

Bhutan

Number Out of School
10,000

Percent Out of School
9%

Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

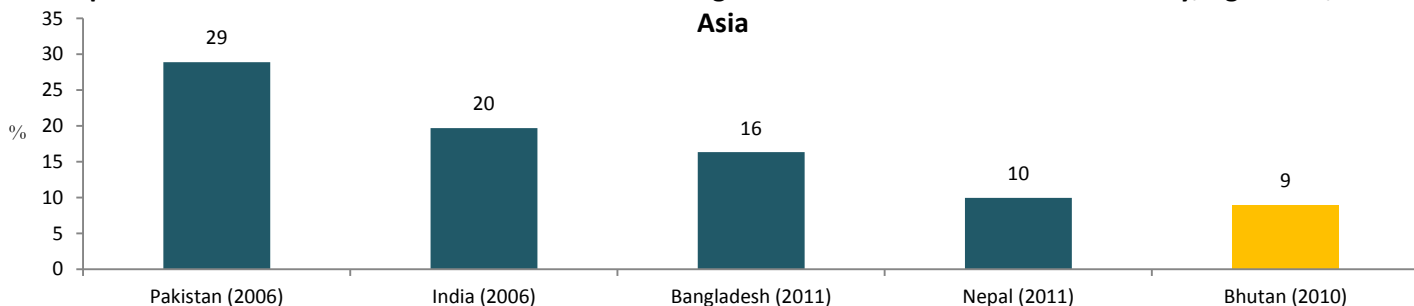
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2010

Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children Ages 7-14 across Bhutan

Exact estimated rates and 95% confidence intervals for estimates are provided later in the profile.



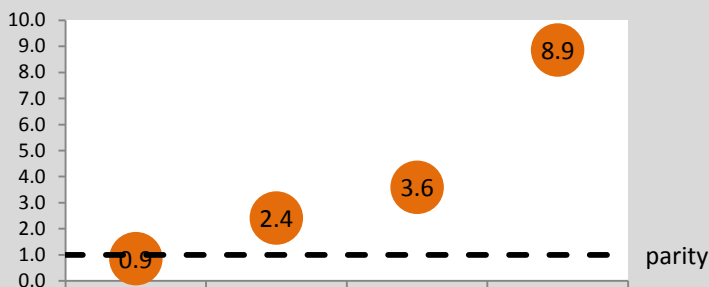
Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, South Asia



The Structure of the Education System in Bhutan

Bhutan has a 7-2-2-2 formal education structure. Primary school has an official entry age of six and a duration of seven years. These seven years encompass a year of pre-primary (which takes place in primary schools), followed by grades 1-6. Secondary school consists of grades 7-12 and is broken down into lower secondary (grades 7-8), middle secondary (grades 9-10), and higher secondary (grades 11-12). Basic education extends to the end of middle-secondary (grade 10) and is, in principle, free and compulsory. Students sit for examinations at the end of grades six, eight, ten, and twelve. The Bhutan Certificate of Secondary Education (BCSE) at the end of grade 10 determines whether students advance to government-funded higher secondary school. (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. 7th Ed., 2010-2011. Revised 7/2011).

Parity Indices



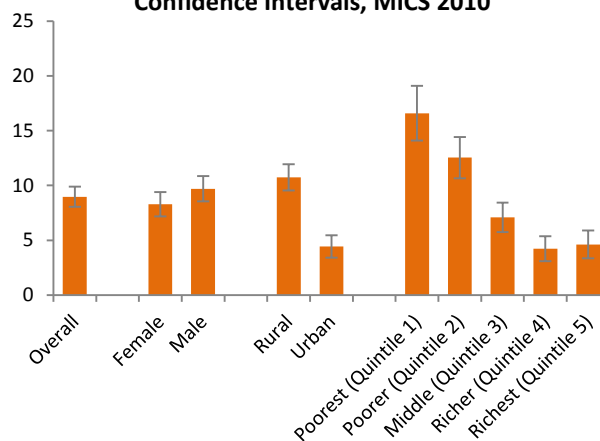
- Parity indices provide information about the greatest sources of inequality in a population. The graph at left provides ratios of different estimates of children aged 7-14 who are out of school. It shows, for example, that the out of school rate in rural areas is 2.4 times higher than that in urban areas.

- For Bhutan, the greatest disparity in out of school rates is between children from provinces with the highest and lowest school participation rates. Children from the worst performing province are 8.9 times as likely to be out of school as children from the best.

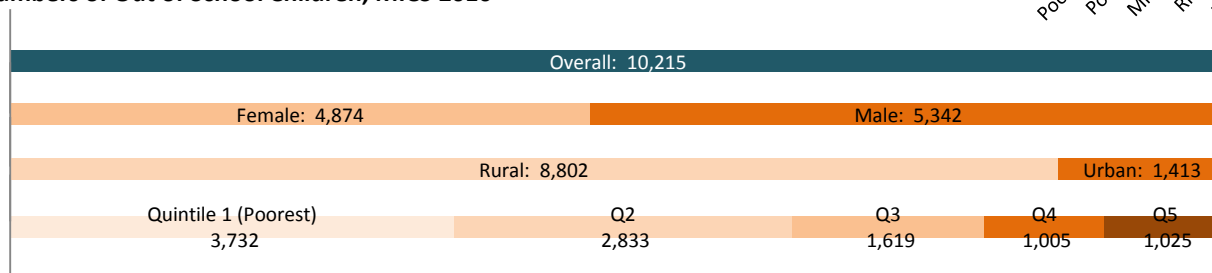
Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

- Fewer girls (8% or 4,874) are out of school than boys (10% or 5,342) in Bhutan.
- Out of school rates for children from rural areas (11%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (4%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (8,802) than in urban areas (1,413).
- Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (17%).

Rates of Out of School Children (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2010



Numbers of Out of School Children, MICS 2010



About Data Sources

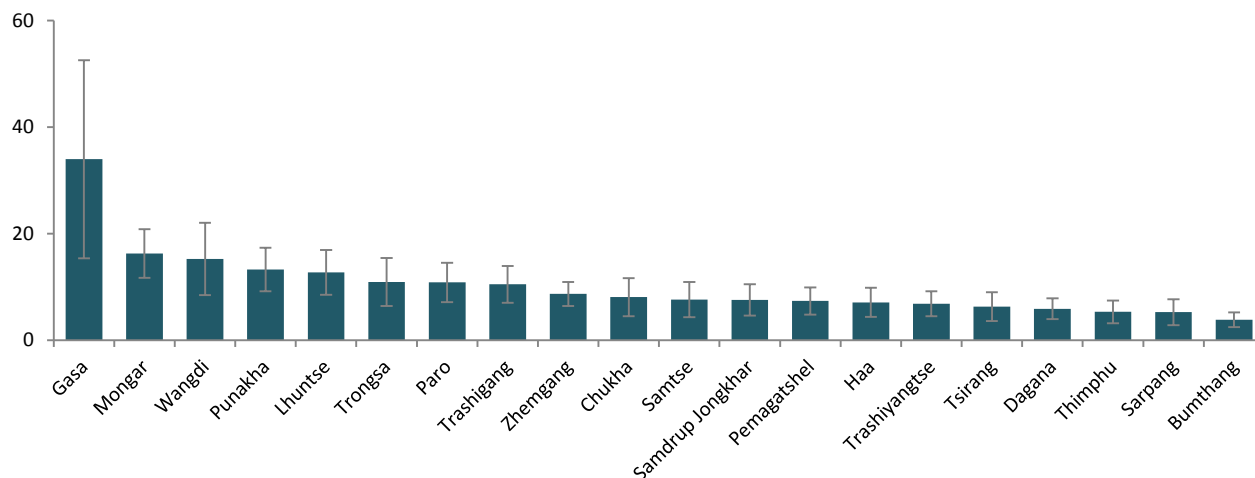
All out of school estimates presented in this profile are EPDC extractions of MICS data. MICS Surveys are led by UNICEF and are conducted every several years. They collect information on health, education, and other topics for households and individuals residing in those households. The 2010 Bhutan MICS Survey is representative at the national and subnational level. For more information, please see <http://www.childinfo.org/mics.html>.

Estimates of out of school children from household surveys can be expected to differ from administrative estimates, such as those from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and national government agencies, because of differences between these sources in data collection and estimation methods for measuring school participation. For more information on the differences between these data sources, please see www.epdc.org.

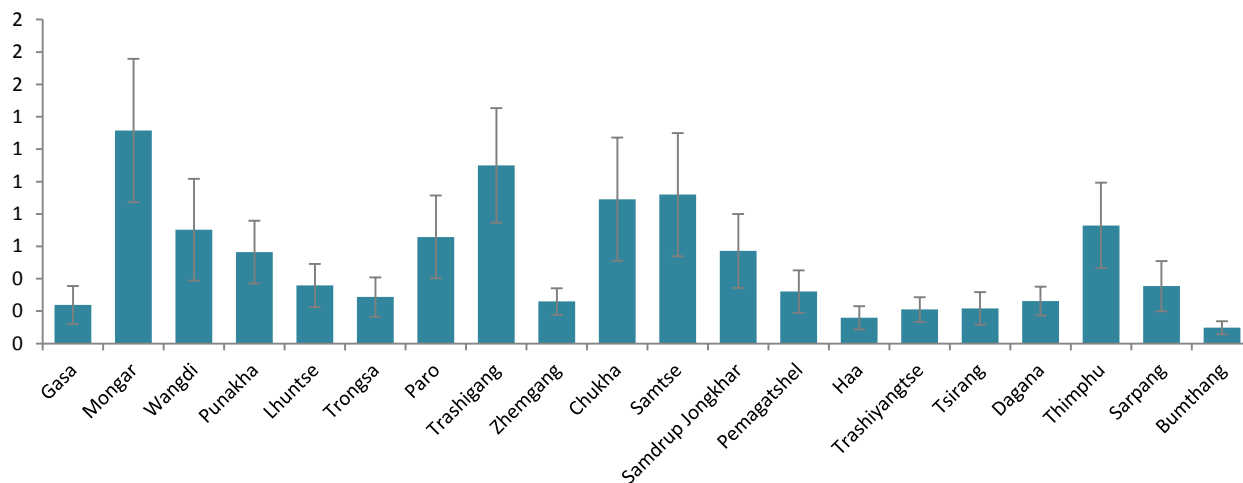
Out of School Children by Subnational Regions

- The subnational region with the highest percentage of children out of school is Gasa (34%). Bumthang has the lowest rate of school non-participation (4%).
- The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Mongar (1,315). Bumthang has the lowest numbers of out of school children (97).

Rates of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2010



Numbers of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (# in thousands), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2010



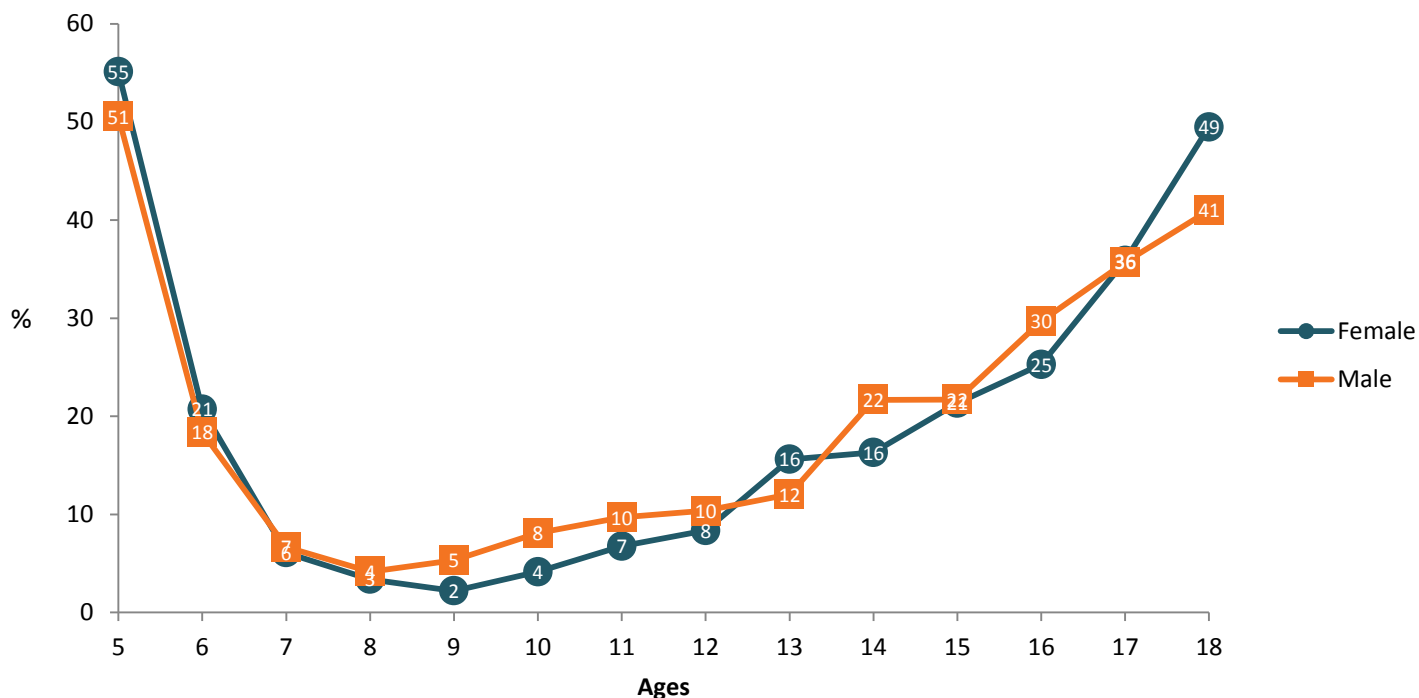
Why Ages 7-14?

EPDC presents data for ages 7-14. This age group captures the bulk of basic compulsory education in most countries, aids cross-national comparability of estimates, and conveys the normative international frameworks set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and supported by the ILO Minimum Age Convention.

Out of School Rates by Age and Sex

- The official primary school entry age in Bhutan is age 6. At that age, 21% of girls and 18% of boys are out of school.
- At age 15, 21% of girls and 22% of boys are out of school.
- School participation is highest for girls at age 9 and for boys at age 8.

Out of School Rates, by Age and Sex



Summary of EPDC Methodology on Measuring Out of School Children

In this profile, EPDC presents estimates of the proportion and number of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 using household survey data. Along with relative and absolute estimates of out of school children, EPDC provides 95% confidence intervals for each estimate.

To create estimates of the proportion of out of school children for a particular school year, EPDC used birthdate information to identify children who were of a particular age range (7-14) on the month that the school year began. Children who had attended primary school or higher at any time during the school year were classified as 'in school;' Children who had not attended school at any time during the school year, or who had attended pre-school during that reference period were classified as 'out of school.' The proportion of children who are out of school is calculated as the number of children within the 7-14 age range who were classified as out of school divided by the number of children within the same age range.

To obtain the number of out of school children, the out-of-school rate is then applied to the estimated population of the same age range from the UN Population Division (EPDC obtained single-age population estimates to build the correct age range). UN Population Division figures are provided for mid-year each year, and EPDC uses the population figures from the year closest to the start of the school year in each country. Depending on a country's main academic calendar, the population figure may be from the year before the school participation year.

For more information on measurement of out of school children, please see the EPDC website at www.epdc.org.

EPDC Estimated Rates and Numbers of Out of School Children based on MICS 2010 Presented with 95% Confidence Intervals

	Lower limit of 95% confidence interval	Estimated proportion of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 (%)	Upper limit of 95% confidence interval	Lower limit of 95% confidence interval	Estimated number of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 (#)	Upper limit of 95% confidence interval
National	8	9	10	9,186	10,215	11,244
Sex						
Female	7	8	9	4,223	4,874	5,524
Male	9	10	11	4,699	5,342	5,984
Area						
Rural	10	11	12	7,825	8,802	9,779
Urban	3	4	5	1,091	1,413	1,735
Relative Wealth						
Poorest Quintile	14	17	19	3,048	3,732	4,417
Poorer Quintile	11	13	14	2,352	2,833	3,315
Middle Quintile	6	7	8	1,298	1,619	1,941
Richer Quintile	3	4	5	724	1,005	1,286
Richest Quintile	3	5	6	742	1,025	1,308
Regions						
Gasa	15	34	53	122	239	355
Mongar	12	16	21	873	1,315	1,757
Wangdi	8	15	22	389	703	1,017
Punakha	9	13	17	371	564	757
Lhuntse	9	13	17	225	358	491
Trongsa	6	11	15	166	287	408
Paro	7	11	15	402	658	914
Trashigang	7	10	14	746	1,100	1,453
Zhemgang	6	9	11	178	259	341
Chukha	4	8	12	511	891	1,272
Samtse	4	8	11	539	920	1,300
Samdrup Jongkhar	5	8	10	343	572	800
Pemagatshel	5	7	10	189	321	453
Haa	4	7	10	87	159	231
Trashiyangtse	4	7	9	135	210	286
Tsirang	4	6	9	115	216	318
Dagana	4	6	8	172	262	351
Thimphu	3	5	7	465	729	993
Sarpang	3	5	8	200	354	509
Bumthang	2	4	5	56	97	139