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4.14 Education

Armenian state-funded educational institutions include:

- Pre-school education for children aged 3–6 years;
- General secondary education, comprising primary school (grades 1–3) and middle or basic school (grades 4–9);
- High school (grades 10–12);
- Specialist¹, vocational and higher education establishments; and
- Teacher training and in-service training institutions.

Middle school and high school graduates can continue their education in vocational or higher educational institutions.

There are also a number of non-State sector educational institutions, including schools, colleges and universities that provide their services on a fee-paying basis as per demand. Armenia has nearly 100% literacy.

There are no tertiary education facilities in the study area. The most popular tertiary education facilities include Vayk, Sisian, Kapan, Yeghnegdzor and Yerevan, with preferences varying considerably within individual communities.

4.14.1 Infrastructure

The study area is relatively well served with education facilities, as illustrated in Table 4.14.1 and Table 4.14.2, with over-capacity rather than under capacity being the dominant theme.

Community	Kindergarten	Primary and Secondary School	High School
Gorayk	1 (20-25 children)	1	1 (part of the Secondary school)
Gndevaz	1 (20 children)	1	1 (part of the secondary school)
Saravan	0	1	0
Jermuk	1 (30 children)	2	1
Kechut	1 (20 -25 children)	1	0
Total	4	6	3

¹ In this context, specialist schools refers to schools where students can gain specific tuition in a specialized field.

School	Maximum Capacity	Current Attendance (2015)	Capacity Ratio	Proportion of Female Students
<i>Gorayk - Secondary and High School</i>	240	76	32%	43%
<i>Saravan - Secondary School</i>	100	26	26%	38%
<i>Gndevaz - Secondary and High School</i>	360	85	24%	47%
<i>Jermuk N1 - Secondary School</i>	300	295	98%	51%
<i>Jermuk N2 – High School</i>	1100	402	37%	51%
<i>Kechut School - Secondary School</i>	420	153 (2012 data)	36%	42%

Kindergarten

Gorayk has a Child Centre, located in the village school, which has received financial support from the NGO World Vision, as well as from Lydian. Almost all nursing age children in Gorayk attend the Centre (see Figure 4.14.1), which is not officially accredited yet and therefore does not receive State funding. Gndevaz has a refurbished kindergarten (Lydian undertook the refurbishment which was completed in 2011). Saravan has no pre-school facilities.



Figure 4.14.1: Gorayk Child Centre

The Jermuk kindergarten is in good condition and contains a satisfactory range of facilities including a playground, gym, music room and first aid centre, complete with toys and all other required equipment (see Figure 4.14.2). The kindergarten provides three meals a day and has a functioning toilet, as well as centralised heating which is switched on in winter.



Figure 4.14.2: Jermuk Kindergarten

Kechut kindergarten is in good condition and provides all required facilities apart from a music room, yard and gym.

Monthly fees are charged for kindergarten attendance in both Jermuk and Kechut (10,000 AMD (USD 24) and 7,000 AMD (USD 17) respectively in 2010). In both communities, concerns were raised over the affordability of these services.

Primary and Secondary School

Each of the three rural communities in the study area has one school. School levels range from secondary to high school. Jermuk has three schools, one of which is located in Kechut. The school facilities are summarised in Table 4.14.3.

Table 4.14.3: School Facilities		
Village / Town	Facility	Status
Go rayk	One school covering secondary and high school	Gas operated central heating, operational toilets, a gym and a school library. Computer room with free internet provision, and local entrepreneur operating school canteen. 95% of students recorded as passing their final exams
Saravan	Secondary school only	Relatively poor condition. School has no indoor toilet, gym or science laboratories. 95% of students recorded as passing their final exams
Gndevaz	One school covering secondary and high school	Good condition with indoor toilets and gas central heating. No cafeteria and under-resourced computer room and library. 99% of students recorded as passing their final exams

Village / Town	Facility	Status
Jermuk	N1 School	Secondary school in good condition, central heating, sufficient classrooms, computer room with internet and a library. School buildings are subject to damage from high groundwater levels in spring.
Jermuk	N2 School	High school in excellent condition (repaired in 2008). Gas central heating, adequate toilets, computer room with internet well-stocked library.
Kechut	Secondary school	Graduates from this school commute to Jermuk for high school education.

Students from Gorayk tend to go on to higher education in Sisian or Kapan, rather than Yerevan.

Interview evidence suggests that the lack of an accessible high school in the Saravan area affects students' morale and reduces motivation levels. Only students with relatives in Vayk, Yeghegnadzor or elsewhere are sent to high school in those areas.

Approximately half of the graduating students from Gndevaz are reported to go on to higher education, either in Yerevan or Yeghegnadzor.

About half of Jermuk's school graduates continue onto university education, with Yerevan as the preferred destination. Some students also go to Yeghegnadzor, while others cannot afford any higher education.

Kechut currently has a secondary school, with graduates commuting to Jermuk for high school education. This is seen as an issue by most parents, who preferred the pre-2010 set-up where Kechut School covered both secondary and high school levels.

Specialist Schools

Jermuk also has two art schools, a sports school and a chess school. The art schools are state funded and cover music, dance and painting, as well as sculpture. They accept students from the age of six years upwards. Jermuk art students have had significant success at competitions.

The sports school, run by a local enthusiast, teaches boxing and wrestling. The sports school is reported to be underequipped and is not supported by the State.

The chess school is funded and supported by Jermuk community and is reported to be in good condition. It is free to attend. Students have won numerous local competitions and aim for more significant successes.

Gorayk School also supports extracurricular activities such as a chess club, sports facilities and music classes.

4.14.2 Enrolment

The level of education infrastructure is greater than the demand for most levels of education in the study area. The exception to this trend appears to be focussed on high school access, with a shortage of places for students at high school level in Jermuk and Kechut and the absence of a high school option for students from Saravan.

The children of seasonal herders are usually enrolled in school in their places of origin, missing some of the annual school curriculum due to the family's nomadic lifestyle (between April and October).

The lack of university and other higher education facilities in the local area can also be a barrier to educational achievement at high school level, in terms of motivation and career planning. Career opportunities in the area are limited and this affects the morale of school students.