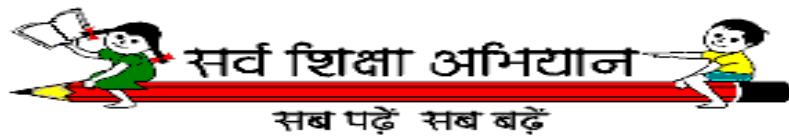


**MONITORING REPORT OF
PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
ON SSA FOR
UNION TERRITORY OF PONDICHERRY
FOR THE PERIOD
1ST APRIL 2006 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2006**

**DISTRICT COVERED
KARAIKAL**



**HALF YEARLY MONITORING REPORT ON
THE PROGRESS OF SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN IN
THE KARAİKAL DISTRICT OF
UNION TERRITORY OF PONDICHERRY**

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INTRODUCTION

Location of the District

Karaikal is located on the shore of Bay of Bengal, 135 kms from Pondicherry. It is surrounded by the Nagai District of Tamilnadu. Some 10 kms north of Karaikal, the historically famous Dutch settlement of Tranquebar is situated. The total area of Karaikal is 160 sq km.

DISTRICT PROFILE

The District of Karaikal consists of one municipality

1. Karaikal Municipality

There are 5 Commune Panchayats in the District of Karaikal they are:

1. Thirunallar Commune
2. Neravy Commune
3. Nedungadu Commune
4. Kottucherry Commune
5. T.R. Pattinam Commune

SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

A new scheme viz., Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been introduced by the government of India to universalize elementary education by making the community the owner of the education system. The scheme will provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the 6-14 age group by 2010 and bridge social, regional and gender gaps.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has the following objectives:

- **All children** in school, education guarantee centre, alternative school, ‘back to school’ camp by 2003.
- All children **complete five years** of primary schooling by 2007.
- All children **complete eight years** of elementary schooling by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of **satisfactory quality** with emphasis on education for life.
- **Bridge all gender and social category gaps** at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- **Universal retention** by 2010.

The implementation of SSA will make the Union Territory of Pondicherry realize the promulgation found in the Article 45 of the Indian Constitution, which has been beyond our reach so far.

METHODOLOGY

The direct participant interview method was adopted for collection of required data from the selected schools covering all the 5 Communes and one Municipality of total Karaikal District. Immense care was taken to select the sample school in rural and urban areas of Karaikal.

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

A Monitoring questionnaire was prepared to study various indicators based on the monitoring format developed by the NCERT was adopted.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

In Karaikal district the SSA scheme was implemented in 147 schools out of which 16 schools were taken for sample survey. Among these 16 schools 4 schools are functioning with both primary and upper primary education so, in total 20 schools funded for the implementation of SSA scheme all these schools were taken as sample and monitored.

Table 1. The schools studied

Sl.No.	School Type	Education Level		
		Primary	Upper Primary	Total
1	Primary School	9	-	9
2.	Upper Primary	-	2 + 2*	2
3.	High School	-	3 + 2*	3
4.	Higher Sec. School	-	2	2
	Total	9	7	16

* Schools functioning with both primary and upper primary and each school are drawing two funds.

The above table 1, shows that the total number of schools in which SSA is implemented in Karaikal District is 147 and the number of schools taken for study is 20 covering about 14% of the schools in total Karaikal district, thus keeping as per the required norms of the Revised Terms of Reference. The list of schools visited is presented in the *Appendix I*.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The data collected partially through from the relevant records of the SPO, DPO and schools. Further more information were collected by discussion with the personnel in the field were analyzed qualitatively. The data collected through questionnaire were scored, tabulated and analysed. These formed an important part of the analysis, as they constituted the reactions and suggestions of the people in the field. Percentages were used to quantify the responses given by the concerned. Interpretation was done in a descriptive way giving due weightage to all sources of data.

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Based on the data collected from the Karaikal district schools in the different blocks and DPO, SPO, the interpretation of data is presented bellow:

Schools Particulars

Table: 2 Different Schools studied in Karaikal District

School Category				
Primary	Upper Primary with Primary	High School with Primary & Upper Primary	Higher Sec. School with Upper Primary	Total
9 (48%)	4 (20%)	5 (25%)	2 (10%)	20 (100%)

The above table 2 shows that out of 20 schools visited 45 per cent of the schools are independent primary schools, 20 per cent of the schools are with primary and upper primary, 25 per cent of the primary and upper primary schools

are attached with High school and the rest 10 per cent of the higher secondary schools are running with upper primary school level.

Type and Management of School

Table: 3 Type and Management of the School

Type of school				Management		
Boys	Girls	Co-education	Total	Govt.	Private	Total
-	1 (6.25%)	15 (93.75%)	16 (100%)	14 (87.50%)	2 (12.50%)	16 (100%)

The above table 3 reveals that out of 16 schools visited only one (6.25 per cent) school is girls' schools and the rest 15 (93.75 per cent) schools are co-educational schools. Regarding the type of management of the school 14 (87.50 per cent) schools were run by government and only two (12.50 per cent) schools were run with the government aid.

Table:4 Type of School Building

Pucca RCC roofed Building	Tiled roofing building	Total
15 (93.75%)	1 (6.25%)	16 (100%)

The table 4 shows structure of the building under which the students are studying. Among the schools visited about 93.75 per cent of the building is constructed with RCC roofing and only one (6.25 per cent) school is constructed

with brick wall roofed with tiles. An important aspect to note on this tiled building school is that this building is donated by a public to run government school.

Display of SSA sign Boards

As per the norms of the SSA scheme, the schools need to put up the sign board. On observation during the visit to the schools all 16 schools had displayed the sign board with the logo and slogan of the SSA. Apart from this the materials that are purchased/constructed under the SSA fund were also named on the product as “purchased/constructed under SSA scheme”.

Civil Construction

Table: 5 Civil Constructions

Toilet			Water		
Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
11 (68.75%)	5 (31.25)	16 (100%)	12 (75%)	4 (25%)	16 (100%)

The fund which is allocated by SSA under the head civil work, the amount was spent to construct toilet and providing drinking water to the students. The above table 5 reveals about the civil work provision under SSA scheme. Out of the 16 schools visited 11 (68.75 per cent) of schools were provided with toilet facilities with an sanction amount of Rs.20,000/- per school. As such, so has to provide hygienic drinking water Rs.15,000/- was sanctioned to each school under which 12 (75 per cent) schools were provided with ozonized filter water to the students. The civil works are carried out after the convergence of VEC meeting and then the execution work was carried under the supervision of the School Management Committee.

School Grants

As per the SSA direction Rs.2000/- per school was sanctioned and released to all the 16 schools visited, in which 2 middle schools and 2 high schools were functioning with both primary and upper primary level of education. So, these four schools were provided with Rs.4000/- per school as school grants. The monitoring team found that all the schools were provided with school grants, these grants were used to purchase the school needs. Before using the fund the approval is taken from the VEC and separate account was maintained. The DPO or the SPO do not follow any centralized purchase and supply of materials. The school grant for the academic year 2006-07 was released by SPO to the school through DPO during the month of September 2006. Regarding the utilization of the school grant almost all school spend the total amount in time.

Text Books

The text books and note books to the students were provided by the Puducherry state government education fund. So, the SSA, fund was not used for providing text books. But, during the visit the monitoring team found that the note books supplied to the students are not sufficient, so they request to supply note books from SSA fund.

Teachers and Teachers Training

The monitoring committee found that there are no additional or new teachers sanctioned to the schools visited. The study found that a total of 86 teachers were trained under SSA training programme held during the academic year 2006-07. The teacher's opinion regarding the training programme is satisfactory. At the same time they demand more number of training programmes for long time period. If a teacher attends the programme his next turn come after 2-3 years so they need periodical training which will benefit for the implementation of academic progress by establishing a training cell.

Under SSA scheme, the school runs “Evening Schools” and coaching for “Slow Learners”. Educated unemployed youth in that particular village is selected as the evening school teacher. The selection was done by the VEC and approval was taken from the DPO. This evening and slow learners classes functions after school hours from 6 to 8 pm of every school working days. So has to motivate the functioning of the school. Frequent visit was made by the BRC officer and check the attendance registers and inspect the students performance. According to the DPO record during 2006-07. There were 86 night schools and 40 evening schools are functioning in Karikal District.

Teacher Learning Materials (TLM)

The grants under the teaching –learning materials (TLM) provided to the schools at Rs.500/- per teacher. Have been procured and it was reported that the teachers are more comfortable in their teaching by having the different teaching aids. The monitoring team fund that about 147 teachers in these 20 schools were provided with TLM facility. The TLM includes, hand made chart, maps, Thermocoal cutting models, models of scientific equipments, models of science objects and other instruments used in laboratory. The DPO had directed the school to display all the TLM together once in year as an science exhibition period the students can also exhibit their own hand models. The TLM fund for the academic year 2006-07 was released during the month of August 2006.

The Status of the out of School Children and Drop- out

The status of the out of school children is concern, during the last academic year the DPO had identified one child and he was put into alternate school and special care was taken to educate the student and he was put into regular stream of schooling from the next consecutive year. Presently the monitoring team had found that the DPO has taken necessary steps to reduce the drop-out rate. The reason for drop-out is in some Muslim dominated area they won't send their children after puberty. In some place the children go with their father for fishing and few students got dropped from school when they were

detained. So, as to avoid this drop-out the SPO had planned for alternative schooling system.

Children with special Needs

With regard to children special needs, the Karaikal District had 342 students and suspected to have deficits so all of them were taken for medical examination to the nearby Medical College and Research Institute. Among those who were medically examined 44 students were found in need of aids and appliances and they were provided with hearing aids and spectacles. Apart from this one student who was physically challenged was provided with escort allowance. Among the sample schools surveyed 41 students had provided with spectacles six had provided with hearing aid and two with escort allowance of Rs.6000/- each. When the monitoring team enquired the beneficiary students, they said that within a week time after medical examination they got their aids and appliances from the SPO through DPO. Ramps were constructed in all the schools were the team visited.

District Information System for Education (DISE)

Table: 6 District Information systems for Education (DISE)

DISE submitted	No. Schools	Per cent
Yes	16	100
No	0	0
Total	16	100

The DISE Information scheduled was issued to all the schools and it has been collected by SPO through DPO. The collected data were computed in state programme office. So, has to avoid mistake while filling up the DIES schedule, information manual was provided with the schedule. The team visited to Karaikal found that all the sample schools had submitted their DISE filled in schedule in time. The BRC co-coordinators had

verified 5 percent of the total schedules collected. The collected data was computed and compiled by the SPO not by the DPO level officers.

Research and Evaluation

The DPO level had not carried out any Research and Evaluation activities. They have not allocated any fund provision under such head to Karaikal Region of Puducherry Union Territory.

Functioning of the VEC

The Village Education Committee (VEC) was constituted by the school administration and villagers after taking the approval of the SPO and DPO. In Karaikal District about 112 village committees are functioning .In which 107 VEC are constituted for govt. Schools and 5 VEC for government aided private schools.

Table :7 Number of schools functioning with VEC

Particulars	No. of Schools	Per cent
School with VEC	16	100
Schools without VEC	–	0
TOTAL	16	100

The monitoring team found that all the visited schools had constituted VEC and the frequency of meetings held was almost in quarterly, whenever the VEC meeting is held, they will discuss about the issue /problem of the schools and decisions will be made to utilize the allotted fund. So as to document the meeting resolutions a separate Register is maintained .The school Headmasters were trained how to maintain a register and when the VEC meeting has to be constituted. The study found that among the 16 sample schools 2 (12.5 per cent) schools doesn't maintain the VEC Record properly, rest all other 14 schools (87.5per cent) are following as per the Guidelines framed by the SSA .The study found that

in the visited schools on an average about 90 per cent of the VEC members attend the meeting regularly.

Staffing at District Level

In Karaikal District the SSA office was functioning with the following staff

Sl.No.	Designation	No. of Positions Sanctioned	In Position
1	A D P C	1	1
2	B R C Coordinator	1	1
3	Teacher Educator	5	2
4	L D C	1	1
	TOTAL	8	5

In Karaikal the SSA office is functioning with a total number of eight staff. The SSA staff is lead by the Assistant District Programme Coordinator (ADPC). Except the Lower Division Clerk (LDC) position, rests of them are the teacher Cader, who was posted to their respective position on office order. These temporarily transferred officers put forth some issues, stating that the benefit that are enjoyed when they are teaching is not available in the present position and therefore everyone wants to get transferred to their original position. It can also be said that this will be hindrance to the smooth functioning of the SSA programme in this region.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is fully taken care by the state government. The Puducherry State Government doesn't use fund from the SSA scheme. The state government provides best food to the students, every day morning they start with providing milk with biscuits, noon lunch with rice, curry and fried vegetables, weekly twice they use to provide egg. with lunch and in the evening when the students leave home they were

provided with a cup of milk. In town limit i.e. urban area food were supplied from central kitchen, in rural areas food were cooked within the school in few schools 2-3 schools share the kitchen. About, the students and parents opinion regarding the quality and quantity of food, they found highly satisfied. The school teachers were deployed to monitor while the students are taking their food, washing of hands and their plates. The visited schools have very good, hygienic and clean kitchen.90 per cent of the schools cook the food by using fire wood and the rest 10 per cent by using kerosene stove. In short MDM scheme operated by the state government is functioning well.

Additional Items Checked During the Visit

In Karaikal District the schools were functioned for 197 days during the academic year 2006-07. The School have neat and clean environment, with minimum required good ventilations 15 schools were provided with desks and tables. In one school students are sitting under the tree shade and corridors of the school premises. The schools visited have cent per cent electrification, and cement flooring was laid. The class room consists of black board, TLM materials displayed. Almost all the schools were used the school grant for black board maintenance. The state government provided the schools with required amount of play materials. On an average of 95 per cent of the attendance are present from all the 16 schools. Private schools they follow penalty system if the students are irregular to class. The government schools Headmaster warn their parents of the students if they are irregular to class. Among the 16 schools visited 34 students are found drop-out, the reason for this is 14 of them dropped because they attain puberty. These students are all Muslim female students,10 students were dropped after they were detained in the same class and 10 students were dropped school and entered into their traditional occupation of fishing, these schools are located near the coastal area. The SSA coordinator had identified these students and area. The SSA Coordinator had identified these students and necessary action was in

progress to put them into alternative school. Apart from this, two days care centre for mentally challenged children was functioning in Karaikal. The below table shows the special assistance programme to improve the quality of education among the students in Karaikal district:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Functioning in No. of Schools
1.	Night School	86
2.	Evening school	40
3.	Computer Lab	14
4.	Vocational Skill Development	30
5.	Guidance & Counseling cell	33
6.	Day care centre for mentally challenged students	2

Conclusion and Suggestions

It is encouraging to note that the overall implementation performance of the SSA scheme in Karaikal district is very encouraging. It has been noticed from the visit that the school authorities have realizing the goals of universalization of elementary education. However, few lacunas have to be bridged for the successful implementation of the programme they are:

- ✓ Civil work are very week in few schools, many schools needs of new class rooms (mostly to primary schools) and compound wall to many schools.
- ✓ Regarding district level at present the office is functioning in campus of Chief Education Office (CEO) primes, so a separate building for DPO, CRC and BRC is to be constructed.

- ✓ Even though the text books are distributed by the state government fund, the needy and poor student should be provided with minimum requirement of note books under SSA fund.
- ✓ The Education Inspector should be empowered to monitor the implementation of SSA schemes frequently.
- ✓ A Junior Account Officer has to be appointed so he can go to the school accounts and guide them the expenditure of SSA in a right direction. Ever since the date of implementation of the SSA programme no one had inspected and assessed the school accounts, this may give chance for misuse of funds.
- ✓ During the academic year 2006-07 nearly 15 training programmes for teachers consisting of 30 days were conducted at different dates were conducted. This is not satisfactory, yet some more training programme has to be imparted so as to increase the quality of the SSA scheme.
- ✓ At least twice a year refresher programme for the school headmaster and school co-ordinators has to be conducted. This will avoid unnecessary hindrances if the retiring headmaster did not explain the functioning of the SSA scheme to the succeeding headmaster.
- ✓ The teachers who are transferred from one school to another their TLM amount is not transferred to the school where he is transferred. This shows a surplus amount in the account school where he is transferred. So, appropriate action has to be taken before sanctioning the amount.
- ✓ The bills and vouchers are not submitted by the teachers in time. This has to be monitored by an Junior Account Officer periodically.

- ✓ A computer lab has to be established at primary school level depending upon the student strength. This will increase the quality of education.
- ✓ A sum of Rs.50/- per girl student under Vocation Skill Development (VSD) is given this has to be revised to Rs.100/- per student, so that the drop-out rate of female children can be reduced.
- ✓ All schools should be permitted to engage a craft teacher even if the school has drawing master. This is because of the reason that the drawing master teaches the student only about drawing but not about craft work, tailoring, embroidering etc. So, every school needs to be with at least a temporary craft teacher.
- ✓ District Information System for Education should be maintained in District Office, also. Required computer and computer operator should be engaged to execute the work.
- ✓ The academic co-ordinator and computer data entry operator at district level office is lying vacant till date, for which necessary action should be taken to fill the post.
- ✓ From the date of implementation of the programme CRC is not constituted in the Karaikal district. So, an urgent need to constitute the CRC which will decentralize the monitor and the implementation of SSA work and also increases the quality of the education.
- ✓ Even though the DPO/SPO level official had conducted VEC meetings, teachers training and supplied with adequate information through guideline booklet. The registers are not followed properly, only a few schools are following it.

- ✓ Regarding VEC most of the schools have not even opened the registers, but the authorities themselves had spent the money as their wish.
- ✓ The fund allocated to the schools for maintenance/school grants were not used in time, i.e, during the particular academic year for which the amount is sanctioned. In many schools account balance was too high. So, proper guideline/notification has to be issued to the schools about how the balance fund should be used.
- ✓ The Headmasters are not attending the VEC or SSA meeting conducted by the DPO. They will send their representative to attend the meeting, so there is a communication gap. During the visit to schools many Headmasters were not aware how to use the fund and what is the purchase procedure and guideline, so as to rectify this regular refresher course for Headmasters has to be conducted.
- ✓ The teachers were not submitted their accounts for the TLM amount received to the concerned Headmasters. It is heartening to say that even few teachers were not submitted their 2005-06 accounts. The team found that the school administration didn't care for it.
- ✓ Those who are appointed as Headmaster by promotion/incharge, should undergo compulsory VEC training programme before taking charge as Headmaster.

It is hoped that the SSA scheme will bring a qualitative education if the above said suggestions are looked into seriously, it is sure that SSA scheme will bring an laurel towards the universalisation of elementary education in the state.

**Schools visited to monitoring the Implementation of the
SSA scheme in Karaikal District**

Government Schools

1. Government Primary School Pudhuthurai
2. Government Primary School Pillaiteruvasal.
3. Government Primary School Kottucherryedu
4. Government Primary School Kurumbagarampet
5. Government Primary School Thennangudi
6. Government Primary School Valathamangalam
7. Government Primary School Keezhavanjore
8. Government Primary School Keezahiyur
9. Government Primary School Vizhidhiyur
10. Government Middle School T.R.Pattinam
11. Government Middle School Melakasakudy
12. RmASP Government High School, Karaikalmedu
13. Hussainia Government High School, Neravy.
14. Thiruvalluvar Government Higher Secondary School, Ambagarathur

Private Schools

15. Nirmala Ranees Girls Higher Secondary School, Karaikal

16. Karaikal Ammiyar High School, Karaikal.