



# Challenges Faced By Primary School Students And The Collaborative Role Of Teachers And Parents

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## Abstract:

Primary education forms the foundation of a child's cognitive, emotional, social, and moral development. It is at this crucial stage that children acquire basic literacy, numeracy, social skills, and learning habits that shape their future academic success and personal growth. However, primary school students face numerous challenges that can negatively affect their learning outcomes and overall development. These challenges arise from diverse sources, including socio-economic factors, school environment, teaching methods, psychological issues, health problems, family background, and technological influences. This paper explores the various challenges faced by primary school students, analyzes their causes and effects, and suggests possible strategies for addressing them. Understanding these challenges is essential for educators, parents, policymakers, and society at large to ensure that every child receives quality education and equal opportunities for growth.

**Keywords:** Primary education, learning challenges, students, school environment, child development

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education is the backbone of any progressive society, and primary education is the foundation upon which the entire educational structure is built. The primary stage of education plays a vital role in shaping a child's intellectual, emotional, social, and moral development. It is during these formative years that children acquire basic skills such as reading, writing, numeracy, communication, and social interaction, which influence their future learning and overall personality.

However, primary school students face numerous challenges that hinder their academic performance and holistic development. These challenges may arise from within the child or from external factors such as family background, socio-economic conditions, school environment, health issues, and teaching-learning processes. Understanding these challenges is essential for improving the quality of education and ensuring equal learning opportunities for all children.

Primary education refers to the first stage of formal education, usually provided to children between the ages of 5 and 11 years. It aims at developing basic academic skills along with moral values, discipline, creativity, and social behavior. Primary education serves as the base for secondary and higher education and is crucial for lifelong learning.

## 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Several studies have highlighted the problems faced by primary school students. Research shows that academic difficulties, emotional stress, poverty, poor school infrastructure, and lack of parental support significantly affect learning outcomes. Reports by international organizations emphasize that early intervention is essential to prevent long-term academic failure and school dropout. The review of literature indicates that challenges faced by students are multi-dimensional and require a holistic approach.

**Nath H. (2009)** investigates the education and School Teachers in Assam. The objectives of this study were to focus on some of the challenges faced by the primary and secondary level of education. This study revealed that there is no proper evaluation of qualifications in recruitment of the teachers, the teacher's salary is one of the lowest, the teachers have very little say over the curricula and it is mostly imposed upon them.

**Kashung Z. (2012)** has discussed in his article on the Status of Education in Manipur with special focus on various problems SSA, errors in textbooks, contractual teacher, the poor condition of functioning educational institute and its causes etc. He also mentioned about political instability in the state, instead of integrating and promoting the education in the state, the system of education is struggling very badly in educational institutions. The literacy rate of Manipur is very impressive than other states of India. But the quality of education is not impressed with the miserable status of elementary education. As per this study, the state has failed to provide quality education to a great extent. This is mostly due to corruption and nepotism in selecting teachers. The author has told that teachers didn't have proper knowledge, any experience, and lack of commitment, government schools has failed to produce a good student.

**Das and Mahto (2015)** conducted a doctoral dissertation on primary education in Bongaigaon District, Assam. The review included community involvement, teacher preparation, curriculum implementation, and school accessibility, providing a thorough understanding of the challenges and potentials of primary education in rural Assam.

**Narayanan (2015)** explore a study on predictors of resilience among adolescents of low socioeconomic class in India. The review focused on how teenagers from disadvantaged socioeconomic circumstances developed coping mechanisms and maintained psychological well-being in the face of adversity by examining theoretical frameworks and conceptual models of resilience. It covered earlier research that

found important indicators of resilience, including personal characteristics (like optimism and self-worth), family dynamics (like cohesiveness and supportive parenting), and external support networks (like community services and educational environments). The literature study also discussed the socioeconomic issues that are unique to Indian adolescent populations, such as poverty, social stigma, and educational obstacles, and how these things affected the resilience of the youth

**Boruah and Saikia's (2017)** reviewed academic achievement of Tiwa students in relation to socioeconomic conditions at the primary level in Morigaon District of Assam. The review included socioeconomic status, cultural factors, and access to educational resources, this review would have dug into studies looking at theoretical frameworks and conceptual models of academic achievement. It may have also covered earlier studies that looked into the quality of teachers, the effectiveness of the curriculum, student engagement, and school infrastructure in the Morigaon District.

**Das and Sinha's (2017)** investigate the impact of socioeconomic status on performance in mathematics among students of secondary schools in Guwahati city. The study would have looked into the body of research on how socioeconomic status affects kids' academic achievement, with a special emphasis on secondary school arithmetic performance. This review would have explored studies looking at conceptual models and theoretical frameworks that connect socioeconomic position to academic success, as well as talks about the different ways that socioeconomic issues might affect students' ability to study mathematics. It may also have covered earlier research on the particular setting of Guwahati City, such as studies on the socioeconomic environment, educational gaps, and trends in mathematics academic achievement.

### 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the present study are:

- To identify the academic challenges faced by primary school students.
- To examine the role of teachers and parents in overcoming these challenges.
- To suggest measures to improve the learning conditions of primary school students.

### 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

**Research Design:** The study follows a descriptive research design, as it aims to describe and analyze the various challenges faced by primary school students.

**Nature of the Study:** The study is qualitative and analytical in nature, focusing on interpretation of existing information rather than experimentation.

**Sources of Data:** The study is based on secondary data collected from educational textbooks, research journals and articles, Government publications and policy documents, newspaper, magazine, etc.

**Method of Data Analysis:** Data were analyzed using content analysis, categorizing information under different themes such as academic, psychological, socio-economic, and health-related challenges.

## 5. DISCUSSION AND RESULT:

The study reveals that challenges faced by primary school students are interrelated. Academic difficulties are often linked with psychological stress, socio-economic conditions, and health problems. A supportive environment at school and home significantly improves learning outcomes. Early identification and intervention are key to overcoming these challenges.

### 5.1 CHALLENGES FACED BY PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

- Academic Challenges:

Primary school students often struggle with basic skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics. Learning difficulties, language barriers, lack of individual attention, and overcrowded classrooms contribute to poor academic performance.

- Psychological and Emotional Challenges:

Children may experience anxiety, fear of examinations, low self-esteem, and emotional stress due to academic pressure or family problems. These issues affect concentration, motivation, and classroom participation.

- Socio-Economic Challenges:

Poverty, child labor, lack of parental support, and poor living conditions significantly affect students' learning. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds often lack basic educational resources and proper guidance at home.

- School Environment Challenges:

Inadequate infrastructure, shortage of trained teachers, rigid curriculum, and traditional teaching methods create an unfriendly learning environment. Such conditions reduce students' interest and engagement in learning.

- Health and Physical Challenges:

Malnutrition, frequent illness, poor eyesight, and lack of physical activity negatively affect students' academic performance. Healthy children are more attentive and active learners.

- Technological Challenges:

While technology can enhance learning, unequal access to digital resources and excessive screen time create challenges. The digital divide widens learning gaps among students.

- Social Challenges:

Bullying, peer pressure, and adjustment problems affect students' emotional well-being. A lack of social acceptance can lead to school avoidance and low academic confidence.

## 6. Role of Teachers and Parents in Overcoming Challenges in Primary Schools:

Primary education is the foundation of a child's intellectual, social, emotional, and moral development. Teachers play a crucial role by adopting child-centered teaching methods, identifying learning difficulties, and providing emotional support. Parents contribute by creating a supportive home environment and actively participating in their child's education. These challenges can be effectively addressed through the active and coordinated roles of teachers and parents.

## 6.1 Role of Teachers in Overcoming Challenges:

Teachers are the key agents of change in primary education. Their role goes beyond classroom teaching and extends to nurturing, guiding, and motivating young learners.

- **Creating a Child-Friendly Learning Environment:**

Teachers should create a safe, inclusive, and joyful classroom atmosphere where children feel respected and confident. A friendly environment reduces fear, improves participation, and encourages regular attendance.

- **Using Innovative Teaching Methods:**

To overcome learning difficulties and boredom, teachers should use:

-Activity-based learning

-Play-way methods

-Storytelling, songs, and games

-Teaching aids and digital tools

These methods make learning interesting and help students understand concepts easily.

- **Identifying Learning Difficulties Early:**

Teachers must observe students closely to identify slow learners, first-generation learners, and children with special needs. Early identification allows teachers to provide remedial teaching, extra practice, and individualized attention.

- **Ensuring Regular Attendance:**

Teachers can motivate students to attend school regularly by:

-Making lessons enjoyable

-Appreciating student efforts

-Maintaining close contact with parents

-Following up on absenteeism

- **Continuous Assessment and Feedback:**

Regular evaluation helps teachers understand students' progress. Constructive feedback encourages improvement and builds self-confidence among learners.

- **Value and Moral Education:**

Teachers play a vital role in developing discipline, cooperation, honesty, and respect through daily classroom interactions and activities.

### 6.1.2 Role of Parents in Overcoming Challenges:

Parents are the first teachers of a child. Their involvement is crucial for the success of primary education.

- Providing Emotional Support:

Children perform better when parents show love, encouragement, and understanding. Emotional support reduces anxiety and builds confidence in children.

- Ensuring Regular School Attendance:

Parents must ensure that children attend school regularly and punctually. Avoiding child labour, household work during school hours, and unnecessary absenteeism is essential.

- Creating a Supportive Home Environment:

Parents should provide:

- A peaceful place for study
- Basic learning materials
- A daily routine for homework and revision

Such an environment helps children develop good study habits.

- Monitoring Academic Progress:

Regular interaction with teachers helps parents understand their child's strengths and weaknesses. Parental monitoring motivates children to perform better academically.

- Encouraging Positive Attitudes Toward Education:

Parents should value education and avoid negative comments about school or teachers. A positive attitude encourages children to respect learning and schooling.

- Participation in School Activities:

Parents should actively participate in:

- Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs)
- School development programs
- Community awareness activities

This strengthens school-home relationships and improves educational outcomes.

## 7. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

To address the challenges faced by primary school students, the following measures are recommended:

Primary education forms the foundation of a child's academic, social, emotional, and moral development. The learning conditions provided at the primary level significantly influence students' interest in learning, retention rates, academic achievement, and overall personality development. In many developing regions, including rural and semi-urban areas, primary school students face challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained teachers, poor socio-economic backgrounds, and limited access to learning resources. Therefore, improving learning conditions in primary schools is essential to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all children. The following measures aim to enhance the physical, psychological, pedagogical, and social learning environments of primary school students.

### ➤ Improvement of School Infrastructure:

A safe, clean, and child-friendly school environment is fundamental for effective learning. Proper classrooms with adequate space, ventilation, lighting, seating arrangements, and weather protection help students concentrate better. Schools should have functional toilets, clean drinking water facilities, playgrounds, and boundary walls to ensure safety and hygiene. Well-maintained infrastructure reduces absenteeism, especially among younger children, and creates a welcoming atmosphere that motivates students to attend school regularly.

### ➤ Availability of Learning Resources and Teaching Aids:

Learning conditions improve when students have access to textbooks, workbooks, charts, models, storybooks, and age-appropriate learning materials. Teaching aids such as flashcards, maps, globes, educational toys, and digital content make abstract concepts easier to understand. Libraries with children's literature encourage reading habits and language development. Availability of such resources supports experiential learning and enhances students' cognitive development.

### ➤ Qualified and Motivated Teachers:

Teachers play a central role in shaping learning conditions. Well-trained, professionally qualified, and motivated teachers can identify individual learning needs and adopt suitable teaching strategies. Regular in-service training, workshops, and orientation programs help teachers update their pedagogical skills. Teacher motivation through recognition, incentives, and supportive working conditions improves teaching effectiveness and positively impacts student learning outcomes.

### ➤ Child-Centered Teaching Methods:

Adopting child-centered pedagogy enhances engagement and understanding among primary school students. Methods such as activity-based learning, play-way methods, storytelling, role-play, group work, and project-based learning encourage active participation. These methods help children learn by doing, promote creativity, and make learning enjoyable. A child-friendly classroom environment reduces fear and anxiety, fostering confidence and curiosity.

### ➤ Integration of Technology in Teaching and Learning:

The use of digital tools such as smart boards, tablets, educational videos, and interactive learning applications can significantly improve learning conditions. Technology supports visual and auditory learning, making lessons more interesting and effective. Digital resources also help teachers explain complex concepts easily.

However, technology should be age-appropriate and used as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for teacher-student interaction.

➤ Proper Teacher–Student Ratio:

Maintaining an appropriate teacher–student ratio is essential for effective classroom management and individualized attention. Overcrowded classrooms make it difficult for teachers to address students’ learning difficulties. Smaller class sizes allow teachers to monitor progress closely, provide feedback, and support slow learners. Improved interaction between teachers and students enhances academic performance and emotional well-being.

➤ Health, Nutrition, and Hygiene Facilities:

Healthy students learn better. Regular health check-ups, immunization programs, and nutritional support such as mid-day meals improve students’ physical and mental health. Clean surroundings, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education reduce the spread of diseases. Nutritious meals contribute to better concentration, energy levels, and attendance, especially among children from economically weaker sections.

➤ Emotional and Psychological Support:

A supportive emotional environment is vital for young learners. Teachers should create a caring and inclusive atmosphere where children feel safe, respected, and valued. Addressing emotional issues, learning anxieties, and behavioral problems through counseling or guidance improves students’ mental well-being. Positive reinforcement, encouragement, and appreciation build self-confidence and motivation to learn.

➤ Inclusive Education Practices:

Primary schools should adopt inclusive practices to accommodate children with diverse needs, including those with disabilities, learning difficulties, or socio-economic disadvantages. Barrier-free infrastructure, special teaching aids, and individualized instruction help ensure equal learning opportunities. Inclusive education promotes empathy, social harmony, and respect for diversity among students.

➤ Parental Involvement and Community Participation:

Active involvement of parents and the community strengthens learning conditions. Parent-teacher meetings, awareness programs, and community support initiatives help parents understand their role in their children’s education. Encouraging parents to support homework, reading habits, and regular attendance creates a positive home-school connection. Community participation enhances accountability and resource mobilization for school improvement.

➤ Continuous Assessment and Feedback:

Continuous and comprehensive assessment helps identify students’ strengths and weaknesses at an early stage. Formative assessments such as quizzes, oral tests, observations, and projects provide timely feedback to students and teachers. Constructive feedback guides improvement and reduces exam stress. Assessment should focus on learning progress rather than rote memorization.

➤ Remedial Teaching and Academic Support:

Remedial teaching programs help students who struggle academically. Special classes, peer tutoring, and individualized instruction address learning gaps and prevent dropouts. Providing additional support to slow

learners ensures that no child is left behind. Remedial measures improve confidence, comprehension, and overall academic achievement.

➤ Promotion of Co-Curricular and Life Skills Activities:

Learning conditions improve when education extends beyond textbooks. Activities such as sports, art, music, drama, yoga, and storytelling promote physical fitness, creativity, and emotional expression. Life skills education develops communication, problem-solving, team work, and leadership skills. A balanced curriculum supports holistic development.

➤ Safe and Disciplined School Environment:

A safe, disciplined, and respectful school climate is essential for effective learning. Clear rules, positive discipline strategies, and anti-bullying measures create a secure environment. Teachers should handle discipline issues with empathy and fairness rather than punishment. A peaceful atmosphere encourages concentration and cooperation among students.

➤ Effective School Leadership and Management:

Strong leadership and efficient school management play a crucial role in improving learning conditions. School heads should ensure proper planning, monitoring, and implementation of educational programs. Transparent administration, teacher support, and regular evaluation contribute to continuous improvement. Effective leadership fosters teamwork and accountability.

## 8. CONCLUSION:

Primary school students face a wide range of challenges that affect their academic performance, emotional well-being, and overall development. These challenges are interconnected and require a holistic approach to address effectively. By creating supportive learning environments, improving teaching quality, involving parents, and addressing socio-economic inequalities, it is possible to overcome these challenges and ensure quality primary education for all children. Investing in primary education is not only an investment in individual children but also in the future of society. The challenges faced by primary schools cannot be solved by teachers or parents alone. Teachers contribute through effective teaching strategies, care, and assessment, while parents support learning through guidance, encouragement, and involvement. A strong partnership between teachers and parents ensures holistic development, improved learning outcomes, and a strong foundation for lifelong education.

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