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Implementation of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), in Sivasagar district of Assam: A study

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Abstract

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, for the development of secondary education in public schools throughout India. This scheme was launched in March, 2009 with the objective to enhance access to secondary education and to improve its quality. It is envisaged to achieve an enrolment rate of 75% from 52.26% in 2005-06 at secondary stage of implementation of the scheme by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation. It also aim to improve the quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removing gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, providing universal access to secondary level education by 2017, i.e., by the end of 12th Five Year Plan and achieving universal retention by 2020. In this paper an attempt has been made to analyze the various activities of RMSA in Sivasagar district of Assam.

Keywords: secondary education, RMSA

Introductions

Secondary education is a crucial stage in the educational hierarchy. It prepares the students for higher education and also for the world of work. Secondary education stage is divided into two parts viz, classes IX and X constitutes the secondary stage and classes XI and XII are designated as the higher secondary stage. The normal age group of the children in secondary classes is 14-16 years whereas 16-18 years for higher secondary classes.

The history of the development of secondary education in our country begins from the days of British rule. The wood dispatch of 1854 was an important landmark in the development of education policy in this country. The proper emphasis to secondary education and its emergence as a distinct stage of education was traced by hunter commission of 1882. After independence also the matter of secondary education has been given due attention by the central/govt. as a result the control advisory Board of education its 14th meeting held in January 1948 recommended the appointment of a commission to examine the prevailing system of secondary education in the country and suggest measures for its reorganization and improvement. Following this recommendation, the Govt. of India set up the secondary education Commission on 23rd September, 1952 with the chairperson Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar. This commission has recommended for bringing various change in organizational pattern, curriculum, methods of teaching, Teacher training, extra-curricular activities, examination and evaluation system of secondary education. Following the recommendations of NEP of 1986 and Programme of Action, 1992 the Govt. of India initiated different schemes to support children of secondary and higher secondary schools of different points in time. The IEDSS (formerly IEDC) Girls' Hostel, vocational education and ICT in schools schemes were started with the overall objective of providing accessible and relevant secondary education of good quality in India.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), a comprehensive and integrated flagship programme, which was launched by Govt. of India in 2009, for providing quality and meaningful secondary education. RMSA has a vision to make secondary education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons. The Implementation of the scheme started from 2009-10 to generate human capital and provide sufficient conditions for accelerating growth and development and equity as also quality of life for everyone in India.

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Objective of the paper

The main objective of the paper is to analyze the various activities of RMSA in Sivasagar district of Assam.

Methodology

The paper is prepared through the help of both primary and secondary data. For collecting primary data the investigator has selected 50 High schools of Sivasagar district of Assam. The secondary data has been collected from books, journal and E-resources.

Analysis and Discussion**Major Heads of the RMSA**

There are 4 major heads or chief-in-charge of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

Quality improvement: In schools, there was a promotion of environmental education and science laboratories. In addition, RMSA looks into the promotion of central sponsorship schemes of the population education project, international mathematics and science Olympiads. The state governments also provide in-service training for the teachers, infrastructure and research inputs.

Access and equity: RMSA does not only emphasize on providing secondary education for the special focus groups but also gives importance on removing the existing disparities in socio-economic and gender background in the secondary level of education. By special groups, we mean scheduled tribe and scheduled caste groups, minority girls and CWSN children. They are also termed as the vulnerable/ disadvantaged group. Moreover, certain strategies were implemented to provide free access to secondary education

Information communication technologies (ICT): Due to a rise in IT demand in, importance is given on ITC. Components of a merged scheme ICT in school include funding support towards computer education plans; strengthening and reorientation of the staffs s; digitization using audio and video cassettes with the partnership of NGOs; and management of Internet-based education.

Integrated education for disabled children (IEDC): It includes several components for convergence with integrated child development services for early interventions, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the particular group at the elementary level, and special schools.

Objectives of RMSA

- Universal access of secondary education by 2017.
- Bridging gender disparity and socio-economic disparity, disability and other barriers.
- Universal retention by 2020.
- Quality education to all children.
- To provide secondary education within a reasonable distance of km from any habitation and higher secondary schools within 7-10 km.
- Access to secondary education with special references to economically weaker section of the society.

Strategies to achieve RMSA goal

In order to achieve the universal access of secondary education, the following interventions are proposed for

improvement of Access quality and equity of secondary level.

To improve access

- Expansion of existing secondary schools by creating additional class-room.
- Number of school with secondary classes will be increased by up-gradation of upper primary schools.
- To provide a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation this should by 5 Km for secondary schools.
- Opening a new school will be based on school mapping of unreserved areas.
- Provide basic minimum facilities in each school such as furniture, drinking water, toilet, electricity facility, play ground etc.

To improve quality

To improve quality of secondary education following strategies are proposed

- Minimum subject specific teacher for all the six core-subject will have to be maintained by schools.
- Adequate, qualified and trained teacher should be developed in compliance with PTR and existing teacher should be trained.
- PTR- (Class IX and X should be 30 students: 1 Teacher and in classroom pupil ratio = 1 Classroom:40 Pupils.
- Emphases will be given to ensure teachers' attendance by SMDC members.
- Good teachers will be awarded depending upon the learning achievements of students and teacher performance.
- Other learning resources like-science laboratory with required equipments library with sufficient number of books, computer lab with internet connectivity should be available in all schools.
- Inspection of eminent academicians will also be incorporated for measuring the effectiveness of quality education.

To improve equity

- Preferences to areas with concentration of SC/ST/Minority for opening schools Tea community and students below poverty line.
- Special enrolment drive for the weaker section.
- More female teachers in schools.
- Separate toilet blocks for girls.

Some activities under RMSA in Sivasagar district of Assam

From the study the investigator identify the following activities which have been performed in the High Schools, after implementation of RMSA in Sivasagar district of Assam.

Formation of SMDC

All the schools constituted school Management and Development Committee (SMDC) according to the guideline of RMSA. The SMDC has two sub committees

- Infrastructural development committee
- Academic committee

Including the secondary schools into the U.DISE

Following the RMSA guidelines all the schools enter them to the U. DISE.

Training programme for the secondary school teachers

RMSA organized teacher's training programmes of 5 to 10 days for secondary school teachers of the district. Almost all the teachers of the selected schools have been benefited by this training programme.

Special programme for disable children

As a part of inclusive education RMSA organized special teacher training programme for handling Disable children in Sivasagar district.

Life skill education

RMSA also organized training programme for Life Skill education and all the schools participated in this training programmes.

Organizing parent-teacher association

All the schools have constituted Parent-Teacher Association in their schools after the guideline of RMSA and they observe "Parent-Teacher Day".

Appointing teachers for Mathematics, Science and English

For improving the quality of secondary education three assistant teachers had been appointed to teach Mathematics, Science and English in the High Schools under the scheme of RMSA in this district.

Excursion or educational tour to historical places

RMSA also provide the facility for the students of secondary schools for Excursion or educational tour to historical places.

Organize Book Fare and Science Exhibition

Book Fare and Science Exhibitions have been organized by RMSA in Sivasagar district for the benefit of secondary school students. All the schools have participated in these programmes.

Suggestion for improving the quality of secondary education in Sivasagar district of Assam

- Infrastructure facilities of the secondary schools should be improved. For example separate Staff room, common room for teachers etc.
- The playground of the secondary schools should be improved. There are some playgrounds which can be transform to mini stadium.
- Sometimes it is seen that the SMDC president is nominated by the local MLA for political profit. Instead of this the president should be selected publicly and educationalist should be selected in this regard.
- The problem of vacancy of post should be solved. In the High schools a group of teachers work with fixed pay Rs.2500/-per month and some teachers have been working as contractual basis without having service security. For smooth running of the schools these problems should be solved.
- All the teachers of secondary schools should be trained.
- Sufficient teaching materials should be provided to the secondary schools.

Conclusion

In concluding remarks it can be said that after implementation of RMSA the whole scenario of secondary education has changed in all over the country. But if we minutely observed the actual situation of secondary education in Assam, especially in Sivasagar district there are some anomalies in the field of secondary education, which should be removed for qualitative improvement of secondary education.

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