

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD HELD ON 26.4.06
TO CONSIDER AWP&B 2006-07 OF THE STATE OF SIKKIM FOR SSA**

1. PAB meeting for Sikkim SSA AWP&B 2006-07 was held on 26.4.06 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (EE&L).
2. The list of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed (**Annexure-I**).

3. **Status:**

The State made a presentation that they have achieved about 92% as expenditure against total funds released under SSA during the year 2005-06. The enrolment during the academic session 2005 at primary and upper primary level was 88304 and 34077 respectively. The total enrolment comes to 1,22,381 against the child population (6 to 14) of 1,09,675. GER is 112%. This reflects that there are 6396 over age under age children in the system. The net enrolment is 103365 i.e.94.3%. This shows that only 5.7% children are out of school as on 31.12.2005.

- 41 new primary schools out of 44 sanctioned, have been opened.
- 37 primary schools out of 40 sanctioned, have been upgrade to UPS.
- 37 EGS centres out of 87 sanctioned, are running with an enrolment of 847.
- After opening of all primary/EGS, only 08 habitations will be without schooling facilities
- The sanctioned number of teachers was 628 but only 519 have been appointed.

Only 56% of civil works have been completed. It may be noted that North district completed 97% of its civil works followed by West district with 85.3%, then South district with 28.2%. 80% toilet and 70% drinking water facilities have been completed by the State. 50% backlog exists under the item of additional classrooms.

The Fact sheet of the State is enclosed (**Annexure-II**).

Proposals for 2006-07 are:

- To introduce general education in 12 Sanskrit Pathshalas and by providing 2 teachers per school and other required facilities as in the case of Monastic schools. They are Govt. schools, was clarified by the State representatives.
- To provide Head Masters in primary and upper primary school opened/upgraded schools.
- To provide language teachers in schools as per State norms.
- To provide furniture for schools opened and upgraded under SSA.

4. Observation of Appraisal team:

Appraisal Team made the following observations:-

1. Non-release of state share is an issue with the State.
2. 44% of the total approved budget of 2005-06 has been utilised. Expenditure for REMS, management head and school grant (primary & monastic) is more than the sanctioned amount.
3. State could not take up out of school interventions due to lack of planning capacity.
4. State has proposed 28.41 crores (22.49 fresh and 5.21 spillovers) which is 42% more than the budget (19.90 crores) of 2005-06.
5. With approval of 2006-07 proposals, all habitations will have access to primary level of schooling.
6. State believes that there is 100% access at upper primary level but would confirm the position after a survey in 2006-07.
7. There is an over all 4% increase in enrollment at elementary level.
8. The enrollment at primary level has been reduced by .35% while enrollment at upper primary level has increased by 16%. Enrollment of girls has increased more than boys.
9. Share of girls' enrollment is more at upper primary level and more than 50% at upper primary level.

10. The data of out of school children has not been updated. In 2005-06 the State had targeted 9805 out of school children, of which 3495 children have been covered. The State is planning to cover 6310 remaining children in 2006-07.
11. Drop out rate at primary level has reduced from 15% in 2004-05 to 9% in 2005-06 and is proposed to be reduced further to 6% in 2006-07.
12. Drop out rate at upper primary level has been reduced from 14% in 2004-05 to 10% in 2005-06 and is proposed to be reduced to 7% in 2006-07.
13. Girls are dropping out less than boys both at primary and upper primary level.
14. Completion rate is 77% and 67% at primary and upper primary level, respectively.
15. Capacity building is very essential for the officials engaged in planning processes of SSA Sikkim, as the plans lack focus.
16. Monitoring activities need to be stepped up in the State.
17. The State does not reflect gender discrimination in education. However, in order to encourage girl child it is recommended some incentives may be introduced to promote high achievers.
18. The State should formulate strategies to cover out of school children in the East district.
19. **Special Focus Districts:-** There are three Special focus districts namely West, North and South. the details of Special Focus Districts is enclosed as **Annexure-III.**

5. Issues:-

The Project Approval Board also emphasized on the following issues for better planning and implementation of SSA, by the State government:

- The State needs to regulate flow of funds to all districts to achieve better progress in all SSA activities.
- The State planning team should formulate a mechanism for capacity building in preparing and compiling district plans to avoid mismatch of figures, errors in compilation, errors in costing tables and reconciliation of data in tables and write ups.

- The State should regulate its monitoring activities so that the progress of the State can be gauged.

6. Approvals:-

After detailed presentation by the State and comments by the Appraisal team the PAB decided as under:

- 12 Sanskrit Pathshalas covering 300 students, since they are State Government schools, will be supported under SSA as schools and the formal curriculum of the State will be taught there. Hence each school will be provided with 2 teachers, teacher grant, school grant, in service teacher training and induction training for new teachers.
- The State raised the issue of reappropriation of funds within the Innovation Head for the year 2002-03. PAB would consider the request after receiving the relevant documents from the State regarding approval of the same by EC/GC of SSA Sikkim. PAB reiterated that no additional amount would be released against this item, only the reappropriation proposal would be considered.
- **The total outlay approved is Rs.2439.00 lakh. Since the State has not made adequate provision to meet the backlog of the State Share and the requirement for 2006-07, initially PAB's approval will be only for Rs.1130.00 lakh. Once the State makes adequate provision of State Share in the supplementary budget, the remaining plan of Rs.1309.00 lakh will be taken up for implementation. The first installment to be released will be 50% of the Rs.1130.00 lakhs approved for the first phase.**
- The district-wise details of approved plan is at **Annexure-IV**.

7. Commitments:

The State Government made the following commitments to improve SSA implementation:

- The State would clear the backlog of State share of Rs 1.30 crore out of its State budget provision of Rs 1.50 crore for 2006-07, by 30th May 2006. The first installment of the GOI share would be released after receipt of this Rs. 1.30 crore by the State Implementation Society.
- The State shall intimate the receipt of 15% of outlay of 2005-06, from DONER to the Sikkim SSA society, to the Deptt. of Elementary Education & Literacy.

- Enrolment drive would be launched to cover all the 6100 out of school children.
- Drop out rate will be reduced from 8.74% to 5% at primary level and from 9.92% to 5% in upper primary level.
- All the 109 vacant posts of SSA programme would be filled before June 2006.
- The State has a major backlog for civil works especially relating to additional classrooms. The South and East district are lagging behind in the civil works. The State committed to complete the backlog of civil works by September, 2006.
- The 3 schools sanctioned in 2005-06 and which have not been opened yet, will be opened in June, 06.

8. Conditions to avail of SSA funds:

- a. The State government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- b. First installment of the State share should also be released to the Society within one month of the releases of Central share to the State Society.
- c. At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
- d. Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least the Salary payment. The latter would monitor the attendance before releasing the salary.
- e. VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grants, school grants and other such expenditures, which has to be incurred only through these bodies as per SSA norms.
- f. The State Government will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give the details of this to GOI before the release of second installment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- g. The second installment would only be released after the previous installment of State share has been transferred to the State Implementation Society and substantial progress has been made in expenditure as far as money already released is concerned.
- h. All appointments under the head of management cost should either be on deputation or on contract basis, with all persons being recruited having functional computer literacy.

