



The Role of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in The Development of Primary Education

KEYWORDS

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1. Introduction:

India is one of the largest democratic country in the world. For the development of the every nation the quality basic education is sin qua non. So the human being without education becomes an animal. Education is a constant process of development and innate powers of man which are natural, harmonious and progressive. In the 21st century a nation's ability to convert knowledge into wealth and social good through the process of innovation is going to determine its future. The future of the nation is in the hands of young generation. That's why the quality and overall education at primary level is very essential. It is the foundation of the education and more focus on primary education is needed. India having one of the largest education system in the world. But in another side the highest illiteracy was found in India it shows the inability of our government to utilize programme like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Literacy Mission. On other hand the countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand these country achieved the better literacy in very short perio.¹ After India getting independence the government attempted to extend the primary education to masses in the rural areas. The universalization of the elementary education accepted as a national project.

2. The Historical Development of Primary Education:

The root of education in India probably traced from Veda, Purana, Ramayana and Mahabharata era and then after kings, Moguls and British administration. But in these administrations, education was limited only to privileged classes of the society.² The Vedic education was fully capable of character building, development of the various branches of knowledge and which lead to economic prosperity. Post-Vedic period extends between 1400 and 600 B.C. from the end of Rig Vedic period to the beginning of Buddhism and Jainism. The practical and useful subjects in post-Vedic period increased the importance of Brahmanic education. The Post-Vedic education was only for the sake of life.

During the time of Woods dispatch the position of the primary education was very bad because the company's attention was diverted towards the university education. Again the Indian education commission 1882 was established to assess the position of primary education and to give the suggestions for its reforms and to evaluate the work of all the missionaries in the field of education. The Hunter Commission appointed for the purpose of primary education. This had changed the shape of primary education. During that period the Maharaja of Baroda made primary education free and compulsory. In 1918 the Vitthal Bhai Patel introduced the Bill in the legislative council in Bombay in order to declare the primary education compulsory.³

After the independence the Government of India had done the expansion of the primary education because it was the emerged need of free India.⁴ The Government took active and sincere steps to make the primary education free, universal and compulsory. The principal of compulsory education was declared through Article 45 of the Constitution of India i.e. the state shall endeavor to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of this constitution for free and compulsory education between the age group of 6 to 14 years. Board of National Education was established on this basis. The government takes efforts to expand compulsory primary education in all corners of the country.⁵ The Supreme Court had given the guideline for the free and compulsory education. The government made the 86th amendment 2002 it becomes a fundamental right under Article 21A i.e. the state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 6 to 14 years.⁶

3. The Role of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan had started by the government of India to achieve the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education in a time bound manner as amended by the 86th Amendment to the constitution of India making free and compulsory education to children of 6-14 years age group, a fundamental right. This programme is implemented in partnership with state Governments to cover the entire country and address the needs of 192 million children. The SSA seeks to provide quality elementary education including life skills. SSA has special focus on girl's education and children with special need and to provide computer education to the children. In Nagaland the aim of SSA is to achieve the all-round and quality elementary education. The 44 schools with a capacity of 50 students each are benefiting from these two disciplines. SSA has indeed taken a step towards the useful and quality education.⁷

4. What is Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

- It is a programme with a clear time frame for Universalisation of Elementary Education.
- It is a response to the demand for quality basic education all over the country.
- It is an opportunity for promoting social justice through basic education.
- It is an effort at effectively involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions, School Management Committees, Village and Urban Slum level Education Committees, Parents' Teachers' Associations, Tribal Autonomous Councils and other grass root level structures in the management of elementary schools.
- It is an expression of political will for universal elementary education across the country.
- It is the partnership between the centre, state and the local government.

5. Objectives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

- All children in school, Education Guarantee Centre and Alternate School camp by 2003.
- All children should complete the five years of primary schooling by 2007.
- All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.
- The more focus on the satisfactory & quality elementary education for life.
- To bridge the all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at the elementary education level by 2010.

Structure for Implementation:

The Central and state Governments will together implement the SSA in partnership with the local Governments and the community. To signify the national priority to National Mission i.e. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Prime Minister is the Chairman and the Union Minister of Human Resource Development as the Vice Chairperson. State has been requested to establish the state level implementation body for the effective implementation of SSA under the guidance of Chief Minister and the Education Minister. This will not disturb the existing system of primary education. As part of the SSA the Central and the State Governments will undertake reforms in order to improve efficiency of the education delivery system. The states will have to make an objective assessment of existing education system. The success of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will depend on the quality of the community based planning process. The requirement of incentives like scholarship and uniforms will have to be worked out on the basis of state norms. The planning for mid-day meal should also be discussed in the planning process even though changes in this scheme would be taken up separately. The requirement of incentives like scholarship and uniforms would have to be worked out on the basis of state norms⁸.

Activities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan assigns greatest importance to the preparatory activities as these have been conceived as a necessary condition for quality implementation of the programme. Effective mobilization of the community and creation of an effective system of decentralized decision-making are part of the preparatory activities. To strength the office of the District Elementary Education Officer has also to be undertaken in the preparatory phase in order to adequately equip it to handle the larger tasks during the implementation of the programme.

Through a participatory process a core planning team will be constituted in each village level. The selected Village Education Committee members, NGO representatives, Head Master, selected teachers and some selected parents, ensuring participation of women as well as persons from the deprived communities. Parents of disabled children may be included in the team. The selection of this team is very critical for effective planning. A number of effective studies on the Base-line assessment in a district, in order to reflect the current situation with regard to learning achievements, retention, access, gender equity, social equity, physical infrastructure would also have to be undertaken as preparatory activities.

The planning to be need-based it is important that the board norms for improving school facilities are shared with village level planning team. The norms under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan provide the broad framework for such an exercise. Identification of a team at District and Block level

would also have to be undertaken during the preparatory phase. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan highlights transparency in programme implementation. All efforts have to be made to ensure that the expenditure on elementary education is a public domain subject. The School Display Board has to show all investments being made in the school. The organization of the large number of school based activities, cultural activities, sports and festivals have been suggested as preparatory activities under the SSA.

Community Partnership in the Management of the School:

There may be a need to reconstitute such Committees in many places where it had been done routinely in the past. Involvement of NGOs will strengthen this community-based approach for organizing the preparatory activities.⁹After orientation of community teams the process of micro-planning, school mapping should be undertaken. This would involve intensive interaction with each household to ascertain the educational status and the educational need. The broad financial and physical norms regarding school infrastructure, teachers and teaching learning materials will have to be the basis of the planning exercise. The planning for midday meal should also be discussed in the planning process, even though changes in this scheme will be taken up separately.

Appraisal of District Plans:

Appraisal of District Plans is critical to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The National or State Mission will undertake appraisal of plans with the assistance of resource teams constituted by the operational support unit of the National or State Mission. The National Mission will circulate a list of resource persons on the basis of past experience gathered under the DPEP and Lok Jumbish Project. The nominee of the state mission will also have to be approved by the national mission. The actual appraisal visit will be for a minimum of ten days to the concerned district and state.

Conclusion and Suggestions:

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been operational since 2000-2001. Its roots go back to 1993-1994, when the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) was launched, with an aim of achieving the objective of universal primary education. This is programme of the central government to maintain the quality of primary education. Later on the government of India passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 but the number of flaws are existing in present RTE Act. It should be amended and the lacunae should be removed. There is need to create awareness in the parents to send their children in schools. The special economic protection should be given to the poor and needy family that they will ready to send their children to school.

(Endnotes)

- 1 **End Note:** Malik Pal Krishna: Right to Elementary Education, Allahabad Law Agency, Law Publishers, Faridabad, page no. 3
- 2 Id at, page no.1
- 3 Id at, page no. 102, 116, 174.
- 4 Sharma R. N. and Sharma R. K.:History of Education in India, Atlantic Publishers & Distributers (P) LTD, New Delhi.
- 5 Id at, page no. 186 to 193.
- 6 Ghosh Suresh Chandra, The History of Education in Modern India 1757-2012, Orient Black Swan Publication, Hyderabad, page no. 178.
- 7 Agarwal L. P. and Ahmad Shabir, A Textbook of Education: Black Prints, New Delhi, 2014, Page no.106 to 108.
- 8 <http://www.educationforallindia.com/ssa.htm>
- 9 <http://www.educationforallindia.com/SSA1.htm>