

## A comparative study on public and private funded schools in Chennai

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### Abstract

This paper analysed to examine the characteristics of parents who consider choosing private schools for their children and those who do not. We examine differences in background, including race, educational attainment and socioeconomic status, as well as differences in parent satisfaction with their child's previous school, parent involvement in school, parents' priorities in school choice, as well as parents' social networks. After controlling for background characteristics, we find that parent satisfaction with their child's previous school was not a predictor of considering a private school. In this case, parents are not 'pushed' away from public schools, contrary to much public rhetoric that suggests private schools are somehow inherently 'better' than public schools and parents. Parents may perceive that parent involvement and parent communication are more easily facilitated and valued in private schools.

**Keywords:** school choice, parental involvement, public-private decision, public school, private school

### INTRODUCTION:

For the last three decades private sector is emerging as an important source in education. It provides education at all levels. The factors which motivate the parents to make a decision about private sector are yet to be explored, which motivate the parents to educate their children in private schools and also highlight the factors which lead parents to avoid the public sector schools. Comparison of private and public school and the factor considered by parents to decide whether their children to enrol in private or public school. Almost all parents want to educate their children in the best possible educational environment. Their

decision to invest in children depends on a number of social, economic and cultural factors. Effective reward and punishment system in public schools, proper monitoring system for private schools, and motivation of public school teachers will encourage investment in private school system. Education plays a critical role in socio-economic development of a country. It improves human capabilities as not all the human capabilities are by birth. Education accelerates economic growth through knowledge and skills development. It makes individuals confident, aware and active. Education is considered an economic good. Similarly, it is both consumer and as well as capital good as it offers utility to consumer and act as an input in production of goods (Olaniyan and Okemakinde, 2008).

It develops human resources required for social and economic development. The utilitarian aspect of education provides incentive to both government and individuals to invest in education. The government provides for education through expenditure on education and facilitation of the process of education while individual's expenditure on education is shared by the parents in terms of fee structure etc.

Majority of the parents want to provide their children with the best possible educational environment. Their decision to invest in children in form of education depends on a number of social, economic and cultural factors. Education is offered both by public as well as private sector. It is free of cost in public schools whereas in private schools, the parents have to shoulder the finances. For the last three decades private sector is emerging as an important source of imparting education providing education at all levels. In recent years, the private schools have improved their quality, attracting good input through fee concession ranging from a percentage to full fee concession. These schools, on one hand are educating youth and on other hand, are emerging as an important sector for the investors interested in investment in this sector.

Many aspects regarding the education system have been discussed in various studies so far. However, the factors which motivate the parents to make a decision about private sector are yet to be explored. The parents usually decide to educate their youngsters in private school at the time when they are completely dissatisfied with public schools. Educational environment, teacher student ratio, parents' education, their profession and smaller size of classes at private schools are among the few reasons which help parents in selection of school. The private schools are more effective than public schools with same students and parents composition mainly due to school environment. School choice is highly associated

with parent's occupational status. The parents with higher occupational status prefer private school over public school for their children. The school choice of parents show their satisfaction with the institute they choose. The private education can produce higher per capita income and the societies choose public education if majority of its agents are earning income below average. This paper aims was to find out the factors which motivate the parents to choose private school instead of public sector school to educate their children.

### **Materials and methods;**

The study used both the primary and secondary data to analyse the parents opinion to choose private school instead of public sector school to educate their children. Primary data are collected by survey method using a well structured questionnaire from 200 randomly selected parents respondents. Secondary data are collected by referring research articles, books. The targeted area in questionnaire are which motivate the parents to choose private school instead of public sector school to educate their children.

### **Results;**

In this study out of 200 respondents, The survey results revealed the fact that 88.5 percent of respondents avoid the public sector educational institutions for poor discipline. The teaching methods also affect the standard of teaching and 75.5 % of parents consider the teaching methods in public sector schools being unsuitable. The medium of instruction is also a key determinant of school choice. That is the reason that 79 % of surveyed parents preferred private school due to English as medium of instruction. Education not only promotes the cognitive development of children but also add its share in the social, moral and physical development of children. The survey results show that 94 % of parents keep in mind this factor also while choosing school.

The quality of education depends to a great extent on the environment of the educational institution. Out of total 200 respondents, 172 respondents avoided public sector schools due to unsuitable educational environment. The 89.5 % of parents think that the classes are overcrowded in government schools while 84 % parents have criticized the teachers of these schools for not taking interest in teaching and children.

### **Discussion;**

Interestingly 50.5% of children of surveyed parents were students of 9th class while 49.5 % were in 10th class. The survey included students of both sexes, 67% students were

male and 33% were female. No of Children The total number of children and number of school going children also affect the parents' decision of school choice. The survey also covered this aspect. The surveyed parents had number of children ranging from 1 to 8. 39 % of the surveyed parents had 2 children, 28 % had 3 and 26 % had 4 children. Out of total parents 2 % had 6 to 8 children and 6% of the parents had only one child. Similarly the number of school going children can affect the parents decision. 50%of the respondents had 2 school going children. Out of the surveyed parents 22 % had 3 and 13 % had 4 school going children. Parents Qualification Education of parents is considered as one of the most important variables which creates awareness regarding the level and standard of children education. Out of the total 200 parents, majority of the parents were educated. However they differed in level of education. More than 90% of fathers and 60% of mothers were educated. Out of surveyed respondents 17.5 % of fathers and 21.5 % of mothers had education up to Matric.

In order to find out the determinants of parents choice regarding the education of their children, the profession of parents was also considered in this study. Among the parents majority of the fathers (31.5 %) were government servants. 28 % of fathers were from business sector and 2.5 % were from farming profession. Among the mothers majority of the mothers (66.5% were housewives and 27.0 % were from teaching profession as shown in

Table. I - Parents profession

Profession	father	Mother
GOVERNMENT SERVANT	31.5	3.5
Private	22.5	3.0
Teaching	15.5	27.0
Business	28.0	-
Farming	2.5	-
Housewife	-	56.6

Total	100.0	100.0

Income of Parents Income is one of the most important factors which affect most of human social and economic decisions. The present study also addressed this factor. Majority of the parents(40%) had their income in the range of 11000 to 20000 rupees. Out of total respondents 29% had their income between 21000 and 30000 rupees. 13.5 % had income in the range of 31000 to 40000 and 4.5% had their income over 40000 per month. The average monthly income of the surveyed parents.

#### **Good Public Examination Results**

The school level ends at Secondary School Certificate (SSC) in Chennai and the choice of future profession is mostly based on the results of the SSC examination. Due to this reason, majority of parents prefer private school .

#### **Parents Education at Private School**

Educated parents are comparatively well aware of significance of good schooling especially if they have been themselves students of both types of schools. The survey results clearly show that this issue was also undertaken in the present study. Out of total parents most of the parents 68.5 % had never been students of private school during their educational career. 10% of fathers and 16.5 % mothers studied in private. Determinants of Parents' Choice in Selection of Private Schools for their Children in public sector schools are highly qualified as compared to the private sector school teachers but still they prefer the private school. This means that the parents keep in mind a number of factors while choosing a school for the future of their children. 66 % of parents believed that public sector schools have comparatively less educational facilities. The quality of education depends to a great extent on the environment of the educational institution. Out of total 200 respondents, 172 respondents avoided public sector schools due to unsuitable educational environment. The 89.5 % of parents think that the classes are overcrowded in government schools while 84 % parents have criticized the teachers of these schools for not taking interest in teaching and children. One of the major expectations of the majority of parents from the educational institutions is to help child adopt proper discipline. The parents keep this factor especially in

mind while admitting their children. According to my survey 90% of parents are preferring private school for their children. 35% of parents feeling A lack of qualified teacher are working in public school, 45% of parents feeling A lack of infrastructure in public school. 50% of parents feels. An unqualified management is in public fended school. 99% of parents are choosing private school for communication skill are available school for communication is one of the high status and benefit that desired the parents to choose private school. 75% of parents influencing to decide the private school for their children for social background status and 50% of parents decide that the private schools are the best for their children career growth. 80% of people think the private schools are the right choice for their children in the education level. 25% of parents are in the stage of joining their children in the public school where as, the 75% of parents are in the stage of joining their children in the private schools because of the environment, facility response to the students is quite high.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The aim of the study was to find out the factors which motivate parents to choose a particular school for their children. Both descriptive as well as quantitative techniques were used to derive the results. It can be concluded on the basis of the results of the study that family size, parents' education, income of parents, teacher qualification, school performance and dissatisfaction from particular schools are the most important variables which affect the parents' decision regarding selection of public or private school in the study area. Teacher's interest also plays an important role in parents' choice and lack of teacher's interest is the factor which leads parents to avoid public or private school. Medium of instruction also emerged as a determinant of parents choice but not statistically significant. The examination results especially at secondary school certificate level also affect the parents' choice as revealed by the survey results that majority of parents preferred private school due to good public examination results. 88.5 % parents went for private schools due to its progressive style of education. The parents also expect from the school apart from education that the educational institution may make the children confident. 94.5 % of the parents during the survey favoured the view that private schools produce confident students. The study found that lack of educational facilities, unsuitable educational environment, lack of the teacher's interest, over crowded classes, unsuitable teaching methods, poor discipline and less attention to the overall development of child as major reasons for the parents avoiding the public sector school.

The following recommendations are hereby made on the basis of the study.

1. Private sector play an important role in provision of educational facilities, therefore private sector investment in education should be encouraged and the process of legal documentation may be made easy for the investors.
2. The public sector school teachers should be motivated to take interest in students collectively as well as individually as public sector is the major supplier of educational facilities to common masses. Reward and Punishment can be an affected tool for this purpose.
3. The classes in public schools are mostly over crowded and it becomes impossible for the teachers to concentrate on the overall development of each student. Therefore, opening of new schools and starting double shift in public sector schools is suggested to reduce the class strength.
4. Teacher training with updated teaching methods and tools may hopefully improve the conditions of public schools.
5. The improvement of discipline in both public and private secondary schools needs to be prioritized.
6. The government needs to figure out the root causes of poor results, consequently followed by the adaptation of carefully designed suitable proper strategies to address the problem of poor results.
7. The monitoring system for private sector schools should be made effective as a large number of private sector schools in Peshawar do not fulfill the required standard.

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