

A study of the educational scenario of Shetpally village (Nizamabad district)

By

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Shetpally has 2 primary schools and 1 senior secondary school up to class 10. The primary school cater to the need of class 1 to 5 and the secondary school caters to the need of the students from class 6 to 10. The medium of instruction is Telugu while English & Hindi are taught as regular subjects.



The enrolment figures of the school are as follows:

Primary school

Primary	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Total
SC	6	6	7	10	5	37 (22B + 15G)
ST	4	2	4	6	3	16 (11B + 05G)
BC	11	12	9	12	9	53 (25B + 28G)
OC	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	0
Total	21	20	20	28	17	106 (58B + 48G)

Secondary school

Secondary	Class 6	Class 7	Class 8	Class 9	Class 10	Total
SC	5	7	11	10	11	44 (22B + 22G)
ST	9	8	6	4	1	28 (13B + 15G)
BC	12	12	16	21	35	96 (44B + 52G)
OC	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	0
Total	26	27	33	35	47	168 (79B + 89G)

One interesting observation is that there is no significant gap between the number of children eligible to go to primary school and the actual number of school enrolment. The midday meal scheme is a strong motivator for parents to send their wards for schooling; also the number of girl child is more than the number of boy child in school enrolment both in primary as well as secondary section. Also no children of upper castes such as Reddy's go to govt. school & they go to a private English medium school which is 18km far in the Mandal headquarter of Lingampet by a school bus. The school caters mainly to the poor villager's pupil from backward castes like SC/ST/BC.

General condition

- Primary section – the school building is in dilapidated condition with no furniture for the students as a result students have to sit on the floor, also although the requirement for classrooms is five in number but there are only three rooms available out of which one room is used by the school headmaster for administrative purpose resulting in only two rooms being available for teaching purpose for five classes (1st to 5th class). Classes 1&2 share a common room, Classes 4&5 also share a common room whereas Class 3 has to sit on the veranda in open air which becomes impossible to manage resulting in low attendance & poor teaching service delivery.
- Secondary section – this part of the school is relatively new & hence better in appearance as it was built in 2009. The students of class 6 & 7 don't have any furniture & hence they have to sit on the floor in a common classroom whereas for class 8 only benches are available, 9th & 10th class students are fortunate to have both benches & desks. All these furniture is arranged by the school authorities through private donations and are not provided by the govt. All nine sanctioned posts for teachers are occupied and regular attendance of teachers is being supervised/enforced by the Gram Panchayat and the Shiksha samiti (school monitoring committee)

Issues identified & proposed solutions:

- 2 teachers on maternity leave in primary section resulting in only 1 teacher for 5 classes (135 students) - ad-hoc teachers required immediately
- At least 3 more classrooms required in primary section & secondary section with sufficient furniture & equipment for laboratories (science/language etc.)
- Low motivation of students (Inferiority complex) – exposure to achievers from rural background acting as role models for motivation
- Students not bothered about quality of education or improving themselves as they know they cannot be detained in any class due to the RTE act – others incentives & disincentives have to be devised to chide them to take education seriously like selectively withholding some part of midday meal for poor performance (example: eggs etc.)
- Parents also are not dedicated in the improvement of their wards because of illiteracy & other social factors (don't attend PTMs) – Panchayats have to play a proactive role to convince the parents
- Students unaware of the scholarship/assistance for higher education, specially girl child (low motivation) – awareness drive to inform them of the possibilities & assistance available for higher education like lower interest rates for girl scholar in professional courses.
- There is toilet for the girl child but the boys have to always go out to answer nature's call, this defeats the very purpose of initiatives like Swachh Bharat abhiyan or Nirmal Bharat abhiyan – separate toilets for both girls & boys needs to be constructed.
- There is high probability of the school being the centre for 10th board exams this year and it has to accommodate around 500 examinees, so without proper infrastructure it will cause a lot of problem for many students hence sufficient infrastructure/ furniture needs to be allotted urgently for proper functioning.

“Education is the weapon which can be used to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

Without a proper education system we cannot expect our country to prosper and that work has to start not at the tertiary level by opening more IITs/IIMs/AIIMS etc. but at the very primary level which shapes the mind and character of a young child. Millions of children in our villages look up to our policy makers to provide them the opportunity of quality education in their own vicinity, only when we as a nation can fulfil that promise can we say that our future is safe until then thousands of school children in villages like Shetpally will continue to struggle with the poor academic infrastructure provided to them hoping that someday the situation will get better. I as a budding civil servant hope that small efforts like these will sensitise the administration & our policy makers towards making such amends. Hope we all have a better educated & knowledge based India. Jai Hind.