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GER TRENDS IN GOVERNMENT FIRST GRADE COLLEGES IN DHARWAD DISTRICT, KARNATAKA

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Abstract: Higher Education is a very important sector for short and long term economic growth and development of human resource which can take responsibility for social, economic and scientific development of the country. The country's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher education stands at 25 % in 2016-17, while Karnataka is 27 percent. Government has set the target of GER in Higher Education of 30 % by 2020. Higher education in Private and private aided colleges is quite expensive and making the poor difficult to access. Government colleges are the cheapest means for the poor to enroll to higher education. The policy of the Govt. of Karnataka is to take higher education to the common man and bring about regional balance. With this great vision to make higher education affordable to the poorest of the poor of all sections of the society the Government of Karnataka started Government First Grade Colleges in Karnataka under the aegis of the Department of Collegiate Education which was established in 1960. It has a mission to take action to make it easier for students of all classes of society to get access to higher education. It is concerned about all-round development of the students, is functioning in the most backward classes, women and rural students in order to encourage opportunities for higher education. GER(Gross Enrolment Ratio) in higher education is a measure of access to higher education by the population belonging to the age group 18 to 23 years. A high GER generally indicates a high degree of participation, whether the pupils belong to the official age group or not (Ghara, Mishra and Singh, 2018) and vice versa. A GER value approaching 100% indicates that the entire population belonging to an official age group corresponding to a level of education has been accommodated.

Index Terms - Higher education, Gross Enrolment Ratio

I. INTRODUCTION

Government of Karnataka started Government First Grade Colleges in Karnataka under the aegis of Department of Collegiate Education which was established in 1960. It has a mission to take action to make it easier for students of all classes of society to get access to higher education. It is concerned about all-round development of the students, is functioning in the most backward classes, women and rural students in order to encourage opportunities for higher education. The Government First Grade Colleges have been striving hard to reach out the unreached by imparting quality tertiary level education to the rural mass. The Department of Collegiate Education is governing 412 Government in the State with the help of Regional Offices in Grants and Project activities at Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore, Shimoga, Dharwad and Gulbarga. The Government First Grade Colleges are making efforts to reach their objectives in midst of tough competition from the private colleges. The Department of Collegiate Education, Karnataka which was established in the 1960, has been very proactive and has taken many initiatives to transform the tertiary education in the state. The Department of Collegiate Education has been striving to make higher education affordable and accessible to all sections of students. Higher education in Private and private aided colleges is quite expensive and making the poor difficult to access. Government colleges are the cheapest means for the poor to enroll to higher education. With keen interest to ensure that students belonging to the most backward communities, women and rural students are not deprived of the accessibility to tertiary education, the department set up more government colleges in every district. The present study aims to assess the contribution of government colleges in Dharwad district and study the changing GER trends. The micro level study of Dharwad district helps us to understand the reasons for the increase or decrease in GER and problems affecting the same.

II. Definition:

For the purpose of this study, Higher Education is defined as the education, which is obtained after completing 12 years of schooling or equivalent and is of the duration of at least nine months (full time) or after completing 10 years of schooling and is of the duration of at least 3 years. The education may be of the nature of General-Under-Graduate -Programme after 10+2 and generally having the duration of 3 years, in General courses.

III. Objectives:

The study has major objectives to study the student enrollment trends in the last five years Karnataka state with special emphasis on colleges in Dharwad district and suggestions for increasing GER in the Government colleges.

IV. Research Methodology:

The research methodology used in this study is largely descriptive and analytical. The data and information are collected from the respective colleges of Dharwad district. Besides, books, magazines, newspapers, research articles, research journals, E-journals, reports on Higher Education in India. Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012–2017) and beyond and ASHE - are taken for comparative analysis. To calculate GER data from census 2011 is used (<http://censusindia.gov.in/2011census>) from the office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Government of India.

GER in higher education for the year 2014 -2015 to 2019-2020 for male, female and total is calculated by the following formula:

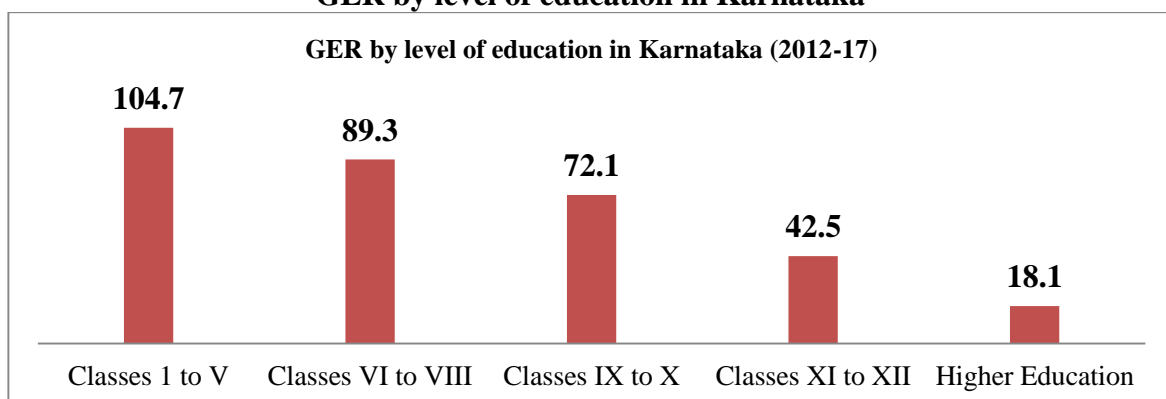
GER (Higher Education) = Number of students enrolled in graduate courses and post graduate courses * 100 / No. of population in the age group 18 -23 years.

V. Limitations:

The study focuses the GER trends of Government colleges located in Dharwad district only. It takes into consideration the data provided by colleges willing to participate in the survey. It does not cover private colleges and professional course and the broad quality issues. The courses considered for the study are Arts (BA), commerce (B.Com.), science (B.Sc.), management streams (BBA) and Post Graduate courses offered by DCE. It has a place at a university or at a college or an institute. The study covers the enrolment and GER of nine Government First Grade Colleges located in Dharwad district.

VI. Gross Enrolment Ratio: The 'Gross Enrolment Ratio' (GER) is an education index developed by UNESCO. GER is the number of students enrolled in a given level of education, expressed as a percentage of the official age group of the population corresponding to the same level of education. GER in higher education is the number of students enrolled in graduation and post graduation courses regardless of their age, divided by the total population in the age group 18-23 years. Thus GER in higher education is a measure of access to higher education by the population belonging to the age group 18 to 23 years. A high GER generally indicates a high degree of participation, whether the pupils belong to the official age group or not (Ghara, Mishra and Singh, 2018) and vice versa. A GER value approaching 100% indicates that the entire population belonging to an official age group corresponding to a level of education has been accommodated.

Chart I
GER by level of education in Karnataka



Source: Derived from Statistics of Higher and Technical Education 2009-10 (Provisional) MHRD, GOI;

Statistics of School Education (Provisional) cited in Sector paper for Karnataka's 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) for Karnataka Evaluation Authority, Planning, Programme Monitoring & Statistics Dept. GOK. (Includes Distance Education)

Chart 1 depicts the GER at different levels of education starting from primary education to higher education for the year 2012-17. It shows a decline from 104.7 in standard I to 18.1 in the college. It indicates the variation of GER with the increase in the level of education in the State of Karnataka.

Table 1

Number of colleges under the umbrella of Department of collegiate education (DCE) since inception

Year	No. of colleges
1960	18
2006	163
2007	354
2013	362
2019	430

Source: Department of collegiate education

Table 1 depicts the number of colleges under the scope of DCE since from inception. It shows that, there is increase in number of colleges which are run under the ambit of Department of Collegiate Education over the six decades. It shows that there is increase by 24 times during six decades.

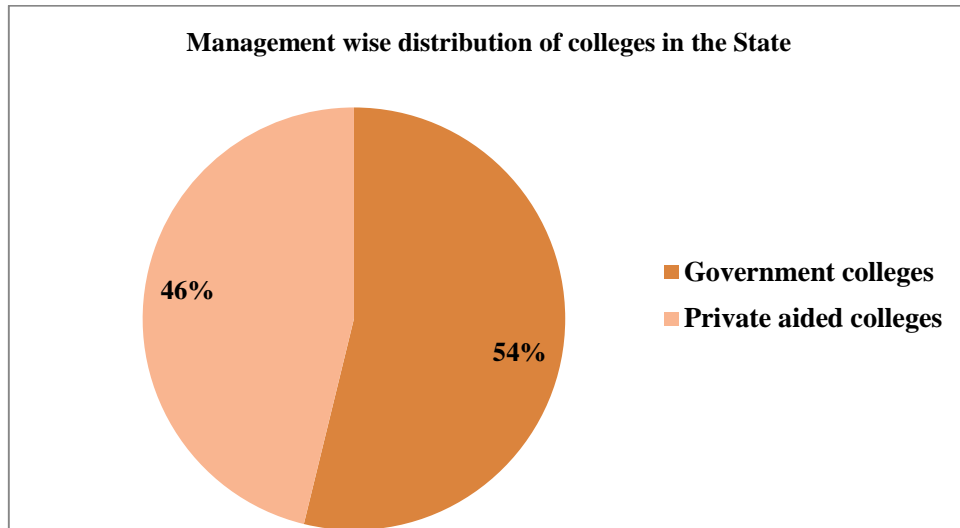
Table 2

Management wise distribution of colleges

Regions	Government colleges	Private aided colleges
Bangalore	71	63
Mysore	67	32
Mangalore	32	31
Shimoga	48	33
Dharwad	81	104
Gulbarga	61	46
Total	360	309

Table 2 and chart 2 depicts the Management wise distribution of colleges under the umbrella of DCE. Majority of colleges (54%) are government colleges and 46% are Private aided colleges in the State under the purview of DCE. There are no wide variations in number of private colleges and Government colleges in the state. Except Dharwad region, all other regions show that majority of colleges are run by Government. More number of colleges in Dharwad district is dominated by Private management. 104 colleges are managed by private and 81 colleges is Government set in Dharwad district.

Chart 2

**Table 3****Year wise enrolment in Dharwad district**

(In Numbers)

Name of the college	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Dharwad	1784	1790	2231	2757	3049
Hubballi	1179	1071	1134	1288	1193
Annigeri	377	329	310	321	366
Kungol	225	196	197	295	398
Gudageri	96	108	183	144	196
Kalghatagi	366	252	442	555	597
Navalgund	458	509	508	621	658
Alnavar	299	332	331	390	403
Womens college Dharwad	47	70	128	225	319
Total	4831	4657	5464	6596	7179

Table 3 depicts the year wise total number of students enrolled during last five years in Dharwad district and college wise. There is increase in the enrolment of students year by year in the total of the district. But in few colleges like Government First Grade College Annigeri and Gudageri show decrease in the admission of students in the year 2016 and 2017. In the year 2016-17, Government First Grade College, Kalghatagi also show decrease in the admission. In rest all colleges; there is yearly increase in the enrolment of students in Government colleges.

Table 4**Course wise distribution of students during 2019-20**

Dharwad District	BA	B.COM	B.SC.	BBA	BFT	Mcom/MA	TOTAL
Total	2983	2997	972	72	56	99	7179
Percentage	41.55	41.75	13.54	1	0.78	1.38	100

Chart 3

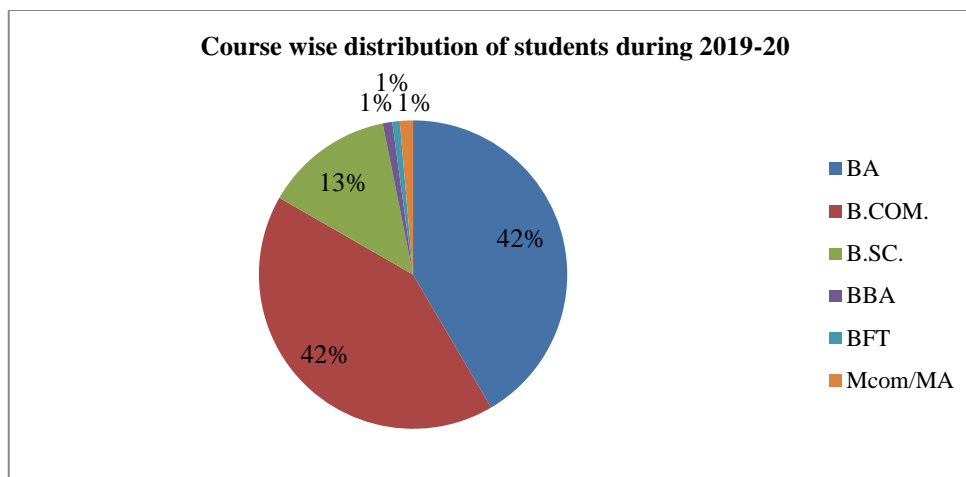


Table 4 and chart 3 depicts course wise distribution of students during 2019-20 in Dharwad district. It shows that the enrolment of students in Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.) have equal and major share with 42 %. Whereas, Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) holds 13% share and Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor of fashion Technology (BFT), Master of Commerce (M.Com.) and Master of Arts (MA) holds leads share of 1 %.

Table 5
GER of Government colleges in Dharwad

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
GER	2.15	2.07	2.43	2.93	3.19

Chart 4

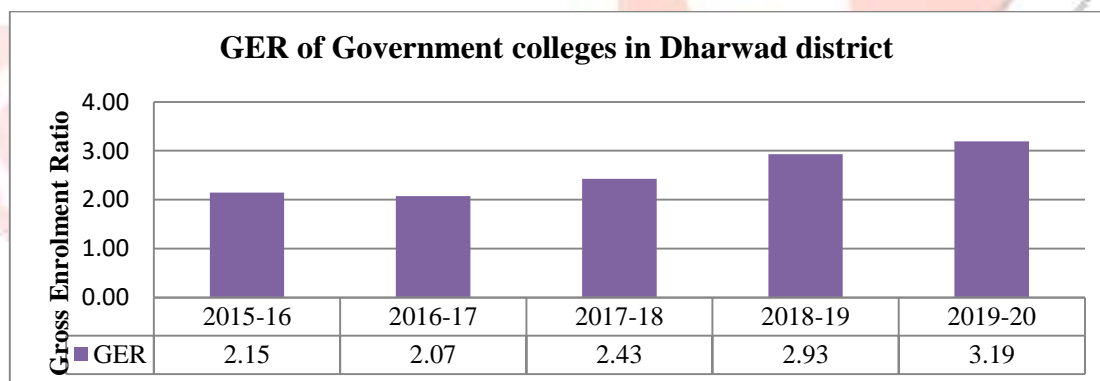


Table 5 and chart 4 depicts the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of Government First Grade colleges in Dharwad district for five years. To calculate GER, the total population of the age group 18 to 23 in Dharwad district is as per 2011 census. It is clear from the chart that, expect in the year 2016-17, the GER has increasing trend. It was 2.15 % in the year 2015-16 and increased to 3.19 % in the current year.

VII. Major Findings of the study

- For the year 2009-10, the GER at different levels of education starting from primary education to higher education shows a decline from 104.7 in standard I to 18.1 in the college. It indicates the variation of GER with the increase in the level of education in the State of Karnataka.
- According to the study, among nine government First Grade Colleges in Dharwad district, the top one college in terms of highest number of enrolment is Government First Grade College, Dharwad, followed by Government First Grade College, Hubli.
- Among the six regions in Karnataka viz., Bangalore region, Mysore region, Shimoga region, Mangalore region, Dharwad region and Gulbarga region, Dharwad region tops in terms of number of Government colleges (81) and also private colleges (104). Numbers of colleges managed privately are more in Dharwad region and less colleges managed by Government.
- Under the umbrella of DCE, colleges managed by Government constitutes 54 % and privately managed constitutes 46 % in the State.

- The enrolment in the Government colleges of Dharwad district for the year 2019-20 is 7179 students.
- In course wise, BA and B.Com. Courses have equal enrolment of students in total. Hubli, Annigeri, Alnavar and Women's college have major enrolment for B.Com. Course followed by BA and B.Sc.
- The GER in Dharwad district is 3.10 % in the year 2019-20.

VIII. Conclusion and Suggestions

- To be able to reach a GER of 35% in the year 2020, the number of students progressing to higher levels of education has to increase considerably. The drive to increase enrolment at all levels has to be accompanied with increased quality of learning so that the number of students who pass school is sufficiently large to provide the necessary intake to reach the targeted GER of 35%.
- To ensure that the most backward classes, women and rural students are not deprived of access to higher education, the DCE should introduce new courses and interdisciplinary courses in Government colleges
- Government must improve academic infrastructure and adopt innovative and modern teaching methods to be set up for better increase in the GER.
- More government colleges are to be set up in future to enhance the GER in the region.
- Although, the free education for girls' students is extended to college education, girl student enrollment should be further enhanced.
- The Government colleges mainly catered to the needs of backward classes and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- The research points that the Karnataka Government policy towards higher education aimed bringing higher education to the doors of economically and socially backward classes.

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