

Minutes of the 1st meeting of Sub-mission of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on Capacity Building for Planning Management, Monitoring and Research & Evaluation held on 31.08.06.

At the outset Shri P. Sukumar, Dy. Secy., MHRD and Member Secretary of the Sub-mission welcomed all the participants and thanked them for attending the meeting despite a short Notice. The list of participants is enclosed.

2. He gave a brief account of the six-submissions constituted under SSA and clarified that the Sub-mission is a task force to look into the ground realities and improve the implementation of SSA in the areas allotted to it. It is expected that this Sub-mission will not only suggest steps for capacity building for planning, management, monitoring and research & evaluation at the district and sub district level but will also undertake the task of improving the existing situation. In this context, he listed out the following key areas for action by Sub-mission: -

- Ensuring decentralized planning.
- Energising SIEMAT already set up and advocating to the States who have not started SIEMAT.
- Provisioning for training of the Officers and staff of the project in management and development of Executive training.
- Increasing the consistency of DISE data and training of MIS personnel.
- Improving staffing and management in the States and Districts.
- Using expertise of NGOs for capacity building at various level.
- Streamlining and encouraging useful Research and Evaluations.

The States' position should be monitored by the task force. The members should spare time in order to visit States and participate in Capacity building.

3. Dr. K.K. Vashishtha stated that Capacity building is a vast area. Govt. of India should initially set up a mechanism to interact with States. There is no information whether REM Cells are functioning in each State or not. We are not aware as to whose Capacity building is needed. A regular mechanism needs to be set up. A tele-conference with SPDs could be held to sort out the matter.

4. Dr. Promila Menon informed that NIEPA is already working on a blue print for executive development programmes. NIEPA is also closely monitoring the establishment

of SIEMAT in States. She pointed out that Capacity building for Education Planning is a difficult area.

5. Shri Asadullah, Consultant made a presentation on Planning emphasizing the provision on decentralized need based, participative planning. The Details of Special focus Districts identified for AWP&B for 2006-07, as well as the details of 32 Districts with out of school children more than 50,000 were shared by him.

6. Dr. Anamika Mehta, Consultant made a presentation on Monitoring system under SSA.

7. Shri P. Sukumar informed the Sub-mission the details regarding arrangement with Monitoring Institutes.

8. Dr. A.B.L. Srivastava made a presentation on Research studies.

9. Shri C.S. Nagaraj said that Planning requires a Technical capacity. It is a political and economic process. Bringing children to the school alone is not the aim. Making them learn is also important. Habitation as unit of Planning should not lead to uniform planning for all habitation. A nodal institute be identified in each State for Capacity building which will work out the course content.

10. Dr. Ranjana Srivastava wanted to know the implementability of the Annual Work Plan submitted by States for 2006-07. What were the deficiencies noted by the Appraisal Team and whether any gist of appraisal could be shared. What is the requirement of States for Capacity building? What is the current status of States in term of strength, issue and gaps?

11. Dr. S.C.Gujaria explained that the appraisal Teams noticed that there is unevenness of data in various plans especially with respect to retention and achievement level, lack of understanding of local issues in district plans and lack of holistic vision for UEE.

12. Dr. A.B.L. Srivastava said that financial norms become a constraint for need based planning.

13. Dr. N.Upendra Reddy pointed that the planning in SSA has become norms based. No perspective plans is being prepared. Funds do not flow to the habitations as planned. Overhauling of the entire process of Planning is needed. The office in the State Headquarters cannot decide on the requirement of Block level. He suggested that draft plan format should be developed for different level of habitations. The appraisal of Annual Plan should be carried out in the State itself.

14. Prof. Snehlata Shukla wanted to know how the topics for research are decided, what is the mechanism at State level to disseminate the finding. There is need to have a regular mechanism for publication. A whole set of action research should be conducted on the basis of needs. The Universities should be involved. The research fundings should be used in Planning.
15. Dr. Panda said that Research is needed for Planning. There is a tendency to increase meaningless Action research. The quality of Research has come down. Research topics need to be prioritized. Case studies with great clinical significance need to be undertaken. The staff of SCERT/SIEMAT/DIET are actively involved in implementation of SSA programme and research. Therefore, the staff of these Organisations are to be targeted for Capacity building.
16. Shri M.K. Talukdar said that adequate manpower and infrastructure are pre-requisite for capacity building.
17. Shri Chetan Sharma said funding of Research studies are not disseminated. The web portal should be used for dissemination of data and funding of studies.
18. Dr. Promila Menon said that use of data on Planning is not taking place. On Research she said that a through scrutiny of methodology adopted for research is needed.
19. SPD, Tripura supported the suggestion to train staff of SCERT/SIEMAT/DIET.
20. After the General discussion Shri P. Sukumar suggested that the Task force could concentrate on organizing Capacity building workshops in planning in the 32 districts of the country, which are having highest number of out of school children. Similarly for Research any one state could be identified and workshops could be organized for District level functionaries DIET and SCERT Officials. If these workshops are found useful, the same could be replicated elsewhere.
21. Dr. Ranjana Srivastava stated that we need to take stock of the existing skills at the State level and initiate action for workshops in States for duration of 4 – 5 days. A core group should be formed for advocating changes and designing a course. The States need to be trained in data interpretation and on the critical indicators needed for planning. When we discuss about Capacity building, the Quantity and Quality are important.
22. It was decided that a core group be formed to work out the action points.
23. The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

List of Participants

1. Shri P. Sukumar, Deputy Secretary, Deptt. Of School Education, MHRD
2. Dr. N. Upendra Reddy, SAMO, State Project Office, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,
3. Shri H.L. Chakraborty, IAS, Director, Education & State Project Director, Tripura
4. Prof. C.S. Nagaraju, Professor & Principal, Regional Institute of Education, Mysore
5. Prof. K.C. Panda, Retd. Principal, RIE, Bhubaneshwar
6. Prof. Snehlata Shukla, Retd. Professor of Education
7. Ms. Shubhra Chatterjee, Director, Vikramshila Edu. Resource Society, Kolkata
8. Dr. Ranjana Srivastava, H. Director, Centre for Edu. Research and Development,
9. Shri Chetan Sharma, Founder, Datamation Foundation
10. Shri Gopa Sen, Director, M/o Statistics & Programme Implementation, NSSO, CPD
11. Shri Ravi Chand, Under Secretary, HRD, Deptt. Of School Education,
12. Dr. K.K. Vashishtha, Professor & Head, Deptt. Of Elementary Education, NCERT
13. Dr. Pramila Menon, Fellow, NIEPA
14. Dr. ABL Srivastava, Chief Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
15. Dr. Neeru Bala, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
16. Shri R.K. Mishra, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
17. Shri M.K. Talukdar, Chief Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
18. Ms. Deepti Bansal, Consultant , TSG, Ed.CIL
19. Dr. S.C. Gujaria, Sr. Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
20. Shri Sudhanshu Sekhar Patra, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
21. Dr. Anamika Mehta, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
22. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, Sr. Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
23. Shri Asadullah, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL
24. Shri Tarun Gupta, Consultant, TSG, Ed.CIL