

UDISE+ REPORT – REPORTS

Ministry of Education releases report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2024–25 on school education of India. The UDISE+ 2024–25 report shows major improvements in India's school education system, particularly a better Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) and lower dropout rates. These positive trends are linked to significant upgrades in school infrastructure and a notable increase in the number of teachers.

Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) Report 2024–25

The Ministry of Education's recently released UDISE+ 2024–25 report provides a comprehensive overview of India's school education system, revealing substantial advancements in key areas such as teacher availability, student enrolment and retention, and the quality of school infrastructure.

About the UDISE+ System

Comprehensive Data Collection – UDISE+ is a state-of-the-art digital application designed to function as a unified and comprehensive data source for the entire school education sector in India. Its mandate covers all recognized schools imparting formal education, from the Pre-primary level up to Class XII.

Digital Transformation (Launch in 2018–19) – The system was introduced in 2018–19 to overhaul the previous manual data collection process. Its primary objectives were to –

1. Expedite data entry by enabling schools to upload information in real-time.
2. Minimize errors associated with manual data handling.
3. Enhance data quality and reliability through built-in verification checks.
4. Simplify the verification process for officials at the block, district, state, and national levels.

Nodal Agency – The initiative is managed and overseen by the Department of School Education & Literacy, which falls under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Major Highlights of the UDISE+ Report 2024–25

1. Improved Teacher Strength and Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR)

Landmark in Teacher Numbers – For the first time in India's history, the total number of school teachers has surpassed the **1 crore** mark. This represents a significant 6.7% increase since the 2022–23 academic year, indicating a strong focus on strengthening the teaching workforce.

Enhanced Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) – The PTR, which measures the average number of students per teacher, has shown remarkable improvement across all stages of school education.

Definition – A lower PTR is crucial as it allows for more personalized attention to students, leading to better learning outcomes.

Current Ratios –

1. Foundational Stage – **10** students per teacher.
2. Preparatory Stage – **13** students per teacher.
3. Middle Stage – **17** students per teacher.
4. Secondary Stage – **21** students per teacher.

Significance – These ratios are comfortably within the 1 – 30 benchmark recommended by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, reflecting a positive step towards quality education.

2. Positive Trends in Dropout and Retention Rates

Decline in Dropout Rates – The report highlights a significant reduction in the percentage of students leaving the education system prematurely.

1. Preparatory Level – Dropped from **3.7%** to **2.3%**.
2. Middle Level – Dropped from **5.2%** to **3.5%**.
3. Secondary Level – Dropped from **10.9%** to **8.2%**.

Improved Student Retention – Consequently, the ability of the school system to retain students has improved.

Retention Rates – Foundational (98.9%), Preparatory (92.4%), Middle (82.8%), and Secondary (47.2%).

Reason for Improvement – The report links this positive trend to a strategic increase in the number of schools offering secondary education. This expansion has enhanced accessibility, making it easier for students to continue their enrolment into higher grades.

3. Growth in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Transition Rate

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) – The GER, which compares the number of students enrolled in a specific education level to the age-appropriate population for that level, has seen an upward trend.

1. Middle Level – GER rose from 89.5% to 90.3%.
2. Secondary Level – GER increased from 66.5% to 68.5%.
3. Implication – This reflects improved access to education and greater participation, especially at the critical higher grade levels.

Smoother Student Progression – The transition rates between different stages of education have improved, indicating a more seamless progression for students through the system.

1. Foundational to Preparatory – 98.6%.
2. Preparatory to Middle – 92.2%.
3. Middle to Secondary – 86.6%.

4. Consolidation and Rationalization of Schools

Reduction in Single-Teacher Schools – The number of schools operating with only one teacher has decreased by approximately 6%, from 1.10 lakh in 2023–24 to 1.04 lakh in 2024–25. This is a crucial step towards ensuring quality education and effective school management.

Decline in Zero-Enrolment Schools – There has been a remarkable ~38% decline in the number of zero-enrolment schools (from 12,954 to 7,993). This sharp reduction reflects the success of government interventions in consolidating resources and improving teacher allocation.

5. Widespread Improvements in School Infrastructure

Digital Facilities – The push for digital learning is evident in the data. Schools with computer access increased from 57.2% to 64.7%. Schools with internet connectivity rose from 53.9% to 63.5%.

Basic Infrastructure – There is near-universal access to essential amenities.

1. 93.6% of schools now have an electricity connection.
2. 99.3% have access to drinking water.
3. 97.3% have functional girls' toilets, and 96.2% have boys' toilets.
4. 95.9% are equipped with handwashing facilities.

Inclusivity and Accessibility – A significant step towards inclusivity has been taken, with 54.9% of schools now equipped with ramps and handrails for students with disabilities.

Recreational and Learning Spaces – Library and playground facilities remain stable, with marginal improvements reported across the country.

6. Enhanced Female Representation in Education

Female Teachers – Women now form the majority of the teaching workforce, accounting for 54.2% of all teachers. This reflects an improved gender balance in the profession and provides positive role models for students.

Girls' Enrolment – Progress towards gender equity in education continues, with girls' enrolment reaching 48.3% of the total student population in 2024–25, indicating near parity in access to schooling.

Source – <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2161543>