

History of World Bank Interventions

- District Primary Education Programme-I,II and III- beginning in mid 90s
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan- 2001- continued

SSA Aims

- Bring all children to school
- Bridge social and gender gaps
- Improvement in quality of education
- Community mobilization

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Targets Set

- All Children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, ‘Back to- School’ camp by 2005 (earlier 2003)
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010

- Universal retention by 2010 (8 year of schooling)
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life

strategies particularly directed at Dalit children

- Enrolment of Dalit children
- Innovations/ Initiatives
- Educational incentives to Dalit children
- Free text books for SC, ST & girls
- Community participation- Dalit parents to be the part of village education committees (VECs)

Reflections from data

Social Groups	Drop-out Rate (2004-05)	Drop-out Rate (2002-03)
SC All	I-V- 36.56	I-V- 41.47
	I-VIII- 59.42	I-VIII- 59.91
	I-IX- 73.13	I-IX- 71.92
SC Boys	I-V- 36.83	I-V- 41.13
	I-VIII- 57.33	I-VIII- 58.24
	I-IX- 71.41	I-IX- 69.74
SC Girls	I-V- 36.19	I-V- 41.91
	I-VIII- 62.19	I-VIII- 62.19
	I-IX- 75.49	I-IX- 74.93

Worst affected Dalit communities (%)

State	Caste	Below primary	Middle	Matric/+2
Bihar	Bhuiya	44.1	7.4	6
Bihar	Musahar	44	6.7	5.5
Haryana	Balmiki	37.4	13	10.4
Jharkhand	Bhogta	45.9	10.9	7.3
Karnataka	Banjara	41	10.6	14.9
Madhya Pradesh	Balahi	42.1	11.8	8.7
Maharashtra	Mang	37	14.1	14.2
Orissa	Bauri	43.3	13.4	10.1
Punjab	Mazhabi	34.2	14	14.5
Rajasthan	Thori	48.7	9.4	4.8
Rajasthan	Baori	50.8	8.3	4.4
U.P.	Pasi	37.9	16.7	10.5

Our concerns – Lack of policy implementation 1

- Discrimination recognized in policy- not addressed in implementation
- No recognition of wide spread discrimination that continues in education system
- Discrimination found in both institutional and non-institutional levels
- Abuse and violence on Dalit children are also widely reported
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Our concerns – Lack of policy implementation 2

- No proactive strategy to ensure participation and ownership of Dalit communities
 - No respectful engagement with Dalit parents in schools
 - Voices and opinions of Dalit parents not given due weightage in VECs
 - Dalit CSOs (who are educated youth in Dalit community) are not involved in SSA programme

Our concerns – Lack of policy implementation 3

- Community mobilisation component is not implemented
- Alternative and Innovative Education budgets underspent and returned
- Low and less budget allocation in bringing first generation and drop outs through bridge courses
- All the above in effect discourage Dalit children to access education in SSA

Other issues

- No recognition or positive portrayal of Dalit culture and contribution in curriculum
- No orientation to teachers on caste based discrimination/sensitization
- No mechanism to support learning needs of first generation learners
- Bridge centres run as cheap substitutes for schooling

Urgent steps- Make schools 'Zero discrimination Zones' -1

- Set up complaint mechanisms where Dalit children and parents can access justice to complaints on discrimination/violence in schools
- Set up quality schools in Dalit habitations
- Sensitize teachers on caste based discrimination and take appropriate measure for violation

Urgent steps- Make schools 'Zero discrimination Zones' -2

- Ensure special provisions are adequate and timely (scholarships, text books and uniforms)
- Special provision to be given to be given as a right and with dignity (not humiliation)
- make curriculum inclusive
- Encourage Dalit children to take leadership roles in curricular and extra curricular activities

Other steps needed to be taken

- Create community level support systems to facilitate Dalit children's education
- Focus on most deprived communities within Dalits in various states
- Ensure education of migrants etc who mostly comprise of Dalits
- Link education with livelihood opportunities