

Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(Department of School Education & Literacy)

**Subject: Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Grants-in-Aid Committee for Innovative & Experimental Projects held on 08.05.2008.**

The 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Grants-in-Aid Committee (GIAC) for Innovative & Experimental (I&E) Projects was held on 08.05.2008 at 3.00 P.M. in Conference Room No. 112, 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Shri A.K. Rath, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The list of participants is enclosed. Ms. Deepa Das, Ms. Farida Lambay and Prof. Mrinal Miri could not attend the meeting due to pre-occupation, as intimated over telephone.

2. JS(EE.II) welcomed all the members of GIAC especially Secretary(SE&L), who chaired his first meeting of GIAC and Shri S.R. Dhall, Director (F), Department of School Education & Literacy, who represented Financial Advisor (HRD).

3. JS(EE.II) outlined the I&E component of SSA and the GIAC's role and procedures for meetings.

4. Thereafter, the GIAC took up the listed agenda items for consideration and the following decisions were taken :-

**Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting of GIAC held on 15.11.2007.**

The minutes of the GIAC meeting held on 15.11.2007 were confirmed.

**Item No. 2: Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the meeting of GIAC held on 15.11.2007.**

The Committee noted the Action Taken Report on each item.

**Item No. 3: Proposal of Central Institute of Mental Retardation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala under Innovative & Experimental Education programme.**

(Rev. Father Thomas Felix, Member, GIAC, who is associated with this organization left the meeting with the permission of the Chairman when this item was taken up for discussion).

The NCERT's desk appraisal had recommended the proposal with certain modifications which was elaborated by the NCERT representative in the meeting. The report of Field Inspection Team was circulated in the meeting,

which did not recommend the proposal on the basis that the VA had not detailed out its plans which undermined its preparedness to run the project. SPD, SSA, Kerala who was present in the meeting, added that the Government of Kerala has taken a policy decision not to involve NGOs in SSA as the State Government has taken adequate steps to cover all components of SSA including children with MR in special schools.

The GIAC decided to reject the proposal.

However, the GIAC advised the SPD, SSA, Kerala to assess and also furnish to the Government of India, the number of MR children, children with severe disabilities and children with multiple disabilities, covered by the State in regular or special schools. The GIAC wanted to know whether cent per cent such children are being covered and whether any technical assistance from expert bodies or voluntary organizations in the Inclusive Education sector is required. They urged SPD to examine the position and send a report to the Ministry.

(Rev. Father Thomas Felix resumed the meeting).

**Item No.3(A): Proposals of Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA), Mirzapur, UP.**

At the outset, Shri Shamshad Khan, a member of GIAC, who is also associated with CREDA, informed the Committee that he has withdrawn the proposal. In view of this, GIAC took a decision to close this case.

**Item No. 3(B): Pratham Mumbai Education Initiative for I&E Project for the State of Uttar Pradesh.**

JS(EE.II) apprised the Committee that the GIAC in its meeting held on 15.11.2007 had commissioned another JET evaluation of the project of VA in the last week of February, 2008. A statement containing the issues raised by JET report, comments of VA thereon and the observations of MHRD was circulated to the members for consideration in the meeting.

Ms. Madhuri Deshpande, a member of GIAC, who was also a member on the JET apprised the GIAC that the JET found a lot of shortcomings, especially concerning mainstreaming of children, availability of books in libraries, use of TLM by the children, use of innovative methodology of teaching by the Bal Sakhis and linkages between BSK and summer camps. She also informed the members that there was lack of collaboration between VA and the functionaries of SSA at SPO and DPO level.

The SPD, UP's response, vide letter dated 02.05.2008, was placed before the GIAC. The representative of SPD, SSA, UP present in the meeting informed the Committee that the State had taken steps for coordination with the project

of VA but the results are not encouraging. The Secretary (SE&L) desired that since the project was sanctioned by MHRD on the recommendations of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the State should have made comprehensive arrangements for evaluation and monitoring of the project.

The GIAC also invited the representative of PRATHAM to express their views to the GIAC, on the JET report. Shri Madhav Chavan, Director, Pratham at the outset opined that the issues raised in the JET report are not at all acceptable to them as JET has completed the evaluation in a very short period. According to him, the reading and learning level of the children has been increased in three cities where VA has implemented the project. Shri Chavan informed the members that the summer camps were necessary for enrollment of children for enhancing their learning level.

On an inquiry made by the Secretary (SE&L) as to what was the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of VA, the representative of VA informed that there was the mechanism at district level but VA could not succeed in this regard for want of feed back from the district level authorities of the State.

Shri Shamshad Khan, Member, GIAC, felt that it appears that VA has tried their best to implement the project but outcome of the project were not up to the expectations. Representative from NCERT, felt that evaluation of achievement levels of student in such a short time was not really possible by JET.

After detailed discussions, GIAC decided that the Government of Uttar Pradesh should be requested to look into the reports of the implementation of the project by the VA in Lucknow, Agra and Varanasi and send a clear opinion to MHRD with supporting documents by 30.05.2008, for consideration by the Ministry/GIAC.

**Item No. 3©: Information on proposals in process.**

The GIAC noted that no proposals were pending, as proposals received by the Ministry, with no innovative value, were referred to State Project Directors of SSA, for consideration in their respective GIACs, as appropriate.

**Item No. 5: Any other item with the permission of the Chair**

GIAC reviewed its earlier decision and decided that no proposals to seek financial assistance under I&E projects, be made by GIAC member in respect of VAs they are associated with. The GIAC also desired that non-official members continue to encourage suitable NGOs of good repute for participation in the I&E scheme to address challenging areas with innovative approaches.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



**ANNEXURE**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE GRANTS-IN-AID COMMITTEE FOR  
INNOVATIVE AND EXDPERIMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECTS HELD ON  
08.05.2008**

- |    |  |                           |
|----|--|---------------------------|
| 1. | Shri A.K. Rath<br>Secretary (SE&L)<br>Department of School Education & Literacy<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development<br>New Delhi.          | Chairman                  |
| 2. | Ms. Vrinda Sarup<br>Joint Secretary (EE.II)<br>Department of School Education & Literacy<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development<br>New Delhi. | Member                    |
| 3. | Shri S.R. Dhall<br>Director (F)<br>Department of School Education & Literacy<br>Ministry of Human Resource Development<br>New Delhi.             | Representative of FA(HRD) |
| 4. | Rev. Father Thomas Felix<br>Director,<br>Central Institute of Mental Retardation,<br>Thiruvananthapuram,<br>Kerala.                              | Member                    |
| 5. | Shri Shamshad Khan,<br>Secretary, CREDA,<br>Mirzapur,<br>U.P.  | Member                    |
| 6. | Smt. Madhuri Deshpande,<br>Managing Director, COER,<br>5 Vidyadhan,<br>65/9, Law College Road,<br>Erandavne,<br>Pune – 411 004                   | Member                    |
| 7. | Dr. B. Vijaya Kumar,<br>State Project Director,<br>Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,<br>Thiruvananthapuram,<br>Kerala.                                      | Member                    |

8. Shri Pavnesh Kumar, Representative of SPD, SSA, U.P.  
Additional State Project Director,  
SSA, U.P.,  
Lucknow.
9. Prof. Santosh Sharma, Representative of Director,  
NCERT.  
Curriculum Group,  
NCERT,  
New Delhi.
10. Dr. Kavita Sharma Representative of Director,  
NCERT  
Senior Lecturer,  
NCERT,  
New Delhi.
11. Smt. Rajni Taneja Representative of FA(HRD).  
AFA,  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
New Delhi
12. Dr. Madhav Chavan, Special Invitee  
Director, PRATHAM,
13. Shri Smitin Brid, Special Invitee.  
State Head,  
PRATHAM, U.P.

Shri Ravi Chand, Under Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy assisted the Committee.