

Mumbai, Scholarship Program, Feb.07-08

Highlights:

- I. On 17 Feb 2008, total 1274038 children appeared for **School Scholarship Examination** (MSS Exam.) from 36 districts of Maharashtra in around 5584 examination centres. Out of them 10,264 children received scholarships.
- II. From Mumbai, total 58,880 children were appeared, of which 54% children were passed, these includes municipal as well as private schools children.
- III. From municipal schools total 37,834 children were appeared of which 34% children have passed the exam.
- IV. Pratham's intervention was with 2020 children in Mumbai. Out of which 1757 children appeared for the exam, showing 1145 children i.e. 65% children passed.
- V. Among 1757 children from Pratham classes 75% i.e. 1317 children were from municipal schools. Of which 55% children have passed the MSS exam. Also 440 children were from private school of which 96% children passed the MSS exam.
- VI. From private schools, among total boys, 95% boys and among total girls, 98% girls have passed. Also from municipal schools, of total boys, 52.5% of boys and 56.8% of girls have passed. An overall, passing percentage of girls are higher than that of boys.
- VII. 88 children from Pratham classes have scored above 80% which is amazing. As well as 31% children scored above 60% and 68% children scored above 40% (passing percentage).
- VIII. Furthermore, total 23 children from Pratham classes got listed in merit of MSS exam who have obtained scholarship from Govt. of Maharashtra for next three years. Of these 23 children five students were from municipal schools.

Mumbai, Scholarship Program, Feb.07-08

Introduction:

Govt. of Maharashtra conducts **Middle School Scholarship Examination** (MSS Exam.) in the 3rd week of February every year. This scholarship test is being conducted since from 1954. Earlier, only selected students from std.IV and std. VII of government recognized schools were allowed to appear for exam. During last academic year 2007-08, all regular students of std.IV and std.VII studying from government recognized schools are made eligible for scholarship. The responsibility to conduct and organise the exam is handed over to MSCE¹.

Objectives:

- To undertake talent search at the end of Primary Schooling i.e. at the end of 4th Standard.
- To nurture and encourage the talented and deserving students by recognising and provide them financial support.

What is tested?

Total three papers of 100 marks & one-hour duration each are to be written on the same day. Every question has four options. The correct option number should be written on the answer paper.

Paper 1: English: 70 marks, Social Science: 30 marks

Paper 2: Math's: 100 marks

Paper 3: Intelligence test: 50 marks, General Science: 50 marks

The question papers are available in Marathi, English, Hindi, Urdu, Gujrathy, Sindhi, Telugu and Kannada Medium. Each paper consists of 50 objective types multiple choice questions, of 2 marks each. There is no negative marking. First five corrections in each paper are allowed. The Question papers and answer sheets are provided separately. The answer sheets are computerized and are assessed with the help of computer. A candidate getting minimum 30 marks in each paper & 120 in aggregate is considered as 'PASSED'.

Pratham's involvement:

In most of the private schools a separate coaching is made available for selected students. Pratham experimented to start classes for 2000 children in communities and in municipal schools to coach children of std. IV from Marathi medium. The aim was to make sure that at least 50% of the students should pass MSS exam. Total 112 classes started from July-Aug.07 of which 55 were in schools and 59 were in the communities for 3 hours daily. The classes which were run in schools were for the entire division or in communities were for all children of std.IV from those communities.

Training and curriculum:

¹ Maharashtra State Council of Examinations is an autonomous body (body corporate) established by school Education Department, Govt. of Maharashtra under the special Act "Maharashtra State Council of Examinations Act 1998". The MSCE is the premier organisation in Maharashtra, known for the Middle School & High School Scholarships and National Talent Search Examinations since last fifty years. The mission of the MSCE is to take up talent search at primary, secondary and Professional level, through reliable, transparent and valid conduct of examinations.

Pratham took help from external experts/specialists who have lot of experience in teaching teachers from renowned private schools. Total 3 months training was imparted through out the year to train master teachers or trainer-monitors. These master teachers gave training to 100 teachers who conducted the classes.

Children at different levels were needed to be treated, as the classes were not started for selected children. To prepare these children for scholarship exam, every class was divided into two groups. One group was taught to read, to do basic math and other was to get familiar with higher level of competencies.

Different methods and activities were taught to children to solve the questions with lesser time. For teachers and children comfort, the entire curriculum for math, language and general knowledge was break down into four different levels with increase in level of difficulty. For every level a test was taken. After finishing all tests, practice tests with actual scholarship syllabus were continued till the final exam took place on 16 Feb.08.

Material for teachers and students i.e. the teacher's manual and the children's guides were finalized after examining all material that is available in the market. A question bank was created from which the mock test papers were prepared through a randomized computer program. The curriculum was completed in the classes by end Dec.07 and mock tests were held from Jan08 onwards.

Scholarship results, Feb.2008:

On 17 Feb 2008, total 1274038 children appeared from 36 districts of Maharashtra in around 5584 examination centres. Out of them 10,264 children received scholarships. Pratham's intervention was with 2020 children. Out of which 1757 children appeared for the exam of which 1145 children i.e. 65% children passed the exam.

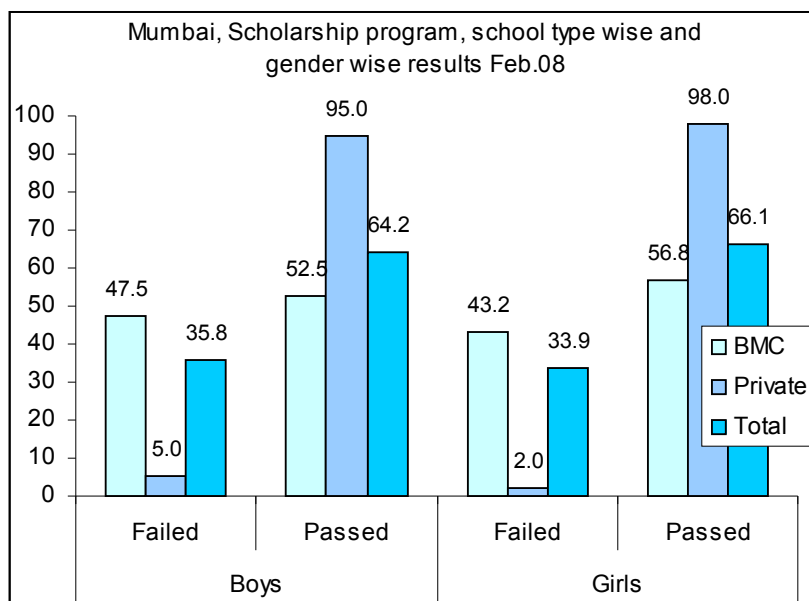
The table1 shows result of 1757 children coached by Pratham.

Table: 1, break up of children from Pratham classes appeared for MSS exam.

No. of children	From Municipal Corporation schools	From Private schools	Total
Appeared	1317	440	1757
Passed	721	424	1145
	55%	96%	65%
Failed	596	16	612
	45%	4%	35%

Of 1757 children from Pratham classes 75% children were from municipal schools. Of these children 55% children have passed the MSS exam. Out of 440 children from private school 96% children have passed the MSS exam.

Graph below shows gender wise and school type wise results of Pratham intervened children in terms of percentages.



- » It reveals that 95% of boys from private schools have passed where as 98% of girls from private schools have passed.
- » Also 52.5% of boys from municipal schools have passed where as 56.8% of girls from municipal schools have passed. An overall, passing percentage of girls are higher than that of boys.

The table 2, below shows the results for children of municipal schools and for children of Pratham coached classes.

Table: 2, Total children appeared from Mumbai

	No. of Children Appeared	Passed	%	Type of schools
Mumbai	58880	32088	54	Pvt. + BMC
	37834	12792	34	BMC
Pratham	1757	1144	65	Pvt.+BMC
	1315	718	55	BMC

- » From Mumbai, total 58,880 children were appeared, of which 54% children were passed, these includes municipal as well as private schools children.
- » From municipal schools 37,834 children were appeared of which 34% children have passed the exam.

Table 3 shows break up of all Pratham intervened children with respect to their percentages in MSS exam.

Table: 3, Percentage wise scores of Pratham intervened children

No. of children who scored above 90% 18 1%

No. of children who scored above 80%	70	4%
No. of children who scored above 70%	185	11%
No. of children who scored above 60%	259	15%
No. of children who scored above 50%	313	18%
No. of children who scored above 40%	332	19%
No. of children who scored above 30%	368	21%
No. of children who scored Below 30%	212	12%
Total children appeared from Pratham	1757	100%

- » It points out that of total 1757, 31% children scored above 60% and 68% children scored above 40% (passing percentage).
- » It shows a gap of 3% between passed children and children who have scored above 40%. This indicates that 33 children have failed even after scoring above 40%, for the reason that they have not scored above 30 marks in any of three subjects.
- » It also shows that 88 children from Pratham classes have scored above 80% which is amazing.

Table 4 tells above distribution of Pratham intervened children in terms of type of schools with respect to their percentages in MSS exam.

Table: 4, School wise break of Pratham intervened children and their percentages in MSS exam

	Municipal schools		Private schools	
	children	%	children	%
No. of children who scored above 90%	5	0.4%	13	3%
No. of children who scored above 80%	16	1%	54	12%
No. of children who scored above 70%	70	5%	115	26%
No. of children who scored above 60%	131	10%	128	29%
No. of children who scored above 50%	231	18%	82	19%
No. of children who scored above 40%	297	23%	35	8%
No. of children who scored above 30%	357	27%	11	3%
No. of children who scored Below 30%	210	16%	2	0%
Total children appeared from Pratham	1317	100%	440	100%

- » It is really a great achievement that 21 children from municipal school scored above 80%. And 67 children from private schools also have scored above 80%.
- » It also reveals that 57% children from municipal schools have scored more than 40% where as 97% children from private school have scored more than 40%.

Table 5 indicates subject wise scoring of Pratham intervened children.

Table: 5, Subject wise percentages of Pratham intervened children and their percentages

Scored percentages	Percentage wise distribution of children					
	In Language	%	In Math	%	In Intelligence	%
above 90	15	1%	30	2%	24	1%
above 80	63	4%	75	4%	121	7%
above 70	157	9%	154	9%	213	12%
above 60	216	12%	244	14%	267	15%
above 50	249	14%	282	16%	280	16%
above 40	348	20%	331	19%	298	17%
above 30	376	21%	305	17%	328	19%
above 20	270	15%	267	15%	193	11%
above 10	58	3%	68	4%	31	2%
below 10	5	0%	1	0%	2	0%
Total	1757		1757	1	1757	

- » Table 5 shows that 60% children scored above 40% in language, 64% children scored above 40% in math where as 68% children scored above 40% in intelligence test.
- » It also says that children score above 80% in language are 78, in math are 105 and in intelligence are 145.

Table 6 indicates break up of children who failed in MSS exam due to short fall of marks in language, in math, in intelligence test and due to not getting total 120 marks in all three subjects.

Table: 6, Break up of children who failed due to short fall of marks

	In language	In math	In intelligence	In total	Children failed
No. of children failed by 1-5 marks	14	7	3	41	65
No. of children failed by 6-10 marks	10	4	0	55	69
Children failed due to above reasons	24	11	3	96	134

- » Above, table 6 explains that 14 children failed MSS exam due to getting 1-5 marks lesser in language where as 41 children failed as short fall of 1-5 marks in grand total even though they scored above 30 marks in all subjects.
- » Total 65 children failed with short fall of 1-5 marks in any one of the above category.

Table 7 specifies about children who scored above 90%

Table: 7, Break up of children who scored above 90 per cent

Schools	90%	90.7%	91.3%	92%	92.7%	93.3%	94%	Total
BMC		2	1		2			5
Private	4	1	0	3	2	2	1	13
Total	4	3	1	3	4	2	1	18

- » Total 23 children from Pratham classes got listed in merit of MSS exam who have obtained scholarship from Govt. of Maharashtra for next three years. Five students from municipal schools acquired scholarship.
- » Table 7 gives break up of 18 children who are listed in merit and have scored above 90 per cent.

Correlation between language and math marks:

Table: 8, shows no. of children in rows with language scores and columns with math scores:
Percentage distribution for language →

	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-99	100	Total
100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
91-99	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	8	1	15
81-90	0	0	0	2	4	7	12	25	12	1	63
71-80	0	0	0	6	20	51	47	25	8	0	157
61-70	0	1	5	19	59	65	50	17	0	0	216
51-60	0	5	27	65	67	58	24	3	0	0	249
41-50	3	41	60	119	77	36	11	1	0	0	348
31-40	22	82	125	81	38	23	5	0	0	0	376
21-30	30	113	75	33	13	3	2	0	0	0	269
11-20	13	21	12	6	4	1	0	1	0	0	58
Total	68	263	304	331	282	244	154	75	28	2	1751

↑ ----- Percentage distribution for math ----- ↑

Pearson correlation coefficient² between language and math percentages is positive 0.1. The slope line in above table 8 also points out to positive growth with increase in percentages in language, percentages in math get increase.

Table: 9, shows no. of children in rows with language scores and columns with intelligence scores:
Percentage distribution for language →

	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-99	Total
91-99	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	5	5	15
81-90	0	0	0	0	1	7	13	33	9	63
71-80	0	0	0	2	10	29	65	43	8	157
61-70	0	2	3	11	40	81	58	19	2	216
51-60	0	4	12	44	64	75	42	8	0	249
41-50	0	17	58	99	94	52	17	11	0	348
31-40	5	59	143	87	49	17	13	2	0	375
21-30	19	83	98	48	18	3	1	0	0	270
11-20	6	25	13	7	3	1	2	0	0	57
Total	30	190	327	298	280	267	213	121	24	1750

↑ ----- Percentage distribution for intelligence ----- ↑

Correlation coefficient between language and intelligence is also positive 0.1. Correlation coefficient between math to language and between math to intelligence is 0.04. This tells us that strength of relation between language and math and also between language and intelligence is stronger than that of between math to language and math to intelligence. So it is important for all children to build their language stronger to get knowledge of other subjects,

Annexure I

Some norms of MSS exam:

² Correlation coefficient measures strength of association between two variables. The most common correlation coefficient, called the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient, measures the strength of the linear association between variables. The value of a correlation coefficient ranges between -1 and 1. A positive correlation specifies that if one variable gets bigger, the other variable tends to get bigger. The greater the absolute value of a correlation coefficient, the stronger the *linear* relationship.

- For General category children of age 12 years can appear
- For BC category, boys of age 14 and girls of aged 15 years can appear
- Application in prescribed form to be submitted to the concern Education Officer of the district or Education Officer of Greater Mumbai.

Fees:

Type of Fees	Category	
	(General / non backward)	BC
Application form Fee	Rs.5/-	Rs.5/-
Examination Fee	Rs.22/-	—
Total Fee	Rs.27/-	Rs.5/-

Late Fee: Rs.20/- per student (for open and BC category also)

Additional Late Fee: Government Resolution no S.C.H. 2005 /236/05/ SC-1 Dated 3/4/2006 Additional Late Fee will be charged as mentioned below.

1.	In Case of the Student is responsible for late submission of application form Rs. 50/- will be charged extra.
2.	In Case of the school or institute is responsible for late submission of application form Rs. 100/- will be charged extra.

*The SC, ST, VJNT candidates are exempted from Examination fee. (Rs.20/-)

Scholarships:

Approximately 2 lacs students appear for the exam. Approximately first 6000 students are rewarded scholarship of Rs.250/- for the next 3 years.

Disbursement of Scholarship:

Through Director of Education (Secondary & Higher Secondary Education) Central Building, Pune – 411001 and the Education officer (Secondary), Zilla Parishad / Education Inspector Greater Mumbai.

ANNEXURE II

Paper design:

Paper I - Language and social sciences:

- » Language (part A): Mainly focus on Grammar, 29 topics of grammar
- » Social Sciences (part B): Questions are focused on the History, Geography & Civic text book of 4th Std.

Paper II - Intelligence Test & Science:

- » Logic Test (part A): Focus on intelligence like classification, mirror/water reflection, series or recognize serially (in number knowledge like square root, cube root, clockwise-anticlockwise picture, Calendar, coding, decoding)
- » Science (part B): Questions are focused on the Science text book of 4th std.

Paper III - Math:

All questions are based on math activities. Total 55 topics focuses mainly on numbering activities, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, divisibility test, word problem, fraction, etc.