



## A Look at the Performance of SSA: A District Study

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**KEYWORDS : SSA, Kupwara.**

### Introduction:-

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a Government of India's Flagship programme aimed at the universalization of elementary education "in a time bound manner", as mandated by the 86th amendment to the constitution of India making free and compulsory education to children of ages 6-14 a fundamental right. The program was launched in the country in 2001-02 to provide community owned quality elementary education in a mission mode. It also envisages bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary education and improving the quality of learning. India's flagship program for universalization of elementary Education, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), is regarded as one of the largest such initiative anywhere in the world. Started in 2001-02, it has recorded impressive achievements by any yardstick. According to Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) data, nearly 1, 60,000 primary and upper primary schools have been opened, more than 6, 50,000 additional classrooms have been constructed and 5, 00,000 additional teachers have been appointed. Independent surveys show that nearly 92 % of India's elementary school-age children are currently enrolled. However, government's own surveys show that there are still nearly 13 million children out of school – a figure which is still very substantial.

For successful implementation of any programme, effective monitoring, coupled with efficient information system, is essential. While monitoring framework under SSA is developed separately, concerted efforts have been made towards strengthening of Educational Management Information System (EMIS) in India. SSA adopts, 'The Bottom-Up' decentralized, process of planning, where in required up-to-date and reliable school level information and educational needs of learners are well taken care of and the plan fits into the broad framework of the 'SSA. SSA has emphasized the involvement of local people and stake holders in planning in view of the fact that the desired improvement & sustenance of the improved efficiency level cannot be achieved without the active involvement of the community in the schooling system.

Kupwara is an enthralling and mesmerizing geographic region full of scenic beauty. Almost every village of this district does have the characteristics of a valley. Nature has been very kind to Kupwara in making it a unique place with ever flowing rivers and streams, dense and forests, snow covered peaks and pleasant, charming and refreshing ambience. The District headquarter "KUPWARA" is situated at a distance of 98 Kms from the summer capital of J&K state i.e. Srinagar. Kupwara is the most educationally and socially backward frontier District of Kashmir Valley of Jammu and Kashmir State.

### Objectives:-

To know the Performance of SSA in Kupwara District with respect to:

1. School Infrastructure
2. Accessibility Target
3. Enrolment of Out-of-School Children.
4. Drinking Water and Toilet Facility
5. Establishment of Village Level education Committees

### Methodology:-

As per the information provided by the District Chief Education Officer's office, the District is divided into 13 educational Zones. Survey was conducted to find out the schools where SSA programme has been introduced. Out of the 13 zones six (6) zones were selected randomly:-

From each of the selected zones, 3 clusters were selected randomly and from each cluster six villages were selected on the basis of availability of schools i.e., three village with one primary school and another village having more than two schools with at least one upper primary school. All the existing schools belonging to different category of schools covered under SSA i.e. Primary school (PS), Upper primary schools with primary schools (UPS), Education guarantee scheme (EGS), KGBV and seasonal centres.

**Table: 1**

S.no	Name of Educational Zone	Number of Clusters
01	Zone Mawer	08
02	Zone Langate	08
03	Zone Handwara	08
04	Zone Chamkote	08
05	Zone Tangdar	08
06	Zone Villgam	08

### Findings:

#### 1. School Infrastructure:

##### i) Primary school (PS):

Schools which have classes from I-V. 692 primary schools in District Kupwara have been opened SSA since 2002-03.

##### ii) Upper primary schools with Primary Schools (UPS):

Schools which have classes from I-VIII. 623 Primary schools have been upgraded to Upper Primary school level under SSA in District Kupwara since 2002-2003.

##### iii) EGS:

This scheme was introduced by SSA in order to establish the education centres at such palaces where a primary school can't be established due to some problems. 339 EGS centres are established in the District out of which 252 EGS centres were later converted to PS and 87 were merged with nearest PS or UPS with PS.

##### iv) KGBV:

Special residential schools for girls from VI – VIII classes. Which is meant to enrol the out of school girl child and to help the girls with special need who can't continue the study due to any problem like financial problem, gender biasedness and girls belonging to the disadvantaged sections of the society. 10 KGBV's are functional in the District (cluster wise).

#### 2. Accessibility Target:

There has been significant progress in the attainment of accessibility targets as the number of uncovered habitations has declined in the District as a result of opening up of new primary schools, up gradation of primary schools to upper primary schools and setting up of EGS (Education Guarantee Scheme) centres which were later on converted to primary Schools. For opening of new Primary schools and up gradations of existing, the district proposes to State Project Director SSA, J&K in the month of March by submitting the map which shows the uncovered habitations. Universal access has not been achieved because no target was approved for the District since 2011-12 till date, the total quota allocated to the District by State Project Director SSA year wise till date is:

**Table: 2**

No of Primary School Sanctioned and opened																			
2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12/ 2012-13	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
90	90	128	128	182	182	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	94	111	111	87	87	0	0

### 3. Enrolment and drop outs:

SSA has helped the District for enrolment of Out of school children in many ways like appointment of Zonal Gender Co-ordinators, Resource Teachers and also by introducing Community Mobilisation. The total number of out of school children at the inception of scheme in the District was 37,632 which with the help of such initiatives by SSA have been reduced to 3,558. The progress of universalization cannot be thought in such a situation. Most of the people in the district are educationally backward, they show apathy for admission of their children in the schools and most of the population of the district is confined and scattered in the terrain hilly low density areas. Their parents have a low income and they think it better to involve their children in domestic jobs or make them earn to supplement their family. These issues are to be addressed and a feasible strategy is to be provided to bring them to the school. The dropout rate in the district is at about 28 percent and there is more probability of drop outs if not taken seriously. The percentage of OOSC is more in girls than in boys particularly in ST, Gujjer & bakerwal population, among whom the early marriage is still prevalent. The drop outs are more in special focus group including girls, disabled children, ST children, OBC children.

### 4. Drinking Water and Toilet Facility:

In order to facilitate the students to get the fresh drinking water the sources for drinking water were established in the schools. This step was really a mile stone in order to ensure the health and hygiene of the students, as the District consists of such places where pure drinking water was not available in the school. SSA has helped to establish

drinking water in almost all sections of the District but still 672 are without such facility.

It was also observed that a proper planning mechanism was not followed for allocation of toilet facilities. The schools were allocated such facility by two departments SSA and Rural development Department. It was observed that many schools consist of more than requirement where others don't have even one. It was observed in Zone Handwara at MS Wadipora that school consisted of 09 washrooms; out of which only three are functional others were partially destroyed because of new allocations. So it is suggested that proper planning should be followed for allocation of such assets and a proper coordination should have been followed by Department among themselves.

### 5. Village Level education Committees:

As ordered by the state project Director SSA and Chief Education Officer Kupwara that each school should have a village level education committee which will consist of Sarpanch and other members. No doubt the education committees were established to ensure effective utilisation of resources, at the same time these committees has also created some hurdles in the path of teachers as large part of population is uneducated, it was difficult to make them understands the logic behind expenditures which lead to mismatch for procurement and purchases.