

संजय कुमार, भा.प्र.से  
सचिव

Sanjay Kumar, IAS  
Secretary



भारत सरकार  
शिक्षा मंत्रालय  
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग  
Government of India  
Ministry of Education

Department of School Education & Literacy  
07<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

D.O. No.8-4/2024-AE.2

*Dear Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary,*

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 while talking of Adult Education, mentions in para 21.4: 'Strong and innovative government initiatives for adult education - in particular, to facilitate community involvement and the smooth and beneficial integration of technology - will be affected as soon as possible to expedite this all-important aim of achieving 100% literacy.' It underscores the correlation between literacy rates and per capita GDP, highlighting the disadvantages faced by non-literate individuals in various aspects of life, such as financial transactions, job applications, comprehension of media and technology, understanding of rights, and participation in higher productivity sectors.

2. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.6 of the United Nations states that "By 2030 ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy."

3. In this perspective it is necessitated to define 'literacy' and '100 percent literacy' as mentioned in the NEP, for the purpose of ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, for clarity and consistency across programme, enabling targeted interventions and effective monitoring. A clear definition supports robust policy formulation, ensuring alignment with NEP 2020 goals and empowering individuals through comprehensive literacy. This foundational step is essential for ULLAS to achieve full literacy in the country and foster socio-economic development.

4. In this context, 'literacy' and '100% or full literacy' may be understood as under:  
Literacy

"Literacy is the ability to read, write, and compute with comprehension, i.e to identify, understand, interpret and create, alongwith critical life skills such as digital literacy, financial literacy, etc."

Full Literacy (to be considered equivalent to 100% literacy)

"Achieving ninety five percent literacy (95%) in a State/UT may be considered as equivalent to fully literate."

5. A non-literate person may be considered as literate under ULLAS, as per above definition when she/he has been declared as literate after the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT)

6. I urge upon all the States/UTs to strive for Bharat reaching full literacy by 2030 with the ULLAS initiative.

*Best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

*(Sanjay Kumar)*

Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Education Secretaries (School Education) of all State and UTs.

124 'सी' विंग, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001

124 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Telephone: +91-11-23382587, +91-11-23381104 Fax : +91-11-23387589

E-mail: secy.sel@nic.in