

## **The causes of dropout among lower primary school children: A study in Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) District, Assam.**

Dr. A. Annu Devi

Department of Education (POSE), USTM, India

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### **Abstract:**

*Dropout can be defined as the proportion of children that cease to remain enrolled in the schooling system. In other words, the student who left a specific level of education system without achieving the first qualification is termed as dropout. The objective of the study was to find out the causes of dropout among the lower primary school children in Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) District of Assam. The survey method was adopted in the purposed investigation. The data were gathered with the help of Questionnaire, Interview and Observation technique. For secondary data, recent government and non-government reports on primary education, government websites, newspaper articles and journals were used. For primary data, random sample were taken from the Head masters of 50 (fifty) primary schools of Kamrup Metro (Urban) District, Assam. The main findings of the study were that 66.6% of respondents agreed dropout due to lack of interest of students whereas, 33.4% did not agree; 60.9% respondents agreed dropout due to lack or absence of supervision of parents whereas, 39.1% respondents did not agree; 72.8% respondents agreed dropout due to low economic and occupational status of parents whereas, 27.2% respondents did not agree; 66.9% respondents agreed dropout due to low educational level of parents whereas, 32.1% respondents did not agree. It also suggested that suitable counselling program for both parents and children should be conducted properly.*

**Key words:** Dropout; Lower primary school; Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) District, Assam.

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### **I. Introduction:**

Dropout means a student who leaves a specific level of education system without achieving first qualification. For the present study dropout is defined as a child who after having enrolled into a lower primary left it before completing the full-term of three years of lower primary. Further any child remains absent consistently for more than two or three months from school is also taken as dropout for the study. Gogate (1984) studied primary education in Marathwada with the objectives of finding out the available facilities in terms of school building, playground, cleanliness around the school and the extent and causes of dropouts and stagnation till the students reached class IV, etc. The findings of the study (I) in rural and urban single-teacher schools, 60-70 percent of the boys dropped out by the time they reached class IV; in the case of girls this percentage was only 16 and (II) in multiple teacher schools, the dropout rate was between 40% and 50%. Shahidul et al (2015) found that though some factors can cause an increase in the dropout rate regardless of the gender of students, these factors mainly contribute to an increase in the dropout rate particularly for female students. Aneesunnisa Begum (2005) studied the number of students dropping out is very high between fourth and fifth standard, similarly from sixth to seventh stage also there is sharp dropout rate. Tayyaba Zarif (2012) found that the overall results of the study depict lack of basic facilities, non availability of books and learning material, lack of parents' interest due to irrelevant curricula, teachers' absenteeism, poverty and caste based discrimination were the important reasons behind the tendency of high dropout rates in district, Kashmore, Pakistan.

### **Delimitation:**

1. The study was delimited to 50 (fifty) Government lower primary schools of Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) District, Assam and samples were selected excluding upper primary schools.
2. The study was delimited in Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) district of Assam as the area of study.

### **Objective:**

To find out the causes of dropout among the lower primary school children in Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) District of Assam.

**II. Materials and Methods:**

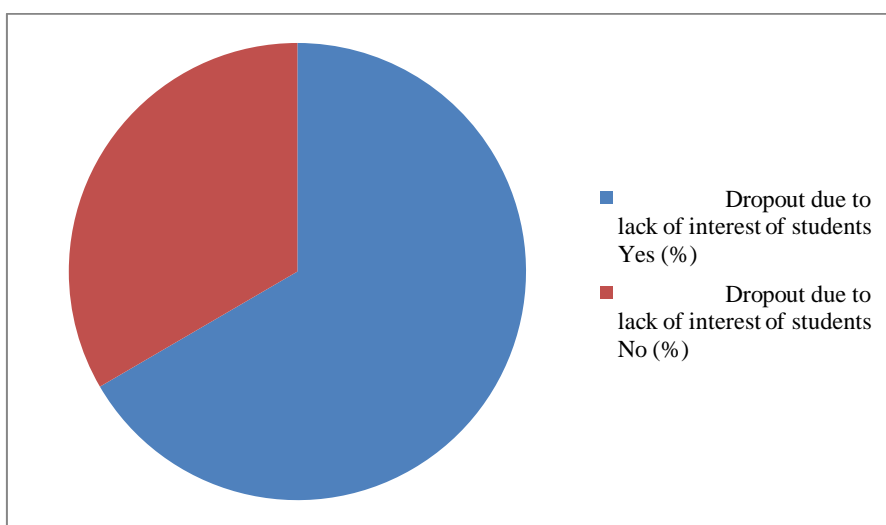
The survey method was adopted in the proposed investigation in which the relevant facts and information were gathered from Government lower primary schools. From amongst the population of total 535 government primary schools of Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) District, Assam, 50 lower primary school head masters were selected as sample of the study through simple random sampling for primary data. The data were gathered with the help of a questionnaire, interview and observation technique. Percentage method and pie diagram were used for analysis of data.

**III. Results and Discussions:**

**Table no.1:**

Dropout due to lack of interest of students	
Yes (%)	No (%)
66.6	33.4

(Table no.1 shows that 66.6% of respondents agree dropout due to lack of interest of students whereas, 33.4% did not agree).

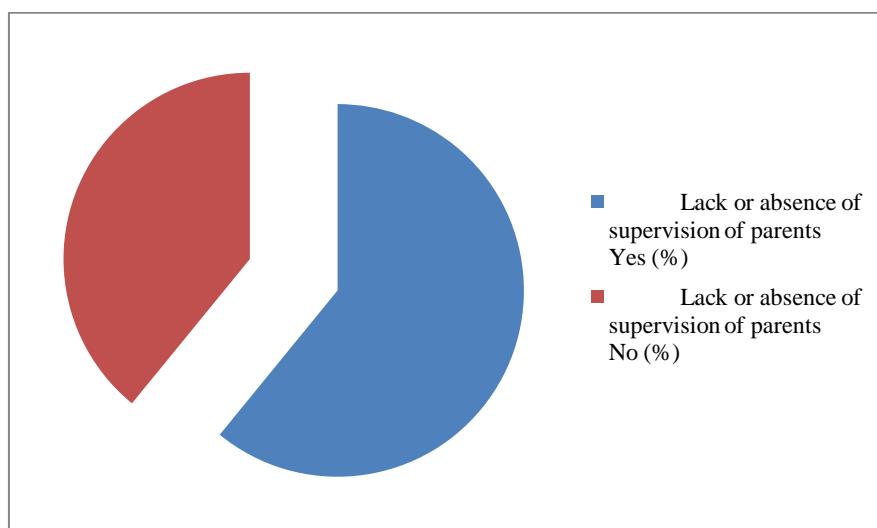


**Fig.1:** Dropout due to lack of interest of students

**Table no. 2:**

Lack or absence of supervision of parents	
Yes (%)	No (%)
60.9	39.1

(Table no. 2 shows that 60.9% respondents agree dropout due to lack or absence of supervision of parents whereas, 39.1% respondents did not agree).

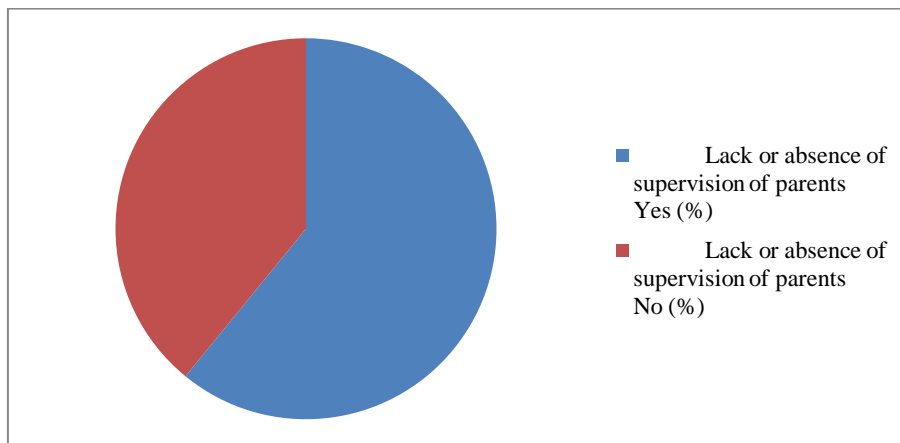


**Fig. 2:** Lack or absence of supervision of parents

**Table no. 3:**

Low economic and occupational status of parents affect dropout	
Yes (%)	No (%)
72.8	27.2

(Table no.3 shows that 72.8% respondents agree dropout due to low economic and occupational status of parents affect dropout whereas, 27.2% respondents did not agree).

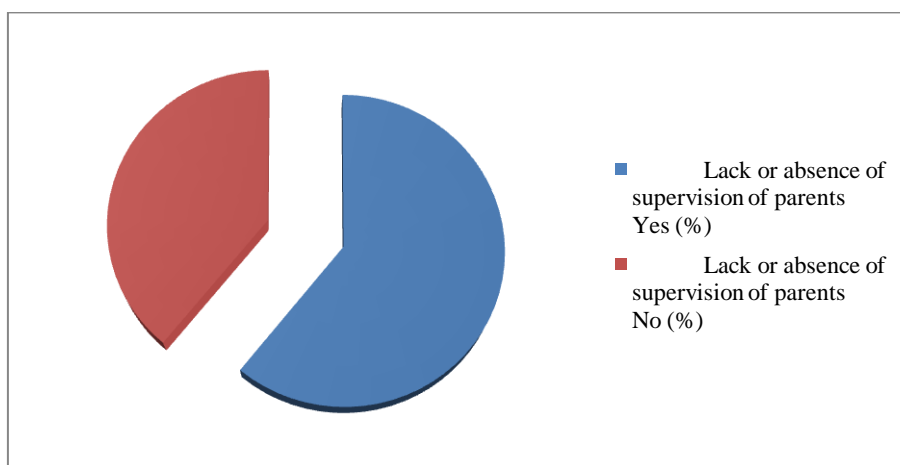


**Fig.3:** Low economic and occupational status of parents affect dropout

**Table no. 4:**

Low educational level of parents affect dropout	
Yes (%)	No (%)
66.9	32.1

(Table no.4 shows that 66.9% respondents agree dropout due to low educational level of parents affect dropout whereas, 32.1% respondents did not agree).



**Fig.4:** Low educational level of parents affect dropout

#### IV. Suggestions:

1. Awareness and Counselling program for parents about free and compulsory education for children should be organised frequently. Also, students' problem-solving skills and social interactions of follow-up problem-solving training and counselling program should be conducted.
2. There are not enough upper primary schools in the state. Some of the students of lower primary schools may have to discontinue with their studies after class 5. That's because Assam has a peculiar problem of a mismatched ratio between lower and upper primary schools. There are 30,000 lower primary schools in Assam and not even half of that in the upper primary section. More upper primary schools should be established.
3. One of the reasons for drop out of primary children is non-availability of sufficient number of upper primary schools within a reasonable distance. So, upper primary schools should be at walking distance.

4. Assam has one of the highest rates of teachers staying away from classes; about 25 per cent teacher attendance is registered in schools. So, teachers should attend schools more regularly.

5. The state has about 6500 single teacher schools with non-availability of trained teachers, lack of infrastructure, lack of toilets in most schools and socio-economic conditions are obvious reasons for high drop out of school children here. Teachers must be appointed from time to time, good school infrastructure should be provided.

### **V. Conclusion:**

The main causes of dropout of students in Kamrup Metropolitan (Urban) District, Assam were reluctance of parents and participation of children in domestic activities. Another major reason was problem of financial constraints. The parent's educational status was poor and they did not give much importance to the education of girls as they did to their sons. They perceived that sons support them in their old age. There were not enough upper primary schools in the state of Assam and non-availability of sufficient number of upper primary schools within the reasonable walking distance also results in dropout.

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