EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Uttar Pradesh is one of the most vulnerable and populous (19.95 crore as per 2011 census) state in India. However, it boasts the presence of **221,653 elementary schools**. Education is treated as a sunrise sector in Indian economy. **Percentage of small primary schools (those with enrollment less than 60) has gone up from 27.3% (2010) to 36% (2014).** Mushrooming of these small schools has compounded the problems despite their claims of improving enrollments. Some facts about these schools:

- Only 19.6 % of these schools have computers.
- Only 49.3 % are complying with Pupil-teacher ratio norms.
- Only 55.7% % schools have useable girls' toilets.
- 25 % don't have safe drinking water.
- % Children enrolled in different grades who can read Std II level text (or higher)

Grade	All children
Std III	23.6
Std V	48.1
Std VIII	74.6

- As of 2014, 32.5 % Children in Std II cannot even recognize letters.
- Close to half of all children will finish eight years of schooling but still not have learned basic skills in arithmetic.

(Source: Annual Status of Education Report, 2014)

The government, in its mission to universalize elementary education, has over the years been able to increase the rate of enrolment but has failed to arrest the dropout rate. Only 47 of the 100 children enrolled in Class I reach Class VIII, putting the dropout rate in primary and elementary schools at 52.79%.

According to official sources (MOHRD, 2014), the dropout rate at the primary level (Class I to V) for girls is 33.72% and for boys it is 35.5%. Dropout rates are even more alarming at the elementary level (Class I to VIII) where 53.45% of girls and 52.28% of

boys drop out of school.

Primary reasons for high dropout rates: Poverty, poor academic performance, substandard teaching, migration and need for employment to support the family are major factors behind the higher dropout rate of the boys

Overall the status of children in these schools is not improving in terms of quality. The objectives of Millennium Development Goals through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and aspirations of millions of having a literate and educated society remains miles ahead.