

For some kids, it's work after school!

Nearly 15% students in govt schools of Lucknow have to earn their living. Situation may be worse in rural UP

LUCKNOW: This is unfortunate but true. Nearly 15% of students in government schools of Lucknow have to work to earn their livelihood. Before and after school hours when one expects them to study, these children are found working at tea stalls, automobile workshops, roadside dhabas and grocery shops to make ends meet.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION DEEPA K GUPTA/HT

EIGHT SCHOOLS WERE PART OF THE SURVEY

- RAJKIYA INTER COLLEGE, Nishatganj
- AMIR-UD-DAULA ISLAMIA INTER COLLEGE
- AMINABAD INTER COLLEGE
- RAJKIYA BALIKA INTER COLLEGE, Narahi
- BHARTI BALIKA VIDYALAYA, Shahnajaf Road, Hazratganj
- MIKSD INTER COLLEGE, Nishatganj
- RAJKIYA JUBILEE INTER COLLEGE, Chowk
- RAJKIYA BALIKA INTER COLLEGE, Shahraina Road, Lucknow

KIDS FOR CHANGE IN SCHOOL TIMINGS

The students of government and aided schools have demanded change in school timings. They want schools to begin by 7 or 8 am irrespective of the season (for at least secondary students) as against the old timing of 10 am.

58%
of these kids earn up to ₹ 500 per month while 22% get between ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000

HIGHLIGHTS

55% BOYS	81%	35% GIRLS	38% BOYS	63% GIRLS	40% boys	31% boys
and 71% girls say they never get any sports equipment during sports hour even when the schools have the same.	of the students who work, prefer working after school hours. Girls' attendance is affected more if they also go to work.	and 18% boys claim they are often asked to perform other chores at the school by teachers.	and 36% girls go to tuition after school. A number of boys (39%) and girls (32%) believe that tuition is important.	and 45% boys have either complained of not being allowed to use the laboratory or the lack of enough equipment.	and 33% girls have never received any career guidance, says the survey conducted by BAF.	requested for workshops on social counselling compared to only 15% girls. It shows boys need more personal counselling.

COMPLAINT AGAINST private tuition as teachers do not College, Shahraina Road alleged It's a matter of concern that plained of not being allowed

Most of the kids (81%) head towards their workplace after school. About 58% of them earn up to ₹ 500 per month while 22% get between ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000, as per the findings of a survey 'My School, My Voice' done by Bharat Abhyudaya Foundation (BAF) in eight government and aided schools of Lucknow.

BAF is a not-for-profit organisation founded by a few IIM and Harvard graduates to bring in qualitative improvement in the public education system that needs serious attention.

If 15% students in government schools of Lucknow have to work, the situation in rural UP is likely to be worse. The survey suggests that girl attendance is affected adversely if they also go to work.

However, work doesn't seem to affect boys' attendance, said Samina Bano, founder, chairperson of BAF. She did her MBA from IIM Bangalore, worked in the United States as management consultant focusing on the education sector for two years and is now working for strengthening government and aided schools in UP.

"This report has been submitted to chief minister's office and will be circulated to key education

officials - DM, DIoS, BSA etc of all the 75 districts. Even if the report is only about Lucknow, it is the bestcase scenario of the situation in every district. It's important that all the officials are aware of it," said Samina.

COMPLAINT AGAINST TEACHERS

According to the survey, a lot of students have complained that their teachers don't come to school regularly primarily because they are also engaged in non-teaching activities. The students had named some erring teachers. Many of them have no options but to take private tuition as teachers do not take the pain to help students understand science concepts and maths formulae.

About 34% boys from Rajkiya Jubilee Inter College, Chowk who attend classes regularly said some of their teachers didn't take classes regularly. Another 17% girls from Rajkiya Balika Inter College, Shahmeena Road alleged that some of their teachers were 'regularly irregular'.

PROVIDE LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD

Government schools need to provide better facilities to students if they want them to match their counterparts in private schools.

It's a matter of concern that 55% boys and 71% girls said that they never get any sports equipment during sports hour even when the schools have them, says the survey. The fear of sports kits getting damaged apparently prevents schools from letting them out to students. Similarly, 45% boys and 63% girls have complained of not being allowed to use the laboratory. Instead, 35% girls and 18% boys claim that they were asked to perform other chores at the school. The survey recommends that clear instructions should be issued to every school management that no students should be asked to perform other chores at school.

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