

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

Definition: Total enrolment in primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible official primary school-age population in a given school-year

Purpose: GER is widely used to show the general level of participation in and capacity of primary education. Used in place of the net enrolment ratio (NER) when data on enrolment by single years of age are not available. Can also be used together with the NER to measure the extent of over-aged and under-aged enrolment.

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

This indicator shows the overall coverage of an educational system in relation to the population eligible for participation in the system

This ratio is useful for those who are interested in the overall participation of the school-age population, including both primary and secondary levels It can be used for comparing two or more countries and urban and rural areas

- GER for Primary School

$$GER_{PRI} = \frac{\text{Enrolment in primary level}}{\text{Population of official age-group for primary level}} \times 100$$

- GER for Secondary School

$$GER_{SEC} = \frac{\text{Enrolment in secondary level}}{\text{Population of official age-group for secondary level}} \times 100$$

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

- Example: The gross enrolment ratio for primary education is obtained by dividing the third column (enrolment) by the second (population)

| Sex | Population at primary school age | Enrolment at primary level | GER |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|
| Col 1 | Col 2 | Col 3 | Col 4 |
| Boys | 9,152,351 | 10,023,455 | 110% |
| Girls | 8,912,453 | 9,625,564 | 108% |
| Total | 18,064,804 | 19,649,019 | 109% |

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

Interpretation

High GER indicates high degree of participation, regardless of age

GER \geq 100% indicates that a country is, in principle, able to accommodate all of its primary school-age population, but does not indicate the proportion of that population actually enrolled

The achievement of GER of 100% is a necessary but not sufficient

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

When a country's GER exceeds 90% for primary education, the aggregate number of places for pupils is approaching the number required for full enrolment of the official age-group population; In order to achieve universal primary education, the number of under and over-age pupils would need to decline in order to free places for pupils in the official primary school age-group

Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)

- **Limitation**

GER can sometimes exceed 100% due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged pupils and repeaters. In this case, a rigorous interpretation of GER needs additional information on the extent of repetition, early and late entrants, etc.

Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)

Definition: Enrolment in primary education of the official primary school age group expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population.

Purpose: NER gives a more precise measurement of the extent of participation in primary education of children belonging to the official primary school age.

Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)

To measure the participation of official school age population

$$\text{NER} = \frac{\text{Enrolment of the official primary school age}}{\text{Population of official primary school age}} \times 100$$

The net level enrolment rate is also used to estimate the number of children not enrolled (out of school children), by subtracting NER from 100

Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)

What percentage of primary school age children in this country are not in school?

| Sex | Population of official primary school age | Enrolment of the official primary school age | NER |
|-------|---|--|-------|
| Col 1 | Col 2 | Col 3 | Col 4 |
| Boys | 9,152,351 | 8,523,337 | 93% |
| Girls | 8,912,453 | 8,625,564 | 97% |
| Total | 18,064,804 | 17,148,901 | 95% |

NER vs GER

By analyzing GER and NER together, one can see the participation pattern of the system:

- Over and under age pupils

- Degree of participation

- Geographical disparity

- Gender disparity

Theoretically, NER should not be more than 100 while GER can be more than 100

Issues with enrolment ratios

Limitations

Lack of accurate data is a major problem when calculating enrolment ratios

Population figures are estimated and enrolment data is subject to tabulation errors and missing data

Inaccurate population estimates and less than 100% returns of school questionnaires make enrolment rates unreliable