CHAPTER 3

**EDUCATION**

The modern education system in Bhutan was introduced with the initiation of economic development plans in 1961. The Education system today has three main forms: General education, Monastic education and Non-Formal education. Monastic education was the only form of education till the 1950s and continues till date. There are now an extensive network of schools and other educational institutions spread throughout the country. Many schools also provide boarding facilities for students living in areas far from the school with meals provided by the government.

Students spend a total of seven years in Primary education (PP-VI); two years in Lower Secondary (VII-VIII); two years in Middle Secondary (IX-X); and two years in Higher Secondary (XI-XII). The constitution mandates free basic education for all citizens in Bhutan till grade X. However, support for education until grade XII has been introduced by the Government in 2020. Beyond the 12th standard, students either continue their tertiary education in institutes and universities or join the vocational training institutes or enter the labour market within or outside the country. Since 2020, the official school going age for children has been revised to age five from six.

The medium of instruction in the schools are Dzongkha (national language) and English. Besides covering all the General Education Curriculum required for a particular grade, students also engage in co-curricular activities such as in sports, scouts, singing, dancing, painting, arts, etc.

Besides the modern education system, there are large numbers of traditional institutions offering education to children in Monasteries, Drupdras and Shedras.

Non-Formal Education (NFE) programme has gained widespread popularity as an effective programme for providing basic literacy, numeracy and functional skills among the adult population. It was first established formally in 1992. Basic reading, writing and numeric skills are taught to enhance their livelihood and better manage day-to-day activities.

Recognizing that education is the fundamental link to national progress, the Royal Government of Bhutan has always emphasized education as one of the priority sectors. Although Bhutan has achieved tremendous progress in the field of education, new priority areas are emerging such as in improving quality and inclusiveness, adaptive and digital learning, emphasis on learning instead of classroom teaching, gearing learning towards emerging jobs, improving the learning facilities and enhancement of ECCD enrollment and facilities.

The statistics presented in this chapter provides an overview of Bhutan’s current education scenario and includes key education indicators, number of schools, institutes, colleges, students, teachers and lecturers.

**Concepts and Definition**

**Gross Enrolment Ratio ECCD :** Total Enrolment in ECCD regardless of ages expressed as a percent age of the population of the official age (3-5yrs old).

**Apparent Intake Rate** : Total number of new entrants in PP expressed as a percentage of the official school going aged population (5yr old pop).

**Net Intake Rate** : Total number of 5-year-old new entrants in PP expressed as a percentage of the official school going aged population (5yr old pop).

**Net Enrolment Rate Primary** : The number of pupils of official primary school age who are enrolled in primary education as a percentage of the total children of the official school age population.

**Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (5-12 years)** : The number of pupils of official primary school age (5-12yrs) enrolled in any level or form of education expressed as a percentage of the total children of the official primary school age population

**Net Enrolment Rate Basic (PP-X) :** The net enrolment ratio is the number of boys and girls of the age of a particular level of education that are enrolled in that level of education, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

**Gross Enrolment Ratio** : Number of students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education.

**Repetition Rate (Primary)** : Proportion of pupils from a cohort enrolled in a given grade at a given school year of primary or secondary education who study in the same grade in the following school year.

**Dropout Rate (Primary)** : Proportion of students that fail to complete education in that grade and are not currently attending any educational institution.

**Primary Completion Rate** : The primary completion rate is the ratio of the total number of students successfully completing (or graduating from) the last year of primary school in a given year to the total number of children of official graduation age in the population.

**Survival rate to grade** : Percentage of a cohort of students enrolled in a given grade in a given school year who are expected to reach a given grade, regardless of repetition.

**Transition rate** : New entrants to the first grade of a given school level, expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils enrolled in the final grade of given level of education in the previous year.