The primary objective of the Comprehensive Modular Survey on Education (CMS-E) is to generate estimates of household expenditures on school education. In addition to disaggregation by gender and sector, the data enable reporting of expenditure grouped by current level of enrolment and type of school attended. The survey also aims to generate estimates of household expenditure on private coaching or tuition for students who are currently enrolled in school education. Additionally, the source of funding (at most two sources) for the expenditure incurred/ to be incurred for the school education was collected. The survey also facilitates generating estimates of household expenditure on school education, private coaching, lodging & boarding for erstwhile members who are currently enrolled in school education.

In this survey too, like all other NSS surveys, information on household characteristics e.g., social group, religion, household type, monthly consumption expenditure, etc. along with demographic particulars of household members, namely, age, gender etc. has been collected. The purpose of collecting information on these auxiliary variables is to generate estimates of the indicators and not to generate any estimates like population total, sex ratio etc.

Hence, the users of the unit level data of CMS-E are advised to generate estimates keeping in view the objective of the survey, and not to generate any estimates solely based on the auxiliary variables.