



A STUDY ON THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AMONG CHILDREN

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Abstract

Education is very important for economic, political, and social transformation. In the twenty-first century, a population that is well-educated and equipped with relevant skills, attitudes, and knowledge is needed for the overall development of society. Education plays a key role in creating a just and equitable society.

India's population is around 1.32 billion. The education system in this country has gone through a lot of changes over the years as per the growing needs and demands. The standard of education in India has been getting better and many children are securing higher marks through quality education. This is because the government is trying to encourage children with the help of various schemes that provide better facilities. They have implemented many changes that are aimed at improving the standard and style of training and teaching. Many state governments have taken steps to send a few teachers to foreign educational institutions to update their skills and knowledge and to improve their teaching quality.

Now present conceptual paper with prime aims (i) To understand the various government schemes for universalisation of education. (ii) To understand the Central Government Schemes for School Education

The present paper studies the various government programs to promote the educational programs among children. To achieve the universalisation of elementary education, the government has started numerous projects and programs.

Key words: Government programs, Educational programs among children



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Introduction:

In keeping with the principles of the National Policy of Education, the government has brought about various schemes that ensure equitable education for all. The main aim of these schemes is to improve access to good education by expanding good schools, to promote equity and to improve the basic quality of education. Here are a few programs to promote the educational programs among children.

Government programs to promote the educational programs among children:

1. Midday Meal Scheme:

Otherwise known as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, this plan was launched in 1995 to provide mid-day meals to children studying in primary

class. The main objective of creating this scheme was to eliminate classroom hunger of children and to increase attendance and enrolment of children at schools. This scheme also aims to improve the interaction between children of all castes and religions. It also addresses the issue of inadequate and improper nutrition among children. Women are also socially empowered since the scheme creates employment opportunities. Thus, this scheme can help in developing children emotionally and socially.

2. Schemes for Secondary Education

Secondary Education is the most significant stage in the educational hierarchy as it prepares the students for higher education and the world of work. The policy at present is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14-18. At present, the following schemes targeted at secondary stage (i.e. class IX to XII) are being implemented in the form of Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

1. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
2. Girls Hostel Scheme
3. National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education
4. Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage
5. Scheme of Vocational Education
6. National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) promotes educational development both in quantitative and qualitative terms and makes special efforts to remove disparities and equalize educational opportunities for all students. NCERT acknowledges and appreciates educational brilliance in students through the National Talent Search Scheme. It also seeks to applaud artistic distinction through the Chacha Nehru Scholarships - for artistic and innovative excellence. The National BalBhawan has instituted a system of honouring talented children in different age groups in the year 1995 through the Bal Shree scheme.

3. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

This program was introduced in 2001 and is one of the biggest projects in India. The SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA) is a flagship program for the children to get Universal Elementary Education (UEE). This program covers the entire country and works in partnership with local and state governments. SSA is mainly useful for children between the ages of 6 to 14. The program aims to universalise education and improves its quality by time-

bound implementation strategy and context-specific planning. It includes children from all social classes.

4. National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary Education (NPEGEL)

The NPEGEL program has been initiated by the Government of India to reach girls, especially the girls that are not enrolled in a school. The program was started in July 2003 and this program is a significant component of the SSA. The program provides extra support for improving the education of girls. Some objectives that come under this scheme are the development of learning materials that are gender-sensitive, gender-sensitisation of teachers, provisions like stationary, uniforms, and workbooks. The main focus of this program is to break gender stereotypes and to make sure girls get a good education at the elementary level.

5. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya:

Launched in 2004, the KGBV scheme aims at setting up residential schools for girls belonging to minority communities at the upper primary level. This scheme is mainly implemented in the parts of the country where girls aren't enrolled in school. This scheme provides reservation of 25% to girls from families below the poverty line and the rest 75% to the girls belonging to ST, SC, OBC, and other minority communities. The main idea behind this scheme is that by setting up residential schools, girls from disadvantaged groups of the society can access quality education.

6. Right to Education (RTE) Act:

This was another amazing step taken by the government. The Right to Education (RTE) Act was enacted in 2009, and this Act made education for every child between 6 and 14 years a fundamental right. It also set the basic norms that must be followed by every elementary school in the country. Thus, children got the right to receive free elementary education. This means that no child has to pay any kind of charges or fee to complete education up to elementary level. The RTE act also aims at the development of a curriculum that makes sure the child receives the benefit of all-round development, building their knowledge, talent, and potential. The Right to Education Act has made it compulsory to reserve 25 per cent in private schools for children from economically weaker families.

7. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao:

This scheme initiated in 2015 is one of the most famous central government schemes for girl education. The main aim of this government scheme was initially to protect girl children from female foeticide and infanticide and later, provide assistance for their education. Other

objectives of the plan include stopping the practice of gender-determination tests and discrimination against girl children. The BetiBachao, BetiPadhao scheme ensures the protection of girls and their survival and makes sure that girls participate in educational activities alongside boys. This scheme thus spreads the awareness that girl children are not a burden.

8. Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutes (IDMI):

To improve the quality of education, the scheme has been started to improve infrastructure in unaided/aided minority schools. The salient features of this scheme include expanding facilities that will help the education of children from minority communities. The entire country comes under this scheme, but preference is given to places that have a minority population above 20 per cent. The scheme also encourages educational facilities for children with special needs, girls, and others who are mostly held back in society.

In recent decades, the implementations of these schemes have made it easier for accessing school and the enrolments rates in the primary schools have gotten higher. India also sees a decrease in dropout rates. Largely due to these programs, primary education in India has turned out to be a success story even in the remote parts of the country.

9. Central Government Schemes for School Education:

Central Government Schemes for School Education, Education is the most important lever for social, economic and political transformation. A well-educated population, equipped with the relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills is essential for economic and social development in the twenty-first century.

Education is the most potent tool for socio-economic mobility and a key instrument for building an equitable and just society. Education provides skills and competencies for economic well-being. Education strengthens democracy by imparting to citizens the tools needed to fully participate in the governance process. Education also acts as an integrative force in society, imparting values that foster social cohesion and national identity.

In order to achieve UEE (Universalisation of Elementary Education, the Government of India has initiated a number of programmes and projects. The Government adopts an integrated approach in the implementation of the various centrally sponsored schemes, in keeping with principles of the National Policy on Education, to ensure that the education of equitable quality for all to fully harness the nation's human resource potential.

The common objectives are to enhance access through the expansion of quality school education; to promote equity through the inclusion of disadvantaged groups and weaker sections, and to improve the quality of education.

Quality Improvement in School:

During the 10th Five Year Plan, “Quality Improvement in Schools” was introduced as a composite centrally sponsored scheme having the following components:

- i) National Population Education Project,
- ii) Environmental Orientation to School Education,
- iii) Improvement of Science Education in Schools,
- iv) Introduction of Yoga in Schools, and
- v) International Science Olympiads.

A decision was taken to transfer four of these components to National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) w.e.f. APRIL 2006, except the component of improvement of Science Education in school that was transferred to States.

Conclusion:

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 poses major challenges for improving the quality of teachers and for expanding institutional capacity in States to prepare professionally trained persons for becoming school teachers.

Government has initiated steps to revise the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education. This Scheme was initiated in 1987 pursuant to the formulation of the National Policy on Education, 1986 which emphasised the significance and need for a decentralised system for the professional preparation of teachers, and it was in this context that District Institutes of Teacher Education (DIETs), Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) and Institutes of Advanced Study in Education (IASEs) were established.

Analysis shows that there are 5.23 lakh vacancies of school teachers at the elementary level and the provisions under the RTE Act would lead to additional requirement of around 5.1 lakh teachers. Moreover, around 7.74 lakh teachers are untrained, i.e. they do not possess the prescribed qualification.

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