

Chapter 4

Educational Scenario of Sikkim: Policies and Programmes

- **Existing Education System**
- **Educational Development**
- **Literacy Rate and Educational Status**
- **Educational Institutions**
- **Teachers**
- **Teacher-Student Ratio**
- **Policy Formulation and Objectives**
- **Brief Review of Various Sectors of Education**
- ***Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in Sikkim**
- **Implementation of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in the West District of Sikkim**
- **Perspective Plan for XII Finance Commission (2005-2010) in respect of West District**
- **Findings**

CHAPTER 4

EDUCATIONAL SCENARIO OF SIKKIM : POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

4.1 Existing Education System

School education system in Sikkim is divided into 4 stages – (a) Primary (Class I-V), (b) Junior High (Class VI-VIII), (c) Secondary (Class IX-X), and (d) Senior Secondary (Class XI-XII) level. There is pre-primary stage before the primary stage. To join the pre-primary stage children should be aged at least 4+.

Examination of class VIII is conducted by the Sikkim Education Board itself. But at secondary and senior secondary level, children appear examination conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (C.B.S.E.), Delhi because all government schools in Sikkim are affiliated to the C.B.S.E. English is the medium of instruction instead of mother tongue. Mother tongue of different Sikkimese ethnic communities i.e. Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha are taught as second language. Some other languages or dialects which are used by different caste groups of Nepali people like Rai, Gurung, Mukhia, etc. have also been introduced at the school level and Limboo language has been introduced upto college level. As a compulsory language Hindi is taught from class IV to class VIII.

In the senior secondary level, there are three main streams—Science, Humanities and Commerce. Apart from this, recently, vocational education as a stream has been introduced at the school level. Subjects like Tourism, Floriculture, Horticulture, Poultry and Information Technology etc. are taught in the vocational stream.

Majority of the government senior secondary schools in Sikkim have only arts or humanities stream. Some schools have commerce stream or science stream as well. But there are only a few schools where all the three streams are available. Vocational stream is available in 40 government schools. Besides, there are some private schools where children can study upto senior secondary level. After completion of school education, for higher study, students may join the Government College of Tadong (East district) or Namchi (South district) or Rehnock (East district). There is one Law

College at Gangtok, one B.Ed College at Namchi (South Sikkim), and one Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya at Gyalshing (West district), one Tibetan Institution called SHEDA at Gangtok. For technical education there are two polytechnics at Bardang (East district) and Chisopani (South district), one Industrial Training Institute at Rangpo (East district).

With the support of the State Government, Sikkim Manipal University which is situated at Gangtok has two constituent colleges—one at Majhitar (East Sikkim) which is an Engineering College and another at Tadong (East Sikkim) which is a Medical College. In 2007, one Central University was established in the State. Construction work for the University is going on at Yangyang (South Sikkim).

4.2 Educational Development

Before the 17th century there was no historical evidence which showed the existence of any educational system in Sikkim. The first education system was religion based monastic education which was started after the Tibetan immigration in the State during the early 17th century. This type of education was restricted to the Lamas only and not for the common people.

During the British period or in 1830s modern formal education began in the State when a Scottish missionary named Reverend McFarlane, established a missionary school in 1883 in Gangtok. Two other schools named Bhutia Boarding School and Nepali Boarding School were also established in 1906. But both of these schools later combined into one high school called Tashi Namgyal Higher Secondary School in 1924 which was named after the then Maharaja of Sikkim—Tashi Namgyal. Christian missionaries also established one girls' school during that period. Since 1944 Education and educational institution were brought under the direct control of the then Maharaja Tashi Namgyal (Bhattacharya : 1986).

To impart formal education in a planned and systematic manner, the first Education Directorate was set up in 1954. Since then the standard of education has improved.

There were only 86 educational institutions which included 82 primary schools, 2 upper primary and 2 secondary schools in Sikkim in the mid nineties. In

1975, the number increased up to 264. By the end of 2004 there were 783 government schools including schools opened and upgraded under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.

4.3 Literacy Rate and Educational Status

The overall literacy rate of this State is very encouraging. Since 1971 there has been a sharp increase in literacy rate. While in 1971 the literacy rate of Sikkim was only 17.74 per cent which was almost half of the national level, from 1981 onwards the literacy rate has increased at a much faster rate. In 1981, it was 34.05 per cent followed by 56.94 per cent in 1991 and 69.68 per cent in 2001 which is more than 4 per cent (4.3%) higher than the national average. The data shows gradual progress of the State in the field of education. Over the decades the State's achievements related to literacy rates are furnished below:

Table 4.3.1: Literacy Rate in Sikkim and India From 1971-2001

Item	Year	Sikkim (%)	India (%)
Literacy Rate	1971	17.74	34.45
	1981	34.05	43.56
	1991	56.94	52.21
	2001	69.68	65.38

Source: Sikkim: A Statistical Profile 2002, Government of Sikkim.

Table 4.3.2 shows the area-wise decadal progress in literacy rate by districts.

Table 4.3.2: District-wise Percentage of Literates to Total Population From 1981-2001

Year	Sikkim %	North %	East %	South %	West %
1981	34.05	29.74	41.39	32.49	23.62
1991	56.94	42.43	53.95	43.87	36.82
2001	69.68	69.11	75.57	68.12	59.31

Source: Sikkim: A Statistical Profile 2002, Government of Sikkim.

The above table shows that from 1981 onwards, for two decades, district-wise literacy percentage is highest in the East district and lowest in the West district. In the

year 2001 also the literacy rate of the West district is the lowest i.e. 59.31 per cent compared to 75.57 per cent in the East district which is highest among the 4 districts. Though the table indicates educational development in Sikkim, there is a vast disparity in rural-urban educational scenario and also in male-female literacy rate.

Table 4.3.3 shows the overall rural-urban disparity regarding literacy rate in the State is 17.15 per cent. In rural areas the overall literacy rate is 67.67 per cent whereas in urban areas it is 84.82 per cent. The disparity in the West district is about 2 per cent (1.81%) more compared to the state level. While literacy rate in the rural areas of West district is 59.02 per cent, it is 77.98 per cent in the urban areas of West district.

Table 4.3.3: Rural and Urban Literacy Rate of State and District 2001

State/District	Literacy Rate					
	Rural			Urban		
	Person %	Male %	Female %	Person %	Male %	Female %
Sikkim	67.67	75.11	59.05	84.82	88.61	80.19
North	68.78	77.16	57.15	79.41	81.98	75.06
East	72.89	80.15	64.13	84.86	88.64	80.29
South	67.43	73.92	60.30	88.92	93.25	83.74
West	59.02	66.94	50.46	77.98	82.90	71.30

Source: Sikkim: A Statistical Profile 2002, Government of Sikkim

Womenfolk of Sikkimese society have shown a remarkable achievement in their literacy rate. Compared to the national average the female literacy in Sikkim is higher. The above table shows district-wise female literacy rate in rural and urban areas. Though the development with regard to literacy made by Sikkimese women is praiseworthy, still rural-urban gap in female literacy is very shocking. In the state level, gender disparity regarding literacy rate in rural areas is about 16 per cent (male literacy-75.11%, female literacy-59.05%) whereas in urban areas the gap is 8.42 per cent (male literacy -88.61%, female literacy-80.19%). It reveals that the gender disparity is just the double in rural areas compared to urban areas. Similarly West

district also shows a very dismal picture of female literacy. The gender disparity regarding literacy rate between rural and urban areas is 5 per cent in West Sikkim.

4.4 Educational Institutions

State Government of Sikkim is taking various initiatives to improve the educational system and to provide quality education in the State. After merger, there has been a substantial increase in the number of schools. Table 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 presents district-wise educational institutions in the State including government, private, monastic, I.C.D.S., J.N.V., K.V., College.

Table 4.4.1 District-wise and Category-wise Government Schools

Category of Schools	Number of Schools				
	East Dist.	North Dist.	South Dist.	West Dist.	Total
Primary	146	60	142	157	499
Upper Primary	47	16	47	41	151
Secondary Schools	30	11	28	23	92
Sr. secondary Schools	19	3	9	10	41
Total	242	90	226	225	783

Source: Annual Report of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan 2004-2005.

Along with the total government schools there are private schools, monastic schools, ICDS, JNV/KV, Colleges etc. Therefore the total number of education institutions in the State was 1595 by the year 2005.

Table 4.4.2 District-wise Educational Institutions in the State

Dist.	No. of Educational Institutions							
	Government School	Private School	Pre-Primary*	Monastic School	ICDS	JNV/KV**	College	Total
North	90	18	90	18	88	1	0	215
South	226	53	225	20	115	1	2	417
East	242	120	242	28	150	1	5	546
West	225	55	225	13	122	1	1	417
State	783	246	782	79	475	4	8	1595

Source: Report of S.S.A. 2005

*Pre-primary class is attached with all government schools from primary to senior secondary schools. As such, these are not included in the total.

**Jawaharlal Nehru Vidyalaya/Kendriya Vidyalaya

4.5 Teachers

With the expansion of educational institution in Sikkim the number of teachers has also increased in the State. Before the merger, due to lack of local qualified teachers, the recruitment of teachers in the State was done from different parts of India. But recently the scenario has started to change. The number of local educated youth is increasing in the State and to protect these educated people in service sectors, recruitment of teachers upto senior secondary level in government schools are reserved for local people. Sometimes due to non-availability of local teachers, recruitment of non-local teachers is done on ad-hoc basis.

Table :4.5.1: Teachers in Institutions by Stages (1975-76 and 1990-93)

Year	Teacher											
	Number				Trained (%)				Women (%)			
	Pry.	Mid.	Sec.	Sr. Sec.	Pry.	Mid.	Sec.	Sr. Sec.	Pry.	Mid.	Sec.	Sr. Sec.
1975-76	625	306	-	175*	26	24	-	37	-	41	-	37
1980-81	1106	472	604	317	47	53	45	37	23	26	40	44
1985-86	1878	1167	1115	584	49	43	45	42	27	25	37	40
1990-91	2245	1565	1322	759	50	41	43	41	28	31	40	40
1992-93	2465	1585	1291	856	48	41	41	47	27	32	42	50

Source: Mahajan et.al: 1995

*Figures for senior secondary include secondary and senior secondary stages.

Note: Pry = Primary; Mid. = Middle; Sec. = Secondary; Sr.Sec. = Senior Secondary.

Table:4.5.2: District-wise and Category-wise Teacher Position: Trained/ Untrained Teachers in Government Schools (2004-05).

District	Primary			Upper primary			Primary		Upper Primary		Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Trained	Untrained	Trained	Untrained	
North	182	126	308	69	46	115	222	86	45	70	423
South	737	372	1109	167	147	314	980	129	141	173	1423
East	908	768	1676	428	307	735	1226	450	436	299	2411
West	631	387	1018	198	114	312	529	486	225	187	1330
State	2458	1653	4111	862	614	1476	2957	1154	737	739	558

Source: Annual Report of S.S.A. 2004-05

Table 4.5.1 shows that there has been a steady increase in the number of teachers during 1975-1991 in primary to senior secondary level, though the number of female teachers have not increased in the same rate.

Table 4.5.2 reveals sex-wise primary and upper primary teachers from all four districts. The percentages of trained and untrained teachers at primary level are 71.93 per cent and 20.07 per cent respectively. In upper primary level 50 per cent teachers are trained. The table reveals a dissatisfying feature in both primary and upper primary level. Compared to the male- trained and untrained teachers in both primary and upper primary level, the number of female teachers is less in all four districts.

Table 4.5.3 reveals that in the elementary level, the total number of teachers during the year 2003-04 was 5567 whereas it was 5587 in 2004-05. The table shows that there is an increase of 20 teachers only. Taking three districts (South, West and North) into account, there is an increase of 93 male teachers and decrease of 8 female teachers during 2004-05.

Table :4.5.3: Number of Teachers at the Elementary level(2003-05)

District	2003-04			2004-05		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
East	-	-	2476	1336	1075	244
West	772	492	1264	829	501	1330
South	889	510	1399	904	519	1423
North	230	198	428	251	172	423
Total	-	-	5567	3320	2267	5581

Source: Annual Report of S.S.A. 2004-05

The total number of teachers during 2002-03 was 8010, whereas the West district itself has recorded a total of 2197 teachers including 1071 trained and 720 untrained teachers of all categories. Table 4.5.4 shows category-wise number of teachers in West district during 2003. Total 491 teachers from West district, in the academic year 2003, are under training through the initiative taken by the H.R.D.D., Government of Sikkim.

Table 4.5.4: Number of Teachers (Category-wise) :2003

Category of Teachers	Trained	Untrained	Under training	Total
PGTs	33	34	6	73
GTs	64	228	93	385
PRTs	824	322	392	1538
School Mothers	150	51	NIL	201
Language Teachers	-	85	-	-
Total	1071	720	491	2197

Source: District Profile 2003 And Annual Report of State Mission Authority, 2002-03.

4.6 Teacher-Student Ratio:

The distribution of teacher-student ratio in Sikkim at various levels is highly uneven. Though it is good at the primary level (1:19) compared to the all-India ratio of 1:46 in 1995, the teacher-student ratio of humanities sections of some of the senior secondary schools is far higher than the teacher-student ratio of science section. It could go upto 1:80 which may adversely affect the teacher's effectiveness. In 2005 the teacher-pupil ratio in the West district of Sikkim was 1:21. Year-wise teacher-pupil ratio at different levels of school education is furnished in table 4.6.1.

Table: 4.6.1: Teacher-Student Ratio (Government)

Sl.No.	Item	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	Pre-primary	-	1:29	1:30	1:30	1:29
2	Middle	-	1:14	1:14	1:14	1:14
3	Secondary	-	1:04	1:05	1:05	1:05
4	Senior Secondary	-	1:03	1:03	1:03	1:03

Source: Sikkim :A Statistical Profile 2004-05, Government of Sikkim.

4.7 Policy Formulation and Objectives

The future of any state to a large extent depends upon its educational situation. Education of Sikkim has always been a priority area. The Christian missionaries, royal 'Durbar' and the enlightened people took initiatives for the development of modern education. In 1953-54 the first educational policy was formulated in the State with a seven-year perspective. But after merger with Indian Union, the educational policy and programmes of the Government of India were implemented in the State. At present the

Government of Sikkim is playing an important role in catering educational facilities all over the State. Primary education is now available in every part of the State. The enrolment of the students has been increasing sharply. During 1988-89 greater emphasis had been given to improve the quality of education. Efforts have been taken to provide the basic infrastructure in all schools. Now within a walking distance of just 2 kilometres, the government has set up schools. The new education policy is implemented in Sikkim with the following basic objectives:

1. Provision of basic facilities in the schools.
2. Achievement of a better teacher-student ratio.
3. Upgradation of the quality of teachers.
4. Training of teachers with a view to better equipping them to impart education.
5. Development of superior teaching materials in terms of text books and audio-visual facilities etc.

The National Policy on Education in 1986 has given paramount importance on women education. It is a landmark in the approach to women's education. In the section, titled 'Education for Women's Equality' the N.P.E states: "Education will be used as an agent of basic change in the status of women. In order to neutralize the accumulated distortions of the past, there will be a well conceived edge in favour of women. The National Education System will play a positive interventionist role in the empowerment of women. It will foster the development of new values through redesigned curricula, textbooks, training and orientation of teachers, decision makers and administrators."

A number of measures have been suggested to achieve the targets of the N.P.E. The Programme of Action (P.O.A.) for implementation of N.P.E. highlighted the parameters of empowerment of women. "Women become empowered through collective reflection and decision making. The parameters of empowerment are:

- Building a positive self-image and self-confidence.
- Developing ability to think critically.
- Building up group cohesion and fostering decision making and action.
- Ensuring equal participation in the process of bringing about social change.
- Encouraging group action in order to bring about change in the society.

- Providing the wherewithal for economic independence.....”

In compliance with State Government policy and in consonance with the national objectives as enshrined in the New Education Policy of 1986 (N.E.P.) and Programme Of Action 1992 (P.O.A),the present targets of the H.R.D.D. Sikkim are:

- a) 100 per cent enrolment of children at the primary level by 2007.
- b) 100 per cent completion of Primary Teachers Training.
- c) Increase of literacy rates to 80 per cent by 2007 and 90 per cent by 2015.
- d) Universalisation of education at all levels.
- e) Achieving retention of students in the education system and maximizing levels of learning.
- f) Consolidation of Socially Useful Productive Work (SUPW), Work Experience, Moral Science and Value Education.
- g) Diversion of a minimum of 20 per cent students at the secondary level towards vocational streams as per the recommendation of the Kothari Commission.
- h) Lementation of Sarva Sikhsha Abhyan (S.S.A.) in a time bound manner.
- i) Launching of non-formal education programme such as Education Guarantee Schemes (E.G.S.) and Alternative Innovation Education (AIE) under the agencies of S.S.A.
- j) Implementation of a Comprehensive Technical Education Programme.
- k) Consolidation of Craftsmen Training in the State.
- l) Reduction in the rate of school drop- outs.

In the Millennium Declaration of September 2000, Member States of the United Nations adopted targets for reducing world poverty.By 2015 the Government wanted to achieve Millennium Development Goals where importance was given to achieving universal primary education. It ensures that all children both girls and boys receive a basic education of at least eight years and of an acceptable quality.

For several decades education of girls has been recognised as a fundamental human right.Education provides knowledge and skills to improve livelihoods, health and it also empowers women.But there is a vast gender disparity in educational sector.

To educate all girls under 14 years, the Government of Sikkim is taking lots of initiatives. To bring into mainstream, all girl children from marginalised and disadvantaged section i.e. S.T. /S.C. /O.B.C., strategies have been made. Provision for a separate toilet for girls in the upper primary section has been made, female teachers are appointed at the upper primary level in every school proportionately to cater to the special needs of girl students, School Managing Committees are advised to give emphasis particularly on the enrolment and retention of the girl child, on regular and good supply of mid-day meal, on providing scholarships to the girls from disadvantaged section. One more scholarship has been introduced under the 'Prerna Scheme' to encourage meritorious girl students for academic achievement. Under this scheme, merit scholarship is awarded to the girl students for their studies at three stages of school education i.e. elementary, secondary and senior secondary stages of education. To encourage the girl students in higher studies, the Government of Sikkim has announced 33 per cent seat reservation for women in Government jobs.

4.8 Brief Review of Various Sectors of Education:

Education is the backbone of any society. Indian constitution guarantees educational right to every child. It is an important objective of the Government of Sikkim also to ensure maximum access to educational facilities by every child under the age group of 6 to 14 years in the State. Provision of basic education, especially for the poor and at grass root level, the Human Resource Development Department of Sikkim is providing incentives like free text books, copies, uniforms, school bags, sweater, raincoat and mid-day meal.

A) Elementary Education

Elementary education covers 8 years education which starts from pre-primary up to class VIII. According to the Draft Annual Plan of the year 2006-07, the thrust areas of H.R.D.D. Sikkim are:

- i) Education for all in the age group of 6-14.
- ii) Opening primary / lower primary schools within 2 kilometres distance from the habitation/within the habitation in left out areas.

- iii) Continuation of supply of free text book, uniform, exercise books, raincoat and school bags to all the students' studying up to primary level.
- iv) Maintenance and repair of school building through Government and School Management Committee.
- v) Development of curriculum suitable to the modern development and reforms of examination system.
- vi) Improvement in quality of education by strengthening teachers training institutes and organising short term training programmes for school teachers.

During 2006-07 Plan Period for elementary level education there was a proposal to construct 'pucca' building for 20 primary schools, 10 middle/junior high schools, 5 secondary and 2 senior secondary schools. To solve the problem of shortage of accommodation there was a plan to make additional classrooms in existing schools including 50 primary, 30 junior high schools, 10 secondary and 10 senior secondary schools and also there were proposals for supply of furnitures and setting up of library/laboratory facilities to all categories of schools. In the elementary level various schemes has been implemented. The schemes which were taken up during 2006-07 are as follows:

i) Equipment and Machinery

To purchase furniture, teaching and learning equipments for various upgraded school Rs. 2.30 lakhs were projected during 2006-07 Annual Plan which was more than the anticipated expenditure for the year 2005-06 i.e. Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

ii) Government Primary Schools

Since the enrolment of students at primary level is increasing compared to previous years, various steps were taken under this scheme to meet the present demand like construction of new school building, upgradation of libraries, repair of school furniture upto elementary level, provision of uniforms, books, stationary etc. Rs. 838.35 lakhs was projected to cover this scheme during 2006-07 which is higher than the expenditure for the year 2005-06 i.e. 729.00 lakhs.

iii) Assistance to Non-Government Primary Schools

Education is an important means of self development. It prepares an individual for the job market. Hence the demand for quality education is on the rise. To achieve that target the Government of Sikkim also provides financial support to the non-government primary schools which have good academic record. Under this scheme Rs. 4.60 lakhs were projected during 2006-07 for the assistance to non-government primary schools. Anticipated expenditure for this scheme for 2005-06 was Rs. 4.00 lakhs.

iv) Non-Formal Education

To remove illiteracy from the State, Schemes have been made to impart non-formal education to the adult. To achieve these Rs. 0.50 lakhs was spent during 2005-06 and it increased upto Rs. 0.60 lakhs in the projection for annual plan 2006-07.

v) Teachers and Other Services

Under this scheme Rs. 1857.25 lakhs were projected in 2006-07 to meet the salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff. Anticipated expenditure for the same in 2005-06 was Rs. 1615.00 lakhs.

vi) Teacher Training

To impart quality education within the State, the Department of Human Resource has given first priority to the quality of teachers. Therefore measures have been taken to bring into operation the DIETs as well as to clear the huge backlog of untrained teachers of various levels. The primary teachers are provided CPE course and the graduate as well as post graduate teachers (P.G.T.) are provided B.Ed. course through IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University). During 2005-06 the anticipated expenditure of this scheme was 60.25 lakhs and Rs. 72.45 lakhs were projected for the same in 2006-07 annual plan.

vii) Assistance to Zilla Panchayats/District Level Panchayats

Under this scheme Rs. 8.00 lakhs was the anticipated expenditure for the year 2005-06 as assistance to zilla panchayats to enable them to undertake minor repair and maintenance works of primary and junior high school. Further in the year 2006-07 an outlay of Rs. 9.20 lakhs was proposed for the same.

viii) Text Books

As per the policy of the State Government, free text books are provided up to class V and only 50 per cent of the cost is charged to the students of class VI to XII. The anticipated expenditure for 2005-06 was 100.00 lakhs for this purpose and the proposed outlay for 2006-07 was Rs. 115.00 lakhs.

ix) Sikkim Board of School Education

To meet the expenditure for conducting the board examinations which include printing of question papers, answer scripts etc. and purchasing computers for maintaining all records, the Human Resource Development Department incurred Rs. 25.00 lakhs for 2005-06 and further envisaged Rs. 28.75 lakhs for the year 2006-07.

x) *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*

For meeting the 25 per cent state share of liability under the 75:25 centrally sponsored scheme of S.S.A., Rs. 100.00 lakhs was spent and Rs. 101.50 lakhs was proposed for the year 2006-07.

xi) Mid Day Meal Programme

Under the centrally sponsored scheme to provide mid-day meal to the students from pre-primary to class V, the State Government also bears its share of liability. To meet the expenses of conversion of rice to cooked meal in the form of Khichadi Rs. 90.00 lakhs was spent during 2005-06 and Rs. 101.50 lakhs was proposed to cover expenses on manpower, additional ingredient, fuel etc.

B. Secondary Education

Secondary education is the multi-laned bridge to higher education and technological education. During 2006-07, three middle schools have been upgraded to secondary level as there is an ever-growing increase in the number of children entering the secondary level every year. For secondary education the expenditure was 2333.20 lakhs during 2005-06. But for the next year Rs. 2683.20 lakhs was the proposed outlay for secondary education. Under secondary level education following schemes have been introduced.

i) Direction and Administration (District Level)

This scheme is mainly to meet the expense incurred on salaries, office expenses, stationery, maintenance / repair of vehicles etc. for all the districts including sub-divisional offices. For proper supervision of academic performance and simplified administration, the offices of the Joint Directors have been set up in all the districts. Therefore through creation of posts, required manpower is to be provided. During 2005-06 the anticipated expenditure for this scheme was 158.00 lakhs and for 2006-07 the outlay of Rs. 181.70 lakhs had been proposed.

ii) Equipment and Machinery

For improvement in the quality of education, this is a major input. Old unserviceable items of laboratory furniture, laboratory equipments, teaching aids, office equipments like typewriter, duplicating machines at the school complex level etc. are covered under this scheme. Expenditure for this scheme was Rs. 60.00 lakhs during 2005-06 but more funds are needed to replenish the consumable items and that is why the proposed outlay for this scheme in the annual plan for 2006-07 was Rs. 69.00 lakhs.

iii) Teachers and Other Services

The outlay under this head is to cover the expenditure on salary of both teaching and non-teaching staff as well as to meet the travel expenses. For 2005-06 the expenditure for this scheme was Rs. 1678.70 lakhs. An outlay of Rs. 1930.50 lakhs was proposed for the 2006-07 financial year.

iv) Merit Scholarship.

The Human Resource Development Department is implementing a merit scholarship scheme for meritorious students at different stages and with special skill in the special field of studies. To encourage girl students and to create competitive spirit in the field of education 'Prerna' scholarship scheme on merit basis at elementary, secondary and senior secondary level in the government schools has been introduced.

Further, under this scheme there was a proposal to increase the financial assistance to the students studying in Sainik Schools and RIMC, Dehradun. Proposed

outlay for this scheme in the annual plan 2006-07 was 2.30 lakhs which was .30 lakhs more than the expenditure of the year 2005-06.

v) Government Secondary Schools.

This scheme covers the construction of School building, construction of more class rooms, contingent expenditure like library, procurement of furniture and teaching aids required for the secondary and senior secondary schools. Expenditure for this scheme was Rs.115.00 lakhs in 2005-06 and proposed outlay for 2006-07 was Rs. 132.25 lakhs.

vi) Assistance to Non-Government Schools (Grant-in-Aids)

This scheme covers the financial assistance in the form of Grant-in-Aids to some non-government schools. The anticipated expenditure for 2005-06 was Rs. 100.00 lakhs and the proposed outlay for 2006-07 was 115.00 lakhs.

vii) Vocationalisation of Education (State Share)

This is a centrally sponsored scheme where State Government also shares its liabilities. During 2005-06 the expenditure for this scheme was Rs.1.00 lakh and in the projection for annual plan 2006-07 it was Rs.1.15 lakhs.

viii) Educational Technology (State Share)

Technological support is a crucial requirement for effective implementation of various educational programmes in schools. The outlay is for continuance of the scheme in the schools to match contribution of the State share technological support for effective teaching-learning process. The outlay projection for a dual plan 2006-07 for this scheme was Rs. 0.60 lakhs which was Rs. 0.50 lakhs as the anticipated expenditure for 2005-06.

ix) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalay (JNV)

Under this centrally sponsored scheme, State's liability is to share the expenses to set up JNV in different parts of the State for which Rs.118.00 lakhs was spent during 2005-06 and the proposed outlay for 2006-07 was 135.70 lakhs.

C. Higher and University Education

Since there was limited intake capacity in a handful of colleges in the State, students go to other states to ensure their higher education. Realising that, the State

Government of Sikkim has taken plans to expand higher education facilities. Plans are underway to establish new colleges and a university and to expand the existing colleges and offer new honours and post graduation courses. In the degree colleges in the State, Lepcha, Limboo, Bhutia languages have been introduced. Plans are also underway to start a degree college at Geyzing, West district and one science college at Soreng sub-division of West district. From 2nd of October 2005 one new government college has been functioning at Rhenock in East district to meet the increasing demand of the students. The outlay projected in the annual plan 2006-07 was Rs.634.85 lakhs which includes the cost of acquisition of land, cost of construction, creation of posts of lecturers in the existing as well as proposed college. During 2005-06 the expenditure for this scheme was Rs. 552.05 lakhs. The various schemes under the higher and university level education are as follows:

i) Scheme No. 1

The outlay under this scheme is to cover the expenses for maintenance of Sikkim Government College, Gangtok including construction of extra building, classroom furniture, separate toilet, re-wiring for electrification etc. The anticipated expenditure for these was Rs.167.35 lakhs during 2005-06 and a proposed outlay of Rs.192.45 lakhs was for 2006-07.

ii) Scheme No. 2

The outlay for this scheme covers the maintenance cost of Namchi Government College. This scheme covers construction of principal and staff quarter, hostel for students, fencing of entire college, play ground etc. Total expenditure was Rs. 32.50 lakhs during 2005-06 and it was proposed to spend Rs.97.17 lakhs during 2006-07.

iii) Scheme No. 3

Under this scheme, construction of Law College at Burtuk, Gangtok took place. The outlay is also for the creation of posts of readers, lecturers and other non-teaching staff for the already introduced Post Graduate LLM course from 2003-04. The anticipated expenditure was Rs.32.50 lakhs in the year 2005-06.

Further for payment of works, to purchase land for approach road, construction of approach road, hostel, principal's and staff quarters more money was required and Rs. 37.38 lakhs was proposed for the year 2006-07.

iv) Scheme No. 4

This scheme covers expansion, consolidation, upgradation of the Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingmapa Studies (Sheda), Gangtok. For appointment of more lecturers, classroom furniture, hostel facilities total expenditure for 2005-06 was Rs. 49.00 lakhs. Rs. 56.92 lakhs was proposed for the same during 2006-07.

v) Scheme No. 5

For the construction of new Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya at Samdong and for the maintenance of already existing Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya Rs.55.43 lakhs was proposed in the year 2006-07 which was Rs.48.20 lakhs during 2005-06.

vi) Scheme No. 6.

For establishment of new colleges in different districts, total expenditure under this scheme was Rs.170.00 lakhs for 2005-06 Rs.195.00 lakhs was proposed for the same during 2006-07.

D. Adult Education

Adult Education Cell of the department aims to eradicate illiteracy in the State. For that HRD Department is opening evening schools in all the districts of the State. Under this programme the government has introduced one scheme called State Adult Education Programme. For constructing evening schools and for providing furniture, the expenditure was Rs.1.00 lakh during 2005-06 and the proposed outlay for the same was Rs.1.15 lakhs during 2006-07.

E. Language Development

In the learning process, language and communication skills are the most crucial factors. Though Sikkim is a very small state, there are almost one dozen recognised languages. Among these are Nepali, Bhutia, Lepcha, Limboo, Gurung, Manger, Newari, Rai, Sherpa, Sunwar and Tamang. Besides Nepali Bhutia, Lepcha and Limboo, some of the other languages have already been introduced in the school level and some are to be introduced in the school curriculum. Therefore as per the State

Government Policy, training programmes for the language teachers have been organised. For training, printing of text books, organising workshops as seminars financial assistance is required. Besides these state languages, the State Government is running 12 Sanskrit pathshalas where financial assistance to meet the running expenses is being given regularly. For this purpose approved outlay for 2005-06 was Rs. 6.00 lakhs, which was proposed to increase upto Rs. 6.90 lakhs for the year 2006-07.

F. Direction and Administration

The proposed outlay for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 250.70 lakhs which covers the routine expenditure on establishment and administration including the procurement of class IV employees uniform which is pending since 1997 due to financial constraint. However anticipated expenditure for the same during 2005-06 was only Rs. 218.00 lakhs.

G. Scholarship for Higher Studies

In the field of higher education the State is still in a stage of infancy. Students have to be sent outside to pursue higher studies. Therefore scholarships are given to the meritorious students in various categories in both the technical as well as general higher education studies where such facilities are not available within the State. The proposed outlay for that was Rs. 78.00 lakhs in the year 2006-07 which was 10 lakhs more than the anticipated expenditure for 2005-06.

Technical Education

Since 1998, the Directorate of Technical Education has been functioning in the Human Resource Development Department. The State Government has taken initiatives to meet the challenges of industrial growth in the State and this is reflected in high priority it has accorded to and its policy statements on Industry and Information technology and Education.

The Directorate of Technical Education (D.T.E.) has got the responsibility to implement the World Bank assisted Third Technician Education Project under which two Polytechnics are being established in the State. The funding under the World Bank for establishment of two Polytechnics namely Advanced Technical Training Centre

(A.T.T.C.) at Bardang, East Sikkim and Centre for Computers And Communication Tehnology (C.C.C.T.) at Chisopani in South Sikkim, ended in June 2006. Therefore with the financial support of the State Government these two institutions are functioning. After the initial phase they will run as autonomous institutes.

There is one Industrial Training Institute at Rangpo which is also under the D.T.E. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the M.H.R.D., Government of India, the D.T.E. had drawn up plans for imparting computer education in schools in Sikkim.

Sikkim Manipal University is situated in Gangtok which has its constituent colleges namely Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology at Majhitar and the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Science at Tadong. The D.T.E. also looks after the matters relating to Sikkim Manipal University.

The outlay in the state plan for technical education in the financial year 2006-07 was Rs.682.50 lakhs which was only Rs.506.50 lakhs for 2005-06. An amount of Rs. 80.00 lakhs was proposed for expenditure under Grants-in Aid to the two polytechnics (Rs.40.00 lakhs each to A.T.T.C. and C.C.C.T.) for the financial year 2006-07. Rs.34.50 lakhs was proposed for ITI for the financial year 2006-07. The anticipated expenditure for the same during 2005-06 was only Rs.30.00 lakhs.

4.9 *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in Sikkim

The Article 45 of the Indian Constitution under Directive Principles of State Policy envisages provision of free and compulsory education to all children upto the age of 14 years. Further this has been made a fundamental right vide 86th Constitutional Amendment of 2002. Therefore the Government of India has formulated a holistic programme, known as Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (S.S.A.) was approved by the central cabinet on 16th November 2000. The main aim of S.S.A. is to provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the 6 to 14 age group by 2010. There is also another goal to bridge social, regional and gender gaps with achieve participation of the community in the management of schools. During the tenth plan the assistance under this programme was 75:25 and thereafter there has been 50:50 share between the Central and State Government. The programme has been launched in a phased manner in Sikkim. Under

the first phase in 2000-2001 S.S.A was implemented in the West district only followed by North, South and East district under the second phase in 2001-02. Over the years, the State Project Office at Gangtok and District Project Office have implemented various activities to impart quality education to one and all.

In the North district the highest number of schools have been established under *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. Table 4.9.1 shows the number of educational institutes started under S.S.A.

Table 4.9.1 Educational Institutes Started Under *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*

District	New Schools		Upgraded Schools		E.G.S.	
	No. of Schools	Enrolment	No. of Schools	Enrolment	No. of Centre	Enrolment
East	10	292	10	507	13	184
West	13	531	15	750	03	79
North	14	420	07	1034	00	00
South	09	223	08	738	21	827
State	46	1466	40	3029	37	1090

Source : Annual Report of S.S.A.2007-08

To enhance quality education in all government schools, teachers training programme has started under S.S.A. The teachers trained under S.S.A. are of three categories-a) In-service Teachers-trained for 20 days, b) Newly appointed Teachers-trained for 30 days and c) Un-trained Teachers-trained for 60 days. Table 4.9.2 shows the number of teachers who were provided training till 2007.

Table 4.9.2 Teacher Training Conducted till 2007

Dist.	20 Days					30 Days					60 Days				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
East	-	100	160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145	-	-	-
West	-	375	520	500	300	-	23	-	-	-	-	129	-	-	-
North	55	64	117	108	0	-	33	-	-	-	-	108	-	-	-
South	-	160	320	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	121	-	-	-
State	55	699	1117	608	400	-	56	-	-	-	-	503	-	-	-

Source: Annual Report of S.S.A.2007-08

The out-of school children at the time of the beginning of the project was 15033 which was 13.70 per cent of child population of the State. At the end of 31st January 2008, the out-of school children was reduced to 1839 which is only 1.7 per cent of total child population under S.S.A. the State has appointed teachers in the vacancies created to the establishment of new primary schools and the up-gradation of primary to upper primary schools in the earlier plan periods. Till now total of 611 teaching staff against 632 approved have been appointed (Annual Report 2002-08).

Programmes like Bal Mela, Teachers Motivation Programme, S.M.C. Training etc. are conducted under S.S.A. to check the drop out rate of children from schools. The sharp fall of drop outs at primary level is due to the impact of this programmes.

There is a provision for establishment of E.G.S. (Educational Guarantee Scheme) Centre at every access-less habitation to cover out-of-school children. There are 37 E.G.S. centres in Sikkim covering 1090 children.

There are 79 Monastic Schools in the State. S.S.A. has introduced general education in these schools. Appointment of two teachers in each Monastic School has been done. There are 158 teachers with 2108 students enrolled in 79 schools. 122 School Mothers have been appointed under S.S.A. to look after the children of pre-primary classes.

Under the innovative activities of S.S.A., ten upper primary schools in each district are provided with 10 sets of computer along with one 29 inch colour television and a web camera as a pilot project to provide Computer Education to the children at the elementary level.

4.10 Implementation of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in the West District of Sikkim:

According to the District Elementary Education Plan 2007-08, out of 2651 out-of school children in the age group of 6-14 years identified in the survey 2001, 2340 children have been mainstreamed. Remaining 311 out-of-school children, it is proposed that 211 children would be mainstreamed through formal school and 100 children through E.G.S. centres/Monastic Schools.

Under S.S.A.,13 new primary schools have been sanctioned for H.R.D. Department(West district) till 2008,of which 10 schools are already in operation and remaining 3 school buildings are nearing completion.

15 primary schools have been upgraded through S.S.A.of which 12 schools have been running classes upto VIII for 4 years and rest 3 upgraded schools are running classes upto VI since the academic session 2007.

Education Guarantee Scheme (E.G.S.):

Three E.G.S.centres covering 105 children have been opened in areas where the possibility of opening a new primary school is viable.

Teachers Training:

In West district,there are 2 B.R.C.s(Block Resource Centre)-one at Geyzing and another at Soreng Block.The B.R.C.s play a role as a training centre.Different plans/materials relating to classroom situation are prepared here.During 2006-07,from Geyzing Block,302 Primary Teachers and from Soreng Block,200 Primary Teachers received training.

Early Child Education (E.C.E.):

According to District Elementary Education Plan(2007-08),197 School Mothers(regular) are attached to 226 schools alongwith 29 School Mothers appointed under S.S.A.Among the 197 School Mothers,188 have undergone 40 days training in 2001-02.During the year 2006,4642 children were enrolled in pre-primary classes in the district comprising of 2402 boys and 2240 girls.

Community Mobilization:

- (a) Education for All Day was observed for two days in the month of September 2006 at Gazing and Soreng Block.
- (b) Summer Camp was organized in the month of July 2006.
- (c) During August-September 2006,S.M.C.training was organized in the whole district.Total 1350 members were trained.

(d) School grants @ Rs.2000 and maintenance grants @ Rs.5000 per school were disbursed to 225 schools for the procurement of accessories, stationeries and to repair schools.

Tribal Education (Monastic Schools):

The district has covered 13 Monastic Schools under Tribal Education wherein 2 Monastic Teachers have been provided in each of these 13 schools. During 2006-07, 258 monastic students were imparted education in these schools.

Computer Education:

10 sets of computer have been provided to 10 upper primary schools in the district. Each school has been provided with a computer teacher. During 2006-07, 1370 number of children comprising of 694 boys and 676 girls respectively were imparted computer aided literacy.

Free Textbooks:

In 2006-07, S.C./S.T. girls of class VI-VIII attached to various upper primary schools in the district got free text books at 50 per cent subsidy.

4.11 Perspective Plan for XII th Finance Commission (2005-2010) in respect of West District:

The budget allocation for Education Department during the preceding Finance Commissions was around 17 per cent and that too emphasis was given on salaries under non-plan/plan heads keeping aside a meagre allocation for capital investment. It was only during the current XI the Finance Commission that budget building was constructed on need basis. Under the XII Finance Commission, excluding common recurring items, emphasis has been given on the following:

i) Provision of Blackboard

A large number of schools under West district are facing problems due to lack of proper blackboards. It is proposed to provide blackboard to all the primary and lower primary schools numbering 157 schools and Rs. 1570 lakhs are to be provided.

ii) Fencing of Schools

To check the problem of encroachment of school land in the West district Rs.14.10 lakhs are proposed to fence all the senior secondary and secondary school boundaries.

iii) Construction of Separate District Education Office, Building

To facilitate public works and to check wastage of time, it is proposed to construct separate DEO (West).

iv) Construction of Teachers Guest House

To cater to the needs of teachers who hail from far away schools and for whom a small piece of work may stretch beyond a day, there is a demand for construction of teachers guest house at Gyalshing.

v) Computer Education

Computer education is very essential to the students and it is the need of the hour. Therefore it is proposed that all senior secondary / secondary and junior high schools be provided with computers amounting to Rs.1.00 lakh with accessories.

vi) Procurement of Musical Instrument

To encourage and promote innate talent inborn amongst children it is proposed to provide a sum of Rs 10,000/- per school for procuring musical instruments to all secondary / senior secondary / junior high schools in the district.

vii) Tape Recorders / Players

To attract school children into the schooling system by making teaching learning a joyful, interesting and effective experience through songs, rhymes etc. it is proposed that all primary and lower primary schools be provided with tape recorder / players. For that Rs. 5000 per school is proposed.

viii) Procurement of Teaching Learning Materials

To make classroom teaching effective and joyful it is proposed to provide teaching materials in all 157 primary and lower primary schools and Rs.10,000 per school has been proposed for the same.

ix) School Excursions

Rs.10,000 per annum is proposed for students of classes X/ XII of senior secondary and secondary schools to participate in excursions which gives an insight to the students to learn the culture, way of life of the people of different places.

x) Installation of Telephone in all Senior Secondary and Secondary Schools

It is proposed to grant Rs. 2000 per schools for effective and quick communication with the district headquarter.

xi) Textbooks for OBC Students (boys)

As SC/ST girls are getting textbooks through S.S.A., it is proposed to grant textbooks to OBC boys also.

xii) Winter Coaching for Students of Classes X and XII

For the weak students of classes X and XII winter coaching should be provided in subjects like Mathematics, Social Studies and Science.

xiii) Duplicating Machines to Primary Schools

It is proposed that all primary school be provided duplicating machines to conduct semester examinations properly. Rs. 22,500 per school has been proposed for the same.

xiv) Playground Extension

For the extension and repair of playgrounds, Rs.50,000 per school has been proposed for all senior secondary / secondary / junior high school.

xv) Electrification of J.H.S./Primary Schools (One-room)

Grant of Rs. 10,000 per school for all J.H.S. and Primary Schools is proposed to facilitate education in general and to install computer in particular.

xvi) Procurement of Books on Value Education/Career Guidance

For value education and career guidance Rs. 2.50 lakhs per year for the entire plan period is proposed for the students studying in class X and XII.

4.12 Findings

Existing schools level education system in Sikkim is divided into four stages primary (Class I-V), junior high (Class VI-VIII) secondary (Class IX-X), senior secondary (Class XI-XII). Before primary level comes the pre-primary stage. Sikkim

State Education Board conducts examination of class VIII. To conduct the examination of class X, XII, all government schools have to depend on C.B.S.E. i.e. Central Board of Secondary Education because all government schools are affiliated to C.B.S.E. Medium of instruction in school education is English. The mother tongue of different ethnic groups are taught as second language. From class IV to VIII Hindi is a compulsory language. Some languages have been introduced upto college level.

Science, humanities and commerce are the three main streams at the senior secondary level and recently, vocational stream was introduced at the senior secondary level. After completion of school level education, students may join different colleges of Sikkim which are situated at Gangtok (East district), Namchi (South District) and Rehnock (East District) for higher studies. Besides, there are one B.Ed. College (South District), one Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya (West District) and one Tibetan Institution (East District). For technical education, students may join either of the two Polytechnic Institutions, situated in the East district and in the South District. With the support of the State Government, Sikkim Manipal University, situated at 6th mile Tadong (East District) has established two colleges- one Engineering college at South District and one Medical College at East district. Apart from these, one Central University has set up in the South district of the State in the year 2007.

Prior to the merger, Sikkim was an educationally backward state. During the 17th Century, only monastic education existed in Sikkim. Modern education is the contribution of mainly the missionary activities in Sikkim. In 1906 Bhutia and Nepali Boarding school were established. In 1924 both these schools were amalgamated into one high school called Tashi Nangyal Higher Secondary School.

In 1954 the first Education Directorate was set up and gradually the standard of education in the State has risen. With a seven year perspective the first educational policy was formulated in 1953-54. After merger with India, the educational policy and programmes of the Government of India was implemented in the State. The overall literacy of the State increased in such a way that today the percentage (69.68%, census 2001) has crossed the national overage of 65.38 per cent. Among the four districts, East district ranked top position and the position of West district is at the bottom with regard to the literacy rate. The number of educational institutions has

increased. Today there are altogether 1595 educational institutions (including all categories) in the four districts among which 783 are government schools compared to only 86 educational institutions in the State in mid nineties. Remarkable achievement has been noticed in case of female literacy rate. While no evidence support the existence of female education during 17th century, there is 61.46 per cent of female literacy in 2001.

Government of Sikkim is taking many initiatives to impart quality education in the state. Category-wise new schools are coming up, upgradation is going on, the number of teachers are increasing, teachers pupil ratio is improving, in-service training programmes are being provided to the teachers and to encourage the teachers to pursue professional courses, extra increment are being provided to them. Efforts have been taken to provide the basic infrastructure in all schools, quality of teaching material have been improved. The present aim of the H.R.D.D., Sikkim in compliance with State Government policy and in consonance with the National objectives as enshrined in the New Education Policy of 1986 (N.E.P.) and Programme of Action 1992 (P.O.A.) are as follows: 100 per cent enrolment of children at the primary level by 2007, 100 per cent completion of primary Teachers Training, increase of literacy rates to 80 per cent by 2007 and 90 per cent by 2015, universalisation of education at all levels, achieving retention of students in the education system and maximum levels of learning, consolidation of Socially Useful Productive Work (S.U.P.W.), Work Experience, Moral Science and Value Education, diversion of a minimum of 20 per cent students at the secondary level towards vocational streams as per the recommendation of the Kothari Commission, implementation of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in a time bound manner, launching of non-formal education programme such as Education Guarantee Scheme (E.G.S.) and Alternative Innovation Education (A.I.E.) under the agencies of S.S.A, implementation of a Comprehensive Technical Education Programme, consolidation of Craftsmen Training in the state, reduction in the rate of school drop-outs.

In the Millennium Development Goals set in the Millennium Declaration 2000 emphasis has been given to the education sector where quality education should reach to the children of both gender. Similarly Government of Sikkim is formulating

different policies to support quality education and elementary education for the students of this state. To educate the Sikkimese girls, efforts have been under taken like constructing separate toilets for the girls, introduction of schemes like 'Prerna' to support the meritorious girl students, 33 per cent seat reservation for women in government jobs.

State Government has introduced various schemes at various sectors of education for the expansion of education within the state. To impart upto Class VIII level of education smoothly various schemes have been taken for the year 2006-07 like schemes for allocating money to purchase furniture, teaching and learning materials etc. There are schemes to construct new school buildings, upgradation of libraries, repairing of school furniture upto elementary level. The State Government is also providing financial assistance to non-government primary schools which have good academic record. To impart quality education within the state, the H.R.D.D. is giving emphasis on the quality of teachers and to improve their quality, teachers are being provided C.P.E. and B.Ed. courses. For minor repair and maintenance work, zilla panchayat and district level panchayats are also getting funds. Recent state government policy is to improvise free text books upto class V. Schemes have been made to create fund to meet the expenditure on conduction of the board examination. In the centrally sponsored schemes like *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and Mid Day Meal Programme, the State Government is also sharing its liability.

For secondary education Rs. 2683.20 lakhs was proposed for the year 2006-07 to develop various schemes. Among these schemes, one scheme is to meet the expenses incurred on salaries, office expenses, stationary, maintenance of vehicle etc. Schemes are there to meet the expenses of laboratory furniture, teaching aids, office equipment etc. For the expenditure on salaries of both teaching and non-teaching staff as well as to meet the travel expenses, separate budget allocation is made every year. From class VI to XII under the State Government policy, 50 per cent subsidy is given to the students. Under the scholarship scheme, meritorious students at different stages subsidy is giving get scholarship and one more scholarship scheme has been introduced for the girl students called '**Prerna Scheme**' under which meritorious girls may get scholarship from the State Government. Policies have been made for

constructing new buildings, more class rooms, teaching aids, library and furniture for both secondary and senior secondary schools. State Government is sharing the liabilities incurred under the centrally sponsored scheme for vocationalisation of education, provides technological support for effective teaching learning process and aids in establishing J.N.V. i.e. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya etc.

To expand higher education facilities which the State is lacking, the State Government of Sikkim is taking lots of initiatives. Among these are establishment of new colleges and a university and expansion of the existing colleges and offering of new graduate and post graduate courses. Under the government scheme, yearly budget is allocated for the maintenance including construction of extra building, classroom furniture, separate toilet, re-wiring for electrification of Sikkim Government college, Tadong, for the maintenance of Namchi College including the construction of principal and staff quarter, playground, hostel, fencing of the college area etc.

There are schemes to meet the expenses and maintenance of Law College, Institute of Higher Nynigmapa Studies (Sheda), existing Sanskrit Mahavidyalay, for construction of new Sanskrit Mahavidyalay and establishment of new colleges in different districts.

To eradicate illiteracy from the State, under this scheme, construction of evening schools in every district is taking place. For this programme, the Government has proposed Rs.1.15 lakhs during 2006-07 for construction work and required furniture.

Sikkim is a multilingual state. To promote various languages or dialects into various levels of education the State Government has introduced a Policy. Under this policy, training programmes for the language teachers are organized. Besides, the State Government also provides financial support to Sanskrit Pathshalas of the State. For routine expenditures on establishment and administration, there is again a government policy.

Under the State Government Policy, scholarship are given to the meritorious students in various categories in both technical as well general higher education studies where such facilities are not available within the State.

The Directorate of Technical Education was set up in 1998. Its responsibility is to look after the matters related to the ITI, Rangpo and Sikkim Manipal University as well as the two polytechnics existing within the State.

Under centrally sponsored scheme, the State Government of Sikkim is sharing its liabilities to implant *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* with the State. Among the various achievements of S.S.A., setting up of 40 new primary schools, upgradation of 37 primary schools to upper primary schools, establishment of 22 alternative schools in less habitated areas all over the state, introduction of general education in monastic schools, appointment of 543 teaching and non-teaching personnel, imparting quality education, training of the newly appointed and in-service teachers, grant of annual funds to the school under S.S.A. etc. are worth mentioning.

Under the Perspective plan for XIIth Finance Commission, thrust areas are: provision of blackboard, fencing of schools, construction of separate District Education Office building, construction of teachers guest house, computer education, procurement of musical instrument, provision of tape recorder / player, procurement of teaching learning materials, school excursions, installation of telephone in all senior secondary and secondary schools, textbooks for O.B.C. boys' students, winter coaching for week students of class X and XII, provision for duplicating machines to primary schools, extension of playground, electrification of one-room primary schools/junior high schools, procurement of books on value education and career guidance.