

M.A Sem II CC-8

School Mapping

In School Mapping a set of techniques and procedures used:

1. To plan the demand for schools at the local level;
2. To support decision-making on the planning ,policy formulation, resource allocation and prioritization of future school development.

School mapping is an essential planning tool to overcome possibilities of regional inequities arising from the investment policies of the public authorities.

School mapping incorporates spatial and demographic dimensions into the educational planning process. The major question answered by the school mapping exercise is where to locate educational facilities. Location of educational facilities depends on the norms and standards developed by the public authorities. Even within the norms and standards, many geographical areas may be eligible for opening of new schools. School mapping technique helps us to identify the most appropriate location of schools or their alternatives so that more number of children can be benefited from the same level of investment. The major objective of school mapping is to create equality of educational opportunities by leveling off of the existing disparities in the distribution of educational facilities. This technique is useful to plan all levels of education. However, it is more widely used for planning for facilities at the compulsory levels of education. School mapping is not confined to locating formal schools; location of alternatives to formal schools is a part of the school mapping exercise.

The methodology of school mapping envisages specification of norms, diagnosis of the existing educational facilities, projection of future population, deciding the location of schools, estimates of facilities required in all the (existing and new) educational institutions and estimation of financial resources required. One of the first steps in school mapping is to select a unit for the exercise. The school mapping exercises help identifying the most ideal locations to open schools. Given this primary purpose school mapping exercises can not be undertaken for one village or habitation. A cluster of villages or a block can be an ideal unit for school mapping activities. The next step involved is to diagnose or assess the educational development in the selected area. The effort is to analyse the present status of education in an area/region to identify strength and weakness of the system and to understand the geographical distribution of educational facilities in the selected locality.