



Centre for Civil Society, New Delhi

K36, Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi - 110 016

Voice: +91 11 2653 7456 | Fax: +91 11 2651 2347 | Email: ccs@ccs.in | Web: www.ccs.in

HOW MUCH DOES FREE EDUCATION COST?

SURVEY ON EDUCATION FOR THE POOR

RESEARCH FINDINGS

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The “Education for the Poor” survey conducted by Centre for Civil Society with AC Nielsen ORG MARG was aimed at exploring

- The type of schooling available to low income families
- Satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the current education system
- The acceptability and appeal of the concept of education vouchers.

SAMPLE

- Households: These included Socio Economic Class (SEC) C, D and E households with a monthly household income of less than Rs. 5000. Socio-economic classes are classified on the basis of education and occupation. For example, a person who is a petty trader and has completed his or her SSC/HSC would belong to the SEC C category but one who is a petty trader and has only upto 4 years of school education would belong to the SEC D category. If this person is illiterate he or she would belong to the SEC E category.
- Government school teachers: Teacher’s who have been working as permanent employees at least 5 years in the school

- Private School Managements: These were private recognized or unrecognized schools. This segment included schools with a maximum primary school fee of Rs. 600 per month and maximum secondary school fee of Rs. 1000 per month.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Our research yielded the following results:

Access

- 14 % of children from SEC C, D, E households sent their children to private recognized schools. 28% of children from SEC C households sent their kids to private recognized schools
- 14% of children from SEC C households go to private Hindi medium schools.
- 45% of the parents of children studying in government schools mentioned that they have to spend money on private tuition.
- On an average parents are spending nearly Rs.2,200/- on private tuition and Rs.1,100/- on transport per year for their child's education
- Of the 95% government school teachers who had children in schools or colleges, 37% were sending their children to private schools.
- The average fees charged by the private primary schools surveyed was Rs. 241/- per month. 42% of them were charging fees between Rs. 100/- and Rs. 200/- per month.

Quality

The respondents were asked the following questions...

- Based on the quality of education, infrastructure and facilities etc. available in the school, if you have to pay for it from your pocket, what would you be willing to pay for govt. school education?
On an average parents are willing to pay nearly Rs.66/- as government school fee
- How much do you think the government is spending per child per month on education?
The parents perceive that government is spending nearly Rs.100/- per child on education

Reaction to Education Voucher Concept

The respondents were asked the following questions...

- What is your reaction (in terms of liking/ disliking) to this education system that you saw described in the card?

Nearly all parents (98%) liked the concept of these nearly two thirds (64%) liked it very much while nearly one third (34%) liked it somewhat.

86% of the Decision makers 'liked it somewhat' (48%)' to 'liked it very much (38%)'

- Describe your opinion about the extent to which this education concept that you saw described in this card is personally relevant to you?

Two thirds (66%) of the parents found the concept to be personally 'very relevant' to them

- Since you have gone through this concept or idea in detail , based on that what must be the value of this voucher (in terms of rupees per year), so that you will think of taking it for your child?

On an average, parents felt that Rs. 5232 is the optimal annual amount for an education voucher.

- **More than three fourth (77%) of the government teachers, 58% of the private school managements and three fourth (75%) of the parents mentioned that to improve the present education system, 'Parents must have a say in the management of government schools'**