School Dropped-out Children between 2020-21 and 2021-22

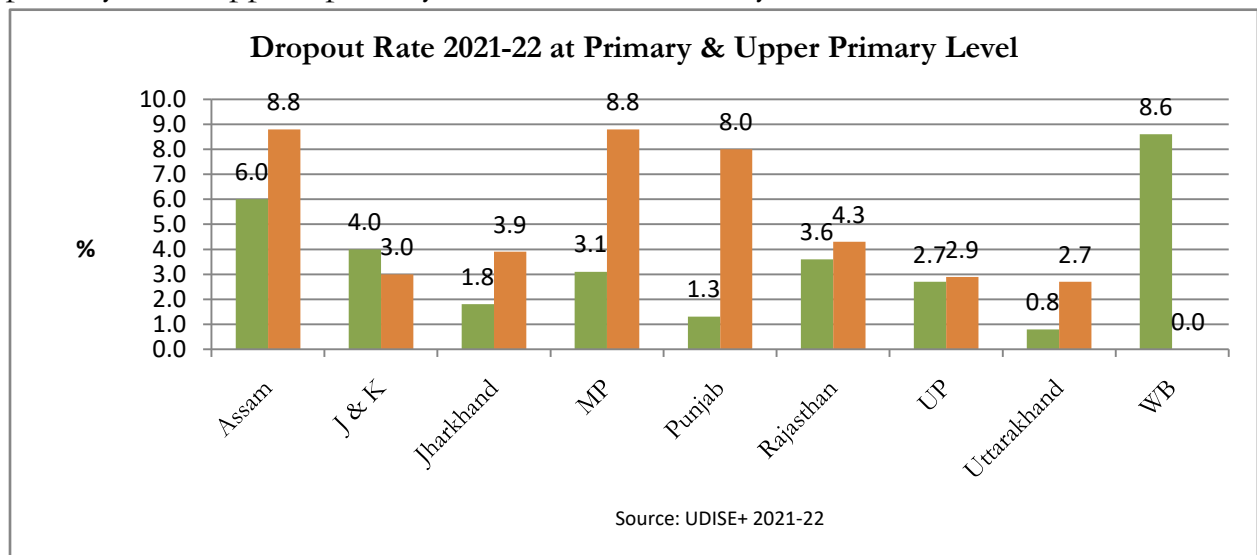By
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As mentioned in my recent writings (see link below), the UDISE+ computes dropout rate based on all schools and not on the common schools: common in both the years during which the grade-wise enrolment is considered in the calculation. If not based on common schools, the dropout rates obtained present an underestimate of the actual dropout rates.
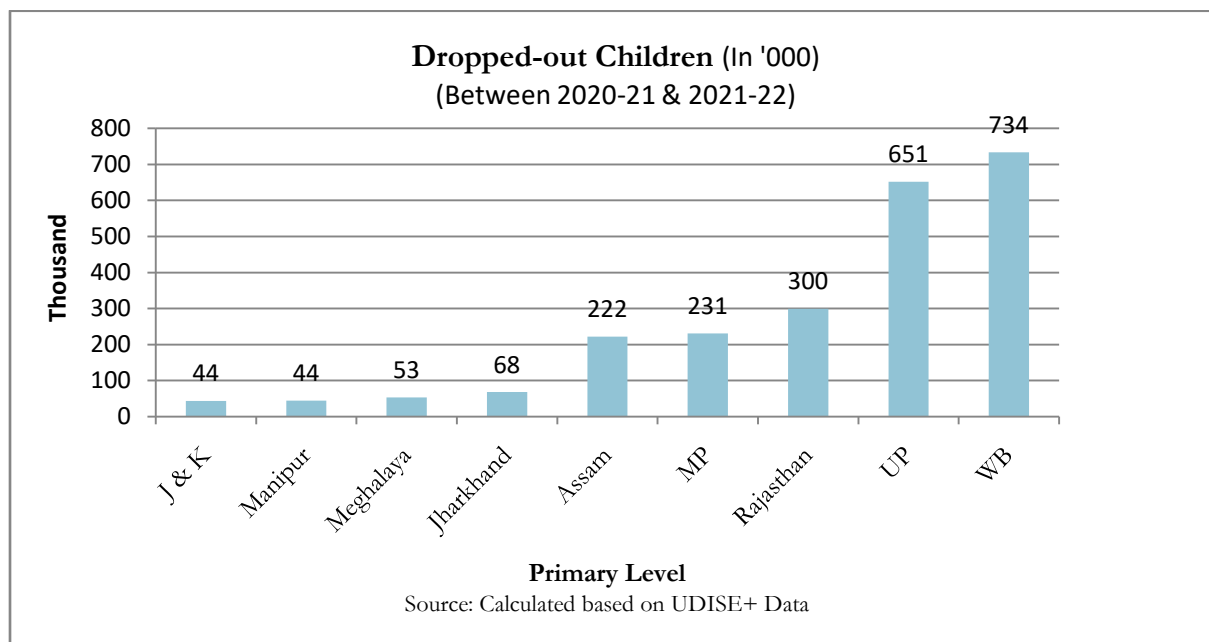
In this brief note, total enrolment at primary and upper primary levels of education in 2020-21 and drop out rate of cohort 2020-21 (the year 2021-22) have been considered in computing the number of students those who dropped out between the years 2020-21 and 2021-22. The dropout rate in 2021-22 in a state is applied to total enrolment in primary classes in the previous year, i.e., 2020-21, to obtain the number of dropped-out children between 2020-21 and 2021-22, which has been applied to all states.

Similarly, by using the dropout rate at the upper primary level in 2021-22 is applied to total enrolment in upper primary classes, i.e., VI to VIII, to obtain the number of dropped-out children at this level of education. Both primary and upper primary dropped-out children are added to obtain the total dropped-out children in a state in 2021-22. Further, all states added together to get the total number of dropped-out children in India who left the system during 2020-21 and 2021-22 either at the primary or upper primary and or elementary level at the all-India level.

Source: UDISE+ 2021-22

Because of consideration of all schools, the dropout rate often presents absurd results; following the same methodology at the all-India level does not present the true picture of retaining the system's capacity. Though, as mentioned above, the average annual dropout rate must be based on the common schools, from the UDISE+ portal, it is not possible to download enrolment data based on the common schools, given that an attempt is made to compute the state-wise number of students dropped out in between the years.

The state-wise number of children who dropped out between 2020-21 and 2021-22 indicates that in the case of primary level, fifteen states reported that not a single student dropped out as the UDISE+ reported ZERO dropout rate, which in most of the issues is, in fact, negative rate but reported zero. These fifteen states include both small as well as big states. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana are such states. A few such states also had no student drop out at the upper primary level of education; Goa, Delhi, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu are such states. States like Sikkim and West Bengal need further scrutiny as they reported zero dropout rates at the upper primary level but have an incidence of dropout at the primary level of education.

Dropped-out Children (In '000)
(Between 2020-21 & 2021-22)

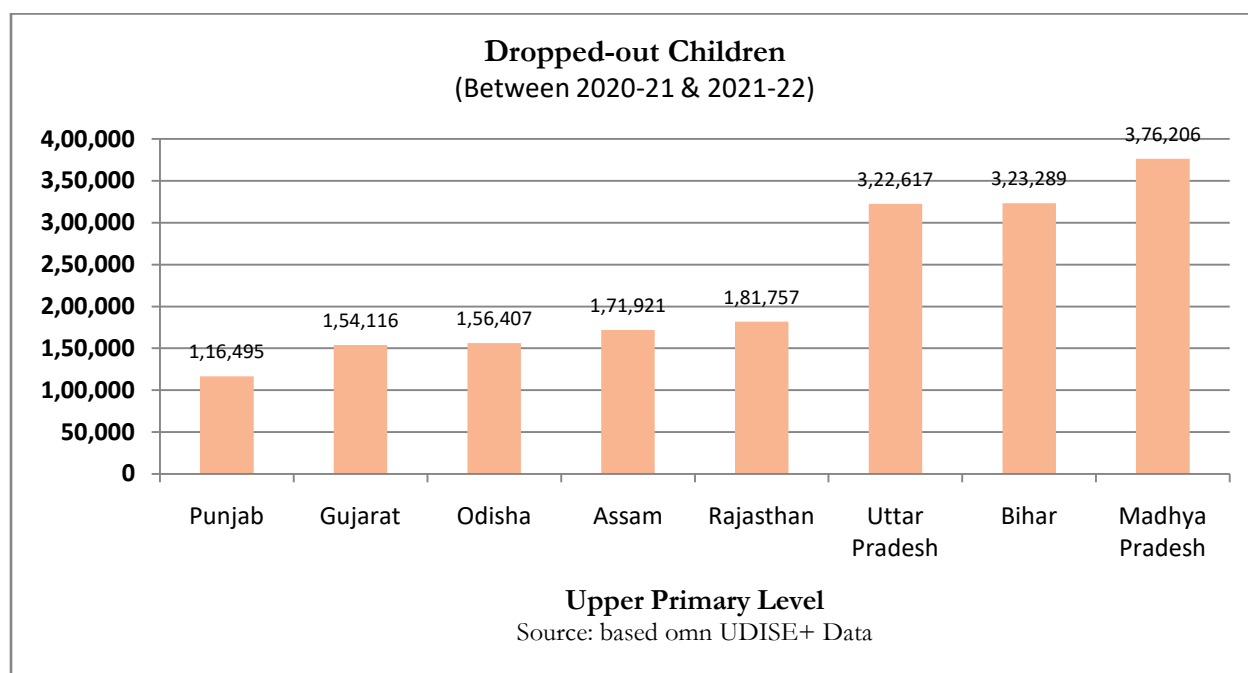| State	Value
J & K	44
Manipur	44
Meghalaya	53
Jharkhand	68
Assam	222
MP	231
Rajasthan	300
UP	651
WB	734

Primary Level
Source: Calculated based on UDISE+ Data

The state-specific number of dropped-out children indicates that the lowest 26 students dropped out in Lakshadweep UT at the primary level of education, against

School Dropped-out Children between 2020-21 & 2021-2

State/ UT	Enrolment, 2020-21			Dropout Rate, 2021-22		Dropped-out Children between 2020-21 & 2021-22		
	Primary (1 to 5)	Upper Primary (6-8)	Elementary (1-8)	Primary (1 to 5)	Upper Primary (6-8)	Primary	Upper Primary	Elementary
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27420	17959	45379	0.4	1.0	110	180	289
Andhra Pradesh	3802343	2157288	5959631	0.0	1.6	0	34517	34517
Arunachal Pradesh	169096	85587	254683	9.3	6.7	15726	5734	21460
Assam	3706238	1953646	5659884	6.0	8.8	222374	171921	394295
Bihar	13728283	7028016	20756299	0.0	4.6	0	323289	323289
Chandigarh	91212	63824	155036	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	2656716	1472887	4129603	0.8	4.1	21254	60388	81642
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	58379	34439	92818	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Delhi	1749132	1153258	2902390	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Goa	120779	71777	192556	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gujarat	5382429	3082327	8464756	0.0	5.0	0	154116	154116
Haryana	2498572	1443313	3941885	0.0	0.2	0	2887	2887
Himachal Pradesh	555200	339892	895092	0.0	0.6	0	2039	2039
Jammu and Kashmir	1091015	576755	1667770	4.0	3.0	43641	17303	60943
Jharkhand	3803579	2055203	5858782	1.8	3.9	68464	80153	148617
Karnataka	5316103	3158190	8474293	0.0	1.1	0	34740	34740
Kerala	2460558	1490417	3950975	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Ladakh	22982	12078	35060	6.5	1.1	1494	133	1627
Lakshadweep	5294	2457	7751	0.5	2.6	26	64	90
Madhya Pradesh	7457339	4275073	11732412	3.1	8.8	231178	376206	607384
Maharashtra	9544410	5846586	15390996	0.0	1.5	0	87699	87699
Manipur	330829	155783	486612	13.3	5.6	44000	8724	52724
Meghalaya	541509	242417	783926	9.8	10.6	53068	25696	78764
Mizoram	134048	69520	203568	6.4	2.7	8579	1877	10456
Nagaland	181172	98469	279641	5.0	4.0	9059	3939	12997
Odisha	3549793	2142561	5692354	0.0	7.3	0	156407	156407
Puducherry	101208	62953	164161	3.7	2.4	3745	1511	5256
Punjab	2350017	1456184	3806201	1.3	8.0	30550	116495	147045
Rajasthan	8319838	4226917	12546755	3.6	4.3	299514	181757	481272
Sikkim	47305	31267	78572	1.8	0.0	851	0	851
Tamil Nadu	5161557	3110765	8272322	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Telangana	3031347	1794753	4826100	0.0	3.1	0	55637	55637
Tripura	318457	184264	502721	1.1	4.5	3503	8292	11795
Uttar Pradesh	24126217	11124734	35250951	2.7	2.9	651408	322617	974025
Uttarakhand	1049611	594201	1643812	0.8	2.7	8397	16043	24440
West Bengal	8531304	4238439	12769743	8.6	0.0	733692	0	733692
India	122021291	65854199	187875490			**2450633**	**2250364**	**4700997**

Source: Computed based on UDISE+ 2020-21 and 2021-22 data.

which the highest number of 7,33,692 students dropped out in West Bengal, followed by Uttar Pradesh (6,51,408 students). In the case of at least seven states, the number of dropped-out students is more than 50,000; Assam (2,22,374 students), Madhya Pradesh (2,31,178 students), and Rajasthan (2,99,514 students) are among these states. All states had a total of 24,50,633 dropped-out children at the primary level of education between 2020-21 and 2021-22, which is considered huge.

Dropped-out Children
(Between 2020-21 & 2021-22)

State	Value
Punjab	1,16,495
Gujarat	1,54,116
Odisha	1,56,407
Assam	1,71,921
Rajasthan	1,81,757
Uttar Pradesh	3,22,617
Bihar	3,23,289
Madhya Pradesh	3,76,206

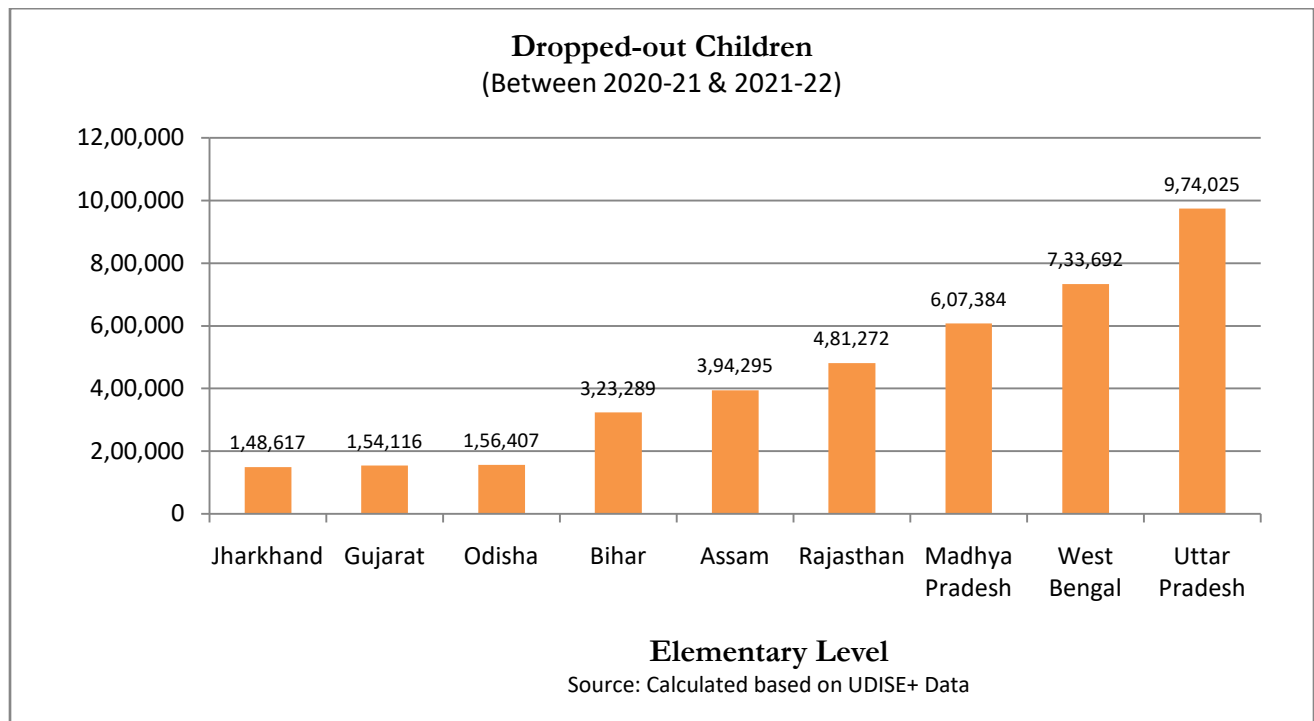**Upper Primary Level**
Source: based omn UDISE+ Data

In addition to the dropped-out children at the primary level of education, a good number of children also dropped out in upper primary classes. In a few states, the number of such students is much higher than in primary classes. Lakshadweep has the lowest number of 64 dropped-out children in upper primary classes; however, Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of 3,76,206 dropped-out children in upper primary classes. On the other hand, as many as eight states reported no student dropped out at this level of education between 2020-21 and 2021-22. Madhya Pradesh is followed by Bihar (3,23,289 students), Uttar Pradesh (3,22,617 students), Rajasthan (1,81,757 Students), Assam (1,71,921 students), Odisha (1,56,407 students), etc. Further, it is observed that at least eight states reported more than 100 thousand dropped-out students in 2021-22 over the previous year.

In addition to a total of 24,50,633 dropped-out students in the primary classes, it is further observed a total of 22,50,364 students dropped-out in upper primary classes, which resulted in a total of 47,00,997 students (4.7 million) dropped out in the elementary classes in 2021-22 over the previous year, i.e., 2020-21. A total of

47,00,997 dropped-out children is significantly higher than the same calculated based on an all-India dropout rate of 1.45 percent, i.e., 37,58,106.

The state-specific number of dropped-out children in elementary classes reveals zero dropout children in Chandigarh, Dadra, and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Delhi, Goa, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu between 2020-21 and 2021-22. Even though these states attain a zero dropout rate but the retention rate doesn't suggest that all those who entered into the system five years back could be retained.

Dropped-out Children
(Between 2020-21 & 2021-22)

State	Dropped-out Children
Jharkhand	1,48,617
Gujarat	1,54,116
Odisha	1,56,407
Bihar	3,23,289
Assam	3,94,295
Rajasthan	4,81,272
Madhya Pradesh	6,07,384
West Bengal	7,33,692
Uttar Pradesh	9,74,025

Elementary Level
Source: Calculated based on UDISE+ Data

At least ten states reported dropped-out children in elementary classes, more than 100 thousand children, with the highest number of 9,74,025 students in Uttar Pradesh, which is followed by West Bengal (7,33,692 students), Madhya Pradesh (607384 students), Rajasthan (4,81,272 students), etc. On the other hand, eleven states reported a total of up to 50 thousand dropped out students in elementary classes; one of the major states, namely Karnataka, is also placed in this group. The states with higher numbers need to undertake disaggregated analysis of the level of block and find out who dropped out. Is it in rural or urban areas or boys or girls or the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes or minority children who tend to drop out more and initiate strategies to bring all of them under the umbrella of education to move towards the goal of universal school education with 100 percent GER by 2030 as envisaged in NEP 2030?

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