

**MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>th</sup> PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN  
HELD ON 28/7/2004**

A meeting of the S.S.A. Project Approval Board was held on 28.7.2004 under the Chairmanship of Secretary(EE&L) to consider the Annual Plans for Punjab and Chandigarh. A list of participants is annexed.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.1: AWP&B 2004-05 OF PUNJAB**

2. The meeting began with a presentation by the SPD on the progress of SSA in the State over the last one year, highlighting certain critical issues such as the need for additional interventions for girl children due to the adverse sex ratio, the problems of enrolment in private schools and the need to design special strategies for the hardest-to-reach out of school children. Some of the issues highlighted were as follows:-

- i) Due to wide variation in population across the State, the SSA Society has proposed that the CD Block be considered the unit of planning instead of the District.
- ii) Distinct and well designed interventions are required for girl children due to the adverse sex ratio in the State.
- iii) At the primary level, a number of private schools have been opened in the State and there is a tendency among parents to send boys to such fee-paying schools. This has resulted in greater enrolment of girls in Government primary schools. The distortion is corrected at the upper primary level since there are fewer private schools.
- iv) Bridge courses have been proposed for hardest-to-reach children.
- v) The process for filling teacher vacancies has been initiated. These will be on contract basis and will cover both SSA vacancies as well as vacancies borne on the State Govt.

3. Secretary(EE&L) wanted to know the number of accessless habitations in the State and schools with only one or two teachers. Although the State indicated that the total number of such habitations was 57980, it was pointed out that there were several gaps in the data, as for instance in the cases of Gudaspur and Hoshiarpur where the total number of habitations (10601 and 2277 respectively) have been shown as unserved. The State was advised to reconfirm the data and to provide EGS only in those habitations which are not eligible for a regular school under the State norm. The State was further directed to cover all eligible unserved habitations within the current year through schools. Secretary (EE & L) also directed that intensive training be provided to EGS volunteers since the quality of such training would determine the quality of teaching. The States proposal for conversion/upgradation of branch schools and EGS into primary schools was therefore left undecided until fuller data is provided.

4. As per the information provided by the State there are 13905 teacher vacancies at the primary level and 3571 at the upper primary level with no information available on teacher vacancies in three districts in the upper primary sector. Principal Secretary, Punjab informed that process of recruitment against these vacancies is on. The PAB urged the State to speed up the process and fill up the vacant posts by December, 2004.

5. Discussing the planned interventions for IED, JS(EE)-I observed that slow learners had been included in the number of children with special needs indicated by the State. Since the total number of children with special needs including slow learners is .79% of the child population of the State, JS(EE)-I further observed that this implies under reporting of children with special needs. The State was advised to reconfirm these figures.

6. On the question of staffing at the SPO and DPO levels, JS(EE)-II mentioned that the State had committed during the last PAB in 2003-04 meeting that all vacancies at these levels would be filled during 2003-04 itself, but this has not yet been done. SPD, Punjab committed that the SPO would be fully staffed and operational by the end of August 2004, while vacancies at the DPOs would be filled by September end. He further indicated that a proper MIS structure is being established at the State and District levels and that DISE data would be collected during the current year with the record data of September 2004, utilizing NIEPA's DISE software.

7. The State proposed that VEDCs may be allowed to engage line departments such as PWD, Irrigation and others for construction activities at village level without any payment of departmental charges. This would enable appropriate technical supervision by qualified persons and ensure high quality construction. The PAB agreed with this request with the conditions that:

- a) No departmental charges would be payable;
- b) In cases where VEDCs do not engage such line departments it would be the responsibility of the State Education Department to ensure appropriate technical supervision arrangements for construction done by VEDCs; and
- c) The State Education Department may take steps to have technical supervision orders issued at the State level in consultation with concerned line departments.

8. The Appraisal Team indicated that there were several gaps in the basic data provided by the State and that accounting of expenditure in previous years was not satisfactory. They further indicated that there were items of unsanctioned expenditure not covered by SSA norms to the extent of Rs.6.00 crores. Secretary (EE&L) observed that such irregularities reflected a poor understanding of SSA at the district level, perhaps because of inadequate infrastructure. There was therefore a need for SPD to ensure training on Financial Regulations of SSA to all SPO & District Staff.

9. JS(EE)-I raised the issue of payment of salaries to DIET staff and stressed that the State needs to comply with the directives of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana which has recently ordered the release of payment to such staff immediately.

10. On the issue of curriculum and text book renewal, the State indicated that it was following NCERT books as modified by the Punjab School Education Board. However, JS(EE)-I pointed out that the curriculum was last revised during 1991-92 while text books for the primary schools were last written in 1989-90 according to data provided by the State itself. It is therefore unlikely that these text books are MLL based. Secretary directed that the State should take up the matter with the Punjab School Education Board for the production of competency based text books. Principal Secretary (School Education), Punjab indicated that she would confirm the position in writing to the Ministry in 15 days indicating the time table for renewal and the process to be followed.

11. In the area of teacher training and academic support, the State confirmed that BRPs and CRPs have been put in place and would be undergoing training within 3 months. It was clarified to the State that contract appointments may be made at the BRC level upto 3 persons per BRC, in order to fill up some of the vacancies at this level. JS(EE)-I pointed out that detailed guidelines have been issued in April 2004 for teacher training under the revised Teacher Education scheme and that these should be followed. State Resource Groups (SRGs) under Principal Secretary (School Education) and District Resource Groups (DRGs) at District level should be formed within 15 days to provide guidance and support for such training programmes.

12. PAB observed that EC meeting of the SSA Authority, Punjab has not been held since 17.10.2003. Only one EC meeting has been held since its inception.

13. The Appraisal Team pointed out that the perspective Plans for the State have not been received and approved so far. The State committed that these would be submitted within 3 months.

14. Secretary (EE&L) also indicated that she would review progress in Punjab after three months. She also desired that a letter go to Chief Secretary, Punjab, highlighting the key issues where SSA Punjab needs to gear up its performance.

15. SPD Punjab indicated that a proposal to replace an old unserviceable staff car had been included in the management cost at the State level, in terms of para 37.6 of the SSA Financial Management and Procurement Manual. As the representative of IFD was of the view that concurrence for the proposal may be sought from FA on file, the PAB approved the

replacement in principle on the basis of the justification, with the direction that the case may be prescribed for final approval on file.

16. Principal Secretary (School Education) and SPD, Punjab were advised to ensure that the outstanding State share of about Rs. 16.00 crores against the grants released by Central Government are actually released to the Society quickly.

17. Based on the discussions and the observations of the Appraisal Team, the Project Board approved the Annual Plans of the State as indicated in Annexure-I with the further directive that actual release of funds would take place only after complete base line information (including details of civil works completed till 31.3.04 and in progress as on 1.4.04), audited accounts and audited report for the year 2002-03, and details of expenditure reported under the Head Research and Evaluation and Innovation have been provided, and it is confirmed that outstanding State share has been received by the State Society. Information regarding key physical indicators approval by the PAB w.r.t. the Annual Plan & Budget 2004-05 (SSA) for Punjab is given below:-

- School grant for 13341 Government primary schools and 5541 upper primary Government Schools, teachers grant for 82720 teachers including 2010 teachers sanctioned in previous years but appointed in the current year, school maintenance grant for 18882 Government schools and teachers training for 82720 teachers was approved.
- Under the category of Civil Works construction of 3413 additional classrooms, 9042 sanitary and drinking water facility and 128 building less schools etc. were approved. The figures include spillover allowed from previous year.
- Approval for distribution of free text books was given for 622098 non SC girls.
- Funds for innovative activities like ECCE, girls education, SC/ST and computer education amounting to Rs. 760.51 lakhs were sanctioned. However, fund releases for innovative activities would be subject to details to be provided by State on progress achieved with reference to PAB approvals for the year 2003-04. The funds sanctioned for these activities were restricted to Rs. 50 lakhs per district and Rs. 15 lakhs per activity as indicated in the statement at Annexure-I which gives information about the proposals approved by the PAB. Funds for IED (Rs. 304.31 lakhs), research & Evaluation (Rs. 245.45 lakhs), TLE (Rs. 155.50 lakhs) etc were sanctioned.

The proposals approved by the Board are as follows (as indicated in Annexure-I):-

		(Figure in Rupees/Lakh)
(1)	Fresh SSA proposals 2004-05	14981.64
(2)	Spill over from 2003-04	4970.55
(3)	Fresh NPEGEL proposals 2004-05	68.93
(4)	Spillover from 2003-04	13.80
Total:		20034.92

18. The approval was subject to the State satisfying the following general conditions:-

- (a) State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (b) First instalment of the State share should be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the State.
- (c) At least 50% of teachers recruited should be female.
- (d) Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least salary payment. The latter would monitor teacher's attendance before releasing their salary.
- (e) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grant, school grant and such other expenditure 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 details of this to GOI before the release of second instalment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (g) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment 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 recruited persons having functional computer literacy.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2: AWP&B 2004-05 OF CHANDIGARH

19. Secretary (Education), Chandigarh, made a brief presentation on the status of SSA in the UT.

20. Secretary (EE&L) wanted to know the strategy being followed by the UT for bringing the left over 8000 children to school in the current year. Secretary (Education), Chandigarh indicated that the UT plans to do this through alternative and innovative education or through opening of EGS centres in the current year. While the EGS Centres proposed by the UT were agreed to by the Project Board, the PAB also urged the Secretary (Education), Chandigarh to complete the household survey & required additional proposals for EGS be sent to the Department of EE & L, Government of India.

21. The UT was directed by the Project Board to fill up teacher vacancies within the next 2 months. Secretary also observed that the bench mark for quality teaching is the quality of teacher training and directed that the State Institute of Education should function as the DIET for the UT. JS(EE)-I indicated that a proposal may be formulated for assistance under the revised Teacher Education Scheme and that CRCs and CRGs should work under SIE, to carry out teacher training activities.

22. Secretary (Education), Chandigarh indicated that they had proposed the opening of 10 new schools in the current year in order to cater to expansion sectors in the city, as well as to absorb those children who need to be accommodated due to the closure of existing private schools. Emphasizing the quality of education in Chandigarh, he stressed the need to maintain the PTR at its existing level. He also justified the somewhat higher cost of civil works in the city on the basis of quality of schools already constructed, which is the UT's norm now.

23. The UT's proposal for opening of CRGs with 5 persons each at the ward level was approved by the PAB subject to the condition that these be adjusted from within the total of 20 persons approved for each BRC.

24. Secretary observed that EC meetings of the UT are not held on a regular basis and that these meetings must be held at least once in a quarter. Secretary (Education), Chandigarh committed that the UT's SSA Society would take necessary action to ensure that such meetings are held regularly.

25. Based on the observations of the Appraisal Team the proposed Annual Plan of the UT as indicated in Annexur-II was approved by the PAB. The proposals approved by the Board are as follows:-

	(Figure in Rupees/Lakh)
(1) Fresh SSA proposals 2004-05	1308.11
(2) Spill over from 2003-04	93.20
Total:	1401.31

26. Information regarding key physical indicators approval by the PAB w.r.t. the Annual Plan & Budget 2004-05 (SSA) for Chandigarh is given below:-

- Under the category Civil Works construction of 10 CRCs, 10 primary schools, 20 additional classrooms, 6 toilets / urinals etc. were approved.
- Approval for distribution of free text books was given for 21000 primary children and 14170 upper primary children.
- School grant for 104 primary schools and 78 upper primary schools, maintenance grant for 182 schools and teachers grant for 2158 teachers and teacher training for 2453 teachers was approved.
- Teachers salary for 240 teachers sanctioned in previous year and teachers salary for 55 new primary teachers recommended for 6 new schools was also approved.

27. The approval was subject to the State satisfying the following general conditions:-

- (a) State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (b) First instalment of the State share should be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the State.
- (c) At least 50% of teachers recruited should be female.
- (d) Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least salary payment. The latter would monitor teacher's attendance before releasing their salary.
- (e) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grant, school grant and such other expenditure 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 details of this to GOI before the release of second instalment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (g) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment 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 recruited persons having functional computer literacy.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3:                      CLARIFICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SSA INSTRUCTIONS ON IED

28. The Board approved the proposal to issue clarifications to the States on IED as per the agenda note submitted for its consideration (copy enclosed - Annexure-III).

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

MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA  
SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 28.7.2004 for DAMAN & DIU

The 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Project Approval Board(PAB) for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy on 28.7.2004. Among other States/UTs, Annual Plans for the year 2004-05 of Daman & Diu were also taken up for approval. A list of participants in the meeting, is annexed.

**Item No. 1.** Consideration of Annual Plans of Daman & Diu for 2004-05.

- 1.1. Before commencement of discussion on the proposals for 2004-05 and their consideration by PAB, a short power point presentation was made by Shri L.S. Borate, Representative of Directorate of Education, Daman & Diu giving an overview of the existing Educational scenario in the UT.
- 1.2. The main highlights of the presentations were :-
  - The UT comprises of two districts, namely, Daman & Diu.
  - Total population of Daman is 1.13 lakhs and Diu is 0.44 lakhs (2001).
  - Male and Female literacy rate is 89.12% and 73.13% in Daman and 85.63% and 64.16% in Diu respectively.
  - Total child population in 5-14 years age group is 20612, out of which 20087 children are enrolled in schools. There are 525 out of school children, of which 251 are in Daman and 274 are in Diu.
  - There are presently 244 sanctioned posts of teachers at primary level and 182 at upper primary level, against which 203 and 145 teachers are in position respectively.
  - The PTR in primary and upper primary schools in Daman is 61.4 and 60.3 and in Diu it is 60.3 and 58.1.
- 1.3. The above presentation was followed by a discussion on the main proposals for 2004-05 planned by the UT.
- 1.4. Initiating the discussion, Secretary (EE&L) desired to know the strategies planned by the UT to bring the out of school children, into schools.
- 1.5. Shri L.S. Borate, Representative of Directorate of Education, Daman & Diu apprised Secretary (EE&L) that all out of school would be covered under EGS centres during the current year.
- 1.6. Secretary(EE&L) enquired about the status of implementation of SSA in the UT with specific reference to the status of in-service training of teachers.
- 1.7. Ms. Sarika Mishra, Consultant, MIS, TSG and Member of the Appraisal Team informed her that this was the first time that SSA proposals had been received from UT of Daman & Diu for implementation of the Scheme. As for organization of 20 days in-service teacher training in the current year, the UT had planned to take help of Resource personnel from the neighboring State of Gujarat i.e. Valsad district in case of Daman and Junagarh district in the case of Diu for conducting in-service training due to non-availability of Resource personnel within the UT.
- 1.8. Further, Secretary (EE&L) also stressed the need for the UT to conduct a Baseline survey for SSA.
- 1.9. Shri L.S. Borate, Representative of Directorate of Education, Daman & Diu, raised the issue of non-availability of funds for conducting the Baseline survey as well as Household survey, since no funds had been released to the UT under pre-project activities.

- 1.10. JS(EE-II) suggested that it was possible to conduct Baseline survey out of the funds being released to the UT under the Head "Research and Evaluation", and the Household survey out of the funds under the Head "Management Cost", of SSA.
- 1.11. Based on the presentation, discussion of UT proposals and comments of the Appraisal Team, a total outlay of Rs. 298.43 lakhs was approved for SSA, details of which are provided in Annexure II. Further, following decisions were also taken by the Board :-
- (i) Opening of 8 new primary schools and up-gradation of 4 primary schools into upper primary schools.
  - (ii) 16 posts of new teachers sanctioned for new primary schools, 4 new posts for upper primary schools (1 each) and 46 posts of additional teachers approved due to high PTR.
  - (iii) 525 children to be covered through EGS centres (primary and upper primary).
  - (iv) TLE grant for 8 new primary schools and 4 upper primary schools.
  - (v) Free text-books for 8716 Girls, SC and ST children.
  - (vi) School grant for 93 schools, Maintenance grants for 76 schools, teacher grants for 520 teachers were sanctioned.
  - (vii) Construction of 8 schools building for new primary schools and 4 for upper primary schools, 6 BRC and 13 CRC (as additional classrooms) sanctioned under Civil Works.
  - (viii) 20-days in-service training for 455 teachers and 30-days training for 66 new teachers, approved.
- 1.12. The Board also directed that the UT should satisfy the following conditions :-
- (a) The UT Administration should give a written commitment for meeting its share.
  - (b) First instalment of the UT share should be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the UT.
  - (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 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 expenditure which has to be incurred only through these bodies as per SSA norms.
  - (f) The UT Administration will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give the details of this to Government of India before the release of second instalment. The contribution as UT share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
  - (g) The second instalment would be released after the previous instalment of UT share has been transferred to the UT 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.

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

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