

SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (SSA) PROGRAMME IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF ANDHRA PRADESH STATE: A STUDY

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Abstract: *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is an effort to universalise elementary education by community-ownership of the school system. It is a response to the demand for quality basic education all over the country. The SSA programme is also an attempt to provide an opportunity for improving human capabilities to all children, through provision of community-owned quality education in a mission mode.*

Key Words: *SSA, Primary Schools, Andhra Pradesh, Intermediate Education,*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is Government of India's flagship programme for achievement of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner, as mandated by 86th amendment to the Constitution of India making free and compulsory Education to the Children of 6-14 years age group, a Fundamental Right.

SSA is being implemented in partnership with State Governments to cover the entire country and address the needs of 192 million children in 1.1 million habitations. The programme seeks to open new schools in those habitations which do not have schooling facilities and strengthen existing school infrastructure through provision of additional class rooms, toilets, drinking water, maintenance grant and school improvement grants. Existing schools with inadequate teacher strength are provided with additional teachers, while the capacity of existing teachers is being strengthened by extensive training, grants for developing teaching-learning materials and strengthening of the academic support structure at a cluster, block and district level. SSA seeks to provide quality elementary education including life skills. SSA has a special focus on girl's education and children with special needs. SSA also seeks to provide computer education to bridge the digital divide.

2. METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSIS:

The scheme was initiated in the year 2000-2001 in all 23 districts. SSA in Andhra Pradesh is functioning under the aegis of Andhra Pradesh School Education Society. The SSA was launched with the 75% assistance of Central Government and 25% share of State Government up to 10th plan. There after the cost sharing would be 50:50 from both Central and State Governments.

As per the information available, 2319 primary schools were established so far and upgraded 5023 Primary Schools as Upper Primary Schools. State has taken up large scale of recruitment of teachers i.e. 1.5 lakhs in the last five years. Apart from this 34,376 Vidya Volunteers were posted in schools where teaching posts were vacant for some or other reason. Under the programme, government simplified the admission procedure i.e. admission on demand at any time during academic year. Thus the access to primary education has been improved up to 100% and 98.94% in case of upper primary Education.

Education System in Andhra Pradesh: A Glimps

Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state in the country both in terms of population as well as geographical area. Though Andhra Pradesh became prominent in terms of its innovative social and economic development programmes like SHG Movement, Social Security Programmes etc. yet in terms of education it stood at bottom as far as southern region of the country. The state continues to show not only lowest literacy among the southern states but also one of the least literate states in the country. As per 2001 census, literacy rate for Andhra Pradesh is 61.11% for overall population with 70.85% for males and 51.17% for females. Thus, the state of Andhra Pradesh, in essence relatively backward in terms of education at overall population level and also the gender disparity. This assumed significance while situating the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Andhra Pradesh.

The pattern of Education in Andhra Pradesh is under 10+2+3 year's system. The first 10 years represents School Education, which includes five years Primary Education (1 to 5 Classes), two years of Upper Primary Education (6&7 Classes) and three years of High School (8 to 10 classes). At the end of 10th class State Govt. conducts a Public Examination for entry into the Intermediate Education (11&12 classes), which is part of Higher Education and leads to further 3 years of Graduation courses under University system.

In reference to School Education, the total enrolment among children in the age group of 6-14years is 1,27,18,240 and out of this 264,013 are out of school children (DISE 2006-07). The Repetitions and dropout particulars are as follows:

Table 1.1: Statistics of Children’s Enrolment in Andhra Pradesh

Age group	Repetition	Drop-out	GER	NER
6-11 yrs.	3.11	3.34	90.38	86.55
11-14 yrs	1.16	6.91	101.67	72.21

Source: DISE 2006

Further, the completion rate and Transition rate are 72.96 and 90.37 respectively. The total educational institutions across the state, in terms of management as well as school grades is provided below:

Table 1.2: Management-wise Educational Institutions In Andhra Pradesh

School Mgt.	Primary	Upper primary	High school	Total
Government	54255	12094	9719	62137
Aided	2287	5595	5310	17825
Private	5595	5310	5584	16160

Source: DISE 2006

Under the circumstances of actual educational scenario, SSA in Andhra Pradesh is tuned to the specific needs of the state to reduce the gender disparity and also enhance rate of literacy by ensuring 100% per cent enrollment and retention.

a. Distribution of Sample

As per the details presented in Table 1.3, the total number of schools covered under the study was 700 under Post Enumeration Survey. Out of this, majority of them i.e. 438(57%) were of Primary schools and 176 (23%) Primary with Upper Primary schools and the remaining 156 (20%) were Upper Primary with Secondary or Higher Secondary institutions.

Table- 1.3: Distribution of Sample by School Category

Sl. No.	School Category	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Primary	438	56.9	56.9	56.9
2	Primary with Upper Primary	176	22.9	22.9	79.7
3	Upper primary with Secondary or Higher Secondary	156	20.3	20.3	100
	Total	770	100	100	

b. Sample Distribution Across Districts

In reference to distribution of sample schools by district the details are presented in Table 1.4

Table – 1.4: Distribution of Sample by District

Sl. No	School Category	Vizianagara m	Prakasam	Kurnool	Mahabu b nagar	Adilaba d	Tota l
1	Primary	81	95	70	86	106	438
2	Primary with Upper Primary	30	22	33	40	51	176
3	Upper primary with Secondary or Higher Secondary	25	24	20	30	57	156
	Total	136	141	123	156	214	770
	%	17.66	18.31	15.97	20.26	27.79	100

Among the five districts selected for the survey, Adilabad district (28%) has more coverage of schools than other districts and then followed by Mahaboobnagar (20%), Vizianagaram and Prakasham (18% each) and the remaining 16% were from Kurnool district. The variation in terms of number of schools was occurred due to sampling procedure based on revenue divisions and number of schools there of from the particular district. Consequently, Adilabad district, which has five revenue divisions, contributed more number of schools to the sample.

Inter District Variations in dropout rates, of girls at Primary & Upper Primary levels

The districts of Kurnool and Ranga Reddy are having both high enrolment ratios as well as high dropout rates at primary level. Districts of Hyderabad (3.9% and 12.6%), Cuddapah (15.8% and 42%) & Chittoor (15.8% and 31.4%) have low dropout rates at both primary and upper primary levels. The dropout rates at primary and upper primary stages of education in Guntur district (32 and 60.5%) and dropout rates at upper primary stage in West Godavari, East Godavari and Krishna districts (more than 45%) is a cause of concern as these are socially and economically developed districts.

Inter District Disparities in Dropout rates of Girls 2004-05

A) Primary Stage (I- V)

Districts above State Average			Districts below State Average		
Sl.No.	District	Dropout rates	Sl.No.	District	Dropout rates
1	Mahabubnagar	54.90	1	Visakhapatnam	27.76
2	Medak	52.67	2	Karimnagar	25.19
3	Warangal	52.54	3	East Godavari	22.49
4	Nizamabad	48.26	4	Srikakulam	21.14
5	Nalgonda	43.16	5	Nellore	20.9
6	Kurnool	39.68	6	Vizianagaram	19.39
7	Adilabad	37.39	7	Krishna	19.24
8	Prakasam	36.49	8	Ananthapur	19.12
9	Ranga Reddy	32.47	9	Khammam	19.01
10	Guntur	32.26	10	West Godavari	17.63
			11	Chittoor	10.46
			12	Cuddapah	9.66
			13	Hyderabad	4.97
	State Average	32.14		State Average	32.14

B) Upper Primary Stage (I- VII)

Districts above State Average			Districts below State Average		
Sl.No.	District	Dropout rates	Sl.No.	District	Dropout rates
1	Mahabubnagar	73.20	1	Vizianagaram	53.88
2	Prakasam	69.23	2	Nellore	51.62
3	Adilabad	67.58	3	Karimnagar	50.93
4	Medak	66.33	4	Visakhapatnam	49.59
5	Warangal	65.63	5	Krishna	47.97
6	Kurnool	63.67	6	Ranga Reddy	47.49
7	Nalgonda	62.52	7	Srikakulam	45.89
8	Guntur	60.50	8	West Godavari	45.39
9	Nizamabad	58.54	9	East Godavari	45.36
10	Khammam	57.61	10	Cuddapah	45.23
			11	Ananthapur	42.07
			12	Chittoor	34.66
			13	Hyderabad	7.42
	State Average	54.46		State Average	54.46

Source: Selected Educational Statistics, 2004-05, Director of School Education, AP

The retention rates of girls at both primary and upper primary levels are fairly good in all Rayalaseema districts except Kurnool. Similarly, all coastal districts barring Guntur, Prakasham and Vizianagaram show higher retention rates.

Teacher / Student Ratio

Primary School

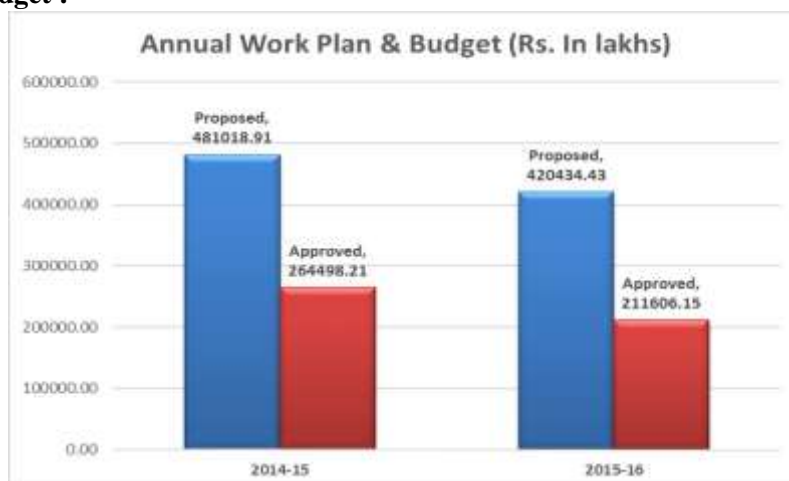
S.No	District	Total Teachers	Total Children (SSA)	Teacher Student Ratio
1	Kurnool	6,989	3,88,171	55.5
2	Anantapur	6,057	3,20,338	52.9
3	Visakhapatnam	6,694	3,26,166	48.7
4	Krishna	7,009	2,96,924	42.4
5	Prakasam	7,222	3,03,063	42.0
6	Guntur	8,063	3,27,999	40.7
7	Srikakulam	5,476	2,14,963	39.3
8	West Godavari	7,842	2,81,171	35.9
9	Nellore	6,210	2,17,306	35.0
10	Chittoor	9,008	3,13,090	34.8
11	Cuddapah	8,129	2,49,422	30.7
12	East Godavari	12,841	3,84,582	29.9
13	Vizianagaram	6,203	1,82,596	29.4
Andhra Pradesh		97,743	38,05,791	38.9

Upper Primary School

S.No	District	Total Teachers	Total Children (SSA)	Teacher Student Ratio
1	Guntur	2,615	1,97,463	75.5
2	Cuddapah	2,971	1,36,546	46.0
3	Vizianagaram	2,388	1,08,886	45.6
4	West Godavari	3,868	1,75,395	45.3
5	Prakasam	3,265	1,44,802	44.3
6	Chittoor	4,225	1,81,792	43.0
7	Anantapur	4,251	1,76,266	41.5
8	Kurnool	4,718	1,93,039	40.9
9	Visakhapatnam	4,555	1,85,894	40.8
10	Krishna	4,538	1,78,848	39.4
11	East Godavari	6,674	2,33,378	35.0
12	Nellore	3,645	1,22,873	33.7
13	Srikakulam	4,871	1,21,395	24.9
Andhra Pradesh		52,584	21,56,577	41.0

According to the students attending schools, teacher / student ratio is within the norm limits (1:30). If the enrollment is 100%, then the ratio is beyond the limits and need for recruitment of teachers arises.

Annual work plan & Budget :



3. CONCLUSION:

SSA in Andhra Pradesh is functioning under the aegis of Andhra Pradesh School Education Society. As per the information available, 2319 primary schools were established so far and upgraded 5023 Primary Schools as Upper Primary Schools. Thus the access to primary education has been improved up to 100% and 98.94% in case of upper primary Education. The first 10 years represents School Education, which includes five years Primary Education , two years of Upper Primary Education and three years of High School . Out of this, majority of them i.e. 438 were of Primary schools and 176 Primary with Upper Primary schools and the remaining 156 were Upper Primary with Secondary or Higher Secondary institutions.

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