Education Survey in Indian

What is the issue?

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- Young Lives - recently released a survey on the education sector.
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- This is part of the study on childhood poverty that is aligned to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the UN.
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What does the survey say?

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- **Data -** 91% of 15-year-olds were enrolled in secondary schools in 2016 as against 78% in 2009.
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- The increase in enrolment was particularly significant for backward class girls - 90% from 74%.
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- The number of children attending private schools too increased marginally to 37% the 2008 figures.
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- Private school enrolment remained biased towards - boys, upper castes, the wealthy and urban children.
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- **Other findings -** Although more children were found to be in schools, learning outcomes weren't encouraging.
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- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's work in ensuring better access to schools in rural areas was found to have an immense impact.
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- A large gap was also noticed in learning outcomes of disadvantaged children & the wealthier - with the later making more progress.
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- Only the most disadvantaged attended government schools.
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- The biggest reason for girls opting out of school at the secondary stage was marriage.
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- Financial cost of education & the earning potential of the student (as labourer) was also another reason.
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What is the way ahead?

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- Better implementation of the Child Marriage Prohibition Act and the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act 2016, is needed to ensure that children stay longer in schools.
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- Adequate investments had to be made in quality pre-school education and capacity building of teachers.
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- At the same time, social security networks were needed for the poorest families.
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Source: Businessline

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