



Comparative Study Of Central Board Of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board And Himachal Pradesh Board Of School Education

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Abstract

This study compares three major education boards in India: Central Board of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board, and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education. The comparison is based on factors such as curriculum, difficulty level, evaluation system, and student performance. The findings show that CBSE focuses more on conceptual learning and is well-suited for national-level competitive examinations. In contrast, the Punjab Board offers a relatively easier syllabus and higher scoring opportunities, making it suitable for students seeking less academic pressure. The Himachal Board provides a balanced approach with moderate difficulty and steady evaluation standards. Overall, each board has its own strengths, and the choice depends on the student's academic goals and learning preferences.

Keywords:

Education Boards, Curriculum, Evaluation System, Academic Performance, Difficulty Level, Comparative Study, Secondary Education

Introduction

Education is one of the most important aspects of human life. It helps individuals gain knowledge, develop skills, and build a better future. Through education, people learn how to think, make decisions, and understand the world around them. It not only improves personal growth but also contributes to the development of society and the nation. An educated person can differentiate between right and wrong and can lead a responsible life. Therefore, education plays a vital role in shaping a successful and progressive society. Education plays a vital role in shaping the future of individuals and society. In India, different education boards provide varied curricula, evaluation systems, and learning approaches. Among them, Central Board of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board, and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education are widely recognized for their contribution to school education. Each board has its own structure and method of teaching. CBSE follows a national-level curriculum with a strong focus on conceptual learning and preparation for competitive examinations. In contrast, PSEB and HPBOSE are state boards that focus on regional needs, language, and accessibility of education. These differences

influence students' academic performance, difficulty level of exams, and overall learning experience. This study aims to compare these three boards to understand their strengths, differences, and effectiveness in providing quality education. It helps students and parents make informed decisions while choosing the most suitable education board.

Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the comparison of three major education boards in India: Central Board of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board, and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education. It covers key aspects such as curriculum structure, difficulty level, evaluation system, and student performance for the academic session 2025–26. The study is limited to secondary and senior secondary levels and does not include other boards or higher education systems. It aims to provide a general understanding of the differences and similarities among these boards to help students make informed academic choices.

Objectives of the Study

To study the features of Central Board of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board, and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education.

- To compare the curriculum and syllabus of the three boards.
- To analyze the difficulty level of examinations conducted by these boards.
- To examine the evaluation and marking system of each board.
- To compare the academic performance and pass percentage of students.
- To identify the advantages and disadvantages of each board.
- To help students choose the most suitable board according to their needs and goals.

Data Collection

The data for this study was collected from secondary sources related to the three education boards: Central Board of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board, and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education.

The sources included:

- Official Board Websites – Information about syllabus, curriculum, and evaluation system. CBSE: cbse.gov.in, PSEB: pseb.ac.in, HPBOSE: hpbose.org
- Government Reports & Notifications – Annual pass percentages, exam results, and policy updates (2025–26).
- News Portals – Recent exam results and analysis from credible sources like The Indian Express, Times of India, Economic Times.
- Research Articles & Journals – Comparative studies on education boards in India.
- The data was organized in tables and charts for easier comparison of syllabus, difficulty level, evaluation, and student performance.

Review of Study

Several studies have been conducted to analyze and compare the performance and effectiveness of various education boards in India. Research shows that Central Board of Secondary Education is widely recognized for its standardized curriculum and focus on conceptual understanding, making it suitable for competitive exams like JEE and NEET. Studies also highlight that Punjab School Education Board tends to have higher pass percentages due to a relatively easier syllabus and evaluation system, which benefits students looking for better scoring opportunities. Research on Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education indicates that it maintains a moderate difficulty level and structured evaluation, ensuring balanced academic growth. Comparative studies suggest that while CBSE prepares students better for national-level examinations, state boards like PSEB and HPBOSE provide localized learning and flexibility in scoring. The literature emphasizes that the choice of board should depend on the student's academic goals, learning style, and future career plans. Overall, prior research provides a solid framework for analyzing the differences in curriculum, evaluation, and performance among these boards, which forms the basis of this study.

Limitations of the Study

- The study is limited to only three education boards: Central Board of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board, and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education. Other state and international boards have not been included.
- The data is collected from secondary sources like official websites, news portals, and research articles, which may have slight variations or updates.
- The study is focused on the academic session 2025–26, so the results may not reflect trends in previous or future years.
- Individual student performance and regional variations are not considered in detail.
- The study does not analyze teaching methods, school infrastructure, or teacher quality, which also affect student performance.

Types of education board in india

India has several education boards, but they are generally grouped into 4 main types:

1. National Boards

These are controlled at the national (central) level:

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ICSE/ISC)

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

2. State Boards

Each state in India has its own board.

Examples:

Punjab School Education Board

Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education

Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad

3. International Boards

These follow global curricula:

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Cambridge Assessment International Education (Cambridge)

4. Other / Specialized Boards

Board of Secondary Education Rajasthan (example of state but sometimes categorized separately)
Madrasa boards, open schooling boards, etc.

➤ There are four main types of education boards in India, but if you count individually, there are forty Plus boards including all state and specialized boards.

Difference between CBSE, PSEB AND HP BOARD (2025-2026)

BASIS	CBSE	PSEB (Punjab Board)	HPBOSE
Type of board	National board	State Board (Punjab)	State Board (Himachal)
Curriculum	Based on NCERT, national level	State-based, updated with NEP 2020	State-based syllabus
Syllabus level	Moderate to high	Easy to Moderate	Moderate
Focus	Conceptual learning, competitive exams	Basic understanding + regional needs	Balanced (theory + basics)
Language medium	English & Hindi	Punjabi, Hindi, English	Hindi & English
Difficulty level	Higher	Easier than CBSE	Moderate
Evaluation system(2025-26)	Digital/on-screen evaluation	Digital evaluation introduced in 2026	Traditional + structure evaluation
Syllabus updates (2025-26)	Regular updates as per national policy	New syllabus released for all classes	Updated syllabus available for exams
Competitive exam preparation	Best (aligned with JEE/NEET EXAM)	Not fully aligned	Limited alignment
Scoring Trend	Moderate scoring	High scoring (easier marking)	Moderate scoring
Recognition	National and international	Mainly state-level	Mainly state-level
Beat for	Competitive exams &	Easy scoring & local students	Balanced study in Himachal Pradesh

More effective

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

- Best for: Competitive exams (like JEE, NEET)
- Focus on concepts and science/mathematics
- Syllabus aligned with national entrance exams
- Widely available across India

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ICSE/ISC)

- Best for: Strong English and overall knowledge
- Detailed syllabus
- Focus on language, arts, and analytical skills
- Builds strong foundation

State Boards (e.g., Punjab School Education Board)

- Best for: Local context and affordability
- Easier syllabus compared to CBSE/ICSE
- Regional language focus
- Helpful for state-level exams

International Baccalaureate / Cambridge Assessment International Education

- Best for: Studying abroad
- International curriculum
- Focus on research, creativity, and critical thinking
- Expensive and less common

For competitive exams → CBSE is most effective
 For strong knowledge & English → ICSE is very effective
 For easy and affordable study → State Board is effective
 For international career → IB/Cambridge is best.

Comparative Results of Boards (Recent Data)**Table -1**

Board	Class	Pass Percentage	Difficulty Level	Remarks
CBSE	12th (2025)	88.39%	Moderate–High	National level, stricter evaluation
PSEB (Punjab Board)	10th (2025)	95.61%	Easy–Moderate	Higher scoring, easier checking
PSEB (Punjab Board)	12th (2025)	91%	Easy–Moderate	Consistently high results
HP Board	10th (2025)	79.8%	Moderate	Lower pass %, stricter marking
HP Board	12th (2025)	88.64% (after revision)	Moderate–High	Improvement after rechecking

Key Comparison Points**Table -2**

Sr.no	Basis	
1.	Pass Percentage	Highest: Punjab Board (90–95% Plus) Medium: CBSE (88%) Lowest: Himachal Board (80% in 10th) Punjab Board students generally score higher marks.
2.	Difficulty Level	CBSE: More conceptual and competitive PSEB: Easier syllabus and lenient checking HPBOSE: Moderate but sometimes strict marking
3.	Evaluation Style	CBSE: Standardized, strict, nationwide PSEB: More flexible, higher scoring trend HP Board: Can vary, sometimes strict (as seen in re-evaluation cases)
4.	Overall Performance Trend	CBSE: Balanced performance, good for competitive exams Punjab Board: High pass %, easier to score marks HP Board: Slightly lower results but improving

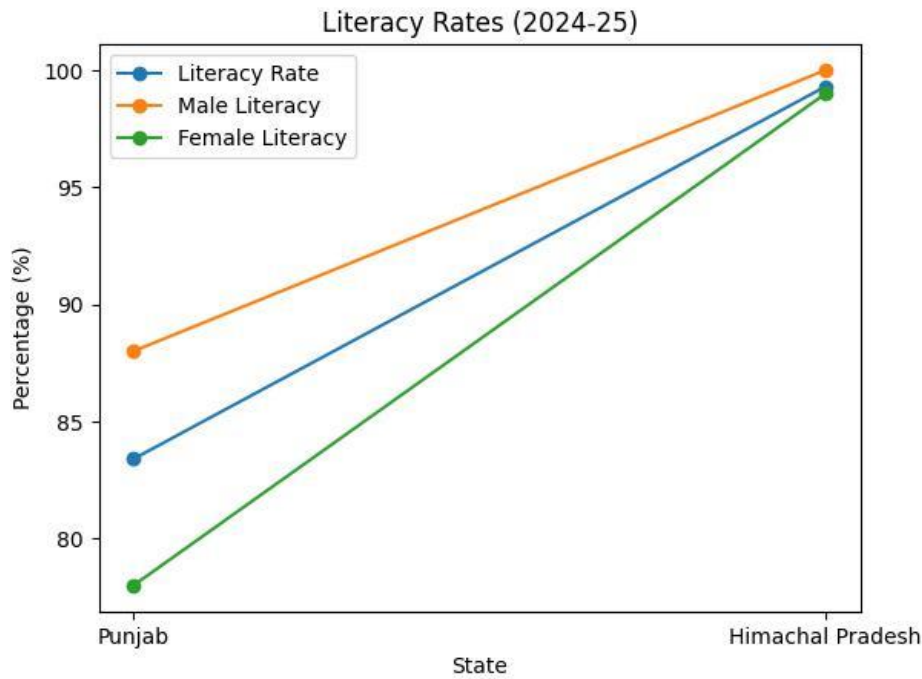
Literacy Rate Comparison (2025) between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab State

Himachal Pradesh has attained a distinction of becoming a fully literate state in the country. The announcement to this effect was made by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in a function ‘Puran Sakshar Himachal Samaroh and Ullaas Mela-2025’ held in Shimla on Monday, on the International Literacy Day . The state government is providing quality education and there is need for continuous reforms in-line with modern requirements because it is result of reforms introduced by the state government, the literacy rate in Himachal Pradesh had reached to 99.30 percent higher than the national benchmark of 95 percent, with the state ranking first in the country in terms of student-teacher ratio.

Table -3

State	Literacy Rate (Latest 2024–25)	Male Literacy	Female Literacy
Punjab	83.4%	88%	78%
Himachal Pradesh	99.3% (Fully Literate)	100% (near universal)	99% (near universal)

GRAPH 1



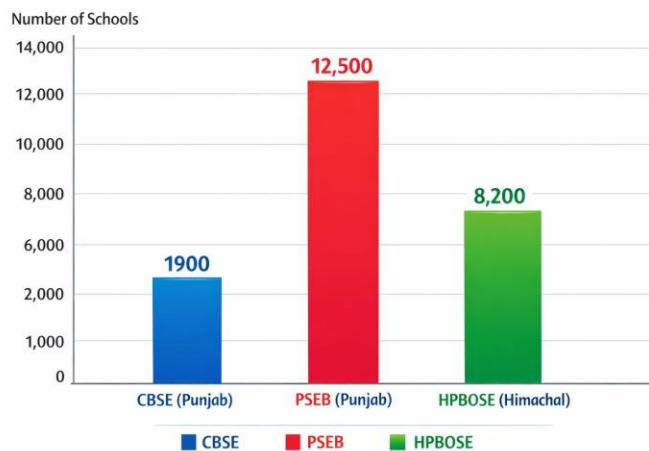
NUMBER OF SCHOOL (2025)

Table 4

Education Board	State	No. of Schools (Approx. 2025)
CBSE	Punjab	1,900
PSEB	Punjab	12,500
HPBOSE	Himachal Pradesh	8,200

GRAPH 2

Comparison of Number of Schools (2025)



Conclusion

The comparative study of Central Board of Secondary Education, Punjab School Education Board, and Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education reveals that each board has its own strengths and focus areas. CBSE emphasizes conceptual learning and is ideal for students preparing for national-level competitive exams. PSEB offers a relatively easier syllabus with higher scoring opportunities, making it suitable for students seeking less academic pressure and more flexibility. HPBOSE maintains a moderate difficulty level and structured evaluation, ensuring balanced academic growth for students in Himachal Pradesh. The study highlights that no single board is superior in all aspects; the effectiveness depends on the student's learning style, academic goals, and future career plans. Understanding the differences among these boards can help students, parents, and educators make informed decisions about the choice of education board. Overall, the study emphasizes the importance of aligning the choice of board with individual needs to achieve academic success and personal development.

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