

SURVEY OF INDIAN "SCHOOL LEAVERS"
FROM GRADES 1 TO 12

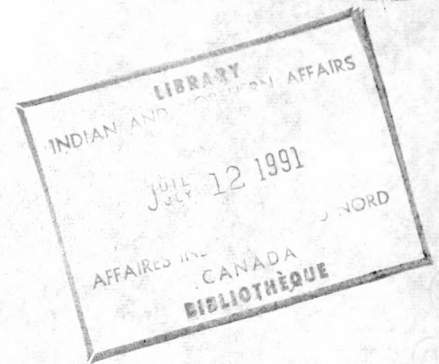
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SURVEY OF INDIAN "SCHOOL-LEAVERS"
FROM GRADES 1 TO 12

A Study
of the
1964-65 Pupil Population

Indian Affairs Branch,
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During the 1965-66 school year a study was carried out of the pupils enrolled in grades 1 to 12 during 1964-65 and who did not return to school in 1965-66.

The purpose of the study was to determine what happens to the school-leavers. What is the percentage of school-leavers as compared with the total Indian pupil population? At what grade levels are pupils leaving school?

Out of a purported pupil population of 47,748, reports were received for 45,567 pupils. As of October 1, 1965, 2,775 or 6.0% of the reported pupil population did not return to school.

The following is a summary of the data:

1. Of the 2,775 who did not return to school, 1,435 or 50.8% left with grade 8 or less and 49.2% had grade 9 or more. 2,256 or 79.7% left with grade 10 or less, the minimum requirement in most provinces for admission to vocational schools.

2. Of the 2,775 who did not return to school, as of October 1, 1965:

| | | |
|-------|--|--------|
| 245 | entered upgrading | 8.67% |
| 316 | entered vocational training | 11.54% |
| 37 | entered teacher training, nursing or university | 2.09% |
| 568 | entered employment | 20.36% |
| 1,438 | were unemployed | 51.22% |
| 172 | females entered marriage | 6.12% |

3. Of the 284 who left school with partial grade 12 or having graduated:

| | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 10 | entered upgrading | 3.50% |
| 77 | entered vocational training | 27.1 % |
| 29 | entered teacher training, nursing or university | 10.2 % |
| 96 | entered employment | 33.8 % |
| 59 | were unemployed | 20.8 % |
| 13 | females entered marriage | 4.6 % |

4. Of the 235 who left school with grade 11, completed or partial:

| | |
|--|-------|
| 11 entered upgrading | 4.7% |
| 53 entered vocational training | 22.6% |
| 8 entered teacher training, nursing or university | 3.4% |
| 63 entered employment | 26.8% |
| 90 were unemployed | 38.3% |
| 10 females entered marriage | 4.3% |

5. Of the 307 who left school with grade 10, completed or partial:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 17 entered upgrading | 5.5% |
| 71 entered vocational training | 23.2% |
| 75 entered employment | 24.4% |
| 121 were unemployed | 39.4% |
| 23 females entered marriage | 7.5% |

6. Of the 514 who left school with grade 9, completed or partial:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 27 entered upgrading | 5.3% |
| 48 entered vocational training | 9.3% |
| 120 entered employment | 23.3% |
| 274 were unemployed | 53.3% |
| 45 females entered marriage | 8.3% |

7. Of the 460 who left school with grade 8, completed or partial:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 35 entered upgrading | 7.6% |
| 34 entered vocational training | 4.5% |
| 80 entered employment | 17.4% |
| 272 were unemployed | 59.1% |
| 39 females entered marriage | 8.5% |

8. Of the 378 who left school with grade 7, completed or partial:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 39 entered upgrading | 10.3% |
| 17 entered vocational training | 2.7% |
| 53 entered employment | 14.1% |
| 253 were unemployed | 66.9% |
| 16 females entered marriage | 4.2% |

9. Of the 597 who left school with grade 6, completed or partial:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 105 entered upgrading | 17.6% |
| 16 entered vocational training | 2.7% |
| 81 entered employment | 13.6% |
| 369 were unemployed | 61.8% |
| 26 females entered marriage | 4.3% |

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Of those who left school, 40.8% of the grade 12's went into further training, 30.7% of the grade 11's; 28.7% of the grade 10's; 14.6% of the grade 9's; 12.1% of the grade 8's; and 13.0% of the grade 7's.

This is a clear indication that the probability of students continuing into further education increases with grade level. However, what is more significant, is that 71.3% of those with grade 10; 69.3% of those with grade 11, and 59.2% of those who left school with grade 12, did not go into further training.

When we take a look at those leaving with grades 8 and 9, we find 85.4% and 87.9% not going on to further training.

An interesting sidelight of these statistics is that whether one quits school after grade 10 and does not take grade 11 makes little difference in terms of further training unless one takes grade 12. You will have found that 28.7% of the grade 10's went on to further training and only 30.7% of the grade 11's, a difference of only 2% which may be attributed to the additional grade. However, the jump from grade 11 to grade 12 is from 30.7% to 40.8%, a difference of 10.1% which is highly significant.

When looking at grades 7 to 9, we find 13.0% of the grade 7's and only 14.6% of the grade 9's going on to further training, a difference of 1.6%. However, the jump between grade 9 and grade 10 is from 14.6% to 28.7%, or an increase of 14.1% which again is highly significant.

What this suggests is:

- (a) That we should aim at grade 10 completion for all students and those who have entered grade 11 should be given every encouragement to complete grade 12.
 - (b) That the guidance program at the 7 to 9 levels must be intensified if preparation for employment is to be realized.
 - (c) That there are significant numbers with grades 10, 11 and 12 who have the pre-requisites for training, but who are not enrolling for further education.
2. In respect of the employment picture, of those who left school with grade 12 33.8% entered employment as compared with 26.8% of the grade 11's; 24.4% of the grade 10's; 23.3% of the grade 9's; 17.4% of the grade 8's, and 14.1% of the grade 7's.

Here again, employment increases with grade level.

3.

TABLE I

PERCENTAGE WHO DID NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL BY GRADE LEVEL

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Enrollment</u> | <u>No. who left school</u> | <u>% of Enrollment</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 8,754 | 13 | .14 |
| 2 | 6,290 | 23 | .36 |
| 3 | 5,677 | 38 | .66 |
| 4 | 5,511 | 80 | 1.45 |
| 5 | 4,841 | 170 | 3.51 |
| 6 | 4,075 | 273 | 6.69 |
| 7 | 3,485 | 378 | 10.84 |
| 8 | 2,580 | 460 | 17.82 |
| 9 | 2,134 | 514 | 24.08 |
| 10 | 1,143 | 307 | 26.85 |
| 11 | 643 | 235 | 36.54 |
| 12 | 434 | 284 | 65.43 |
| Total | <u>45,567</u> | <u>2,775</u> | |

This Table shows a steady increase in school-leavers of significant proportions from grade 5 to 11. However, while the total number who did not return to school is only 6.0% of the reported enrollment, the data in this study only covers 45,567 pupils out of an enrollment of 47,748, as presented in the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1965, and the difference of 2,135 may include a substantial number of school-leavers not accounted for in this analysis.

What we do not know is the number who left school from grades 12 or 13 who were graduates. However, this is something that we will correct in future studies.

4. On a Regional basis, the percentage of enrollments who did not return to school is as follows:

TABLE II

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLMENT WHO DID NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL
BY GRADE AND REGION

| Grade | <u>Maritimes</u> | <u>Quebec</u> | <u>Ontario</u> | <u>Manitoba</u> | <u>Saskatchewan</u> | <u>Alberta</u> | <u>British Columbia</u> |
|-------|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2.7 | .33 | .09 | - | .07 | - | - |
| 2 | .76 | .87 | .20 | .34 | .11 | .62 | .18 |
| 3 | 2.8 | .15 | .14 | 1.64 | - | .78 | .59 |
| 4 | 4.4 | 1.4 | .57 | 3.04 | .73 | 1.04 | .91 |
| 5 | 7.8 | 5.4 | 1.5 | 6.40 | 3.16 | 1.77 | 2.46 |
| 6 | 16.7 | 10.4 | 3.3 | 8.9 | 4.68 | 3.73 | 8.11 |
| 7 | 19.3 | 9.1 | 5.4 | 14.3 | 10.13 | 14.56 | 10.88 |
| 8 | 23. | 19.1 | 11.6 | 16.6 | 17.69 | 26.82 | 17.22 |
| 9 | 22.2 | 20.1 | 29.9 | 14.2 | 28.72 | 31.59 | 17.10 |
| 10 | 36.8 | 10.6 | 24.1 | 36.6 | 26.59 | 31.54 | 29.66 |
| 11 | 35.7 | 65.0 | 21.1 | 27.27 | 34.92 | 34.48 | 48.96 |
| 12 | 83.3 | - | 48.8 | 38.7 | 60. | 72.41 | 51.63 |

If we arbitrarily assume for our purposes that the numbers of school-leavers become significant when they are over 5% of the respective grade enrollment, then in Table II we find this happening at the grade 5 level in the Maritimes, Quebec and Manitoba and at the grade 6 level in the Maritimes, Quebec, Manitoba, and British Columbia. At the grade 7 level, the school-leavers are significant in all regions and reach major proportions in grades 7 to 11 with exception of Quebec where students may proceed to colleges and universities from grade 11.

This Table suggests three possible areas of major weakness in our programs:

- (1) Pupils entering post-elementary programs are inadequately prepared for work at the high school level and consequently leave school, and
- (2) pupils are enrolled in high school programs for which they are not suited, and
- (3) pupils at the high school levels require the reinforcement of an intensified guidance program.

While the variables involved in the school-leaving problem are multi-faceted, Table II indicates the grade levels at which we must intensify our efforts.

SUGGESTED STEPS TO BE TAKEN

1. We should establish as an objective a minimum of grade 10 for every Indian student and this should be made known to pupils, parents, Band Councils, and school committees.
2. Techniques should be devised and implemented in each Education District for picking up the school-leavers immediately after they have left school.
3. Accurate records should be maintained of the grades 8 to 12 enrollments with the follow-up of each student shortly after the new school year begins.

Again, you will have found in this study that only 13% of the school-leavers at the grade 7 level went into further training, 12.1% of the grade 8's; 14.6% of the grade 9's; 28.7% of the grade 10's; 30.7% of the grade 11's.

Those who left school from grades 7 to 9 should be guided into upgrading and those with grades 10 and 11 into further training.

We appreciate the co-operation of all Regional and District School Superintendents in making this study possible and we trust that you will find the data contained herein helpful.