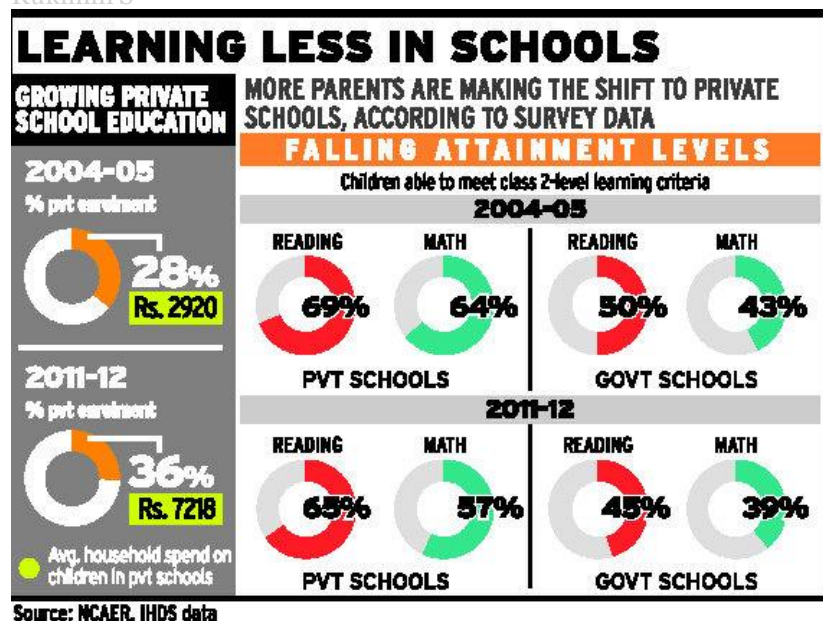


## Education Plus » Schools

Published: March 31, 2014 02:01 IST | Updated: March 31, 2014 02:01 IST

### More children going to private schools: NCAER

Rukmini S



#### The dropout rate remains troublingly high

Private school enrolment continues to rise, but the already low levels of what children are learning in schools — both government and private — continue to fall, new data shows.

*The Hindu* is reporting exclusively on the findings of the 2011-12 round of India Human Development Survey (IHDS), a representative national sample of 42,000 households, carried out by the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

The previous round of the IHDS was conducted in 2004-05, allowing for a comparison of change over the last eight years using independently collected data.

The numbers show that enrolment in government schools now make up 65 per cent of all school enrolment, down from 72 per cent in 2004-05. Private school enrolment ranges from as high as 61 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir and 56 per cent in Uttar Pradesh to as low as 12 per cent in West Bengal and Odisha and 13 per cent in Bihar. It is higher among boys, in urban areas and among richer households.

Private school enrolment is increasing even though it is five times as expensive as going to a government school.

The average Indian family spends over Rs. 7,000 per year, per child enrolled in a private school as compared to less than Rs. 1,400 per child in a government school. Household expenditure on private schooling ranges from over Rs. 18,000 in Delhi to just over Rs. 3,500 in Uttar Pradesh.

#### Dropout rates high

Despite the success of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in bringing in near-universal primary school enrolment, the dropout rate remains troublingly high. About 40 per cent of teenagers above 15 years who made it to Class V said they dropped out before reaching Class IX, and another 40 per cent of those who reached Class X said they dropped out within a year.

Dropout rates are slightly higher for girls and far higher in rural areas, and have reduced very slightly since 2004-05. Bihar continues to have India's highest dropout rate.

To measure how many children are learning in school, the NCAER administers the test developed by NGO Pratham for its Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). The results help test the ASER findings that have been criticised by the government which says its own surveys show better results.

The NCAER researchers found that just 52 per cent children between 8 and 11 years could read at a Class II level, and just 45 per cent could do a basic mathematical function, subtraction. This is a small fall since 2004-05 for which the

numbers were 54 per cent and 48 per cent respectively.

Children in private schools learn more than in government schools, but not very much, and those in cities, belonging to richer households, and those who come from forward castes do better. These numbers largely corroborate the ASER's findings.

Keywords: [NCAER](#), [IHDS](#), [ASER](#), [education department](#), [school education](#)

Printable version | Apr 3, 2014 11:53:09 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/features/education/school/more-children-going-to-private-schools-ncaer/article5852182.ece>

© The Hindu