

**Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(Department of School Education and Literacy)**

**Subject: Minutes of 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Grants-in-aid Committee for Innovative & Experimental Scheme held on 24.02.2010 at 3.00 P.M. under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (SE&L).**

The 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Grants-in-Aid Committee (GIAC) for Innovative and Experimental (I&E) Scheme under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was held on 24.02.2010 at 3.00 P.M. under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Anshu Vaish, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

2. Shri Shamshad Khan, Secretary, CREDA, Mirzapur; Father Thomas Felix, Director, Central Institute of Mental Retardation, Thiruvananthapuram; Prof. Mrinal Miri, Dr. V.P. Singh, State Project Director, SSA, Delhi; representatives of SPDs of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand participated in this meeting. Ms. Deepa Das, Smt. Madhuri Deshpande and Smt. Farida Lambay could not attend the meeting due to prior engagements. The representatives of two non-governmental organisations i.e. Katha, New Delhi and Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, New Delhi also participated as special invitees. A complete list of participants is annexed.

3. At the outset, JS(EE.II) welcomed the members of GIAC. This was followed by a round of introduction by the members of the Committee and other participants.

4. Thereafter, the Chairperson, GIAC took up the listed agenda items for consideration and the following decisions were taken:-

**ITEM NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 57<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GIAC HELD ON 22.12.2009**

The minutes of the GIAC meeting held on 22.12.2009 were confirmed.

**ITEM NO.2: ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN ON 22.12.2009**

The Committee noted the Action Taken Report on each item of the decisions taken by the GIAC meeting held on 22.12.2009.

**ITEM NO. 3: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL OF KATHA, NEW DELHI**

JS(EE.II) apprised the members of GIAC that the Committee in its meeting held on 22.12.2009 decided that KATHA should submit a supplementary note to MHRD highlighting (1) Measurable outcomes and deliverables of the project, (2) Methodology for joyful reading, (3) Target groups of the project, (4) Modalities of action research, (5) Effective monitoring & child tracking system, (6) Linkages with formal school system, and (7) English Lab and Computer Aided Learning.

JS(EE.II) further informed the Committee that the decision of the GIAC was conveyed to KATHA vide letter dated 05.01.2010 and KATHA had sent the point-wise replies along with tracking and evaluation format, vide their letter dated 28.01.2010, which were summarised as under :-

- (i) **Measurable outcomes and deliverables of the project** : The quantitative indicator are- 10% increase in students being able to read for fun, 5%

increase in attendance, 5% increase in retention and 10% increase in performance. The qualitative indicators are improved overall confidence of children as a result of involvement in activities promoting group interaction in the learning centres, extent of involvement of the community in the programme, their responsiveness, willingness to send children to school and changes in attitude.

- (ii) **Methodology for joyful reading** : The aim of the E<sup>4</sup> project would be to ramp up reading skills in children of 5-14 years in planned, calibrated ways taking reading proficiency from 60 to 600 words. By “reading well and for fun” Katha means the ability to read, use the text in multiple contexts, and comprehend its holistically & intuitively. Ruchi means “Taste” and the Katha methodology develops a taste for reading in children. Katha has developed the S.P.I.C.E. matrix which helps in building social, personal, intellectual, cultural and environmental awareness in children through innovative activities.
- (iii) **Target groups of the project** : The target group for the speedy and sustainable improvement of equitable elementary education will be 12,000 children (both in school and out of school), ages 5-14 years, living in about 50 slum communities in Delhi inhabited mostly by migrants from backward regions of India, who have come to Delhi in search of work and are engaged in informal activities.
- (iv) **Modalities of action research** : The Research Division will work closely with the children and teachers through a set of activities outlined in the proposal. By “action research” Katha mean “a comparative research on the conditions and effects of various forms of social action and research leading to social action to enable them to share its findings instantly with grassroots workers. Katha have a team of researchers who will use participatory methods of assessment, with focus on retention, performance and attendance of students.
- (v) **Effective monitoring & child tracking system** : Baseline information is collected on each and every household in the slum communities included in the project area. Katha already has a system in place which enables them to keep track of children associated with their programme. Katha has sent a baseline tracking and evaluation format which is used in their other programme. The same matrix will be modified as per need and will be adopted for this programme also.
- (vi) **Linkages with formal school system** : Katha will work with the formal school system – both private and government – in this project through children living in the slums mentioned above.
- (vii) **English Lab and Computer Aided Learning** : The Katha English Academy will pilot this model of teaching English to children coming from underserved communities and different backgrounds having Bangla, Urdu, Punjabi or Hindi Background who have never been previously exposed to this language. Some of the modules will be digital and will be for self practice for children.

Ms. Geeta Dharmarajan of KATHA, who was present in the meeting, further clarified that tracking of children enrolled by KATHA would be as per the format prescribed by it, which could be modified, if required, as per needs. Ms. Dharmarajan assured that the complete tracking record of children enrolled by KATHA under MHRD project would be supplied to the Ministry at the appropriate time.

FA (HRD) wanted to know if the proposal had been recommended by the Government of Delhi and there was a system of independent mid-term evaluation of the project. It was clarified that the SPD, SSA, Delhi had recommended the proposal and there was a system of mid-term evaluation of the project by a Joint Evaluation Team (JET), consisting of one non-official member of GIAC, a nominee of the State Government concerned/SPD and a nominee of Department of School Education & Literacy (EE.II Bureau) after completion of one year of the project. It was also mentioned that even the nominees of the GOI and State Government could be non-official persons also.

Prof. Mrinal Miri made three important observations in the course of discussion – how could league matches referred to by Ms. Dharamrajan, be free from the element of competition and resultant stress on the children; proposed approach to Action Research; and linkage with the formal schools. Ms. Dharmarajan explained the concept of league matches and said that the whole idea was to ensure participation and mutual cooperation. She also said that the proposed approach to Action Research was underpinned by the belief that effectiveness of a project improved on continuously incorporating the empirical evidences of the implementation in the project design. This was a model of concurrent evaluation of the interventions and utilising the learning from practical field work for further fine-tuning the project implementation. Father Felix cited his own experience in this regard and supported the idea. Ms. Dharmarajan also mentioned that the organisation did have experience of working with formal schools and the project were going to focus on out of school hours' activities. Given the fact that the children from slums don't get a conducive environment at their houses for academic activities, the project was going to be of immense help to them.

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Prof. Mrinal Miri appreciated the proposal and opined that the method of reading should be of 20 – 25 children in a league and the same should be on cooperative basis between the children. He felt that the project proposal provides for development of resource centre by KATHA, which should give immediate results on research required for critical works. Prof. Miri further suggested that there should be linkages with the formal schools being run by local administration.

Ms. Kavita Sharma, NCERT underlined the need to avoid any duplication in enrolment of children which was agreed to by the representative of KATHA.

After detailed discussion, the Committee approved the proposal of KATHA, New Delhi for running 50 centres in slums and street communities in Delhi (1 each in Vasant Kunj, Pahlad Pur, Badarpur, Jaitpur, Sadar, 11 in Tuglakbad village, 3 in R.K. Puram, 6 in Trilokpuri, 7 in Kalyanpuri, 3 in Khicdipur, 2 in Mandaoli, 2 in Ganesh Nagar, 3 in Taimoor Nagar, 2 in Kirbi Place, 4 in Uttam Nagar and 2 in Vikas Puri.) to cover 12,000 children in 5 – 14 years of age and 2,000 children in the age group of 5 – 14 years in KATHA

English Academy.(1 centre), with an approved outlay of Rs. 1,46,38,000/- (Rs.1,32,78,000/- as recurring and Rs. 13,60,000/- as non-recurring) with per child cost of Rs. 1045.57 in the first year and Rs. 1,38,86,400/- (Rs. 1,36,36,400/- as recurring and Rs. 2,50,000/- an non-recurring) with per child cost of Rs. 991.88 in the second year of the project. The project was sanctioned for two years with effect from 01.04.2010. GIAC also decided that first instalment of the Grants in Aid for first year of the project might be released to KATHA during the current financial year for necessary preparedness by KATHA and to ensure the commencement of project on 01.04.2010.

#### **ITEM NO. 4: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL OF BHARAT GYAN VIGYAN SAMITI, NEW DELHI**

JS(EE-II) introduced the proposal of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) by saying that the proposal titled "Peoples' Mobilisation for Children's Right to Education" for seven States viz. Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh was referred to SPDs of these States for submission of their comments by 20.01.2010 concerning the voluntary agency's eligibility and suitability, relevance of the proposal and capacity of the agency to implement it in their States etc. She appraised that while the response from the States of Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh had been received supporting the proposal of BGVS, Government of Uttar Pradesh had not furnished the specific comments and the response from Bihar and Chhattisgarh was awaited. She also appraised the GIAC members that the Government of Orissa had expressed their willingness to allow BGVS to start their proposal in Orissa. JS (EE.II) further apprised that the Field Inspection Team, constituted by the Department had recommended the proposal with some observations, NCERT had not recommended the proposal.

Sh. Krishna Kumar of BGVS made a presentation, highlighting the following points, incorporated in their proposal:-

- BGVS has 22,000 SHGs, 600 Gyan Vigyan Vidyalas, 329 CECs and 1500 Bal Manchs covering 300 districts in 23 States of the country with over 2,00,000 voluntary activists.
- BGVS was actively involved in making the Right to Education Act a reality.
- The objectives of the BGVS project proposal are as under :-
  - To create awareness for meaningful implementation of RTE using various media including Kalajatha
  - To form trained Core Group on RTE of 20-25 people in 4000 GPs of 100 Blocks of 7 States.
  - To form sustainable Resource Groups in these GPs and Blocks.
- The programme component of the proposal includes formation of Resource Groups (National, State, Block, GP), preparation of material, organisation of Kalajathas, conducting workshops and Conventions, building Shiksha Adhikar Samiti at GP level.
- BGVS proposal provides formation of the groups as under :-
  - Formation of National Core Group of 25 – 30 members
  - Formation of State level Resource Group of 20 – 25 members
  - Formation of Block level Resource Group of 10 – 15 members
  - Formation of Panchayat level Group of 8 – 10 members
- BGVS will prepare the publicity material to communicate RTE legislation through Leaflets, Posters, Multi-media Presentation and Guide books.
- Programme implementation will be vigorously monitored both through fortnightly reports from block level and telephonic inquiries.

- The estimated budget for the proposal for two years is Rs.315.00 lakhs, including an overhead of Rs. 29.00 lakhs.

Ms. Kavita Sharma, NCERT reiterated the comments of NCERT and opined that the proposal of BGVS was an extension activity for Community Mobilisation, but seemed to be under impression that it was proposed under AIE component of the SSA, and had been examined from that perspective in NCERT.

Father Thomas Felix enquired about the innovation involved in the proposal, age group of children proposed to be covered by VA and material to be used by VA, especially in rural areas.

Mr. Shamshad Khan appreciated the proposal saying that the linkages with RTE Act was a welcome step and no target would be possible to be fixed under the project indicating the age group of children and number of children.

Sh. Mrinal Miri stated that he was impressed by the contents of the proposal as the sensitisation and involvement of community was vital for the enforcement of RTE Act.

Sh. Chandrahas Dubey, representative of SPD, SSA, Madhya Pradesh and Sh. Laxman kumar Sinha, representative of SPD, SSA, Jharkhand stated that they had no separate comments to offer as the proposal of BGVS had already been supported by their States.

FA (HRD) made following observations:-

- (i) NCERT had not recommended the proposal since it was under the impression that the proposal was for AIE/EGS, and it was necessary for NCERT to reconsider/review the proposal.
- (ii) Overhead expenditure of Rs. 29.00 lakh could be allowed only if it was being allowed in respect of other projects. Chairperson emphasised the need for expanding the idea of innovation in education and acknowledging that the efficacy of the efforts made for improving classrooms depended largely on the awareness and involvement of community. She also agreed that the spread of the project was to be decided subject to the States' responses and it should be referred back to NCERT for their views.

FA (HRD) said that the financial estimates would require reworking in view of the change of States to be covered.

After detailed discussion, GIAC decided as under:-

- (1) Approved the proposal of BGVS for implementation in seven States i.e. Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa (in place of Uttar Pradesh) with the condition that the comments of Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Orissa will be obtained by the Ministry before funds are released;
- (2) NCERT will be requested to review the matter and send their comments again to MHRD for consideration;

- (3) The estimated budget of two year's project is Rs. 315.00 lakhs but BGVS will submit the revised budget to the Ministry, which will be approved finally by the Secretary (SE&L) & Chairperson, GIAC;
- (4) The date of commencement of the project proposal of BGVS will be decided by the Secretary (SE&L) & Chairperson, GIAC;
- (5) BGVS will ensure that the publicity material to be used by BGVS in the form of leaflets, posters and multi-media presentations etc. will not carry any unpleasant material and share the same with MHRD before using the same.

**ITEM NO. 5: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL OF PRATHAM for Bihar project run from 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2008.**

It was felt that the decision to settle the case of PRATHAM for their Innovative & Experimental Education project run in four districts of Bihar from 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2008 needs to be considered by the Department. Therefore, this item was withdrawn.

**ITEM NO. 6: STATUS OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED IN THE MINISTRY SINCE LAST MEETING OF GIAC HELD ON 22.12.2009.**

GIAC noted that two proposals of VAs (KATHA, New Delhi and BGVS, New Delhi) were under consideration in the Department of School Education and Literacy. Which have been considered at Item No.3 and 4 above, while four proposals, in which there was no innovation, were referred to concerned SPDs for appropriate action under EGS/AIE component of SSA and six proposals, which could not be covered under I&E Scheme, were returned to the concerned NGOs.

Chairperson thanked all members of the GIAC for their contribution and work.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE GRANTS-IN-AID COMMITTEE FOR  
INNOVATIVE AND EXPERIMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECTS HELD ON  
24.02.2010**

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|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Ms. Anshu Vaish<br>Secretary (SE&L)<br>Department of School Education & Literacy<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development<br>Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.      | Chairperson |
| 2. | Shri S.K. Ray,<br>AS&FA(HRD)<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development<br>Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.  | Member      |
| 3. | Ms. Anita Kaul,<br>Joint Secretary (SE&L)<br>Department of School Education & Literacy<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development<br>Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi | Member      |
| 4. | Father Thomas Felix<br>Director<br>Central Institute of Mental Retardation (CIMR)<br>Thiruvananthapuram<br>Kerala   | Member      |
| 5. | Shri Shamshad Khan<br>Secretary<br>CREDA<br>490, Awas Vikas Colony<br>Mirzapur, U.P.  | Member      |
| 6. | Shri Mrinal Miri<br>Former Vice-Chancellor,<br>NEHU, Shillong<br>Presently settled at Delhi   | Member      |
| 7. | Dr. V.P. Singh,<br>State Project Director<br>SSA, Delhi   | Member      |
| 8. | Shri Chandrahas Dubey,<br>AMD, SSA,<br>Madhya Pradesh   | Member      |
| 9. | Shri Laxman Kumar Sinha,<br>Dy. Director,<br>Secondary Education,<br>Government of Jharkhand,<br>Ranchi   | Member      |

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| 10.  | Ms. Sarita Mittal<br>Director(Finance)<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development   | Member           |
| 11.  | Dr. Kavita Sharma,<br>Sr. Lecturer<br>DEE, NCERT<br>New Delhi  | Member           |
| 12.. | Shri Shankar Sharan,<br>Lecturer<br>NCERT, New Delhi   | Member           |
| 13.  | Ms. Geeta Dharmarajan<br>KATHA,<br>New Delhi   | Special Invitee  |
| 14.  | Shri Anand Singh Rana,<br>KATHA,<br>New Delhi  | Special Invitee  |
| 15.  | Ms. Parvinder Kaur,<br>KATHA,<br>New Delhi   | Special Invitee  |
| 16.  | Shri K.K. Krishna Kumar,<br>President,<br>BGVS, New Delhi  | Special Invitee  |
| 17.  | Ms. Asha Mishra,<br>Secretary,<br>BGVS,<br>New Delhi   | Special Invitee  |
| 18.  | Shri P.K. Tiwari,<br>Director,<br>Department of School Education & Literacy<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development<br>Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi | Member Secretary |

Shri Ravi Chand, Under Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development assisted the Committee.