



SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN: A MODERNIZATION OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

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Abstract

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive initiative by the Government of India aimed at transforming and modernizing the landscape of school education. Launched in 2018, SSA integrates three previously distinct educational programs: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE). The program envisions providing quality education to all, addressing challenges related to access, equity, and learning outcomes. SSA focuses on key components essential for the modernization of school education. These include infrastructure development, teacher training, curriculum reforms, and the integration of technology in the teaching-learning process. By fostering an inclusive and holistic approach, SSA seeks to enhance the overall quality of education and create a conducive environment for the holistic development of students. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is formally known as a Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Keywords: Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, School Education

Introduction

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive program initiated by the Government of India to address various challenges in the education sector and improve the quality of school education. Launched in 2018, SSA is an umbrella program that subsumes three previously independent schemes: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE). The integration of these schemes under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan aims to streamline efforts and resources for a more efficient and impactful approach to education.

The implementation framework of SSA involves collaboration at various levels, including the national, state, and local tiers. Through the active engagement of multiple stakeholders, SSA aims to bring about positive changes in the education system. The program is designed to ensure not only increased enrollment but also improved retention rates and enhanced learning outcomes.

Key features and objectives of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan include:

Holistic approach to education

- Treat school education holistically as a continuum from Pre-school to Class 12
- Inclusion of senior secondary levels and pre-school levels in support for School education for the first time



Administrative reform

- Single and unified administrative structure leading to harmonized implementation
- Flexibility to States to priorities their interventions under the Scheme
- An integrated administration looking at ‘school’ as a continuum

Focus on Quality of Education

- Enhanced focus on improving quality of education by focus on the two T’s – Teachers and Technology
- Enhanced Capacity Building of Teachers and School Heads
- Focus on strengthening Teacher Education Institutions like SCERTs and DIETs to improve the quality of prospective teachers in the system
- SCERT to be the nodal institution for in-service and pre-service teacher training – will make training dynamic and need-based.
- Support for Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan to promote Science and Maths learning in schools.
- Support Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat Programme to develop foundational skills at primary level.
- Provision of library grants for every school ranging from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 20000.

Focus on Digital Education

- Support ‘Operation Digital Board’ in all secondary schools over a period of 5 years, which will revolutionize education- easy to understand, technology based learning classrooms will become flipped classrooms.
- Enhanced use of digital technology in education through smart classrooms, digital boards and DTH channels
- Digital initiatives like UDISE+, Shagun, to be strengthened
- Strengthening of ICT infrastructure in schools from upper primary to higher secondary level.

Strengthening of Schools

- Enhanced Transport facility to children across all classes from I to VIII for universal access to school
- Composite school grant increased from Rs. 14,500-50,000 to Rs. 25,000- 1 Lakh and to be allocated on the basis of school enrolment.
- Specific provision for Swachhta activities – support ‘Swachh Vidyalaya’
- Improve the Quality of Infrastructure in Government Schools

Focus on Girl Education

- Upgradation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) from Class 6-8 to Class 6-12.
- Self-defense training for girls from upper primary to senior secondary stage
- Enhanced Commitment to ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’

Focus on Inclusion

- Allocation for uniforms under RTE Act enhanced from Rs. 400 to Rs. 600 per child per annum.



- Allocation for textbooks under the RTE Act, enhanced from Rs. 150/250 to Rs. 250/400 per child per annum. Energized textbooks to be introduced.
- Allocation for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) increased from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500 per child per annum. Stipend of Rs. 200 per month for Girls with Special Needs from Classes 1 to 12.

Focus on Skill Development

- Exposure to Vocational Skills at Upper Primary Level would be extended.
- Vocational education for Class 9-12 as integrated with the curriculum and to be made more practical and industry oriented.
- Reinforce emphasis on 'Kaushal Vikas'

Focus on Sports and Physical Education

- Sports Education to be an integral part of curriculum
- Every school will receive sports equipments at the cost of Rs. 5000 for Primary Schools, Rs. 10,000 for upper primary schools and up to Rs. 25,000 for secondary and senior secondary schools to inculcate and emphasize relevance of sports.

Focus on Regional Balance

- Promote Balanced Educational Development
- Preference to Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs), LWE affected districts, Special Focus Districts (SFDs), Border areas and the 117 aspirational districts identified by Niti Aayog

Impact of implementation of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

The impact of the implementation of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in India has been observed across various aspects of the education sector. The program, launched in 2018, aims at transforming and modernizing school education by integrating three major education schemes. The impact of SSA can be assessed in several key areas:

1. **Increased Enrollment Rates:** One of the primary goals of SSA is to ensure access to quality education for all children. The program has contributed to increased enrollment rates, especially among marginalized and economically disadvantaged groups, by addressing barriers to education.
2. **Improved Infrastructure:** SSA focuses on the development of educational infrastructure, including the construction of classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. This has led to improved facilities, creating a more conducive learning environment for students.
3. **Enhanced Quality of Education:** SSA emphasizes the quality of education by promoting student-centric and activity-based learning methodologies. Teacher training programs have been conducted to enhance the pedagogical skills of educators, resulting in improved teaching methods.
4. **Inclusive Education:** The program has made strides in promoting inclusive education by addressing the needs of children with special needs and disabilities. Efforts have been made to create a more inclusive environment within schools, ensuring that every child has equal access to education.



5. **Digital Initiatives:** SSA integrates digital technologies into education, fostering e-learning and digital literacy. This includes providing schools with digital resources and tools to enhance the learning experience, especially in regions where access to traditional educational resources may be limited.
6. **Gender Parity:** SSA places a strong emphasis on addressing gender disparities in education. Efforts have been made to ensure that girls have equal access to education, and various initiatives have been launched to promote the education of girls, contributing to gender parity in schools.
7. **Teacher Development:** SSA has invested in the continuous professional development of teachers through training programs and workshops. This has led to an improvement in the quality of teaching, benefiting students across various grade levels.
8. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The program incorporates robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess its impact and effectiveness. Regular assessments help in identifying challenges and refining strategies for better outcomes.

Conclusion

The successful implementation of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan stands as a testament to the transformative potential of comprehensive and integrated educational initiatives. Through strategic planning, coordinated efforts, and a commitment to addressing multifaceted challenges in the education sector, SSA has demonstrated positive outcomes in several key areas like enhanced access and enrollment, infrastructure development in term of physical facilities of schools. classrooms, libraries, and laboratories have been upgraded, creating a more conducive learning environment, quality improvement, inclusive education, integration of digital technologies into education, gender disparities in education, teacher development, establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms underscores a commitment to accountability and continuous improvement.

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