

11. ADULT EDUCATION AND EXTENSION THROUGH UNIVERSITIES COLLEGES

Report of the UGC Working Group on Point No. : 16 of the 20 Point Programme of the Government of India, New Delhi : University Grants Commission, 1983, pp. 77

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Terms of Reference :

1. Review of the existing Adult Education and Extension Programme being implemented through Universities and Colleges with a view to identify the short-falls/difficulties and suggest measures necessary to be adopted to overcome them so as to help evolve a meaningful and effective programme of removal of illiteracy through the help of students/teachers of Universities/ Colleges.
2. Review of the existing guidelines of the UGC on Adult Education and Extension to help formulation of new guidelines for the implementation of Point No.: 16 with particular reference to:
 - i) Preparation of Operational plan with year-wise targets.
 - ii) Participation of priority groups.
 - iii) Organisational set-up
 - iv) Specifying nodal agency for monitoring, evaluation and research for adult education programme.
 - v) Functionaries - Instructors, Supervisors, Teachers, their roles, training and out of pocket allowances etc., teaching/learning materials.
 - vi) Financial pattern
 - vii) Post-literacy and follow-up etc.
 - viii) To promote co-ordination between different agencies involved in the implementation of the programme.

- ix) To suggest additional funds required for implementation of the programme during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans, keeping in view the target /goals.
- x) To suggest a suitable format to formulate the project proposal etc.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Teaching, research and extension are the three basic objectives of University education and they should be pursued with equal importance. Extension activity is an important dimension of higher education. It should gradually permeate within each subject discipline. (Paras 2.7 & 2.9)
- 5.2 Recommendations made to solve the problems of the ongoing programmes be kept in view in formulating guidelines for programme of adult education under Point No.16 of the New 20 Point Programme of the Government of India (Para 3.13)
- 5.3 A single mechanism be created in the university system whereby all activities like adult literacy, NSS, NCC, Continuing and Extension programmes etc., are organised under one umbrella (para 4.5)
- 5.4 Institutions of higher education must participate in programmes of adult literacy not only for their contribution to the educational and other developmental needs of the under-privileged sections of society, but also to assimilate a greater part of such insights into the processes of their curriculum planning and youth development (Para 4.8)
- 5.5 Professional colleges should have a separate treatment. While teachers' colleges have one year courses, colleges of engineering, medicine, agriculture, law etc., have different duration and even semester system. These colleges also should be given opportunities to participate in the programme. Some kind of a 'package deal' has to be evolved for them or they may be assigned specific roles not of making people literate but of providing them with extension and continuing education work in the community (Para 4.8).

A. Operational Plan & Targets

- 5.6 Adult literacy programme through universities may be implemented in two phases. First phase to cover the period ending 31st March, 1985 and the second phase ending 31st March, 1990. In the first phase all affiliating type of universities and at least 1,500 colleges are involved to organise 15,000 to 20,000 centres. In the second phase, the number of centres be raised to at least 50,000 by involving all the universities/colleges in the country in Point No.16 programme. While doing this, and in particular in the first phase, universities/colleges in the districts having literacy level below the national average, colleges for women and in the rural/backward/tribal areas are given priority so as to ensure priority organisation of the programmes for the women, scheduled castes/tribes, people from the rural and backward areas of the country (Para 4.10).
- 5.7 A university may be considered as a Unit and be made responsible for the implementation of the Programme through itself and its colleges. The university may finalise their plans in consultation with the State Governments and the Colleges concerned. In the case of universities not eligible to

receive UGC assistance, proposals may be made by the college directly to the UFC. One of the colleges of the university eligible to receive UGC assistance be given the responsibility of co-ordinating the programme till such time the parent university become eligible to receive the UGC assistance (Para 4.11).

- 5.8 Every University and College should be required to adopt a minimum number of villages or mohalas or areas of community or a developmental block and to undertake a programme of total removal of illiteracy in a period of three to five years through a planned and phased programme. Wherever possible neighbourhood approach may be preferred. Local community be actively involved in all stages of planning and implementation of the programme (Para 4.11).
- 5.9 Adult literacy should be built in as an integral component of the different development programmes (Para 4.15).
- 5.10 Achievements of targets of the Adult Literacy Programme will be expedited if proper motivation, incentives and recognition are provided to universities/colleges/ students and teachers (Para 4.16)
- 5.11 The following specific recommendations are given due consideration. Non-student animators may be allowed to function as instructors to ensure continuity. Supervisors should remain in service for the entire period of the programme. Adult Education work in the colleges/universities be given to separate functionaries. The College Programme Officer of the Adult Literacy be paid the same out of pocket allowance as the NSS Programme Officer. Minimum number of learners in a Centre need not be strictly specified as 30. It may be 25-30, with an average attendance of 20. Financial assistance to colleges be made available to organise even less than 10 centres (Para 4.17).

B. Priority Groups

- 5.12 The literacy rate among women, scheduled castes/tribes, migrant labourers, people from rural and backward areas and other weaker sections of the society is very low. High Priority should, therefore, be given to the Adult Literacy Programmes for these groups for improving their literacy level. Special attention should also be paid to the organisation of adult literacy programme for the physically handicapped (Para 4.19).

C. Organisation

- 5.13 It is important to have one integrated mechanism so that adult literacy programme does not end abruptly but grows into follow-up and continuing education programme. All the three stages of adult education e.g. adult literacy, follow-up and continuing education should form part of a coherent system (Para 4.20).

D. Nodal Agency

- 5.14 The University Unit of Adult, continuing and Extension Education be the Nodal Agency for Monitoring, Evaluation and Research. Self-evaluation of the programme by the universities/ colleges be a continuous activity and the reports of such evaluation should be linked with the release of grants. Further there may be an external evaluation of the total programme of the university at the end of three years. (Para 4.21).

5.15 Universities must play a leadership role in the conduct of action research which is very essential for the promotion of adult literacy programme in the country (Para 4.22).

E. Training & Materials

- 5.16 The quality of the training programme at all levels be improved considerably (Para 4.26)
- 5.17 The manual prepared earlier reviewed immediately, keeping in view the objectives of Point No.16. A small expert group may be assigned this work on priority basis (Para 4.26)
- 5.18 Intensive training programmes for trainers be organised at 4-5 places immediately (Para 4.26)
- 5.19 Teaching-learning materials available at the Adult Literacy Centres should include materials on important national programmes such as population education, national integration, child care, health and family welfare, scientific temper, transfer of technology, use of bio-gas etc. (Para 4.27)
- 5.20 Fullest use be made of the material already available in the country. We recommend that documentation centres in the universities be developed for this purpose. At least one university in a state should play a leadership role in the documentation of the literature on the various aspects of adult education, continuing education and extension (Para 4.27).
- 5.21 General principles of material preparation and language of communication be included in a training programmes of adult education functionaries (Para 4.27).
- 5.22 University Departments of Linguistics in collaboration with the Department of Adult/Continuing and Extension Education should play leadership role in the conduct of research on materials (Para 4.27).

F. Financial Pattern

- 5.23 Financial assistance to the universities/colleges be provided at the same level/norms as approved by the Government of India for the voluntary organisations participating in the programme (Para 4.28).
- 5.24 Reappropriations within the overall financial ceilings as recommended by the Advisory Committees of the universities/ colleges be followed (Para 4.28)
- 5.25 Normally assistance may be provided for the organisation of at least five centres. However, in the case of women colleges, in the rural, backward (below national average literacy level) and tribal areas, assistance may be provided to organise even two centres. Universities/colleges may also be assisted to organise adult literacy programme through "Each one Teach one" (Para 4.28).
- 5.26 Pattern of financial assistance for organising training programmes as approved by the Government of India for NSS Scheme be accepted for the Adult Literacy Programme (Para 4.28).
- 5.27 Travel expenses be provided as per shortest route and not exceeding first class railway fare in the case of collage teachers and second class fare in the case of supervisors/ instructors alongwith other admissible expenses (Para 4.28).

- 5.28 A University be considered as a unit of the programme and that all the grants are made to the university for disbursement to colleges participating in the programme. The universities would be responsible for the maintenance of the accounts of grants and submission of necessary documents ensuring the proper utilisation of the grants made to them. In order to ensure the timely release of the funds to the universities, we suggest a schedule for the release of the grants alongwith the documents required for the release of funds (para 4.28)
- 5.29 In order to ensure the continuation of the programme at least upto 1990 so as to enable the universities/colleges to plan long-term programme, we suggest that adequate funds be provided for this purpose (Para 4.28)
- 5.30 All the posts will be on a long-term basis and will be of temporary nature. Staff appointed for this programme be given all such benefits as are given to the corresponding permanent employees of the universities/colleges to ensure continuity of the staff and hence of the programme. (Para 4.28).
- 5.31 We agree that the programme be decentralised at the university level for the purpose of funding as this would help a great deal in the timely procurement of funds by the participating institutions. (Para 4.28)
- 5.32 We strongly recommend that in view of the high priority given to the programme of Point No. : 16 of the New 20 Point Programme of Government of India Universities/Colleges be involved in a big-way to participate in this national programme so as to help achieve the goals. With this in view, Universities/Colleges may, therefore, be assisted on 100% basis at least upto the end of Seventh Plan or 31st March, 1990 to enable the Universities/Colleges to make long-term continuous planning and action plans. (Para 4.28).

G. Post-Literacy and Follow-up

- 5.33 Post-Literacy efforts must be closely linked with literacy efforts on the hand and with continuing education programmes on the other (Para 4.29).
- 5.34 While according financial sanction for the Post-Literacy Programme, the idea of integrated approach to a project should be kept in view and sanction should be issued in terms of the total project of three phases right in the beginning (Para 4.29)
- 5.35 There were many practical difficulties in the implementation of J.P. Naik Model No. V through Universities/Colleges. We recommend that an appropriate Model on post-literacy and follow-up work through Universities/College be worked out on a priority basis in consultation with the Government of India (Para 4.29).
- 5.36 Some models on programmes of continuing education to link post-literacy with continuing education be also developed so as to ensure continuity of contact with the motivated learners in the community (Para 4.29).

H. Co-ordination

- 5.37 Co-ordination between the agencies involved in the implementation of the programme is essential at all levels. Efforts of co-ordination should be more at the grass root level (Para 4.30).
- 5.38 There should be close collaboration between the NSS and Adult Education functionaries at all levels i.e. at the Centre, State, District, University & College levels. NSS programme functionaries in the overall planning and implementation of the programme. We noted that adult education is one of the activities under the NSS. We suggest that this should be a major activity of the NSS during the years ahead to achieve the goals of Point No. 16 (Para 4.30).
- 5.39 Universities and Colleges should collaborate with various welfare and voluntary organisations in the implementation of the adult literacy programmes. We also suggest that lists of such agencies at the Centre/State levels be made available to the Universities/Collages for their guidance (Para 4.31)

I. Funds

- 5.40 Funds amounting to Rs. 3.00 to Rs. 3.50 crores would be needed during the Sixth Plan (31.3.1985) and not less than RS. 15.00 crores during the 7th Plan (31.3.1990) (Para 4.32)

J. Project Proposal

- 5.41 Each institution should draw up a three to five year plan which would give specific indication regarding the area to be covered and the clientele. Universities and colleges should concentrate on the selected areas during the entire period of the-five years instead of shifting from one area to another (Para 4.33).

K. Miscellaneous

- 5.42 Adult education (theory and practice) should be included as a compulsory subject in teacher-training courses (Para 4.34).
- 5.43 Efforts should be made to promote the involvement of the mass-media, namely, Radio, Television, Film, Newspapers etc. in organising effective programme of adult education (Para 4.34).
- 5.44 Universities can render great service to adult education by utilising the experts in pedagogy/ andragogy and behavioural sciences, departments for training the 'Trainer of Trainers'. Absence of professional adult educators at many universities is causing a great problem and hence universities must consider commencing special training programmes (Para 4.34)
- 5.45 Home Science students should be encouraged to take up adult education programmes for women (Para 4.34).
- 5.46 We recognise the urgent need for a comprehensive manual giving the fullest details of the implementation of adult literacy programme through universities and colleges. We very strongly recommend that this manual may be got prepared with the help of an expert group on a top priority basis and circulated to universities/ colleges all over India (Para 4.34).

- 5.47 Point No. 16 of the New 20 Point Programme also relates to the spread of universal elementary education. We feel that students could motivate children who are not going to the schools. The University/College students from the NSS or otherwise could be helpful in locating the non-school going children and getting them admitted in other primary schools or non-formal education centres. They could also organise remedial coaching classes for the needy and academically under privileged children of the Society. This could be another dimension to the participation of the students in the implementation of Point No. 16 of the New 20 Point Programme of the Government of India (Para 4.35).
- 5.48 The expenditure on posts sanctioned by the UGC after the UGC's assistance ceases for such posts, be met by the State Governments as part of the maintenance budget. Universities/UGC should initiate actions in this regard and persuade the State Governments to accept this as a part of their maintenance grant after the UGC assistance ceases. Ministry of Education in the Government of India may also write to State Governments with a plea to accept the programme as a permanent on going programme and treat it at par with other academic programmes (Para 4.28).
- 5.49 We strongly emphasize that detailed guidelines on the basis of the specific suggestions/ recommendations made in the report with regard to operation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation, training and material, financial pattern etc. be drawn on a priority basis for circulation to universities/ colleges (para 4.36). (pp.39-45)