

# Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan : Education for All

Paper Submission: 10/10/2021, Date of Acceptance: 21/10/2021, Date of Publication: 23/10/2021

## Abstract

The true cure of darkness is the introduction of light. Only education is the light that can remove the darkness of any family, community, society and nation. Education is tool that can play an important role in the development of a nation. It empowers citizen with analytical abilities, leads to a better confidence level and fortifies one with will power and goal setting competencies.

Education is not just acquiring the knowledge but the process of acquiring values, skills and inner powers. This leads an individual toward total development of the personality and help him/her to contribute actively in building new society.

Education is necessary condition for true democracy. It is anti-dose against crime, essential for political and national unity, a great tool for economic development of a country. Thus education results in changing both individual life as well as the entire society and the nation better.

After independence education sector has been of vital importance to the Indian Government which has been regularly formulating provision and schemes for promoting elementary education.

The Right to Education has also been enshrined as a Fundamental Right by the Constitution of India. It states that "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine."

To promote literacy among its citizens, the Government of India has launched several schemes such as the Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya Scheme, Mid-day Meal Scheme and the National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL). One of the most fundamental and promising of these schemes is the SarvaShiksha Abhiyan.

**Keywords** : SSA, True Democracy, Analytical, Confidence, Competencies, Fundamental Rights, Compulsory.

## Introduction

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is also known as the Education for All movement or 'Each One Teach One'. It was introduced in 2000-2001 as the flagship programme run by the Government of India. This scheme is framed to provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the age group of six to fourteen by 2010. The programme was pioneered by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

As an intervention programme, SSA has been operational since 2000-2001. However, its roots go back to 1993-1994, when the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) was launched, with the aim of achieving the objective of universal primary education.[2] DPEP, over several phases, covered 272 districts in 18 states of the country. The expenditure on the programme was shared by the Central Government (85%) and the State Governments. The Central share was funded by a number of external agencies, including the World Bank, DFID and UNICEF. By 2001, more than US\$1500 million had been committed to the programme, and 50 million children covered in its ambit. In an impact assessment of Phase I of DPEP, the authors concluded that its net impact on minority children was impressive, while there was little evidence of any impact on the enrolment of girls. Nevertheless, they concluded that the investment in DPEP was not a waste, because it introduced a new approach to primary school interventions in India.

The Right to Education Act (RTE) came into force on 1 April 2010. Some educationists and policy makers believe that, with the passing of this act, SSA has acquired the necessary legal force for its implementation. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat is a nationwide sub-programme of SarvaShiksha Abhiyan.

## Objectives of SSA

The SSA programme is an endeavor to provide an opportunity for improving human capabilities of all children, through the provision of community-owned quality education in a mission mode. The SarvaShiksha Abhiyan had been set with specific targets. These are:

**Sushma John**  
Assistant Professor,  
Dept. of Education,  
St. Andrew's P.G.  
College,  
Gorakhpur U.P., India

1. All children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School or 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003.
2. All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007.
3. Children complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010.
4. Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
5. Bridge all gender and social category gaps at the primary stage by 2007 and at the elementary education level by 2010.
6. Universal retention by 2010.

To achieve these objectives, strategies have been framed that include active involvement of local community groups and institutional capacity building for setting up of block level resource centres. These centres impart district elementary education plans.

The framework of SSA includes appointment of teachers, their training, motivating parents and students, provision of incentives, like, scholarships, uniforms, textbooks, etc. The programme also aims to open new schools in areas having inadequate schooling facilities and strengthen existing school infrastructure through the construction of additional class rooms, provision of toilets, drinking water facilities and so on.

**Goals**

1. Open new schools in areas which do not have them and to expand existing school infrastructures and maintenance.
2. Address inadequate teacher numbers, and provide training a development for existing teachers
3. Provide quality elementary education including life skills with a special focus on the education of girls and children with special needs as well as computer education.<sup>[8]</sup>

To implement an effective programme and its, efficient monitoring, a National portal for SarvaShiksha Abhiyan has been developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in collaboration with the National Informatics Center. The portal would meet the monitoring requirements of the programme from the district level upwards and would allow user access to input formats against annual approved financial and physical targets, for updating of quarterly achievements. The district, state and national level would be able to track and monitor progress and make suitable management decisions to improve programme impact.

**Objective of the Study**

The SarvaShiksha Abhiyan aims to bridge social, regional and gender gaps, with the active participation of the community in the management of schools. All efforts to support pre-school learning in ICDS centres or special pre-school centres in non ICDS areas are made to supplement the efforts of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

**Conclusion**

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a valuable Endeavour of the Government of India, in the universalization of elementary education, which strives to help citizens to realize the importance of elementary education. Social justice and equality are by themselves a strong argument for providing basic education for all. Provision for basic education also improves the standard of living, especially with regard to life expectancy, infant mortality and nutritional status of children.

**References**

1. "SarvaShiksha Abhiyan". Department of School Education and Literacy, MHRD, Government of India. Retrieved 26 October 2013.
2. "District Primary Education Programme, DPEP". Retrieved 26 October 2013.
3. "District Primary Education Programmes (DPEP)". Retrieved 28 October 2013.
4. Jalan, Jyotsna and Glinskaya, Elena. "Improving Primary School Education in India: An Impact Assessment of DPEP I". Retrieved 29 November 2013.
5. "Will RTE fulfil the SSA dream?". *The Times of India*. 5 April 2010.
6. "Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat". *ssa.nic.in*. Retrieved 4 December 2014.
7. "Smritilrani launches Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat programme". *Business Line. The Hindu*. August 26, 2014. Retrieved 4 December 2014.
8. *SarvaShiksha Abhiyan Official website Portal*. Retrieved 9 October 2011