

GROWTH OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS: A STUDY IN KARNATAKA STATE

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Abstract

In developing country like India, school infrastructure facilities are being given more importance in the recent years. After independence more importance was given to improve the number of schools, but at present government is giving more importance to other infrastructure facilities with construction/ setting up of schools.

Key words:

Primary education,

Infrastructure,

Disparity,

Primary schools

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1. Introduction

Education and knowledge play an important role in any civilized society. Unlike many western countries, formal education is not more than a century and a half old in the case of India. The country with a literacy rate of 18.3 per cent in 1951 has struggled a lot to reach the literacy level of 73.0 percent by 2011. Ensuring compulsory free Primary Education to all its citizens has been the constitutional obligation as well as duty of the Government. In the entire spectrum of education, Primary education assumes greater importance, as it is the foundation for secondary education and higher education.

Economists have chosen to call primary education as merit good and higher education as non-merit good. Primary education being a merit good has to be ensured by the government. Primary education is considered as merit good because; in the case of Primary education social benefits far outweigh private benefits. In other words, if a government fails to ensure good primary education to its citizens, its citizens will become liability to the nation rather than becoming an asset. In the present day market driven growth, merit goods like primary education has to be supported by the government or else it may lead to under consumption, if left completely to market forces. Any country, which is serious about its man power, has to spend adequately on primary education. As mentioned earlier, higher education is treated as non-merit good, because in the case of higher education private benefits far outweigh social benefits. Therefore, governments need not necessarily extend hundred percent supports to higher education. Higher education can be supported, if resources permit. This logic cannot be extended to primary education as it is a merit-good. During the plan periods, the successive governments both at the state level and center have allotted funds to primary education. Of late, it has been noted that there has been a greater need for huge funds to ensure quality in primary education.

In developing country like India, school infrastructure facilities are being given more importance in the recent years. After independence more importance was given to improve the number of schools, but at present government is giving more importance to other infrastructure facilities with construction/setting up of schools.

2. Objective of Study

1. To study the growth of primary schools in Karnataka.
2. To study the district wise number of primary schools per Lakh Population in Karnataka.
3. To analysis the Inter-district disparity in number of primary schools per lakh population.
4. To study the district-wise number of primary schools per 100 sq.km areas in Karnataka.

3. Methodology and Data source:

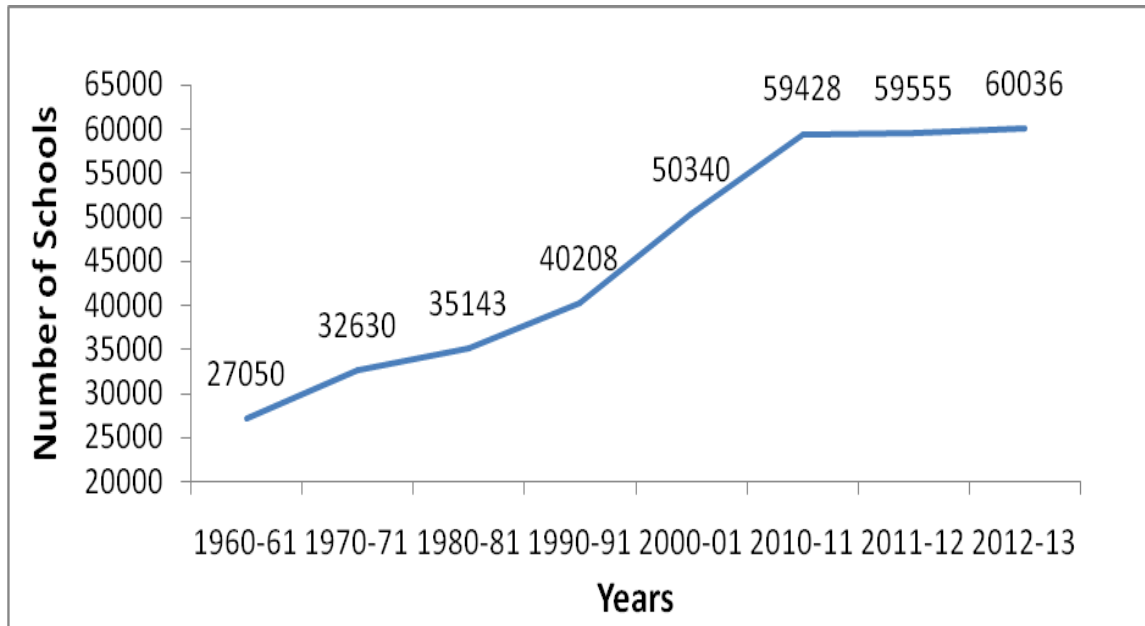
The study is based on secondary sources of data. The required data has been obtained from following sources: Indian Public Finance Statistics, RBI Bulletin, Budgetary Documents, SSA Annual Reports of Karnataka, Human Development Report (UNDP), National Human Development Report (2002), CSO, and Economic Survey.

I. Growth of Primary Schools in Karnataka

Table 1 shows year wise decadal compound annual growth rate of primary school in Karnataka from 1960-61 to 2012-13. It is found that growth rate of primary schools grown at the rate of 1.88 per cent per annum from 1960-61 to 1970-71. The growth rate was very low (0.74 per cent, per annum) in the second decade, which was from 1970-71 to 1980-81. The second decade has the lowest growth rate among the selected decades. Further, in third decade, which was from 1990-91 to 2000-01, had the highest compound annual growth rate of 2.25 per cent among the selected decades. Compound annual growth rate from 1960-61 to 2012-13 (total of 52 years) was 1.53 per cent per annum. Totally, the number of primary schools increased significantly from 27050 in 1960-61 to 60036 in 2012-13 (Figure 1 and Table 1).

Figure 1

Growth of Primary Schools in Karnataka from 1960-61 to 2012-13



Source: Computed from the data available from SSA Annual Report.

Table 1

Decade-wise Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of Primary Schools in Karnataka, from 1960-61 to 2012-13

Period	CAGR
1960-61 to 1970-71 (10 years)	1.88
1970-71 to 1980-81 (10 years)	0.74
1980-81 to 1990-91 (10 years)	1.35
1990-91 to 2000-01 (10 years)	2.25
2000-01 to 2010-11 (10 years)	1.66
1960-61 to 2012-13 (52 years)	1.53

Source: Computed from the data available from SSA Annual Report.

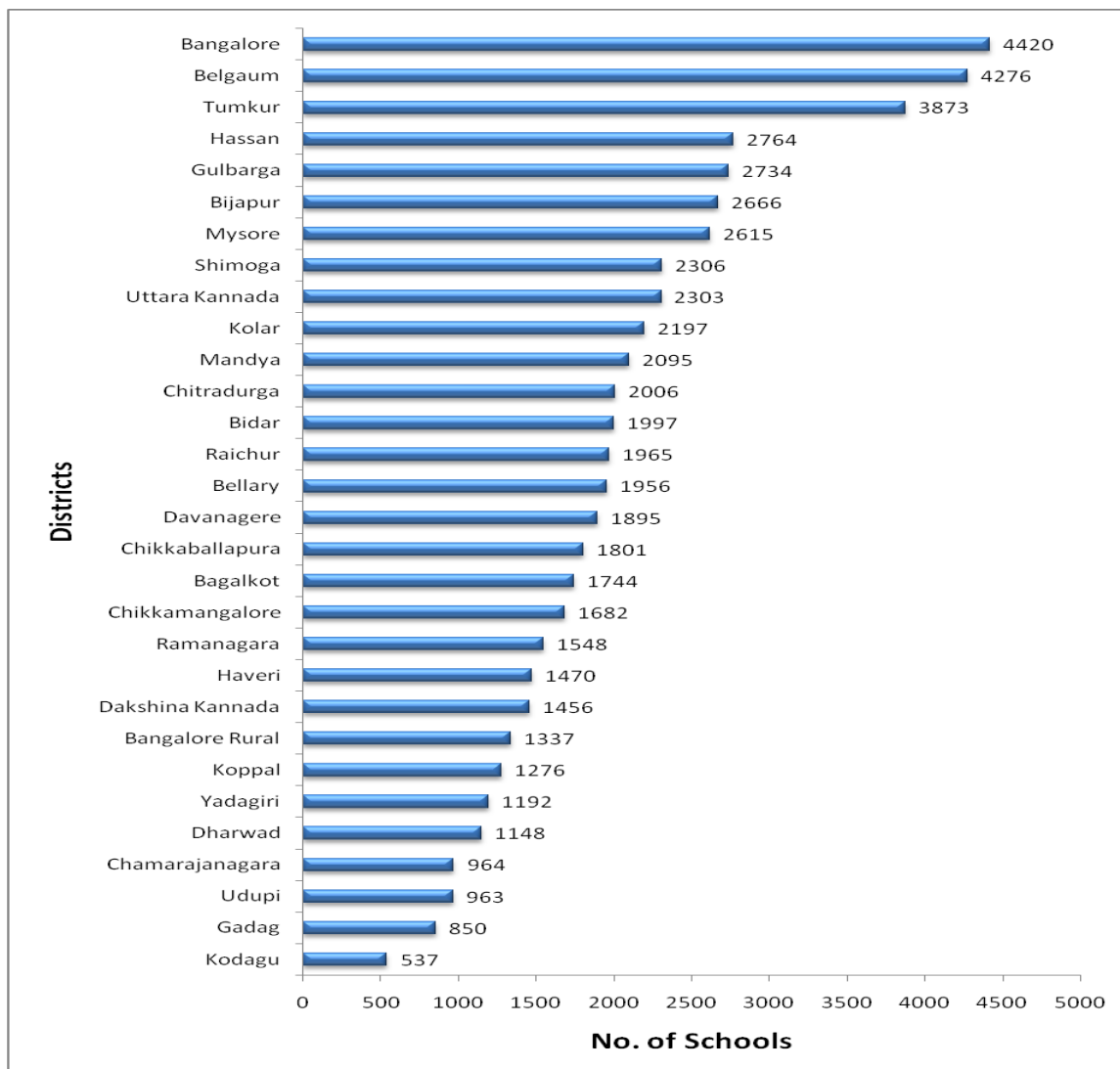
Number of primary schools has not been distributed uniformly among the districts. In actual number terms, Bengaluru Urban district has the highest primary schools of 4420, followed by Belgaum (4276), Tumkur (3873) and Hassan (2764). On the other hand Kodagu (537), Gadag (850), Udupi (963) and Chamarajanagar (964) have the lowest number of primary schools.

The figures shown in the figure 2 are in the actual numbers. Here, no standardisation has been made. In social science research seeing the data with standardised terms gives the actual fact and picture of the particular issue. Number of education institutions is standardised most of the times

in two ways i) dividing the educational institutions with the population, in this term - number of educational institutions per 10 thousand population, per lakh population, per 10 lakh population, etc., can be seen.

In the second term, ii) dividing the educational institutions with geographical area. In this term - education institutions are seen in terms of per 100 sq. km. area, per 1000 sq. km. area and so on. In the present study, both these methods have been calculated for all the districts of the state, which tells us the position of different districts in number of primary schools.

Figure 2 District-wise Number of Primary Schools (Actual Figures), 2012-13



Source: Computed from the data available from SSA Annual Report.

II. District-wise number of Primary Schools per Lakh Population in Karnataka

Table 2

District-wise number of Primary Schools per Lakh Population in Karnataka

Districts	Education Department	Social Welfare	Local Body	Aided	Un-Aided	Central	Total
Bagalkot	69.4	1.0	0.0	5.1	16.7	0.1	92.3
Belgaum	68.1	0.9	0.0	4.6	15.7	0.1	89.5
Bijapur	86.4	0.8	0.0	5.6	29.5	0.1	122.4
Dharwad	41.6	0.6	0.2	4.7	14.8	0.3	62.2
Gadag	57.9	1.2	0.2	4.5	15.8	0.2	79.8
Haveri	72.8	1.7	0.1	3.0	14.4	0.1	92.0
Uttara Kannada	147.5	1.0	0.0	2.8	8.6	0.3	160.2
Bellary	55.4	1.3	0.0	2.9	20.1	0.2	79.8
Bidar	74.4	1.0	0.1	11.0	30.6	0.1	117.2
Gulbarga	70.2	1.3	0.0	6.5	28.3	0.2	106.5
Koppal	69.4	1.4	0.0	1.2	19.6	0.1	91.8
Raichur	77.1	1.8	0.0	2.2	20.7	0.1	101.9
Yadagiri	79.5	1.4	0.0	2.5	18.2	0.0	101.5
Bengaluru	14.4	0.1	0.1	4.3	26.7	0.1	45.9
Bengaluru Rural	113.0	0.5	0.0	1.2	20.0	0.1	134.9
Chikkaballapura	120.2	1.4	0.0	3.3	18.6	0.1	143.5
Chitradurga	101.5	1.4	0.0	4.8	13.1	0.1	120.9
Davanagere	69.6	1.1	0.0	7.6	19.1	0.1	97.4
Kolar	121.4	1.0	0.0	2.8	17.6	0.1	143.0
Ramanagara	123.2	2.3	0.0	2.2	15.2	0.0	143.0
Shivamogga	107.4	1.3	0.0	4.9	17.9	0.1	131.6
Tumkur	127.3	1.2	0.0	2.4	13.6	0.1	144.6
Chamarajanagara	74.7	3.1	0.0	3.9	12.4	0.2	94.4
Chikkamagaluru	125.7	3.1	0.0	2.4	16.5	0.2	147.8
Dakshina Kannada	44.5	1.1	0.0	10.7	13.3	0.1	69.7

Hassan	134.4	1.7	0.0	2.7	16.6	0.1	155.6
Kodagu	72.7	3.2	0.5	2.0	17.7	0.5	96.8
Mandya	96.6	1.4	0.0	2.1	15.8	0.1	116.0
Mysuru	64.2	1.5	0.0	4.1	17.2	0.2	87.1
Udupi	52.0	0.6	0.0	18.5	10.6	0.1	81.8
State	73.1	1.1	0.0	4.6	19.2	0.1	98.3
Belgaum Division	75.1	1.0	0.1	4.5	16.9	0.2	97.7
Gulbarga Division	69.7	1.4	0.0	4.6	23.4	0.1	99.2
Bengaluru Division	69.0	0.8	0.1	4.0	20.9	0.1	94.9
Mysuru Division	81.1	1.7	0.0	5.8	15.2	0.2	104.1
North	72.8	1.1	0.0	4.5	19.7	0.1	98.3
South	73.4	1.1	0.0	4.7	18.9	0.1	98.2
State	73.1	1.1	0.0	4.6	19.2	0.1	98.3

Source: Computed from the data available from SSA Annual Report and Karnataka at a Glance.

Table 2 shows district wise number of primary schools per lakh population in Karnataka for the year 2012-13. In Karnataka around 98 schools are found for per lakh population. There is no significant difference with respect to northern and southern regions are concerned. North Karnataka has 98.3 schools, while south Karnataka has 98.2 schools per lakh population. Among the divisions, there found to be variations. Mysuru division is in the better-off position with 104.1 primary schools per lakh population. Surprisingly, Gulbarga division is in the second position with 99.2 primary schools per lakh population. Third and fourth positions are occupied by Belgaum (97.7 schools) and Bengaluru (94.9 schools) divisions respectively during the same period. Among the primary schools-schools of education departments and un-aided schools have major shares.

In the case of education department schools, Mysuru (81 schools), and Belgaum (75.1 schools) divisions have higher number of schools than Gulbarga (69.7 schools) and Bengaluru (69.0 schools) divisions. In the case of unaided schools Gulbarga (23.4 schools) and Bengaluru (20.9 schools) have higher number of schools per lakh population.

Table also shows the district wise distribution of number of primary schools per lakh population. With 160.2 schools per lakh population, Uttar Kannada district is found in the first position, contrary to this Bengaluru urban district with 45.9 schools per lakh population found in the last position. Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Tumkur have more number of primary schools per lakh population. Districts like Udupi, D. Kannada, Dharwad and Gadag have less number of schools per lakh population.

III. Division-wise Districts, Which have Highest and Lowest Number Primary Schools per lakh Population in Karnataka

Table 3

Division-wise Districts, Which have Highest and Lowest Number Primary Schools per lakh Population in Karnataka

Division	High	Low
Belgaum	Uttara Kannada	Bagalkot
Gulbarga	Gulbarga	Bellary
Bengaluru	Chikkaballapura	Bengaluru
Mysuru	Hassan	Dakshina Kannada

Details on Division-wise districts, which have the highest and the lowest number of Primary Schools per lakh population in Karnataka is presented in Table 3.

To see the inter-district disparity in number of primary schools per lakh population, co-efficient of variations have been calculated and presented in Table 4.

Table 4

Inter-district Disparity (CV%) in Number of Primary Schools per Lakh Population

Divisions/ Regions	Education Department	Social Welfare	Local Body	Aided	Un- Aided	Central	Total
Belgaum Division	43.45	33.77	122.19	24.21	38.26	47.71	32.23
Gulbaraga Division	12.08	18.33	244.95	85.55	22.56	52.88	12.85
Bengaluru Division	36.51	54.06	300.00	51.42	22.64	46.00	26.55

Mysuru Division	39.72	51.97	282.84	101.42	17.16	82.23	29.33
North	33.17	28.61	164.27	58.09	33.38	52.13	24.25
South	37.90	59.73	331.15	90.66	22.15	86.85	27.90
State	37.45	53.22	269.37	78.30	29.15	71.58	27.19

Source: Computed from the data available from SSA Annual Report and Karnataka at a Glance.

The state has the CV of 27.19 per cent. Between south and north, south Karnataka (CV 27.90 per cent) has higher inter-district disparity than north Karnataka (CV 24.25 per cent). Among the divisions, Belgaum (CV-32.23 per cent) has the highest inter-district disparity followed by Mysuru (CV-29.33 per cent) division. Gulbarga (CV-12.85 per cent) division has very least inter district disparity among the divisions. The similar trend of inter-district disparity can be observed among the regions in educational department schools, social welfare schools, local body schools, aided schools, un-aided schools. Local body schools have the highest regional imbalances, unaided schools per lakh population has the lowest regional imbalances.

IV. District-wise Number of Primary Schools per 100 Sq.Km Areas in Karnataka

Table 5

District-wise Number of Primary Schools per 100 Sq.Km Areas in Karnataka

Districts	Education Department	Social Welfare	Local Body	Aided	Un Aided	Central	Total
Bagalkot	19.95	0.29	0.00	1.46	4.79	0.03	26.52
Belgaum	24.26	0.33	0.01	1.64	5.58	0.05	31.87
Bijapur	17.93	0.16	0.00	1.16	6.12	0.03	25.40
Dharwad	18.03	0.26	0.07	2.04	6.43	0.12	26.95
Gadag	13.23	0.28	0.04	1.03	3.61	0.04	18.26
Haveri	24.11	0.56	0.02	1.00	4.77	0.02	30.48
Uttara Kannada	20.60	0.15	0.00	0.39	1.20	0.04	22.38
Bellary	16.07	0.37	0.00	0.84	5.82	0.05	23.15
Bidar	23.27	0.31	0.02	3.45	9.56	0.04	36.66
Gulbarga	16.40	0.31	0.00	1.52	6.62	0.04	24.88

Koppal	17.32	0.36	0.00	0.29	4.90	0.04	22.91
Raichur	21.78	0.50	0.00	0.62	5.86	0.03	28.78
Yadagiri	17.83	0.31	0.00	0.55	4.09	0.00	22.77
Bengaluru	63.47	0.37	0.64	18.72	117.35	0.55	201.83
Bengaluru Rural	49.58	0.22	0.00	0.53	8.76	0.04	59.19
Chikkaballapura	35.47	0.40	0.00	0.96	5.48	0.02	42.34
Chitradurga	19.96	0.27	0.00	0.95	2.57	0.01	23.77
Davanagere	22.86	0.35	0.00	2.48	6.26	0.03	31.99
Kolar	46.49	0.40	0.00	1.07	6.73	0.05	54.76
Ramanagara	37.51	0.70	0.00	0.67	4.64	0.00	43.53
Shivamogga	22.20	0.26	0.00	1.01	3.70	0.02	27.20
Tumkur	32.18	0.31	0.00	0.59	3.44	0.02	36.55
Chamarajanagara	14.96	0.63	0.00	0.78	2.49	0.04	18.90
Chikkamagaluru	19.86	0.49	0.00	0.37	2.61	0.03	23.36
Dakshina Kannada	20.37	0.50	0.00	4.91	6.07	0.07	31.93
Hassan	35.05	0.45	0.00	0.70	4.33	0.03	40.56
Kodagu	9.82	0.44	0.07	0.27	2.39	0.07	13.09
Mandya	35.15	0.52	0.00	0.77	5.76	0.02	42.23
Mysuru	28.10	0.66	0.00	1.78	7.54	0.07	38.15
Udupi	15.77	0.18	0.00	5.62	3.22	0.03	24.82
State	23.29	0.36	0.01	1.46	6.12	0.04	31.30
Belgaum Div	20.39	0.27	0.01	1.21	4.59	0.04	26.52
Gulbaraga Div	18.38	0.36	0.00	1.21	6.18	0.03	26.15
Bengaluru Div	31.28	0.34	0.03	1.82	9.46	0.05	43.02
Mysuru Div	23.45	0.50	0.01	1.67	4.40	0.04	30.08
North	19.51	0.31	0.01	1.21	5.29	0.04	26.36
South	27.63	0.42	0.02	1.75	7.10	0.05	36.98
State	23.49	0.36	0.01	1.48	6.17	0.04	31.56

Source: Computed from the data available from SSA Annual Report and Karnataka at a Glance.

Table 5 reveals district wise number of primary schools per 100 sq. km area in Karnataka for the

year 2012-13. In Karnataka there are 31.30 schools per 100 sq. km. area. Between the regions, the southern region (36.98) has more number of schools than northern region (26.36) in primary schools per 100 sq. km. area. Among the divisions, Bengaluru (43.02) and Mysuru (30.08) have more number of schools per 100 sq. km. area than those of Belgaum (26.52) and Gulbarga (26.15) divisions.

Among the districts Bengaluru Urban district with 201.83 schools found in the first position. Among the top five districts Bengaluru (202 schools), Bengaluru Rural (59 schools), Kolar (55 schools), Ramanagara (44 schools), Chikkaballapur (42 schools), none of the districts is found from north Karnataka region. It is to be noted here that all the 5 districts are from Bengaluru division.

Among the bottom five districts in primary schools per 100 sq. km. area, except Kodagu (13) remaining four districts viz., Yadagiri (23), Uttara Kannada (22), Chamarajanagar (19) and Gadag (18) schools are from north Karnataka.

4. **Conclusion:**

Number of primary schools in Karnataka has increased significantly from 27050 in 1960-61 to 60036 in 2012-13 with the compound annual growth rate of 1.53 per cent. In Karnataka around 98 schools are found for per lakh population. There is no significant difference with respect to northern and southern regions are concerned. North Karnataka has 98.3 schools, and south Karnataka has 98.2 schools per lakh population. Mysuru division is in the better-off position with 104.1 primary schools per lakh population. Surprisingly, Gulbarga division is in the second position with 99.2 primary schools per lakh population. Third and fourth positions are occupied by Belgaum (97.7 schools) and Bengaluru (94.9 schools) divisions respectively during the same period.

Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Tumkur have more number of primary schools per lakh population. Districts like Udupi, D. Kannada, Dharwad and Gadag have less number of schools per lakh population. In Karnataka there are 31.30 schools per 100 sq. km. area. Between the regions southern region (36.98) has more number of schools than northern region (26.36) in primary

schools per 100 sq. km. area. Among the divisions Bengaluru (43.02) and Mysuru (30.08) division have more number of schools per 100 sq. km. area than those of Belgaum (26.52) and Gulbarga (26.15) divisions. Among the top five districts, in infrastructure index are from south Karnataka region only, and they are Kodagu, Hassan, Mandya, Ramanagara and Shivamogga. Out of these five districts, except Ramanagara remaining all four districts are from Mysuru division. Among the bottom five districts except Bijapur remaining four districts viz., Koppal, Gulbarga, Yadgiri and Raichur are from Hyderabad Karnataka.

In most of the education infrastructure facilities, North Karnataka region is found as backward in general and Hyderabad Karnataka region in particular. Hence, to improve the education level of the region education infrastructure facilities should be improved in all the divisions. More importance should be given to the rural area of backward regions so that overall improvement can be achieved in the state.

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