



# Who Goes to School?

Exploring Exclusion in  
Indian Education

edited by R. Govinda

OXFORD





'This book draws together a wide range of insights into the development of basic education in India, drawing on five years of research supported by the Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity (CREATE). It collates insights into key issues concerned with equity, gender, transition, governance, dropouts, migration, [and] nutrition that will shape the realisation of the Right to Education recently passed into law for the benefit of all India's school age children.'

— **Keith M. Lewin**, Director, CREATE and the Centre for International Education, University of Sussex

'Gaps between education policy intent and policy in practice are evident everywhere. The team of researchers who have produced this book have worked hard to address the realities as well as the rhetoric of elementary education in contemporary India. [This] book has much to commend it.'

— **Angela Little**, Professor Emerita, Institute of Education, University of London

'The book underscores in depth several pertinent issues which have a bearing on social and gender equity; the phenomenon of dropouts in understanding achievement of access; social and class disparities including interventions for children with special needs, which at times slow down realization of access to education with equity....The book is an excellent compendium for researchers in education who may wish to delve deep into the various nuances of elementary education.'

— **A.K. Sharma**, Former Director, National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT)

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

[www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)

ISBN 0-19-807076-4



9 780198 070764

Rs 795

## Who Goes to School?

### Exploring Exclusion in Indian Education

The Right to Education Act, 2010 has brought India one step closer to its goal of achieving universalization of elementary education (UEE). Yet, large numbers of children, especially from disadvantaged communities, continue to be deprived of quality education. *Who Goes to School?* explores patterns of access and exclusion in basic education in India.

The volume outlines policy and legislation on access to education and provides statistical analysis of learners enrolled in school, out-of-school children, and learners vulnerable to exclusion. It suggests that meaningful access to education is an aspect of UEE that requires more than just full enrolment. Rather, it necessitates high attendance rates, progression through grades with no repetition, and learning outcomes which confirm that basic skills are being mastered.

The contributors focus on various aspects ranging from malnutrition, gender and social equity, migration, dropout rates, and differentiation in schooling provisions to matters of teaching and governance. They analyse in depth the way in which educational access is conceptualized; in doing so, they also identify areas for future research.

This collection will be an invaluable resource for students and scholars of education, sociology, gender studies, public administration, public policy, and development studies. Administrators, policymakers, and non-profit organizations working in the areas of education and education policy would find it informative.

## Contents

<i>List of Tables and Figures</i>	vii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xii
<i>Foreword by André Béteille</i>	xvii
<i>Preface by Keith M. Lewin</i>	xxi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xxv
1. Access to Elementary Education in India: Analytical Overview <i>R. Govinda and Madhumita Bandyopadhyay</i>	1
2. Education and Social Equity in Elementary Education <i>Mona Sedwal and Sangeeta Kamat</i>	87
3. Gender Equity in Education: A Review of Trends and Factors <i>Madhumita Bandyopadhyay and Ramya Subrahmanian</i>	123
4. School Dropouts or 'Pushouts'? Overcoming Barriers for the Right to Education <i>Shanta Sinha and Anugula N. Reddy</i>	166
5. Access to What? Diversity and Participation <i>Nalini Juneja</i>	205
6. Local Governance and Community Participation in Elementary Education <i>R. Govinda and Madhumita Bandyopadhyay</i>	248



7. Teachers and Teacher Education: Impact on Elementary Education <i>Mona Sedwal</i>	286
8. Distress Seasonal Migration and its Impact on Children's Education <i>Smita</i>	315
9. Malnourishment among Children in India: Linkages with Cognitive Development and School Participation <i>Neelam Sood</i>	361
10. Issues and Priorities for Action and Research <i>R. Govinda</i>	404

<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	421
------------------------------	-----