

## **Why do children dropout of the schools?**

The reasons for school dropout vary. Some drop out of schools voluntarily while others are forced to do so under terrible circumstances. School dropout is a universal fact. Whatever be the reason, the mere fact that a child is not completing her/his school education is not virtuous. Such children, many a times fail to be an asset for the nation given their inability to contribute in any way. No reason can be big enough and act as a replacement for school education. It forms the base of a person's life making them efficient in all disciplines.

### **Poverty Accessibility and Availability**

Poverty, accessibility and availability are the major reasons of school dropouts in India. For example, most of the Government schools in the coastal areas of Kerala are being used as relief camps during monsoon season. Some people have been living in these camps (schools) for last three years. Government has not made any arrangements to settle these people. Therefore there is no place for the students to study. In some of the schools, students from grade one to seven have just a single classroom and all other class rooms are occupied by the people. In other parts of the country the schools are too far this leads to the dropouts of girls and the primary school children. There are no sufficient transport facilities available in the country and it causes lack of accessibility. Thus all these three aspects affect the education of the students and which leads to dropping out of the schools.

### **The school and teachers**

The schools are toxic to student learning, Students are suspended for minor infractions (such as "talking back to the teacher"), or placed in "remedial classes. For Example Shaji was an above average student from a socially and economically poor family. His father was working for daily wages. While he was studying in grade 8<sup>th</sup> he misbehaved with one of the teachers. He was suspended from the school and there after he never went to school. Now he also just like his father works on daily wages. A little humane treatment and understanding about his family background of this child, from teachers could have made shaji's life better. Thus for retaining the students in the schools school and the teachers have a very important role to play.

Many of the schools lack adequate guidance counselling. The curriculum is not relevant to the needs of the students being taught. Passive instructional strategies are being used without regard to individual student learning styles.

Teachers are not trained in the latest teaching/learning/technology techniques. The least-experienced, least classroom-trained teachers are often assigned to the most difficult schools.

### **Lack of interest**

It is usually found that every class of students has some of those pupils who refuse to show any attention to the subjects being taught. Their lack of interest is caused by their lack of attention in whatever is being taught. It is not that such students do not try. They do try as and when they are forced and pressurized to. It is then that these students prefer going the other

way. They prefer dropping out of their school because once and for all they decide that whatever is being taught there barely intrigues them. Thus they decide to suit themselves. The School environment and the teachers should be motivating and caring to create interest among these children.

### **Excessive academic pressure from school and parents**

Many students leave the schools because of the inability to deal with the academic pressure and debilitating anxiety. Many parents have high expectations about their children they never consider the abilities and interests of the children. Children are forced to join the courses where they have no interest and they never complete the course and most of the time becomes a failure. Some of them end up in alcoholism and substance abuse.

### **Frequent change of schools**

Some students adapt themselves pretty easily irrespective of the number of schools they change. Some students who are not able to cope up even with a single change of school. Not everyone is able to fit in, in different atmospheres. Frequent changes causes adjustment problems to children leads to disinterest and they drop out of the schools

### **Bullying**

The fear of being judged and laughed at holds them back from coming in the light. They start making excuses from going to school. It is here that parents need to step in and take full action.

### **Constant failure**

Some students fail repeatedly, be it in class tests or semester examinations. The constant failure causes the lack of self confidence in them. As and when the failure persists, the lack of self-confidence vanishes. In its space emerges a feeling of being least bothered which is more fatal as compared to the former. Once the person starts to feel disinterested in the consequences any more, then she or he goes for what they feel is the best.

### **Supporting family**

It is unfortunate that students have to give up their education in the face of economic reasons. The inability to pay the school fee can be one such reason. Several demanding situations can surface where adolescent children of the family are asked or looked upon as a helping hand to the family. Here, these children are often emotionally led into abandoning their academic life and focus their attention to the family crisis. Most of the girls abandon their studies to **attend domestic chores** whereas the boys leave their schools **to Supplement Household Income.**

### **Delinquency**

This is a harsh truth of life. The big bad world out there has several things to offer undoubtedly. Children in their teens, as school students are not well aware of the various facets of the world. They get fascinated by the fancy things that life seems to offer. But every

short-cut taken to acquire all those fanciful things is a step ahead towards delinquency. Sometimes willingly and sometimes unknowingly they get caught in its web.

### **Education Not Considered Necessary**

Many people feel that what to do after studies. They have to do the same job that their parents have been doing. Therefore these children leave the schools during the primary schooling itself. Neither parents nor children consider education as a need. In their own words 'padayikyomkarana hi waisebhiehikaamkarna hi'.

### **Wrong decisions made by the students themselves**

They make wrong decisions. They get involved with gangs, drugs/alcohol, get pregnant and commit crimes. Many have a poor school attitude and are frequently bored by school. They are disconnected to their families, school and life. They do not see the reasons they need to go to school. They are not involved in school activities and lack self-esteem.

### **The family background of the students**

There is often a clash between the family values and those of the school. Frequently, their parents have dropped out of school themselves. The students come from families from low socio-economic backgrounds, where there are many other children. Older children often have to go to work in order to supply the family with much-needed funds for basic family needs or need to stay home to take care of younger siblings so that their parents can work. Many children are products of divorce, separation or, sometimes, family violence.

### **The community they belong**

Many children live on the wrong side of the tracks in places where education is not valued, where drugs, gangs and violence abound. And where schools are low-performing, they often lack community and health support.

### **Other reasons :**

Did not get admission

Not safe to send girls

No proper school facilities for girls

No female teacher

Child marriage and Pregnancy

Physical and other medical problems

Thus the reality of school dropouts is caused by various aspects. Even though the governmental actions have improved the enrolments but none of the action could control the school dropouts.

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