

Bihar Board 12th standard result 2017 was a shocking news as only 4,47,115 i.e. 35.24% students could pass out of total 12,40,168 students who sat for the examination. Evident from the experience from the failed 64.76% very few, less than 10% will try to continue education further. What happens to the rest? Well they dropout!

According to the 2016 report by the UNESCO institute for statistics and global education monitoring 47 million students dropped out of school by the 10th standard in India. When such an alarming number is withdrawing from educational or training programme before its completion, it's the time to introspect, research, question the system in place and find the reasons behind it.

When the funds are pouring in from government, various programs like Universalization of primary and secondary education, RTE, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are being in place why student's dropout remains a big question.

Even though many educationists argue that Dropout is often a process rather than the result of a single event. There exist a few measure reasons for dropout, they can be classified into 5 types viz,

1. Teacher related
2. School related
3. Society related
4. Home related
5. Student related

Teacher related reasons for dropout

When I asked my uncle why he left the school after 4th standard his reply was - my teacher was very strict and used to beat me with the Chhadi [stick]. Still such teachers must be working and punishing students treating them as objects.

My maternal uncle in a village in Maharashtra revealed that his teacher used to give him personal work in return of it, the teacher used to pass him in exam as a consequence of it he was not knowing anything from the book.

When the teacher changed in the next class all such privileges were not offered by the new teacher and he failed. As a result his parents stopped sending him to school.

Failure in exams is one important cause due to which many students dropout. Understanding this problem government brought the policy of no detention. Again the teachers tried to understand it in a wrong way. ‘ Sab ko paas toh karna hai?’ saying this they stopped teaching in the class, compromising with the quality of education. It is mostly happening in public funded schools where the poor ones send their children. Students feel nothing great is happening in the class, and they don’t want to go to such boring place.

When it is the duty of teacher to make the child feel welcomed at the school, it is not taken seriously at all, and students are often treated badly, insulted, punished verbally and physically. Students start thinking such teachers as a villain and a boring person.

Teacher phobia is an important cause of dropout. I still remember my classmate of standard 4th urinated when the teacher was punishing him; he never came back to school after that incidence. Thoughts of leaving school even came to my mind but my parents then managed the situation.

If teachers can make the students they can even break the students hence they should be selected, recruited, observed and motivated to do the desired things carefully.

Teachers have failed to act as a magnet which will attract the students. Hence we have schools, teachers in them but no students.

School related reasons for dropout

Whether schools have changed during the last 6 decades? The school where I studied in 1987 was having separate classrooms for standard 1st to 7th. In the same school today 1st to 4th classes are taught together in one room. It makes me think whether we are developing or we are moving back. Now the school is not preferred by economically sound section. They send their children to private schools as they are available now. Only poor who cannot afford the expenses of private school send their children to the ZP School.

The school is without a principal, the two teacher's works with mutual convenience, maintain good relationship with the influential people of the village hence nobody questions them about their duties. This must be the case in many rural areas. **Schools do not operate regularly; nobody is interested to inspect them.**

One ZP school in Pen is situated on the mountain and has two teachers appointed by the ZP. But I often have seen one of them at home as he stays besides me. Only one teacher conducts the classes for one week and other in the next. [Again mutual understanding] Holidays are given at teachers will. **Schools exist on paper but not in reality!**

In rural areas, schools are far from home hence parents do not send their kids to them. When students wish to join a college they have to travel 15 to 20 kilometers. For higher education of choice they go to distant cities.

Colleges in metros on other side are overcrowded; with more than 70 students for each class. How teacher attends every child?

Mid day meal offered in schools actually should have acted as an attractant for students but even it is not luring for them.

Schools and colleges lack basic facilities, non availability of safe drinking water also is a big issue, there are no toilets, if toilets are there, no water supply and no doors, owing to this girls avoid going to school. **Many girls do not go to the schools and colleges during the menstrual phase.**

Absenteeism due to various reasons affect the students, as they lack behind in studies they do not understand what is happening in the classroom and the classroom becomes less interesting, it builds on and finally they leave the school.

Lack of proper guidance: schools and colleges have failed to provide guidance for selecting courses to students. Students do what their friends do or what their relatives studied without knowing their potential. Mostly these are first generation learners. Wrong selection of courses thus becomes reason for dropout. Student who could have done better in commerce opts for science and then finds it difficult. **Lack of proper counseling** also becomes a cause of dropout.

Science is taught and not practiced. Science labs lack adequate facilities. It is found that many colleges lack good science teachers, lectures do not happen

on time, syllabus is not completed; students solely depending on colleges for all the subject guidance miss many things and lag behind.

Girls become victim to **ragging** in few colleges with weak administration stop going to these colleges.

Schools/colleges when fail to become happening places, where students are not cared, not addressed part away from the stakeholders.

Subjects are taught in such way that students do not understand. lecturers are not concerned about the students and their performance, no remedial classes happen in colleges, students are not looked after ultimately they lag behind and dropout.

Society related reasons for dropout

Few sections of society do not prefer to send girls to **co-educational Institutes**, do not value importance of education, think that this educational system is not for them hence don't send children to school.

When a college going girl went for love marriage, people in that village decided not to send to their daughters to colleges and see that girls get married early. Once they marry their learning stops thus **early marriages** are also responsible for the Drop out of girls.

We live in a society believing and practicing gender bias where boys enjoy all the freedom but girls even if they are found talking with a boy are stopped from attending the school.

Padh ke kya hone wala hai? Is the attitude of some anti social elements they try all the ways to demotivate learners. Students should be kept away from such demotivators

A standard 9th girl staying in a village near Panvel stopped going to the school because few boys used to tease her when she used to go to the school. Many such cases must be happening in different parts of India every day.

Unless society sees education as a necessity withdrawal of girls and boys will continue to occur from the educational programmes.

Society lacks a critical eye, educational institutes rather no institute is evaluated, questioned or asks for clarification. People are happy with school even though they are not doing anything good. People are not bothered about

whether the government money is wasted or utilized. Lack of interest on the part of community has stopped the transformation of Institution.

Family related reasons for dropout

Illiterate families having children more than 4-5 still exist in India. Poverty ensures that they do not go to the school. Even if they go to school no support is offered from home as parents are busy earning their living. A serious illness or a loss of parent makes the family economically weak and stops the education of the dependents.

When basic needs are satisfied human being goes for fulfilling other needs like education, while many families are failing to meet them education remains a distant dream for them.

How many slum dwellers make up to post graduation? The answer is few. Poverty and the contaminated environment insure that **there are no good ideals or role models**. Children and youth grow impressed with the ‘Gundas’. Lack of role models in the zone of proximal development for student’s results in creation of wrong interests among them.

Broken families, addiction of parents make students suffer. **Due to poverty even though there is a will there is no way for these families, they find difficult to come out of the vicious cycle of poverty for generations.**

Student related reasons for dropout

Besides societal problems individual problems are also responsible for dropout, **bad health, low IQ, dyslexia and mental illness** are some of them. Some students because of bad company get **addicted to drugs, smoking and alcohol**. They fail to adjust themselves to the school environment due to **lack of motivation**.