



Effects of privatization on educational quality and quantity– comparison of Government and Private primary schools in Assam with special reference to Guwahati : a study.

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Abstract

The most important task in present scenario is to impart better and Quality education. Children are the nation builder of future and to crave them as good citizen we need to provide them with proper education so that they can become the pillars of the nation's growth. Privatization in Education has increased the opportunities by increasing the scope of admissions, in all levels of education. Now-a-days, it is a major issue in our Education System. This paper has studied about Privatization of Primary Education and its effect on quality and quantity of education in Assam, Guwahati. Private Schools are profit making and chargestuition fees from families. In this study, the comparison of Government and Private Schools was observed through a survey. Data was collected from the Head-masters of some Government and Private Primary Schools of Guwahati, Assam. This study revealed that educational quality and physical conditions were better in Private Primary Schools. However, the Private Schools cannot be regarded to have greater success because they do not compete with equal conditions. Both for profit and non-profit, institutions are still under debate as to whether they could offer solutions to problems of education. As it is seen in the example of Guwahati, Assam, focusing on Government Schools would be more promising to achieve Quality and Quantity in Education.

Keywords: Primary Schools, Government, Private, Quality, Quantity, Education.

1. Introduction

The term 'Privatization' is an umbrella term referring to many different educational programs and policies. As an overall definition, 'privatization is the transfer of activities, assists and responsibilities from govt./public institutions and organisations to the private individuals and agencies.' Also, 'Privatization' is often thought of as 'Liberalization' - where agents are freed from Govt. regulation, or as 'Marketization' - where new markets are created as alternations to Govt. services or state allocation system.

The most important task in present scenario is to impart better and quality education. Children are the nation builder of future and to crave them as good

citizen, there is a need of proper education, so that they can become the pillars of the nation's growth. The importance of Education is rising day by day. Technical advances, modern life standards require well-educated, proficient people around the world. Moreover, education is seen as an important tool to reach economic achievement for the countries. Hence, Govt. always try to succeed in the education sector, by trying to develop the economic sector. For this purpose, Govt. should provide education for all and increase the quality of education at schools. Especially, developing countries are faced with major difficulties in reaching such goals. In many countries, Government strive to enable better education to their citizens. With their

inadequate resources they sometimes come up against growing population and limited schools, deficient and low qualified teachers and poor educational environment because of high costs of education services. While governments were suffering from such problems, Privatization policies come in and appeared to provide a solution. Some authors agree that if Govt. can deliver the education services through private sector, the burden on the national budget can be reduced and quality of education can get higher. Private schools can be profit or non-profit making and these would have distinct effects on the education system. But there is a question arises that whether privatization is beneficial policy for education system or not. According to Belfield and Lenin (2002), privatization is the change of hands of managements, commitments and assessments from government-state establishment to private organizations. It becomes important especially within the globalization phenomenon. Global World requires adopting the innovations and advancing technologies and this has a pressure on governments which aim to develop. However Government's limited resources are unable to reach this aim especially in developing countries like India and various states of the country. In this process, globalization forces individual states to reorganize their policies and reform their managements through privatization as an alternative solution.

Again, it also have to say that education is not only a private good but also has public outcomes. Education has become a good investment for Govt. after realizing the relationship between education and economic growth. Education is regarded as a fundamental right and the constitution of India give equal right of education to all irrespective of their caste and creed, religion and race, class and sex etc. Thus the Govt. of India has set on goal of 'Education for all', which means everybody to access basic education. In this regard, the Govt. has get a success to some extent. In case of quantity, it is improving but in case of quality, it is not improving so much as of the limited resources of the Govt. In this framework, Privatization was seen as a possible tool in some regions to achieve education for all. Such that Private Schools started to become prevalent in the country. The CfBT Research and Development Committee organised a project in 2002 to set up Private Schools for the poor in India. School costs were mainly covered from donations and small income was supplied by trade of some products, such as belts, ties and gift cards, which were made by students at schools. This project brought

access to schools for many poor students in India (Tooly & Dixon, 2003). However, although these schools helped to develop the enrolment rates. Due to high amount of fee structure, the enrolment rates were low in these private schools. When it comes to quality of education, in these Private Schools it is still under debate whether these Schools serve higher or less quality of education compared to Govt. Schools. Thus, access to education, quality of education as well as quantity of education stands as major challenges of Indian Education system, where policies to be developed. Govt. have an important role to convey education service to their citizens which is difficult, especially for developing countries like India, where there is limited resources. Different sorts of privatization applications has been tried as a potential solution to overcome these challenges. But, the Privatization of Education is not able to bring cent percent quality and quantity to the Primary Schools of the country.

In India as well as in Assam, there is always a comparison between the Govt. and Private Primary Schools in case of quality and quantity of education. There is always a debate that which sector of education is more influential to bring both quality and quantity. The present study is based on the reasons and reflection of Privatization of Primary Education in Assam and a comparison of Private Primary Schools with the Government Primary Schools of Guwahati, Assam.

2. Objectives of the study

The major objectives of the study are as follows—

- (i) To study about the effects of Privatization on Primary Education of Guwahati, Assam.
- (ii) To make a comparative study between the Govt. and Private Primary Schools as per Quality and Quantity.

3. Delimitation of the study

The present study has been delimited in the following dimensions-

- The present study has been delimited only to the Guwahati area of Assam.
- The study is also delimited to some selected Primary Schools of Guwahati.
- Among the Primary Schools, only some Private and some Govt. Primary schools have been selected to collect data.

4. Methods adopted for the study

Methodology is of utmost importance in a study.

In this study Descriptive survey method is used to collect the desired data. A Survey to the Private and Govt. Primary Schools of delimited area have been useful to collect the data.

5. Sample selected for data collection

In this study, the representative sample is selected by using the Method of Simple Random Sampling. Four Private Primary Schools and Four Govt. Primary Schools from the different parts of Guwahati have been selected and the Head Masters of each School have been selected as the representative sample to collect the required data.

6. Tools of data collection

Tools are very important for collecting data in any research work. In this study, Interview Schedule and Observation have been used as data gathering tools. To collect data form the Head Masters of the selected schools, Interview Schedule has been used and to find out the physical condition of the Schools, Observation has been used.

7. Data analysis

The present study is based on the Effects of Privatization of Primary Education and comparison between the Govt. and Private Primary Schools of Guwahati regarding educational Quality and Quantity. The study is a useful one to find out the effect of Privatization on the Primary Education as per their Quality and Quantity. It is also helpful to make a comparison between the Private and Govt. Primary Schools of Guwahati regarding their Quality and Quantity. Form the study, it can be analyzed that since the impact of Privatization is penetrating all sectors of the economy, it is bound to affect education sector as well. As it is very difficult to meet the democratic

aspirations of the people for further expansion of educational system due to paucity of resources it is therefore, being felt that the Private sector is inducted in education so that it can share the burdens of the state in funding education.

Privatization of Education has increased the opportunities by increasing the scope of admissions for the students. Due to ownership, level of quality has increased in few set-ups to great extent however, this is not true with all private organizations. Most private institutions are meant for financially strong strata of society and the poor children are found to go to the Govt. Schools. This has widened the gap between the poor and the rich. It has found that in Guwahati, most of the parents of children enrolled in Govt. Schools are poor and illiterate. Therefore, there is no one to assist them at home. Govt. Mechanism is utterly failing in these aspects. Lot of facilities has been provided now-a-days in Govt. system but no proper strategies to utilize and maintain it. Due to this, it is turning to be great failure.

Again, Privatization has no doubt increased the quality of schools but in case of quantity of students' enrolment, Govt. Schools secure the better position. Because the Govt. Schools are free of cost while the Private Schools take a high amount of fee. Thus Private Schools are bound to provide adequate facilities and quality education to the students, still in case of better quality they yet to be enhanced. But more or less, the study shows that Private Schools bring quality to education in comparison to Govt. Schools while Govt. Schools are able to increase the quantity of students as those are free.

In the present study, for Data Analysis, observation notes and interview schedules were tabulated and summarized. Findings and the regarding statistics have been presented as tables with the percentage values when relevant.

Table 1 : No. of Teachers and Students in Govt. Primary Schools

SL .No. of Schools	No. of Teacher	No. of Students
1	3	228
2	4	300
3	5	216
4	4	250

Total = 16

Total = 994

Average = 4

Average = 4

Table 2 : No. of Teachers and Students in Private Primary Schools

Sl.No. of Schools	No. of Teacher	No. of Students
1	10	118
2	10	200
3	9	105
4	8	100

Total = 37

Total = 523

Average = 9.25

Average = 130.75

Table 3 : Comparison between Govt. and Private Primary Schools as per the Number of Teachers

Sl. No.	Category of School	Average No. of Teachers
1	Government	4
2	Private	9.25

Graphical Representation of the Table No. 3

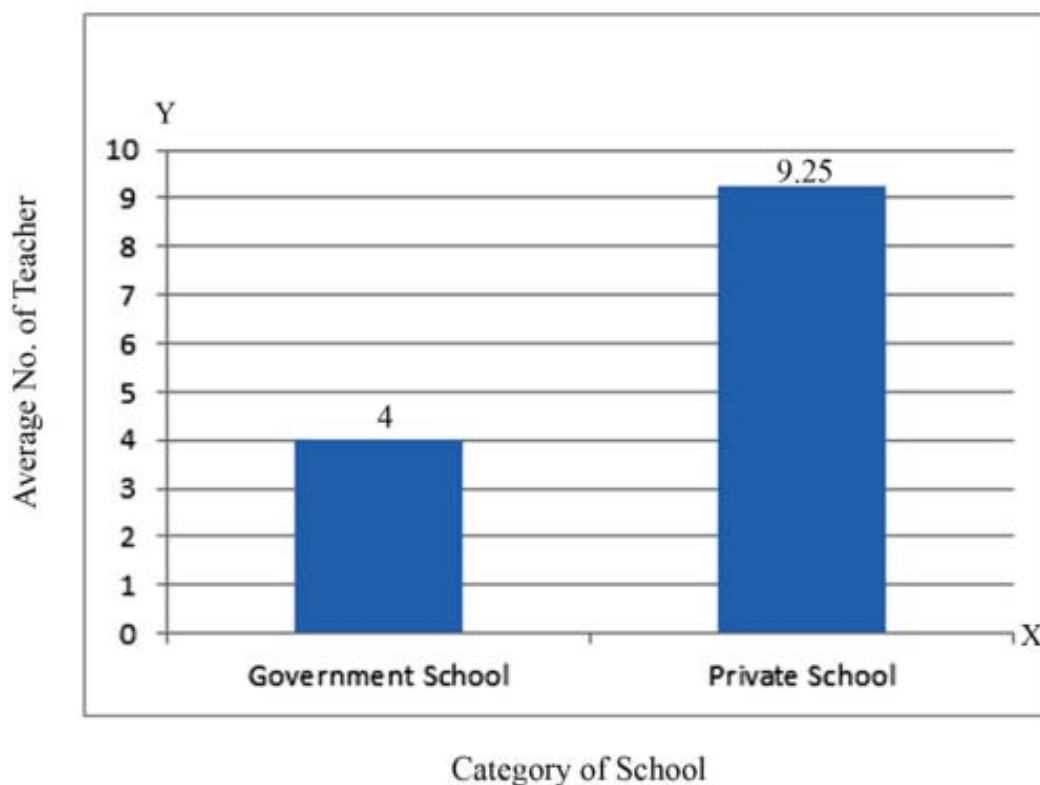
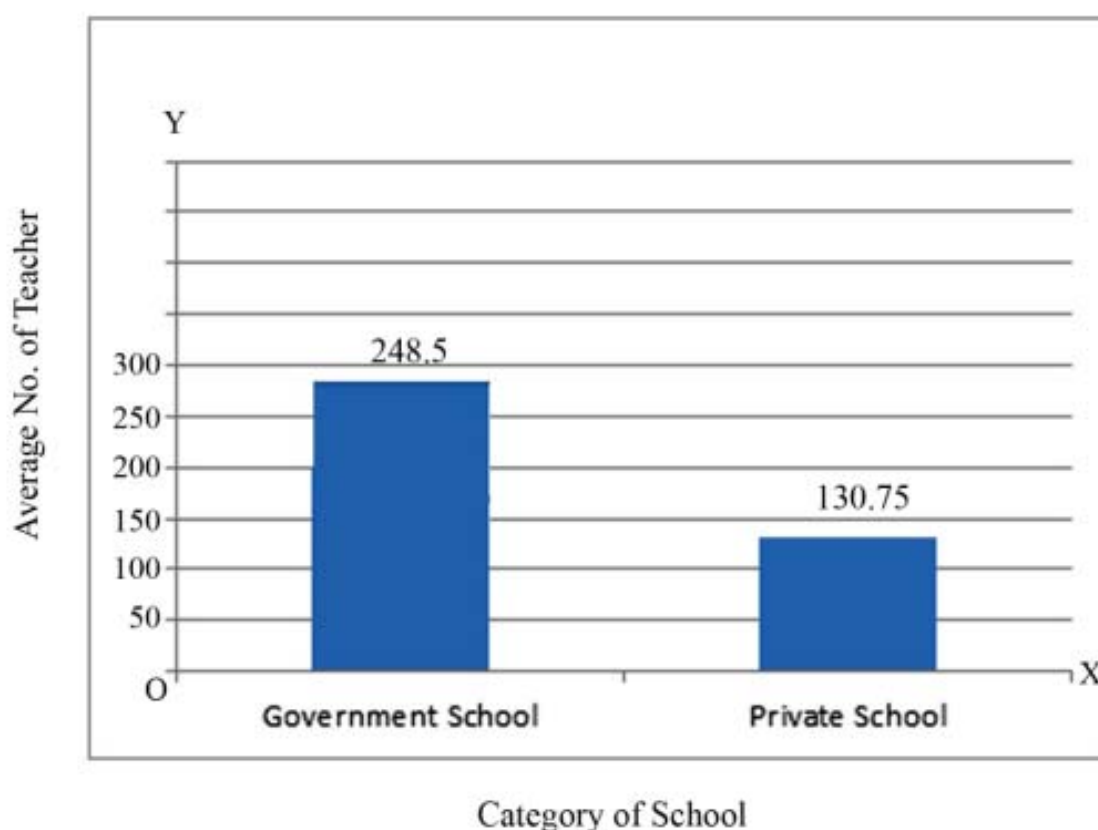
**Fig. 1 :** Graphical Representation of the Comparison between Govt. and Private Primary School as per No. of Teachers.

Table 4 : Comparison between Govt. and Private Primary School regarding the Students' enrollment

Sl. No.	Category of School	Average No. of Students
1	Government	248.5
2	Private	130.75

Graphical Representation of the Table No. 4

**Fig. 2 :** Graphical Representation of Comparison between the Govt. and Private Primary School Regarding Student's Enrollment.

The above Tables and Figures shows comparison of average no. of Teachers and Students of Govt. and Private Primary Schools. In Govt. Schools, the No. of Students are more, whereas, in Private Schools, the No. of Students are less than the Govt. Schools. While in case of No. of Teachers, it is higher in Private Schools but it is lower in Govt. Schools. Thus, it makes it clear that in case of quality, Private Schools are growing as these Schools

appoints more No. of Teachers than the Govt. Schools. This is very much beneficial for bringing quality education. Because of more no. of teachers, these Private Schools can look after the students conscientiously. But in Govt. schools teachers cannot take care of children effectively. Again in case of students' enrollment, the Govt. Schools are higher in number than the Private ones as the Govt. Schools are free of cost.

Table 5 : Some equipment's and facilities of the Schools

Sl. No.	Facilities/Equipments	Govt. School	Private School
1	Computer/Internet	No	Yes
2	Overhead Projector	No	Yes
3	Library	No	Yes
4	Science Laboratory	No	Among Four, Two Schools have
5	Computer Laboratory	No	Yes
6	Aquaguard for Drinking Water	No	Yes
7	Use of Audio-Visual Aids in Teaching-Learning Process	No	Yes
8	Separate Toilet for Girls and Boys	No	Yes
9	Classes of Co-Curricular Activities	No	Yes
10	Field Trip or Educational Tour	No	Yes
11	Play and Sports Material	No	Yes

In the above Table, physical conditions of Private and Govt. Schools were compared. The Table shows that the Private Schools provide certain facilities and equipment's to the students and teachers of Private Primary Schools use those equipment's during their teaching-learning process and also students may use those when needed. Whereas in Govt. Schools, these facilities and equipment are not available. Use of Audio-visual Aids like- Projector, Computer etc. by the teachers, Provision of Laboratories, Libraries, Sports Equipment etc. are definitely provide quality education to the students. Again private schools are also used to go for Field-trip or Educational-tour with the students and also there with the students and also there are provision of Co-curricular Activities, which are also helpful to provide qualitative education to the students. But, in the Govt. schools of Guwahati, these facilities have not been provided to the students .

It is known by everyone that in our country as well as in our state, Govt. Primary schools are free of cost .The Govt. is providing free and compulsory primary education to all the children of 6-14 years of age group. Thus, Govt. Primary Schools are providing completely free education along with Mid-Day Meal and because of this reason now-a-days, the quantity of students in Govt. Primary Schools are increasing but in case of quality, it has not developed yet. On the

other hand , Private Primary Schools charges considerably high tuition fees and that is why the poor and weaker section of people are enable to send their children to private schools. These schools are unable to increase the quantity of students but they are increasing the quality of education.

8. Findings of the study

The major findings of the study are given below:

- (i) It has been found from the study that Privatization of Primary Education has some positive and some negative impact on the Education System.
- (ii) Study shows that Private Primary Schools are somewhat able to provide better and quality education to the students as the infrastructural and other facilities of these Private Schools are far better than the Govt. ones.
- (iii) It is also found that the quality of education in Govt. schools are not so good and as a result, people of Upper Class and Upper Middle class level are opting for Private Schools.
- (iv) The Private Primary Schools charges a high amount of tuition fee and as a result, the poor and financially weaker section of the people cannot afford to send their children to the Private Schools.

- (v) It has to be mentioned that free and compulsory primary education is provided by the Govt. and that is why, the enrollment rate of Govt. Primary Schools are increasing in comparison to the Private Schools.
- (vi) Though the Govt. Primary Schools are able to increase their quantity, however the schools' poor facilities and less quality of education are still a serious problem for the Government.
- (vii) The study also shows that, in comparison to Govt. Primary Schools, the Private Primary Schools serves better physical and educational condition with good facilities.
- (viii) The study makes it clear that the expenses of Private Primary Schools per student are higher than the Government Institutions. That is why, Private Schools charges a high amount of fee from the Students.
- (ix) The Govt. Schools do not have enough School buildings and classrooms to meet the number of the students, but the Private Schools have a sufficient number of class rooms with proper school buildings.
- (x) The Govt. Schools have not adequate number of teachers in comparison to Private Schools, which is also an obstacle to bring quality in Govt. Schools.
- (xi) Teachers absenteeism and their low performances, crowded classrooms and poor physical condition etc. are the main reasons behind the lack of quality education in Govt. Schools, whereas, Private Schools are totally different in these cases.
- (xii) It has also found from the study that, the Private Schools need more financial condition to bring better quality and thus in comparison to Govt. Schools, the teachers of Private Schools are underpaid.

9. Suggestions

The following are some Suggestions which help to improve both the quality and quantity in Govt. and Private Primary Schools :

- (i) The Govt. should come forward to regulate, control and more generously finance Private Schools, so that it can make more and honest effort to share the educational burden of the State.
- (ii) Private Schools should be encouraged to develop problems that would suit the special requirements of their neighborhood.
- (iii) There should be a democratic control of

- education, which means that it should be administered by a partnership of parent, teachers and private organizations with the sole objectives of fulfilling the educational functions and purposes.
- (iv) The Private Schools should also try to invest some more amount of money in the name of teachers' salary.
- (v) Along with the Private Primary Schools the Govt. Schools should also try to bring quality education to all.
- (vi) Increase of quantity is not enough and thus to bring qualitative development, the Government should establish enough school buildings and classrooms to meet the number of students in Govt. Primary Schools.
- (vii) The Govt. should also have the provision of appointing adequate/sufficient number of teachers in the Govt. Primary Schools, which is at present lacking in these Schools. Thus, the Govt. should appoint sufficient number of trained teachers to meet the needs of the student.
- (viii) The Govt. should also try to improve the physical condition of the schools to bring qualitative development and hence the Govt. should provide all the necessary infrastructural facilities such as Library, Laboratory, Urinal etc. to those Govt. Schools.
- (ix) The Govt. should also provide all the necessary teaching-learning equipments or facilities like computers, Internet, projector, play material etc. so that the quality of the students may develop.

10. Conclusion

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that in recent years, the quality of education in Govt. Primary Schools have degraded drastically and as a result, people are opting for Private Primary Schools. These Schools are making education their business which people generally call 'Commercialization' of education.

But these Private Primary Schools are bringing quality in education. Due to Govt. policy of preferring quantity over quality, Private Schools are growing day by day. Thus, it can be said that the Private Primary Schools will continue to exist as long as the demand exists. However, Privatization does not appear to be promising in the sense of raising the quality of national education. While the Private Schools are taking steps to regulate their institutions the Govt. should also concentrate on enhancing both the quality and quantity of education in the Government Schools.

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