

Minutes of the meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) on 8th March, 2006 to consider the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Gujarat for SSA (including NPEGEL).

1. The PAB meeting for considering the Annual Work Plan and Budget 2006-07 of Gujarat was held on 8th March, 2006 under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (EE&L). A list of officers, who attended the meeting, is at **Annex-I**.

2. The State Project Director, Gujarat made a brief presentation of the progress of implementation of SSA in the State. The highlights of the presentation are as follows: -

- (i) Enrolment at the elementary stage has increased from 65.99 lakhs in 2003-04 to 71.53 lakhs in 2005-06. This reflects an 8.4% increase in enrolment.
- (ii) The drop out rate has declined from 10.16% to 5.13% at the primary stage and from 18.795 to 11.80% at the elementary stage. The drop out rate for girls at the elementary stage is high, at 14.02%.
- (iii) An amount of Rs. 30432.222 lakhs was sanctioned during the year 2005-06 under SSA (including NPEGEL), against which an expenditure of Rs. 19641.74 lakhs was made by the State Government (as on 28.2.2006). This is 64.54 % of the total outlay and 86.66 % of the available funds.
- (iv) As per the village education report prepared after a household survey in 2005-06, a total of 2,88,850 children have been found to be out of school.
- (v) There are 1050 functional Madarsas in Gujarat. There are 169 Urdu medium schools with 1198 teachers ,in which 53261 students are enrolled. The Muslim literacy rate at 73.47% is higher than the total literacy rate (69.14%). Muslim female literacy rate at 63.5% is also higher than the total female literacy rate (57.8%).
- (vi) The physical progress in civil works in the year 2005-06 is 99.08% and the financial progress is 94.8%.
- (vii) The State has undertaken a detailed school infrastructure survey that will be completed by 01-12-2006.
- (viii) The State Government has taken several steps for elementary education. Vidya Lakshmi Bonds have been issued to every girl of the Block where female literacy rate is below 35%. Girls belonging to BPL families in urban slum areas have also been covered. The State

government has made a provision of Rs. 15 crores in the State Budget for this scheme. State Govt. has also initiated a scheme in which one computer is given by the Government to any school to which the community first donates one computer.

- (ix) A total of 15648 Vidya Sahayaks have been appointed in 2005-06. 9604 additional Vidya Sahayaks will be appointed in 2006-07.
- (x) Two important schemes have been approved in the State Budget for covering children of migrating parents ,to decrease drop out rate : Support Schools and Seasonal Schools. Rs. 160 crores has been provided in the State Budget for the former and Rs. 309.5 lakhs has been provided for the latter.
- (xi) The State has made a provision of Rs. 100.18 lakhs in the State Budget for a child mapping system whereby a central database will be created at the State level for all children of the school going age group , with unique ID numbers.
- (xii) The State has decided to conduct 20 days in-service teacher training every year in the pre-vacation period during April and October.
- (xiii) The State has initiated several activities for SC/ST education. Training has been imparted to teachers of 45 tribal blocks in local dialects. Glossary for local dialects in Bhili and Dangi, have been developed. Pictorial glossary has been developed and provided to 1717 schools of 13 tribal blocks of three districts. Child tracking for ST children in 45 tribal blocks has been started. Teachers' quarters are being constructed in 15 tribal blocks. Workbooks in Mathematics, Hindi and English are being given to these children along with the textbooks. Government of Gujarat is providing textbooks for these children of standard 1-7, under the free textbooks scheme.
- (xiv) The State Government of Gujarat is supporting, from its State Budget, funds for construction of additional classrooms, construction of toilets for girls and for school repairs. In the Budget for 2006-07, Rs. 118.66 crores, Rs. 3.40 crores and Rs. 20 crores respectively, have been sanctioned for these construction activities.

2. The fact sheet of the State, with educational indicators, is at **Annex-II**.

3. After detailed discussions, the PAB approved the following interventions for Gujarat for the year 2006-07:

(i) The PAB decided to cover the entire infrastructure gap in Gujarat in respect of building less schools in the year 2006-07. Further, it was also decided to cover the entire infrastructure gap (for additional classrooms) in the 10 special focus districts in 2006-07 itself. In the remaining districts, civil works were sanctioned up to the ceiling of 33% of the total district outlay. PAB approved incorporation of child friendly elements in 100 new school buildings that have been sanctioned this year. Under Civil works, a fresh allocation of Rs. 18723.470 lakhs was sanctioned for construction of 10 BRC buildings, 100 primary schools with MDM kitchen sheds, 7145 additional classrooms, three toilet blocks and 194 rain water harvesting structures. A spill over allocation of Rs. 546.33 lakhs was also sanctioned.

(ii) The following interventions for out of school children were approved: -

Age-group	No. of out of school children	Strategy to provide them coverage
6-8 years	77,301	Special Enrolment Drive will be organised to enroll them in respective classes in formal schools.
8-11 years	94,893	Will be covered in AS centers run by NGOs and SSA under Back to School programme
11-14 years	1,16,656	For the girl children, it is proposed to open Girls Specific AS centers and Night classes under Back to School Programme and KGBV.
6-14 years age-group	2,88,850	

An amount of Rs. 3553.521 lakhs was approved for interventions for out of school children.

(i) Twenty days of in-service teacher training was sanctioned for 174504 teachers.

- (ii) TLE grants were sanctioned for 2195 upper primary schools, not covered under Operation Blackboard.
- (iii) School grants were sanctioned to 32404 primary schools and 21151 upper primary schools. Teacher grants were sanctioned for 174504 teachers.
- (iv) Free textbooks were sanctioned for 485445 upper primary students in class VIII. The State is funding free textbooks for children in classes I-VII from the State budget.
- (v) Under IED component, an amount of Rs. 933.828 lakhs was sanctioned for covering 77819 disabled children as per the following details.

Sr.	Activity	CWSN-77819 Total Rs. (in lacs)
1	Functional & Formal Assesment (Survey and Assesment Camp)	75.00000
2	Provision of Aids & Appliances	225.00000
3	Development of training material # modules (for Parents, Teachers, Children), monthly magazine	75.00000
4	Training on IED # General Orientation (part of 20 day in service teacher training in SSA) # Special Orientation -One teacher from every school (2 day) -Class teacher training (3-5 day) -BRCC-CRCC training (1 day) -Refresher Workshop (3-5 day)(foundation course)	25.00000 100.00000 25.00000 25.00000
5	Awariness & Community mobilization on IED # Training for parent of a disabled child (3 - 5 days) # Celebration of Flag day-World disabled day, Other's day, Festival Celebration # Posters, Audio-Video cassettes, books, brocers.	37.50000 75.00000 25.00000
6	Support to NGO's/Special schools	75.00000
7	Workshops/Meetings (State, District, Block level)	25.00000
8	Salary-IED coordinators, resource teachers	79.12800

9	Resource room (per block 30,000)	67.20000
	TOTAL	933.82800

(vii) Under innovations, a fresh allocation of Rs. 1250 lakhs was sanctioned under the following activities :-

Sr. No	Activities	Details	Outlay
1.	Girls Education	Awareness generation incl. Film and puppet shows, Community training on girls education, Vocational training for 7 th std. Girls, Celebration of 15 th Aug, 26 th Jan and 8 th March, Formation of resource groups at various levels, Improving reading writing skills.	375 lakhs
2.	ECCE	Salary of ECCE worker, TLM and Training	375 lakhs
3.	Computer Education		375 lakhs
4.	SC/ST	Remedial teaching, work book, practice book, benches for classes 5-7 in schools where majority of children are SC/ST	125 lakhs

A spill over allocation of Rs. 375 lakhs was also sanctioned under Computer Education for computer added learning.

(ix) Under Research ,Evaluation, Monitoring and Supervision an amount of Rs. 394.754 lakhs was sanctioned at the district level against the following activities:

1)	Research including action research	113.414 Lakhs
2)	Monitoring expenditure by BRC	24.192 Lakhs
3)	Monitoring expenditure by CRC	160.848 lakhs
4)	Monitoring expenditure by TRP	96.30 lakhs
	Total	394.754 lakhs

An additional Rs. 58.902 lakhs was sanctioned for REMS activities at the State level as per details given in the State component plan at **Annexure III**.

- (x) Under NPEGEL recurring grants were approved for 1141 clusters. Details of physical activities and financial targets can be seen at **Annexure IV**.

SPD, SSA, Gujarat pointed out that Gujarat is not taking any fund from Government of India for providing textbooks to children from Classes 1-7. Hence, the savings at the level of Gol on this behalf should be allocated for use in providing incentives to girl children under NPEGEL. She was of the opinion that since girls in Gujarat are being given these incentives at present, it should not be discontinued. The matter was discussed in PAB. Deputy Secretary, Ms. Anita Chauhan pointed out that savings under the textbooks Head can be used for providing incentives to the girl child under NPEGEL. However, Gujarat has not reported any savings under the free textbooks component of SSA. Therefore, it would not be possible to permit the grant of incentives under the NPEGEL scheme. The PAB decided that adherence to NPEGEL scheme guidelines is necessary, and it would not be possible to make special provision for incentives for girl children under NPEGEL unless there are savings in the free textbooks head.

- (xi) State Component Plan of Rs. 1285.952 lakhs was approved as per details provided at **Annexure III**.

6. There are ten special focus districts in Gujarat. These are Banaskantha, Bharuch, Dahod, Dang, Junagadh, Kutch, Narmada, Panchmahal, Rajkot, and Valsad. Details of interventions in these ten districts are at **Annexure V**.

7. PAB approved Rs. 389.38 crores for implementation of SSA and NPEGEL by State Implementation Society, Gujarat. Break up of fresh allocations and spill over amount is given in the table below:

Sr.No.	Name of the scheme	Fresh allocation	Spill over	Total
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
1.	SSA+NPEGEL	37847.228	1091.766	38938.993

Costing tables of the approved amount of SSA including NPEGEL is given at **Annexure – VI**.

8. The State gave the following commitments to the PAB for improvement in implementation of SSA in 2006-07:

- (i) State has undertaken a comprehensive survey of out of school children. All 2,88,805 out of school children would be enrolled in schools this year.
- (ii) The drop out rate at present is 11.82% The drop out rate would be reduced by 5% points in 2006-07.
- (iii) All incomplete civil works would be completed by June 2006.
- (iv) A survey conducted by the State Government has shown that 21,159 children are out of school due to lack of access to schooling. The State agreed to ensure 100% access to primary schooling in 2006-07.
- (v) There are 1056 single teacher schools at present. State agreed to ensure that there would be no single teacher schools beyond September 2006.

9. The PAB emphasized the following issues for implementation by the State:

- (i) There are 1050 Madarsas in Gujarat. Madarsa can be considered as EGS centres for imparting formal education, especially in the five districts with low Muslim female literacy rates. The State must examine this aspect and formulate a clear strategy for implementation of formal education in Madarsas.
- (ii) The State should develop and operationalise, school-monitoring indices for measuring the functioning of schools, in 2006-07.
- (iii) The State has already operationalised the NCERT quality monitoring tools. The State must utilise the information obtained from the tools, for a systematic quality improvement plan, in collaboration with DIETs and SCERTs.
- (iv) According to the DISE 2004-05 data, only 45.4% of those appearing in the annual examination of the exit class at the primary stage pass with more than 60% marks. The corresponding figure for the upper primary stage is 55.5%. The State should target a minimum 10 % increase in the percentage of children scoring above 60% in the exit classes of primary and upper primary stage.
- (v) MLLs(Minimum Levels of Learning) were implemented in the State of Gujarat from 1995 at the primary stage and 1997 at the upper primary stage. The State must make concerted efforts towards ensuring that children acquire these age/grade appropriate competencies. In 2006-07, the focus should be on acquisition of

basic reading and arithmetic competencies at Grades I and II, that will lay a strong foundation for the higher classes.

- (vi)** The State has operationalised all BRCs and CRCs. Training of all coordinators and resource persons in these academic resource support structures must be ensured, in 2006-07.
- (vii)** An urban cell would be set up in all cities with million plus population.
- (viii)** District level tribal coordinators would be appointed in the tribal majority districts.
- (ix)** There are 3489 schools with PTR ratio above 50. Teacher rationalisation should be undertaken to ensure that there are no single teacher schools.