

# The study of Infrastructure Management in Elementary Schools of Bihar

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## Abstract:

Bihar is one of the fastest growing states in India. It has been one of the oldest hubs of education of the country. In spite of having occupied an eminent place in higher education, it has not been extended to its school education system. Schools are always regarded as an important part of our social reforms and playing a significant role in the growth and development of the country. It is always the highest priority sector of India's governments. The government aimed to make the educational accessible by making investment in education infrastructure and recruitment of academic staff and teachers. Current educational system has many merits and demerits at secondary school level. This paper describes the need of essential infrastructure for the achievement of ultimate goal of Government Education System. The objective of the study was to find out the infrastructure distribution in the elementary schools of Bihar state, in respect of Computer facility, Electricity, toilets, classrooms and student teacher ratio etc. This is a comparative study. Secondary data was used for the study. Findings of the study show that there is a major problem of non-availability of suitable infrastructure in the schools. The infrastructural gap is very large.

**Keywords:** School, Infrastructure, Growth, Bihar and Education

## Introduction

Education is desired by everyone to face the challenges of social life. Getting knowledge and information are considered more important than mere getting the degrees and certificates. Private education and Government education are the two types of education system available in India. The various studies reflect the quality of education both at the primary as well as higher education is significantly poor as compared with major developing states.

According to the data provided in the Bihar state report card by DISE, Bihar has about 69,379 schools with a total enrollment of about 19 million children. A handsome number of children are enrolled in the primary schools. There are about 3.3 lakh teachers in the state with a Pupil Teacher Ratio of about 58. Whereas the overall literacy rate is recorded at 47%. Reports show the growth in the number of schools during the period from 2008 to 2014 which reflects the miserable condition of Growth of schools in Bihar. Comparatively the number of school going children is increasing during the time.

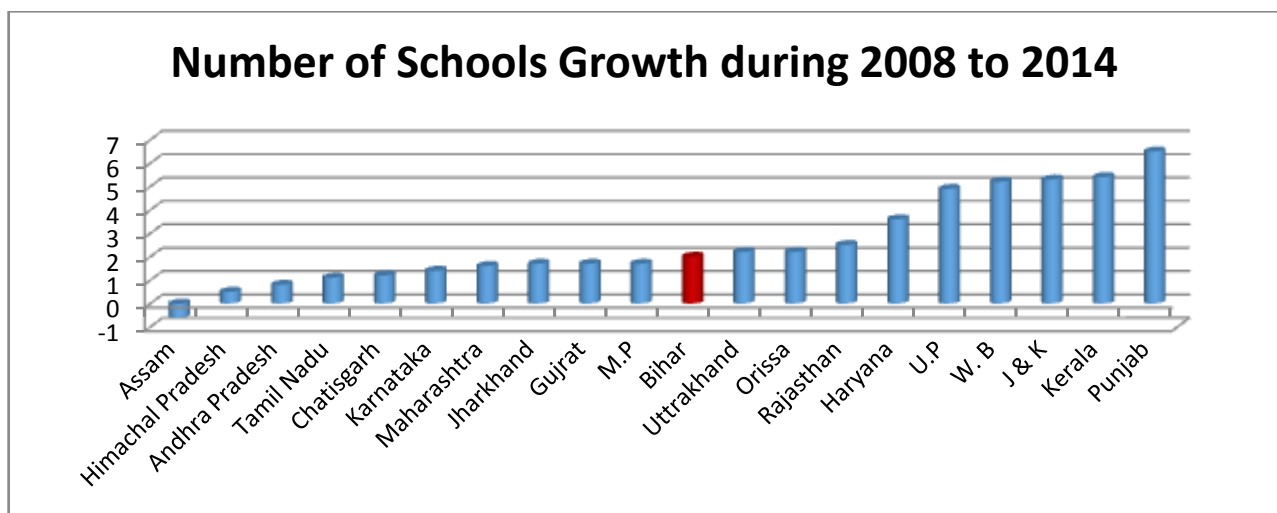
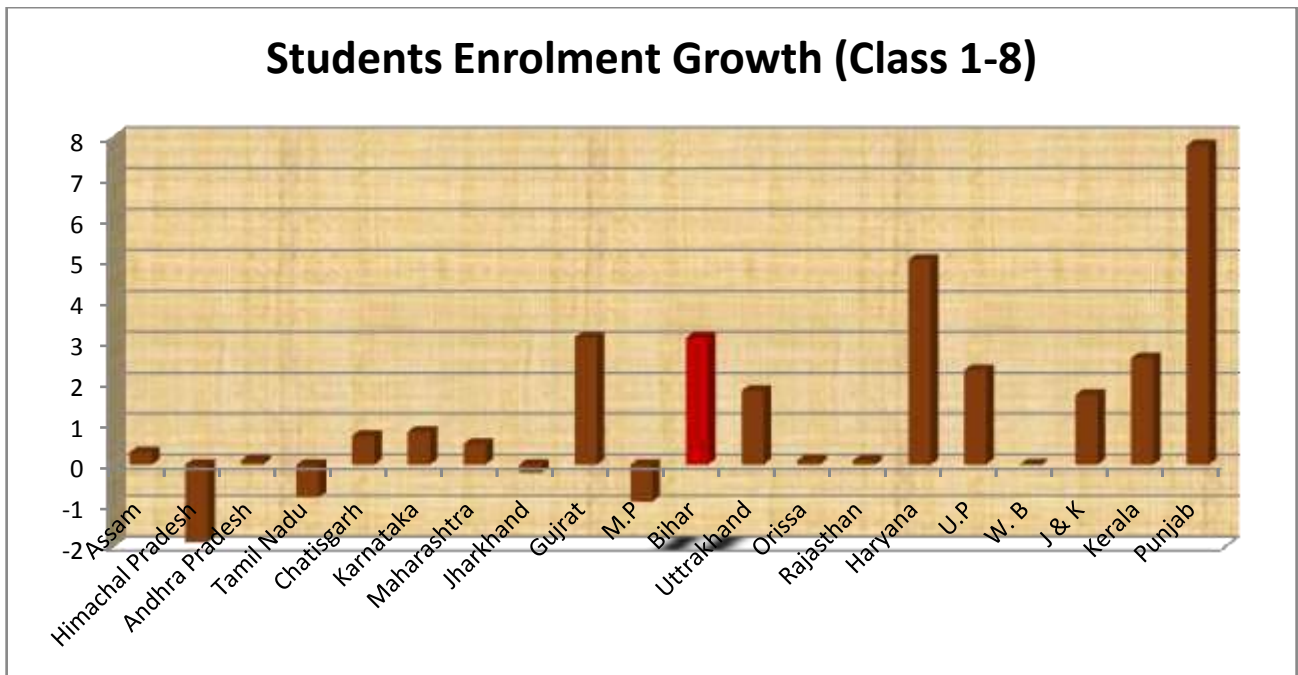


Figure: - 1. Showing growth in number of elementary govt. school



**Figure: - 2. Showing increment and reduction in number of students enrolment in elementary govt. school**

During 2008 to 2014 percentage of growth number of government school is not equal to the growth in enrolment of students in elementary schools. Except Assam in all states, although number of elementary school increased but the enrolment rate did not increase much excluding Punjab and Haryana. It means that ratio of school and students in respect to growth were not equal and satisfactory. In Bihar number of school increased 18% during the period but enrollment of students increased 31% only.

### Literature Review

Das (1974) has studied the impact of school condition on primary education. The aim of the study was to ascertain the impact of physical conditions of the primary school on the achievement of students and find if there is a significant relationship between efficiency in education and physical facilities in school. The school conditions definably seemed to have a favorable impact on school education. He concluded that better physical conditions in school increase the attractive and retentive power of school as well as provided situations conclusive for effective education, hence contributed towards better education of children in school. He further stated that better physical facilities can play good role for reducing wastage and stagnation at primary level.

Mandal (1980) studied the need of universal free and compulsory primary education in Bihar (1950-74). The main objective of study was to locate the stress and strain encountered in course of implementation of scheme of compulsory primary school education and to suggest the measures to eliminate the issue. The study revealed that the most of the children enrolled by 1978 are only the 57% of the total number of children in age group 6-14 years. There was a kind of build in resistance among the poor labors, scheduled castes and tribes etc. to avail the facilities of primary education and therefore the need of sustained and vigorous drives was imperative. The study also shows that out of every 100 children enrolled in class 1st only 25% student reaches in Class V and only 15% went up to class VIII. It was found that facilities availed by Govt. for school going children were unutilized.

Sachidanand (1982) has worked on disparities in elementary education. His study aimed to trace the development of primary education and literacy in Bihar and revealed that the expansion of literacy could not join perspective intensity in relation to increase in the population in Bihar. He noticed that Bihar has very disparity in education and socio economic scenario in the all the districts. He found a relation of literacy towards the enrolment of children in school. He revealed that there is high literacy in those districts where voluntary organizations and Missionaries are working for upliftment of primary education. He also noticed that work of missionaries and other voluntary organization is effective

for the primary education of Scheduled caste Scheduled tribe and girl children.

### Significance of the Study

The scope of the study covers following aspects:

- It helps to identify the various discrimination in infrastructure distribution in schools.
- To know the need of infrastructure in government schools.
- To know about the comparative infrastructure facility management in schools.

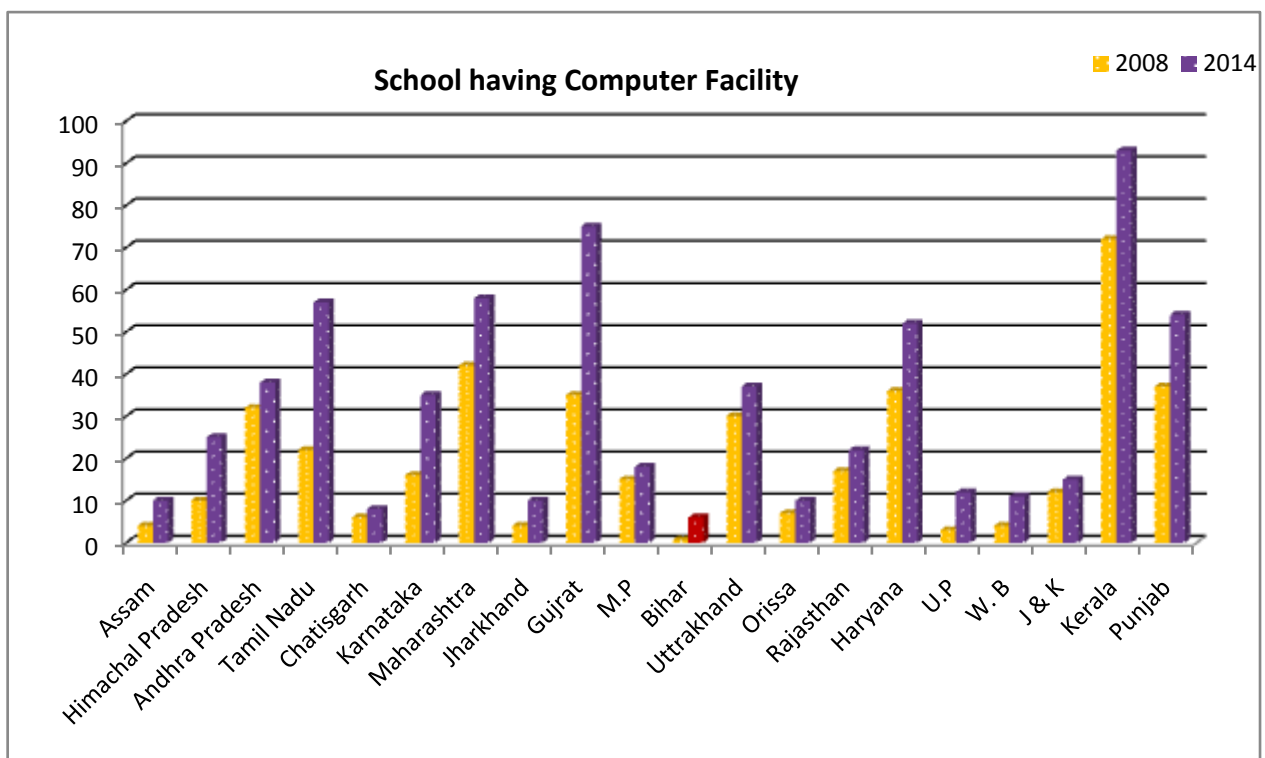
### Objectives of the study

- To study the infrastructure distribution in the secondary schools of Bihar state, in respect of Computer facility, Electricity, toilets, classrooms and student teacher ratio etc.
- To find out the relationship between physical infrastructure of schools and pupil achievement.
- To understand the status of infrastructure management in schools in Bihar.

### Methodology

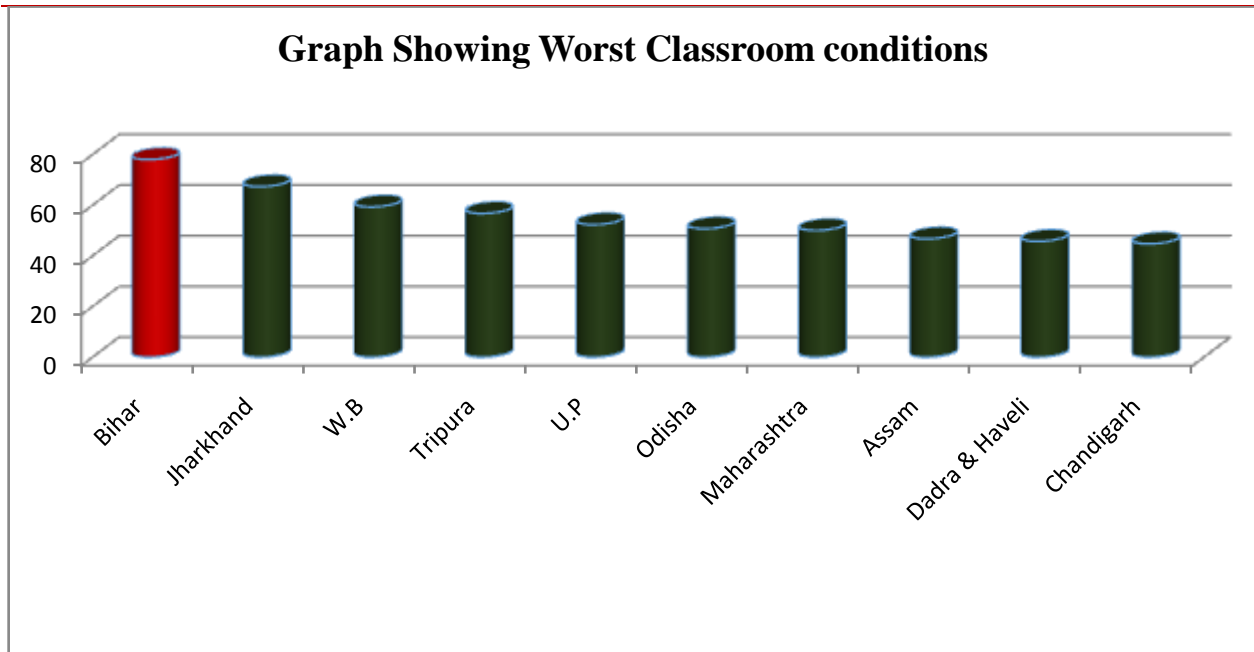
The analysis is made on the basis of secondary data from District Information System for Education (DISE) report on schools. Various reports and research papers were critically analyzed which are available on online sources.

### Findings and Data Analysis



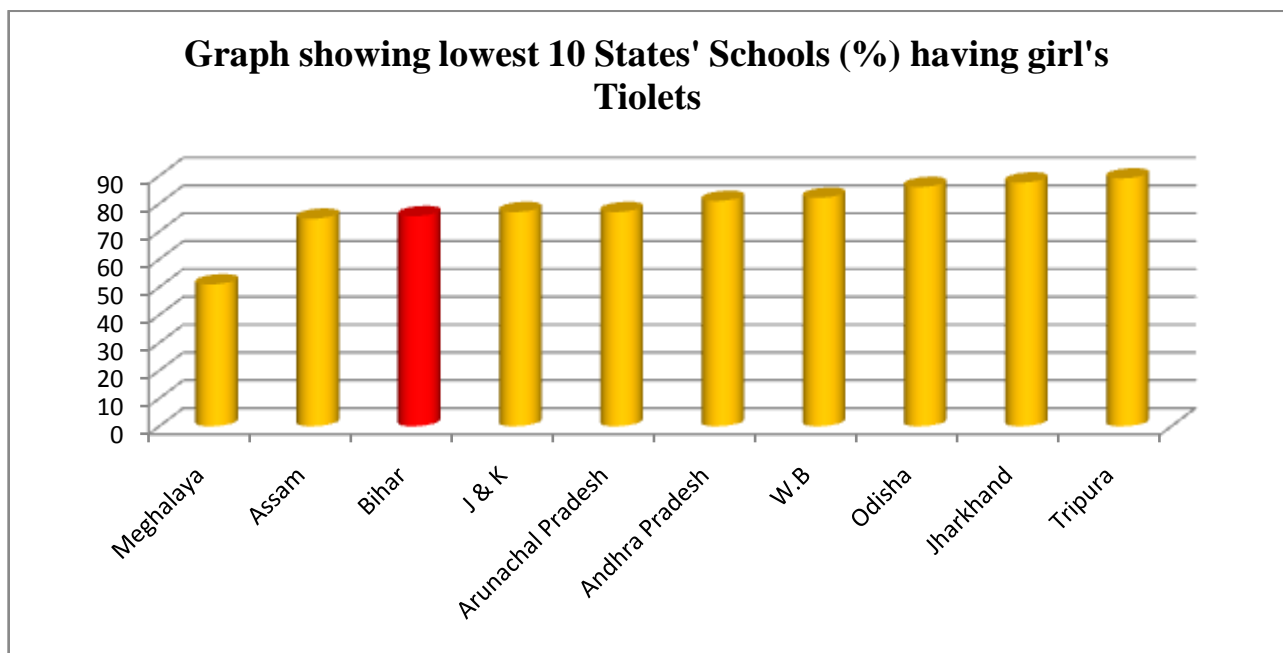
**Figure: - 3. Showing percentage of schools having Computer**

The above figure clearly shows that in 2008, only 0.6% govt. schools have computer facility in Bihar which increases up to 6% schools in 2014. Comparison to other states of India, government schools of Bihar is in most critical condition when we talk about computer literacy.



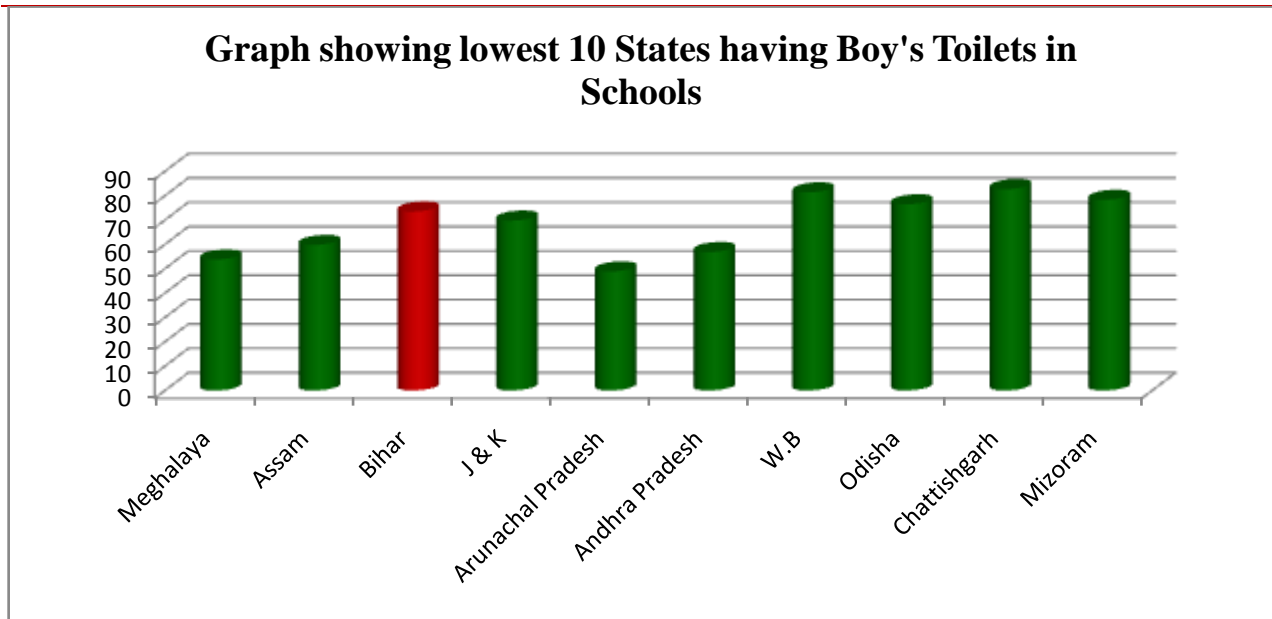
**Figure: - 4. Showing the states having 10 worst classroom condition of elementary school**

The figure shows that the condition of govt. school classrooms is in worst in Bihar state in comparison to other states of India. There are 78% classrooms in Bihar which are not in good condition.



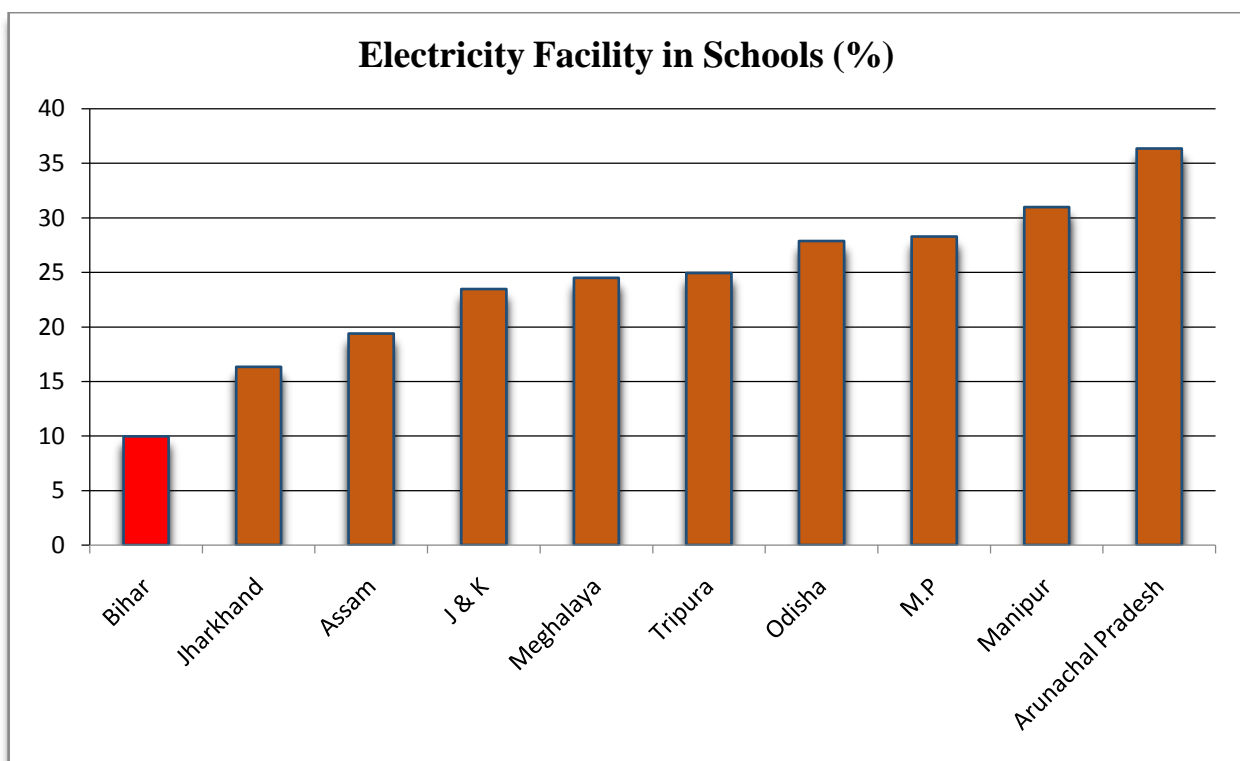
**Figure: - 5. Showing 10 lowest states having girls' toilet in elementary schools**

The picture is clearly indicating ten lowest states with govt. school having toilets facility for girls. Bihar is 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest state having girls' toilets in India while Meghalaya is on 1<sup>st</sup> bottom state. There are only 75.5% schools in Bihar have separate toilets for girls.



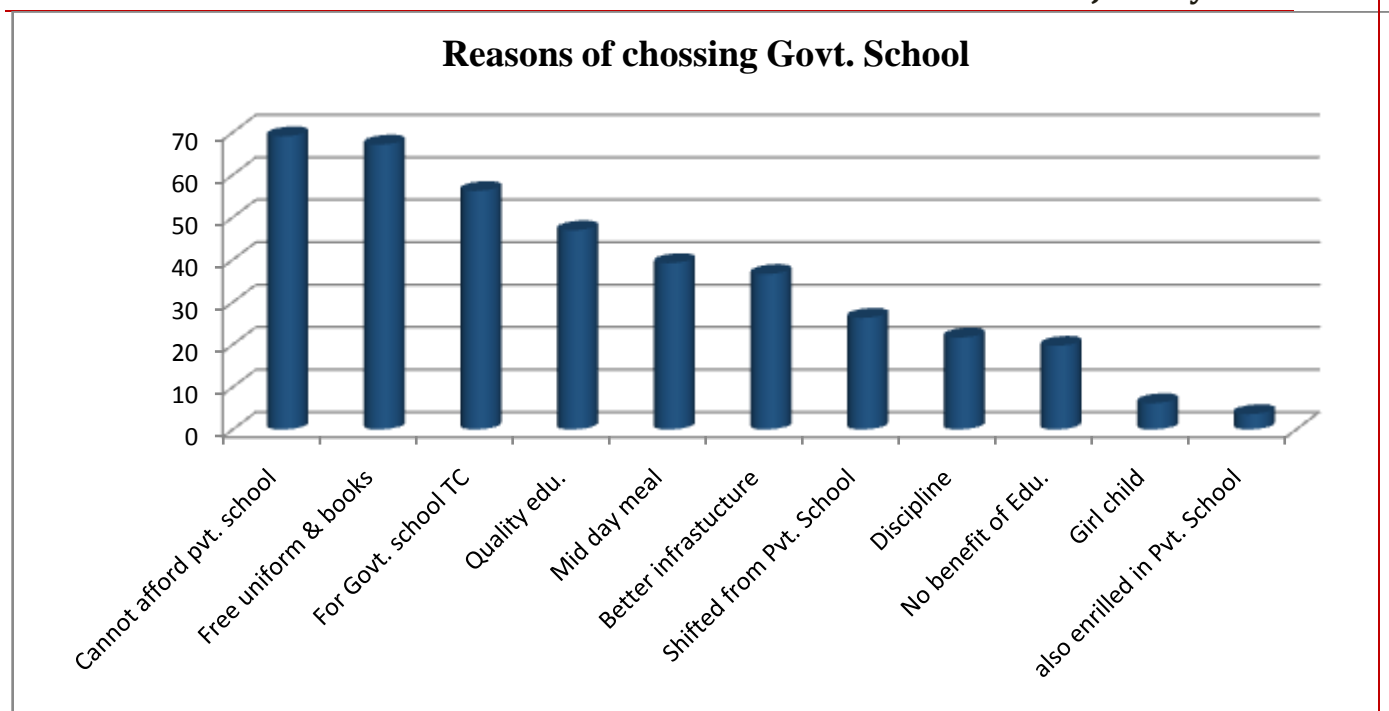
**Figure: - 6. Showing 10 lowest states having boys' toilet in elementary schools**

The above chart shows the ten lowest states of India with govt. school having toilet facility for boys. Bihar is 6<sup>th</sup> lowest state of India having boys' toilets while Arunachal Pradesh is having lowest state. There are only 73.5% schools in Bihar have toilets for boys.



**Figure: - 7. Showing 10 lowest states having electricity facility in elementary schools**

The above bar shows the states' government schools having electricity facility in percentage. There are only 9.96% schools having electricity in Bihar. Bihar has worst condition in electricity and 1<sup>st</sup> bottom state of India having electricity in schools while other states have better conditions than Bihar.



**Figure: - 8. Showing 11 reasons why parents choose Govt. school for their children**

The above figure is telling 11 top reasons to choose government school by parents. There are 11 reasons to choose government schools such as parents can not afford private schools, free uniform and books, for govt. school transfer certificate, quality of education, mid day meal, infrastructure, discipline etc. 3.61% parents accepted that they have also enrolled their children in private schools. 6.19% parents told that they choosed govt. school of being girl child. 19.7% people think that education has no benefit so they choose govt. school for their childs. The main reason of choosing govt. school is 69.7% parents can not afford pvt. School. The second big reason of choosing govt. school is free books and free uniforms. Findings of the study show that there is a major problem of non-availability of suitable infrastructure in the schools. The infrastructural gap is very large.

## Conclusion

Bihar State Educational Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been engaged with an aim to develop the infrastructure facility for schools in Bihar. With the substantial expansion of elementary schools in Bihar, in terms of both number of schools and teachers, the enrolment of students in the age-group 6-14 years is now nearly universal. At present the most important constraint which is being faced by the elementary schools is the shortage of teachers, followed by their inadequate infrastructure. Based on above study we come to a conclusion that only shutting down the private schools as mandated by the Right to free and Compulsory Education is not viable for the state. Therefore, we recommend that the government should bring these schools within the legal preview by working energetically with private school proprietors, organisations representing private schools, including low cost private schools, and other interested bodies, to devise a positive way to recognise private schools. We may follow the steps as taken by the Government of Gujarat to rate the private schools on the basis of learning achievements and some input criteria (BaladevanRangaraju James Tooley Pauline Dixon, 2012).

## Recommendations:

It is recommended to the investors and the funding bodies like SarvaSiksha Mission and the bodies responsible for planning, managing and designing the educational facilities in Bihar to take necessary action in those areas suffering from the deficiencies of elementary school infrastructures. DISE is one of the major initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to improve educational management information system in India in 1995. It records information

such as the level of dropouts and the condition of school in terms of infrastructure.

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