EFFECTUALITY OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL CAPITAL INREDUCING DROPOUT IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

With a literacy rate of mere 59 percent, the government of Bangladesh is very keen to achieve universal primary education in line with Millennium Development Goals by 2015. National Action Plan (NPA) has been formulated as to earn this goal. With the slogan - Education For All (EFA)-the country set target to ensure 100% primary enrollment by 2011. Subsequently, the incisive effort from the part of government has greatly attributed as we see a phenomenal progress in enrollment in the last few years. Yet, the high dropout rate of the enrolled students has been a grievous concern that is denting the laudable achievement to a greater extent. Numerous attempts have been approached to rein this tendency with little success. In such a backdrop, the present study intends to show the efficacy of 'Community Social Capital' in reducing dropout rate. It would like to deduce the fact that communities which are more participatory, friendly, possess a high level of trust and are civic oriented has lower dropout rate than the communities that lacks those features. It addressed the question; does 'Community Social Capital' have significant role in reducing the dropout rate of primary education in Bangladesh? To investigate this question, four variables such as: 'networks and relationships', 'organizational density and participation', 'trust'' and 'mutual cooperation' were assessed using both primary and secondary data. The findings of the research have proved the main argument: if the level of social capital becomes high then the school dropout rate becomes low.

Keywords: Primary enrollment, dropout, community, social capital.