

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PAB OF SSA, HELD ON 30RD APRIL 30, 2008 TO CONSIDER THE AWP&B (2008-09) OF DEP-SSA (IGNOU)

1. A meeting of the PAB was held on April, 30, 2008 to consider the AWP&B, 2008-09 submitted by DEP-SSA (IGNOU). The meeting was chaired by Secretary (SE&L). The list of participants is at **Annexure I**.
2. PAB noted the progress against activities sanctioned to DEP-SSA in 2007-08, such as National teleconferences, duplication of print, audio and video materials, national seminars, and SRG meetings. It was noted that only 8 meetings of the State Resource Groups could be held, against a target of 30. Prof. M.L. Koul, Project Director, DEP-SSA, explained that the SRG meetings are held at the initiative of States at their convenience. However, these meetings are important as they help States in understanding the potential of distance education in SSA.
3. Dr. S.K. Prasad, Programme Officer, DEP-SSA, made a brief presentation on the key proposals for 2008-09. He informed that besides national level meetings, teleconferences, etc. IGNOU has also proposed activities for improving the quality of Science and Mathematics teaching at upper primary level and for strengthening the quality of English teaching at primary level, in 2008-09. JS(EE-II) welcomed IGNOU's proposal for capacity building activities in English at primary and science and mathematics at upper primary. She was of the view that development of audio and video material should be accorded priority while use of print material should be at a minimum.
4. JS(EE-II) noted that IGNOU is playing an important role in imparting training to untrained teachers under SSA. As per information furnished by IGNOU, 1.08 lakh teachers were enrolled in the Certificate in Primary Education (CPE) and Diploma in Primary Education (DPE) programmes. She appreciated that IGNOU has responded to the problems in States like Chhattisgarh, Manipur and Jharkhand and requested that better coordination with Sikkim and Meghalaya SSA programmes and CPE coordination be affected. SSA, Uttar Pradesh has been asked to dialogue with IGNOU about training of its untrained Shiksha Mitras. She stated that States are increasingly looking towards IGNOU for collaboration in imparting professional training to their untrained teachers. As such, IGNOU should strive to improve the content and delivery of the programmes and also strengthen its regional centers appropriately. She also requested IGNOU representatives to obtain the level of sanctions for untrained teachers, state-wise, from Deputy Secretary, MHRD and TSG, Pedagogy Unit, for such teachers to be covered under 2008-09 and to plan effective coordination with regional Directors of IGNOU on that basis. Review of the same would be done in quarterly Pedagogy meetings of the States by MHRD and in meetings of SSA SPDs and State Education Secretaries in which IGNOU would need to present its progress State-wise.
5. She further stated that MHRD intends to review the Rajiv Gandhi Project for EDUSAT supported elementary education on 9th May, 2008. IGNOU and all four State Project Directors of the States covered under this programme are being invited

- to attend. IGNOU should arrange for a presentation of the research study evaluating the impact of this project on the learning achievement of children and updates on State-wise status of the project.
6. JS(EE-II) emphasized that programmes and activities of DEP-SSA should reflect the current priorities in the SSA for quality enhancement in elementary education.
 7. It was decided that the number of teleconferences in 2008-09 should be increased as these have been found to be useful in monitoring and disseminating information on SSA implementation, from time to time. There will be 15 teleconferences in 2008-09 of which ten would be utilized by MHRD for monitoring various SSA components and five would be used by DEP-SSA, NCERT and NUEPA for capacity building on quality related issues.
 8. It was also decided that three National Seminars would be organized by DEP-SSA on the following themes :
 - a. Strengthening teaching of Science and Mathematics at upper primary
 - b. Strengthening teaching of English at primary level
 - c. Distance education activities in States for quality improvement.
 9. The key activities approved in 2008-09 are as follows:

Sr. No.	Programme/Activities	Physical target 2008-09	Financial target 2008-09 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	National level meetings	5	6.0
2.	State Resource Group meetings	8	4.0
3.	Capacity building activities for improving quality of Science and Maths teaching at upper primary level.	-	50.0
4.	Activities for strengthening quality of English teaching at primary level	-	15.0
5.	National teleconferences	15	15.0
6.	National level Seminars/ Conferences	3	9.0
7.	Salary of project staff at the National level		
	a) core staff		33.62
	b) support staff		9.23

10. **The PAB approved a total outlay of Rs. 153.85 lakh for DEP-SSA for the year 2008-09. Details of activities and costing tables are at Annexure II.**

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