

A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

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ABSTRACT

The RTE Act requires barrier free access to schools. Barrier free access could mean, at one level, access without any natural/physical barriers. The State will have to make appropriate provisions to ensure access to schooling to such children either by opening a school in the habitation or providing escort and safe transportation facilities to the school, or by any other means. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) aimed to provide Free and Compulsory Education to all the children of 6 to 14 years age group. But many children stay in quite remote and interior areas where schools are not available and/or can't be opened too. Hence, in order to bring these children to schools, SSA has started to provide transportation/ escort facility. Approximately 50,000 children have been benefited with this facility. The present study is a need based research project sponsored by SSA to study the Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF) operated by SSA in Gujarat, in the context of the beneficiary students' academic achievement, with the help of the 30 Field Investigators, using self prepared research tools and the Survey method of research the required data was collected from teachers and principals.

Keywords: *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF), Need Based Research Project, Academic Achievement*

The RTE Act requires barrier free access to schools. Barrier free access could mean, at one level, access without any natural/physical barriers. The State will have to make appropriate provisions to ensure access to schooling to such children either by opening a school in the habitation or providing escort and safe transportation facilities to the school, or by any other means. There are constant efforts made by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to spread the scope and improve the quality of Primary education in Gujarat. Under this mission the Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF) was started for the students studying in the primary schools from the academic year 2012 – 13, under which the Transportation or Escort Facility is provided freely to

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A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

the students who are coming to school from faraway places. The present study is a Need Based Study to assess the effectiveness of this facility initiated by SSA.

SSA aimed to provide *Free and Compulsory* Education to all the children of 6 to 14 years age group. But many children stay in quite *remote and interior* areas where schools are not available and/or can't be opened too. Hence, in order to bring these children to schools, SSA has started to provide transportation/ escort facility. Approximately 50,000 children have been benefited with this facility. Crores of rupees are invested to provide this facility. Now in order to *assess* its performance this study has been proposed to study the effectiveness of transportation/escort facility with respect to certain variables sensitive to it.

In the present study from all the 26 districts of Gujarat state, in the four identified districts by the SSA i.e., - Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Sabarkantha, Junagadh and Panchmahal, the effectiveness this functional facility of Transportation and escort was studied in the context of the beneficiary students' academic achievement, for which with the help of the 30 Field Investigators, using self prepared research tools, using the Survey method of research the required data was collected from teachers and principals and in this way, an attempt was made to assess the effectiveness of the Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF) provided by SSA.

Thus the present study, "A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students" is an honest attempt to study the Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF) operated by SSA in Gujarat.

Objective:

1. To study standard wise the impact of transportation/escort facility on Academic Achievement of students.

Research Question:

2. Whether the Academic Achievement of students has been affected positively after providing transportation/escort facilities?

METHODOLOGY

Population:

All the students of Gujarat State who have been benefited by this facility are the population of this study. There are 4 districts identified from the SSA in which this study was to be conducted. The below given table describes the detail of the name of these four districts, total number of schools under SSA which are getting advantage of this facility and the total number of beneficiary students.

A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

Table 1: Information about Four Selected Districts

District	Number of Schools	Number of Beneficiary Students
AMC Corporation	92	11842
Sabarkantha	52	2081
Junagadh	123	4720
Panchmahal	282	4584
Total	549	23227

Sample:

Four districts (**AMC corporation, Sabarkantha, Junagadh and Panchmahal**) were selected as per the suggestion of SSA from all beneficiary districts of Gujarat from which 8130 (\cong 35%) students were selected for data collection, the description of which is given in the table given below:

Table 2: Information about the Sample

Stake Holders	Numbers
Schools	317
Beneficiary Students	8130 (\cong 35%)

Data Collection

- 30 field investigators collected the data and research associates verified the data.
- Standard wise achievement of the last semester exams of previous academic year and the achievement of the first semester of the current academic year were collected of the beneficiary school students.

Types of Data:

Quantitative.

Tools of the Study

Information Schedule for Academic Achievement

Sr. No.	Name of Student	Gender	Standard	Result of the First Semester Exam of Current Year (In Percentage)	Result of the Last Year Exams (In Percentage)

- ♣ Academic achievement of the last semester exams of previous academic year and the achievement of the first semester of the current academic year were collected of the beneficiary school students

A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

Data Analysis

To study the effect of this facility on the academic achievement of the students, data collected by the Field Investigators was analyzed by using the statistical methods of percentage and average. The objective of the present study was to assess the effect of this facility on the academic achievement of the students who are taking advantage of this facility. To collect information regarding the academic achievement of the student's information schedule was used by which the annual exam result of the last academic year (2011 – 12) and the current academic year (2012 – 13) was collected in percentage of the students who are taking advantage of this facility.

Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF) was started in the current academic year 2012 – 13 only therefore to assess the effect of this facility on the academic achievement of the students, the last academic year (2011 – 12) annual exam results were compared with the current academic year (2012 – 13) first semester exam results. With the help of the Information Schedule, the information regarding 8130 students who are currently taking advantage of this facility was gathered. But in that data some of the students' achievement was mentioned in grades and information regarding some of the students was incomplete so such students' information was not considered and thus finally 5006 students' information about their academic achievement was collected. On the basis of the collected information of the students' achievement, the comparison of the students, firstly as a whole and secondly standard wise was done simultaneously which is as described below:

Table 3: Sample for Data Analysis

Standard	Boys	Girls	Total
3	282	249	531
4	505	422	927
5	483	474	957
6	478	397	875
7	434	390	824
8	493	399	892
Total	2675	2331	5006

As per the data collection the concerned data was collected from 5006 total students of which there were 2675 boys and 2331 girls. In this whole group there were about 531 total students in Std. – 3 from which there were 282 boys and 249 girls, about 927 total students in Std – 4 from which there were 505 boys and 422 girls, about 957 total students in Std. – 5 from which there were 483 boys and 474 girls, about 875 total students in Std – 6 from which there were 478 boys and 397 girls, about 824 total students in Std. – 7 from which there were 434 boys and 390 girls, about 892 total students in Std – 8 from which there were 493 boys and 399 girls. The information regarding these students' academic achievement in the annual exam result in the last academic year (2011 – 12) and first semester result of current academic year (2012 – 13) was compared with the help of the percentage which is as described below.

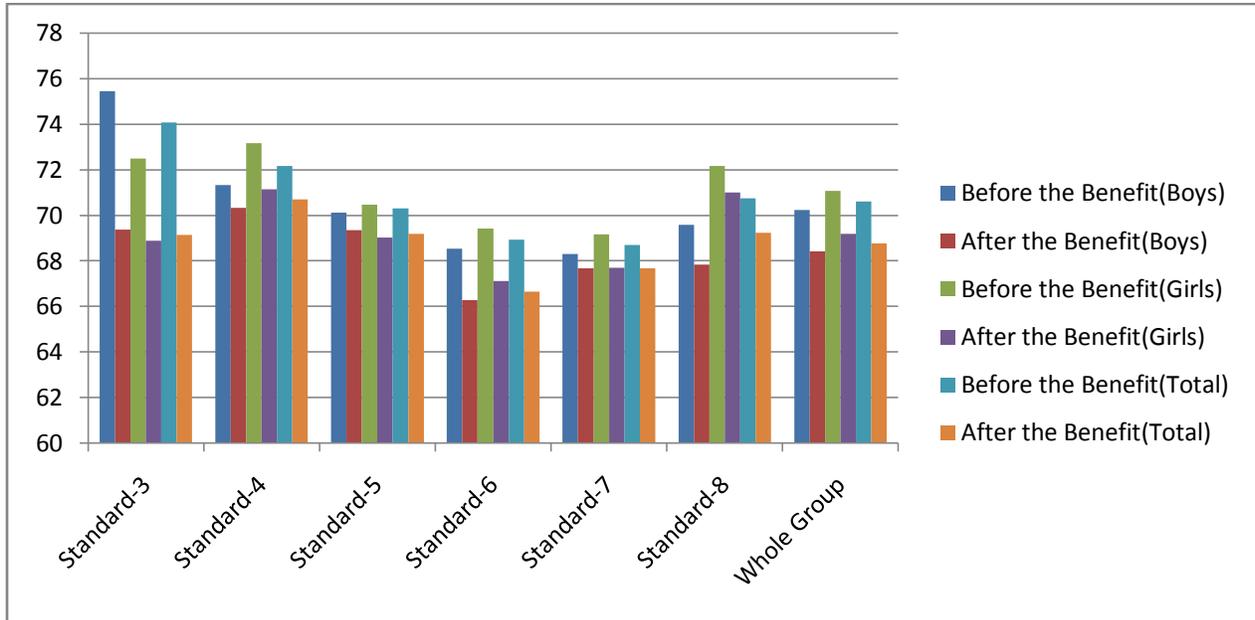
A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

Table 4: Comparison of the Students' Academic Achievement before and After Taking Advantage of the Transportation & Escort Facility

Standard	Status of Child	Boys		Girls		Total Students	
		Number (N)	Average Academic Achievement (%)	Number (N)	Average Academic Achievement (%)	Number (N)	Average Academic Achievement (%)
3	After the Benefit*	282	69.38	249	68.89	531	69.15
	Before the Benefit**	282	75.47	249	72.50	531	74.08
4	After the Benefit*	505	70.34	422	71.16	927	70.71
	Before the Benefit**	505	71.35	422	73.18	927	72.18
5	After the Benefit*	483	69.35	474	69.04	957	69.20
	Before the Benefit**	483	70.13	474	70.49	957	70.31
6	After the Benefit*	478	66.29	397	67.13	875	66.67
	Before the Benefit**	478	68.55	397	69.42	875	68.95
7	After the Benefit*	434	67.69	390	67.70	824	67.69
	Before the Benefit**	434	68.32	390	69.17	824	68.72
8	After the Benefit*	493	67.84	399	71.01	892	69.25
	Before the Benefit**	493	69.60	399	72.18	892	70.75
Whole Group	After the Benefit*	2675	68.44	2331	69.19	5006	68.79
	Before the Benefit**	2675	70.25	2331	71.08	5006	70.63

Note: The academic achievement of the students in the current year and the last year is in different standards because in comparison to the last year each child is in one year upper standard.
 * First Semester Result of Academic Year 2012 – 13
 ** Annual Exam Result in the Academic Year 2011 – 12

A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students



Graph 1: Comparison of the Students’ Academic Achievement before and After Taking Advantage of the Transportation & Escort Facility

Interpretation:

- By observing the above given Table 4 and the Graph 1, it was found that the students of Std. – 3 had 74.08% academic achievement before getting the advantage of this facility while after getting the advantage of this facility the students are getting 69.15% of academic achievement. Thus, after the beginning of this facility there was very little fall observed in the academic achievement of these students however the fall observed was very less and so which can be considered negligible. In the boys and girls group also there was fall observed in the academic achievement of Std. – 3 students which was not very significant so it can be considered negligible.
- By observing the above given Table 4 and the Graph 1, it was found that the students of Std. – 4 had 72.18% academic achievement before getting the advantage of this facility while after getting the advantage of this facility the students’ academic achievement is 70.71%. Thus, after the beginning of this facility there is very little fall observed in the academic achievement of these students however the fall observed is very less and so which can be considered negligible. In the boys and girls group also there is fall observed in the academic achievement of Std. – 4 students which is not very significant so it can be considered negligible.
- By observing the above given Table 4 and the Graph 1, it was found that the students of Std. – 5 had 70.31% academic achievement before getting the advantage of this facility while after getting the advantage of this facility the students were getting 69.20% of academic achievement. Thus, after the beginning of this facility there was very little fall observed in the academic achievement of these students however the fall observed was very less and so which can be considered negligible. In the boys and girls group also there was fall observed in the

A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

academic achievement of Std. – 5 students which is not very significant so it can be considered negligible.

- By observing the above given Table 4 and the Graph 1, it was found that the students of Std. – 6 had 68.95% academic achievement before getting the advantage of this facility while after getting the advantage of this facility the students are getting 66.67% of academic achievement. Thus, after the beginning of this facility there was very little fall observed in the academic achievement of these students however the fall observed is very less and so it can be considered negligible. In the boys and girls group also there is fall observed in the academic achievement of Std. – 6 students which is not very significant so it can be considered negligible.

- By observing the above given Table 4 and the Graph 1, it was found that the students of Std. – 7 had 68.72% academic achievement before getting the advantage of this facility while after getting the advantage of this facility the students are getting 67.69% of academic achievement. Thus, after the beginning of this facility there is very little fall observed in the academic achievement of these students however the fall observed is very less and so which can be considered negligible. In the boys and girls group also there is fall observed in the academic achievement of Std. – 7 students which is not very significant so it can be considered negligible.

- By observing the above given Table 4 and the Graph 1, it was found that the students of Std. – 8 had 70.75% academic achievement before getting the advantage of this facility while after getting the advantage of this facility the students could score 69.25% of academic achievement. Thus, after the beginning of this facility there is very little fall observed in the academic achievement of these students however the fall observed is very less and so it can be considered negligible. In the boys and girls group also there is fall observed in the academic achievement of Std. – 8 students which is not very significant so it can be considered negligible.

- By observing the above given Table 4 and the Graph 1, it was found that the students of the whole group had 70.25% academic achievement before getting the advantage of this facility while after getting the advantage of this facility the students were getting 68.79% of academic achievement. Thus, after the beginning of this facility there was a little fall observed in the academic achievement of these students. This means that there was no significant difference observed, which is negligible. In the boys and girls group also there was fall observed in the academic achievement of these students which is not very significant so it can be considered negligible.

FINDINGS

- ❖ It had been found that there has been a decrease observed in the academic achievement of the students after getting the Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF) in all standards and whole group. This decrease is also observed in the boys and girls group as well.

- ❖ By the practical observation and on the basis of the earlier educational surveys, as the students move ahead in the upper standards, there is a continuous decrease observed in their academic achievement.

A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

- ❖ In the present study also there is a decrease observed in the academic achievement of the students in the current academic year of 2012 – 13 comparison to the last academic year 2011 – 12.
- ❖ Thus it is observed that after getting the Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF) the educational achievement of the students was found decreasing which is very little and may be due to some other reasons and so it can be considered negligible. This means that there is no increase / raise observed in the academic achievement of the students studying in the primary schools due to the Transportation and Escort Facility (T & EF).

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no significant positive effective found of this Transportation and Escort Facility on the educational achievement of the students of the primary school children. Therefore efforts should be taken by which positive effect of this facility may arise on the academic achievement of the students.

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Conflict of Interests

The author declared no conflict of interests.

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A Study of Effectiveness of Transportation/Escorts Facility on Academic Achievement of the Students

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