# A study on
# School Dropout and its Effects
# in Children Life & Society

**Presented by**
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BANGALORE PROVINCE
DB YaR Forum
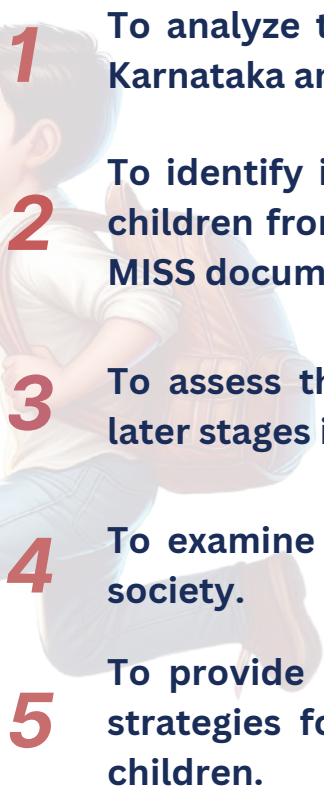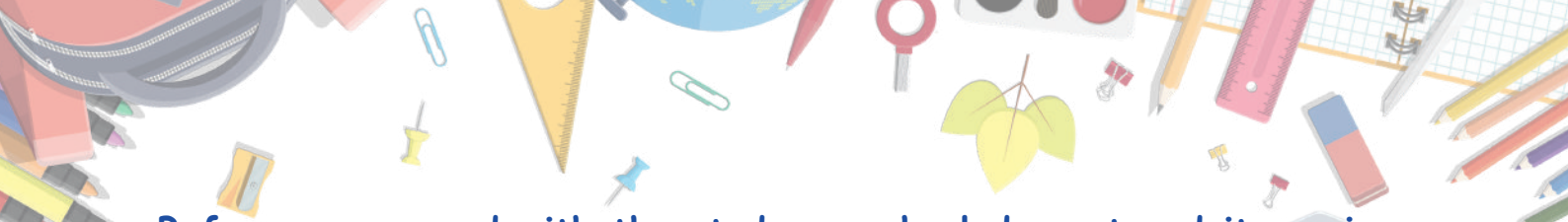
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# Introduction

The school dropout issue is a significant global concern, impacting the future of every nation. India faces several challenges as a developing country, including high dropout rates across its diverse states. Despite Government efforts through the Right to Education Act, the National Policy on Education, and various schemes to encourage school completion, many barriers persist. Some of them include parental illiteracy, large family sizes, family responsibilities, poverty, migration, linguistic differences, inadequate school infrastructure, and lack of basic amenities.
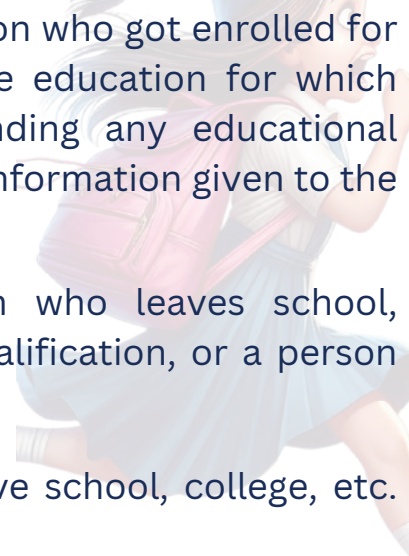
This study examines the social problems affecting the education system and evaluates progress in addressing school dropouts, mainly using data from organizations in Karnataka and Kerala. It aims to analyze the sustainability and efficiency of the education system, including its alternatives, in providing a solid foundation and skill development for all students.

# Objectives

**1** To analyze the National school dropout statistics focussing on Karnataka and Kerala states.

**2** To identify issues of school dropout among contacted/rescued children from 2019 to 2023 using data from the Homelink Child MISS documentation tool.

**3** To assess the impact of school dropout issues on children at later stages in life.

**4** To examine the consequences of school dropout issues in the society.

**5** To provide recommendations to prevent school dropouts and strategies for creative or alternative educational methods for children.

**Before we proceed with the study on school dropout and its serious effects in society, let's first define what school dropout means.**

- A dropout simply can be considered as a person who got enrolled for formal education but does not complete the education for which he/she enrolled and is currently not attending any educational institution for multiple weeks without proper information given to the institution for his/ her absences.

- Cambridge Dictionary definition: "A person who leaves school, college, or university before completing a qualification, or a person who lives in an unusual way"

- Oxford learners Dictionary definition: "to leave school, college, etc. without finishing your studies.

# National Statistics on School dropout

The dropout rate in India can be analyzed in percentages for easier understanding, in association with the Primary, Upper Primary, and Secondary education systems. According to the latest study from (UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) 2021-22), the overall dropout rate in India was 1.5% in the academic year 2021-22, slightly lower than the 1.8% recorded in the previous academic year 2020-21. However, the data remains debated across different states and divisions.

As per the academic year of 2020-21, the (UDISE+) study indicates higher dropout rates at the classified educational levels: 12.6% at the secondary level (9-10 Standard), 3% at the upper primary level (6-8 Standard), and 1.5% at the primary level (1-5 Standard). It also highlights that girls have higher dropout rates compared to boys across all educational levels as per the national statistics.

The (UDISE+) study, presents Karnataka state statistics as the dropout rate is 1.1% at the Upper Primary level (6-8 Standard) but significantly higher at 14.7% in the secondary level (9-10 Standard) in the academic year 2021-22.

## Average Annual Dropout Rate by level of education and gender, 2021-22
### Average Annual Dropout Rate (%)[a]

| India/ State/ UT | Primary (1-5) | | | Upper Primary (6-8 | | | Secondary (9-10) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| India | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 3 | 13 | 12.3 | 12.6 |
| Karnataka | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 16.2 | 13 | 14.7 |
| Kerala | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.9 | 4.1 | 5.5 |

The UDISE+ study indicates that dropout rates in Kerala are relatively low compared to other states in India. Precisely, around 0.1% of students drop out from the Primary level, and 5.5% drop out from the Secondary level (9-10 Standard) in the academic year 2021-22.

# Other related explorations

According to a News-18 article dated July 23, 2023, in Karnataka, India, approximately 67% of students dropped out of schools during the academic year 2022-23, totalling 5,945 children across Primary to Secondary level education. But this is a significant decrease from the previous five years, as reported by the Times of India, where in the academic year 2021-22 it had reached 18,461 dropouts.

# Limitations of data analysis

The analysis includes data from 4,338 children and young persons recorded in the Homelink Child MISS (Child Management Information System & Service) tool during the selected study period from 2019 to 2023. This dataset comprises 95% Male and 5% Female participants. The children were identified or rescued through partnering organizations of the Homelink network, working for children at-risk in Don Bosco, Bangalore Province (INK), covering Karnataka and Kerala states in India.

(a) https://educationforallinindia.com/dropout-rates-in-schools-in-india

However, the data collection has its limitations due to the diverse geographic origins of the children, who come from various parts of India and neighbouring countries like Nepal too. India's multi-linguistic, multicultural democracy and fluid population movement further complicate it. Therefore, statistics, findings, and interpretations of school dropout rates are based on data collected under diverse circumstances using the Homelink Child MISS format and captured into the electronic digital documentation tool (Child MISS), over the past five years.

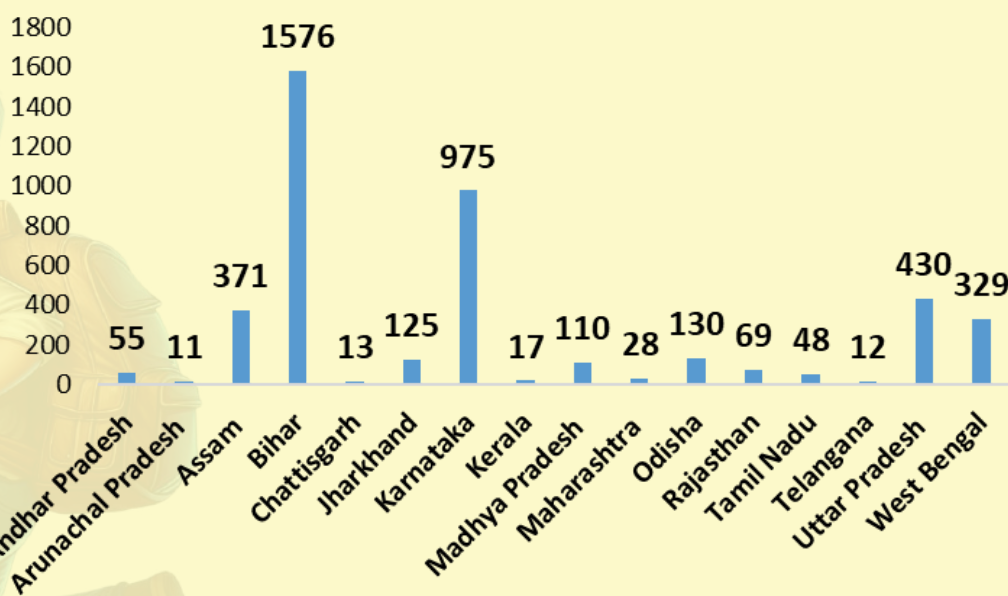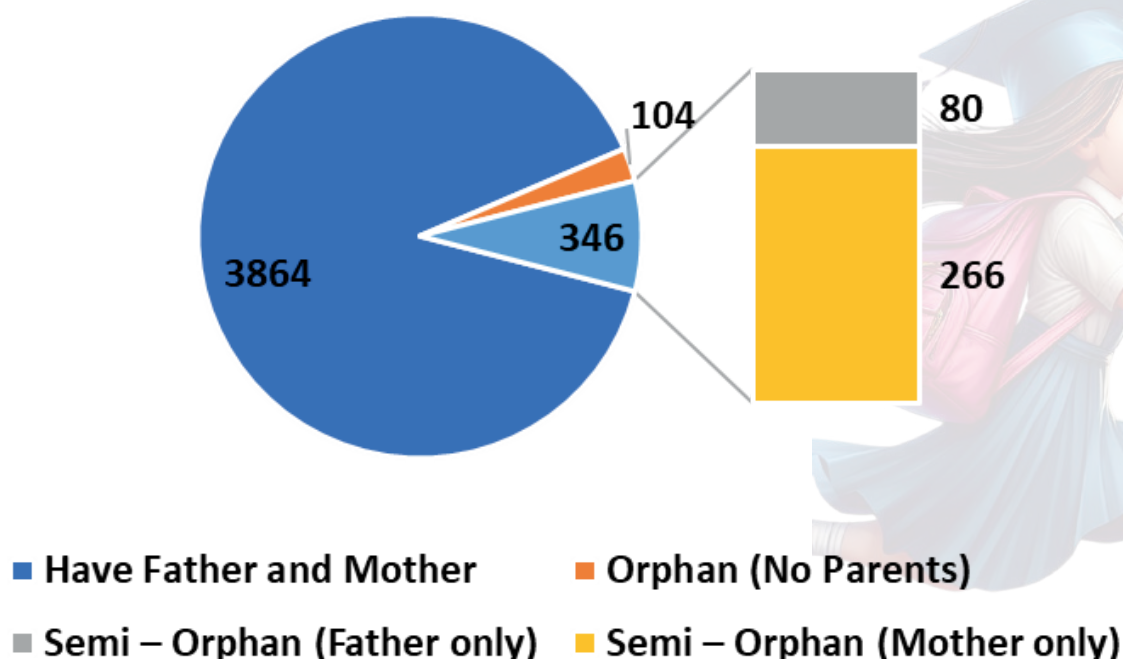# Homelink Child MISS Data - 2019 -2023

**235**   **4103**   **4338**
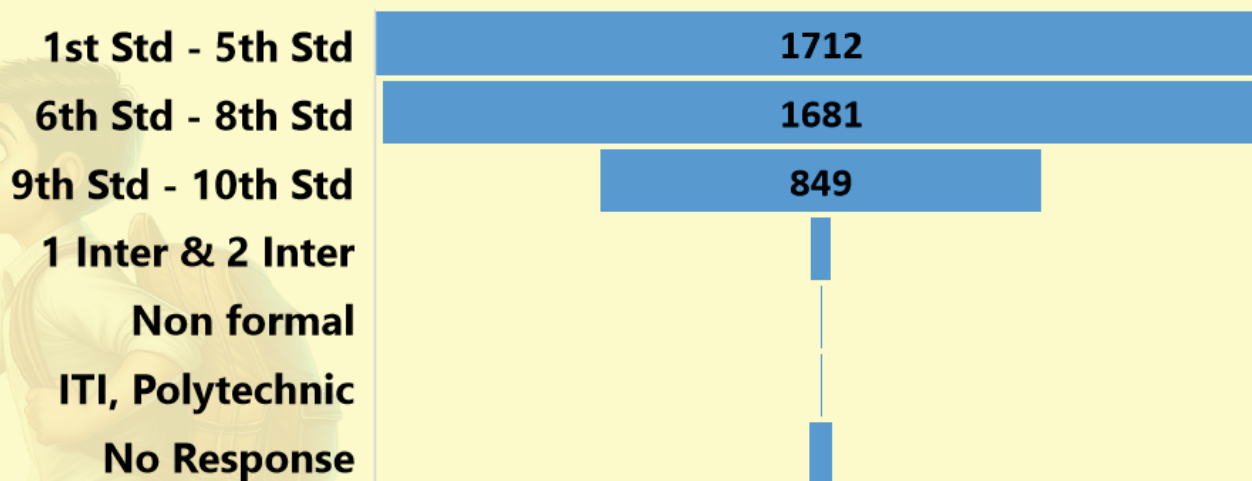
# State wise Children / Young person contacted



Apart from the 16 states presented in the graph there are 10 states and union territories, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Tripura covers around 39 children / young person during the study period. Bihar stands first followed by Karnataka, but Kerala comes only as 13th state in graph.
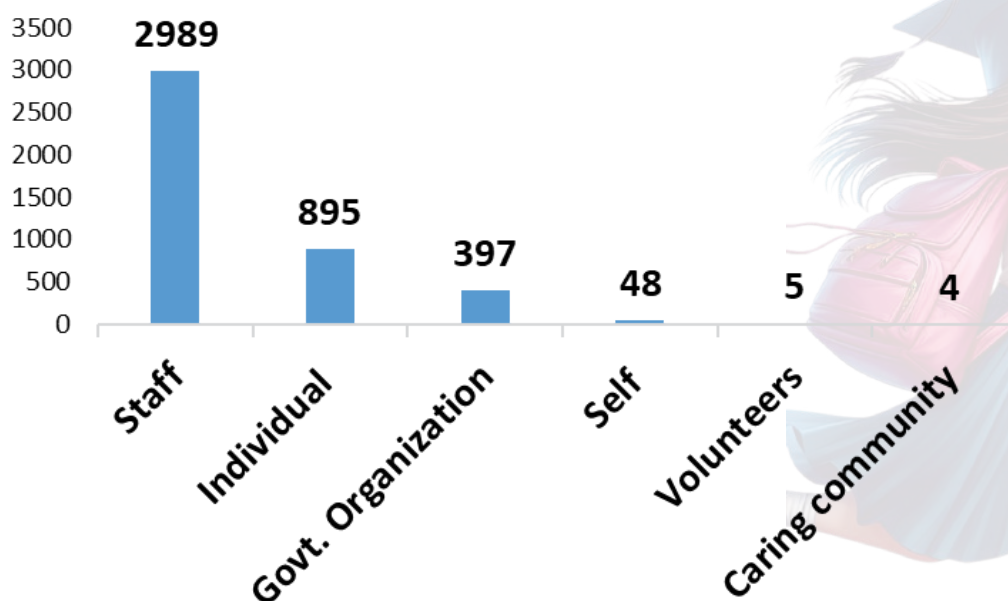
# Parental status during contact



- ■ Have Father and Mother — 3864
- ■ Orphan (No Parents) — 104
- ■ Semi – Orphan (Father only) — 346, 80
- ■ Semi – Orphan (Mother only) — 266

# In which class you stopped your study

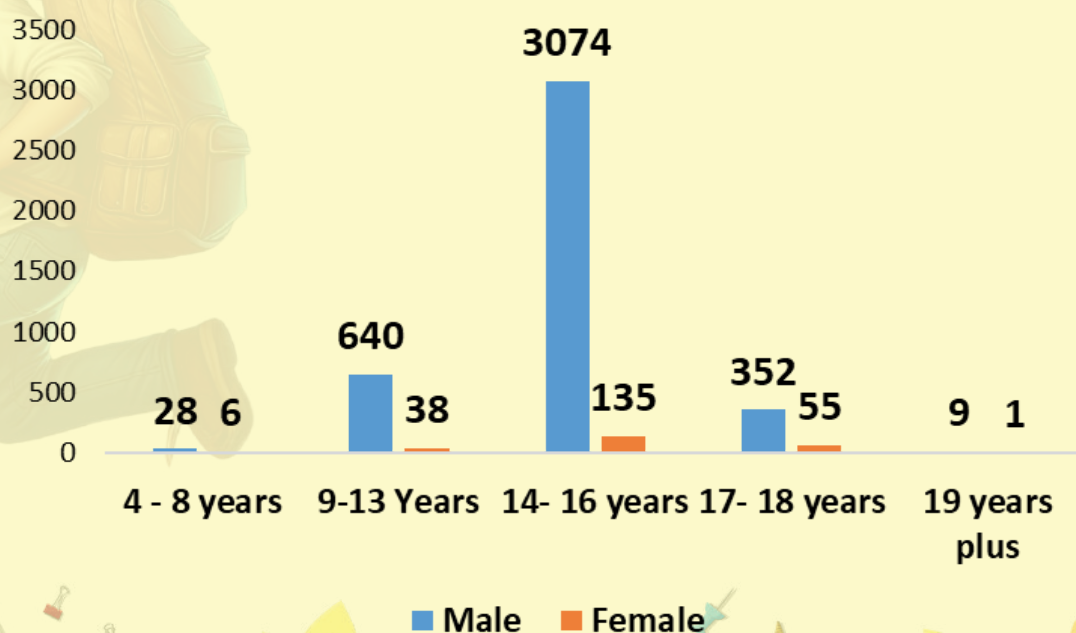| Class | Count |
|---|---|
| 1st Std - 5th Std | 1712 |
| 6th Std - 8th Std | 1681 |
| 9th Std - 10th Std | 849 |
| 1 Inter & 2 Inter | |
| Non formal | |
| ITI, Polytechnic | |
| No Response | |

Our study reveals a slight variation compared to national statistics reported in the articles. According to data from the Child MISS tool collected in the past five years (2019-2023), 39% of the children who have been come in contact with us have dropped out their school at Primary level (1st – 5th Std), equally at 39% in Upper primary (6th – 8th Std), and around 20% at the Secondary level (9th – 10th Std). Only 1% and less have dropped after the 10th Std education at various levels.

# Contact Groups



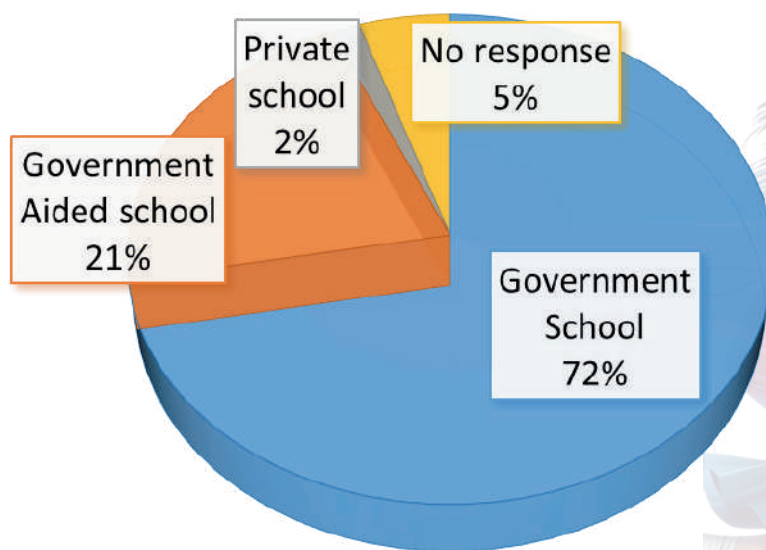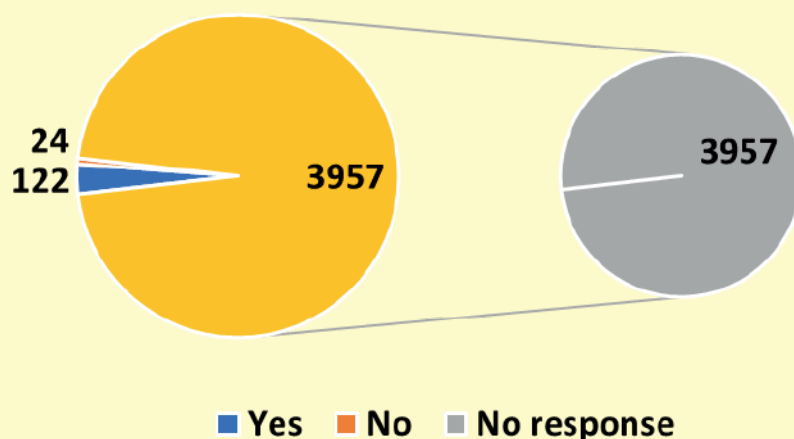| Category | Value |
|----------|-------|
| Staff | 2989 |
| Individual | 895 |
| Govt. Organization | 397 |
| Self | 48 |
| Volunteers | 5 |
| Caring community | 4 |

# Age when contacted

Age group analysis is vital in understanding school dropout trends. The graph will present the ages of children and young people while contacted, highlighting that the highest number reached were between 14 to 16 years, followed by 9 to 13, and later by 17 to 18 years. As indicated in the previous graph, many children drop out during primary school years, often necessitating their departure from family in search of livelihood opportunities at a young age.
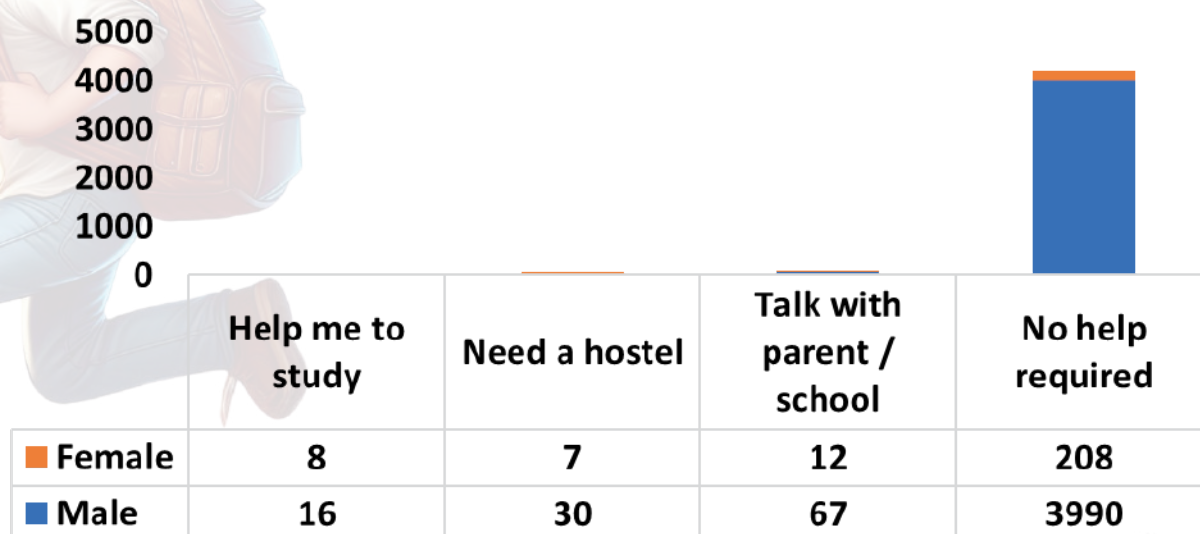


| Age group | Male | Female |
|-----------|------|--------|
| 4 - 8 years | 28 | 6 |
| 9-13 Years | 640 | 38 |
| 14- 16 years | 3074 | 135 |
| 17- 18 years | 352 | 55 |
| 19 years plus | 9 | 1 |

■ Male  ■ Female

# Type of school they studied



- Government Aided school 21%
- Private school 2%
- No response 5%
- Government School 72%

# Did You ever feel that your decision was wrong



24
122
3957

3957

■ Yes  ■ No  ■ No response

# What help do you require from us



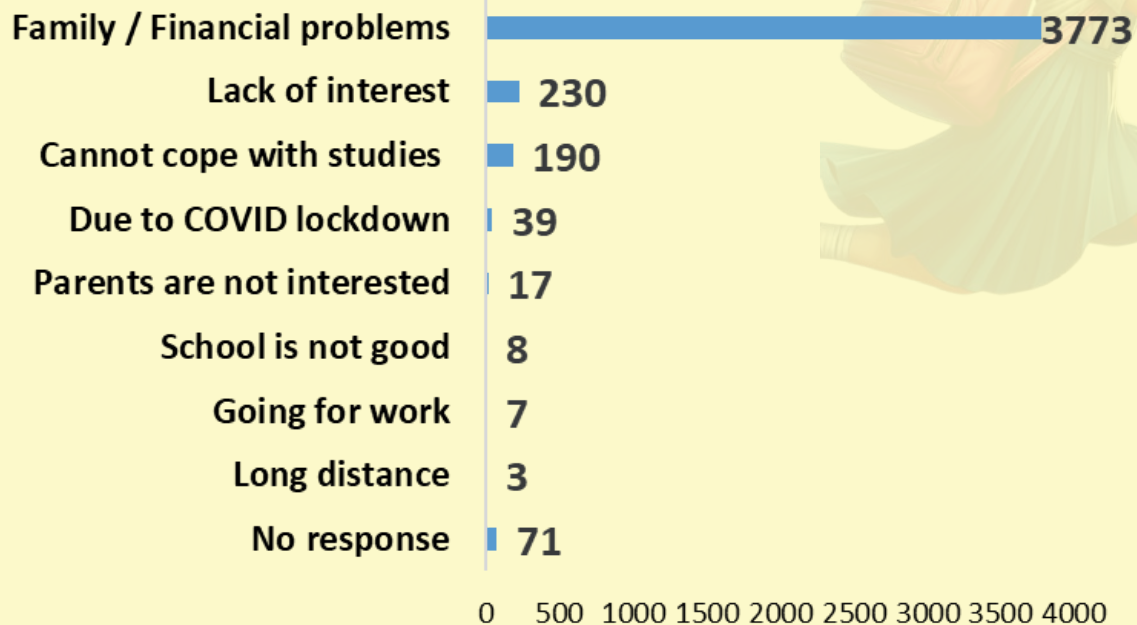| | Help me to study | Need a hostel | Talk with parent / school | No help required |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ Female | 8 | 7 | 12 | 208 |
| ■ Male | 16 | 30 | 67 | 3990 |

# Why did you stop your studies

Even though Government has introduce lot of schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan, Swachh Vidyalaya, **SAKSHAM** (for students with special needs) they are not enough. Despite various governmental and non-governmental efforts, several factors contribute to school dropout.

| Reason | Value |
|---|---|
| Family / Financial problems | 3773 |
| Lack of interest | 230 |
| Cannot cope with studies | 190 |
| Due to COVID lockdown | 39 |
| Parents are not interested | 17 |
| School is not good | 8 |
| Going for work | 7 |
| Long distance | 3 |
| No response | 71 |

0   500  1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000

The study highlighted that 88% of children and young person's quote family or financial problems as the primary reason for dropping out of school. This has been followed by a lack of interest, accounting for 5%, and cannot cope with studies, at 4%. Other reasons amount only to 3% of all the cases.

# The impact of school dropout on children at later stages in life.

≠ **Disinterest to continue the studies**

≠ **Low class Job/work**

≠ **Cannot go for higher studies**

≠ **Lack of skills / training**

≠ **Poverty / Financial crisis**

≠ **Low wages**

# The consequences of school dropout in working areas and society

School dropout poses a significant threat to both society and the nation, profoundly impacting individuals' well-being and hindering overall national development, particularly in countries like India that are still developing.

- Educational insufficiencies

- Difficulties in finding desired jobs

- Increased demand for social services

- Income inequality

- Increase of social evil, crime, violations and terrorism activities
.
- Low economic affects tax collection and development of the country

- Inadequate skilled employ in the fields like medical, political, law and order and other sectors of the society

- Low paid jobs and lack of security in the job

- It leads to financial instability to take care of themselves and family

- Its effects the education stands down the generations – (Dropout parents, children likely to become dropouts in most cases)

# A few recommendations to prevent school dropout and creative educational methods

- Awareness among community and parents on the importance of education.
- Ensure schools have adequate facilities and learning environments.
- Prevention from social evil, drugs, abuse, all bad behaviours and addictions.
- Ensure Gender equality.
- Implement schemes like **SAKSHAM** for students with special needs.
- Abolish child marriage and serious punishments against abuses, child pregnancy.
- Strict implementation of child labour abolishment Act and laws.
- Offer scholarships for deserving children from low economic backgrounds.
- Introduce skill training and alternate education for children.
- Counselling sessions and career guidance to motivate the children to withstand the struggle.

# Conclusion

School dropout issue is the root cause of various other issues affecting children in society. They not only hinder individual growth but also obstruct the overall progress of society. High dropout rates contribute to underdeveloped economies, low employment rates, and increased poverty. Therefore, implementing effective measures to prevent children from dropping out of school needs a multifaceted approach involving government policies, community efforts, and support from non-governmental organizations. Ensuring 100% school enrolment and retention can substantiate the future development of our country. The recommendations and findings provided aim to prevent school dropouts and establish an effective education model for our society.

**Supported By**
Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk

## Thanks to all the nodes in Bangalore Hub, Homelink Network

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