

QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BIHAR

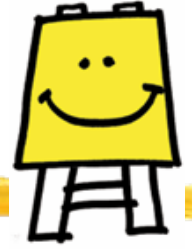


Every child in school and learning well...



JUNE 18 2005

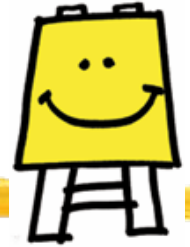
How many children in Bihar can read
this easy paragraph fluently?



गाय हमें दूध देती है।
गाय गोबर देती है।
गोबर से खाद बनती है।
खेतों में डाली जाती है।



Can children in Bihar read? Write? And do simple arithmetic?



October 2004:

Village Report cards:

Status of schooling and
learning

23 blocks in 17 districts

89 villages

~ 18,000 households visited

~ 32,000 children in age-
group 7 to 14 contacted
in villages

For arithmetic:

Simple 2 digit subtraction
problems with borrowing.

For older children:

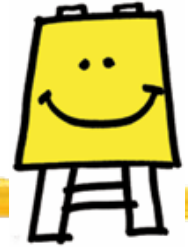
3 digit by 1 digit division
problems.

Status of basic learning:



Age group :	7 to 10	11 to 14
Total children tested	18446	8501
Children who cannot :		
Read a simple paragraph	72%	32%
Write a dictated sentence	80%	49%
Do 2 digit subtraction	72%	36%
Do 3 by 1 digit division	na	59%

Can this situation change ?
Can it change rapidly ?



What has constrained
quality of primary
schooling in recent years?



For example: Reading is the
first and most essential
step for moving ahead
.....in education and further
learning.....



Can all children in Bihar
learn to read fluently in a
short period of time?

YES !!! Here is some evidence.....



Reading level	Baseline (%)	Final (%)
Easy Para and more	25.2	66.2
Word	31.9	19.3
Letter	30.4	12.1
Nothing	12.6	2.5
Total tested	5612	5499

October 2004:

Results of “practice classes” run during training of master-trainers for Panchayat Shiksha Mitra training.

~ 4500 master trainers in 150 locations across Bihar

7-8 days of work to “practice” accelerated learning techniques to help children “catch-up”.

Teachers and teaching.....
Children and learning



Three top things that need to be done:

- ⌘ In 2004, Bihar needed ~1 lac teachers to bring student-teacher ratios to a manageable level. Recent recruitment of “panchayat shiksha mitras” is adding significantly to the numbers of adults in the schools who will teach.

This is THE time for a visible “turnaround” in Bihar’s government primary schools.

- ⌘ Time bound “do-able” targets build confidence for progress, and more progress.
- ⌘ Openness and trust in involving citizens to work alongside government.



Chalo Bihar...
Padho Bihar.....

