

Education Sector Performance Report for 2007

About 800,000 children are expected to be out of school with deprived districts retaining fewer children in classrooms, an Education Sector Performance Report for 2007 has revealed. An estimated 20 per cent of these "out of school children" are between six and 11 years.

Most of the children are out of school because of the remoteness and inaccessible nature of such communities, unfavourable socio-economic and cultural factors.

In addition, economically challenged and seemingly intellectually weak pupils, with a poor parental background are sometimes not attracted to or retained in the formal school system.

The report said these children con-

stituted "a critical mass, whose continues exclusion from the school system would make it difficult for government to achieve Education for All(EFA) or Universal Primary Completion as stipulated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The report, also recorded a National Enrolment Rate (NER) of 81.1 per cent primary and 52.4 per cent for Junior High School (JHS) in 2007.

Deprived districts also registered 74.5 per cent of enrolment for primary and 41.6 per cent for JHS.

Respective completion rates at national level for primary and JHS as reported in the Education Sector Performance Report (2007), stands at 85.4 per cent and 65.0 per cent. Rates for deprived districts are 75.5 per cent for primary and 49.2 per cent for JHS.

Though the current structure and performance of the formal basic education system does not allow any alternative education programme for out of school children, there are opportunities to re-orient these children into formal education. There has been much discussion and promotion of flexible school programmes to encourage out of school children.

The Education Sector Plan, an initiative that would produce a policy document which would translate intentions into actions, address the problems of out of school children

