

INDIA
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN
FIFTH JOINT REVIEW MISSION

DELHI STATE REPORT
(16th – 31st January, 2007)

The Review Mission Team consisting of P. K. Bandyopadhyay & Prof. Achyut Yagnik visited the offices of the Education Secretary and Project Director, SSA of Delhi Govt. and interacted with the various functionaries connected with the SSA programme from 17th to 23rd of January 2007. The team also visited some schools, SCERT and DIETs and interacted with the teachers and students to have a first hand impression about the working of the SSA programme and its impact on the level of learning of the students from Class I to VIII in the age group of 6-14.

Though the SSA programme was started in 2003-04, it could not make much headway in the Union Territory of Delhi in the years 2003 to 2006 in view of certain constraints explained by them. It was brought to our notice by the Edn. Secy. that the State of Delhi didn't have any DPEP programme during the earlier years unlike other states and therefore, the Delhi administration had to start from the scratch. Initially, there were some teething problems to make the SSA programme fully operational. However, the facts remain that the SSA programme during the first 3 years could not make much progress as is evident from the data given below: -

State	Year	AWP & B	Release of Funds		Due State share as per GOI release	Shortfall/ Excess	Audited Expenditure
			GOI	States			
DELHI	2002-03		161.27	14.99	53.76	-38.77	54.44
	2003-04	5225.00	1959.62	183.84	653.20	-469.33	520.82
	2004-05	4224.68	--	176.87	--	+176.87	860.06
	2005-06	6688.51	1100	653.91	366.67	+287.24	2557.13

The expenditure picked up in the last year i.e. 2005-06 since in the earlier years there was no expenditure on Civil Works. The expenditure incurred in these years was primarily on Teachers training, distribution of Free Text Books, Repairs & Maintenance Grants released to the schools.

Civil Works:

On the Civil Works side, the main component is construction of two school buildings in the resettlement colony at Savda Ghevra, Kanjawala Village in North-West district. The expenditure incurred on this component in the year 2005-06 was only 5% of the expenditure budgeted. The team visited the sites of both these building on 18th of January and found that the foundation wall of both these building is complete and further construction work including the boundary work has been proceeding smoothly. The team noticed that the 25% of the physical component had already been achieved and the expenditure incurred also correspond to around 30% of the budgeted expenditure.

As regards the other items of Civil Works like additional classrooms and additional toilets to existing schools – Porta Cabin, 450 additional classrooms (about 50%) have already been constructed. Toilet facilities as proposed in the AWP 2005-06 have been provided to 68 (100%) schools.

Regarding the provision for additional toilets to be provided, the expenditure could not be incurred since the estimated expenditure of Rs. 20,000/- per toilet was found inadequate and the Delhi Govt. has been approached for revising the figure to Rs.28,000/- per toilet. Approval is awaited and the project would be executed in right earnest on receipt of the approval.

This team is satisfied with the progress of the Civil Work now and hopes that the two school buildings will be completed by 31st March and these schools will start functioning from 1st of April 2007. The team interacted with many of the children and their parent residing in the resettlement colony and feels that the location is ideal for providing education facility to the underprivileged. At present we have seen that the children have been walking to far-flung areas for schooling.

Teachers Training:

Teacher Training has been another strong area of SSA Delhi and the 20 days training is organized by the SCERT and all nine DIETs of Delhi. The team visited the SCERT on 22nd January. Dr. Pratiba Sharma, Joint Director, took us around and showed us the lab., the library and the video conference organized by NCERT in their EDUSAT programme where the Sr. Lec. & Lec. of three DIETs were present. It came to our notice that SCERT does not have a full time director for sometime past. The post needs to be filled up with a suitable person having the prescribed qualifications and experience. The team also noticed that a number of sanctioned posts on the faculty side are vacant for sometime past. If the lecturers are required as per prescribed norms they need to be in position early.

The team also interacted with the Deputy Controller Finance and his staff. The team strongly feels that there is scope for improvement in the working of the finance wing and its needs to be strengthened suitably.

A number of 35318 teachers out of the target 47792 have been trained for 20 days during May–June 2006 (period of summer vacation).

In addition to the 20-days training, one-day special orientation programme focused on improving the learning achievement of the learners has been organized by the SCERT DIETs and 13239 teachers have benefited.

SCERT has been requested to organize an induction-training programme for newly recruited URC/CRC/DRC teachers as proposed in AWP.

School with Single Teacher:

We were given to understand that there are some primary and upper primary schools being run by single teacher. We have brought this to the notice of the SSA authorities, they strongly denied and told us there is not a single primary and upper primary school with a single teacher in the entire state of Delhi.

SIEMAT:

Though a provision of Rs. 10 Lakhs was made in the budget and shown to have been incurred, this was not correct. The expenditure has not been incurred. It has been taken back and included in 2006-07 budget for SIEMAT.

BRC/CRCs: -

This could not be functional because of shortage of accommodation. We are given to understand that CRCs will be made operational once the Civil Works are completed i.e. in the next financial year starting from 1st April 2007. The Union Territory of Delhi is urban centric and the concept of BRC which is focused on Block Level in a State cannot be applied here because blocks primarily function in village area. In view of this the Executive Committee of SSA Delhi has taken a decision to establish Urban Resource Centres (URCs) in place of BRCs. These URCs are being setup in all the DIETs located in the 9 revenue districts.

Training of Community Leaders: -

In Delhi, the decision has been taken to establish and operationalize the bodies parallel to VECs known as Kshetra Education Committee (KEC) involving representatives of Vidyalaya Kalyan Samiti/ Parent Teachers Associations of schools and Community Leaders. Out of the physical target of 14668, 2-days training programmes have been organized in collaboration with DIETs and 8435 Community Leaders have been trained during the month of July – September 2006. The remaining around 6000 Community Leaders will be trained during the months of January and February 2007. Up till November 403 Kshetra Education Committees (KECs), the body parallel to VECs have been operationalized and the rest will be completed by the end of this year.

Schools: -

The team also visited some schools at the Primary and Upper Primary levels and interacted with the students and teachers independently. We are given to understand that there are four category of schools in Union Territory of Delhi: i) Primary Schools from Class I to V level, run by MCD, ii) Primary, Upper Primary and Secondary Schools run by NDMC in the NDMC area, iii) Primary and Upper Primary School run by Delhi Cantonment Board & iv) Schools run by Dte. of Education, Govt. of Delhi a) Sarvodaya School, b) Super-ability School & c) Other DOE Schools from Class VI to X or XII. From our interaction with the students and the teachers we find that the schools are running well. The teachers are qualified and the students are receptive.

We find that the students mostly come from the underprivileged groups and are being taken care of.

Bridge Course for Street Children: -

The Govt. of Delhi has launched a campaign called Every Child: A Campaign for the Education of all children and adolescent who live and work on the streets under SSA. The campaign Every Child for education, nutrition, residential hostels, health care and protection of homeless children of Delhi is under the broad umbrella of **Bhagidari** and more specifically under the '*School Chale Hum*' campaign under the Govt. of Delhi.

The Delhi SSA hope to start 12 centres for the street children in the current Financial Year. From December 2006 they have started 01 Centre in Sarai Basti with an NGO – Centre for Equity Studies.

The team has visited the said centre on 19th January where a sensitization programme has started. The team feels that to open 12 such centres in current Financial Year is a big challenge.

CALtoonz: -

The CALtoonz Project started by Delhi SSA has two components: the hardware of multimedia classrooms, and the course material developed in-house by the teachers of the department. The team has visited the CAL labs on 17-18 January and was impressed by the work carried out there with make shift arrangement. We feel that this lab should be developed on profession line since it is expected to cater to the needs of 900 (existing 200, additional 700) schools. Many of the children who came to Delhi Government Schools were from socio economically marginalized families and so did not have the time or scope for home support. Therefore, the classroom had to be the only place where they could learn. A Computer-Aided Learning (CAL) Project draws on the power of animation and multimedia, and the involvement of teachers in preparing remedial content. That will save on the time spent on instruction, thus allowing children to learn by and through fun.

Dakhila Abhiyan:

The Dakhila Abhiyan was carried out in a big way during April & July of 2006 by Education Deptt. and in all 54065 Out of School Children were mainstreamed in the formal schools with the help of various NGOs. In 2005 about 24000 Out of School Children were mainstreamed. Now the survey of Out of School Children is being planned and SSA Delhi hope that by March end the survey will be completed and the remaining children will be mainstreamed in the year 2007.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The NCT of Delhi, we have noticed, has a special and peculiar problem of rehabilitating children of the under privileged class, who have been abandoned, victims of unfortunate circumstances, who are homeless and destitute, loitering and sleeping on the streets and

become addicted to drugs and also victims of sexual exploitations. SSA has a lot to do in this regard since right to elementary education from class I to VIII from the age of 6-14 is a fundamental right of every child and the state has to fulfill its obligation. A beginning has been done in this regard by establishing one centre for street children, we also noticed that some NGOs have come forward to extend their help in this regard. It is gratifying to note that the Edn. Secy. of Delhi Govt. is very well aware of this problem and has taken various steps in this regard. We strongly recommend that some funds from SSA should be earmarked for proper education of such categories of street children. We understand that these problems exist in all metro cities in India and therefore, a common approach should be made and a special scheme should be formalized.

2. The present set-up of the SSA needs to be strengthened and revitalized. Since the programme is mission oriented and has huge financial implication. We noticed that the Delhi SSA does not have a full time Project Director before December 2006. We also understand that the present Project Director is also not a ***full time functionary*** and has been holding additional charges. There is a directive from the Ministry of HRD that every state should have a full time project director so that the SSA programme can be implemented effectively and efficiently. We therefore, strongly recommend that necessary action should be taken in this regard.
3. From the structure of sanctioned posts shown to us, we find that a number of sanctioned posts do exist. Against some of the sanctioned posts a few retired person have been employed on contract basis. While retired persons no doubt have experience, the project to be run effectively needs young persons with good academic background and energy and drive who can deliver the goods in a time-bound manner. ***We strongly recommend that a few young competent persons may be recruited to make the programme run efficiently though the services of a really competent retired person may be utilized.*** The office has been shifted to a new building, it needs to be equipped and organized properly.
4. The SSA wing does not have a properly equipped finance wing. There are three sanctioned posts of Finance Controller, Assistant Accounts Officer & Accounts Assistant. Three persons are in position, but the person posted as Financial Controller has lots of other work to deal with and has hardly any time for SSA. We have interacted with them and feel they do not have proper knowledge of the duties they are suppose to render in the SSA programme. A cheque issuing register, a Cash Book and a Ledger are all that is being maintained, they are not discharging their duties for compilation of accounts in proper form. In the modern accounting scenario the finance wing is expected to maintain SSA accounts on a double entry basis, receipts and payments account, income and expenditure account and balance sheet. We are told that they engaged a Chartered Accountant to prepare these, though the Chartered Accountant is expected to conduct audit and not prepare accounts.
The finance wing needs to prepare accounts properly, conduct internal audit, maintain control over the expenditure by periodic review of funds released and expenditure incurred, engage Chartered Accountant for audit and get the accounts with auditor's comments, approved by the Executive Committee and then submit these for CAG's audit. We therefore, feel that the finance wing needs to be completely revamped.
5. There is need for effective coordination of schools run by MCD, NDMC and the Delhi Cantonment Board.