

Minutes of the first meeting of the Sub-Mission on Social Mobilisation, Community Involvement and Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions held on 30th August 2006 at Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi

1. A Sub-Mission under the National Mission for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for Social Mobilisation, Community Involvement and Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions has been formed by Ministry of Human Resource Development. The first meeting of Sub-Mission was held on 30th August 2006 at 11 am in Silver Oaks II at Indian Habitat Center, New Delhi.

2. The meeting was attended by the following members

Shri L.K. Atheeq, SPD, Karnataka
Shri M.K. Singh, SPD, MP
Shri Shitanshu Shukla, Dy. Manager & State Coordinator, MP
Dr. Pramila Menon, NIEPA
Dr. Sandhya Paranjpe, NCERT
Dr. A.K. Singh, TISS, Mumbai
Ms. Gayatri Singh, Consultant, TSG
Ms. Anita Chauhan, DS, MHRD

Shri K.J. Lohe, SPD Nagaland, Shri T.R. Raghunandan, JS (Ministry of Panchayati Raj), Shri J.S. Deepak, Education Secy. cum SPD, UP, Shri Madhav Chavan, Pratham Resource Centre could not attend the meeting.

3. Ms. Anita Chauhan, Deputy Secretary, SE Bureau, MHRD, and Member Secretary of Sub- Mission welcomed the members and apprised them about the six submissions constituted under SSA, which included the submission on social mobilization, community involvement and role of Panchyati Raj institutions. She invited attention of the members to the terms of reference of the sub-mission and requested their comments/suggestions.

4. The following suggestions were made by the members present: -

- i. Since the terms of reference of the submission are very extensive, more members especially from States/UTs of different regions need to be co-opted in the group. Further it was suggested that some of the Monitoring Institutes including good NGOs in this field, may also be co-opted.
- ii. The SPD may, in the event of his inability to attend the meeting, nominate an expert in community mobilization to attend on his behalf.

5. Shri Shitanshushu Shukla, from MP felt that it would be useful to look at the policy statement of States with regard to activation of PTA/VECs etc.

6. Dr. Singh from TISS emphasized the need to look at the composition of VECs also to see if the special focused groups were properly represented. He further

added that linkages between VECs and PRIs with clear defined roles were essential for effective implementation and need to be looked into and worked upon by the sub- mission, as this is a major issue in most of the states.

7. SPD, Madhya Pradesh, felt that there is a need to re-look at the norm of Rs. 30 per day per member for training of community leaders/members in view of the larger number of community members who need to be trained. This suggestion was endorsed by SPD, Karnataka.
8. Dr. Menon from NIEPA was of the view that efforts made by States in mobilizing community, constraints faced by them and how they were addressed were important issues and needed discussion with States including the status of community based monitoring systems in place.
9. Dr. Sandhya from NCERT added that it was important to look at the process involved in community mobilization activities to understand what has succeeded, the issues and how they have been overcome.
10. After detailed discussions, the following were unanimously agreed to :-
 - i. The people to be co-opted in the group may include :
 - SPD, Andhra Pradesh
 - SPD, Bihar
 - SPD, J&K
 - SPD, Maharashtra
 - SPD, Meghalaya
 - SPD, Orissa
 - SPD, Rajasthan
 - SPD, West Bengal
 - SPD, Lakshdweep
 - PRIA- One nominee
 - RIE Mysore, MI- One nominee
 - Mr. P.K. Acharya, Monitoring Institute Orissa
 - Monitoring Institute Meghalaya(NEHU)- One nominee
 - Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi- One nominee
 - ii Participating States may be asked to make a presentation in the next meeting of the Sub- Mission to facilitate a better understanding of the processes in place. They could also be requested to bring along their training modules for VECs / PTAs, Village Education Registers, documentation of good practices, impact assessment studies etc. for perusal of the mission members.
11. It was also decided to hold the next meeting of the sub-mission along with the co-opted members on 29th September 2006 in New Delhi.