

Cost of education

The National Sample Survey Office conducted its 71st round survey on social consumption in education in January-June 2014 and its findings paint a clear picture of the divide between rural and urban India and between government, private-aided and private-unaided institutions in terms of what students spend to obtain an education. The data also revealed the distribution of students across government and private schools and colleges across the country and provided a genderwise breakdown of students in various courses.

Not surprisingly, there were marked cost disparities between government, private-aided and private-unaided institutions in both rural and urban areas, with the greatest differences seen in medicine, management and vocational institutions.

Government institutions reigned supreme in the fields of primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary education in rural areas, accounting for more than half of all students enrolled across the country and more than 70 per cent at the primary and upper primary levels.

However, private institutions have a clear advantage in the urban areas. At the post-school level too, the number of students enrolled in all private institutions outnumbered those in state-run ones across disciplines, indicating the need for the government to broaden

NSSO data reveal marked disparities in what people spend on education and also point to a steady erosion of the state's role in higher education. By **RAMESH CHAKRAPANI**

Average expenditure per annum per student pursuing technical/professional education (in rupees)

	Medicine	Engineering	Management	IT-Computer	ITI-Vocational
RURAL					
Government	57,292	40,828	39,511	27,094	13,675
Private aided	76,383	61,516	60,548	36,401	30,872
Private unaided	91,391	69,439	69,473	43,453	30,598
URBAN					
Government	72,636	43,418	46,050	29,718	14,508
Private aided	99,468	74,291	62,778	54,976	33,567
Private unaided	1,48,510	83,443	1,21,150	59,626	39,166

Distribution of persons (aged 5 years and above) by completed level of education (per thousand)

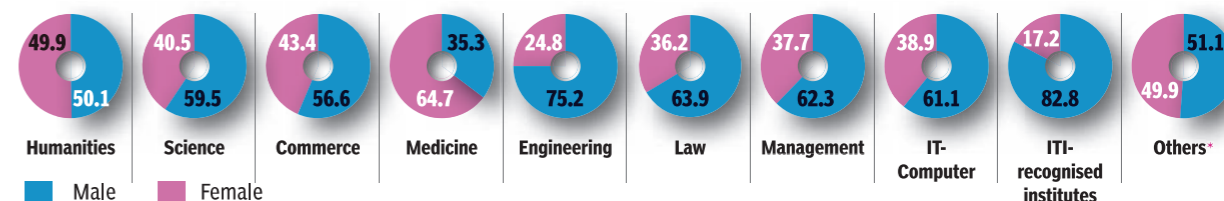
	RURAL		URBAN		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Not literate	198	376	90	190	165	320
Literate without schooling	8	6	5	6	7	6
Up to primary	377	336	285	280	349	319
Upper primary	173	130	157	143	168	134
Secondary	118	80	150	133	128	96
Higher secondary	71	45	114	102	85	62
Diploma	11	5	30	14	17	8
Graduation	37	18	126	96	64	42
Post-graduation and above	8	4	43	35	18	14

Distribution of students by type of college attended (%)

GRADUATION AND ABOVE			DIPLOMA-CERTIFICATE		
Government	47.9	RURAL	35.6	RURAL	
Private aided	22.5		24.7		
Private unaided	29.1	100	39.3	100	
*Total					
Government	38.0	URBAN	28.9	URBAN	
Private aided	28.0		29.6		
Private unaided	33.5	100	40.5	100	
Total					
Government	43.5	ALL INDIA	32.8	ALL INDIA	
Private aided	24.9		26.8		
Private unaided	31.1	100	39.8	100	
Total					

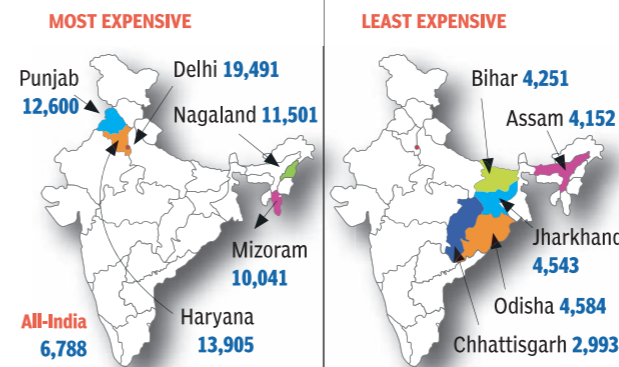
*rounded off to 100, includes unknown

Distribution of students pursuing general and technical/professional courses (%)

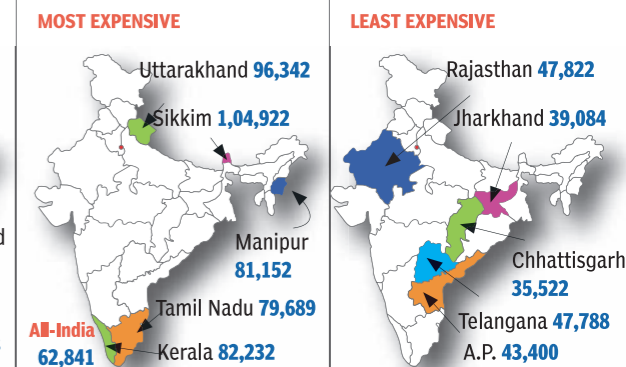


*includes agriculture, education, chartered accountancy and courses not mentioned elsewhere

Average annual expenditure per student for general education by State



Average annual expenditure per student for technical/professional education by State



Average expenditure per student by type of institution (in rupees)

	RURAL			URBAN		
	Govt	Private aided	Private unaided	Govt	Private aided	Private unaided
Primary	965	6,452	7,907	2,149	11,881	14,242
Upper primary	1,605	6,013	9,514	3,358	12,074	18,553
Secondary	3,328	5,896	11,222	5,540	14,096	21,565
Higher secondary	6,056	10,803	13,988	9,668	20,066	30,810
Graduate	8,753	11,730	17,093	11,560	16,993	26,380
Post-graduate and above	11,403	14,224	25,372	13,580	20,978	29,661
Diploma	10,603	14,935	20,976	12,184	19,059	46,445

Distribution of students by type of school attended (%)

PRIMARY			UPPER PRIMARY			SECONDARY-HIGHER SECONDARY		
Government	72.3	RURAL	75.8	RURAL	63.5	RURAL		
Private aided	5.0		7.9		15.5			
Private unaided	22.5	100	16.2	100	20.9	100		
Total								
Government	30.9	URBAN	38.0	URBAN	37.5	URBAN		
Private aided	17.5		20.2		25.6			
Private unaided	51.4	100	41.5	100	36.5	100		
Total								
Government	62.0	ALL INDIA	66.0	ALL INDIA	55.8	ALL INDIA		
Private aided	8.1		11.1		18.5			
Private unaided	29.7	100	22.8	100	25.5	100		
Total								

*rounded off to 100, includes unknown

its role in this area. The gender-wise breakdown showed that men outnumbered women in most courses with the exception of medicine, by a wide margin. The biggest gap was seen in courses run by ITIs and recognised institutes and engineering.

Delhi was the most expensive State for general education, followed by Haryana, Punjab, Nagaland, and Mizoram, while it was the least expensive in Chhattisgarh.

For technical/professional education, Sikkim topped the most expensive States, while Chhattisgarh was again the cheapest.

