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## “Enrolment Trend Among The Government Higher Secondary School Students In Hamirpur District Of Himachal Pradesh”

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### Abstract

The main aim of this paper is to study the enrolment trend among the government higher secondary school students in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh. To fulfill this aim, data is taken from the secondary source and make a comparison of the enrolment trend of boys and girls students along with their stream at higher secondary level. The results of the study showed that, there is a slight declining trend in enrolment among the girls and increasing trend in case of boys. Apart from this, it is revealed from the study that, boys preferred commerce stream as compared to the arts and science stream, whereas girls mostly preferred science stream at higher secondary level.

**Key Words:** Higher Secondary Stage, enrolment percentage.

### Introduction

Education is a term which plays an important role in personal growth, social development and economic progress of a person. It helps a individual to develop knowledge, skills and values which further helps him to contribute to the society as well as development of the nation. If we talk about the education, then it helps a person from the early childhood education to higher learning and the main purpose of the education is to develop the individual intellectuality, emotionally and morally as well as preparing individuals for the challenges of life. It is the education which promotes the critical thinking, creativity and innovation along with the sense of responsibility and citizenship, which helps to develop a country. If we talk about in the broader meaning of the education, then it is not just acquiring the information but it also helps to develop the ability to think critically, making the good decisions and engage the society in a meaningful ways. It provides the equal opportunity to all individuals without any discrimination of their background, to succeed and make

important improvement to their lives. So we may say that, the purpose of education is to flourish the human potential, reduce the inequalities, and build a more prosperous, peaceful, just and humane society.

## Review of the Literature

Kumar (2009) found that there is decline in average enrolment of students in government primary schools of Himachal Pradesh. The current enrolment of students has increased but up to little extent in comparison to last five years. Kumar, A. (2015) conducted a study on “A case study of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh” and concluded that, Hamirpur district has first position in literacy rate in the Himachal Pradesh. Overall enrolment percentage share of girls has remained static over the period of 2003 to 2009 in primary schools and upper primary schools, where as the overall enrolment percentage share of boys also showed the declining trend from 2003 to 2009 in primary schools, however showed increasing trend in upper primary schools under the scheme of SSA. The enrolment of general students has decreased in 2009 than 2003 in primary as well as upper primary schools. The overall percentage enrolment share of SC, ST and OBC students has increased from 2003 to 2009 in primary and upper primary schools. The number of government primary schools as well as upper primary school has shown declining trend from the period 2004 to 2009. However teacher strength also showed the declining trend from 2004 to 2009 and increased trend in student-teacher ratio in the district. Regular decrease in number of students in government elementary schools may be because of increase in strengthen of students to send their children to private schools and insufficient teaching staff in these schools. Kumar, S. (2015) conducted a study on “Current status of secondary school level education in Himachal Pradesh” and found that there is tremendous growth in the enrollment of students at the secondary level. The Government of Himachal Pradesh is taking necessary steps regarding the infrastructure of schools and quality education. Quality education is one of the major concern issue in government school. The study further showed that, there is shift of enrolment of students from government schools to private schools and increase in the enrollment ratio of students in private schools. Kumar, A (2016) in his research paper entitled as “Disparities in Enrolment among students of different categories at elementary Level in Himachal Pradesh and concluded that in Himachal Pradesh overall enrolment share of general, SC, ST and OBC students showed the declining trend at elementary level. The percentage share of girls as compared to the boys showed the increasing trend at elementary level. A negative gender gap in the enrolment of primary schools between girls and boys has been found from the year 2003 to 2009. While a positive gender gap was found from the year 2010 to 2014, which was in favour of girls. In case of upper primary schools a negative gender gap has been found in enrolment between girls and boys from year 2003 to 2012, while in 2013 it was almost equal to boys and positive gender gap trend in 2014 in favour of girls. From the paper it is cleared that girl student’s enrolment showed the increasing trend over the boy students. This may be the preference of the parents for the boy students towards the public schools and government schools for the girl students. However the total students enrolment and category wise enrolment showed the declining

trend. Kumar and Bharti (2018) found that the enrolment rates of scheduled caste and schedule tribe students at the secondary level in Himachal Pradesh were significantly lower compared to those of higher castes. This is due to the economic disadvantages, social stigma, and the limited availability of schools catering to these communities. ASER (2023) in a report stated that, the overall dropout rate for secondary school students in India was approximately 16 percent in 2023. It was at higher rates in rural and underprivileged areas. Dropout rates for girls are particularly high, especially after Class 9, often due to early marriage, parental expectations, and a lack of adequate school facilities. Ministry of Women and Child Development (2023) in a report on “Impact of Social and Cultural Factors on Girls' Education in India: A Report on Challenges in Retention and Enrollment” stated that, while awareness and enrollment of girls in secondary education have improved, social and cultural factors such as early marriage and domestic responsibilities continue to affect retention.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

“Enrolment trend among the Government Higher Secondary School Students in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh”

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study and compare the enrolment of boys and girls at Government Higher secondary schools.
2. To study and compare the stream-wise enrolment of boys and girls at Government Higher secondary schools.

### **DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

1. Out of the twelve districts, only the Hamirpur district was selected for the study.
2. The study was further restricted only to enrolment of higher secondary schools.

### **SOURCES OF THE DATA**

The present study is based on the secondary sources of the data. Information from the various sources was compared on the basis of the following indicators:

1. Boys and girls enrolment at higher secondary level.
2. Stream-wise Boys and girls enrolment at higher secondary level.

### **TABULATION OF THE DATA**

For the present study, data was tabulated from the year 2016 to year 2021 of the higher secondary school students for analysis and interpretation of the data.

### **TREATMENT OF THE DATA**

For the present study, percentage analysis of the data on the basis of enrolment of boys and girls along with their stream at higher secondary schools was used.

## 4. RESULT AND INTERPRETATION

### 4.1. Students Enrollment in higher secondary schools

Table no 4.1 showed that, enrolment of boys and girls in department of education from the year 2016 to 2021

**Table 4.1**  
**Student Enrolment in Higher Secondary Schools**

Sr. No.	Year	Boys	Percentage	Girls	Percentage	Total	Percentage
1.	2016	6261	52.44	5678	47.55	11939	100.00
2.	2017	5711	51.83	5307	48.17	11018	100.00
3.	2018	4846	50.70	4712	49.30	9558	100.00
4.	2019	5003	50.46	4912	49.54	9915	100.00
5.	2020	5435	51.82	5054	48.18	10489	100.00
6.	2021	5763	53.18	5073	46.82	10836	100.00

From the table 4.1 it is clear that, the enrolment of boys in 2016 was 52.44 percent and 47.55 of girls. The enrolment of boys continuously decreases from 2017 to 2019 i.e. from 51.83 percent to 50.46 percent, whereas increased in 2020 to 51.82 percent and highest in 2021 till from 2016 i.e. 53.18 percent. Further the table 4.1 showed the increasing trend of enrollment in case of girls from 2016 i.e. 47.55 percent to 2019 i.e. 49.54 percent. However, there was decline in enrollment in case of girls in 2020 and 2021 i.e. 48.18 percent and 46.82 percent respectively.

**Table No. 4.2**  
**Stream-wise Enrolment of Students at Higher Secondary Schools in 11<sup>th</sup> standard**

Year	Arts		Science		Commerce		Total					
	Boys	Percentage	Boys	Percentage	Boys	Percentage	Boys	Percentage				
2016	Boys	1191	48.81	Boys	1073	52.81	Boys	740	58.36	Boys	3004	52.33
	Girls	1249	51.19	Girls	959	47.19	Girls	528	41.64	Girls	2736	47.67
	Total	2440	100.0	Total	2032	100.0	Total	1268	100.0	Total	5740	100.0
2017	Boys	1274	50.24	Boys	855	48.28	Boys	736	61.03	Boys	2865	51.97
	Girls	1262	49.76	Girls	916	51.72	Girls	470	38.97	Girls	2648	48.03
	Total	2536	100.0	Total	1771	100.0	Total	1206	100.0	Total	5513	100.0
2018	Boys	1071	48.75	Boys	1982	55.04	Boys	603	55.12	Boys	3656	53.05
	Girls	1126	51.25	Girls	1619	44.96	Girls	491	44.88	Girls	3236	46.95
	Total	2197	100.0	Total	3601	100.0	Total	1094	100.0	Total	6892	100.0
2019	Boys	1566	50.57	Boys	761	49.45	Boys	569	55.78	Boys	2896	51.20
	Girls	1531	49.43	Girls	778	50.55	Girls	451	44.22	Girls	2760	48.80
	Total	3097	100.0	Total	1539	100.0	Total	1020	100.0	Total	5656	100.0
2020	Boys	1217	51.46	Boys	762	48.88	Boys	456	57.65	Boys	2435	49.74
	Girls	1148	48.54	Girls	797	51.12	Girls	335	42.35	Girls	2280	48.36
	Total	2365	100.0	Total	1559	100.0	Total	791	100.0	Total	4715	100.0
2021	Boys	1816	54.19	Boys	893	50.31	Boys	514	61.34	Boys	3223	54.04
	Girls	1535	45.81	Girls	882	49.69	Girls	324	38.66	Girls	2741	45.96
	Total	3351	100.0	Total	1775	100.0	Total	838	100.0	Total	5964	100.0

From the table 4.2, it may be noted that, the enrolment of Arts stream boys in 2016 was 48.81 percent which increased to 50.24 percent in 2017 and declined to 48.75 percent in 2018. It continuously increased from 2019 to 2021 as from 50.57 percent to 54.19 percent. In case of Arts stream girls, it may be said that,

enrolment was 51.19 percent in 2016 which decline to 49.76 percent in the year 2017. Further, it is cleared from the above table 4.2 that, percentage enrolment of arts stream girls is increased in 2018 i.e.51.25 percent which continuously declined to 45.81 percent in year of 2021.

Apart from this, it may be said from the table 4.2 that, the enrolment of science stream boys in 2016 was 52.81 percent which declined in 2017 as 48.28 percent. Further this percentage enrolment increases to 55.04 percent in the year 2018 which continuously declined for two years consecutively and finally 48.88 percent in 2020. Further it increased to 50.31 percent, whereas in case of science stream girls the percentage enrolment was 47.19 percent in 2016 which increased to 51.72 percent in 2017 and showed the declined trend in 2018 i.e.44.96 percent. Further the enrolment of girl science stream increased continuously for two years and finally 51.12 percent in 2020, whereas it decreases to 49.69 percent in 2021.

It is further cleared from the table 4.2 that, the enrolment of commerce stream boys is 58.36 percent in 2016 which increased to 61.03 percent in 2017. However it showed the declining trend in 2018 i.e. 55.12 percent and after than it continuously increased from the year 2018 to 2021 which is 61.34 percent. In case of the enrolment percentage of commerce stream girls is 41.64 percent in 2016 which declined in 2017 to 38.97 percent, which increased to 44.88 percent. It is further cleared from the table 4.2 that enrolment percentage trend of commerce girls showed the declining trend from the year 2018 to year 2021 i.e. 38.66 percent in the year 2021.

From the above discussion it may be concluded that, there was highest enrolment trend i.e. 58.36 percent of commerce stream boys, 52.81 percent of science stream boys and lowest enrolment in case of art stream boys i.e. 48.81 percent in 2016. Further the above discussion showed that, there is highest enrolment percentage in case of girls Arts stream i.e.51.19 percent, 47.19 percent of Science and lowest in case of commerce stream i.e. 41.64 percent.

In the year 2017 table 4.2 showed that percentage enrolment of commerce stream boys is highest i.e. 61.03 percent and 51.72 percent in case of girls science stream, which is followed by arts stream boys i.e.50.24 percent and girls stream i.e. 49.76 percent and lowest at boys science stream i.e.48.28 percent and 38.97 percent in case of the girls commerce respectively.

Further we may conclude that, there was again highest percentage enrolment of commerce stream boys in the year 2018 as compared to Science stream i.e.55.04 percent and lowest of Arts stream boys i.e. 48.75 percent. In case of girls, science stream has the highest enrolment percentage i.e. 51.25 percent as compared to science and commerce i.e. 44.96 percent and 44.88 percent respectively.

There was highest enrolment percentage of boys in case of commerce stream i.e. 55.78 percent as compared to science stream i.e. 50.57 percent and lowest in Arts stream 49.45 percent respectively, whereas in case of girls enrolment percentage is highest in science stream 50.55 percent as compared to Arts stream 49.43 percent and lowest in commerce stream i.e. 44.22 percent in the year 2019.

Further, in the year 2020 there was highest enrolment percentage of students in commerce stream i.e.57.67 percent as compared to Arts stream i.e.51.46 percent and lowest in Science stream i.e.48.88 percent,

however in case of girls there is highest enrolment in science stream i.e. 51.12 percent, 48.54 percent in Arts stream and lowest in case of commerce stream i.e.42.35 percent.

In the year 2021, there was the highest enrolment percentage of commerce stream boys i.e. 61.34 percent, as compared to the Arts stream i.e. 54.19 percent and lowest in commerce stream i.e.50.31 percent respectively whereas in case of girls 49.69 percent of the science stream as compared to 45.81 percent of the Arts stream and lowest at 38.66 percent in the commerce stream respectively.

**Table No. 4.3**

**Stream-wise Enrolment of Students at Higher Secondary Schools in 12<sup>th</sup> standard**

Year	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
2016	Boys	1308	49.04	Boys	1158	52.78	Boys	791	59.12	Boys	3257	52.54
	Girls	1359	50.96	Girls	1036	47.22	Girls	547	40.88	Girls	2942	47.46
	Total	2667	100.0	Total	2194	100.0	Total	1338	100.0	Total	6199	100.0
2017	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1166	48.58	Boys	968	51.14	Boys	712	58.75	Boys	2846	51.70
	Girls	1234	51.42	Girls	925	48.86	Girls	500	41.25	Girls	2659	48.30
2018	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1253	50.26	Boys	2170	55.39	Boys	685	60.09	Boys	4108	54.40
	Girls	1240	49.74	Girls	1748	44.61	Girls	455	39.91	Girls	3443	45.60
2019	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	916	47.93	Boys	699	48.47	Boys	492	54.30	Boys	2107	49.47
	Girls	995	52.07	Girls	743	51.53	Girls	414	45.70	Girls	2152	50.53
2020	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1584	51.05	Boys	802	48.87	Boys	614	59.61	Boys	3000	51.96
	Girls	1519	48.95	Girls	839	51.13	Girls	416	40.39	Girls	2774	48.04
2021	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1295	51.53	Boys	752	48.58	Boys	493	60.79	Boys	2540	52.13
	Girls	1218	48.46	Girls	796	51.42	Girls	318	39.21	Girls	2332	47.87
2021	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1295	51.53	Boys	752	48.58	Boys	493	60.79	Boys	2540	52.13
	Girls	1218	48.46	Girls	796	51.42	Girls	318	39.21	Girls	2332	47.87
2021	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1295	51.53	Boys	752	48.58	Boys	493	60.79	Boys	2540	52.13
	Girls	1218	48.46	Girls	796	51.42	Girls	318	39.21	Girls	2332	47.87
2021	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1295	51.53	Boys	752	48.58	Boys	493	60.79	Boys	2540	52.13
	Girls	1218	48.46	Girls	796	51.42	Girls	318	39.21	Girls	2332	47.87
2021	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1295	51.53	Boys	752	48.58	Boys	493	60.79	Boys	2540	52.13
	Girls	1218	48.46	Girls	796	51.42	Girls	318	39.21	Girls	2332	47.87
2021	Arts			Science			Commerce			Total		
	Boys	1295	51.53	Boys	752	48.58	Boys	493	60.79	Boys	2540	52.13
	Girls	1218	48.46	Girls	796	51.42	Girls	318	39.21	Girls	2332	47.87

From the table 4.3, it may be noted that, the enrolment of Arts boys in 2016 was 49.04 percent which declined to 48.58 percent in 2017 and increased to 50.26 percent in 2018. The enrolment declined to 47.93 percent in 2019 and it continuously increased from 2020 to 2021 as from 51.05 percent to 51.53 percent. In case of Arts stream girls, it may be said that, enrolment was 50.96 percent in 2016 which increased to 51.42 percent in 2017 and declined to 49.74 percent in 2018 respectively. Further, percentage enrolment of arts stream girls is increased in 2019 i.e.52.07 percent which continuously declined to 48.46 percent in year of 2021.

It may be said from the table 4.2 that, the enrolment of science stream boys in 2016 was 52.78 percent which declined in 2017 as 51.14 percent. Further this percentage enrolment increases to 55.39 percent in the year 2018, however there is a slight declining trend from 2019 to 2021 i.e. 48.47 percent to 48.58 percent respectively. However, in case of girls the percentage enrollment of science stream is 47.22 percent in 2016 to 48.86 percent in 2017, which further declined to 44.61 percent and there is slight declining trend from 2018 to 2021 i.e. 51.53 percent to 51.42 percent respectively.

It is further cleared from the table 4.2 that, the enrolment of commerce stream boys is 59.12 percent in 2016 which declined to 58.75 percent in 2017, which further increased in 2018 to 60.09 percent. In the year 2019 showed the declining trend in enrolment to 54.30 percent which further increased to 59.61 percent in 2020 and slight increase in 2021 i.e.60.79 percent. In case of the girls, percentage enrolment of arts stream was 40.88 percent in 2016 which increased to 41.25 percent in 2017 and declined to 39.91 percent in the year 2018. Further, in the year 2019 there was increasing trend i.e.45.70 percent and slight decline in 2020 i.e. 40.39 percent and 39.21 percent in 2021 as the lowest enrolment from 2016.

Further the table 4.3 showed that, there was highest enrolment percentage of boys in case of commerce stream i.e. 58.75 percent as compared to science stream i.e. 52.78 percent and lowest in Arts stream 49.04 percent respectively, whereas in case of girls, enrolment percentage is highest in science stream 50.96 percent as compared to Arts stream 47.22 percent and lowest in commerce stream i.e. 40.88 percent in the year 2016.

It is further cleared from the table 4.3 there was highest enrolment percentage in 2017 of boys in case of commerce stream i.e. 58.78 percent as compared to science stream i.e. 51.14 percent and lowest in Arts stream 48.58 percent respectively, whereas in case of girls, enrolment percentage is highest in science stream 51.42 percent as compared to Arts stream 48.86 percent and lowest in commerce stream i.e. 41.25 percent.

We may conclude from the table 4.3 that, there was again highest enrolment in the year 2018 of commerce stream boys i.e.60.09 percent as compared to 55.39 percent in science stream and lowest in Arts stream i.e.50.26 percent whereas, in case of girls highest percentage enrolment is of arts stream i.e.49.74 percent as compared to 44.61 percent of science stream and lowest in commerce stream i.e.39.91 percent.

Further the research showed that, in the year of 2019, 54.30 percent of the commerce stream have the highest enrolment percentage as compared to 48.47 percent of science stream and lowest of Arts stream i.e.47.93 percent. In case of the girls, there was highest percentage enrolment of 52.07 percent of Arts stream as compared to 51.53 percent of science stream and lowest 45.70 percent of commerce stream.

It is concluded that, the highest percentage of boys commerce in the year 2020 i.e. 59.61 percent as compared to 51.65 percent in Arts and lowest in 48.87 percent of Science stream, while in case of girls, highest enrolment percentage of 51.13 percent of science stream as compared to 48.95 percent arts student and lowest in commerce stream i.e.40.39 percent.

From the table 4.3, it may be said that there was highest enrollment percentage of commerce stream boys i.e. 60.79 percent as compared to 51.53 percent of arts stream and lowest in science stream i.e.48.58 percent. However in case of girls, there was highest percentage enrollment 51.42 percent in case of science stream as compared to 48.46 percent in arts stream and lowest in commerce stream i.e. 39.21 percent.

## Conclusion

From the above analysis and interpretation of the data, following conclusions may be drawn:

1. There is slight increasing trend of percentage enrolment of boys and slight declining trend in case of girls from the year 2016 to 2021 in higher secondary schools. However, if we compare with the boys and girls percentage enrolment, then there is considerable more percentage enrolment of the boys as compared to girls.
2. Percentage enrolment of Arts & Commerce stream students is increased from the year of 2016 to 2021, whereas declined in case of science stream at Higher secondary level. Apart from this, in case of girls, it has been found that, there is declining trend in case of the Arts and Commerce stream, but increased percentage enrollment in science stream at Higher secondary level.
3. As per the enrolment percentage of boys from the year 2016 to 2021, they gave the preference for commerce stream as compared to science and arts stream at higher secondary stage. In case of the girls, enrolment trend showed that, most of them preferred the science stream as compared to arts and commerce stream at the 11<sup>th</sup> standard, whereas in the 12<sup>th</sup> standard, most of the girls adopted arts stream initially from 2016 to 2019 rather than the science and commerce stream, but in the year 2020 to 2021, they preferred the science stream rather than the arts and commerce stream.
4. It may be observed that, boys preferred commerce stream as compared to the arts and science stream, whereas girls mostly preferred science stream at higher secondary level.

## Educational Implications

1. There is a need of reallocation of the resources such as to ensure the adequate infrastructure i.e. School buildings, creating more classrooms, and recruiting additional teachers.
2. If there is less percentage in the enrollment of girls in higher secondary schools, then there should be focus on providing the scholarships, awareness programme and safety measures for the girls.
3. If there is increase in the enrolment of students in specific stream then, schools have to diversify their course offerings or provide more support in that area.
4. There should be provision of school fees, transportation or access to study materials for such students who are from the lower socio-economic backgrounds.

## Suggestions for the further research

On the basis of experience and insight acquired from the study, the following suggestions may be included:

1. The data taken for the present research was based on the secondary data, primary sources may be used.
2. Similar studies may be conducted on the other districts.

3. Present research is restricted only to higher secondary level students, it may be extended to the primary or secondary school level students.

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