Report on

Situational Assessment of the Bandhan Education Program for Bandhan-Konnagar Salt Lake City, Kolkata-7000091

March 2021

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Salt Lake City, Kolkata-7000091

M/s Bandhan-Konnagar
DN-34, Sector-V, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata-7000091, West Bengal

Study conducted by

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Abbreviations

AISD	Asian Institute for Sustainable Development
BEP	Bandhan Education Programme
BEC	Bandhan Education Centre
BHP	Bandhan Health Programme
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
HoH	Head of Household
GEN	General
NFE	Non Formal Education
NFS	Non Formal School
OBC	Other Backward Caste
ST	Schedule Tribe
SC	Schedule Caste
SHG	Self Help Group
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
THP	Targeting the Hardcore Poor

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Executive Summary

The present report is the result of research initiative undertaken by AISD for Situational Assessment of the Bandhan Education Programme (BEP) in four eastern states of India namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Tripura and West Bengal. BEP which is one of the premier civil society based support initiative for strengthening of elementary education scenario of the poor communities in Eastern India had undertaken a time bound intervention with support from Indigo from the period of 2015-2019. About two years past culmination of the intervention the present research seeks to ascertain the educational status of the beneficiaries towards deriving the lessons and way forward for future initiatives. The research was undertaken by direct assessment most representative equally divided sample of about 1200 beneficiaries from the four states by three sub teams from AISD with external support form Bandhan Konnagar. The presents the area profile followed by results of prominent point of investigation which includes the beneficiary profile covering background, age analysis and gender profile of the beneficiaries followed by current status of the beneficiaries including category of current education institution and enrollment status of the beneficiaries. The report is concluded by context specific recommendations and suggestions and contains three annexures covering the background and educational status of each beneficiary under investigation.

Among the major findings it was observed that 100% of the students were found to have been enrolled in formal education after completion of course curriculum at BEC which advocates the pioneering role of such centers in eliminating the acute problem of low enrollment rate in formal primary education, despite infrastructure and manpower limitations of NFS systems in India. Similarly 100% of the students were found to have completed their course at BEC which speaks highly about the sustenance and applicability of such facilities towards serving the obligations of the deprived sections of the society. In Bihar a significant 11.0% of the students were found to be enrolled in class V which was two grades higher than their grade in BEC at the time of completion of the course. In Jharkhand a significant 22.3% of the students were found to be enrolled in class I which was below their standard in BEC whereas 9.7% of the students got enrolled in class V which was two grades higher than that at BEC. Similarly in Tripura 16.7% of the students were enrolled in class 1 and 22.7% enrolled in class II which was below their standard at BEC at that stage. In West Bengal, 8.3% enrolled in class 5, which was two grades higher than their standard at BEC at the time of completion of the course.

The high success rate of BEC was implicit to be the consequence of multiple factors such as capacity building of the teacher, structured course curriculum, appropriate teaching learning materials, strict monitoring, regular individual interaction with the guardians etc. Overall 66.6% of the students belonged to Muslim community whereas 33.4% of the students hailed from Hindu community. This establishes the fact that these two prominent communities have been the major beneficiaries of the Project in the study area. The sex ratio of the students was found to be significantly in favor of the girl child in all four states which reflects the gender appropriateness of the intervention.

A good teacher student ratio of about 1:30 was found to exist and retain at all centers. As vividly expressed by the parents, the quality of education imparted at BEC, as compared to other formal schooling, was found to be the defining factor for their popularity and demand. 92.4% of the students were found to have been enrolled in government schools whereas 7.6% of the students were found to have been enrolled in private schools which reflect upon divergent interpretations and scenario of the availability and access to private formal schools in central and peripheral locations within a state.

About 64% of the students got enrolled in higher classes in formal schools after completion of course curriculum at BEC, speaks highly about the nurturing value and quality of education provided at BEC. However, none of the BEC passed out student was found to be attending any formal education centre due to the ongoing lock down owing to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent closure of schools since March 2020. None of the students were found to be attending any web based, virtual teaching facility due to non initiation of such facility at village based primary level in all the four states. It was noticed that web based classes was being undertaken only for higher classes in only a handful of government/private schools in the study area.

In current COVID 19 context, as expressed by the respondents, localization of education centres in the pattern of BEC was found to be the need of the hour. The BECs were found to be operational in limited radius of the Branch office which might be the cause for poor representation of category wise state demography. The problem was found to be acute in the state of Jharkhand and Tripura, where the ST community happened to be the least beneficiary. In Bihar, 96% of the parents commended the initiatives of Bandhan Konnagar in ensuring proper systems and facilities to provide good quality of education through the BEC. Similar feedback was provided by 91% of parents in Jharkhand, 92% in Tripura and 85% in West Bengal.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Figure 1 : Survey Work in Irba

1.1 Background

IndiGo is India's largest passenger airline networks operating as a low-cost carrier. It primarily operates in India's domestic air travel market focusing on the three pillars; offering low fares, punctual arrivals and departures and generous hospitality to its customers, delivering a courteous and hassle-free experience. In addition to passenger transportation, activities primarily include cargo and mail services on scheduled flights. IndiGo, being one of the most reliable airlines since August 2006 started with a single aircraft and has now grown its fleet to 262 aircraft as of March 31, 2020. Besides several accolades, IndiGo has been ranked as one of the best airlines in terms of on-time performance for the third consecutive year amongst the top 20 global mega-airlines. IndiGo has also been recognized among the most valuable and strongest airline brands, as per the Brand Finance Airlines 50 report for 2020.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at IndiGo is based on the belief that as a responsible organization it must also focus on integrating in the business model a program for serving the community where it operates. IndiGoReach is the CSR program of IndiGo, based on shared values, responsible business and exposure to voluntary social activities.

In order to reach out to the community, IndiGoReach works on 3 focus areas:

- Children and Education
- Women Empowerment
- Environment

As part of implementation of the CSR, IndiGo associates with grass root, not for profit entities working towards community development. These grass root organizations are

supported to work in synchronization with the IndiGo's CSR Policy and IndiGoReach focus areas.

In line with the IndiGo's CSR Policy and IndiGoReach focus areas, the issue of Children and Education is an important area of concern. IndiGo supports the organizations in educating and empowering children from underprivileged backgrounds. These Education centers impart education to remote and untouched areas of the country and also provide infrastructure to existing Education centers.

1.2 Introduction

Bandhan was set up in the year 2001 to meet the cardinal goals of poverty alleviation and women empowerment. There is an entire suite of development programs which are aimed at bringing about holistic transformation in the underprivileged community. The organization works closely with people who live in the lowest echelons of the social system for their socio-economic progress. It constantly tries to broad base its scope of services and minimize areas of income leakage in the underprivileged families. Bandhan-Konnagar is actively engaged in the field of education, health, livelihood promotion, enterprise development, employment generation and the like. It has a phenomenal outreach to over twenty nine lakh (2980327) beneficiaries spread over 180 districts in twelve states of India.

Indigo is one of the donor of BEP under the organization of Bandhan Konnagar to implement the quality education among underprivileged children. BEP is engaged in promotion of both formal as well as non-formal education centers in India. At present 2,694 Education Centres are being operated in five states of Eastern India wherein in the year of 2015 Indigo converged with BEP for supporting 400 Education Centers in four states of rural Eastern India namely West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Tripura. This program is being implemented by Bandhan-Konnagar, with its head office in Kolkata, West Bengal. Therefore, it is known as the Bandhan Education Program (BEP).

IndiGo associated with Bandhan-Konnagar in the year 2015 to implement the Education Program in Education centres in the four states of Eastern India. There are almost 12000 students enrolled and being benefitted in the non formal Education centers spread over different villages in the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Tripura. The BECs are being sponsored and supported by IndiGo Airlines. After accomplishing its target, the BEP phased out in the year 2019.

The higher goal of setting up BECs is to empower children's academic skills with focus on realizing their holistic development. The specific objective of this programme is to undertake modular structured interventions in form of BEC for strengthening the primary education of children in the age group of 5-8 years from under privileged sections of the society and integrate them with formal institutions. The intervention has been targeted for children hailing from background community with low income economic background residing in rural as well as semi urban locations of target locations. Herein girl children and children from poorest families have been prioritized in beneficiary selection process.

Through this one classroom one teacher model being executed by local teachers the programme has focussed towards delivering quality learning classes, inculcating discipline among students, developing skills in reading, writing, mathematics and co-curricular activities. Herein ensuring successful mainstreaming of beneficiary students and their retention in higher class has been designed as a major outcome of the intervention. The course curriculum including study materials have been designed by specialized material development teams in reference with state specific study curriculum.

The programme was initiated with setting up of 400 BEC comprising of a fixed batch of 30 students each. The students hailing from pre primary class and were groomed upto third standard for a priod of 48 months commencing in 2015 and culminating in the year 2019.

The agreement between Bandhan and Indigo CSR assigns entire responsible for the full implementation of the Project, including recruitment of personnel and day-to-day management of the project as per the assigned budget former party. Besides this Bandhan had agreed for prudent fund management and provide the expenditure statement and a brief report on the utilization of the funds to IndiGo every month. Bandhan had also agreed to coordinate and liaise with IndiGo from time to time and keep it posted on the project's running as and when required by later party.

With the implementation of the Education Program, IndiGo would like to assess the situational status of the children who had been enrolled in the Education centres. The situational assessment of the program would help in determining the existing situation of the children who had been enrolled and have now completed the 4 years support from the Education centers. The present research endeavour seeks to ascertain the status of the beneficiary student population of the BEP, which accomplished in the year 2019. The Study findings would assist the Company to establish the strategy in order to take steps for the future course of action.

1.3 Research Context

The research opportunity provided a significant opportunity for analyzing the validity and replication potential of such non formal education in overall context of formal schooling in Eastern India. The BEP may be seen as premier intervention in non formal education sector in India wherein partnership of civil society corporate bodies promises to make a qualitative shift in the service delivery of Education for the poor. The research gains added importance in the current COVID 19 context wherein localization of schools appears to be the need of the hour. The research endeavour was limited with the measurement of status of BEP students after the phase out. This was constructively overcome by measuring the status from a multidimensional approach incorporating socio economic as well as geographical variables and other related parameters in overall research design.

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 Designing of the schedules

The research was rolled out with building a critical perspective of the intervention based upon the analysis of secondary data provided by Bandhan Konnagar as well as web based contextual information. Survey schedules were henceforth designed for ascertaining the status of the phased out batches from a wide perspective in consultation with the clients. The schedules were further translated into Hindi and Bangla for effective outreach in different states. The survey schedules were then piloted in Ranchi district for pre test and necessary adjustments were made on the basis of local inputs.

1.4.2 Sampling Technique

Social and geographic parameters were given prime importance for arriving at the most representative samples across four states. Two districts per state were selected with the objective of the maximum coverage of the target population. In general 30 students per centre were interviewed at survey points.

Considering the timeline, three parallel teams led by AISD survey coordinators were constituted for simultaneous coverage of all four states under consideration.

A uniform sampling procedure was followed for each project location. The total Universe of children was approx. 12000 in all the 4 states. The Sample size taken was on an average 300 children across different villages/ panchayats/ blocks/ districts for each State. A scientific representative sample of 10% of the total beneficiaries was undertaken for the study. The beneficiary students were perceived to be hailing from age group of 8- 12 years as per the projection of their age requirement of 5-8 years at the time of their enrolment in 2015. To

cover the gender aspect of the intervention percentage of girl child in was duly considered while selection of each BEC for the study. Stratified random sampling was carried out within the project location for coverage of social, economic as well as geographic/ ecological variables. A balanced weightage on basis of semi urban vs rural and centre vs peripheral setting was assigned while selection of survey population in all the study areas. Appropriate representation of all beneficiary communities was considered while selection of survey population in each state. A major limitation towards maximum coverage of beneficiary population was posed by limited radius of project operation in each district. The existing COVID 19 scenario also posed restrictions for undertaking group based survey activities towards deriving general community perceptions about the interventions. The specific objective of Status survey of the beneficiaries as assigned by Indigo also limited the research on impact level assessment of the interventions. The sample distribution was decided in consultation with the BK Project Team. The sample respondents were interviewed through specific structured questionnaires.

1.4.3 Survey Process

Selection of local field enumerators was undertaken using the existing social capital of BEC field area. Due weightage was assigned to the familiarity and non partisan status of the potential candidate with the community with which the intervention was carried out. All the data enumerators were trained through practical exercise carried out by AISD survey coordinators in different states. In Tripura a similar process was undertaken for selection of the field enumerator. However, the training was conducted using web based platform. Each survey point was monitored directly by AISD team and data cross checked through the process of triangulation.

General observation at each center by the Research Team of AISD contributed a considerable credence in building an overall picture of the research context.

1.4.4 Data management

Code wise Master sheet was generated on the basis of survey schedules in SPSS. Individual schedule entry data check was conducted variable wise in ascending and descending procedures. Subsequent errors were corrected referring the original schedules. String data was filtered for grammatical errors and data overlap.

Decoding of master sheet and Data compilation was done according to valid data range. To arrive at descriptive statistics, Cross tables were generated and designed as per the research requirements. Pie chart and graphs were subsequently generated to provide best presentation of the inferences and research outputs. Categorization of Individual string inputs was followed by filtration and merger to eliminate data overlap.

Chapter 2 - Area Profile

Figure 2 : Survey Work in Haroa

2.1 Study Area Profile

The four states under study namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Tripura and West Bengal covered the major part of Eastern Region of India with Tripura representing the North East. The Education centres taken up for study in each district has been demonstrated in the table below.

Table 2.1 BEC Sample under Study

State	District	Branch	Centre Name	Total Respondent
Bihar	Katihar	Barsoi	Baluganj	30
			Manman	30
			Mukuriya	30
			Porla	30
			Raghunathpur	30
			Total	**150**
	Kishanganj	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	30
			Chakla-2	30
			Farshadang-1	30
			Kolha 1	30
			Nuniyatoli-2	30
			Total	**150**
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Irba	Ansar Nagar	30
			Barwe	30
			Kamta	30
			Karmatoli	30

			Kute	30
			Total	**150**
	Pakur	Nagarnebi	Hamrul	30
			Nagarnebi	30
			Sitapahari Kacharipara	30
			Sitapahari Madhya Para	30
			Sitapahari Paschim Para	30
			Total	**150**
Tripura	Sipahijala	Bishalgarh	Basantitila	30
			East Kasba	30
			Gazaria	30
			Nabinagar 2	30
			North Brajapur	30
			Total	**150**
	West Tripura	Chebri	Nabinagar	30
			Pekni Chara	30
			Sachindra Nagar	30
			Samru Chara	30
			Sonatala	30
			Total	**150**
West Bengal	S-24 Paragana	Canning	Belekheli	30
			Gazipara	30
			Gopal Pur	30
			Majhi Para	30
			Purwa Shivnagar	30
			Total	**150**
	N-24 Paragana	Haroa	Dakschin Abjanagar	30
			Gorai Nagar South	30
			Nasirhati	30
			Paschim Goberiya	30
			Samla	30
			Total	**150**

2.2 Bihar

In Bihar, the districts of Kishanganj and Katihar are located in the eastern part of the state bordering West Bengal in the East and Jharkhand towards the South. The area has poor human development index with literacy rate as low as 55.46 % in Kishanganj and 52.24 % in Katihar (source: Census 2011). Agriculture is the mainstay of the region with high cropping intensity. Extensive sowing of summer paddy, maize and standing crop of rabi wheat and maize was majorly observed during the survey. The high prevalence of poverty was reasoned out due to feudal land ownership pattern wherein the large chunk of respondents was found to be part time agriculture labours.

Figure 3: Bihar District Map

2.3 Jharkhand

In Jharkhand the two districts under observation namely Ranchi and Pakur constitute the centre and periphery region of the state respectively. Ranchi is known for high literacy rate which stands at 76.06% (source: Census 2011). As per the secondary data enrolment rate is over 95% for the primary education in schools of Jharkhand. In 2011, the state adopted 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act' to encourage the education among children up to the age of 14 years. The Government has started an online fund transfer facility, which aims to benefit around 4 lakh students who belong to Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Other backward classes and minor communities.

The field study area in Jharkhand i.e. Irba is an urban fringe of Ranchi with major part of the respondent population found to be engaged in service sector which appeared to be severely affected due to COVID 19. Pakur on the contrary has literacy rate of 48.82% (source: Census 2011) which happens to be the lowest in all the eight districts under study. The twin situation of degraded landscape and low agriculture productivity has built up of one of the poorest human development scenario in the state marked by a very high rate of migration form Pakur district.

Figure 4 : Jharkhand District Map

2.4 Tripura

In Tripura the two selected districts namely West Tripura and Sipahijhala have one of the highest literacy rate in the country. Literacy rate of West Tripura District is 91.07 % whereas it is 84.68 % for Bishalgarh (source: Census 2011). Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rajya Mission, Tripura has taken a new initiative named Project-14 programme on pilot project basis for selected 14 Govt. English Medium Schools from all districts for enhancement of English education. Sex ratio is 970.

The population consists of mainly non-tribal population which is 78% (source: https://westtripura.nic.in) of the District Population. Remaining Population mostly consist of Tribal Communities mainly Tripuri, Chakma etc. Agriculture forms a primary sector of the economy of Tripura. More than 75% of the state's total workforce is dependent on agriculture for their subsistence.

Figure 5 : Tripura District Map

2.5 West Bengal

In West Bengal the two districts under study namely North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas constitute the urban periphery of metropolitan city of Kolkata. Literacy rate of North 24 Parganas is 84.06 % whereas it is 77.51% for South 24 Parganas (source: Census 2011). North 24 Parganas was observed to have optimal fishery development through utilization of abundant water bodies and dug out tanks. South 24 Parganas has one of the highest population density in the region with one of the poorest development index despite high prevalence of agriculture, industry and pisciculture simultaneously.
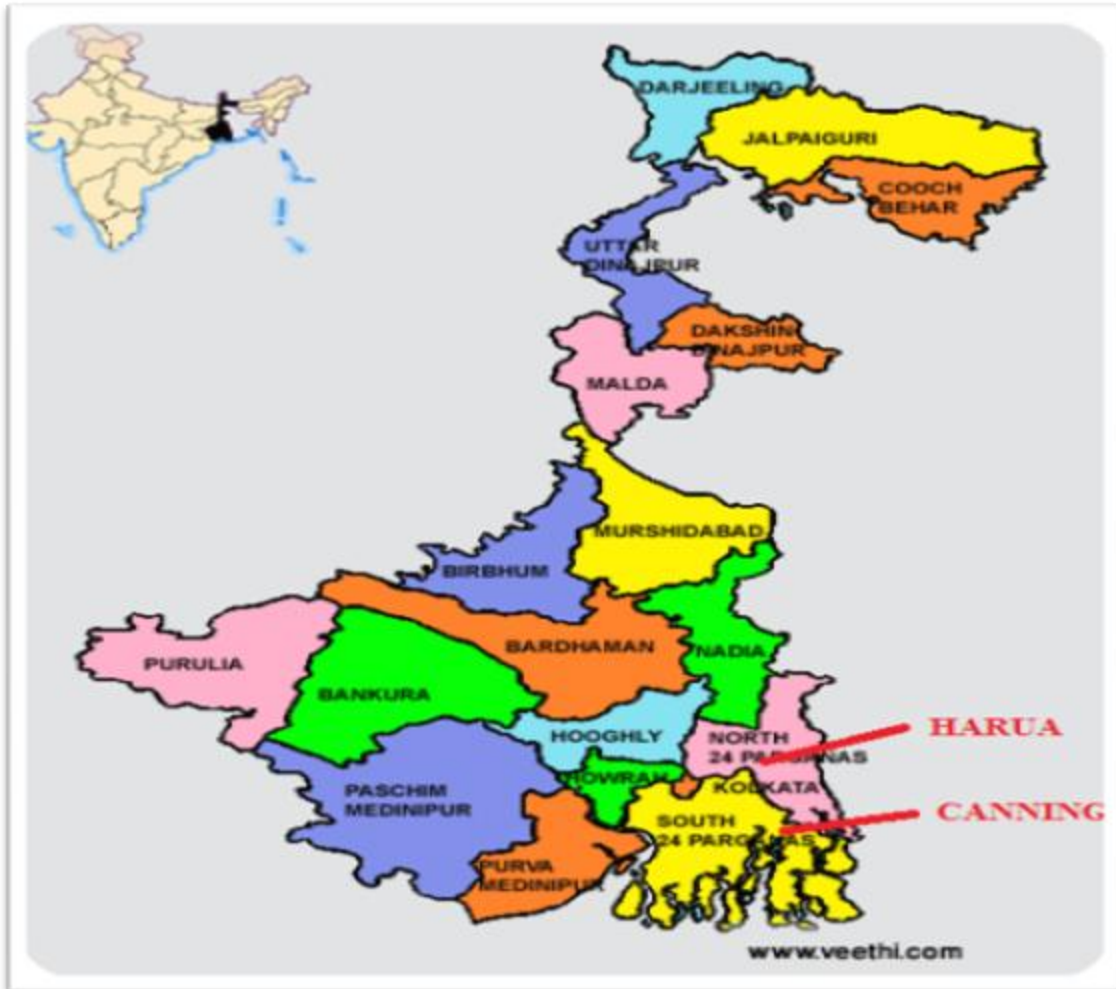
Figure 6 : West Bengal District Map

Chapter 3- Beneficiary Profile

Figure 7 : Survey Work in Katihar

The situational assessment study of the Education program focuses the children as the beneficiaries of the Program. The research tools were designed to capture responses of the children as students of the Education Program. However, keeping in mind the adherence to the Child Safeguarding Policy and ethical guidelines, it was preferred that maximum responses need to be collected from the Guardians/ Parents of the Child.

3.1 Relationship of the respondent with the student

Overall out of 1200 respondents 1090 i.e. 90.8 % were parents of the students whereas 110 i.e. 9.2% were local guardians of the students. Parents (99.7%) were the highest respondents in Bihar whereas they were lowest in Tripura (75.3%).

Table 3.1 Types of Respondents

Sl.No	State	Parents	Local Guardian
1	Bihar	299(99.7)	1(0.3)
2	Jharkhand	280(93.3)	20(6.7)
3	Tripura	226(75.3)	74(24.7)
4	West Bengal	285(95.0)	15(5.0)
Total		**1090(90.8)**	**110 (9.2)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

3.2 Religion and Caste wise distribution of the respondents

Table 3.2 Religion wise distribution of respondents in Bihar

State	District	Village	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Bihar	Katihar	Baluganj	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Manman	8(26.7)	22(73.3)	30(100)
		Mukuriya	2(6.7)	28(93.3)	30(100)
		Porla	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Raghunathpur	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Total	**40(26.7)**	**110(73.3)**	**150(100)**
	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Chakla-2	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Farshadang-1	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Kolha 1	5(16.7)	25(83.3)	30(100)
		Nuniyatoli-2	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Total	**35(23.3)**	**115(76.7)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**75(25.0)**	**225(75.0)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Table 3.3 Caste wise distribution of respondents in Bihar

State	District	Village	ST	SC	OBC	General	Total
Bihar	Katihar	Baluganj	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Manman	1(3.3)	0	29(96.7)	0	30(100)
		Mukuriya	0	2(6.7)	28(93.3)	0	30(100)
		Porla	0	6(20.0)	0	24(80.0)	30(100)
		Raghunathpur	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**1(0.7)**	**8(5.3)**	**117(78.0)**	**24(16.0)**	**150(100)**
	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Chakla-2	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Farshadang-1	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Kolha 1	0	0	25(83.3)	5(16.7)	30(100)
		Nuniyatoli-2	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**0**	**145(96.7)**	**5(3.3)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**1(0.3)**	**8(2.7)**	**262(87.3)**	**29(9.7)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

In Bihar, 75% of the beneficiaries hailed from Muslim community whereas remaining 25% belonged to Hindu community. An overwhelming majority (87.3%) of them belonged to OBC category followed by 9.7 % of the General category. A miniscule 2.7% also were from SC community whereas just one respondent belonged to ST category.

In Jharkhand, a sizable majority i.e. 94.7% of the beneficiaries hailed from Muslim community whereas remaining 5.3% belonged to Hindu community. Among them, majority (49.7.3%) of them residing in Pakur district belonged to General category followed by 48.3% in OBC category. A miniscule 1.3% also belonged to SC community whereas just two respondents hailed from ST category.

Table 3.4 Religion wise distribution of respondents in Jharkhand

State	District	Village	Hindu	Muslim	Total

		Hamrul	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	30(100)
		Nagarnebi	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Kacharipara	0	30(100)	30(100)
	Pakur	Sitapahari Madhya Para	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Paschim Para	0	30(100)	30(100)
Jharkhand		**Total**	**2(1.3)**	**148(98.7)**	**150(100)**
		Ansar Nagar	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Barwe	0	30(100)	30(100)
	Ranchi	Kamta	8(26.7)	22(73.3)	30(100)
		Karmatoli	6(20.0)	24(80.0)	30(100)
		Kute	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Total	**14(9.3)**	**136(90.7)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**16(5.3)**	**284(94.7)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Table 3.5 Caste wise distribution of respondents in Jharkhand

State	District	Village	ST	SC	OBC	General	Total
Jharkhand	Pakur	Hamrul	0	0	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Nagarnebi	0	0	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Kacharipara	0	0	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Madhya Para	0	1(3.3)	0	29(96.7)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Paschim Para	0	0	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**1(0.7)**	**0**	**149(99.3)**	**150(100)**
	Ranchi	Ansar Nagar	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Barwe	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Kamta	2(6.7)	3(10.0)	25(83.3)	0	30(100)
		Karmatoli	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Kute	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**2(1.3)**	**3(2.0)**	**145(96.7)**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**2(0.7)**	**4(1.3)**	**145(48.3)**	**149(49.7)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Table 3.6 Religion wise distribution of respondents in Tripura

State	District	Village	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Tripura	Sipahijala	Basantitila	30(100)	0	30(100)
		East Kasba	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Gazaria	26(86.7)	4(13.3)	30(100)
		Nabinagar 2	7(23.3)	23(76.7)	30(100)
		North Brajapur	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**123(82.0)**	**27(18.0)**	**150(100)**

	West Tripura	Nabinagar	19(70.4)	8(29.6)	27(100)
		Pekni Chara	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sachindra Nagar	33(100)	0	33(100)
		Samru Chara	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sonatala	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**142(94.7)**	**8(5.3)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**265(88.3)**	**35(11.7)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Table 3.7 Caste wise distribution of respondents in Tripura

State	District	Village	ST	SC	OBC	General	Total
Tripura	Sipahijala	Basantitila	0	4(13.3)	24(80.0)	2(6.7)	30(100)
		East Kasba	0	6(20.0)	9(30.0)	15(50.0)	30(100)
		Gazaria	0	26(86.7)	0	4(13.3)	30(100)
		Nabinagar 2	0	1(3.3)	3(10.0)	26(86.7)	30(100)
		North Brajapur	0	9(30.0)	15(50.0)	6(20.0)	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**46(30.7)**	**51(34.0)**	**53(35.3)**	**150(100)**
	West Tripura	Nabinagar	0	4(14.8)	14(51.9)	9(33.3)	27(100)
		Pekni Chara	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sachindra Nagar	0	3(9.1)	25(75.8)	5(15.2)	33(100)
		Samru Chara	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sonatala	1(3.3)	0	29(96.7)	0	30(100)
		Total	**1(0.7)**	**7(4.7)**	**128(85.3)**	**14(9.3)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**1(0.3)**	**53(17.7)**	**179(59.7)**	**67(22.3)**	**300(100)**

In Tripura, majority of the beneficiaries i.e. 88.3% hailed from Hindu community whereas remaining 11.7% belonged to Muslim community. A majority (59.7%) of them belonged to OBC category followed by 22.3 % of General category. A sizable 17.7% also were from SC community whereas just one respondent belonged to ST category.

Table 3.8 Religion wise distribution of respondents in West Bengal

State	District	Village	Hindu	Muslim	Total
West Bengal	N-24 Paragana	Dakschin Abjanagar	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Gorai Nagar	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Nasirhati	24(80.0)	6(20.0)	30(100)
		Paschim Goberiya	7(23.3)	23(76.7)	30(100)
		Samla	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Total	**31(20.7)**	**119(79.3)**	**150(100)**
	S-24 Paragana	Belekheli	3(10.0)	27(90.0)	30(100)
		Gazipara	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	30(100)
		Gopal Pur	10(33.3)	20(66.7)	30(100)
		Majhi Para	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Purwa Shivnagar	0	30(100)	30(100)
		Total	**14(9.3)**	**136(90.7)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**45(15.0)**	**255(85.0)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Table 3.9 Caste wise distribution of respondents in West Bengal

State	District	Village	ST	SC	OBC	General	Total
West Bengal	N-24 Paragana	Dakschin Abjanagar	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Gorai Nagar	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Nasirhati	24(80.0)	1(3.3)	5(16.7)	0	30(100)
		Paschim Goberiya	0	7(23.3)	23(76.7)	0	30(100)
		Samla	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**24(16.0)**	**8(5.3)**	**118(78.7)**	**0**	**150(100)**
	S-24 Paragana	Belekheli	0	3(10.0)	27(90.0)	0	30(100)
		Gazipara	0	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	0	30(100)
		Gopal Pur	0	10(33.3)	20(66.7)	0	30(100)
		Majhi Para	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Purwa Shivnagar	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**14(9.3)**	**136(90.7)**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**24(8.0)**	**22(7.3)**	**254(84.7)**	**0**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

In West Bengal, 85% of the beneficiaries hailed from Muslim community whereas remaining 15% belonged to Hindu community. An overwhelming majority (84.7%) of them belonged to OBC category followed by 7.3 % from SC category. Remaining 8.0 % were from ST category residing in N-24 Pargana district.

3.3 Occupation of the respondents

- In Bihar an overwhelming 89% of the respondents were found to be daily wage labours whereas remaining 11% reported agriculture as their primary livelihood.
- In Jharkhand 46% of the respondents were engaged in daily wage labour as their primary occupation whereas, a significant 20% of them were working as driver in Ranchi. This was followed by tailoring and painting as other major professions adopted by 4-5% of the population respectively.
- In Tripura 47% of the respondents were engaged in daily wage labour as their primary occupation whereas, about 8-10% of them were working as drivers in the nearby cities. This was followed by professions such as carpentry and other petty businesses.
- In West Bengal 47% of the respondents had agriculture as their primary occupation whereas a significant 17% of them were working as wage labour. Other major professions included mason, driving and tailoring adopted by 5% of the population each.

Chapter 4 - Beneficiary Status

Figure 8 : Survey Work in Pakur

4.1 Introduction

The situational assessment of students of the phased out batches of BEC was carried out through state wise measurement and analysis of the following variables namely- Age of the students, Gender ratio, Enrolment History, Category of Current Education Institution, Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC and Current Educational Status of the students.

4.2 Present Age analysis of the Students

Table 4.1 Age analysis of student in Bihar

State	Dist	Village	6-8	8-10	10-12	Above 12	Total
Bihar	Katihar	Baluganj	0	14(46.7)	12(40.0)	4(13.3)	30(100)
		Manman	0	15(50.0)	12(40.0)	3(10.0)	30(100)
		Mukuriya	0	12(40.0)	12(40.0)	6(20.0)	30(100)
		Porla	0	5(16.7)	19(63.3)	6(20.0)	30(100)
		Raghunathpur	0	11(36.7)	14(46.7)	5(16.7)	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**57(38.0)**	**69(46.0)**	**24(16.0)**	**150(100)**
	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	0	4(13.3)	24(80.0)	2(6.7)	30(100)
		Chakla-2	0	10(33.3)	18(60.0)	2(6.7)	30(100)
		Farshadang-1	0	16(53.3)	13(43.3)	1(3.3)	30(100)
		Kolha 1	0	15(50.0)	11(36.7)	4(13.3)	30(100)
		Nuniyatoli-2	1(3.3)	19(63.3)	10(33.3)	0	30(100)
		Total	**1(0.7)**	**64(42.7)**	**76(50.7)**	**9(6.0)**	**150(100)**
		Grand Total	**1(0.3)**	**121(40.3)**	**145(48.3)**	**33(11.0)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

In Bihar, about 48.3 % of the students belonged to the age group of 10-12 years whereas 40.3% of the students were between 8-10 years. 11.0 % of the students were found to be above 12 years whereas 0.3 % were also found to be hailing from 6-8 years age group.
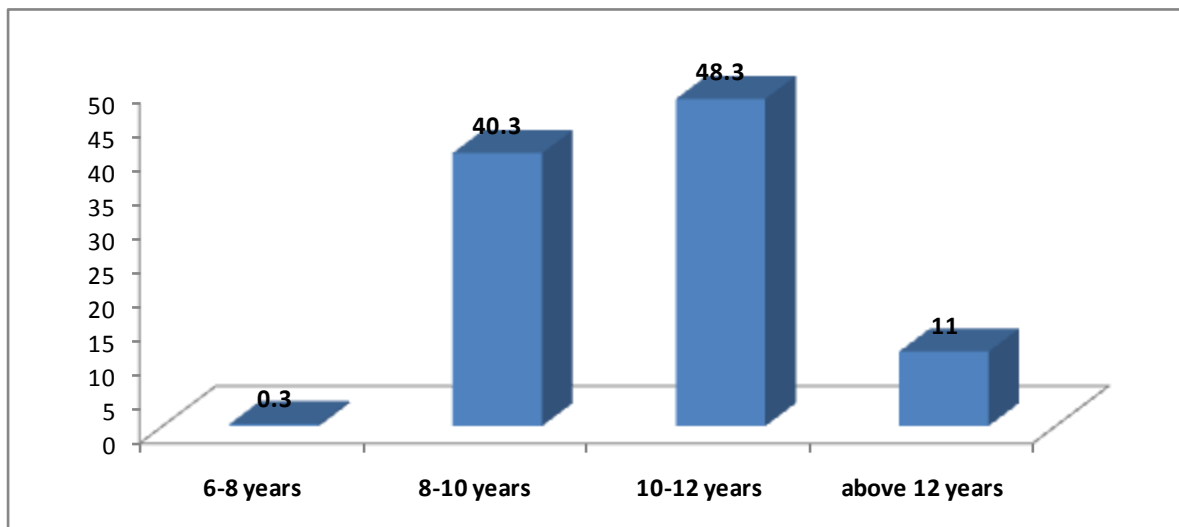
Figure 9 : Age analysis of student in Bihar

Table 4.2 Age analysis of Students in Jharkhand

State	District	Village	6-8	8-10	10-12	Above 12	Total
Jharkhand	Pakur	Hamrul	0	6(20.0)	21(70.0)	3(10.0)	30(100)
		Nagarnebi	0	13(43.3)	15(50.0)	2(6.7)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Kacharipara	0	11(36.7)	16(53.3)	3(10.0)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Madhya Para	0	10(33.3)	17(56.7)	3(10.0)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Paschim Para	0	2(6.7)	25(83.3)	3(10.0)	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**42(28.0)**	**94(62.7)**	**14(9.3)**	**150(100)**
	Ranchi	Ansar Nagar	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Barwe	0	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	0	30(100)
		Kamta	0	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	0	30(100)
		Karmatoli	0	0	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Kute	0	4(13.3)	23(76.7)	3(10)	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**6(4.0)**	**141(94.0)**	**3(2.0)**	**150(100)**
		Grand Total	**0**	**48(16.0)**	**235(78.3)**	**17(5.7)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

In Jharkhand about 78.3% of the students belonged to the age group of 10-12 years whereas 16 % percent of the students were between 8-10 years. 5.7 % of the students were found to be above 12 years whereas no children were found in the age group of 6-8 years.
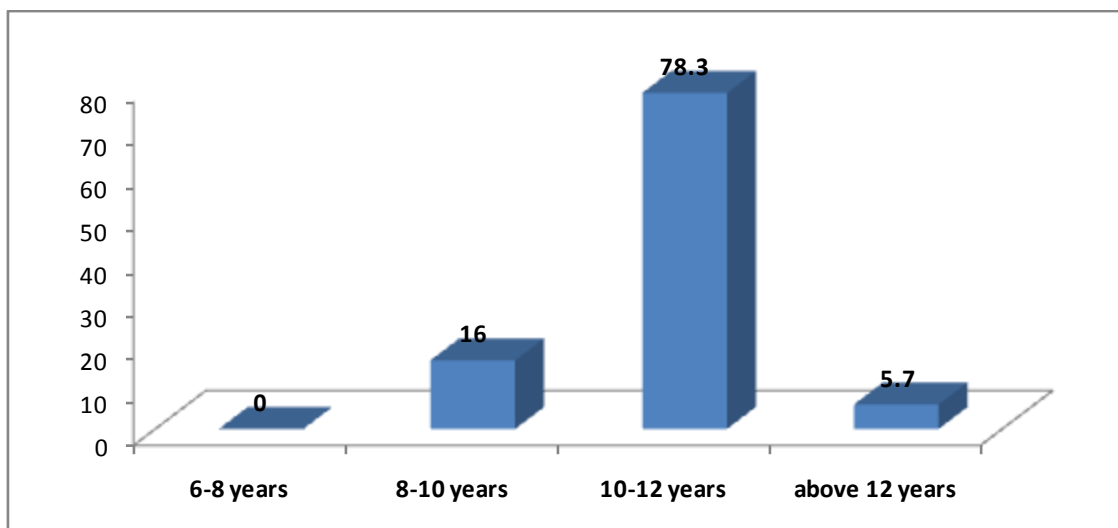
Figure 10 : **Age analysis of student in Jharkhand**

Table 4.3 Age analysis of student in Tripura

State	District	Village	6-8	8-10	10-12	Above 12	Total
Tripura	Sipahijala	Nabinagar	2(7.4)	12(44.4)	13(48.2)	0	27(100)
		East Kasaba	7(23.3)	16(53.3)	7(23.4)	0	30(100)
		Gazaria	8(26.6)	11(36.6)	11(36.6)	0	30(100)
		Nabinagar 2	3(10.0)	15(50.0)	12(40.0)	0	30(100)
		North Brajpur	3(10.0)	21(70.0)	6(20.0)	0	30(100)
		Total	**23(15.7)**	**75(51.0)**	**49(33.3)**	**0**	**147(100)**
	West Tripura	Basantitila	10(33.3)	16(53.3)	4(13.3)	0	30(100)
		Pekhi Chora	6(20.0)	10(33.3)	11(36.6)	3(10.0)	30(100)
		Sachingra Nagar	9(27.2)	12(36.3)	11(33.3)	1(3.0)	33(100)
		Samru Chara	2(6.6)	17(56.6)	9(30.0)	2(6.6)	30(100)
		Sonatala	12(40.0)	9(30.0)	8(26.6)	1(3.3)	30(100)
		Total	**39(25.4)**	**64(41.8)**	**43(28.1)**	**7(4.5)**	**153(100)**
Grand Total			**62(20.6)**	**139(46.3)**	**92(30.6)**	**7(4.5)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage
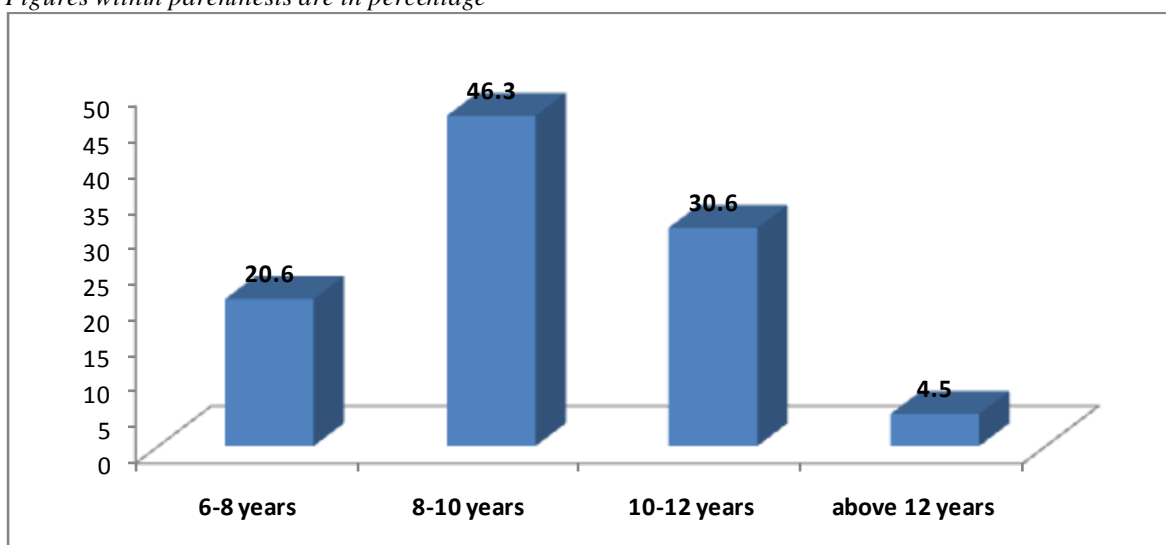
Figure 11: Age analysis of student in Tripura

In Tripura about 46.3 % of the students belonged to the age group of 8-10 years, 20.6 % were between 6-8 years, 30.6 % aged between 10-12 years and 4.5 % were aged above 12 years.

Table 4.4 Age analysis of student in West Bengal

State	Dist	Village	6-8	8-10	10-12	Above 12	Total
West Bengal	N-24 Paragana	Dakschin Abjanagar	0	17(56.7)	13(43.3)	0	30(100)
		Gorai Nagar	0	21(70.0)	9(30.0)	0	30(100)
		Nasirhati	1(3.3)	17(56.7)	12(40.0)	0	30(100)
		Paschim Goberiya	0	22(73.3)	8(26.7)	0	30(100)
		Samla	0	17(56.7)	13(43.3)	0	30(100)
		Total	**1(0.7)**	**94(62.7)**	**55(36.7)**	**0**	**150(100)**
	S-24 Paragana	Belekheli	0	24(80.0)	6(20.0)	0	30(100)
		Gazipara	0	29(96.7)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Gopal Pur	0	28(93.3)	2(6.7)	0	30(100)
		Majhi Para	0	25(83.3)	5(16.7)	0	30(100)
		Purwa Shivnagar	0	26(86.7)	4(13.3)	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**132(88.0)**	**18(12.0)**	**0**	**150(100)**
		Grand Total	**1(0.3)**	**226(75.3)**	**73(24.3)**	**0**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage
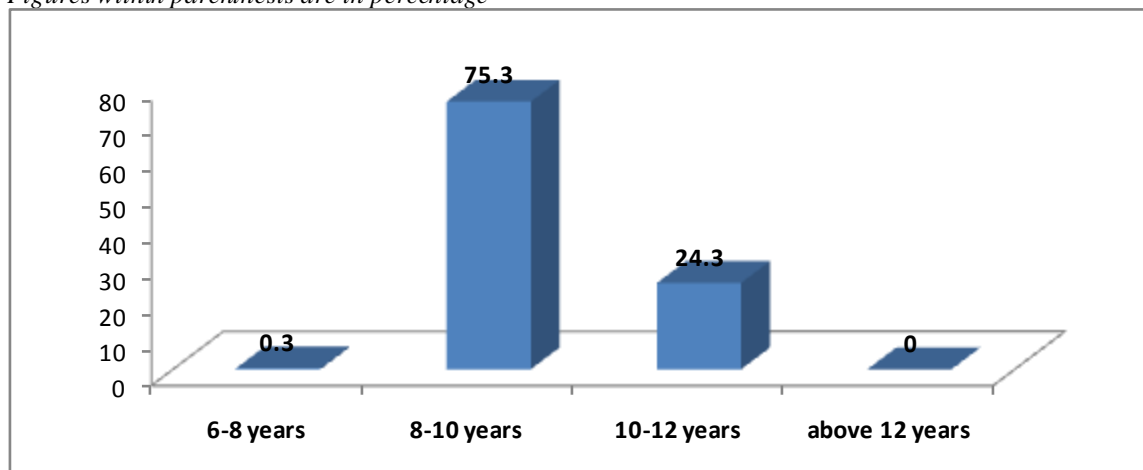
Figure 12: Age analysis of student in West Bengal

In West Bengal about 75.3 % of the students belonged to the age group of 8-10 years whereas 24.3 % percent of the students were between 10-12 years. 0.3 % of the students were found to be hailing from 6-8 age group whereas none were also found to be above 12 years.

4.3 Gender Profile of the beneficiaries

In branches of Kishanganj and Barsoi, Bihar the number of females as against male student has been considerably high. In seven out of total 10 centres the number of female child was higher than the number of male students wherein at five centres namely Mukuria, Porla, Belwa 1, Chakla 2 and Kolha 1 the number of female child was twice more than the number of male students. Overall in Bihar the female male student ratio was found to be 1.52: 1.

Table 4.5 Sex of student in Bihar

State	District	Village	Male	Female	Total
Bihar	Katihar	Baluganj	14(46.7)	16(53.3)	30(100)
		Manman	16(53.3)	14(46.7)	30(100)
		Mukuriya	10(33.3)	20(66.7)	30(100)
		Porla	10(33.3)	20(66.7)	30(100)

		Raghunathpur	12(40.0)	18(60.0)	30(100)
		Total	**62(41.3)**	**88(58.7)**	**150(100)**
	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	8(26.7)	22(73.3)	30(100)
		Chakla-2	9(30.0)	21(70.0)	30(100)
		Farshadang-1	15(50.0)	15(50.0)	30(100)
		Kolha 1	10(33.3)	20(66.7)	30(100)
		Nuniyatoli-2	15(50.0)	15(50.0)	30(100)
		Total	**57(38.0)**	**93(62.0)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**119(39.7)**	**181(60.3)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Table 4.6 Sex of student in Jharkhand

State	District	Village	Male	Female	Total
Jharkhand	Pakur	Hamrul	14(46.7)	16(53.3)	30(100)
		Nagarnebi	13(43.3)	17(56.7)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Kacharipara	16(53.3)	14(46.7)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Madhya Para	8(26.7)	22(73.3)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Paschim Para	15(50.0)	15(50.0)	30(100)
		Total	**66(44.0)**	**84(56.0)**	**150(100)**
	Ranchi	Ansar Nagar	15(50.0)	15(50.0)	30(100)
		Barwe	7(23.3)	23(76.7)	30(100)
		Kamta	9(30.0)	21(70.0)	30(100)
		Karmatoli	11(36.7)	19(63.3)	30(100)
		Kute	15(50.0)	15(50.0)	30(100)
		Total	**57(38.0)**	**93(62.0)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**123(41.0)**	**177(59.0)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

In Jharkhand, the total number of female students was found to be higher than the total number of male student in both Ranchi and Pakur districts. In seven out of total 10 sampled centres the number of female child was higher than the number of male students wherein at three centres namely Sitapahari Madhya Para, Barwe and Kamta the number of female child was more than twice the number of male students. Overall in sample locations of Jharkhand, the female male student ratio was found to be 1.43:1.

Table 4.7 Sex of student in Tripura

State	District	Village	Male	Female	Total
Tripura	Sipahijala	Basantitila	16(53.3)	14(46.7)	30(100)
		East Kasba	16(53.3)	14(46.7)	30(100)
		Gazaria	13(43.3)	17(56.7)	30(100)
		Nabinagar 2	11(36.7)	19(63.3)	30(100)
		North Brajapur	16(53.3)	14(46.7)	30(100)
		Total	**72(48.0)**	**78(52.0)**	**150(100)**
	West Tripura	Nabinagar	10(37.0)	17(63.0)	27(100)
		Pekni Chara	11(36.7)	19(63.3)	30(100)

		Sachindra Nagar	9(27.3)	24(72.7)	33(100)
		Samru Chara	14(46.7)	16(53.3)	30(100)
		Sonatala	19(63.3)	11(36.7)	30(100)
		Total	**63(42.0)**	**87(58.0)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**135(45.0)**	**165(55.0)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

A similar trend was observed in West Tripura and Sipahijhala districts in Tripura where the total number of female students was found to be higher than the total number of male student. In six BEC, the number of female child was higher than the number of male students wherein at Sachindra Nagar in West Tripura the number of female child was more than twice the number of male students. Overall in sample locations of Tripura, the female male student ratio was found to be 1.22: 1.

Table 4.8 Sex of student in West Bengal

State	District	Village	Male	Female	Total
West Bengal	N-24 Paragana	Dakschin Abjanagar	15(50.0)	15(50.0)	30(100)
		Gorai Nagar	16(53.3)	14(46.7)	30(100)
		Nasirhati	13(43.3)	17(56.7)	30(100)
		Paschim Goberiya	11(36.7)	19(63.3)	30(100)
		Samla	18(60.0)	12(40.0)	30(100)
		Total	**73(48.7)**	**77(51.3)**	**150(100)**
	S-24 Paragana	Belekheli	19(63.3)	11(36.7)	30(100)
		Gazipara	12(40.0)	18(60.0)	30(100)
		Gopal Pur	23(76.7)	7(23.3)	30(100)
		Majhi Para	20(66.7)	10(33.3)	30(100)
		Purwa Shivnagar	23(76.7)	7(23.3)	30(100)
		Total	**97(64.7)**	**53(35.3)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**170(56.7)**	**130(43.3)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

In N-24 Paragana district of West Bengal the total number of female students was found to be higher than the total number of male student whereas in S-24 Paragana the total number of female students was found to be less than the total number of male students.

In only three BEC, the number of female child was higher than the number of male students wherein at three centers namely Gopal Pur, Majhi Para and Purwa Shiv Nagar in S-24 Pargana the number of male child surpassed more than twice the number of female students. Overall in West Bengal the female male student ratio was found to be 0.76: 1.

4.4 Enrolment History

In Bihar and Jharkhand all students were enrolled in the BEC in 2015 and in West Bengal and Tripura students were enrolled in 2016 as the programme was rolled out separately in the respective states.

4.5 Category of Current Education Institution

Table 4.9 Category of Current Education Institution in Bihar

State	Dist	Village	Govt.School	Pvt.School	Total
Bihar	Katihar	Baluganj	28(93.3)	2(6.7)	30(100)
		Manman	30(100)	0	30(100)

State	Dist	Village	Govt.School	Pvt.School	Total
		Mukuriya	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Porla	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Raghunathpur	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**148(98.7)**	**2(1.3)**	**150(100)**
	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Chakla-2	28(93.3)	2(6.7)	30(100)
		Farshadang-1	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Kolha 1	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Nuniyatoli-2	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**148(98.7)**	**2(1.3)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**296(98.7)**	**4(1.3)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Figure 13 : Category of Current Education Institution in Bihar

In Bihar a vast majority of 98.7% of the students got enrolled in Government schools whereas only 1.3% of the BEC students joined private schools after completion of the course curriculum.

Table 4.10 Category of Education Institution in Jharkhand

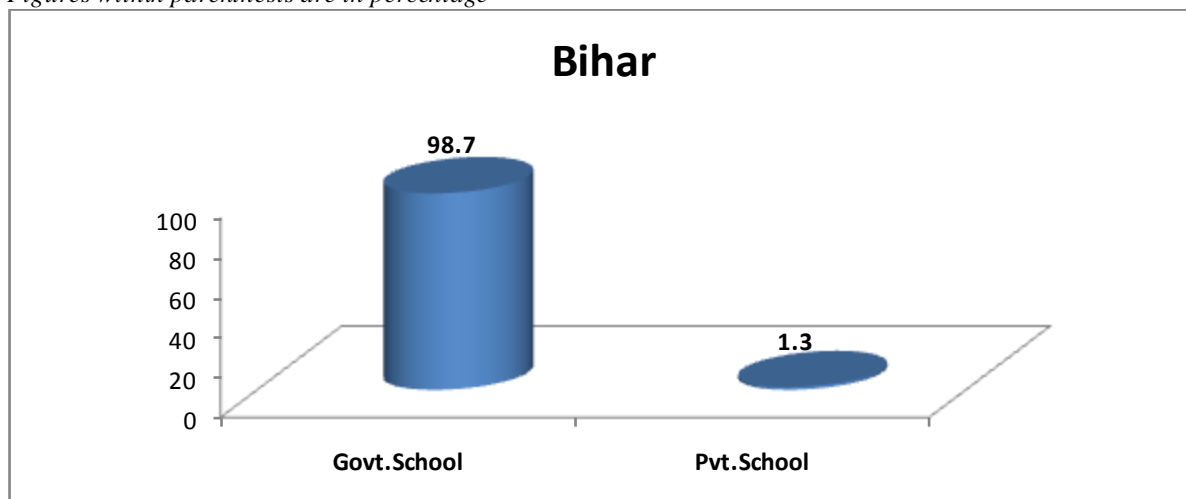| State	Dist	Village	Govt.School	Pvt.School	Total
Jharkhand	Pakur	Hamrul	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Nagarnebi	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sitapahari Kacharipara	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sitapahari Madhya Para	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sitapahari Paschim Para	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**150(100)**	**0**	**150(100)**
	Ranchi	Ansar Nagar	2(6.7)	28(93.3)	30(100)
		Barwe	27(90.0)	3(10.0)	30(100)
		Kamta	18(60.0)	12(40.0)	30(100)
		Karmatoli	4(13.3)	26(86.7)	30(100)
		Kute	13(43.3)	17(56.7)	30(100)
		Total	**64(42.7)**	**86(57.3)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**214(71.3)**	**86(28.7)**	**300(100)**

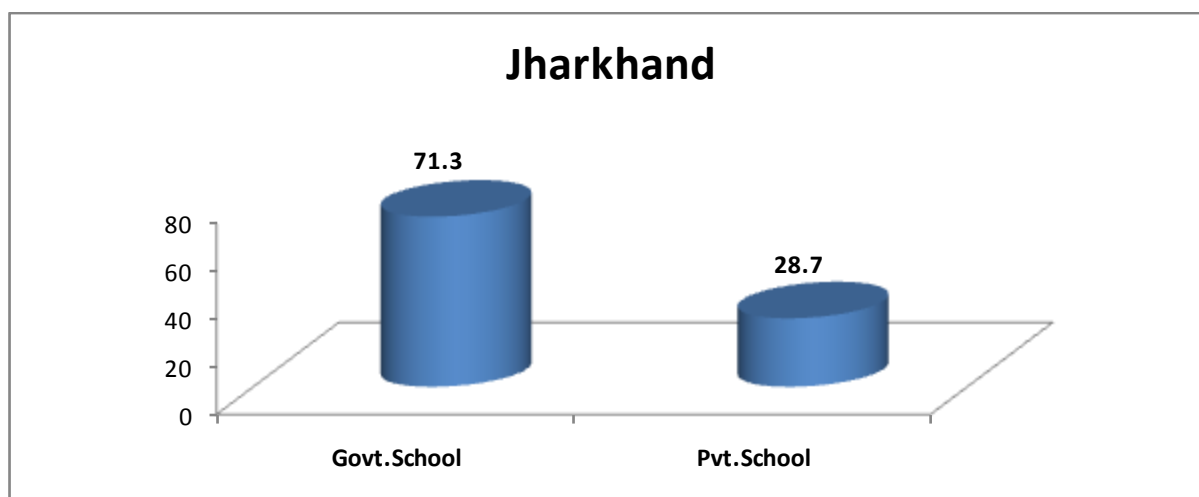*Figures within parenthesis are in percentage*

Figure 14 : Category of Current Education Institution in Jharkhand

In Jharkhand about 71.3% of the students got enrolled in Government schools whereas 28.7% of the BEC students were found to have joined private schools after completion of BEC course curriculum. A district level analysis shows greater preference for private schooling (57.3%) at Ranchi as compared to government schooling (42.7%). This may be attributed to transformation in education scenario due to rising income and diversification of opportunities generally observed in urban sprawl of capital cities like Ranchi.

However in the distant north Pakur district, none of the students assessed were found to be enrolled in Private school highlighting the stark contrast in educational opportunities between centre and peripheral regions within a state. The discussions with some parents clearly outlined the high cost private education system often proving to be beyond their reach.

Table 4.11 Category of Education Institution in Tripura

State	Dist	Village	Govt.School	Pvt.School	Total
Tripura	Sipahijala	Basantitila	29(96.7)	1(3.3)	30(100)
		East Kasba	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Gazaria	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Nabinagar 2	30(100)	0	30(100)
		North Brajapur	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**149(99.3)**	**1(0.7)**	**150(100)**
	West Tripura	Nabinagar	27(100)	0	27(100)
		Pekni Chara	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sachindra Nagar	33(100)	0	33(100)
		Samru Chara	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Sonatala	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**150(100)**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**399(99.7)**	**1(0.3)**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage
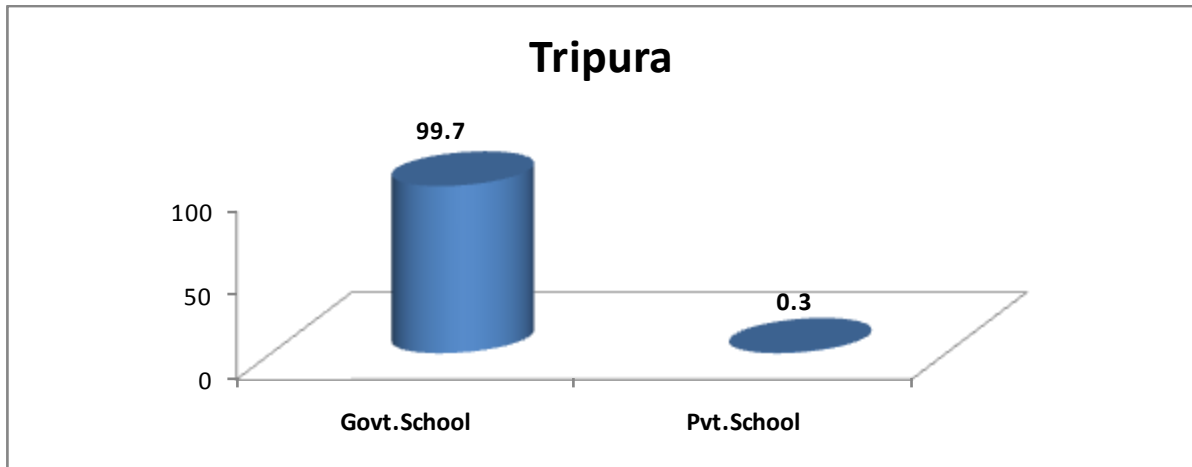
Figure 15 : Category of Current Education Institution in Tripura

In Tripura majority (99.7%) of the students got enrolled in Government schools whereas just one BEC student (0.3%) from Sipahijhala joined private schools after completion of course curriculum.

Table 4.12 Category of Education Institution in West Bengal

State	Dist	Village	Govt.School	Pvt.School	Total
West Bengal	N-24 Paragana	Dakschin Abjanagar	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Gorai Nagar	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Nasirhati	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Paschim Goberiya	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Samla	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**150(100)**	**0**	**150(100)**
	S-24 Paragana	Belekheli	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Gazipara	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Gopal Pur	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Majhi Para	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Purwa Shivnagar	30(100)	0	30(100)
		Total	**150(100)**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**300(100)**	**0**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Figure 16 : Category of Current Education Institution in West Bengal

4.6 Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC

Table 4.13 Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in Bihar

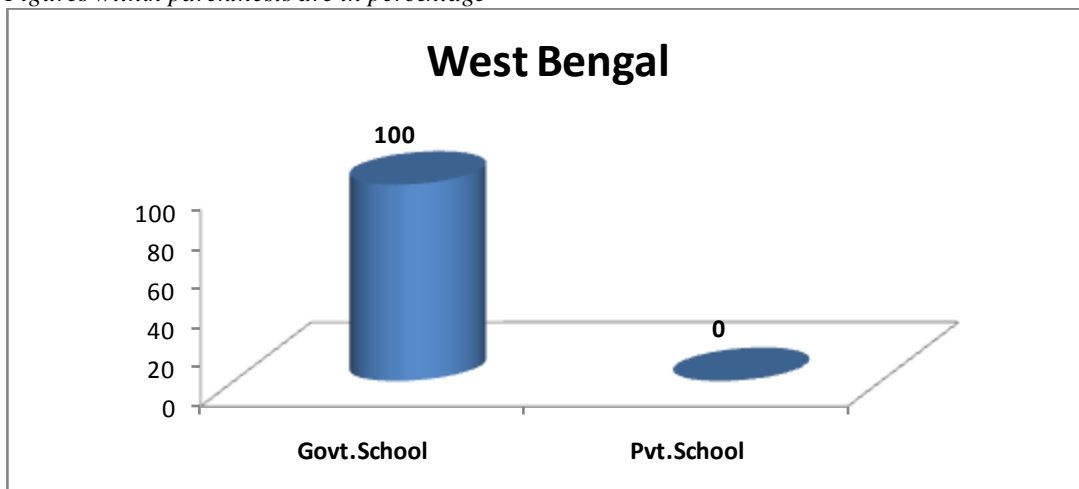| State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Total
Bihar	Katihar	Baluganj	0	0	2(6.7)	26(86.7)	2(6.7)	0	30(100)
		Manman	0	0	3(10.0)	17(56.7)	10(33.3)	0	30(100)
		Mukuriya	0	0	14(46.7)	8(26.7)	8(26.7)	0	30(100)
		Porla	0	0	18(60.0)	10(33.3)	2(6.7)	0	30(100)
		Raghunathpur	0	0	4(13.3)	18(60.0)	8(26.7)	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**0**	**41(27.3)**	**79(52.7)**	**30(20.0)**	**0**	**150(100)**
	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	0	0	9(30.0)	20(66.7)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Chakla-2	0	2(6.7)	18(60.0)	9(30.0)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Farshadang-1	0	0	18(60.0)	12(40.0)	0	0	30(100)
		Kolha 1	0	2(6.7)	13(43.3)	14(46.7)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Nuniyatoli-2	0	0	23(76.7)	7(23.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**4(2.7)**	**81(54.0)**	**62(41.3)**	**3(2.0)**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**0**	**4(1.3)**	**122(40.7)**	**141(47.0)**	**33(11.0)**	**0**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Figure 17 : Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in Bihar

In Bihar, a maximum of 47% of the students got enrolled in class IV whereas 40.7% got enrolled in class III immediately after completion of their course at BEC. This was reasoned out due to age criteria for admission in government schools by the respondents. About 11% got enrolled in class V whereas only 1.3% was also found to be enrolled in Class II which was below their standard at BEC at that stage.

Table 4.14 Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in Jharkhand

State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Total
Jharkhand	Pakur	Hamrul	0	0	0	27(90.0)	3(10.0)	0	30(100)
		Nagarnebi	0	1(3.3)	0	26(86.7)	2(6.7)	1(3.3)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Kacharipara	0	0	0	26(86.7)	4(13.3)	0	30(100)
		Sitapahari Madhya Para	0	0	0	23(76.7)	6(20.0)	1(3.3)	30(100)
		Sitapahari Paschim Para	0	0	1(3.3)	25(83.3)	4(13.3)	0	30(100)

		Total	**0**	**1 (0.7)**	**1 (0.7)**	**127 (84.7)**	**19 (12.7)**	**2 (1.3)**	**150 (100)**
	Ranchi	Ansar Nagar	17 (56.7)	4(13.3)	5(16.7)	1(3.3)	2(6.7)	1(3.3)	30(100)
		Barwe	3 (10.0)	0	5(16.7)	18(60.0)	4(13.3)	0	30(100)
		Kamta	9 (30.0)	2(6.7)	3(10.0)	14(46.7)	2(6.7)	0	30(100)
		Karmatoli	24 (80.0)	0	3(10.0)	3(10.0)	0	0	30(100)
		Kute	14 (46.7)	2(6.7)	5(16.7)	7(23.3)	2(6.7)	0	30(100)
		Total	**67 (44.7)**	**8(5.3)**	**21(14.0)**	**43(28.7)**	**10(6.7)**	**1(0.7)**	**150 (100)**
Grand Total			**67 (22.3)**	**9(3.0)**	**22(7.3)**	**170 (56.7)**	**29(9.7)**	**3(1.0)**	**300 (100)**

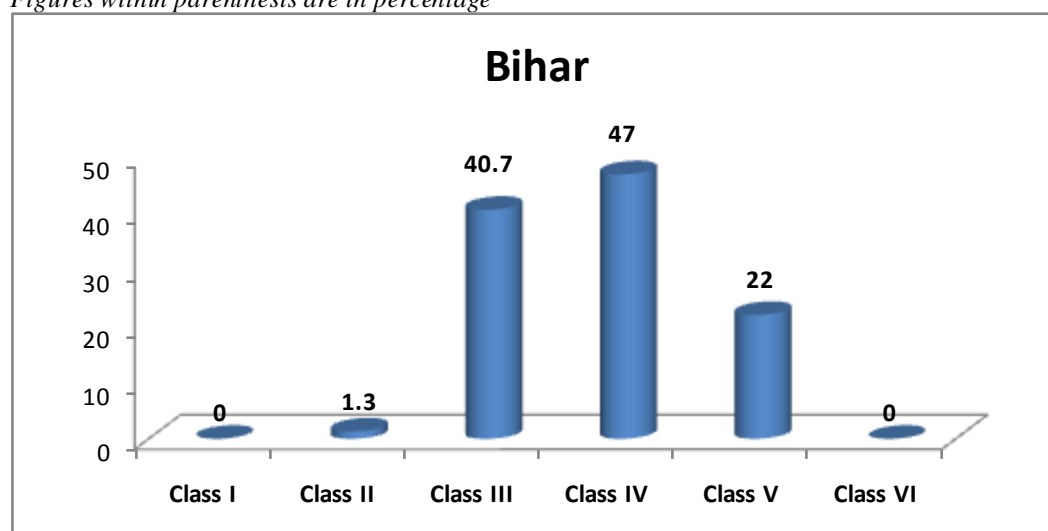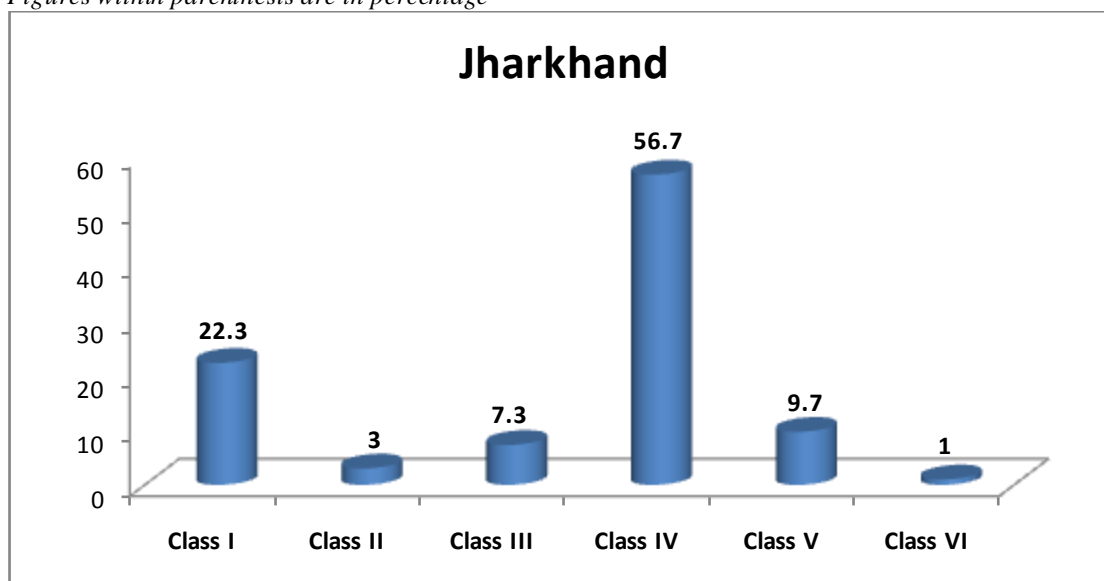*Figures within parenthesis are in percentage*

Figure 18 : Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in Jharkhand

In Jharkhand, a maximum of 56.7% of the students got enrolled in Class IV whereas 7.3% got enrolled in Class III and about 3% got enrolled in Class II immediately after completion of their course at BEC. It was also reported that 22.3% of students was also found to be enrolled in Class I which was below their standard at BEC as according to the Parents, as per admission rules, it was mandatory for new entrants to be enrolled in the lower section of the respective schools. About 9.7% of the students jumped into Class V whereas three students (1.0%) also got enrolled in Class VI.

Table 4.15 Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in Tripura

State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Total
Tripura	Sipahijala	Basantitila	7(23.3)	10(33.3)	11(36.7)	2(6.7)	0	0	30(100)
		East Kasba	8(26.7)	11(36.7)	9(30.0)	2(6.7)	0	0	30(100)
		Gazaria	5(16.7)	5(16.7)	8(26.7)	12(40.0)	0	0	30(100)
		Nabinagar 2	1(3.3)	9(30.0)	6(20.0)	14(46.7)	0	0	30(100)
		North Brajapur	3(10.0)	2(6.7)	12(40.0)	12(40.0)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Total	**24(16.0)**	**37(24.7)**	**46(30.7)**	**42(28.0)**	**1(0.7)**	**0**	**150(100)**
	West	Nabinagar	0	8(29.6)	6(22.2)	13(48.1)	0	0	27(100)

State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Total
Tripura		Pekni Chara	7(23.3)	5(16.7)	5(16.7)	13(43.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Sachindra Nagar	7(21.2)	8(24.2)	11(33.3)	7(21.2)	0	0	33(100)
		Samru Chara	2(6.7)	2(6.7)	13(43.3)	13(43.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Sonatala	10(33.3)	8(26.7)	5(16.7)	6(20.0)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Total	**26(17.3)**	**31(20.7)**	**40(26.7)**	**52(34.7)**	**1(0.7)**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**50(16.7)**	**68(22.7)**	**86(28.7)**	**94(31.3)**	**2(0.7)**	**0**	**300(100)**

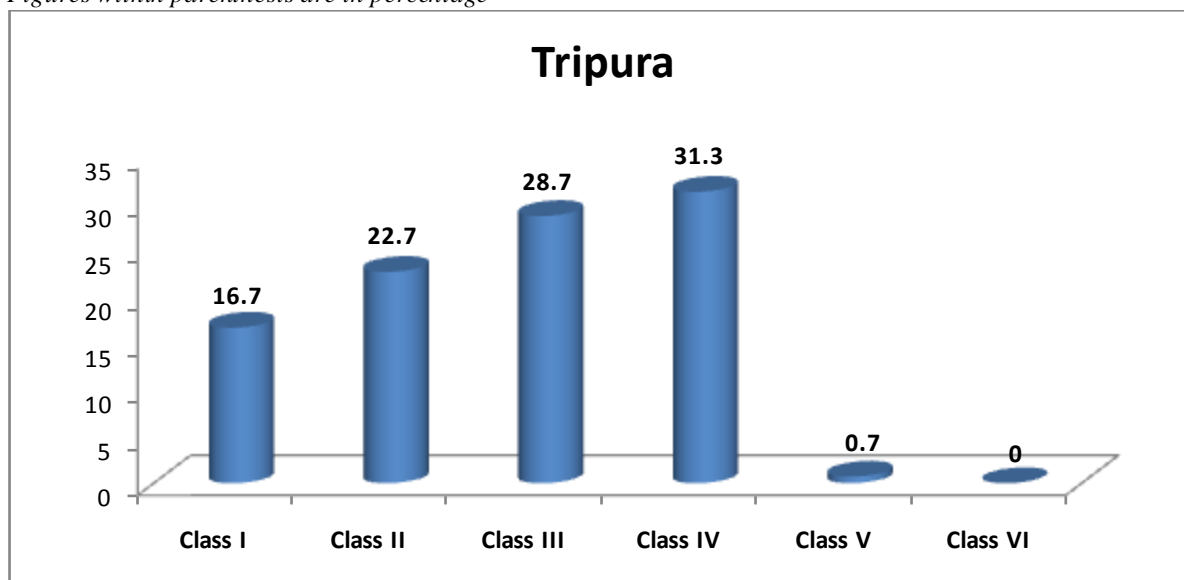*Figures within parenthesis are in percentage*

Figure 19 : Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in Tripura

In Tripura, a highest of 31.3 % of the students got enrolled in Class IV whereas 28.7% got enrolled in class III immediately after completion of their course at BEC. About 22.7 % got enrolled in class II whereas 16.7% were also found to be enrolled in class I which was below their standard at BEC at that stage. This was figured out in discussion with parents primarily due to age criteria for admission in formal schools which was not fulfilled by their wards followed by higher standards for English language demanded by formal schools in few cases. Two students were also found to get admission in 2 classes higher grade i.e. Class V.

Table 4.16 Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in West Bengal

State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Total
West Bengal	N-24 Paragana	Dakschin Abjanagar	0	0	0	20(66.7)	10(33.3)	0	30(100)
		Gorai Nagar	0	0	0	23(76.7)	7(23.3)	0	30(100)
		Nasirhati	0	0	3(10.0)	25(83.3)	2(6.7)	0	30(100)
		Paschim Goberiya	0	0	0	29(96.7)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Samla	0	0	0	25(83.3)	5(16.7)	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**0**	**3(2.0)**	**122(81.3)**	**25(16.7)**	**0**	**150(100)**
	S-24 Paragana	Belekheli	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	30(100)
		Gazipara	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	30(100)
		Gopal Pur	0	0	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	0	0	30(100)
		Majhi Para	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	30(100)
		Purwa	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	30(100)

		Shivnagar							
		Total	**0**	**0**	**1(0.7)**	**149(99.3)**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**0**	**0**	**4(1.3)**	**271(90.3)**	**25(8.3)**	**0**	**300(100)**

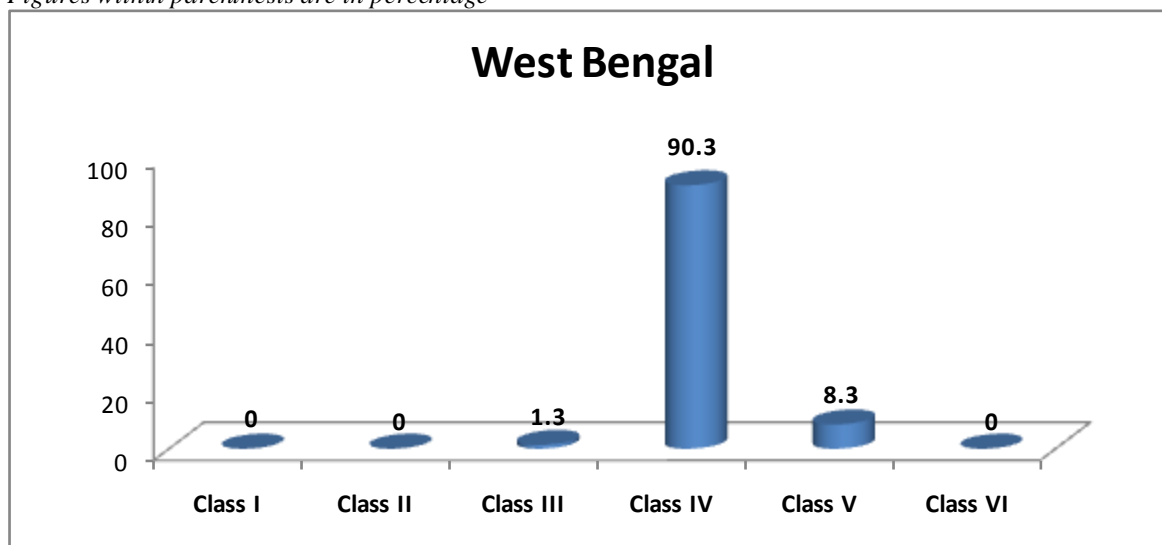*Figures within parenthesis are in percentage*

West Bengal

Figure 20 : Class of enrolment in formal education after BEC in West Bengal

In West Bengal an overwhelming majority of 90.3 % of the students got enrolled in Class IV whereas 1.3 % got enrolled in class III immediately after completion of their course at BEC. About 8.3 % got enrolled in class V which was two grades higher than their standard at BEC at the time of completion of the course.

4.7 Current Educational Status of the students

The current status of the educational qualification was assessed through mapping of current stage of enrolment of the students in Private or Government formal schools. It is significant to note that all of the student of phased out batches were found to be enrolled in either Private or Government formal school after completion of four years curriculum at respective BEC.

Table 4.17   Current Enrolment Status in Bihar

State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Class VII	Class VIII	Total
Bihar	Katihar	Baluganj	0	0	2(6.7)	0	26(86.7)	2(6.7)	0	0	30(100)
		Manman	0	0	3(10.0)	0	18(60.0)	9(30.0)	0	0	30(100)
		Mukuriya	0	0	6(20.0)	8(26.7)	8(26.7)	8(26.7)	0	0	30(100)
		Porla	0	0	2(6.7)	15(50.0)	11(36.7)	2(6.7)	0	0	30(100)
		Raghunathpur	0	0	0	4(13.3)	18(60.0)	8(26.7)	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**0**	**13(8.7)**	**27(18.0)**	**81(54.0)**	**29(19.3)**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
	Kishanganj	Belwa-1	0	0	0	11(36.7)	18(60.0)	1(3.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Chakla-2	0	1(3.3)	2(6.7)	19(63.3)	7(23.3)	1(3.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Farshadang-1	0	0	0	20(66.7)	10(33.3)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Kolha 1	0	0	2(6.7)	13(43.3)	14(46.7)	1(3.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Nuniyatoli-2	0	0	1(3.3)	26(86.7)	3(10.0)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**1(0.7)**	**5(3.3)**	**89(59.3)**	**52(34.7)**	**3(2.0)**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**0**	**1(0.3)**	**18(6.0)**	**116(38.7)**	**133(44.3)**	**32(10.7)**	**0**	**0**	**300(100)**

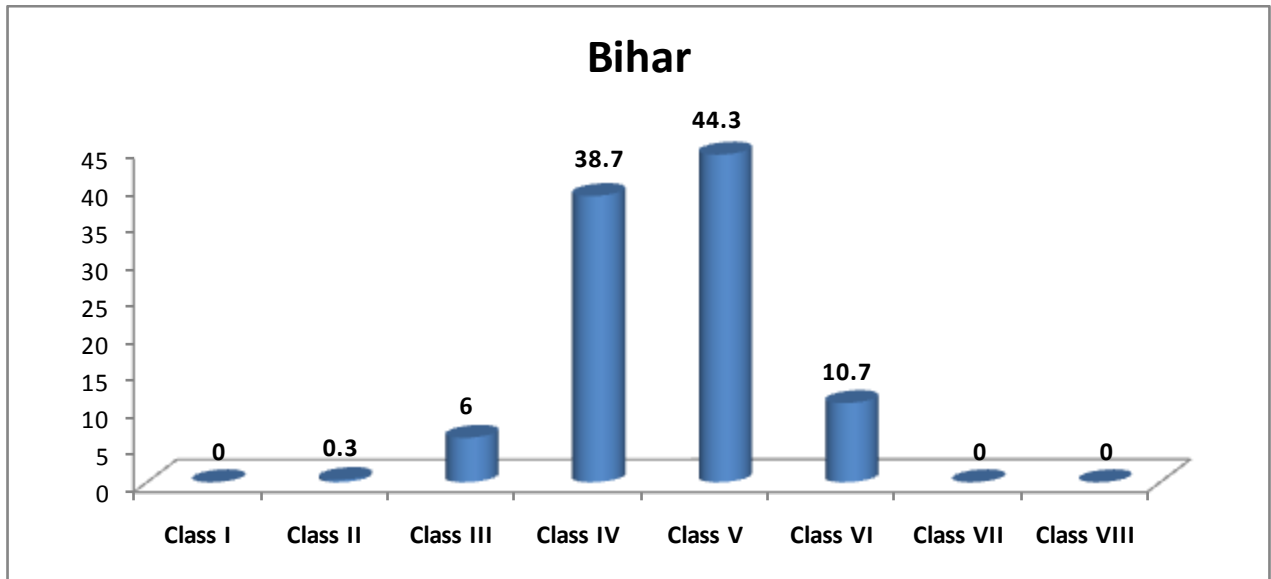*Figures within parenthesis are in percentage*

Figure 21 : Current Enrolment Status in Bihar

In Bihar under primary section a maximum of 44.3 % of the students were found to be enrolled in class V whereas 38.7% were found to be enrolled in class IV. About 6% were enrolled in class III whereas one student was also found to be enrolled in class II. About 10.7 % of the students were also found to be enrolled in class VI i.e. secondary section.

Table 4.18 Current Enrolment Status in Jharkhand

State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Class VII	Class VIII	Total
Jharkhand	Pakur	Hamrul	0	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Nagarnebi	0	0	0	3(10.0)	27(90.0)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Sitapahari Kacharipara	0	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Sitapahari Madhya Para	0	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Sitapahari Paschim Para	0	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3(2.0)**	**147(98.0)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
	Ranchi	Ansar Nagar	9(30.0)	7(23.3)	4(13.3)	6(20.0)	1(3.3)	3(10.0)	0	0	30(100)
		Barwe	2(6.7)	0	3(10.0)	6(20.0)	13(43.3)	5(16.7)	1(3.3)	0	30(100)
		Kamta	2(6.7)	2(6.7)	3(10.0)	13(43.3)	8(26.7)	2(6.7)	0	0	30(100)
		Karmatoli	21(70.0)	3(10.0)	2(6.7)	3(10.0)	1(3.3)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Kute	2(6.7)	6(20.0)	3(10.0)	4(13.3)	5(16.7)	2(6.7)	6(20.0)	2(6.7)	30(100)
		Total	**36(24.0)**	**18(12.0)**	**15(10.0)**	**32(21.3)**	**28(18.7)**	**12(8.0)**	**7(4.7)**	**2(1.3)**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**36(12.0)**	**18(6.0)**	**15(5.0)**	**35(11.7)**	**175(58.3)**	**12(4.0)**	**7(2.3)**	**2(0.7)**	**300(100)**

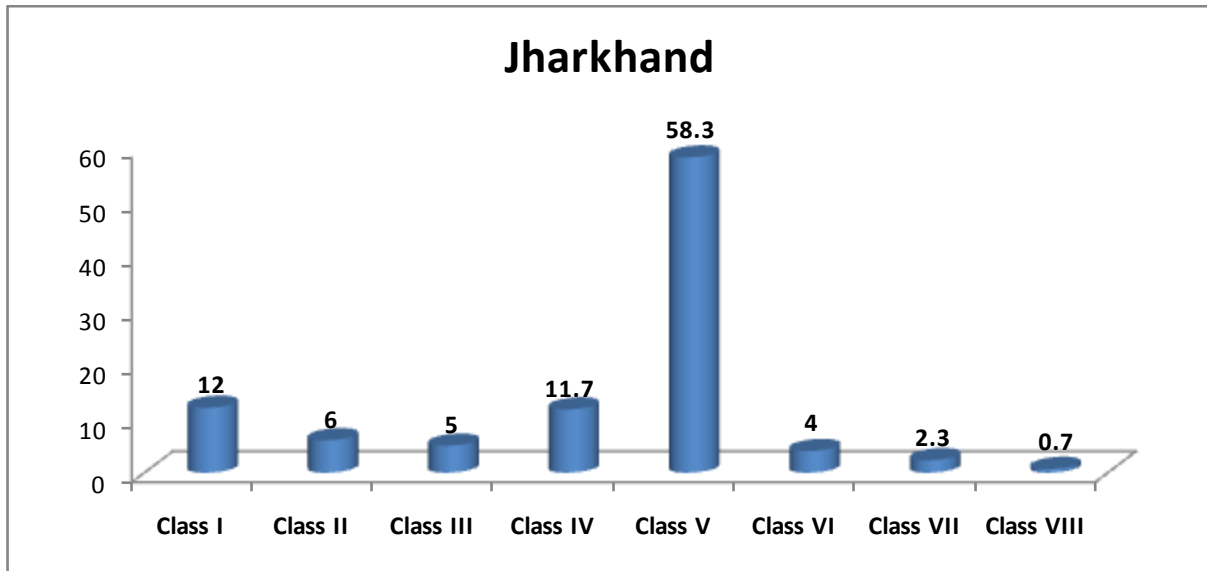*Figures within parenthesis are in percentage*

Figure 22 : Current Enrolment Status in Jharkhand

In Jharkhand, under primary section a maximum of 58.3 % of the students were found to be enrolled in Class V whereas 11.7% were found to be enrolled in Class IV. About 5% were enrolled in Class III whereas 6% were enrolled in Class II. This was reasoned out by the respondents due age and other entrance criteria by followed by formal schools.   However 12% were also found to be enrolled in Class I which could be an issue of investigation. About 4% of the students were also found to be enrolled in Class VI, 2.3% in Class VII and interestingly two students were also found to be enrolled in Class VIII of the secondary section.

Table 4.19 Current Enrolment Status in Tripura

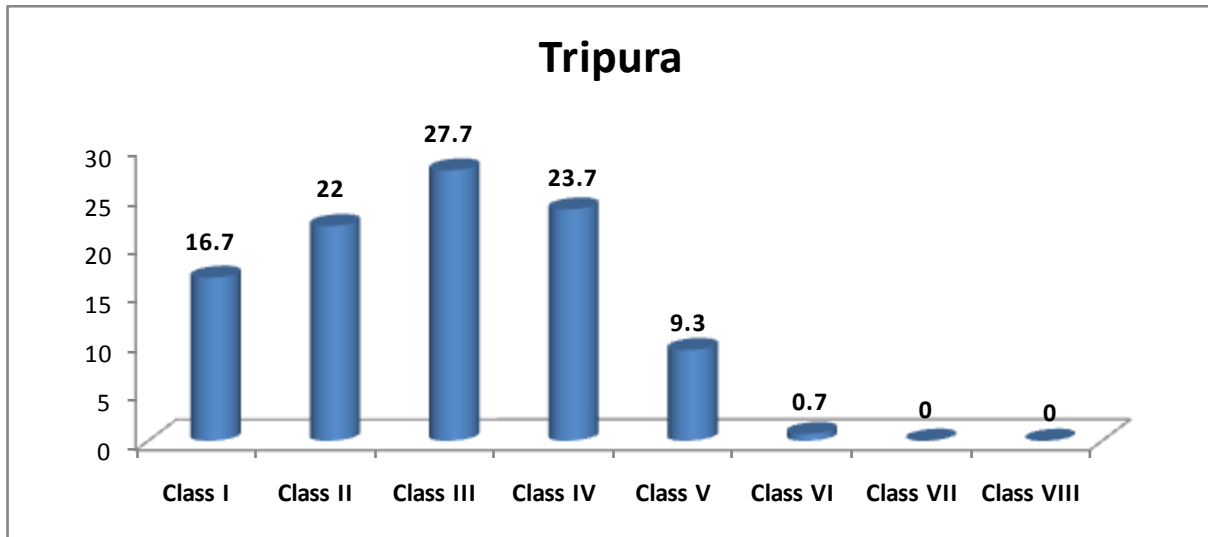| State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Class VII	Class VIII	Total
Tripura	Sipahijala	Basantitila	7(23.3)	10(33.3)	11(36.7)	2(6.7)	0	0	0	0	30(100)
		East Kasba	6(20.0)	10(33.3)	10(33.3)	3(10.0)	1(3.3)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Gazaria	5(16.7)	5(16.7)	8(26.7)	6(20.0)	6(20.0)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Nabinagar 2	1(3.3)	9(30.0)	6(20.0)	11(36.7)	3(10.0)	0	0	0	30(100)
		North Brajapur	3(10.0)	2(6.7)	10(33.3)	13(43.3)	1(3.3)	1(3.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**22(14.7)**	**36(24.0)**	**45(30.0)**	**35(23.3)**	**11(7.3)**	**1(0.7)**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
	West Tripura	Nabinagar	0	8(29.6)	6(22.2)	11(40.7)	2(7.4)	0	0	0	27(100)
		Pekni Chara	7(23.3)	4(13.3)	6(20.0)	9(30.0)	4(13.3)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Sachindra Nagar	9(27.3)	7(21.2)	9(27.3)	5(15.2)	3(9.1)	0	0	0	33(100)
		Samru Chara	2(6.7)	3(10.0)	12(40.0)	8(26.7)	5(16.7)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Sonatala	10(33.3)	8(26.7)	5(16.7)	3(10.0)	3(10.0)	1(3.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**28(18.7)**	**30(20.0)**	**38(25.3)**	**36(24.0)**	**17(11.3)**	**1(0.7)**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**50(16.7)**	**66(22.0)**	**83(27.7)**	**71(23.7)**	**28(9.3)**	**2(0.7)**	**0**	**0**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage

Figure 23 : Current Enrolment Status in Tripura

In Tripura a maximum of 27.7% of the students were found to be enrolled in Class III, 23.7% were enrolled in Class IV and 9.3% were enrolled in Class V in the primary section. About 22% were enrolled in Class II, 16.7% reported to be enrolled in Class I and only a meagre 0.7% of the students were also found to be enrolled in Class VI i.e. in the secondary section.

Table 4.20 Current Enrolment Status in West Bengal

State	District	Village	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI	Class VII	Class VIII	Total
West Bengal	N-24 Paragana	Dakschin Abjanagar	0	0	0	20(66.7)	10(33.3)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Gorai Nagar	0	0	0	23(76.7)	7(23.3)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Nasirhati	0	0	3(10.0)	25(83.3)	2(6.7)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Paschim Goberiya	0	0	0	29(96.7)	1(3.3)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Samla	0	0	0	25(83.3)	5(16.7)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**0**	**3(2.0)**	**122(81.3)**	**25(16.7)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
	S-24 Paragana	Belekheli	0	0	0	0	24(80.0)	6(20.0)	0	0	30(100)
		Gazipara	0	0	0	0	30(100)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Gopal Pur	0	0	0	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Majhi Para	0	0	0	1(3.3)	29(96.7)	0	0	0	30(100)
		Purwa Shivnagar	0	0	0	13(43.3)	16(53.3)	1(3.3)	0	0	30(100)
		Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**15(10.0)**	**128(85.3)**	**7(4.7)**	**0**	**0**	**150(100)**
Grand Total			**0**	**0**	**3(1.0)**	**137(45.7)**	**153(51.0)**	**7(2.3)**	**0**	**0**	**300(100)**

Figures within parenthesis are in percentage
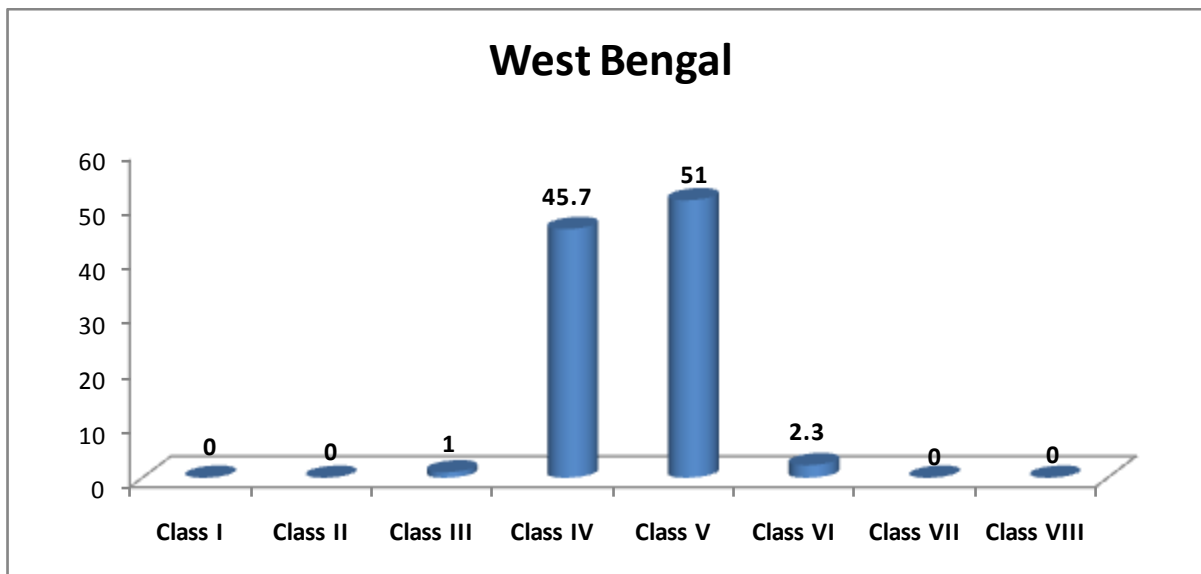
West Bengal

Figure 24 : Current Enrolment Status in West Bengal

In West Bengal under primary section a maximum of 50.7% of the students reported to be enrolled in Class V and 45.7% were enrolled in Class IV. Three students (1.0%) were enrolled in Class III while one student was also found to be enrolled in Class II. About 2.3 % of the students were also found to be enrolled in Class VI of secondary section.

Chapter 5 - Recomendations

The situational assessment of BEC has indeed provided an opportunity to analyze the need and applicability of such non formal education centers in reinforcing overall education development agenda for the weaker sections of society in India. The study has also been successful in extracting a concurrent critical understanding of community scale primary education scenario in ongoing COVID 19 context in the four Eastern states. The first hand response and feedback from the respondents including parents, guardians as well as key informants has helped in building an inner perspective of the need of such centers as well as the desirable changes for increasing their efficacy and utility. These primary responses cover community perspective regarding teaching standards, timings, gender scenario, education aids, learning materials, infrastructure facilities as well as co curricular activities and articulated in the following recommendations by the Research Team.

5 .1 Feedback from the respondents

- In Bihar 96% of the parents applauded the good quality of education provided at BEC. Similar feedback was provided by 91% of parents in Jharkhand, 92% in Tripura and 85% in West Bengal.
- The respondents mentioned emphatically the superior performance of their wards in formal school as result of proper grooming at BEC in comparison to other students particularly in subjects such as English and Mathematics. It was learnt through Key Respondent interview that BEC staff do provide a hand holding support for enrollment the students in formal schools after BEC. However the current COVID 19 scenario has led to weakening of the cognitive gains of the students at BEC due to prolonged closure of the schools. This may be reversed through regular followup and continued mentoring support by BEC team as demanded by the respondents.
- In Bihar an overwhelming majority of 97% respondents requested for reopening of BEC with up gradation of teaching facilities upto middle school. The same suggestions were made by 46% of respondents in Jharkhand and 25% in Tripura and 17% in West Bengal.
- About 10% of the overall respondents proposed the need for starting extra BEC in their village whereas 7% of them spoke about the need for scholarship support for the students.
- About 7.3% of overall respondents pointed out the need for initiating computer classes for the students, whereas about 4% of them mentioned the need for providing sports gear at the school.
- About 13.6% of all respondents suggested the need for providing school uniform among children, whereas 4.5% of them proposed the need for being offered the mid day meal at the BEC along with 5.1 % of them who stressed upon the need for providing safe drinking water .

5.2 Recommendations and Suggestions

- There was an overwhelming response from respondents, who demanded for reopening of the centres in all the study locations which may be considered from community perspective.
- Considering the increase in child population since the initiation of the centre there has also been a demand for creation of more number of Education Centers in majority of the villages which may be considered in future.

- Readjustment of school timings which was found to be most appropriate in Ranchi district (2 pm -5pm) so that a child can also avail the formal school facilities, may be considered.
- Up gradation of BEC upto secondary section as expressed by few respondents may prove to be beneficial in sustaining the noble cause of bolstering the outreach of quality education for the poor.
- Considering the nutrition centricity in concurrent development paradigm and significant demand for diet support by respondents, a provision for low cost locally available nutri-dense diet supplement such as *Ragi* Nutri Mix in Jharkhand may be introduced both for provisioning at BEC and awareness generation of parents.
- The provision for safe drinking water as expressed by a sizeable number of respondents needs to be incorporated in basic infrastructure plan of the centers.
- The provision for scholarship for the most needy students as expressed by respondents and key informants might be considered for overcoming the education barrier and often high opportunity cost for weaker sections of the society.
- There is a substantial need for extending the outreach to particularly vulnerable communities such as STs in the state of Jharkhand and Tripura.
- Inclusion of web based training module may be considered for overcoming the limitation posed by ongoing COVID 19 scenario as well as extending the outreach of BEC by many folds.
- There is need for expanding the basket of intervention by linking support services such as health screening and nutrition support for achieving holistic approach in such interventions.
- As a substantial number of children were found to possess artistic skills such as drawing and painting, a provision for skill mapping and growth may be introduced at appropriate stage for grooming professional qualities at nascent childhood stage.

- In Bihar a significant 11.0% of the students were found to be enrolled in class V which was two grades higher than their grade in BEC at the time of completion of the course. In Jharkhand a significant 22.3% of the students were found to be enrolled in class I which was below their standard in BEC whereas 9.7% of the students got enrolled in class V which was two grades higher than that at BEC. Similarly in Tripura 16.7% of the students were enrolled in class 1 and 22.7% enrolled in class II which was below their standard at BEC at that stage. In West Bengal, 8.3% enrolled in class 5, which was two grades higher than their standard at BEC at the time of completion of the course. As cases of admission of students in lower classes was attributed to different admission criteria followed by different formal institutions particularly private schools, this may be overcome by increased local level liaisoning with formal institutions and follow up support for appropriate integration of BECs and formal schooling in respective states.