The Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children

Findings from South Asia

Four-country case study

All children in school by 2015
“Mother works as a Cooli… She brings about Rs.250 to 300 after work. With this money we manage to have three meals a day. After returning from school I go to Vepavettuvaan River, close to the village to catch fish. To catch fish I use the net given by the MOH for protecting us from Dengue mosquitoes”.

-Rathnadevi a 14 year-old girl from Batticaloa

“Our area was affected by the conflict and we had to leave our house and seek shelter in other places. When they put us in welfare institutions, we spent our time taking care of our basic needs. We did not want to go to school. We really missed out on school.”

-Kathiresan a 14-year-old boy from Kilinochchi says,

Source: Sri Lanka OOSC Report
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Sri Lanka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age range</td>
<td>Duration (years)</td>
<td>Age range</td>
<td>Duration (years)</td>
<td>Age range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre-primary</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>primary</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lower secondary</td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>upper secondary</td>
<td>14-17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14-17</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compulsory education coverage</td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## OOSCI and Administrative (UIS) OOSC Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension / Level of Education</th>
<th>OOSCI 4 countries</th>
<th>UIS* South Asia Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimension 1 / primary</td>
<td>23.8 million</td>
<td>13.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimension 2/ lower secondary</td>
<td>15.6 million</td>
<td>30.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39.4 million</td>
<td>43.6 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*UIS figures are based on the May 2012 data release covering school year 2010 and covers the whole South and West Asia region which includes 8 South Asian countries plus Iran

Different data sources, methodologies, number of countries covered, school years covered account for the difference
OOSCI South Asia: magnitude

23.8 million primary and 15.6 million secondary aged children out of school in four countries
Pakistan: Primary aged children in and out of school

OOSCI South Asia: exclusion rates

Bangladesh: Primary aged children in and out of school
OOSCI South Asia: exclusion rates

**India:** Primary aged children in and out of school

- **In school:** 87.0%
- **OOSC:** 13.0%

**Sri Lanka:** Primary aged children in and out of school

- **In school:** 98.1%
- **OOSC:** 1.9%
School participation by age & level of education

Findings: Dimension 2 – primary OOSC
Children from **poorest households** more likely to be out of school across the 4 countries

**Girls** more excluded in Pakistan and India; **boys** in Bangladesh; gender gaps more pronounced in poorest households

Children in **rural areas** more likely to be excluded; also pockets of urban children with high rates of exclusion (slum dwellers in India, Bangladesh)

Children in **child labour** more likely to be out of school, particularly older children (disparity highest in Pakistan)
India: Distribution of out-of-school children by social groups

Source: India Out-of-School Children report. Data from the NSSO 2007-8 unit level data;
Note: *Muslims belonging to OBC and General are not included
### Adjusted net attendance rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Primary age children</th>
<th>Lower Secondary age children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Bangladesh MICS 2006, India NSSO unit level data 2007-08, Pakistan PLSLM-HEI 2007-08, Sri Lanka DHS 2006-07, as cited in country reports

- Gender gaps in attendance
- Gap between primary and lower secondary
Proportion Out of School among Rural Girls, India

- **Rural**
  - 6%

- **Rural female**
  - 13%

- **rural female SC**
  - 14%

- **rural female ST**
  - 16%

- **rural female Muslim**
  - 18%

Q1: 6
Q5: 18
Mean: 14

**Overlapping Barriers: 6 to 10 year old Rural Girls in India**
Proportion of children by school attendance & child labour category (%)

**Bangladesh**
- In school: 76%
- Child labour & out of school: 15%
- Child labour & in school: 5%

**India**
- In school: 66%
- Child labour & out of school: 22%
- Child labour & in school: 5%

**Pakistan**
- In school: 71%
- Child labour & out of school: 15%
- Child labour & in school: 13%

**Sri Lanka**
- In school: 92.3%
- Child labour & out of school: 5.1%
- Child labour & in school: 1.2%
Supply-side barriers (e.g. availability of facilities) a major factor of exclusion in pre-primary education participation to which has links to dropout in primary education.

Costs of schooling keeping out of school or pushing them out of school.

Gender, cultural and social norms also interact with household wealth that has negative impact on girls (e.g. child marriage) and boys (child labour).

Quality of schooling pushing out children from primary and secondary education.
Key messages

- Need more large-scale holistic interventions that address multiple barriers to schooling simultaneously
- Maintain momentum to strengthen education sector-wide planning approaches and its ability to respond the specific needs
- Target children who are likely to never enter school in India and Pakistan
- Target specific groups of marginalised children who don’t show up in the aggregate profiles
- Expand alternative delivery modes for out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out