

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD OF SSA,  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2009 TO CONSIDER THE AWP&B, 2009-10 OF NCERT.**

\*\*\*\*\*

1. A meeting of the PAB was held on February 25, 2009 to consider the AWP&B for 2009-10 submitted by NCERT. The meeting was chaired by Secretary (SE&L). List of participants is at **Annexure 1**.
  
2. Mr. Binay Pattanayak, Chief Consultant (Pedagogy), TSG informed the PAB that the Plans were received from Department of Elementary Education (DEE), Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs), Reading Development Cell (RDC - CIET), Department of Education in Science and Mathematics Education (DESM), Department of Educational Measurement and Evaluation (DEME), Department of Languages (DoL), and Department of Education in Social Sciences & Humanities (DESSH). The Appraisal Team reviewed the progress of past interventions and assessed the proposals submitted by the Heads of Departments.
  - Prof. I. K. Bansal, DEE, NCERT appraised the PAB of the entire gamut of activities undertaken by NCERT under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). NCERT is involved in curriculum, syllabi and textbooks development, pupil achievement surveys, programmes for strengthening early reading, quality monitoring, documentation of good practices in pedagogy, evolving guidelines for in-service teacher training, etc. NCERT also is the Secretariat for the National Resource group for quality in SSA.
  
3. PAB reviewed the progress of various interventions against the PAB approval in 2008 – 09. The same is indicated below.

**a. Progress of activities of Department of Elementary Education under SSA**

Sl.	Activities	Progress in 2008 - 09
<b>I</b>	<b>Monitoring &amp; Capacity Building</b>	
(i)	Project Staff	All staff appointed
(ii)	Implementation of Quality Monitoring Formats in all States/UTs	Provided feedback on Quality Monitoring Reports received from States / UTs
(iii)	Strengthening Quality Management in five States through Field Based Interventions (For States at Level I)	Conducted Capacity Building Workshops at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bihar (June 2-3, '08 and Sept. 17-19, '08)</li> <li>- Delhi (September 25-26, 2008)</li> <li>- Goa (October 22-24, 2008)</li> <li>- Sikkim (November 5-8, 2008)</li> <li>- Haryana (August 29-30, 2008)</li> <li>- Meghalaya (Proposed in March, 2009)</li> </ul>
(iv)	Academic Support to States/UTs on Quality improvement including QMT under SSA (for States at Level II)	Training Programmes conducted at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assam (September 22-23, 2008)</li> <li>- Diu (June 2-3, 2008)</li> <li>- Punjab (February 9-10, 2009)</li> </ul>

<b>Sl.</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress in 2008 - 09</b>
(v)	Three Regional Conferences Level III on Monitoring Quality Dimensions under SSA	Three regional conferences conducted at: - Bangalore (September 22-26,2008) - Baroda (October 13-17, 2008) - Puducherry (February 16-20, 2009)
(vi)	Printing of Monitoring Formats for Quality Dimensions under SSA (Hindi and English) (Spillover in 2008-09)	To be printed (Now photocopies of the formats are used in various capacity building workshops)
(vii)	Meeting of the National Resource Group for SSA (NRG for SSA)	Organised two meeting. (May16 and Oct. 23, 08)
(viii)	National Consultative Meet on Implementation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Scheme under SSA (3days)	Conducted (August 11-12, 2008)
(ix)	Publication of case Studies of Innovations for Improving the Retention and Learning Achievement of Children (six case studies, conducted during 2007-08)	To be printed
(x)	Publication of Report of National Meet on Life Skills (Spill over in 2008-09)	Manuscript is being finalized
<b>II</b>	<b>Development of Indicators of Learning</b>	
(xi)	Development of Indicators of Learning for Class V and Field Trial of Tools for Assessment for Classes III and V.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicators developed for Classes III and V in Environmental Studies, Mathematics and Hindi Language.</li> <li>▪ Tools/ Items developed for Class III, the work for Class V is in progress.</li> <li>▪ Field trial for both classes in all three curricular areas will be conducted and completed by December 2009.</li> </ul>
(xii)	Development of Indicators of Learning and Field trial of tools of Assessment for Class VIII in Science and Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicators of learning and tools in Science and Mathematics for Class VIII developed.</li> <li>▪ Field Trial of Tools will be conducted in February/ March 2009 in 24 schools from three States.</li> <li>▪ Project expected to be completed by March end 2009.</li> </ul>
(xiii)	Development of Indicators of Learning and Field trial of tools of Assessment for Class VIII in Social Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicators for History developed.</li> <li>▪ The indicators for Geography and Social and Political life are being developed and will be ready by March 2009.</li> <li>▪ Subsequently tool development and trial of the same will be undertaken and completed by September 2009.</li> </ul>

Sl.	Activities	Progress in 2008 - 09
(xiv)	Development of Indicators of Learning and Field trial of tools of Assessment for Class VIII in Hindi and English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicators for Hindi and English developed. Tool development for both curricular areas is in process.</li> <li>▪ Subsequently field trial will be conducted and completed by September 2009.</li> </ul>
<b>III</b>	<b>Regional Level Sharing Meetings under SSA</b>	
(xv)	Regional level sharing meeting on quality of elementary education under SSA (RIE Mysore)	Accomplished (21-22 Jan. 2009)
(xvi)	Regional level sharing meeting on quality of elementary education under SSA, workshop on diagnostic testing and remedial teaching, training of DIET, etc. in action research (NERIE Shillong)	Accomplished (16-17 Jan. 2009)
(xvii)	Regional level sharing meeting on quality of elementary education under SSA (RIE, AJMER)	To be conducted in March 2009
(xviii)	Regional level sharing meeting on quality of elementary education under SSA (RIE Bhopal)	To be conducted in March 2009
(xix)	Regional level sharing meeting on quality of elementary education under SSA (RIE Bhubaneswar)	To be conducted in March 2009

It was observed that DEE, NCERT carried out majority of the activities in 2009 – 10. However, PAB expressed concern regarding poor performance of RIEs under SSA. After detailed discussion following activities for 2009 – 10 were approved for DEE.

- Project staff (Two Senior Consultants, One Consultant, Three Senior Research Associates and Three Computer Operators) for the various activities indicated below.
- Five workshops for extending need based academic support to States/ UTs to improve quality under SSA.
- Two meetings of National resource Group (NRG – quality) for SSA.
- Printing of Formats for Quality Dimensions under SSA (both in English and Hindi).
- Keeping in view the poor performance of RIEs, no amount was approved for the RIEs for 2009 – 10. PAB advised the DEE to strengthen the SSA Cells in RIEs and engage them in quality improvement initiatives in states by taking support from the States under SSA.

#### **b. Progress made by *Early Reading Development Cell (RDC)***

3. Prof. Manjula Mathur, Head, Reading Cell, NCERT shared the progress of Early Reading Development Programme in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh and in other states. Following points were discussed.

Sl. No.	Activities	Progress in 2008 - 09
1.	<b>Development of Graded Reading Series and Selection of Children's Literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group constituted for the job.</li> <li>• The group has developed a graded reading series of forty stories. There are four levels in the series spread across five themes. The themes are <i>relationships, animals, musical instruments and games, things around us</i> and <i>food items</i>.</li> <li>• A National Review Committee reviewed the series on the basis of constitutional values, various perspectives on social justice, quality of children's literature and the progressive pedagogy of early reading and approved it.</li> <li>• A set of 40 books along with a brochure in Hindi and English on this graded series which is titled <b>Barkha</b> has been published and will reach the schools under Mathura pilot project soon.</li> <li>• The Cell has also made a <b>list of good children's literature</b> published by various publishers and organizations. 95 good works of children's literature (in <b>Hindi</b>) listed out is uploaded on the NCERT website. A list of Children's literature in <b>English</b> recommended by a panel of experts has been prepared and will be available on NCERT website shortly. The annotated bibliography of these recommended books is also under publication.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Development of material for Teacher training on pedagogy of reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading material has been developed in the form of a teacher's manual on reading, and an accompanying handbook on training. Besides these, several other articles and readings have been identified which will be read and delved into during the training programme.</li> <li>• A <b>dossier in English</b> titled "<b>Reading for Meaning</b>" consisting of widely acclaimed research works on early reading has been published. <b>Padhne ki dehleez par</b> and <b>Padhne ki shuruwat</b> compilations of articles in <b>Hindi</b> on reading has also been published. States may purchase copies of manual '<b>Padhne ki samajh</b>' and <b>dossiers</b> for discussion with core team members of the reading cell, teachers, resource groups and for their training programmes.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Development of CDs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To further enhance the understanding of reading and to enrich the teacher training programmes few CDs have been developed. These CDs highlight and talk about various aspects of reading e.g. reading as a process, activities like story telling as important components of reading, and also explains how to use graded reading series - Barkha and good children's books for learning to read.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Pilot project in Mathura</b>	The Reading Development Cell has implemented a pilot project in 550 rural schools in 5 blocks of Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh since July 2007. In the selected schools, Reading Corners are being developed and the teachers are being trained to be able to focus on the innovative pedagogy of reading.

Sl. No.	Activities	Progress in 2008 - 09
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A baseline study</b> was conducted with the help of local volunteers and DIET Mathura.</li> <li>• <b>A graded reading series – <i>Barkha</i></b> has been developed <b>to be distributed free</b> in Mathura schools.</li> <li>• <b>A list of good children’s literature in Hindi and English</b> has been prepared with consultation and suggestions of experts.</li> <li>• <b>A set of 95 books</b> of children literature in <b>Hindi</b> has been sent to each school covered under this project in Mathura district.</li> <li>• <b>Annotated bibliography</b> of these selected books of children’s literature in <b>Hindi and English</b> is under publication.</li> <li>• A children’s <b>book-fair</b> was <b>organized</b> in Paintha village of Goverdhan block of Mathura district to generate awareness regarding reading culture amongst community.</li> <li>• <b>Training of master Trainers and teachers</b> 40 Master trainers have been identified and trained in 3 phases for teacher training programmes. Reading experts, teachers educators, practicing progressive teachers, NGOs have been identified as resource persons.</li> <li>• <b>Training Programme for Teachers</b> Training programme for <b>1082 teachers</b> (28 to 30 training programmes) of 5 blocks of <b>Mathura District</b> have been conducted from October 2008 to January 2009. The training programme covered all the project schools of these blocks.</li> <li>• <b>Representatives from States</b> were invited to participate in the on-going teacher training programmes in Mathura. Till now <b>20 representatives</b> from <b>8 States; Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh</b> have participated in this programme. SSA Lucknow is also participating as coordinator in the on-going teacher training programme.</li> <li>• <b>Padhne ki samajh</b>, manual on reading and the training handbook brought out by RDC is being used by master trainer for these teacher training programmes.</li> <li>• <b>Designing and Creating Reading Corners</b> A standard design has been created by the architects for the reading corner/rooms. 3 factors were considered. They are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Space for displaying and storing books.</li> <li>- Arrangement for sitting space for children.</li> <li>- Transforming the physical space to create a conducive, lively and inviting space for reading.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.	<b>Setting up of Reading Cells across States</b>	<p>The Mathura pilot programme focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of sound reading skills with an ability to read with comprehension.</li> <li>• An interest in reading and books.</li> <li>• A habit of reading for leisure &amp; pleasure.</li> <li>• Creating a cadre of teachers well-acquainted with pedagogy of reading.</li> </ul>

Sl. No.	Activities	Progress in 2008 - 09
		The following States and UTs (total 19) have initiated Early Reading Programme in their respective states/ UTs. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Kerala, Bihar, Maharashtra, Goa, Mizoram, Gujarat, Orissa, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Puducherry

Prof. Mathur proposed the following activities of RDC in 2009 – 10.

1. Continue to provide academic support to the states.
2. Follow up and monitor the activities of the reading cells established in various states.
3. Share all the published materials such as teachers' manual and training handbook, *Barkha* - graded reading series, dossiers, etc. with the states.
4. It will begin the follow up mechanism to get feedback of teachers and children from Mathura pilot project schools.
5. Undertake print & video the activities of RDC & also record the field based experiences of teachers & children.

PAB appreciated the efforts made by RDC towards development of dossiers on reading pedagogy, teacher training manual, graded reader series and their field trialing in Mathura districts. Joint Secretary (EE-II) clarified that initially the RDC was conceptualized for two years to design an appropriate early reading programme and help all the States in strengthening their ongoing reading development programmes in early primary years of schooling. PAB advised RDC to use the materials already developed effectively and collaborate with states to improve the nature of reading pedagogy in schools. PAB did not approve any new activity of RDC for 2009 – 10 except strengthening the ongoing ones and completion of the pending ones. Following activities were approved.

- Meeting of the Advisory Board and Steering Committee (Two Meetings)
- Publication of Bi – Monthly Children's Magazine (5 issues) for June 2009 to March 2010
- Documentation, Monitoring and evaluation of the project (outsource)
- Seminar and Conferences on the theory and practices of Reading and children's literature. (spill over only)
- Teacher Refresher Programme (spill over only)
- Salaries for two Consultants, five JPFs, One Administrative - cum - Finance Officer, One Circulation Manager, One Assistant (with accounts background), One Junior Assistant, Two DTP Operators Grade I, One DTP Operator Grade II (English, Hindi), One Graphic Designer/ Artist, Two peons-cum-messengers
- Office Expenses and Travel Expenses

#### c. Progress of Group Arithmetic in developing Early Mathematics Programme

4. Prof. Dharam Parkash, Group Arithmetic, DESM, NCERT shared the progress of Group Arithmetic as follows.

Sl. No.	Activities	Progress in 2008 - 09
1.	Development of	Three sets of prototype learning materials have been

Sl. No.	Activities	Progress in 2008 - 09
	Learning Kit	prepared, process for inviting tenders for large scale production and rate contract for supply for one year is going on.
2.	Development of Teacher Training Manual	Teachers Manual is at editing stage and it is expected that English and Hindi version of the Teachers Manual will be ready by 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2009 for Class 1 & 2 Mathematics teachers.
3.	Development of Users' Manual for Learning Kit	Users Manual for the learning material which will include detailed extension activities that could be done with the materials, will be ready by February 2009 end.
4.	Development of worksheets and activities	A compilation of worksheets and activities related to various mathematical concepts will also be ready by March end for dissemination purposes.
5.	Teacher training programme in selected states	One three-day teachers training programme for the teachers of ten project schools in Uttarakhand was undertaken and teachers were given an assignment to try out and provide feedback on 20 worksheets related to various mathematical concepts so that further necessary modifications (if needed) can be done in the worksheets. Training programme for project school teachers of Andhra Pradesh has been planned for 1 <sup>st</sup> week of March 2009.
6.	Bridge course in Mathematics for KGBV	Work on the Bridge Course in Mathematics for Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas: After a visit & preliminary testing, the content and strategies for the Bridge Course have been finalized. Material development has started

Secretary (SE&L) appreciated the efforts of the Group Arithmetic and encouraged them to carry on the activities rigorously to improve the quality of Early Mathematics learning under SSA. PAB approved the following activities of Group Arithmetic (GA) for 2009 – 10.

- Activities for consolidation of work done for Class 1 & 2 (spill over only)
- Activities for developing Bridge Course for Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya students and teachers training package in the Bridge Course. (*Note: Partial budgetary support has been asked for as rest of the budget will be provided by NCERT*)
- Miscellaneous expenditure including travel and various inputs like computers etc.
- Salary for Three Teacher Fellows, One Consultant, One Craftsman-cum-Model Maker, One Administrative Assistant and One Peon-cum-General Helper.

#### **d. Progress of activities of DESM**

6. Prof. Dharam Parkash, DESM, NCERT informed the PAB that the DESM has proposed capacity building of teachers without background of science or, mathematics at Upper Primary level. This entails training key resource persons (KRPs) from different states, using a two-stage training package of 10 day duration and 11 days duration. The proposal also included assistance to States in organizing the training programmes for the teachers.

Training of the KRPs is supposed to be conducted in 2 phases by DESM, NCERT. First phase of 10 days duration will be organized at Delhi in October 2009. Fifty KRPs for Science and fifty KRPs for Mathematics will be separately trained in two groups in this programme.

Second phase of training of 11 days duration will be organized by DESM at NCERT, New Delhi in January 2010. At this stage, RPs constituted as in 10 days training will work in batches. First batch will work for first 4 days, second batch also for 4 days, and third for 3 days.

After detailed discussion, PAB approved the following for 2009 – 10.

- Development of 21 days training module in science and mathematics separately for Upper Primary level
- 10 days training, 11 days training
- Salary for two DTP operators

#### e. Progress of activities of DEME

7. Dr. Santosh from DEME, NCERT briefed the PAB about the initiatives of DEME under SSA.

The Department undertakes Learning Achievement Surveys at different stages of School Education under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Mid Term Achievement Surveys at the End of Classes III and VII/VIII was sanctioned in two phases as per details given below:

Phase	Proposed	Sanctioned	Utilised in Rs.	Unspent in Rs.
Phase-I (2007 - 08)	2,54,83,000	2,43,72,000	2,25,11,323	43,32,471
Phase-II (2008 - 09)	1,06,67,000	89,58,000		
Total (2007 - 09)	36,15,000	33,33,000	2,25,11,323	43,32,471

Dr. Santosh informed the PAB that the National as well as State Reports of the Midterm Achievement Survey (MAS) for Classes III and VII/VIII are under preparation for printing, dissemination. Besides, the Department proposed:

- Terminal Achievement Survey (TAS) at the End of Class V in two phases in 2009 – 10 and 2010 – 11.
- Completion of the activities related to MAS (class III, VII/ VIII)
- Phase I of TAS (class V)

7. The PAB approved the following key activities for NCERT for 2009 – 10.

S. No.	Title of the Programme	Proposed	Approved
		(Rs. in lakhs)	
I.	DEE, NCERT		

S. No.	Title of the Programme	Proposed	Approved
		(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Project staff salary	25.44	25.44
	Need Based Academic Support to States/ UTs to Monitor Quality Dimensions under SSA (five workshops)	8.00	5.00
	Three National Workshops on Diagnostic Testing and Remedial Teaching	10.00	0
	Evaluation of Quality Initiatives of the States/ UTs ( 4 Studies)	50.00	0
	Development of Indicators of Learning for Class V and Field Trial of Tools for Assessment for Classes III and V <b>(spillover in 2009-10)</b>	5.50	0
	Two meetings of the National Resource Group (NRG) for SSA	7.00	7.00
	Publication of Case Studies of Innovations for Improving the Retention and Learning Achievement of Children (six case studies, conducted during 2007-08) <b>(spillover in 2009-10)</b>	7.00	0
	Publication of Report of National Meet on Life Skills <b>(Spillover)</b>	2.00	0
	Printing of Monitoring Formats for Quality Dimensions under SSA (Hindi and English) <b>(Spillover)</b>	1.00	1.00
	National Conference of Pedagogy Coordinators and SCERT Personnel for Enhancing Quality of Elementary Education under SSA	8.00	0
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>123.94</b>	<b>38.44</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Regional Institutes of Education</b>		
i.	RIE, Ajmer	3.00	0
ii.	RIE, Bhopal	3.00	0
iii.	RIE, Mysore	7.11	0
iv.	RIE, Bhubaneswar	3.00	0
v.	NERIE, Shillong	3.00	0
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>19.11</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Early Reading Development Programme (RDC)</b>		
	Reading Development Programme including salary	<b>103.999</b>	<b>53.678</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>DESM</b>		
i.	Training for teachers without Science & Mathematics background	<b>13.50</b>	<b>8.50</b>
ii.	Group Arithmetic: Early Mathematics Development Programme	<b>62.40</b>	<b>29.50</b>

S. No.	Title of the Programme	Proposed	Approved
		(Rs. in lakhs)	
V.	DEME		
	Learning Achievement Surveys (including staff salary)	218.34	184.70
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>554.285</b>	<b>314.818</b>

Detailed costing is at **Annexure – II**.

8. After discussion of AWP & B the following decisions were also taken by PAB:
- i. DEE, NCERT should organize the next National Resource Group meeting soon to track the progress of various quality related interventions under SSA and plan for future course of action.
  - ii. Evaluation of four case studies related to quality improvement would include Activity Based Learning Programme (ABL) of Tamilnadu, Children’s Learning Acceleration Programme for Sustainability (CLAPS) of Andhra Pradesh, Aadhar of Himachal Pradesh and Multi Lingual Education programme (MLE) of Orissa. Support for the same will be mobilized from the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF).
  - iii. Keeping in view the poor performance of RIEs, NCERT should activate the SSA cells in the RIEs. These SSA cells can collaborate with their concerned states for improving the pedagogical processes in schools through planned measures and continuous support.
  - iv. Reading Development Cell (RDC) must collaborate with all States and UTs on continuous basis to strengthen the ongoing Early Reading Development Programmes at Primary level. Each State should be guided to design and implement sound reading development programmes.
  - v. Group Arithmetic would share its experience and resources related to Early Mathematics programme with all the States and help them in strengthening their ongoing Mathematics programmes in early grades.
  - vi. DEME in collaboration with DEE and other concerned Departments of NCERT will design the tools for field trialing of the appropriate and verifiable indicators and submit quarterly progress updates. DEE in collaboration with Pedagogy Unit, TSG will expose the State authorities to the indicators and tools for their effective use in schools.
  - vii. All the Departments, i. e., Department of Elementary Education (DEE), Reading Development Cell (RDC - CIET), Department of Education in Science and Mathematics Education (DESM), and Department of Educational Measurement

and Evaluation (DEME) must submit a quarterly progress report to Ministry and Pedagogy Unit (TSG). A detailed item – wise costing sheets are annexed.

9. A total amount of Rs. 314.818 lakh was sanctioned towards NCERT's AWP&B 2009 - 10 for support to SSA under the National component.

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