

Abstract

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the inclusive and integrated national programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). The major role of UEE for strengthen social equity through provision of equal opportunities of education. With the introduction of National Policy on education (1986), India proposed a wide range of significant efforts to UEE and DPEP was the one of the schematic programmes to reduce the differences in enrolment, drop out and learning achievements among different social groups. DPEP has been extended to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2000 towards the achieving the goal of UEE. In the State of West Bengal, the programme is implemented by Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission (PBSSM) under the guidance of School Education Department, Government of West Bengal. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has entered its 18th year covering 20 educational districts of West Bengal. With the enactment of SSA, free cooked meals has been offered to the students in primary and upper primary schools with the aim to improve school enrolment, attendance and overall improving the educational scenario in the state. The study was carried out in eighty schools in Jalpaiguri Municipality (urban) and Rajganj (rural) to make a comparative analysis in between rural and urban areas of Jalpaiguri district. Research studies on the impact of SSA in this region are negligible. A total of 360 students, 6-11 years age group, studying in class from I-V, out of which 180 students from Jalpaiguri municipality and 180 students from Rajganj block. Eighty head teachers, 160 assistant teachers and 160 parents were interviewed. The present study was taken to make a comparative analysis between Jalpaiguri Municipality (urban) and Rajganj (rural) in terms of role of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The major objectives of the study i) to study the historical background of MDM ii) To study the impact of MDM scheme in term of enrolment, family income, attendance, drop out, study behaviour and health issues of children. .iii) To study the hygiene factors of MDM. Infrastructure or civil works is one of the major parameter to influence the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in achieving education for all. With the introduction of SSM; infrastructure is of great importance to achieve the goal of SSA. It is admitted that, effectiveness of the existing infrastructure for elementary education is the debatable & challenging issue. Currently, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is implemented as India's main programme for

universalising elementary education. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children. SSA provides for a variety of involvements, including opening of new schools and additional classrooms, toilet and drinking water facilities and other necessary support for learning achievement. The present paper is an attempt to evaluate the role of civil works in SSA and also to emphasize the need for better infrastructure that would provide quality education in school centric environment. The present study is an attempt to know present status of civil works for the smooth running of the programme of SSA. The purpose of this study is to measure the infrastructure developments in terms of classrooms, playground, water facilities, boundary wall, etc.

The present study shows that the impact of MDM has contributed significantly on the overall achievement of SSA in Jalpaiguri Municipality and Rajganj block. The paper also highlighted the weaker areas of infrastructural development and learning procedure. Majority of the students were satisfied with the MDM scheme while parents in rural areas perceived that little and insignificant impact of MDM on the health of their children, attendance. Moreover, the paper was undertaken to evaluate enrolment, reduction in drop out, school attendance, study behaviour, quantity and quality of MDM, girls' enrolment and education & nutritional affect among the rural and urban schools in Jalpaiguri district. Lack of proper infrastructure, dining room, low attendance especially in urban areas and dull menu were found to be major obstacles in the success of SSA. The researches recommended that MDM should be provided with utmost care that students must feel that MDM is their human right and it can be possible through strong development of social network.