

Square Country — School Funding Audit 2024 (₹)

Auditor: Office of the National Auditor / Ministry of Education Internal Audit Unit
Fiscal Year: 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024
Currency: ₹ (SCD)

1. Executive Summary

- Total education funding allocated (2024): ₹12,200,000,000
- Primary objective: Assess financial management, program compliance, and resource allocation in public schools.
- Scope: 500 primary and secondary schools nationwide.
- Opinion: Schools generally complied with Ministry guidelines. Minor deviations in operational spending were observed, but no major misappropriation was detected.

2. Funding Overview

Funding Category	Budget (₹)	Actual Spending (₹)	Variance
School Operations	6,800,000,000	6,750,000,000	-50,000,000
Teacher Salaries	3,500,000,000	3,520,000,000	+20,000,000

Infrastructure & Upgrades	1,400,000,000	1,410,000,000	+10,000,000
Student Welfare Programs	500,000,000	520,000,000	+20,000,000
Total	12,200,000,000	12,200,000,000	0

Observation: Funding usage was within $\pm 0.4\%$ of allocation; minor overspending in salaries and welfare offset by savings in operations.

3. Program Expenditure Breakdown

Program / Sector	Allocation (₹)	Actual (₹)	Variance	Notes
School Operations	6,800,000,000	6,750,000,000	-50,000,000	Cost savings from energy efficiency measures
Teacher Salaries	3,500,000,000	3,520,000,000	+20,000,000	Slight overtime in urban schools
Infrastructure & Upgrades	1,400,000,000	1,410,000,000	+10,000,000	Minor overrun due to accelerated renovation projects
Student Welfare Programs	500,000,000	520,000,000	+20,000,000	Increased uptake of meal and scholarship programs

4. Key Findings

1. Financial Management:

- Schools maintained proper accounts and adhered to Ministry funding guidelines.
- Minor overspends in salaries and welfare were justified and documented.

2. Infrastructure & Upgrades:

- Renovation projects mostly on schedule; accelerated work in some urban schools caused small cost deviations.

3. Student Welfare:

- Increased participation in nutrition and scholarship programs; effective allocation of funds.

4. Operational Efficiency:

- Savings achieved in school operations due to energy efficiency, bulk purchasing, and administrative optimization.

5. Compliance & Transparency:

- 98% of schools submitted complete expenditure reports on time.
- Internal controls adequate; minor recommendations provided for procurement documentation.

5. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI	Target	Actual	Notes
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On-time expenditure reporting	100%	98%	Slight delay in 10 schools
Budget variance (overall)	±1%	0%	Within acceptable limits
Infrastructure projects completed	50	48	Slight delay in 2 schools
Teacher payroll accuracy	100%	99.8%	Minor adjustments for overtime
Student welfare program coverage	≥95%	96%	Target achieved

6. Recommendations

1. Strengthen procurement documentation for all infrastructure projects.
 2. Monitor teacher overtime and staffing costs in urban schools.
 3. Continue efficient operational practices to maintain cost savings.
 4. Ensure all schools submit expenditure reports on time to meet 100% target.
 5. Plan contingency funds for unexpected student welfare demands.
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7. Conclusion

The 2024 School Funding Audit confirms that Square Country’s public schools managed allocated funding effectively, adhered to Ministry guidelines, and delivered essential education services. Minor operational and reporting issues were noted and can be

addressed with standard procedural improvements. Overall, financial management and program execution were sound.