

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Project Approval Board of SSA held on 8/8/2001

1.1 The first meeting of the Project Approval Board was held on 8/8/2001 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy. The list of participants is annexed.

2.1 Secretary (EE&L) welcomed the members for the first meeting of the Project Approval Board. He emphasised that this meeting was important since the parameters for approving the plans would be laid down, which would form the basis for future sanctions. He stated that in view of this need to look closely at the approval criteria, only two plans from each of the States, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, were being taken up for consideration.

Andhra Pradesh

2.2 Andhra Pradesh Education Secretary and the State Project Director made a detailed presentation of their Perspective Plans and Annual Work Plans and the procedures followed. In particular, they emphasized the integrated nature of the Project which aimed at literacy for adults as well. He stated that Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, is chairing a Committee to monitor the project implementation. They further informed the Board that the perspective plan for East Godavari was for Rs. 453.89 crores and for West Godavari was for Rs. 346.67 crores and the Annual Work Plans for 2001-2002 for Rs. 54.98 crores and Rs 29.73 crores respectively. In particular, they explained that school buildings should be constructed quickly so that target dated of SSA can be met.

2.3 The appraisal team commented that the planning had been community based and that during the field visits schools had been found to be overcrowded revealing the need for more schools and classroom construction. The appraisal team had also discussed the AP Plan at length with the State officials, and the Plans had been revised to reflect the data of household surveys and items which were found beyond the norms were deleted. However, the appraisal team pointed out that the civil works exceeded 33% ceiling in the Annual Work Plan and the number of upper primary schools planned were more than 1:2 norm of SSA.

2.4 Director, NCERT, Chairman, NCTE, and Joint Director, NCERT commended the quality improvement programme included in the plans and were appreciative of the focus on recruitment of trained teachers and subsequent training of teachers, especially for upper primary.

2.5 Joint Secretary (Labour) pointed out that Andhra Pradesh is the only State to have got elementary education and child labour related problems together within the ambit of the School Education Department. He felt that synergy was reflected in the plans and should also be encouraged in the other States.

3.1 The FA, HRD, made the following comments:

- a) The appraisal note does not include the plan details vis-à-vis the norms prescribed for SSA. Such a tabular statement would help in better scrutiny.
- b) It is not clear whether the state level Board have cleared the plans.
- c) The position of existing infrastructure of primary and upper primary schools was not clear. Since a large civil works component has been provided for, the existing gaps should be correctly identified.
- d) It should be ensured that the number of teachers being sanctioned in SSA is only the additional required as per norms and as per the opening of new schools.
- e) No items above the SSA norms approved by the Cabinet should be allowed.
- f) There should not be any appointment of permanent staff, except teachers, under SSA. The existing staff should be optimally used.
- g) Convergence with other schemes should be brought in and the plans should show this convergence.
- h) The commitment of the State Government to contribute its share should be taken in writing.
- i) In the Xth plan all other schemes should be merged with SSA. The state should show the commitment to do this and, if necessary, guidelines for this merger prepared.

4.1 The Board discussed this at length and took the following decisions:

- a) No front-loading of civil works can be done as per present norms and so the civil works would have to be restricted to 33% of the Plan size.
- b) Since
 - (i) the civil works component would have to be reduced,
 - (ii) six months of the year are almost over and
 - (iii) some lead time would be required for the implementation to start,the Annual Plan for 2001-2002 should be restricted to :
East Godavari: Rs 15 crores
West Godavari: Rs 10 crores.

Based on the progress of expenditure, the Annual Plan size would be reviewed again in December, if required.

- c) The Perspective Plan for these two districts would also be considered in December for approval along with other states,
- d) Appraisal teams during scrutiny should examine the plans specifically against each norm and categorically state whether the norm is satisfied or not.
- e) SSA norms should be incorporated in the sanction orders itself.
- f) The state should give the projected cash flow statement for expenditure till the end of the financial year.
- g) The commitment of state for contributing its share should be taken on record.
- h) Fund release for EGS & AIE is not part of the overall plan size approved. Funds for this scheme will be released separately.

4.2 The Board felt that the quality of education is of paramount importance under SSA and hence quality aspects should be emphasised in both planning and implementation. Consistent with the SSA norms of 1:40 for appointment of teachers and the provision of one teacher in one classroom for every class in upper primary schools, vacancies may be filled up. The Board desired that adequate emphasis should be given on primary education especially where there are large number of drop outs and out of school children at that level. Moreover, a proper foundation of primary education would be necessary to achieve the desired transition rate to upper primary. It was observed that at present in calculating the requirement of upper primary schools in a district, all upper primary schools whether stand alone, or attached to primary or secondary or higher secondary schools, or aided or unaided, should be taken into account.

It was also observed that synergies for various programmes should be achieved to make an impact on mobilisation in favour of universal elementary education. In this process, the linkages with the Total Literacy Campaign should also be established besides those with the child labour issues.

Uttar Pradesh

5.1 State Project Director, UP, presented plans for Allahabad and Lucknow districts. She informed the Board that the perspective plan for Allahabad amounted to Rs. 522 crores and for Lucknow it amounted to Rs 443 crores while the annual work plan amounted to Rs. 38.48 crores and Rs 11.27 crores respectively. She further stated that the revised plan had taken into account the observations of the appraisal team. The appraisal team stated that they had visited the State and appraised the plan and

discussions had been held with the team thereafter. Many of the suggestions of the appraisal team had been incorporated in the revised plan.

5.2 It was observed that the perspective plan would require further work especially regarding the number of upper primary schools. While in the revised plan UP had followed the State norm of providing one upper primary school to every habitation with a population of 800 and above, the number of children graduating had not been taken into account while calculating the norm. The appraisal team had reworked the annual plan taking into account SSA norms and pruning the number of upper primary schools. After discussion the Board felt that a decision on the perspective plan would be taken subsequently in December which would give time for any modifications to be made. Moreover, taking into account that only about six months of the year remained and also the observations of the appraisal team, it was decided that the AWP for the year 2001-2002 should be pegged at Rs. 8.73 crores for Lucknow and Rs. 17 crores for Allahabad respectively. This would, however, be subject to SSA norms being followed on all items, including 33% ceiling on civil works on the annual plan.

5.3 The Board, after discussion, also felt that all other observations which have been made with regard to the Andhra Pradesh Plan would apply to Uttar Pradesh plans, too.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING OF THE FIRST MEETING OF
THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD ON SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN
HELD ON 8TH AUGUST, 2001.**

1. Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Secretary, EE&L, In the Chair.
2. Shri Sanjay Narayan, Financial Adviser, MHRD.
3. Shri Sumit Bosa, Joint Secretary, MHRD
4. Shri Jagan Mathew, DGM, NLM, MHRD
5. Prof. B.K. Khandelwal, Director, NIEPA
6. Prof. A.N. Maaheshwari, Chairperson, NCTE
7. Shri K. Chandramouli, Jt. Secretary(representative of Secretary, M/Labour)
8. Shri J.C. Sharma, Director, Planning Commission(Representative of Principal Adviser(Education), Planning Commission).
9. Ms. Vasudha Gupta, DS, (Representative of Secretary, D/o Woman & Child Development).
10. Prof. M.S. Khaparde, Joint Director, NCERT (representative of Director, NCERT).

IN ATTENDANCE

1. Shri I.V. Subba Rao, Education Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
2. Shri M. Nagarjuna, SPD, DPEP, Andhra Pradesh
3. Ms. Vrinda Swarup, SPD, Education for All, Govt. of U.P.
4. Shri Amit Kaushik, Director, MHRD
5. Ms. Shalini Prasad, Director, MHRD
6. Shri Job Zachariah, Director, MHRD
7. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
8. Shri Shashi Shekhar Sharma, Director(Finance), MHRD
9. Ms. Rashmi Sharma, Director, MHRD
10. Shri P.K. Mohanty, DS, MHRD
11. Ms. Prena Gulati, DS, MHRD
12. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD