

## ABSTRACT

This study investigates the socio-economic determinants of school attendance in the districts of Punjab. It also investigates the determinants of possible disadvantage faced by female child in school attendance. Using population census data 1998, the determinants of school attendance are explored, separately for male and female child in rural and urban areas of districts in Punjab. Determinants of gender bias in school attendance are also explored in rural and urban areas of districts in Punjab. The results indicate that male school attendance is positively related to male literacy rate, and negatively related to household size, poverty, and disability. Female school attendance is positively related to school availability and female literacy rate, and negatively related to poverty and household size. Gender bias in school attendance rises with rise in poverty, and declines with rise in female literacy rate.