

An Evaluative Study on the Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Bhawanipur Education Block of Barpeta District of Assam in India

^aBrinda Bazeley Kharbirymbai, ^bMd Delowar Hussain

^aAssociate Professor Department Of Education North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU) Shillong, Meghalaya, India

^bAssistant Professor Department of Education Navasakti College, Majgaon, Barpeta, Assam, India

Abstract

Education is one of the most important aspects of human resource development. It is the backbone of all nations. It is education that enables a man to be a real and perfect human being. Human resource development is now accepted as a major factor that explains the differential performances in economic and other spheres of life activities.

Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) or Primary education is the foundation stone to all progress and is the most crucial stage of education spanning the first eight years of schooling from 6-14 years. As such, it is lawful responsibility of the state and the government to make elementary education available to every citizen.

There are eight Education Block in Barpeta district. Bhawanipur Education Block is also one of them. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All) is one of the latest schemes launched in 2000-01 all over India. In 2002 it was launched in Assam and in the same year in Barpeta district also. Simultaneously it was launched in Bhawanipur Education Block. The scheme is hectically busy to attract more children to join school and to stop retention/dropout by offering school uniforms, supply additional teachers, classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities and so on.

KEYWORDS: SSA, UEE, Education for All, etc.

Introduction:

Education is one of the most important aspects of human resource development. It is the backbone of all nations. It is education that enables a man to be a real and perfect human being. Human resource development is now accepted as a major factor that explains the differential performances in economic and other spheres of life activities.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is also known as the Education for All movement or 'Each One Teach One'. It was introduced in 2000-2001 as the flagship programme run by the Government of India. This scheme is framed to provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the age group of six to fourteen by 2010.

SSA is a valuable endeavour of the Government of India, in the universalization of elementary education, which strives to help citizens to realize the importance of elementary education. Social justice and equity are by themselves a strong argument for providing basic education for all. Provision of basic education also improves the standard of living, especially with regard to life expectancy, infant mortality and nutritional status of children.

Need and Justification of the Study:

Why is it necessary to make elementary education compulsory by law? It is a vital question for our consideration. As answer to this question it may be said that elementary education is the essential condition for all socio-economic development of a country. Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) or Primary education is the foundation stone to all progress and is the most crucial stage of education spanning the first eight years of schooling from 6-14 years. As such, it is lawful responsibility of the state and the government to make elementary education available to every citizen.

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In 2002 it was launched in Assam and in the same year in Barpeta district also. Simultaneously it was launched in Bhawanipur Education Block. The scheme is hectically busy to attract more children to join school and to stop retention/dropout by offering school uniforms, supply additional teachers, classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities and so on.

Statement of the Problem:

The study to be undertaken by the investigator can be stated as follows:-“ **An Evaluative Study on the Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Bhawanipur Education Block of Barpeta District of Assam in India**”.

Operational Definition of the Terms Used:

SSA Programme: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive and integrated flagship programme of the Government of India (GOI), to attain Universal Elementary Education (UEE) in the country in a mission mode. Launched in partnership with the Central and State Governments, SSA aims to provide useful and relevant education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years by 2010. It is an initiative to universalize and improve the quality of education through decentralized and context specific planning and a process based time-bound implementation strategy. Its goal is consistent with the constitution (86th Amendment Act) 2002, making elementary education a fundamental right of every child and with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of universalizing primary education by 2015.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the implementation of the following interventions in the District of Barpeta under SSA scheme for universalization of elementary education.
 - (a) Teaching learning materials
 - (b) Free text books
 - (c) Teacher's training
 - (d) Toilet
 - (e) Drinking water facilities
2. To evaluate the effect of the implementation of SSA programme on the quality of education at elementary level.
3. To suggest measures for improving the implementation of SSA Programme.

Methodology of the Study:

The present study is an evaluative study of the implementation of SSA in Bhawanipur Education Block of Barpeta District of Assam. So the investigator followed Survey cum descriptive method for the study.

Population of the Sample:

The population of the present study consisted of all the Lower Primary and Upper Primary Schools in Bhawanipur Education Block of Barpeta District of Assam.

The information regarding the total number of schools was obtained by the investigator after consulting the records of District Elementary Education Office, Barpeta, District Information System in Education (DISE), Barpeta and Bhawanipur Education Block Office, Howly.

According to the records maintained in the Block office, it was learned that there are 232 Lower Primary and 47 Upper Primary Provincialized schools in the District.

Table-1: The Population of the Sample of Study

Source: DISE Barpeta-2013-14

From the above table, the provincialized Lower Primary and Upper Primary

Education Block	No of LP Schools	No of UP Schools
	Provincialized	Provincialized
Bhawanipur	232	47
Total	232	47

Schools are 232 and 47 respectively i.e. 279 schools which form the total population of the sample.

Sampling Techniques:

On ascertaining the nature of the entire population, it was decided to adopt random techniques.

Sample of the Study:

The samples for the present study were restricted to approximately 60 Lower Primary Schools and 25 Upper Primary Schools which constitute 50% and 25% respectively of the total population. The sample will include the Headmasters and Teachers of Lower Primary and Upper Primary School of Bhawanipur Block of Barpeta District of Assam. The details of the sample drawn for the study are shown in the table provided below.

Table-2: The Sample of the Study

Blocks	LP Schools		UP Schools	
	Head masters	Teachers	Head masters	Teachers
Bhawanipur	60	60	25	25
Total	60	60	25	25

Tools Used for data collection

For the collection of data the following tools were used by the investigator:

Questionnaires:

The Investigator has developed questionnaires for the following:

1. Headmasters/Headmistress of Lower Primary and Upper Primary Schools
2. Teachers of Lower Primary and Upper Primary Schools

Collection of Data

Data were collected from the above mentioned sample, keeping in view with the objectives and by using appropriate tools as planned. Both primary and secondary sources were used in collecting the information regarding SSA and Elementary Education. The investigator used the essential sources such as records maintained by the District Elementary Education Office, Barpeta. Data were also collected from the concerned Block offices of the district.

Data were also collected from the concerned Head of the Institutions, teachers and other SSA officials through questionnaires only developed by the investigator. Various documents were consulted which include government records published or unpublished, books, journals and records maintained by the respective schools.

Method of Analysis

The obtained data were analyzed by adopting qualitative and quantitative statistical techniques and percentage method.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Based on Objective 1 the following findings are obtained:

FINDINGS FROM HEADMASTERS:

Findings based on objective no-1(a): (Teaching Learning Materials)

The study showed that most of the headmasters from LP (70.89%) stated that the common TLM used in the classrooms comprised of Blackboard, Chart/Wall Chart and Map/Glove, Wall Painting and 47.00% Headmasters from UP schools stated that the common TLM used in the classrooms comprised of Blackboard, Chart/Wall Chart, Map/Glove and Science Kit.

Findings based on objective-1(b): (Free Text Books)

a. The findings showed that majority of the headmasters from LP (98.89%) and all the Headmasters from UP schools (100.00%) are of the opinion that they do get Free Text

Books from SSA and the headmasters from LP (98.00%) and UP schools (95.33%) stated that they distribute FTB to all the students.

b. The headmasters from LP (86.44%) and UP schools (71.33%) are satisfied with the quality of FTB provided to the schools.

Findings based on objective-1(c): (Teacher's Training)

a. The finding showed that majority of the headmasters from LP (98.89%) and UP schools (92.00%) are of the opinion that they receive training from SSA.

b. The headmasters from LP (47.57%) and UP schools (42.00%) commented that they receive Need based and Short term training from SSA.

Findings based on objective-2(d): (Toilet Facilities)

a. The study found that the headmasters from LP (84.67%) and UP schools (98.67%) are of the opinion that the schools have toilet facilities separately for boys and girls.

b. The study found that headmasters from LP (57.56%) and UP schools (59.33%) stated that running water facility is not available in the schools.

c. Majority of the headmasters from LP (56.67%) and UP schools (64.00%) are of the opinion that proper cleanliness maintained in the toilets.

Findings based on objective-2(e): (Drinking Water Facilities)

a. Majority of the headmasters from LP (97.11%) and UP schools (94.67%) stated that drinking water facility is available in the schools and the main sources of drinking water are Tube Well/Tara Pump.

b. 55.84% headmasters from LP and 61.80% Headmasters from UP schools are of the opinion that they have Aqua Guard filter in the schools.

FINDINGS FROM TEACHERS:

Findings based on objective-1(a): (Teaching Learning Materials)

a. The teachers from LP (71.33%) commented that the common TLM used in the class comprises of Blackboard, Chart/Wall Chart, Map/Glove and Wall Painting.

. Teachers from UP (47.33%) commented that the common TLM used in the class comprises of Blackboard, Chart/Wall Chart, Map/Glove & Science Kit.

c. The findings also showed that most of the teachers from LP (99.78%) and all the teachers from UP schools (100.00%) are of the opinion that TLM is helpful for quality education.

Findings based on objective-1 (b): (Free Text Books)

a. The findings showed that majority of the teachers from LP (99.78%) and all the teachers from UP schools (100.00%) are of the opinion that they received free text books from SSA and they receive it at the beginning of the year.

Findings based on objective-1(c): (Teacher's Training)

b. The teachers from LP (96.44%) and UP schools (96.00%) are of the opinion that they regularly go for in-service training program

Findings based on objective-2(d): (Toilet facilities)

a. The teachers from LP (87.11%) and UP schools (97.33%) are of the opinion that they are provided with toilet facilities in the schools.

b. 48.00% teachers from LP schools and 58.67% teachers from UP schools stated that running water is available in the toilets of the schools.

Findings based on objective-2(e): (Drinking water facilities)

a. The teachers from LP (94.88%) UP schools (91.94%) stated that the main sources of drinking water facilities in the school are Tube Well/ Tara Pump.

b. Majority of the teachers from LP (99.33%) and all the teachers from UP schools (100.00%) are of the opinion that the drinking water sources are hygienic for the students.

Based on objective 2: the effect of the implementation of SSA programme on the quality of education at elementary level:

The following has been observed-

SSA being implemented in the year 2001-02 brought a lot of changes in the schools across the country. Various schemes were implemented to enhance quality education in primary schools of the country.

In this objective an evaluative study was done on the implementation of SSA scheme in of Bhawanipur Education Block of Barpeta District of Assam. The view of Headmasters, Teachers and regarding Teaching learning materials, Free text books, Teacher's training, Toilets, Drinking water facilities are covered to find out the effect of the implementation of SSA programme on the quality of education at elementary level:

So, from the above discussion regarding the evaluation and implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Bhawanipur Education Block of Barpeta District it has been observed that SSA has contributed lot in the improvement of elementary education and providing quality education in the Block. It has really effect the Elementary Education in the Block. Before implementing SSA scheme in the district emphasis was not given in some sophisticated TLM like Chart/Wall Chart, Map/Globe, Wall Painting, Science Kit which are making teaching process more interesting and practical and helping in providing quality education. Now under SSA some other facilities are also providing for increasing enrollment such as School Uniform, Free school bags etc. which is really increasing enrollment in elementary schools. Moreover, Appointing of Additional Teachers, Additional Classrooms, Drinking Water Facilities, Toilet Facilities, New School Buildings, Arrangement of Bigyan Jagaran Jatra, Summer Camp, Retention Drive, Awareness Programs Camp, Community Coaching Camp, Home based support to Disabled Children, Providing Ramp to the schools for disabled children, Health Check Up Camp, Art and Drawing Class, Enrollment Drive etc. are some of the important interventions of SSA which are really helping to increasing enrollment and provide quality education to the SSA schools.

Based on objective 3: - Suggestions for improving the implementation of SSA programs:

Following are some of the suggestions, which if implemented will bring about improvement of SSA programme.

A. Headmasters:

1. The study found that most of the headmasters of LP and UP received TLM comprises of Blackboard, Chart/Wall chart, Map Glove, Science kit, Wall painting etc. from SSA. SSA should also provide some sophisticated Teaching Learning Equipment like Projector, computer, internet facilities etc.
2. Use of audio-visual aids and modern techniques of teaching need to be adopted to make the classroom teaching more participatory and interesting as these are still not available in the schools.
3. Free text books should be more attractive for children.
4. Free text books should fulfill the psycho-physical needs of the children.

5. Teachers training should be curriculum based.
6. 100% schools should have running water facilities in the toilets.
10. Toilet grants should be utilized properly.
11. Separate toilets should be provided for boys and girls to sent-percent schools.

B. Teachers:

1. Some more sophisticated TLM should be provided to the schools.
2. Audio-visual aids should also be provided to make TLM more practical.
3. Free text books should be simple and attractive for children.
4. Regular inspection must be there for maintenance and repair of school buildings.
6. All the schools should have toilets for the students particularly in LP schools.
7. All the schools should have filtration facilities.

Conclusion:

Therefore, it may be concluded that the above study was an attempt which provides a comprehensive view of elementary education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme and it also tried to cover the implementation of entire SSA programme of Bhawanipur Education Block of Barpeta district of Assam. Sincere attempt was made to know the progress made by SSA in achieving the target of UEE and conduct an in-depth and extensive study and eventually the study ends with eye opening revelations concerning the implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the block.

The study found many flaws though SSA was implemented ten years back in the Block. Many loop holes in elementary education still needs to be rectified.

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