

## **MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR SSA HELD ON 18.9.2001**

The third meeting of the Project Approval Board for SSA was held on 18.9.2001 under the chairmanship of Secretary, (EE&L). The list of participants is annexed. In this meeting, District Elementary Education Plans of five districts of Punjab were considered for approval.

2.     Item No.1     The Board confirmed the minutes of the Second Meeting of the Project Approval Board held on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2001.
- Item No.2     The Action Taken Report was taken on record.
- Item No.3     Consideration of the District Elementary Education Plans/ Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs) 2001-2002 in respect of 5 districts of Punjab under SSA .

3.1     The Secretary, EE&L requested Education Secretary, Punjab to have a brief presentation covering the problem of out of school children at primary and upper primary stage with special features/strategies worked out by the State Government to meet the challenges.

3.2     This was followed by a brief presentation by the State Education Secretary. Some of the main points highlighted in the presentation include: -

- i)       Punjab being a non-DPEP State needs special dispensation from the Central Government.
- ii)      There are large proportions of SC population with disproportionate growth in the number of habitations.
- iii)     The literacy rate has distortions for male and female as well as rural and urban areas.
- iv)     About 15% of the children in the age group 6-11 years are out of school while the drop out rate for male is higher than that of females.
- v)      There are distortions in the teacher-pupil ratio also which ranges between 1:22 and 1:55.
- vi)     For upper primary schools, they have the State norms of 6 teachers.
- vii)     There is a decrease in the drop out figures of upper primary schools because of existence of a large number of private schools from which children directly join upper primary schools.
- viii)    Out of 100 children only 22 complete Secondary Schools.

- ix) There is convergence with the school health service programme.
- x) 7% of profit of Cooperative Societies is being used for education infrastructure.

3.3 The Secretary, EE&L asked the State Government to indicate the major areas of concern and the strategies to tackle the problem of out of school children.

3.4 The State Education Secretary clarified that they propose to tackle the problem of school drop out and out of school children through community mobilization and involvement. They propose to conduct training programme for the VEC members.

3.5 JS (EE) pointed out that the State Government is yet to adopt the system of Decentralized Management of Education through the Panchayats.

3.6 The State Education Secretary agreeing to the point made by JS(EE) stated that they have formed VECs which include two Members from each Panchayat and seven Members elected from the community. The VEC is undertaking execution of works directly.

3.7 Dr. Shabnam Sinha on behalf of the Appraisal Team made the following observations:-

- a) All the Plans submitted by the State Government are rural plans and no urban area has been covered. Although, all relevant data is available, it is not adequately used in preparing the Plans.
- b) The requirement of additional upper primary schools cannot be accepted since the ratio of one upper primary schools for two primary schools is already met.
- c) 140 new primary schools by converting branch schools may be approved.
- d) New school building could be taken up for 45 primary schools under Civil Works and out of 2812 class rooms required , 175 may be given , keeping in mind 33% limit on civil works.
- e) Support for Anganwadi could be agreed as proposed to supplement efforts at pre-primary stage. Secretary suggested that pre-primary education component of ICDS may be strengthened through SSA.
- f) Remedial coaching for children with special needs needs a relook.
- g) No new upper primary schools need be sanctioned at this stage keeping in view the ratio of primary schools to upper primary schools.
- h) 280 new teachers for the new schools may be sanctioned out of 1549 additional teachers proposed.

- i) On the quality front, DIETs and SCERT need to be activated and textbook/curriculum needs to be revised in consultation with SCERT/NCERT. Inputs on gender and IED may be included in Teacher Training and Training of VEC Members.

3.8 In response to the query of Secretary on strategy to increase participation of women, Dir(RS) suggested that MTA may be formed in addition to VEDC for getting children to school. Secretary also suggested that at least 50% VEDC members should be women so that they are enthused to participate.

3.9. Director, NIEPA suggested that the State needs to be supported for State level Institutions for capacity building, as the state did not have the benefit of DPEP. As such, besides strengthening SCERT, the State Government may consider setting up SIEMAT. Activities for monitoring, evaluation and MIS need to be supported. The State government has included for maintenance a large number of schools which cannot be provided under Civil Works. However, the State government may consider utilizing Rs.5000 per school available for maintenance. Conversion of 140 branch schools in regular schools should be based on certain parameters.

3.10. FA made the following points:-

- (a) Since half of the year is now already over, the expenditure should be approved only for six months.
- (b) The State Government should commit itself for 15% to be provided as State share for SSA grant.
- (c) The State component plan should be within the 6% management cost.
- (d) The Teacher-Pupil ratio of 1:40 to be maintained while appointing additional/new teachers and the State Government should also redeploy teachers by rationalizing the postings and avoid concentration of teachers in urban schools.
- (e) The State Government should complete the household survey by January 2002 as a part of pre-project activities sanctioned under SSA.
- (f) No vehicles should be bought from SSA funds.

3.11. Education Secretary, Punjab promised to complete the task of household survey in the next three months and submit the perspective plans in next two months, i.e., by January, 2002.

3.12. FA further pointed out that no regular staff should be appointed. The State Government could, however, engage Consultants for the next six months for specific tasks. Civil Works shall not exceed 33%. Further state Government procedures should be followed for procurement.

3.13. Dr. Lal of NCERT suggested that the State Government should initiate activities to improve quality of education in their schools. Steps should be taken for increasing achievement levels of children.

3.14. According to information furnished by the State Government, the drop-out is more in the case of males than females. Dr. Lal desired to know what special strategy the State government has envisaged to tackle this problem.

3.15. It was pointed out that Base Line achievement survey has already been proposed by the State Government in the Plan. NCERT would help the State Govt. in conducting Base Line Survey.

3.16. Based on the discussion, the following decisions were taken:-

- a) The State Government may have EGS centers where the enrolment is below 40. However, when the enrolment exceeds 40, the Branch School/EGS center could be upgraded to a primary school.
- b) Based on above decision the number of primary schools approved is 138 out of which building for 45 should be constructed in the first year. The number of additional classroom to be constructed in first year is 175.
- c) No upper primary school be approved, seeing that 1:2 norms already satisfied.
- d) Construction of toilet needs to be given priority. 50% of schools should be covered this year and 50% next year. Rs.35,000 per toilet could be given under SSA and balance, if any, should be provided from local resources.
- e) For electricity fittings in classrooms, the State Government can use the money available for maintenance at the rate of Rs.5000 per school under SSA and also from other funds available to the State Government other than SSA.
- f) In order to provide monitoring and resource support and quality control to the programme, the State government should establish State Resource Group (SRG) and District Resource Group (DRG) within one month of the issue of sanction and Block Resource Group within two months.
- g) The State Government should restructure their administrative mechanism so as to have a single system at State level for elementary education and SSA.
- h) The State Government should introduce Computer Education in some schools on experimental basis by providing 6-7 computers in one school in a cluster to which other schools could be linked. They can take advantage of the scheme CLASS, administered by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, and also the innovative component under SSA.
- i) EMIS should be developed on the line of DPEP.

3.17. Secretary, EE & L also directed that the following points may be included in the Plan:-

- (a) (i) Strategy for bringing 15% out of School Children to school
  - (ii) Strategies for reduction in drop-out of SC/ST and other children to bring it down from 33% to 10%.
  - (iii) Introduction of computer education in some schools on experimental basis.
- (b) Subject to above, the following district-wise allotment, was made for 5 districts of Punjab for the year 2001-2002:-

(Rupees in lakhs)

i)	Faridkot	410.330
ii)	Bhatinda	583.416
iii)	Mansa	424.986
iv)	Moga	550.740
v)	Muktsar	497.908
vi)	State Component	47.019
		2514.399
	Total or say	2515.000

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

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD ON SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2001**

1. Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Secretary, EE & L, In the Chair
2. Shri Sumit Bose, Joint Secretary, MHRD
3. Shri Sanjay Narayen, Financial Adviser, MHRD
4. Prof. B.P. Khandelwal, Director, NIEPA
5. Shri A.A.C. Lal, NCERT(representative of Director, NCERT).
6. Shri J.C. Sharma, Director, Planning Commission(representative of Principal Adviser(Edu), Planning Commission.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

1. Shri Job Zachariah, Director, MHRD
  2. Shri Praveen Kumar, Director, MHRD
  3. Ms. Rashmi Sharma, Director, MHRD.
  4. Shri S.S. Sharma, Director(F), MHRD.
  5. Shri R.S. Sandhu, Secretary, Education Deptt., Govt. of Punjab.
  6. Shri S.S. Randhawa, SPD, SSA, Govt. of Punjab.
  7. Dr. Shabnam Sinha, NCERT.
  8. Shri S.C. Gujaria, Ed.CIL, TSG.
  9. Shri S.M.I.A. Zaidi, Fellow, NIEPA.
  10. Shri V. Peddanna, US, MHRD
  11. Shri O.P. Chaturvedi, US, MHRD
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