

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Universalization of Elementary Education aims at making education available to all children in the age group of 6-14 or in classes I-VII. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is an effort to universalize elementary education. The low levels of participation and literacy in India are aggravated by acute regional and gender disparities. As education is vitally linked with the totality of the development process, it being "the basic tool for the development of consciousness and reconstitution of society," in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the reform and restructuring of the educational system is of utmost importance.

Extent of the problem

- 129.26% is the Gross Intake Ratio in the first grade of primary education, however persistence to grade 5 was only 65.79% (UNESCO, 2005-06).
- 1.7 million children were out-of-school in India (UNESCO, 2010).
- 74.04% is India's literacy rate, 65.46% amongst females (Census- 2011).

Objective

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is the government's programme to provide universal access to elementary education for all children in the age group of 6 to 14. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is an effort to universalize elementary education by community –ownership of the school system by setting the following goals in every district:

- School: Within 1 kilometer of every habitation; Provision of setting up new primary schools wherever there is a deficiency according to the above target; A ceiling of 1 upper primary school/section for every 2 primary schools
- Teacher: One teacher for every 40 children in primary and upper primary; At least two teachers in a primary school; One teacher for every class in the upper primary

The scheme aims to improve enrolment, retention, and the quality of education to enable children to achieve grade appropriate levels of learning. It also aims at bridging all gender and social category gaps at primary stage, relevant elementary education level and the universal retention.

Accessing the Scheme

As per the SSA framework, each district will prepare a District Elementary Education Plan highlighting the investments made on primary school. Post this, they would be eligible for receiving grants under the following heads:

Head	Funds Available	Details
Operations	5,000 -7,000 per school per year (Primary School former and Upper Primary latter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair/Replacement of equipment available in the school• Purchase of library books, newspapers, blackboards, public address system• Expenditure in the organization of Academic debates and competitions• Expenditure on the cleanliness of the school premises

		and purchase of dustbins
Maintenance & Repair (Civil Works)	7500 per school per year (Min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme funds on Civil Works shall not exceed the ceiling of 33% of the entire project cost approved by the PAB on the basis of perspective plan prepared for the period till 2010 • This ceiling of 33% would not include the expenditure on maintenance and repair of buildings • However, in a particular year's annual plan provision for civil works can be considered up to 40% of the annual plan expenditure depending on the priority assigned to various components of the programmes in that year, within the overall project ceiling of 33%
Teacher	500 per teacher per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be used for Teacher Learning Material
Innovative Projects	15 Lakh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to Rs. 15 lakh for each innovative project and Rs. 50 lakh for a district per year will apply for SSA.

Funding Mechanism

For the preparatory activities, the districts will prepare District Elementary Education Plan based on the needs and aspirations of the district. This will also form the guidelines for the subsequent annual plans. The State level Implementation Society for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will forward these proposals to the National Mission of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. After appraisal of the proposal, the Central government will release funds to the State government which the state government will transfer to State Implementation Society within thirty days.

After the exercise, Annual Plans are prepared and appraised by National Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The mission will approve the Annual Plan on the basis of the:

- Appraisal report
- Recommendation of the State Implementation Society
- Availability of Central plan funds
- Commitment of the State government regarding financial resources

Release of the first installment to the State will be processed after receipt of written commitments from state. The appraisal and approval of Plans should be completed by 1st March and the first installment, to meet the proposed expenditure of the first six months, should be released by 15th April. There would be two installments each year: one in April and the second in September. The second installment would be released when the following conditions are met:

- A supervision visit to the programme implementation districts will be undertaken by a pool of resource persons selected by the National/State Mission
- It will be based on the progress in expenditure and the quality of implementation.
- Utilization certificates from the districts to the States and to the national Mission for funds released in the first installment

Monitoring and Governance

The National Mission for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister has overall responsibility of the programme. It comprises of a governing council, which is the apex policy planning body for elementary education and the executive committee, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Human Resource Development (MoHRD). The National/State Mission will undertake Appraisal of District plans with the assistance of resource teams constituted by the operational support unit of the National/State Mission.. The Mission coordinates with State Departments for Education and the Village Education Committees (VECs), created by the State Education Departments to manage the educational affairs of villages. Social science institutes of national stature have been given the work of monitoring in states and union territories.

Minister of Human Resource Development

National Committee

National Mission for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
(Chairman: Prime Minister)

State Committee

State Education Department

District Committee

Block Resource Center

Village Committee

Village Education Committees

Community Participation in Primary Education, Karnataka

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER,2005) by Pratham revealed that the quality of primary education in Karnataka was much lower than lesser developed states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It was recognized that amongst various aspects required to bring about quality education, community mobilization was the most neglected. The Government of Karnataka decided to invite NGOs such as Karnataka State Trainer's Collective, experienced in community mobilization, to work with the government. The "Namma Shale" programme was initiated to mobilize the community through better communication processes to take ownership of the local government schools with a view to improving quality at all levels. Azim Premji Foundation agreed to support the work through funding of the programme.

It was decided that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would provide infrastructural support, Department of State Education Research and Training would provide academic and pedagogic support, the District Institute for Education and Training would provide capacity building support to teachers, while the Azim Premji Foundation would provide financial support. The local community was enabled to prepare specific school development and management plans through a series of community awareness generation programs culminating in Participatory Planning and Action (PPA). Namma Shale has been implemented in Mirjan and Gavadagere clusters.