir (900).

States with Sex Ratio Below 900:

UP (898), Sikkim (875), Punjab (874), Haryana (861), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (846), Delhi (821), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (811), Chandigarh (773), Daman & Diu (709)

Child (0-6 years) Sex Ratio

National Average : 927 females for 1000 males (Census of India 2001)

States with Child (0-6 years) Sex Ratio Above 970:

Sikkim (986), Chhattisgarh (975) , Meghalaya (975), Nagaland (975), Tripura (975), Lakshadweep (974) , Dadra & Nagar Haveli (973), Mizoram (971).

States with Child (0-6 years) Sex Ratio Between 900 and 969:

Jharkhand (966), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (965), Andhra Pradesh (964), Assam (964), Kerala (963), West Bengal (963), Manipur (961), Arunachal Pradesh (961), Pondicherry (958), Orissa (950), Karnataka (949), Tamil Nadu (939), Bihar (938), Jammu & Kashmir (937), Goa (933), MP (929), Daman & Diu (925), Maharashtra (917), UP (916), Rajasthan (909), Uttaranchal (906).

States with Child (0-6 years) Sex Ratio Below 900;

Himachal Pradesh (897), Gujarat (878), Delhi (865), Chandigarh (845), Haryana (820), Punjab (793).

Gender discrimination in access to food, health care, literacy, livelihoods, and wages is of great concern. The sex ratio is becoming increasingly adverse to women. Women and girl children often suffer greater nutritional deprivation. Except in Kerala, the average life span of women is also low. These trends are opposed to global developments and point to the need for designing special programmes and strategies based on individuals and not households.

Rural Child : Status in India

India has the largest child population in the world, and children in the 0-18 years age group number around 400 millions, constituting nearly 40 per cent of the population. According to the National Family Health Survey II 1998-99, children fall within the following age groups – 117 million aged 0-4 years (60 million males, 57 million females); 109 million aged 5-9 years (56 million males; 53 million females), 110 million aged 10-14 years (57 million males, 53 million females); and 103 million aged 15-19 years (53 million males, 50 million females). According to the Census of India 2001, children aged 0-6 years number around 158 million. Agriculture provides sustenance to about 64% of the population, and 72.2% of the population of 1027 million in India live in rural areas.

Rural areas in India are besieged by a number of infrastructural problems – lack of roads, schools, health centers, environmental sanitation facilities, employment opportunities, rehabilitation facilities for disabled, etc. Rural areas also vary widely in their topography – stark mountaineous regions of Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, etc., coniferous forested areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, etc.; rolling hilly areas of North Eastern states; the dry desert areas of Rajasthan; the arid regions of Gujarat; the fertile plains of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, etc.; and the coastal areas of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa and West Bengal. The widely differing terrains present differing problems in reaching various programmes and services to widely scattered beneficiaries.

Since Independence, there has been tremendous improvement in several indicators of social development. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), which was 146 per 1000 live births in 1951, fell to 64 per 1000 live births in 2002. Expectation of life at birth, which was 37 years in 1951, rose to 64 years in 2003. The literacy rate, which was 18.33% in 1951, rose to 65.4% in 2001. However, in many areas improvement is still needed.

In 2003, 91.06% rural habitations have been fully covered under rural water supply scheme, 7.93% were partially covered, and 1.01%, numbering 14,356, were not covered. (India, Ministry of Rural Development, Annual Report 2002-03, P. 201). Quality of water supplied in some places, however, is not fit for human consumption. It contains, high levels of fluoride (36,988 habitations), arsenic (3,553 habitations), salinity (32,597 habitations), iron (1,38,670 habitations), nitrate (4,003 habitations), and other contaminants (1,400 habitations) which are higher than acceptable; and a total of 2,17,211 habitations are affected by these problems. These lead to health problems in the affected population. A few social indicators depicting the situation of rural children are discussed below, namely health, immunization, nutrition and educational status.

Check Your Progress- I

(i) What do you mean by gender discrimination?

1.3 HEALTH STATUS

Health status of children in India has improved tremendously. Infant mortality, which was 146 per 1000 live births in 1951, fell to 64 per 1000 live births in 2002. This was due to expansion of health services; starting of immunization camps; spread of health and nutrition education and awareness through anganwadi centers under ICDS, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and Food and Nutrition Board's nutrition related activities; and other initiatives undertaken by Government, NGOs and International Organisations. There has been a sharp drop in the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases, and polio has nearly been eliminated.

The Infant and Child Mortality Rate is as given in the table below:

**Table 5: Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) 2001 and 2002, and
Child Mortality Rate, 2000**

India/States		Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) 2001* (per 1000 live births)			Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) 2002 \$ (per 1000 live births)			Child Mortality Rate (MMR) 2000 (per 1000 live births) #	
		Total	Male	Females	Total	Rural	Urban	Child Mortality **	Under Five Mortality***
India		66	64	68	64	69	40	29.3	94.9
India (1990)		80¹							109.3²
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66	65	68	62	71	35	21.0	85.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33	35	31	40	42	11	37.4	98.1
3.	Assam	74	69	80	70	73	38	21.4	89.5
4.	Bihar	62	57	68	61	62	50	34.7	105.1
5.	Chhattisgarh	75	72	78	73	85	51	-	-
6.	Delhi	25	27	23	32	31	32	9.0	55.4
7.	Goa	14	11	17	19	21	16	10.5	46.8
8.	Gujarat	60	61	60	60	68	37	24.0	85.1
9.	Haryana	66	63	70	62	65	51	21.2	76.8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	43	48	36	58	60	32	8.3	42.4
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	40	43	36	47	49	38	16.1	80.1
12.	Jharkhand	45	37	54	58	61	38	-	-
13.	Karnataka	58	59	58	55	65	25	19.3	69.8
14.	Kerala	11	14	9	10	11	8	2.6	18.8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	86	83	89	85	90	56	56.4	137.6
16.	Maharashtra	45	43	48	45	52	34	15.0	58.1
17.	Manipur	10	8	12	17	17	21	19.9	56.1
18.	Meghalaya	51	52	50	60	62	41	36.2	122.0
19.	Mizoram	18	20	16	15	16	14	18.4	54.7

20.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	16	22.7	63.8
21.	Orissa	91	90	93	87	91	56	25.5	104.4
22.	Punjab	52	43	63	51	55	35	15.9	72.1
23.	Rajasthan	80	78	82	78	81	55	37.6	114.9
24.	Sikkim	29	30	29	39	39	27	28.4	71.0
25.	Tamil Nadu	49	45	54	44	50	32	15.9	63.3
26.	Tripura	35	39	31	38	38	34	-	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	83	82	84	80	83	58	39.2	122.5
28.	Uttaranchal	40	40	40	44	66	22	-	-
29.	West Bengal	51	53	49	49	52	36	19.9	67.6
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7	7	6	21	25	8	-	-
31.	Chandigarh	16	26	2	25	30	24	-	-
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	61	81	39	56	59	16	-	-
33.	Daman & Diu	43	45	40	39	35	42	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	38	43	33	25	25	25	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	22	26	17	23	32	17	-	-

Notes: ** 1. Child Mortality: The probability of dying between the first and fifth birthdays.

*** 2. Under Five Mortality: The probability of dying before the fifth birthday.

3. Sex-wise break-up of IMR is not available for 2002.

Source :

* India, Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Vital Statistics Division. (2003). Sample Registration System : SRS Bulletin April 2003, New Delhi. P. 5.

\$ India, Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Vital Statistics Division. (2003). Sample Registration System : SRS Bulletin October 2003, New Delhi. P. 1

International Institute for Population Sciences. (2000). National Family Health Survey (NFHS-2), 1998-99. Mumbai. P. 194.

In the year 2001, the Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births), was high in states like Orissa (91) Uttar Pradesh (83), Madhya Pradesh (86) and Rajasthan (80), while states like Kerala (11), Mizoram (18), Goa (14), and Manipur (10) had low IMR. This trend may be attributed to poor health care services for mother and child and high population in the states with high IMR. In the year 2002, the same trend was seen with Orissa showing an IMR of (87), Madhya Pradesh (85) and Uttar Pradesh (80). Child Mortality per 1000 live births was highest in Madhya Pradesh (56.4) and Uttar Pradesh (39.2), and lowest in Kerala (2.6) and Himachal Pradesh (8.3).

Infant Mortality Rate (death of children from 0-12 months per 1000

live births)

National Average : 66 (Sample Registration System, SRS 2001)

States with IMR Below 25:

Andaman & Nicobar Islands (7), Manipur (10), Kerala (11), Goa (14) Chandigarh (16), Mizoram (18), Pondicherry (22).

States with IMR Between 25 and 59

Delhi (25), Sikkim (29), Arunachal Pradesh (33), Tripura (35), Lakshadweep (38) J&K (40), Uttaranchal (40), Daman & Diu (43), HP (43), Jharkhand (45), Maharashtra (45), Tamil Nadu (49), Meghalaya (51), Punjab (52), Karnataka (58).

States with IMR Above 60 per 1000 live births:

Gujarat (60), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (61), Haryana (66), Andhra Pradesh (66), Bihar (62), Assam (74), Chhattisgarh (75), Rajasthan (80), Uttar Pradesh (83), Madhya Pradesh (86), Orissa (91):

States with **IMR Not Available** : Nagaland

Under Five Mortality (death of children from 0- 5 years per 1000 live births)

National Average : 66 (Sample Registration System, SRS 2001)

States with Under Five Mortality Below 40: Kerala (18.8).

States with Under Five Mortality Between 40 and 79:

Himachal Pradesh (42.4), Goa (46.8), Mizoram (54.7), Delhi (55.4), Manipur (56.1), Maharashtra (58.1), Tamil Nadu (63.3), Nagaland (63.8), West Bengal (67.6), Karnataka (69.8), Sikkim (71.0), Punjab (72.1), Haryana (76.8).

States with Under Five Mortality Above 80: Jammu & Kashmir (80.1), Gujarat (85.1), Andhra Pradesh (85.5), Assam (89.5), Arunachal Pradesh (98.1), Orissa (104.4), Bihar (105.1), Rajasthan (114.9), Meghalaya (122.0), Uttar Pradesh (122.5), Madhya Pradesh (137.6).

States with Under Five Mortality Not Available:

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshwadeep and Pondicherry.

It can be seen from the table that infant mortality is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. This is because health facilities in rural areas are inadequate, and timely medical attention is not available when required. Also, IMR is higher in States/UTs where female literacy is low. In 2002, Orissa (91) and Madhya Pradesh (90) had the highest IMR in rural areas, followed closely by Chattisgarh (85), Uttar Pradesh (83), and Rajasthan (81). Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) has succeeded in substantially increasing the percentage of children immunized from 1985-86 to 2001-02 for the following diseases – BCG 29% to 100.4%, Measles from 44% to 90.8%, DPT from 41% to 95.4% and Polio from 36% to 96%. Immunization of pregnant women against Tetanus increased from 40% in 1985-86 to 85.6% in 2001-02. Immunization of pregnant women against Tetanus reduces the incidence of Tetanus in newborn infants. (India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Annual Report 2002-03, P.138).

In spite of the rigorous efforts made to ensure complete universal immunization, National Family Health Survey II, 1998-99, found that only 42% children were fully immunized. A child is said to be fully immunized when the child has received all the required doses of vaccine for diseases like polio, whooping cough, TB, measles, diphtheria, tetanus, etc. The percentage of children fully immunized in the various states is as given in Table 6.

Table 6: Children Aged 12-23 Months Fully Immunized, 1998-1999

India/States/Union Territories	Children Fully Immunized
Andhra Pradesh	58.7

Arunachal Pradesh	20.5
Assam	17.0
Bihar	11.0
Delhi	69.8
Goa	82.6
Gujarat	53.0
Haryana	62.7
Himachal Pradesh	83.4
Jammu & Kashmir	56.7
Karnataka	60.0
Kerala	79.7
Madhya Pradesh	22.4
Maharashtra	78.4
Manipur	42.3
Meghalaya	14.3
Mizoram	59.6
Nagaland	14.1
Orissa	43.7
Punjab	72.1
Rajasthan	17.3
Sikkim	47.4
Tamil Nadu	88.8
Uttar Pradesh	21.2
West Bengal	43.8
India	42.0

Source : International Institute for Population Sciences. (2000). National family Health Survey II, 1998-99 : Datasheet. Mumbai. P.1.

The States with high rates of immunization were Tamil Nadu (88.8), Himachal Pradesh (83.4), Goa (82.6) and Kerala (79.7), while the lowest rates were found in Bihar (11.0), Nagaland (14.1) and Meghalaya (14.3).

Tamil Nadu (88.8%), Himachal Pradesh (83.4%), Goa (82.6%), and Kerala (79.7%) had the highest number of children fully immunized, whereas Bihar (11%), Nagaland (14.1%), Meghalaya (14.3%), Assam (17%), Rajasthan (17.3%), Arunachal Pradesh (20.5%), Uttar Pradesh (21.2%), and Madhya Pradesh (22.4%) had the lowest rates of children fully immunized.

Low immunization is prevalent in areas where literacy is low, especially female literacy, and remote hilly areas of the North–Eastern States, where the population is scattered, terrain is difficult, and health infrastructure is inadequate.

The rural health infrastructure is given in Table 7.

Table 7: Number of Primary Health Centres (PHC), Doctors, Lady Health Visitors (LHVs), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) in Rural Areas, 1999

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Primary Health Centres (PHC)	Doctors	Lady Health Visitors (LHVs)	Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1636	1495	1553	10888
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	45	31	14	296
3.	Assam	619	584	310	4037
4.	Bihar	2209	2121	1248	7541
5.	Goa	17	101	25	210
6.	Gujarat	967	966	1008	7043
7.	Haryana	401	514	422	2760

8.	Himachal Pradesh	312	326	326	1749
9.	J & K	337	158	67	381
10.	Karnataka	1676	1944	1028	8367
11.	Kerala	962	1121	849	4511
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1690	1469	1558	10426
13.	Maharashtra	1699	2993	1536	11590
14.	Manipur	69	95	72	413
15.	Meghalaya	85	86	50	715
16.	Mizoram	55	41	85	377
17.	Nagaland	33	29	31	162
18.	Orissa	1352	2351	998	6944
19.	Punjab	484	424	668	3982
20.	Rajasthan	1662	1949	755	9202
21.	Sikkim	24	41	21	288
22.	Tamil Nadu	1436	2648	1679	10538
23.	Tripura	58	120	31	517
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3808	2263	3544	22629
25.	West Bengal	1262	1547	1447	8126
26.	A&N Islands	17	25	21	113
27.	Chandigarh	--	--	2	14
28.	D&N Haveli	6	6	9	40
29.	Daman & Diu	3	1	1	16
30.	Delhi	8	6	48	89
31.	Lakshadweep	4	6	--	14
32.	Pondicherry	39	45	20	108
All India		22975	25506	19426	134086

The highest number of PHCs in rural areas was found in Uttar Pradesh (3808) and Bihar (2209) and the highest number of doctors in Maharashtra (2993) and Tamil Nadu (2648).

The number of Lady Health Visitors was maximum in Uttar Pradesh (3544) and Tamil Nadu (1679). In spite of this, the health facilities available in rural areas in these states and other states are not adequate.

Although the health infrastructure is in place, it is inadequate in certain areas, and it is often plagued by lack of personnel, equipment, medicines, etc. The quality of health services in rural areas has much scope for improvement.

Rural health infrastructure plays an important role in reducing infant and child mortality rates and improving life expectancies and nutrition status, even if the access is not so good and calories consumption is low. Government programmes, such as the Mid-day Meal Programme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and other programmes, such as universal immunization have provided better health and nutrition status to the population. Those who seem food secure and consume sufficient calories seem to have low infant mortality rates, low maternal mortality rates, and high life expectancies. Female literacy and rural health infrastructure seem to have a bearing on this. Tamil Nadu and Kerala are cases in point. A lifecycle approach will have to be followed in the case of nutrition, ranging from *in utero* to old age.

1.4 NUTRITIONAL STATUS

*“The world, both animate and inanimate, is sustained by food...
The giver of food is the giver of life and indeed of everything else.
Therefore, one who is desirous of well being in this world and beyond
should make special endeavour to give food...”*

(Bhagwad Gita)

For a healthy working population, it is essential that children receive adequate nutrition during childhood and adolescence to ensure proper physical and mental growth. When food availability is erratic or insufficient, it is found to be unevenly distributed. Inevitably,

those who need food security most are also the most food deprived. Children (especially female), adolescent girls, women, those belonging to scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes, landless and agricultural labourers, marginal and small farmers, workers in unorganized employment sectors, the illiterate, poor, and those whose coping mechanisms have been brutally ended or undermined by recurring or one time disaster, form the invisible hungry in India.

The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) Survey (1996) conducted by National Institute of Nutrition, and India Nutrition Profile study (1998) conducted by Food and Nutrition Board of the Department of Women and Child Development found that the number of severely malnourished children was greater than 10% in Bihar (26%); between 6-10% in Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu; and less than 5% in Assam, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Chandigarh.

Findings of the National Family Health Survey II, 1998-99 conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, indicating the percentage of undernourished children, are depicted in Table 8.

Table 8 : Children with Malnutrition/Undernutrition, 1994-2000

India/States	Percentage of Moderately and Severely Malnourished Children 1-5 Yrs. (1994-96) (Wt. for age) *		Percentage of Children Aged 6-35 Months (NFHS- 2000) #	Percentage of Children under 3 Years ** (NFHS 2, 2000)		
	Males	Females		Stunted	Wasted	Under Weight
India	42.1^P	40.8				

India (2000) NFHS 2				74.3	45.5	15.5	47.0
India (1990) NFHS 1					52.0	17.5	53.4
	Andhra Pradesh	48.6 ^R	49.6	72.3	45.5	15.5	47.0
	Arunachal Pradesh	59.2 ^R	54.5	54.5	52.0	17.5	53.4
	Assam	29.4 ^R	27.6	63.2	38.6	9.1	37.7
	Bihar	56.6 ^C	55.4	81.3	26.5	7.9	24.3
	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	50.2	13.3	36.0
	Delhi	37.0 ^C	33.4	69.0	53.7	21.0	54.4
	Goa	25.1 ^C	17.5	53.4	-	-	-
	Gujarat	74.2 ^R	61.8	74.5	36.8	12.5	34.7
	Haryana	34.3 ^R	33.0	83.9	18.1	13.1	28.6
	Himachal Pradesh	36.6 ^R	34.7	69.9	43.6	16.2	45.1
	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	71.1	50.0	5.3	34.6
	Jharkhand	-	-	-	41.3	16.9	43.6
	Karnataka	55.6 ^R	51.1	70.6	38.8	11.8	34.5
	Kerala	34.4 ^R	34.2	43.9	-	-	-
	Madhya Pradesh	57.9 ^R	49.6	75.0	36.6	20.0	43.9
	Maharashtra	52.7 ^R	55.6	76.0	21.9	11.1	26.9
	Manipur	31.0 ^C	28.6	45.2	51.0	19.8	55.1
	Meghalaya	11.5 ^C	10.7	67.6	39.9	21.2	49.6
	Mizoram	17.5 ^C	18.2	57.2	31.3	8.2	27.5
	Nagaland	27.5 ^R	27.1	43.7	44.9	13.3	37.9
	Orissa	55.1 ^C	51.4	72.3	34.6	10.2	27.7
	Punjab	32.2 ^R	31.6	80.0	33.0	10.4	24.1
	Rajasthan	42.3 ^C	42.6	82.3	44.0	24.3	54.4
	Sikkim	37.7 ^C	36.8	76.5	39.2	7.1	28.7
	Tamil Nadu	40.9 ^R	39.7	69.0	52.0	11.7	50.6
	Tripura	33.6 ^C	40.6	-	31.7	4.8	20.6
	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	73.9	29.4	19.9	36.7

	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-
	West Bengal	-	-	78.3	55.5	11.1	51.7
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Chandigarh	21.1 ^C	25.2	-	41.5	13.6	48.7
	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	44.9 ^R	37.7	-	-	-	-
	Daman & Diu	29.7 ^R	35.5	-	-	-	-
	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note : P=Pooled; R=Rural; C=Combined

Source : * 1. India, Planning Commission. (2000). Status of Women & Men : Data Sheet. New Delhi. P. 1.

2. International Institute for Population Sciences. (2000). National Family Health Survey-2, 1998-99. Mumbai. P. 443.

** 3. International Institute for Population Sciences. (2000). National Family Health Survey-2, 1998-99. Mumbai. P. 443.

According to the India Nutrition Profile Study (1998), the percentage of moderately and severely malnourished children (1-5 years) was maximum in Gujarat, 74.2% among males and 61.8% among females; and lowest in Meghalaya, 11.5% among males and 10.7% among females. According to NHFS-2 (2000), the percentage of children aged 6-35 months with prevalence of anemia was highest in Haryana (83.9%) and Rajasthan (82.3%); and lowest in Nagaland (43.7%) and Kerala (43.9%). The highest percentage of children under three years who were stunted were found in West Bengal (55.5%), Delhi (53.7%), and Tamil Nadu (52.0%). The children under 3 years, who showed symptoms of

wasting, were maximum in Rajasthan (24.3%) and Meghalaya (21.2%), and those who were underweight were maximum in the states of Manipur (55.1%), Rajasthan (54.4%), Delhi (54.4%), Arunachal Pradesh (53.4%), and Tamil Nadu (50.6%).

Anaemia Among Children (Aged 6 – 35 months)

National Average : 74.3% NFHS 2 (2000)

States with Anaemia Below 55%: Nagaland (43.7%), Kerala (43.9%), Manipur (45.2%), Goa (53.4%), Arunachal Pradesh (54.5%).

States with Anaemia Between 55 to 74% : Mizoram (57.2%), Assam (63.2%), Meghalaya (67.6%), Tamil Nadu (69.0%), Delhi (69.0%), HP (69.9%), Karnataka (70.6%), J&K (71.1%), Andhra Pradesh (72.3%), Orissa (72.3%), Uttar Pradesh (73.9%)

States with Anaemia Above 75%: Gujarat (74.5%), MP (75.0%), Maharashtra (76.0%), Sikkim (76.5%), West Bengal (78.3%), Punjab (80.0%), Bihar (81.3%), Rajasthan (82.3%), Haryana (83.9%).

States with Anaemia Rate Not Available: Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

Under Weight Children (Below 3 Years)

National Average : 47 % NFHS 2 (2000)

States with Under Weight Children 20 to 34%:

Sikkim (20.6%), Nagaland (24.1%), Arunachal Pradesh (24.3%), Kerala (26.9%), Manipur (27.5%), Mizoram (27.7%), Goa (28.6%), Punjab (28.7%), J&K (34.5%), Haryana (34.6%), Delhi (34.7%).

States with Under Weight Children 35 to 49%:

Assam (36.0%), Tamil Nadu (36.7%), Andhra Pradesh (37.7%), Meghalaya (37.9%), Himachal Pradesh (43.6%), Karnataka (43.9%), Gujarat

(45.1%), West Bengal (48.7%), Maharashtra (49.6%).

States with Under Weight Children 50 to 60%

Rajasthan (50.6%), UP (51.7%), Bihar (54.4%), Orissa (54.4%),
Madhya Pradesh (55.1%)

States with Under Weight Children % Not Available:

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Andaman & Nicobar
Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep
and Pondicherry.

Nearly half of the children in India under age 3 years (47%) are underweight as was found by the National Family Health Survey II, 1998-99, and almost 75% children aged 6-35 months were found to be anaemic, which indicates that the health and nutritional status of children is not satisfactory. Haryana (83.9%), Rajasthan (82.3%), Bihar (81.3%), and Punjab (80%) had the highest number of anaemic children aged 6 – 35 months, though the situation was not satisfactory in the rest of the country either. There is need for nutrition education programmes to be launched on a large scale.

The Government of India started Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in 1975 to provide a package of services to pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers – health check-up, nutrition, immunization, nutrition and health education, referral services, and pre-school education. The programme covered 32 million children and 6.5 million mothers in 2003. Although ICDS has wide coverage and outreach, studies have found that the nutritional status of children is still not satisfactory. Poverty in rural areas is more pronounced, and employment avenues are restricted, hence the total food intake is inadequate, leading to physical underdevelopment. Children consume less than the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) in various age groups, as shown in Table 9 given below.

**Table 9: Average Intake of Energy, Proteins, Iron and Vitamin A
Against the Recommended Daily Intake Allowances (RDA), 1998.**

Age (Yrs.)	Sex	Energy (Kcals/day)		Proteins (g/day)		Iron (mg)		Vitamin A (ug)	
		Intake	RDA	Intake	RDA	Intake	RDA	Intake	RDA
1-3	Boys	918.1	1240	30.1	22	8.9	12	195.5	400
	Girls	925.9		30.5		9.2		200.8	
4-6	Boys	1299.5	1690	40.6	30	13.0	18	249.8	400
	Girls	1298.5		41.2		11.3		240.7	
7-9	Boys	1570.3	1950	50.0	41	20.0	26	258.4	600
	Girls	1520.0		49.7		18.3		246.5	
10-12	Boys	1847.0	2190	56.8	54	18.7	34	306.6	600
	Girls	1482.2	1970	45.7	57	15.1	19	309.8	
13-15	Boys	2184.9	2450	67.1	70	22.1	41	356.3	600
	Girls	2097.1	2060	65.6	65	21.4	28	369.4	
16-17	Boys	2514.3	2640	79.2	78	25.7	50	416.2	600
	Girls	2327.1	2060	74.2	63	23.9	30	396.7	
>=18	Boys	2592.3	2425	79.7	60	26.1	20	396.6	600
	Girls	2292.9	1875	70.8	50	23.0	30	376.1	

Note : Pooled for 18 States/UTs.

Source : India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development. (1998). India Nutrition Profile 1998. New Delhi. P. 14-15.

Data from a study in 1997 shows the deficient calorie intake in rural areas. The percentage of households consuming less than 1890 K.cal was maximum in Tamil Nadu (28.20%) and minimum in Rajasthan (4.20%) against an average value (all India) of 13.40%. A similar trend was seen in the percentage of households consuming less than 2400 K.cal/day, where Tamil Nadu topped the list with 61.30 percent households consuming less than 2400 K.cal.

per day, and Rajasthan had the least number of households (23.00%) consuming less than 2400 K.cals. per day.

Table 10: Deficient Calorie Intake (per cu/day) in Rural Areas, 1997

Sl No	State	Percentage of Households consuming less than 1890 Kcal	Percentage of Households consuming less than 2400 Kcal
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14.10	48.40
2.	Assam	13.30	53.90
3.	Bihar	14.10	41.80
4.	Gujarat	20.40	53.70
5.	Haryana	8.70	28.40
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5.30	29.30
7.	Karnataka	17.40	48.60
8.	Kerala	23.70	55.10
9.	Madhya Pradesh	12.20	41.00
10.	Maharashtra	21.90	57.40
11.	Orissa	10.40	35.40
12.	Punjab	6.30	27.60
13.	Rajasthan	4.20	23.00
14.	Tamil Nadu	28.20	61.30
15.	Uttar Pradesh	8.00	31.00
16.	West Bengal	7.40	37.20
	All India	13.40	42.00

Notes: Col. 1-2, NSSO, Sarvekshana, Vol. XXI, No.2, 73rd Issue (1997).

Source: M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation. (2001). Food Insecurity Atlas of Rural India/ M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and World Food Programme. Chennai. P.41.

India disburses about 16 million tonnes of food grain annually through its Targeted Public Food Distribution System (TPDS), 750,000 tonnes of food through ICDS, 1.8 million

tonnes through its school Midday Meal (MDM) scheme. TPDS aims to reach about 60 million household at a cost of approximately US \$1.0 billion in subsidies alone. MDM provides about 1.8 million tonnes of food to an estimated 97.5 million at a cost of US \$250 million per annum.

The four segments critical to food security, namely, *nutrition, poverty alleviation, agricultural and disaster mitigation* can be addressed by following the four pronged programme approach:

1. Food for Work,
2. Food for Education,
3. Vulnerable Group Feeding, and
4. Disaster Response.

A multi-pronged strategy consisting of direct interventions like the fortification of food, the administration of oral doses of Vitamin A, iron and iodine fortified salt, as well as the promotion of the cultivation of vegetables and trees like *amla* in small areas surrounding huts/homes (home gardens) can be introduced in every village. 'India-mix', which is fortified with essential vitamins and distributed through ICDS centers in selected States, should be extended to all States and Union Territories. The highest priority should go to the elimination of hidden hunger as soon as possible, since this is an easily achievable task. The programmes can be designed on a campaign mode as in the case of vaccination for important diseases.

Existing projects like the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and nutrition programmes (e.g., ICDS, Mid-Day Meals, and Antyodaya Anna Yojana) will have to be mobilised to ensure that they reach those who have so far been bypassed by such schemes. TPDS should include the distribution of nutritious cereals like jowar, bajra, ragi, and millets because they have low cost, high calories/protein/micronutrient advantages. Knowledge of childcare and healthcare practices as well as support services should be

targeted to pregnant and nursing mothers, so as to ensure effective protein-calories nutrition of young children. ICDS should encourage increased involvement of women in the management of feeding programmes. Greater attention is needed to appropriate supplementary nutrition for children in the 0-2 age group, the most critical period in terms of brain and body growth, and also the most neglected in ICDS, and the group with the highest established levels of malnutrition. This will ensure better health and nutrition of both infants and mothers.

Check Your Progress –II

- (i) Describe the major objectives of ICDS.

1.5 EDUCATIONAL STATUS

The literacy rate, which was only 18.33% in 1951, rose to 65.4 per cent in 2001, being 75.85% for males and 54.16% for females. According to the Census of India 2001, 45 districts with female literacy below 30% are concentrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. Special innovative projects are being taken up in these areas to raise female literacy, and increase girl enrolment and retention.

The Government of India is fully committed to the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE). The Parliament of India passed the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act in December 2002 making free and compulsory elementary education a fundamental right for all children belonging to 6 – 14 years age-group. Consequently, the government launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Universal Education Programme) covering the entire country and addressing needs of 192 million children in 11 lakh habitations. 8.5 lakh primary and upper primary schools and 3.3 million teachers would be covered under the

scheme. To monitor the functioning of schools to ensure quality teaching, community involvement is ensured through participation of Village Education Committees (VECs), Panchayati Raj Institutions and Women's Groups. During 2001-02 and 2002-03, PAB approved 10738 primary schools, 12,728 upper primary schools, 38,005 primary teachers, 21,698 upper primary teachers, 6,381 primary school buildings, 36,209 additional classrooms, 56,516 toilets and 31,100 drinking water facilities. Free textbooks, toilets and innovative components of Rs. 50 lakhs per district and Rs. 15 lakh per project have been sanctioned to increase enrolment of girls.

Table 11: Literacy Aged 7 Years and Above, 2001 and Children Aged 11-14 years in School, (in Percentage), 1991

India/States/UTs		Literacy Rate > 7 Years * (%)			Children Aged 11-14 Years in School (%) #	
		2001			1998-99	
		Total	Males	Females	Boys	Girls
India		65.38	75.85	54.16	80.2	67.0
India (Census 1991) Aged 15 yrs. & above		48.3% ¹				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61.11	70.85	51.17	71.0	54.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	54.74	64.07	44.24	88.1	78.1
3.	Assam	64.28	71.93	56.03	76.3	70.8
4.	Bihar	47.53	60.32	33.57	72.4	52.6
5.	Chhattisgarh	65.18	77.86	52.40	-	-
6.	Delhi	81.82	87.37	75.00	91.0	89.9
7.	Goa	82.32	88.88	75.51	95.1	89.7
8.	Gujarat	69.97	80.50	58.60	79.4	63.1
9.	Haryana	68.59	79.25	56.31	89.1	80.0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	77.13	86.02	68.08	98.2	95.5
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	54.46	65.75	41.82	88.6	71.1
12.	Jharkhand	54.13	67.94	39.38	-	-
13.	Karnataka	67.04	76.29	57.45	75.2	68.0
14.	Kerala	90.92	94.20	87.86	96.9	96.8

15.	Madhya Pradesh	64.11	76.80	50.28	78.5	61.1
16.	Maharashtra	77.27	86.27	67.51	87.0	82.5
17.	Manipur	68.87	77.87	59.70	90.7	87.6
18.	Meghalaya	63.31	66.14	60.41	80.8	86.8
19.	Mizoram	88.49	90.69	86.13	90.4	87.9
20.	Nagaland	67.11	71.77	61.92	86.1	80.2
21.	Orissa	63.61	75.95	50.97	79.7	66.1
22.	Punjab	69.95	75.63	63.55	89.1	84.9
23.	Rajasthan	61.03	76.46	44.34	84.3	52.7
24.	Sikkim	69.68	76.73	61.46	85.3	85.9
25.	Tamil Nadu	73.47	82.33	64.55	84.8	79.6
26.	Tripura	73.66	81.47	65.41	-	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	57.36	70.23	42.98	80.6	62.4
28.	Uttaranchal	72.28	84.01	60.26	-	-
29.	West Bengal	69.22	77.58	60.22	75.4	68.7
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	81.18	86.07	75.29	-	-
31.	Chandigarh	81.76	85.65	76.65	-	-
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60.03	73.32	42.99	-	-
33.	Daman & Diu	81.09	88.40	70.37	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	87.52	93.15	81.56	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	81.49	88.89	74.13	-	-

Source : * India, Registrar General and Census Commissioner. (2001).

Provisional Population Totals : Paper 1 of 2001. New Delhi. P. 143.

1. Office of Registrar General of India, Census of India 1991.

India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development (2000). India Report on the World Summit for Children 2000. New Delhi.

International Institute for Population Sciences. (2000). National Family Health Survey-2, 1998-99, India : Data Sheet. Mumbai. P. 1.

Literacy Rate (> 7 years) Census 2001

National Average : 65.38%

Literacy Rate Above 80%

Kerala (90.92%), Mizoram (88.49%), Lakshadweep (87.52%), Goa (82.32%), Delhi (81.82%), Chandigarh (81.76%), Pondicherry (81.49%), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.18%), Daman and Diu (81.09%).

Literacy Rate Between 60 to 79%

Maharashtra (77.27%), Himachal Pradesh (77.13%), Tripura (73.66%), Tamil Nadu (73.47%), Uttarakhand (72.28%), Gujarat (69.97%), Punjab (69.95%), Sikkim (69.68%), West Bengal (69.22%), Manipur (68.87%), Haryana (68.59%), Nagaland (67.11%), Karnataka (67.04%), Chhattisgarh (65.18%), Assam (64.28%), Madhya Pradesh (64.11%), Meghalaya (63.31%), Orissa (63.61%), Andhra Pradesh (61.11%), Rajasthan (61.03%), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (60.03%).

Literacy Rate Below 60%

Uttar Pradesh (57.36%), Arunachal Pradesh (54.74%), J&K (54.46%), Jharkhand (54.13%), Bihar (47.53%)

The National Family Health Survey 2, 1999, found that a high proportion of girls aged 11-14 years were out of school in the states of Bihar (52.6% in school), Rajasthan (52.7% in school), Andhra Pradesh (54.6% in school), Madhya Pradesh (61.1% in school), Uttar Pradesh (62.4% in school), and Gujarat (63.1% in school). In India, 80.2% boys and 67% girls aged 11-14 years were in school, which showed that 20% boys and 33% girls were still out of school by class VIII.

Though the education scene in India is improving gradually, it would still be some decades before all children are in school.

Table 12: Enrolment In Classes I-V, Classes VI-VIII, 2001

India/States/UTs		School Enrolment % 2001-2002					
		Provisional					
		Classes I – V (6-11 Years)			Classes VI–VIII (11-14 Years)		
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
India #		94.90#	104.08 #	85.18 #	58.79 #	67.15 #	49.66 #
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.97	104.71	103.22	52.28	56.13	48.32
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	114.47	125.13	103.80	69.12	72.28	65.70
3.	Assam	117.43	127.18	107.42	70.63	78.73	62.27
4.	Bihar*	80.43	99.66	60.44	40.08	39.75	19.83
5.	Chhatisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Delhi*	59.40	58.84	59.97	51.85	51.69	52.02
7.	Goa	62.86	68.58	57.66	70.54	75.54	65.63
8.	Gujarat*	127.49	139.82	114.46	66.02	72.75	58.75
9.	Haryana*	78.30	77.64	79.05	62.25	65.06	59.04
10.	Himachal Pradesh	90.01	99.16	81.87	92.88	99.35	86.67
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	89.85	102.43	78.07	74.39	84.32	64.40
12.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Karnataka	112.74	116.80	108.57	73.93	77.73	70.07
14.	Kerala*	87.87	88.41	87.31	99.05	101.43	96.58
15.	Madhya Pradesh	111.23	119.82	102.17	59.27	70.76	46.91
16.	Maharashtra	108.27	110.57	105.86	90.14	94.40	85.71
17.	Manipur	99.13	108.24	90.77	77.86	83.56	72.22
18.	Meghalaya	113.10	119.23	107.50	60.83	60.16	61.49
19.	Mizoram*	105.96	115.15	97.25	72.41	73.59	71.24
20.	Nagaland	105.70	110.70	100.75	60.26	59.15	61.43
21.	Orissa*	114.21	131.90	96.02	54.40	65.35	43.04
22.	Punjab*	78.35	77.97	78.77	64.74	64.51	65.01
23.	Rajasthan	112.98	140.01	83.89	76.19	102.01	47.47

24.	Sikkim*	133.70	138.15	129.37	73.21	69.22	77.41
25.	Tamil Nadu*	98.42	98.56	98.28	93.29	94.30	92.23
26.	Tripura	101.88	111.00	93.28	67.59	72.22	62.99
27.	Uttar Pradesh	65.71	80.93	49.36	35.91	46.94	23.47
28.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.	West Bengal	109.80	112.72	106.82	53.88	60.51	46.96
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	99.24	99.39	99.07	86.77	87.83	85.62
31.	Chandigarh	55.29	56.13	54.35	64.91	62.16	68.18
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	124.37	145.61	104.89	82.03	101.03	63.03
33.	Daman & Diu	93.39	103.83	84.14	86.41	105.35	71.26
34.	Lakshadweep	100.03	107.53	92.53	97.31	105.48	88.93
35.	Pondicherry*	77.35	85.19	70.29	89.47	95.43	83.82

Note: India Total for 2002-03 could not be computed as data was not received from all States/UTs.

* Information is for the year 2000-2001.

Source: # India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education. (2001). Annual Report 2000-2001. New Delhi. P. 218.

India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education. (2002). Annual Report 2002-2003. New Delhi. P. 239.

In Class VI-VIII, Bihar had the lowest number of children in school (total 30.08%; girls 19.83%; boys 39.75%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (total 35.91%; boys 46.94%; girls 23.47%). Only around 50% children were in school in Classes VI – VIII in Andhra Pradesh (52.28%), Orissa (54.40%), West Bengal (53.85%), and Delhi (51.85%).

Bihar had the lowest enrolment ratio of girls in Classes VI – VII (19.83%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (23.47%), Orissa (43.04%), Madhya Pradesh (46.96%), Rajasthan (47.47%),

and Andhra Pradesh (48.32%). In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, there is not much value attached to education, and more than half the boys are also out of school by class VIII. Gender discrimination in education exists in most states, but it is most pronounced in Rajasthan, where boys enrolment is 102% and girls enrolment is 47.47% in Classes VI – VIII; and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, where boys enrolment is 101% and girls is 63%. In Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Chandigarh, and Delhi, girls enrolment is higher than boys in Classes VI – VIII. There is very little gender difference in Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, as was shown by available enrolment figures.

Although enrolment has increased over the years, dropout rate is still quite high. Dropout rates from Classes I-VIII are high for all States and UTs except for Kerala (0%), Chandigarh (1.68%), Pondicherry (1.97%), and Goa (4.19%).

Table 13: School Drop-out Rate (%) from Classes I-X, 2001-2002

India/States/UTs		Dropout Rates Classes 1-V 2001-2002 Provisional			Dropout Rates Classes I – VIII 2001-2002 Provisional			Dropout Rates Classes I – X 2001-2002 Provisional		
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
India #					54.53	51.96	58.00	68.28	66.58	70.60
	Andhra Pradesh	43.03	42.62	43.46	63.09	61.25	65.16	70.12	68.51	71.98
	Arunachal Pradesh*	49.34	48.50	50.39	60.20	61.24	58.87	77.17	75.88	78.89
	Assam	32.34	24.46	40.90	69.21	67.54	71.27	75.61	75.54	75.70
	Bihar*	59.55	57.92	62.21	75.03	71.90	80.31	81.30	78.37	86.69
	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Delhi*	37.74	37.78	37.69	51.00	49.62	52.44	69.06	67.95	70.16
Goa	5.73	3.48	8.12	4.19	0.00	9.89	42.21	42.92	41.47
Gujarat*	23.38	22.61	24.36	52.08	47.10	58.02	72.22	70.30	74.60
Haryana*	21.88	23.74	19.68	17.69	13.56	22.4	36.51	31.37	42.65
Himachal Pradesh	19.20	16.26	22.11	21.90	20.50	23.40	31.80	30.76	32.91
Jammu & Kashmir	33.31	34.90	31.25	30.14	32.25	27.30	48.94	50.16	47.18
Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	11.12	8.68	13.74	50.99	50.80	51.20	61.65	60.19	63.24
Kerala*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.15	23.82	14.29
Madhya Pradesh	47.24	46.51	48.21	63.43	60.09	67.89	77.88	73.93	83.08
Maharashtra	12.79	10.83	14.89	37.03	35.36	38.90	52.28	48.92	55.98
Manipur	24.06	24.74	23.27	37.75	38.73	36.61	53.90	54.56	53.16
Meghalaya	56.95	57.11	56.78	76.99	77.07	76.90	83.44	82.99	83.88
Mizoram*	60.50	60.46	60.56	63.97	65.16	62.66	71.13	73.42	68.58
Nagaland	49.32	44.55	53.81	53.36	55.66	50.80	64.94	65.02	64.84
Orissa*	42.08	41.48	42.82	60.70	57.30	64.75	75.05	75.35	74.59
Punjab*	20.36	21.97	18.53	38.89	40.14	37.44	39.67	40.40	38.84
Rajasthan	63.20	55.48	73.50	53.56	46.83	64.62	75.36	72.58	80.44
Sikkim*	59.29	60.44	58.03	53.42	58.11	47.88	85.33	85.75	84.83
Tamil Nadu*	42.64	53.02	31.72	23.97	16.05	32.41	58.40	57.97	58.89
Tripura	47.42	48.76	45.87	69.02	68.84	69.23	76.92	76.32	77.62
Uttar Pradesh	53.75	49.98	59.79	63.87	59.06	71.51	63.43	57.30	74.90
Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Bengal	39.86	39.40	40.41	70.87	67.65	74.38	78.52	77.04	80.46
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.98	26.97	26.99	44.87	55.92	53.74
Chandigarh	12.72	15.48	9.50	1.37	3.37	0.00	11.99	11.13	12.93
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	35.05	27.65	43.98	55.41	49.39	62.68	71.59	71.64	71.51
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.68	10.27	23.85	36.55	34.79	38.45
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.42	22.11	24.85	54.18	57.01	50.86
Pondicherry*	40.67	39.71	41.90	1.97	1.93	2.01	33.73	34.70	32.66

Note:

- i) Information in respect of Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal has not been received and data of Jharkhand is included in Bihar State.

ii) India Total could not be computed for 2002-03, as data was not received from all States/UTs.

iii) * Information is for the year 2000-01.

Source: # India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education. (2002). Annual Report 2001-2002. New Delhi. P. 224 - 225.

India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education. (2003). Annual Report 2002-2003. New Delhi. P. 244 –246.

Rural schools have peculiar problems. The curricula and teaching methods are irrelevant to rural life. Written words have not much place in rural life, and many lapse into illiteracy after leaving school. Many subjects are memorized only to be regurgitated in examinations. The UNESCO-UNICEF survey of primary schools (1995) found that rural schools averaged 50 to 60 per cent attendance throughout the school year. Girls, women and some ethnic minorities in hard to reach areas participate only rarely in educational programmes. There is high dropout, particularly in higher classes. Teaching job is a second job for many village teachers, and about 25 to 30 per cent of them are absent on any one day. Teachers generally teach by reading from a text book. School buildings are in poor condition, without furniture and amenities. Schools do not open for the stipulated number of days, supervisory visits are few, and there is very little community participation. This leads to disenchantment with the education system.

To bring about change in the situation, this large cadre of teachers could be trained in some development skills and the result would be an immediate impact on rural development. Some serious problems confronting rural areas require only awareness that the problem exists, and rural people have the knowledge and expertise to solve it.

Education of Girl Child

To improve the education scenario, the focus would have to be on the following issues:

1. States in which net enrolment ratio for girls is below 70%. These states would be Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.
2. States with a gender gap of 10% or more in primary enrolment levels. These states would be Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat.
3. States with over 1 million girls out of school. These status would be Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal.
4. High-risk states where enrolment and gender parity might be compromised by HIV/AIDS or civil conflict. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Nagaland for HIV/AIDS and Jammu & Kashmir for conflict.

Special initiatives being taken for girls' enrolment need to be bold and dynamic, as it is difficult to challenge age old traditions and biases. Local level community involvement and flexible dynamic approach needs to be adopted, otherwise the goals to be achieved by 2010 or 2015 would be achieved in a much longer time frame.

Table 14: Gross Enrolment Ratio of Scheduled Caste Students Aged 6 – 11 Years and 11 – 14 Years, 2001 – 2002

S. No.	States / UTs	Enrolment Ratio SC (I-V)			Enrolment Ratio SC (VI-VIII)		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111.00	107.89	109.45	79.40	64.55	72.22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	22.99	23.99	23.42	20.74	23.51	21.90
3.	Assam	109.77	91.36	100.67	95.96	85.13	90.70

4.	Bihar*	84.62	54.61	70.05	52.36	27.31	40.53
5.	Goa	78.33	73.18	75.68	52.74	44.31	48.55
6.	Gujarat*	103.16	92.33	97.87	96.69	77.25	87.40
7.	Haryana*	81.21	83.79	82.42	70.25	61.91	66.39
8.	Himachal Pradesh	92.00	84.16	88.01	86.14	77.58	81.86
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	90.02	64.80	76.94	93.91	83.63	88.82
10.	Karnataka	110.42	102.66	106.55	99.29	86.19	92.83
11.	Kerala*	87.05	84.63	85.63	97.32	91.74	94.59
12.	Madhya Pradesh	119.19	101.79	110.75	97.49	59.69	79.56
13.	Maharashtra	113.63	108.17	110.94	99.10	87.86	93.67
14.	Manipur	95.70	85.05	90.22	74.84	64.21	69.42
15.	Meghalaya	108.63	103.22	106.06	83.05	86.13	84.60
16.	Mizoram*	108.69	101.24	107.53	96.84	28.80	70.89
17.	Nagaland**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa*	118.81	86.80	103.69	67.76	44.75	56.36
19.	Punjab*	109.83	108.23	109.07	79.76	78.94	79.37
20.	Rajasthan	113.88	51.30	83.86	99.94	42.10	74.49
21.	Sikkim*	99.69	92.51	96.03	64.17	65.17	64.68
22.	Tamil Nadu*	92.89	90.78	91.85	95.67	93.77	94.74
23.	Tripura	104.46	93.51	98.87	92.25	81.32	86.77
24.	Uttar Pradesh	91.62	52.64	73.03	54.59	20.38	38.51
25.	West Bengal	114.19	101.91	108.07	64.53	43.02	53.80
26.	A&N Islands**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	76.28	69.85	73.06	75.57	73.48	74.58
28.	D&N Haveli	113.22	109.14	111.21	100.79	81.82	91.12
29.	Daman & Diu	101.22	74.22	86.54	97.08	70.12	82.38
30.	Delhi*	46.94	48.07	47.50	42.69	36.15	39.51
31.	Lakshadweep**	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry*	103.76	87.09	94.92	104.98	96.40	100.58

Note: India Total for 2002-03 could not be computed, as data was not received from all States/UTs.

SC : Scheduled Castes

* Information is for the year 2000-2001

Source: India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education. (2003).

Arunachal Pradesh had the lowest enrolment of scheduled castes in Classes VI-VIII 21.90%, (20.74% for boys; 20.38% for girls); Delhi 39.51% (42.69% for boys; 36.15% for girls); Bihar 40.53% (52.36% for boys; 27.31% for girls); and Goa 48.55% (52.74% for boys; 44.31% for girls). Enrolment ratio in Orissa was 56.36% (67.76% for boys; 44.75% for girls), and enrolment ratio in West Bengal was 53.80% (64.53% for boys; 43.02% for girls). Pondicherry had the best enrolment ratio, 100.58% in Classes VI – VIII (104.98% for boys; 96.40% for girls). Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep have no scheduled caste population. The incentives provided by Government have had a positive impact on enrolment of scheduled castes, and except for the few states mentioned above the situation is progressing satisfactorily. New initiatives, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, provision of uniforms and text books to SC and ST children, provision of mid-day meals in schools, hostels for SC/ST girls and boys, and scholarships to meritorious students, have had the desired impact, and enrolment has increased substantially.

Table 15: Enrolment Ratio of Scheduled Tribe Students Aged 6 – 11 Years and 11 – 14 Years (Provisional), 2001-02

S. No.	States / UTs	Enrolment Ratio ST (I-V)			Enrolment Ratio ST (VI-VIII)		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.48	89.35	94.98	62.24	38.36	50.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	106.59	92.96	99.78	95.27	72.03	82.82
3.	Assam	106.91	94.55	101.00	98.82	93.01	96.14
4.	Bihar*	85.54	54.63	70.06	52.38	27.32	40.17
5.	Chhatisgarh	--	--	--	--	--	--
6.	Goa	90.84	74.78	84.11	36.28	33.31	34.87
7.	Gujarat*	109.93	100.11	105.29	73.75	55.39	64.78

8.	Haryana*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	82.95	76.78	79.79	90.13	73.79	81.90
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	105.97	101.63	103.86	99.98	85.98	93.06
12.	Kerala*	98.80	97.85	98.34	83.70	78.22	81.06
13.	Madhya Pradesh	91.59	67.41	79.41	44.76	24.85	34.95
14.	Maharashtra	106.83	103.26	105.13	90.32	70.86	80.66
15.	Manipur	109.40	92.46	100.75	65.96	54.50	60.16
16.	Meghalaya	88.26	81.09	84.51	56.50	61.42	59.09
17.	Mizoram*	114.68	91.54	102.48	73.22	63.44	68.06
18.	Nagaland**	92.31	75.14	83.42	73.25	42.47	57.52
19.	Orissa*	111.18	66.88	90.12	69.67	47.36	58.47
20.	Punjab*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Rajasthan	105.87	48.48	78.85	96.71	38.17	71.27
22.	Sikkim*	109.04	104.38	106.70	64.34	67.13	65.75
23.	Tamil Nadu*	68.82	48.02	58.63	97.14	96.72	96.94
24.	Tripura	109.77	90.75	100.06	68.91	53.21	60.97
25.	Uttar Pradesh	86.72	61.30	74.33	74.09	38.76	57.12
26.	West Bengal	102.97	73.28	88.79	77.09	33.76	55.09
27.	A&N Islands**	82.20	58.94	69.17	77.87	60.39	68.34
28.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	D&N Haveli	113.62	80.77	96.58	106.84	61.91	84.75
30.	Daman & Diu	108.74	95.54	102.02	101.31	60.84	79.41
31.	Delhi*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep**	109.38	91.87	100.51	104.04	87.64	95.94
33.	Pondicherry*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: India Total for 2002-03 could not be computed, as data was not received from all States/UTs.

ST : Scheduled Tribes

* Information is for the year 2000-2001.

Source: India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Education.
(2003). Annual Report 2002-2003. New Delhi. P. 243.

The picture of enrolment of Scheduled Tribe children is depicted in Table 15. The highest enrolment of ST children in Classes VI – VIII was in Tamil Nadu 96.94%, followed by Assam 96.14%, Lakshadweep 95.94%, and Karnataka 93.06%. Goa had the lowest enrolment of tribal children 34.87% (boys 36.28%; girls 33.31%), followed by Madhya Pradesh 34.95% (boys 44.76%; girls 24.85%). There is a definite gender bias existing in almost all states, with the exception of Goa, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

Lowest ST girls' enrolment in Classes VI – VIII was in Madhya Pradesh 24.85% only, followed by Bihar 27.32%, Goa 33.31%, Rajasthan 38.17%, Andhra Pradesh 38.36%, Uttar Pradesh 33.76%, and West Bengal 33.76%. The large proportion of scheduled tribe children being out of school indicates that either schools are not available in their near vicinity, or they do not find the curriculum relevant to their way of life. Local NGOs would be in a better position to assess their needs, and modify the curriculum accordingly to cater to the great diversity that exists in the tribal population throughout the country. Then only can India achieve the goal of sending every child to school by the year 2010.

School feeding programmes are an effective means to increase school enrolment and retention of children from food insecure families, as well as ensuring that short term hunger does not inhibit their capacity to learn. They help avert child work and facilitate the entry of girls into schools.

1.6 CHILDREN AT WORK

A sizable proportion of the people in India, nearly 37%, are below the poverty line. Poverty compels families to utilize all their resources in order to merely survive. Families often send their young children to work to supplement the family income. Studies conducted by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA and other institutions have found that children's wages provide upto 30% of the family income.

In certain other cases, children are the sole breadwinners in families, where parents are incapacitated due, ill-health or other reasons.

The 1981 Census recorded the number of child labour to be 13.56 million, while 1991 Census recorded the number to be 11.28 million. In 1981, child workers were about 2% of the total population, while in 1991, they were 1.34% of the total population. In 1991, the working population of India was 314 million, and child workers were 11.28 million, constituting 3.59% of the total work force. The 55th Round of NSSO Survey 1999-2000 estimated the number of child workers to be 10.4 million. International Labour Organization (ILO), however, estimated that there were 23.17 million child workers in India in 1996, 12.67 million full time and 10.50 million marginal workers.

Nearly 90% of child workers are engaged in agriculture and allied activities in rural areas, including caring for livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and in plantations. In urban areas, they work in the manufacturing and service sectors mainly. Girls also form a sizable proportion of the working children, and their work in households is hardly recognized as work. A study based on the analysis of Census data (NSS 50th Round: 1993-94) on 69,205 rural household found that one-third of all children help in household chores regardless of expenditure class, with the larger proportion being girls.

Reasons for the existence of child labour are social, economic and educational.

Illiterate parents do not attach much importance to schooling, especially of girls. Early dropout from school, due to various reasons, facilitates their entry into the work place. Many parents do not think anything wrong if a child is engaged in work. They feel it is a useful way of engaging a child who is not attending school, little realizing that the child gets inducted into the inter-generational cycle of low wages, ill-health, under-nutrition and poverty.

To prevent the exploitation of child labour, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 was passed, which regulates child labour in some areas, and prohibits it in other hazardous occupations and processes.

The National Child Labour Policy, 1987 adopted a three pronged strategy to combat the problem: i) prohibiting the work of children in certain hazardous industries and occupations, and regulating it in others, ii) setting up National Child Labour Projects in areas of concentration of child labour, where a comprehensive package of services is provided, such as nutrition, education, vocational training, health services, recreation, etc., and iii) converging other development programmes in areas of endemic child labour, so that these families could be brought above the poverty line. Under the Action Plan, 10 identified project areas were:

1. The match industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu.
2. The diamond polishing industry in Surat, Gujarat.
3. The precious stone polishing industry in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
4. The glass industry in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh.
5. The brassware industry in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.
6. The handmade carpet industry in Mirzapur – Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh.
7. The hand-made carpet industry in Jammu & Kashmir.
8. The lock making industry in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.
9. The slate industry in Markapur, Andhra Pradesh.
10. The slate industry in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh.

The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was adopted by the UN in 1989, and Government of India ratified UNCRC in December 1992. Under this commitment, it has become obligatory for the Government of India to undertake measures to eliminate child labour in a phased manner. The National Commission on Rural Labour in its report, 1991 also recommended convergence of schemes to combat the child labour problem. In 1994, the Prime Minister announced that child labour would be abolished in hazardous occupations, and consequently, the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) was set up under the chairmanship of the Union Labour Minister. The NAECL recognized that a district should serve as the focal point for achieving convergence of services. The programmes identified for convergence of services are Community Based Convergence Services (CBCS), Swayam Siddha, Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Swawlamban erstwhile NORAD, National Literacy Mission (NLM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Environment Improvement in Urban Slums (EIUS), Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme or Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme (IDDCP), Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases – Water and Sanitation (CDD-WATSAN), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana (SJRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) (housing for weaker sections), National Open School (NOS) or Non Formal Education, etc.

The involvement of community level bodies, such as panchayats, women's groups (mahila mandals), youth groups (yuvak mandals), NGOs and so on, would make a big difference in ensuring that all children go to school, and that schools run properly.

There are 13 states where 90 percent of the child labour in India is concentrated. These are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. By the end of the Ninth Plan in 2002, Child Labour Projects were sanctioned in 100 districts benefiting nearly 2.11 lakh children.

The number of Child Labour in the various States/UTs of India as per the Census of India 1991 is given in Table 16.

Table 16 : Child Labour in States/UTs, 1991

States/Union Territories	Main Workers	Marginal Workers	Total Workers
Andhra Pradesh	1,537,293	124,647	1,661,940
Arunachal Pradesh	11,632	763	12,395
Assam	259,953	67,645	327,598
Bihar	795,444	146,801	942,245
Delhi	26,670	681	27,351
Goa	3,938	718	4,656
Gujarat	373,027	150,558	523,585
Haryana	89,030	20,661	109,691
Himachal Pradesh	30,771	25,667	56,438
Jammu & Kashmir	**	**	**
Karnataka	818,159	158,088	976,247
Kerala	28,590	6,210	34,800
Madhya Pradesh	997,940	354,623	1,352,563
Maharashtra	805,847	262,571	1,068,418
Manipur	13,478	3,015	16,493
Meghalaya	30,730	3,903	34,633
Mizoram	6,391	10,020	16,411
Nagaland	16,106	370	16,476
Orissa	352,250	127,144	452,394
Punjab	132,414	10,454	142,868
Rajasthan	490,522	283,677	774,199
Sikkim	5,254	344	5,598
Tamil Nadu	523,125	55,764	578,889

Tripura	13,506	2,972	16,478
Uttar Pradesh	1,145,087	264,999	1,410,086
West Bengal	593,387	118,304	711,691
Union Territories			
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	758	507	1,265
Chandigarh	1,839	31	1,870
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,677	1,739	4,416
Daman & Diu	741	200	941
Lakshadweep	17	17	34
Pondicherry	2,565	115	2,680
India	9,082,141	2,203,208	11,285,349

Note : Figures for 1991 relates to workers in the age group 5 –14 years.

* : Includes figures of Mizo districts also which then formed part of Assam.

** Census could not be conducted.

Source: India, Ministry of Labour. (2002). Annual Report 2001-02. New Delhi. P. 107.

A study on National Child Labour Projects, conducted by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA in 2003, found that Child Labour Projects were partially successful. They succeeded in creating awareness about the situation, and increasing the level of education, but nutrition level was not satisfactory, nor was the vocational training component, nor the level of coordination between departments. Provision of nutrition and stipends were important determinants of enrolment and retention. There are several instances of best practices that can be adopted to improve the performance, but Child Labour Projects have had a positive impact. If concerted action continues with constant mid-term corrections, there is bound to be a significant impact on the child labour situation.

1.7 BONDED CHILD LABOUR

Statistics on the number of working children in conditions of bonded labour are not available. But many of the full time workers work long hours in conditions of exploitation. Often their parents have taken loans, and in return, pledged the labour of their children. These children work for paltry wages, and for years beyond what would have redeemed their debt, and because there is no one to intercede on their behalf, they continue to be severely exploited.

Child labour continues to thrive due to six conspicuous reasons: i) prevalence of myths to justify child servitude/labour, ii) lack of social awareness and sensitization, iii) lack of political will, iv) ineffective legal instruments, v) large scale ignorance among children in servitude and their parents, and vi) anti-childhood development policies and programmes. Child labour is rampant where parents get employment for not more than 100 days in a year on wages far less than the statutory minimum wages. Removal of child labour would benefit parents and adults in families. Account books of employers show payments to adults, whereas in reality, child labour are paid a pittance, thus, a direct saving of billions of rupees is made in the case of big industries like carpet, diamond cutting and polishing, matches and fireworks, handlooms, etc., contributing to increase in black money.

Population control programmes of the Government cannot be successful unless all employment avenues for children are closed, thereby making them a liability to their parents. A conscious educational approach would have to be adopted. There are two main Acts to deal with Child Labour, namely Bonded Labour Abolition Act 1976, and Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986. Despite being on the statute book, these Acts are seldom enforced. Punishments for violation of the Act are so nominal that they have no deterrent effect. Strong political will is needed to ensure that children are not made to work. The media, which can be a powerful source of information and awareness generation, is only involved in generating revenues and profits, and issues of human importance are completely ignored. Lopsided development projects uproot thousands, and force the poor to migrate to cities where they eke out a living, and their children engage in rag picking, another hazardous job merely to survive. Only social policies based on

humanitarian values can guarantee the childhood of a child, and not the dogmas of free market, maximum profit with minimum input.

The voluntary sector has played a major role in identifying and securing the release of bonded labour through the help of the Supreme Court of India. South Asian Coalition Against Child Servitude (SAACS) founded in 1980, Bandhua Mukti Morcha (Release of Bonded Labour), Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save Childhood Movement), Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) and several other organizations have taken the lead in this matter. They have secured the release of over 25,000 child labourers and 20,000 adults from debt bondage. They created a model transitory rehabilitation-cum- vocational training-cum- social education centre, Mukti Ashram for released slaves. A Global March was launched in 140 countries, involving 2000 partner organizations to raise awareness and start a social movement in defence of exploited children. This Coalition educated buyers not to buy products made by child labour. As a consequence they devised a mechanism to put a trade mark, named RUGMARK, to carpets produced without child labour, which were then bought by foreign buyers.

These organizations involve religious leaders, trade unions, socially conscious individuals, and all concerned to put an end to this blot on humanity. The most important intervention in the matter is the provision of compulsory primary education of good quality.

Check your Progress-III

- (i) Describe the major reasons for the continuation of child labour practice in India.

1.8 BUDGET FOR CHILDREN

Children aged 0-19 years constitute nearly 40% of the population. There are nearly 120 programmes and schemes to address the needs of children, but their situation does not seem

to change much. Limited resources are often mentioned as a constraint. To analyze the actual expenditure on children, HAQ Center for Child Rights, New Delhi undertook a study to analyze the budget for children in 2000. The Children's Budget is basically an attempt to disaggregate from the nation's Union Budget, the budget that is spent on schemes and programmes meant for children. The Study analyzed the Plan and Non-Plan budget for children aged 0-14 years, and covered four Ministries- Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education and Department of Women and Child Development), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Department of Family Welfare), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Ministry of Labour. The actual spending on children went up from 0.6% of the Union Budget Expenditure in 1990 to 1.6% in 1998. Spending has been maximum on education, followed by child development, child health and, finally, children in difficult circumstances. While millions of children are victims of many forms of exploitation, natural calamities and social and political wars, the budget for child protection has been negligible. Children in conflict have no budgetary provision, nor is there any budget for children in prostitution. In 1998-99, the union child budget for health was 0.2%, child development was 0.4%, education was 1.0%, children in difficult circumstances was 0.01%, and total union child budget was 1.6%. In 2002-03, Child line Project for street children, a project of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was expanded to cover 43 cities. In 2002-2003, Department of Women and Child Development started a programme of Grant in Aid to organizations for Innovative work on Women and Children, e.g. Social Defence, etc. Foreign funding is also available for a number of Government programmes, such as ICDS, Child Labour Projects, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, etc.

External aid for children's programmes increased dramatically from 0.5 per cent in 1990-91 to almost 28.7 per cent in 1997-98, and fell minimally to 25.3 per cent in 1998-99. On an average, from 1990-91 to 1998-99, 19.5 per cent of the entire children's budget is externally funded.

There is a need to rationalize and reduce the number of schemes, and implement the remaining schemes, so that gain from public spending is maximized. Central Ministries

should have adequate control over flow of funds, but states should have flexibility in deciding details of schemes.

By adopting a management target oriented approach, and undertaking tasks in a project mode, a definite impact on the situation of vulnerable children can be made.

1.9 Let Us Sum Up

To sum up, we may say that children aged 0-19 years number nearly 400 million in 2001, and nearly 75 percent of them are living in rural areas. Demographers and planners divide the children in age groups convenient for planning with regard to the services required for each group – infant (0-1 years), toddler (1-2 years), preschool child (3-6 years), school going child (6-10 years and 11-14 years), early adolescent (11-14 years), and late adolescent (15-19 years). In 2001, the population of India increased to 1,027 million, comprising 531.277078 million males and 495.738169 million females. The child population aged 0-6 years was 157.863145 million, comprising 81.911041 million males and 75.952104 million females. Due to discrimination against the girl child, the sex ratio (females per 1000 males), which was 945 in 1991 for children aged 0-6 years, fell to 927 in 2001. The sex ratio for women of all ages rose marginally from 927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001.

The health status of children has improved tremendously and the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), which was 146 per 1000 live births in 1951, fell to 64 per 1000 live births in 2002. Polio has nearly been eradicated, and the incidences of measles, diphtheria, neo-natal tetanus, whooping cough, etc. have come down due to vigorous efforts undertaken under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). The health infrastructure in rural areas, however, is inadequately staffed and poorly equipped, and needs to be strengthened.

Studies on the nutritional status of children have found that around 74.3 per cent children (0-35 months), were anaemic, 47 per cent were underweight, 45.5 per cent were stunted, and 42.1 per cent males and 40.8 per cent female aged 1-5 years suffered from moderate and severe malnutrition. Boys and girls were consuming less than the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of nutrients, and there was need for undertaking nutrition education programmes on a large scale.

The literacy rate of the country rose to 65.4 per cent in 2001, with female literacy being 54.16 percent and male literacy 75.85 per cent. The National Family Health Survey II (NFHS -II) 1998-99, found that 80 per cent boys and 67 per cent girls aged 11-14 years were in school, which means that efforts have to be made to ensure that the 20 per cent boys and 33 per cent girls, who are still out of school, are provided some kind of education. The enrolment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe boys and girls has shown substantial improvement, but greater efforts have to be made to retain children in school. There is also need for local bodies to be involved in ensuring the quality of education imparted.

The 55th Round of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) Survey 1999-2000 estimated the number of child workers to be 10.4 million, while International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there were 23.17 million child workers in India in 1996, 12.67 million full time workers and 10.50 million marginal workers. The Government has launched 100 National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) till 2002 and these are expected to increase to 150 projects by 2007, the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

A Delhi based NGO, HAQ Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi analyzed the budget for children in the Union Budget, and found that the actual spending on children went up from 0.6% in 1990 to 1.6% in 1998. Spending was maximum on education, followed by child

development, child health, and finally children in difficult circumstances. External funding increased from 0.5% in 1990-91 to 28.7 % in 1997-98.

Although we have travelled a long way on the road to child welfare and development, much yet remains to be done. Cooperation from all segments of society is necessary for India to achieve the goals set by the UN Convention on the rights of the child for the year 2010 AD.

1.10 Suggested Readings

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