

## MATERIAL FOR ALL INDIA EDITORS' CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SECTOR ISSUES

North Eastern Region (NER) comprising of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura are all special category States. There is special emphasis on socio-economic development of this region at the national level, backed by area specific planning and budgetary support. As per the extant Government orders 10% of the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of the departments in the ministry is earmarked for implementing development schemes in the region. The shortfall in utilization of this 10% provision is automatically transferred to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) administered by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, for funding specific infrastructure development projects in the region.

### SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

#### 1. SSA outlay and releases for North Eastern States:-

- In 2009-10, an outlay of Rs.1302.63 crore approved by Project approval Board for NE region (against Rs.1228.59 crore in 2008-09).
- In 2010-11, total outlay of Rs.1767.59 crore has been approved by Project approval Board for NE region.
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#### 2. Progress against key input targets of SSA in the NE States:-

Sl. No.	Items	Cumulative Targets including 2009-10	Achievements (upto 31.03.2010)	
1.	Construction of primary school buildings	12704	Completed and in Progress	12985 (102.21%)
2.	Construction of upper primary school buildings	4187	Completed and in Progress	3690 (88.13%)
3.	Construction of additional classrooms	61815	Completed and in Progress	60375 (97.67%)
4.	Drinking water facilities	10492	Completed and in Progress	10814 (103.06%)
5.	Construction of Toilets	23472	Completed and in Progress	20340 (86.66%)
6.	Supply of Free Textbooks	4754713	Supplied	4754713 (100%)
7.	Teacher appointment	28239	Completed	24309 (86.08%)
8.	In-service training (20 days)	277384	Completed	274384 (98.92%)
9.	Opening of New Primary Schools	6901	Completed	5549 (80.41%)
10.	Opening of New Upper Primary Schools	4102	Completed	3413 (83.20%)
11.	KGBV	75	Operationalised	75 (100%)

## Out of School Children

- As per National Surveys conducted on Out of School Children in 2005 and 2009, the number of out of school children has decline from 691791 to 305720 .
- 3.89% of 6-14 age group in NE out of school against national average of 4.28%. Arunachal Pradesh (10.61%), Assam (4.55%), Manipur (3.15%), Meghalaya (3.05%), Nagaland (2.44%), Tripura (1.47%) and Sikkim (0.67%).

### Dropout rates at primary and upper primary level are

State	Ar. Pradesh	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	All India
Primary	41.04	22.19	37.49	36.36	45.68	37.95	19.67	22.57	25.55
Elementary	47.99	73.54	41.93	60.43	60.55	46.65	64.93	54.77	43.03

SES 2007-08

#### 4. Measurement of Students' achievement (NCERT Studies)

States	Class III		Class V		Class VII/VIII	
	Language	Maths	Language	Maths	Language	Maths
Arunachal Pradesh	60.34	59.98	54.8	53.53	50.64	43.08
Assam	65.91	68.1	49.16	40.03	61.21	44.8
Manipur	73.21	72.27	73.39	74.46	61.56	61.78
Meghalaya	68.27	67.45	--	--	57.74	32.82
Mizoram	81.78	66.89	66.91	41.07	57.12	35.51
Nagaland	76.08	67.56	59.55	45.7	64.01	46.33
Sikkim	58.1	51.22	50.26	40.6	NA	NA
Tripura	66.85	66.58	63.79	52.7	52.29	39.27
<b>National`</b>	<b>63.12</b>	<b>58.25</b>	<b>58.57</b>	<b>46.51</b>	<b>52.69</b>	<b>29.78</b>
				<b>Class-VIII</b>	<b>52.45</b>	<b>38.47</b>

**Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV):-** 75 KGBV sanctioned till 31.03.2010. All are operational enrolling **5783** girls belonging to SC/ST and other disadvantage groups.

**National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL):**NPEGEL is operational in 44 EBB in 146 Model Cluster Schools. Rs.70.00 lakh has been sanctioned for NPEGEL in 2009-10.

#### Capacity Building done for NER

- Technical Support Group (TSG) for SSA of GOI, NUEPA & NCERT and IGNOU provides technical support to augment capacities in NER.

- North East Cell of TSG established to provide technical support to the NER, at Guwahati.
- 60 capacity building workshops / programmes organised for NE States.
- 23 programmes by NIAR on capacity building for the formulation of AWP&B's.
- 22 programmes by TSG for specific SSA components.
- 15 programmes by TSG (NER) for NER specific themes.

## **RIGHT TO EDUCATION**

The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21A in the Constitution which provides for free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

### **Salient Feature of “The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009” are:**

- (i) The right of children to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school. It clarifies that ‘compulsory education’ means obligation of the appropriate government to provide free elementary education and ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education to every child in the six to fourteen age group. It makes provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.
- (ii) It specifies the duties and responsibilities of appropriate Governments, local authority and parents in providing free and compulsory education, and sharing of financial and other responsibilities between the Central and State Governments
- (iii) It lays down the norms and standards relating *inter alia* to Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings and infrastructure, school working days, teacher working hours.
- (iv) It provides for rational deployment of teachers by ensuring that the specified pupil teacher ratio is maintained for each school, rather than just as an average for the State or District or Block, thus ensuring that there is no urban-rural imbalance in teacher postings. It also provides for prohibition of deployment of teachers for non-educational work, other than decennial census, elections to local authority, state legislatures and parliament, and disaster relief.
- (v) It provides for appointment of appropriately trained teachers, i.e. teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications;
- (vi) It prohibits (i) physical punishment and mental harassment, (ii) screening procedures for admission of children, (iii) capitation fees, (iv) private tuition by teachers, (v) running of schools without recognition,
- (vii) It provides for the imposition of penalties for charging capitation fee, for resorting to screening during admission and for running a school without recognition.
- (viii) It provides for development of curriculum in consonance with the values enshrined in the Constitution, and which would ensure the all-round development of the child, building on the child’s knowledge, potentiality and talent and making the child free of fear, trauma and anxiety through a system of child friendly and child centred learning.

- (ix) It provides for protection and monitoring of the child's right to free and compulsory education and redressal of grievances by the National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights, which shall have the powers of a civil court.
- (x) The Act provides that a private unaided school, not receiving any kind of aid or grants to meet its expenses from the appropriate Government or the local authority, shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory education to them.

### **MID DAY MEAL SCHEME**

With a view to give a boost to universalisation of primary education, by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously providing nutritional support to children in primary classes, the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education was launched in August, 1995 initially in 2408 blocks in the country. In 1996-97, the programme was extended to all the remaining 2005 blocks. By the year 1997-98 the NP-NSPE was extended to all blocks of the country. The National Programme of Mid Day Meal in Schools (NP-MDMS) presently covers all children studying in Classes I-VIII in Government, Government Aided and Local Body Schools, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres including Madararas and Maqtabs supported under SSA.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of the Mid Day Meal Scheme is to address two of the pressing problems for majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by:

- (i) Improving the nutritional status of children in classes I – VIII in Government, Local Body and Government aided schools, and EGS and AIE centres.
- (ii) Encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.
- (iii) Providing nutritional support to children of primary stage in drought-affected areas during summer vacation.

### **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in March, 2009 with the objective of improving access to secondary education, while enhancing quality. During 2009-10, proposals from 31 States and UTs were considered and clearance was given to setting up 2478 new schools and improving 6998 existing schools. The government has decided to set up 6000 high quality model schools at the rate of one school per block. During 2009-10, financial assistance has been provided to set up 327 such schools in eleven States. A scheme for establishment and management of Girl's Hostels for students of secondary and higher secondary schools in the educationally backward blocks has also been launched. /During 2009-10, approval has been given to set up 379 such hostels in eleven States.

### **SAAKSHAR BHARAT**

In the context of government's overall policy aimed at empowerment of women and in recognition of the fact that literacy is a pre-requisite for socio-economic development, the National Literacy Mission has been recast as 'Saakshar Bharat'. At least 70 million non-literates will be

made literate to achieve 80% literacy. To reduce gender disparity in literacy from 21% to 10%, 60 million out of the total target of 70 million will be women. 365 districts in the country, with adult female literacy rate of 50% or less, have been identified for implementation of Saakshar Bharat. During 2009-10, the programme has been rolled out in 167 districts in 19 States to cover 3.83 crore non-literates in over 80,000 gram panchayats under basic literacy programme and to establish 81,007 adult education centres, one each in a gram panchayat, under the Continuing Education component. Grant-in-aid of Rs.325.98 crore has been released to 19 States as the first instalment of the Central share.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

**APPROVED ANNUAL PLAN 2009-2010:** The Planning Commission has approved the Plan outlay of Rs.8636.30 crore for 2009-2010 for the Department of Higher Education. Out of this, an outlay of Rs.959.70 crore has been earmarked for the North East Region (Rs.796.00 crore at RE Stage) and as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 Rs.721.35 crore have been certified for release.

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE NORTH EAST:** There are nine Central Universities in the North East Region, namely, Assam University, Tezpur University, Mizoram University, North East Hill University (NEHU), Manipur University, Nagaland University, Rajiv Gandhi University (Arunachal Pradesh), Tripura University and Sikkim University. One Engineering and one Management School in the Central Universities in the North East Region have been established so as to provide avenues of technical & professional education in the region.

**OPENING OF 44 DEGREE COLLEGES IN NER:** 374 new Degree Colleges are to be established all over the country one each in such district, which has Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) below the national average. 44 such colleges are to be established in the NE Region subject to approval of the competent authority. ½ of the cost in special category States limited to Rs.4.00 crores will be provided by the Central Government but for the remaining amount, efforts will have to be made by the respective States along with other partners.

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU):**The sprawling network of Regional Centres and Learner Support Centres in the North East region plays an important role in bridging the gap between the distance learner and the system by providing learner support services. At present, there are 08 Regional Centres and 429 Learner Support Centres functioning in the Region.

The popularity of the University's academic programmes can be gauged from the continuous increase in the enrolment figures each successive year in the region. With over 42000 students enrolled in various programmes of the University in 2009, there has been an increase of 18% from the previous year. There has been a wide-ranging expansion of activities of the Regional Centres in terms of instances of activation of new Programmes at the existing Centres, translation of existing programmes to the diverse linguistic populace.

The University continued to conduct several extension, skill development entrepreneurship and vocational programmes in different states of the NE Region under the aegis of its Regional Centres of NER to enhance the employability and self-reliance of the youth of the region in various sectors of the Region in various sectors of the Region's economy. To name a few, short term training programmes were held in mobile repairing, water harvesting food processing and disaster

management etc. The Certificate Programmes in Leather Goods Making and Diabetes Community Worker were launched by the University in 2009 in the NER. The Regional Centre, Kohima also organized a Regional Seminar on Training of Untrained Teachers in the North East Region on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

One of the foremost initiatives undertaken this year by the ENDER Unit of IGNOU has been the operationalization of the four special institutes, which were established in the NE Region as novel initiative with the objective of contributing towards the professional development of the people of the region which are as under:

- (i) IGNOU Institute for Vocational Education and Training (IIVET), Shillong:
- (ii) North East Centre for Research and Development (NECRD), Guwahati:
- (iii) IGNOU Institute for Professional Competency Advancement of Teachers through ODL (IIPCAT), Guwahati:
- (iv) IGNOU Centre for ODL in Research and Training in Agriculture (ICRTA), Agartala:

**TECHNICAL EDUCATION :** Several Central Technical Institutions like (i) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, Assam; (ii) Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RGIIM), Shillong, Maghalaya; (iii) National Institute of Technology (NIT), Silchar, Assam; (iv) National Institute of Technology (NIT), Agartala, Tripura; (v) North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh; and (vi) Central Institute of Technology (CIT), Kokrajhar, Assam etc. are taking care of the higher technical education in the North East Region. This Ministry is considering setting up of 20 new IIITs in various parts of country, mostly on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Two IIITs would be considered in the NE Region; the locations are being worked out.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (NITs) IN NORTH EAST REGION:** Out of 10 new NITs proposed to be opened in the country during XI Five Year Plan, 6 NITs are proposed to be opened in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim. Approval of Cabinet has been obtained. Mentor NITs have also been appointed for opening of NITs in NE States .

**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES (CIIL), MYSORE:** Central institute of Indian languages, Mysore has a North Eastern Region Language Centre [NERLC] at Guwahati where in four scheduled languages of the region-Assamese, Bodo, Manipuri & Nepali are being taught to teachers deputed by different states and to researchers and potential School teachers. Fifty-eight [58] teachers and researchers were trained. Under the North East Language Development [NELD] programme, 36 tribal resource persons are working on 32 NER languages covering seven states. A project has also been undertaken for Linguistic and Cultural Documentation of Sikkim for the last two years involving a professional video documentation team that has produced six audio – visual programmes during 2009-2010. The Bhutia, Lepcha and Rai communities have been documented and detailed linguistic analysis has also been undertaken. A linguistic survey of Khasi dialects in Meghalaya, undertaken in earlier year, was completed this year. The materials will be linked to a website being designed. A total of 164 villages were covered and 6 investigators were involved in this survey.

- Workshops on Dictionary Making in 25 languages of NER (13 languages from Nagaland) were continued this year.
- Trilingual dictionaries in Nepali, Tamang and Manipuri languages are under process.
- Socio-cultural research of five tribes of NE India covering the following speech communities like Aka, Kheza, Chokri, Hmar, Maring was undertaken.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PROMOTION OF URDU LANGUAGE (NCPUL):** The Council has established 30 Computer Applications and Multilingual DTP Centres through registered NGO's in the North Eastern Region, i.e., 12 Centres at Assam, 2 at Meghalaya, 12 at Manipur and 5 at Tripura in which 1029 students are pursuing education in IT and proficiency in Urdu Language. This is a job-oriented programme and on completion of the one year Diploma, students can be employed as medium level IT professionals as Junior Programmer, Web Designer, DTP Operators, Visual Designer, Lab Demonstrator, Accounts Assistant and Office Assistant etc. To popularize the Urdu Language in non-Urdu areas of the country, a national programme of Urdu learning through Distance Mode, NCPUL has established 43 Accredited Urdu Study Centres in the North Eastern Region,