

Learning Guarantee Program: Karnataka

Introduction

The three year Learning Guarantee Program (LGP) was launched by Azim Premji Foundation in North East Karnataka in 2002. Under the program, primary schools in the region voluntarily enrolled themselves for being evaluated by the Foundation. Learning Guarantee School Program envisaged providing recognition and rewards to the schools that demonstrated attainment of three criteria:

1. Enrolment – 100% enrolment of children in the 6-11 year age group in the habitation
2. Attendance – At least 90% children in classes 1 to 4 attending school regularly i.e. present in the school for at least 70% of the school working days
3. Learning achievement – At least 60% children in classes 1 to 4 having competency based learning achievement of at least 90%.

The successful schools were to be divided into three categories based on the proportion of children showing learning achievement – 80% or more children (Category A), 70%-80% children (Category B) and 60%-70% children (Category C) and rewarded accordingly. The program was thrown open to all the 9281 government primary schools of the region in 2002. Schools had the freedom to get enrolled in the first, second or the third year of the program but once enrolled; they had to get evaluated till the end of the program. The first round of evaluation took place during September – October 2003, the second round in August – September 2004 and the third round in August – September 2005.

Overall findings

The three years of the Program saw participation go up sharply from 896 (9.7%) of the 9281 primary schools in the first year to 1887 (20.5%) schools in the third year. At the same time the number of successful schools went up from 40 (4.5%) to 144 (7.8%) of participating schools.

	2003	2004	2005
Participating schools	896	1443	1887
% of schools in NE Karnataka	9.7%	15.6%	20.5%
Number of children evaluated	147,138	213,239	261,590
Winning schools	40	84	144
% of participating schools	4.5%	5.7%	7.8%
Winner categories			
Category A	12	41	62
Category B	14	19	35
Category C	14	24	47

Simultaneously with increase in the proportion of winning schools, the geographical spread has also improved substantially. In the first year of the program, the winners were from 22 of the 42 blocks of the region. In the third year, the winners are from 39 blocks. There are thus role model schools in 93% of the blocks which can be an inspiration to other schools in the block.

Analysis of 2005 results

As in the previous years, the largest number of winners this year (2205) is from Bellary district followed by Bagalkote and Bijapur.

District	No. of primary schools	Participating schools –2005	% of participation	Winning schools	% of winners
BAGALKOTE	1176	199	16.9%	26	13.1%
BELLARY	1230	424	34.5%	40	9.4%
BIDAR	935	157	16.8%	13	8.3%
BIJAPUR	1485	308	20.7%	18	5.8%
GULBARGA	1284	210	16.4%	11	5.2%
KOPPAL	880	217	24.7%	15	6.9%
RAICHUR	1368	261	19.1%	14	5.4%
YADGIR	917	111	12.1%	7	6.3%
TOTAL	9281	1887	20.3%	144	7.6%

The grid below clearly brings out the performance of the blocks and districts (in capitals) on two parameters – percentage of participating schools (on X-axis) and percentage of winning schools (on Y-axis). Bellary district and Kudligi, HB Halli, Sandur and Aland blocks show good performance on both parameters while Raichur and Yadgir district and Aurad, Chincholi, Chittapur, Raichur and Shorapur block are at the other extreme.

Winner %	Over 8%	<i>Bagalkote, Bkalyan, Bijapur, Indi, Sindhagi, Gulbarga, Deodurga, Sindhanur, Yadgir, Sedam</i>	<i>Badami, Jamkhandi, Mudhol, Bidar, Yalburga, Beelagi, Hungunda, Hadagalli</i>	<i>Kudligi, HB Halli, Sandur, Aland</i>
	BAGALKOTE, BIDAR	BELLARY		
Below 8%	<i>Aurad, Chincholi, Chittapur, Raichur, Shorapur</i>	<i>Bellary, Muddebihal, Koppal, Shahapur, Humnabad</i>	<i>Hospet, Sirguppa, Bhalki, BBagewadi, Afzalpur, Jewargi, Gangavati, Kushtagi, Lingsugur, Manvi</i>	
RAICHUR, YADGIR		GULBARGA, KOPPAL, BIJAPUR		
Less than 15%		15% to 25%	Over 25%	
Participation percentage				

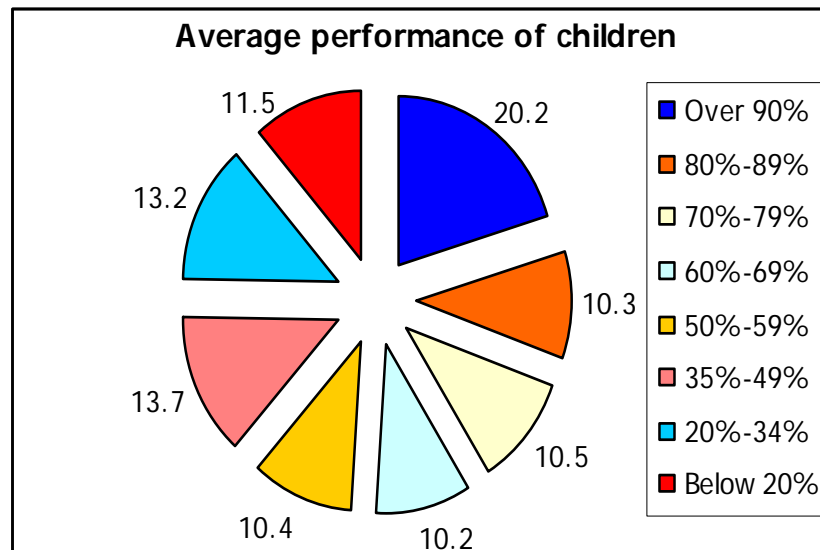
An analysis of the type of schools indicates that the lower primary schools have performed 'significantly' better than the higher primary schools.

Type of school	No of participants	Winners in 2005	Winner percentage
LPS	767	80	10.4%
HPS	1120	64	5.7%

Ten schools this year have demonstrated complete success with 100% achievement on all three parameters – enrollment, attendance and learning achievement. The list includes 5 schools from Bellary and one each from Bagalkote, Bidar, Raichur and Yadgir districts.

At an overall level, during the 2005 assessment, almost 62% of the children who were present for the test have shown an average achievement level of 50% or more. More importantly, over 20% of children have shown an achievement level of 90% or more in all classes put together.

Performance Range	90% and over	80-89 %	70-79 %	60-69 %	50-59 %	35-49 %	20-34 %	Below 20 %
Proportion of children	20.22	10.33	10.47	10.18	10.42	13.67	13.17	11.53
Cumulative proportion	20.22	30.55	41.02	51.20	61.62	75.20	88.37	100.00

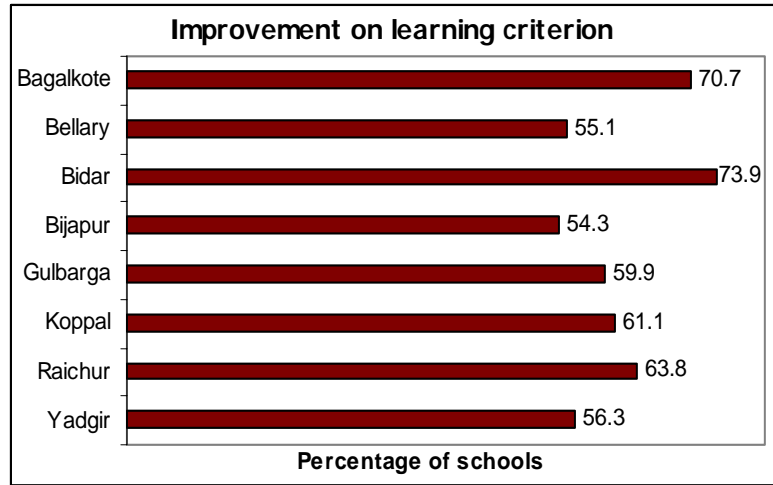


Comparative assessment

A total of 15 schools have achieved success in all three years of the program. These include 5 schools from Bellary, 3 each from Bagalkote and Koppal and one each from Bidar, Bijapur, Gulbarga and Raichur districts.

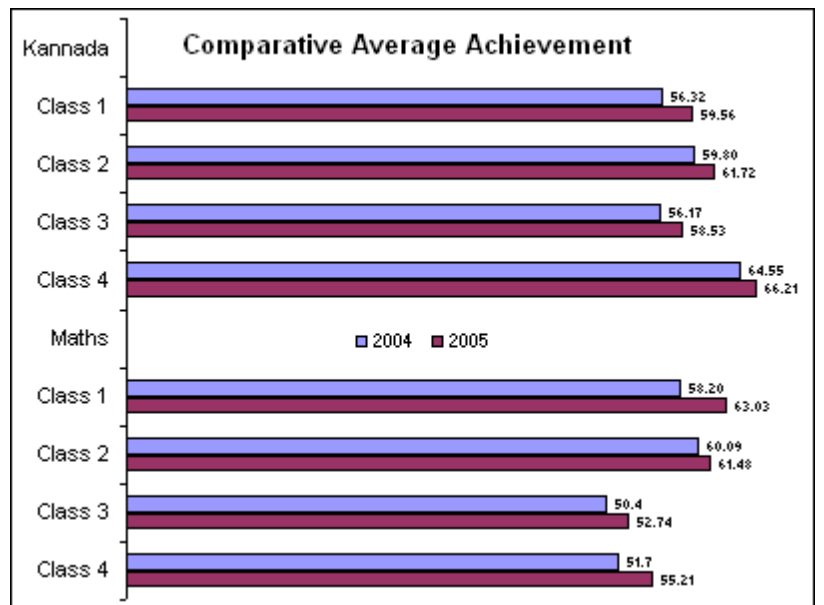
There has been an overall improvement in achievement levels across the districts. Over 60% of the schools that participated in 2004 assessment have shown an increase in the percentage of children achieving learning competency over 90% in 2005. The improvement is also geographically well spread out. This is a significant positive development.

District	Schools showing improvement	District	Schools showing improvement
Bagalkote	111 (70.7%)	Gulbarga	91 (59.9%)
Bellary	204 (55.1%)	Koppal	121 (61.1%)
Bidar	82 (73.9%)	Raichur	120 (63.8%)
Bijapur	102 (54.3%)	Yadgir	45 (56.3%)



The average achievement levels of the children has also improved across the classes by about 2%

	2004	2005
Kannada		
Class 1	56.32	59.56
Class 2	59.80	61.72
Class 3	56.17	58.53
Class 4	64.55	66.21
Maths		
Class 1	58.20	63.03
Class 2	60.09	61.48
Class 3	50.4	52.74
Class 4	51.7	55.21



More importantly, the improvement can also be seen in the 'last quartile' performance shown below. As can be seen, in many classes, the increase is substantial.

Performance - last quartile		
	2004	2005
Class 1 - Kannada	30.30	33.33
Class 1 – Maths	34.38	40.62
Class 2 - Kannada	36.36	40.91
Class 2 – Maths	37.50	37.50
Class 3 - Kannada	30.00	36.67
Class 3 – Maths	25.00	27.78
Class 4 - Kannada	42.86	42.86
Class 4 – Maths	27.91	30.20

Conclusions

Thus, the performance of the participating schools during the 2005 assessment shows

1. An increase in the participation of the schools
2. Better geographical dispersion of winning schools in the North East Karnataka region with at least one successful 'model school' in each block
3. An improvement over their performance in 2004 in terms of the children demonstrating learning criterion in over 60% of the schools
4. A general improvement in performance in terms of average achievement levels as well as performance of the 'last quartile'

This is an extremely heartening development.