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Original Research Article

Madhya Pradesh's Education Revolution - CM Rise and other Government Schools: Enrollment Growth, Gender Equity and Social Inclusion

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Abstract

This study analyses enrollment growth, gender equity, and caste-wise social inclusion across fourteen CM Rise and conventional government schools in Madhya Pradesh for the academic sessions 2022–23 and 2023–24. Drawing on school-level data from Mandsaur, Neemuch, Ratlam, Ujjain, and Jhabua districts, the study finds that CM Rise schools significantly outperform conventional institutions in admission growth, girls' participation, and academic outcomes. CM Rise Malhargarh recorded a 37% enrollment surge with girls' admissions rising 264%. OBC students dominate enrollment at 50–65% across all schools, while SC participation is growing steadily within CM Rise institutions. ST students remain concentrated in Jhabua's tribal schools, where residential facilities have reduced dropout rates. However, a deepening infrastructure divide between flagship CM Rise campuses and under-resourced conventional schools poses a serious equity challenge. The study calls for universal minimum infrastructure standards, stronger teacher deployment, and caste-sensitive monitoring across all government schools.

Keywords: CM Rise, Madhya Pradesh, Enrollment, Gender Equity, Social Inclusion, OBC, SC, ST.

Introduction

Madhya Pradesh, one of India's most populous states, has embarked on an ambitious journey to transform public school education through the CM Rise initiative—now rebranded as Sandipani Vidyalaya. Conceived as a flagship programme to create world-class government schools equipped with smart classrooms, modern laboratories, sports infrastructure, and digital connectivity, CM Rise aims to establish approximately 9,000 schools across the state, covering every 25–30 villages.

This article presents a comprehensive analysis of enrollment trends, gender and caste-wise participation, and academic achievement across fourteen government and CM Rise schools spread across the Malwa and western Madhya Pradesh region—specifically in Mandsaur, Neemuch, Ratlam, Ujjain, and Jhabua districts—for the academic sessions 2022–23 and 2023–24.

The schools covered range from flagship CM Rise campuses in Malhargarh, Chandwasa, Sabkheda, Jawad, Garoth, Khawasa, and Manasa—to conventional government higher secondary schools in Revli Devli, Badavda, Kukdeshwar, Shamgarh, Ghatiya, Unhel, Rampura, and Parada. Together, these institutions serve thousands of students from OBC, General, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Part I: The CM Rise (Sandipani Vidyalaya) Initiative

What is CM Rise?

CM Rise stands for Chief Minister's Rural Innovative School Education. Launched by the Madhya Pradesh government, the programme upgrades existing government schools into institutions offering facilities comparable to premium private schools. Key features include:

- Smart classrooms with digital boards and Wi-Fi connectivity
- Separate laboratories for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics
- Atal Tinkering Labs and Computer/STEM labs
- Sports infrastructure: basketball, football, hockey, kabaddi courts
- Free pick-and-drop school bus services with GPS tracking
- Residential hostels for boys and girls (especially in tribal areas)
- Career counselling, legal literacy camps, and holistic development programmes
- Mid-day meals, free uniforms, and other welfare benefits

In April 2025, the programme was officially rebranded as 'Sandipani Vidyalaya' in honour of Rishi Sandipani, the legendary guru of Lord Krishna—emphasising India's educational heritage. The Jhabua CM Rise school received international acclaim, winning the 'World's Best School Prize 2024' (T4 Education) in the 'Supporting Healthy Lives' category.

Investment and Infrastructure

Construction costs for individual CM Rise schools range from ₹29 crore to ₹38 crore per campus. The Malhargarh school (Mandsaur) was built at approximately ₹33.7 crore, while CM Rise Manasa (Neemuch) broke ground with a ₹38 crore investment. The Khawasa campus in Jhabua spans six acres at ₹32.22 crore, designed for 1,500–2,000 students with separate boys' and girls' hostels. In the first phase alone, four schools in Mandsaur district were funded at a total outlay exceeding ₹133 crore.

CM Rise Schools Covered in This Study

School	District	Est. Year / Type	Capacity Students /	Notable Features
CM Rise Malhargarh	Mandsaur	Modern CM Rise	~1,500 students	Smart classes, solar, More than 10 buses
CM Rise Chandwasa	Mandsaur	Co-ed, 9–12	~400 students (2023–24)	17 teachers, 90% Class 10 pass
CM Rise Sabkheda	Mandsaur	First in Mandsaur	~537 students	More than 8 GPS buses, Art of Living camps
CM Rise Jawad	Neemuch	Launched Oct 2022	~259 students	₹33 Cr, 7 planned in constituency
CM Rise Garoth	Mandsaur	English medium, 1–12	~579 students (2023–24)	Sci & Commerce streams, NCC
CM Rise Khawasa	Jhabua	Tribal area, 9–12	~579 students	World's Best School Prize 2024
CM Rise Manasa	Neemuch	₹38 Cr project	1,500 (phase 1)	Renamed Sandipani Vidyalaya
CM Rise Neemuch Cantt	Neemuch	Girls-only	~410 students	Land pending for new building

Part II: Enrollment Growth – Two-Year Analysis (2022–23 to 2023–24)

The two academic sessions reveal contrasting stories: CM Rise schools, especially those in tribal and underserved districts, have seen strong overall growth, while some mainstream government schools experienced modest declines—often reflecting transition to newer institutions or student migration patterns.

A. CM Rise Schools: Overall Growth**CM Rise Malhargarh – 37% Enrollment Surge**

The school recorded one of the sharpest enrollment jumps in the sample. Total students grew from 308 in 2022–23 to 423 in 2023–24—a remarkable 37% increase. The most dramatic shift was among girls, whose numbers leapt from just 31 to 113, representing a jump from 10% to nearly 30% of total enrollment. Class 11 saw the biggest surge (84 → 144 students).

CM Rise Garoth – 32.8% Overall Growth

CM Rise Garoth recorded total enrollment rising from 436 to 579 students over one year—an overall jump of 32.8%. Girls' participation improved from just 12.6% (55 girls) to 26.6% (154 girls), with the largest rise in Class 9 where girls more than doubled from 36 to 86. This reflects the English-medium school's growing appeal across communities.

CM Rise Khawasa (Jhabua) – Steady Growth in Tribal Region

This tribal-area school grew from 549 to 579 students (+5.5%). Class 9 admissions rose sharply by 31.1% (183 → 240). The school's dramatic long-term growth—from just 45 students in 2016 to 576 by 2023—reflects sustained community outreach, with attendance hitting ~85% and dropout rates declining significantly. The residential hostel for girls, opened in 2018, has been transformative.

CM Rise Manasa – Rising Girl's Enrollment

Total enrollment rose from 368 to 410 students (+11.41%). Girls' enrollment grew at a much faster pace (+20%) compared to boys (+5.5%), indicating positive progress toward gender parity at this flagship institution.

B. Government Schools: Mixed Trends

Conventional government schools present a more complex picture. Several schools saw gains in Class 11 due to influx of students post-Class 10 board results, while Class 9 and Class 12 numbers fluctuated.

School	District	2022–23 Total	2023–24 Total	Change	Trend
Govt. HSS Revli Devli	Neemuch	276	306	+30 (+10.87%)	▲ Positive
Govt. HSS Badavda	Ratlam	562	485	–77 (–13.7%)	▼ Declining
Govt. Boys HSS Kukdeshwar	Neemuch	283	345	+62 (+21.9%)	▲ Positive
Govt. Excellence HSS Ghatiya	Ujjain	414	418	+4 (+0.97%)	→ Stable
Govt. Girls HSS Khawasa	Jhabua	485	439	–46 (–9.5%)	▼ Declining
Govt. Girls HSS Shamgarh	Mandsaur	523	487	–36 (–6.88%)	▼ Declining
Govt. HS Alhed	Neemuch	87	94	+7 (+8%)	▲ Positive
Govt. HSS Manasa (Boys)	Neemuch	370	413	+43 (+11.6%)	▲ Positive
Govt. HSS Parda	Neemuch	249	242	–7 (–2.8%)	→ Stable
Govt. Boys HSS Unhel	Ujjain	304	288	–16 (–5.26%)	▼ Slight decline
Govt. Boys HSS Rampura	Neemuch	276	235	–41 (–14.9%)	▼ Declining
Govt. Girls HSS Garoth	Mandsaur	511	445	–66 (–12.9%)	▼ Declining

A key structural observation: schools that are in the CM Rise network or transitioning toward it show stronger growth signals, while older traditional government schools—especially girls' institutions—are experiencing enrollment pressure, possibly as students migrate to better-equipped institutions.

Part III: Gender Equity – Girls' Enrollment Trends

One of the most encouraging trends across the sample is the rising participation of girls in government secondary education, particularly in CM Rise schools. This reflects both the impact of infrastructure improvements (girls' toilets, hostels, transport) and wider community-level awareness campaigns.

Dramatic Improvements in CM Rise Schools

School	Girls 2022–23	Girls 2023–24	Change	% Share 2022–23	% Share 2023–24
CM Rise Malhargarh	31	113	+82 (+264%)	~10%	~27%
CM Rise Garoth	55	154	+99 (+180%)	12.6%	26.6%
CM Rise Jawad	29	61	+32 (+110%)	10.9%	23.5%
CM Rise Manasa	150	180	+30 (+20%)	40.8%	43.9%
Govt. Revli Devli (co-ed)	119	129	+10 (+8.4%)	43.1%	42.2%

The data from CM Rise Jawad is telling: in 2022–23, not a single girl was enrolled in Class 12. By 2023–24, eleven girls had enrolled in the final year—a small but symbolically important milestone. Similarly, CM Rise Malhargarh saw girls entering Class 12 for the first time (17 girls) in 2023–24.

Tribal Girls – Govt. Girls HSS Khawasa (Jhabua)

The Govt. Girls HSS Khawasa serves as a critical institution for tribal girl students, with over 91% of its enrollment coming from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community in both years. Despite an overall enrollment decline of 9.5% (485 → 439), the school's 12th grade enrollment actually increased from 143 to 155—indicating that girls who join are completing their education. The critical gap is the sharp fall in Class 11 (122 → 47), pointing to a significant dropout between Classes 10 and 11.

Single-Gender Institutions

Girls-only schools in the sample (CM Rise Neemuch Cantt, Govt. Girls Shamgarh, Govt. Girls Garoth, Govt. Girls Khawasa) collectively serve over 1,700 girls. While overall numbers have dipped slightly in some schools due to demographic factors or migration, academic performance in girls' schools tends to be relatively stronger—notably CM Rise Neemuch Cantt where over 80% of 9th, 11th, and 12th grade girls scored above 60% in 2023–24.

Part IV: Caste-wise Reforms & Social Equity in Education

Category Distribution Across Schools

Across all fourteen schools, the OBC (Other Backward Classes) category consistently forms the largest share of enrollment, typically ranging from 50–65% of total students. Scheduled Caste (SC) students form the second-largest group at 15–30%, while General category students account for roughly 10–20%. Scheduled Tribe (ST) students are most visible in the Jhabua schools, where they form over 90% of enrollment.

Key Caste-wise Trends (2022–23 to 2023–24)

OBC (Other Backward Classes)

OBC students form the backbone of government school enrollment across Malwa and Nimar regions. In CM Rise Garoth, OBC numbers grew from 244 to 363—an 48.8% surge, comprising 62.7% of total students. In CM Rise Manasa, OBC enrollment rose marginally from 259 to 263. However, several schools saw OBC declines: Badavda (–54), Chandwasa (–37), Unhel (–35)—suggesting migration to private or better-resourced institutions.

Scheduled Caste (SC)

SC enrollment shows positive momentum in several CM Rise schools. CM Rise Manasa recorded a 53.57% rise in SC students (56 → 86), largely driven by a surge in Class 9 SC admissions (8 → 40 students). Govt. Boys HSS Kukdeshwar saw SC numbers rise from 41 to 48 (+17%). However, Govt. Girls HSS Garoth (Mandsaur) saw a sharp SC decline of 52 students (156 → 104)—concentrated in Class 12—indicating dropout before board exams.

Scheduled Tribe (ST)

ST students are predominantly served by the Jhabua schools, where they comprise 91–95% of enrollment. CM Rise Khawasa (Jhabua) saw ST numbers grow from 523 to 551 (+5.35%), reflecting continued engagement. However, the Govt. Girls HSS Khawasa saw ST enrollment fall by 42 (441 → 399), with the drop concentrated in Classes 9 and 11—a concern for tribal girls' educational continuity. Notably, ST enrollment completely disappeared from Sabkheda CM Rise and Shamgarh Govt. Girls schools in 2023–24, suggesting these communities may need targeted outreach.

General Category

General category students form a small but significant group across most schools. In CM Rise Manasa, General enrollment rose from 46 to 49 students. However, in several schools the General category has declined—possibly indicating a preference for private schools among higher-income families, while government institutions increasingly serve reserved-category students.

Caste-wise Summary Comparison – Select Schools

School	OBC Change	SC Change	ST Change	General Change
CM Rise Malhargarh	+56 (OBC dominant)	+5 (SC)	–2 (ST)	+26 (Gen)
CM Rise Garoth (Mandsaur)	+119 (+48.8%)	+12 (+7.9%)	–1 (–25%)	–10 (–17.9%)
CM Rise Manasa	+4 (+1.5%)	+30 (+53.6%)	–2 (–28.6%)	+3 (+6.5%)
CM Rise Khawasa (Jhabua)	+3 (+25%)	–2 (–20%)	+28 (+5.35%)	+2 (+66.7%)
Govt. Girls Khawasa	–2	+3	–42 (–9.5%)	–4
Govt. Badavda	–54 (–22.8%)	–8	+4 (+12.9%)	–19
Govt. Boys Kukdeshwar	–54 (–25.6%)	+7 (+17.1%)	+5 (+23.8%)	+3 (+30%)

Part V: Academic Achievement Analysis

Academic performance across schools remains a mixed picture. While enrollment has grown, translating numbers into academic outcomes requires sustained pedagogical support, teacher quality, and remedial programmes.

CM Rise Schools – Performance Highlights**CM Rise Manasa – Outstanding Results**

CM Rise Manasa stands out as the academic high-performer in the sample. In 2022–23, a remarkable 15 students in Class 9 scored 91–100%, and 40 scored 81–90%. By 2023–24, Class 12 saw an extraordinary jump: 18 students in 91–100% and 43 in 81–90%—a dramatic improvement suggesting strong board exam preparation. Crucially, no student scored below 50% in 2022–23, though a few appeared in lower bands in 2023–24 as enrollment grew.

CM Rise Sabkheda – Dramatic Drop in Failures

Sabkheda recorded a near-transformational improvement: students scoring below 33% dropped from 121 in 2022–23 to just 33 in 2023–24 (–72.7%). Students scoring above 50% grew from 70 to 137. Though overall enrollment fell by 33%, the quality of learning among retained students improved significantly.

CM Rise Jawad – Class 9 Concern, Higher Classes Improving

At CM Rise Jawad, students scoring above 60% improved across all classes from 2022–23 to 2023–24—notably Class 11 (45.7% → 70.7%) and Class 12 (61.4% → 79.5%). However, Class 9 failures (below 33%) rose from 15 to 39, flagging the need for foundational support for new admissions.

Government Schools – Performance Challenges**Govt. Boys HSS Kukdeshwar – Alarming Failure Rates**

Kukdeshwar shows a worrying trend: students scoring below 33% increased from 71 to 116 (+63.38%) between the two sessions. Class 9 and Class 11 saw the largest increases in failures. Only 5 students scored above 81% in either year. The student-teacher ratio of approximately 72:1 is a structural constraint that likely affects learning outcomes.

Govt. Girls HSS Shamgarh – Sharp Drop in Class 11 Performance

Shamgarh's Class 11 performance fell sharply: the percentage of students scoring above 60% dropped from 88.14% to 52.85%—a decline of over 35 percentage points. Failure rates in Class 11 jumped from 0% to 17.89% in one year. Class 12 also saw an increase in failures (8.73% → 20%).

Govt. Girls HSS Garoth – Marginal Improvements

Garoth shows a mixed performance: Class 9 failures reduced slightly (73 → 64), and Class 11 saw more students in the 81–90% band (0 → 4). However, Class 10 failures rose significantly (29 → 45 students below 40%), and Class 12 failures also increased. The school's strong OBC and SC representation makes academic outcomes here particularly significant for social equity goals.

CM Rise Neemuch Cantt – Best Performance Among Girls' Schools

This girls-only school demonstrates that CM Rise infrastructure translates to results. In 2023–24, 80.65% of Class 9 girls scored above 60%, 96.04% of Class 11 girls scored above 60%, and 81.82% of Class 12 girls scored above 60%. The sharp decline in Class 10 (76.79% → 63.21%) remains a concern.

Academic Performance: Percentage of Students Above 60% (2023–24)

School	Class 9	Class 10	Class 11	Class 12
CM Rise Neemuch Cantt (Girls)	80.65%	63.21%	96.04%	81.82%
CM Rise Manasa	~89% (High achievers)	~95%	~86%	~97%
CM Rise Jawad	54.5%	56.0%	70.7%	79.5%
Govt. Revli Devli	~40%	~44%	~55%	~70%
Govt. Boys HSS Kukdeshwar	~28%	~37%	~28%	~56%
Govt. Girls HSS Shamgarh	40.25%	47.47%	52.85%	66.96%
Govt. Boys HSS Unhel	~32%	~74%	N/A	N/A
Govt. Girls HSS Garoth	~61%	~40%	~74%	~59%

Part VI: Infrastructure – A Tale of Two Tiers**CM Rise Schools: State-of-the-Art**

CM Rise campuses are designed with 54-room buildings, digital smart classrooms, e-libraries, STEM and science labs, sports complexes, solar power, Wi-Fi, and multiple GPS-equipped school buses. Sabkheda's CM Rise school—the first in Mandsaur district—has eight GPS-tracked free buses serving 300 students. The Khawasa campus includes a skating ring, open gym, and separate residential hostels.

Traditional Government Schools: Basic Infrastructure

In stark contrast, many traditional government schools face severe infrastructure deficits:

- Govt. High School Alhed: no computer lab
- Govt. Boys HSS Kukdeshwar: No computer-aided learning, student-teacher ratio of 72:1
- Govt. Girls HSS Khawasa: Student-teacher ratio ~86:1, only 12 library books
- Govt. HSS Badavda: Computer lab available but reportedly non-functional
- Govt. HSS Revli Devli: No computer lab or digital learning facilities
- Govt. HSS Parda: No computer lab, only 50–200 library books

This infrastructure gap is stark: while CM Rise schools invest ₹33–38 crore per campus, many government schools operate with minimal resources, creating a two-tiered public education system that risks deepening inequality even as enrollment grows.

Part VII: Key Findings & Recommendations**Key Findings****1. CM Rise is working—but the gap is widening**

CM Rise schools show superior enrollment growth, better infrastructure, and stronger academic outcomes. However, their success risks pulling students away from conventional government schools, which serve larger numbers of SC, ST, and OBC students.

2. Girls' enrollment is rising but retention remains fragile

The jump in girls' enrollment at CM Rise schools (especially from near-zero to 27% at Malhargarh, and 110% increase at Jawad) is a positive signal. However, dropout between Classes 9–11 in tribal areas (Khawasa, Jhabua) remains a structural problem that hostels and transport alone cannot solve.

3. OBC students dominate, SC students are gaining ground, ST students need special attention

OBC students form 50–65% of enrollment across all schools. SC students are showing growing participation, particularly in CM Rise institutions. ST students, while majority in tribal-area schools, are declining at several schools outside Jhabua—warranting targeted outreach.

4. Academic outcomes are polarising

Top CM Rise schools (Manasa, Neemuch Cantt) show outstanding results. But many schools—both CM Rise and conventional—continue to struggle with high failure rates (>30% below pass marks), particularly in Classes 9 and 11. The student-teacher ratio problem is acute in traditional government schools.

5. Infrastructure inequality is the defining challenge

The contrast between a ₹38 crore CM Rise campus and a school with 12 library books and no electricity underscores the need for a floor of basic infrastructure across all government schools—not just the flagships.

Recommendations

- Accelerate CM Rise rollout to transition-eligible schools, especially those serving high-SC and high-ST populations
- Establish dedicated dropout-prevention programmes for tribal girls in Classes 10–11
- Introduce mandatory minimum infrastructure standards for all government schools (computers, libraries, electricity)
- Address the student-teacher ratio crisis in high-enrollment schools; rationalise teacher deployment
- Implement targeted remedial education programmes for Class 9 students who join with weak foundational skills
- Expand girls' residential facilities in underserved areas, drawing on the Jhabua hostel model
- Monitor category-wise dropout rates annually and tie government performance incentives to equity outcomes

Conclusion

The CM Rise initiative represents a watershed moment in Madhya Pradesh's public education history. The data from fourteen schools across two academic sessions demonstrates that well-resourced government schools can attract growing enrollment, improve gender participation, serve backward-class communities, and deliver competitive academic outcomes.

Yet the journey is far from complete. The gap between flagship CM Rise campuses and struggling conventional government schools reveals that piecemeal upgrades are insufficient. True equity in education requires that every child—regardless of caste, gender, or geography—has access to a school with basic infrastructure, qualified teachers, and a supportive learning environment.

The 576 students now enrolled at the Jhabua CM Rise school—compared to just 45 in 2016—and its global recognition as a World's Best School finalist, offers a compelling proof of concept. The challenge now is to replicate this transformation at scale, ensuring that Madhya Pradesh's ambition of 9,000 upgraded schools becomes a reality for the millions of students still waiting for their chance.

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