

AN ANALYSIS ON EDUCATIONAL WELFARE SCHEMES IN GOA

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'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest'. - **Benjamin Franklin**

Abstract: The word, the people and their attitudes are changing very fast, this rapid change poses a great challenge to the educational system. The challenge is to make education reach to the wider masses of the population. Education is one of the important issues in the development of the country and it is the prime responsibility of the Government to provide education through various schemes. Every effort is being made to improve the education through various welfare schemes implemented from time to time. Hence it is necessary to analyze the schemes implemented by the Government. A few programmes and schemes are discussed and analysed in this article and suggestive measures are given for the successful implementation of the schemes.

Keywords: Education, Welfare Schemes, Vocational Education.

Introduction: The state of Goa enjoys a place of pride in the country as one of the most literate state of India and has recorded 88.70% of literacy as per 2011 census. But still the changing sociological and cultural scenario of Goa state keeps the education system improvising, the resultant changes throw up new challenges for the educational system in Goa, the challenges might be for the school management, students, parents etc.

The education system in Goa is effectively streamlined in keeping with the National Curricular Framework 2005 (NCF 2005) to upgrade the quality of education at all levels. The state has already implemented the R.T.E. Various Educational facilities to attend scholastic and non- scholastic achievements are made available to all the special children in the State through the 29 Special Schools and 43 Resource Rooms catering to the Educational needs of differently abled Children in the State.

Under the revised scheme for literacy and vocational training for adults is implemented through various NGO's, involvement of experienced/retired/ serving teachers, senior citizen forum and NSS volunteer from various Higher secondary school aiming 100% literacy in the State. Act 2009 to ensure that no child in the age group of 6-14 years remains out of school. Goa has recorded 88.70 per cent literacy as per the census 2011.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study and understand the education schemes in Goa state
2. To suggest measures for implementation of schemes

Methodology: The study is based on the secondary data collected from various magazines, books, journals, news papers and internet.

Education in Goa: Education plays an important role in the socio economic growth of the country. it is through education change has been brought out drastically.

The state of Goa has witnessed a rising trend in the literacy rate, the following table shows a change in the literacy rate over the years.

Literacy Rate in Goa from 1960-2011

Literacy Rate {Percent}			
Census Years	Males	Females	Total
1960	48.70	22.80	31.23
1971	54.65	35.79	45.31
1981	65.99	48.29	57.27
1991	83.64	67.09	75.51
2001	88.62	76.47	82.01
2011	92.81	81.84	88.70

Source: Goa Economic Survey 2011-12

In the above table we can conclude that the literacy rate is rising in Goa.

The following are the schemes and programs with details intended for the development of education in the state of Goa.

Mid Day Meal Scheme: Under 'Mid-Day Meal' Scheme Nutritious food is provided containing proteins and calories. The food supplied in the form of bhajipao, vegetable pulao and sheera. Each meal contains 450 calories and 12 gm proteins for primary students and 700 calories and 20 gm proteins for Upper Primary students, to the school going children of all Government & Government aided Primary and Upper primary school and AIE Centres in the state. The scheme is strictly in accordance with guidelines from Government of India. the food is served by Self Help Group/Mahila Mandal on contract basis. Approximately, 1067 primary schools and 431 upper primary schools are covered benefitting 1, 59,953 students in the State.

Bal Rath Scheme: Under this scheme schools were provided with school buses, the buses were used for the children from the rural areas and who are from economically backward, thereby encouraging the children to come to school.

Goa Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA): SSarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive and integrated flagship programme of the Government of India (GoI), to attain Universal Elementary Education (UEE) in the country in a mission mode. Launched in partnership with the State Governments, SSA aims to provide useful and relevant education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years by 2010. In Goa, the scheme has been launched in October 2005 with the aim of enrolment of all children in school, ii) safeguarding of all children till the upper primary stage by 2010. iii) Bridging of gender and social category gaps in enrolment, retention and learning. iv) To ensure that there is significant enhancement in the learning achievement levels of children at the primary and upper primary stages. The following infrastructure have been provided: i) Additional classrooms ii) Compound walls iii) Child friendly elements iv) Toilets and urinals v) Electricity vi) Major and minor repairs The significant increase in the learning achievement have been ensured by giving intensive teachers training, providing learning material such as Text books, Project books, Schools bags etc.

Education Schemes for Girl Child: Kanya Dhan Scheme – This Scheme was Sponsored by State Government Ministry/Department Directorate of Education. The objective of the scheme is to promote Educational status of SC/ST girl child. Under this scheme financial Assistance was provided to the girl child whose family income is Rs.1.2 lakhs p.a.

Adolescence Education Programme: No socio economic programme and development of the State is possible without providing proper education and suitable employment opportunities to the adolescent. They need to be made aware of issues like, health care and hygiene, sexual responsibility, safe motherhood, family size, HIV/AIDS prevention, drug and alcohol abuse, control of aggression etc. Presently, this programme is sponsored by NACO which emphasizes on HIV/AIDS.

Adult Education:

Scheme for Literacy and Vocational Training for Adults: The main objective of the scheme is to improve literacy rate in the state. Illiterates can acquire skill of writing, reading number, knowledge of money matters. The scheme is implemented through registered N.G.O.s, village panchayats and Municipalities.

Vocational Training: The scheme also seeks to impart basic skills of vocational training in artificial jewellery making, preparation of chinks, candles, paper bags, glass painting, fabric painting, pot painting, training of mehendi, rangoli, rakhee, greeting cards, flowers, bouquets, flowerpots, training of beauty parlor etc . A total grant of Rs.60,000/- is given for a center of 20 learners in 3 installments for implementation of scheme of Literacy and Vocational Training course over 6 months duration.

Bharat Yatra: This scheme is for the students of secondary and higher secondary schools, them to undertake this educational tour to far-flung areas in the northern and southern India to acquaint themselves with Indian culture and topography. The amount of grant for Educational tour (Bharat Yatra) is Rs. 500/- per students.

Infrastructure Schemes:

Centenary/Platinum Jubilee Award to Aided Educational Institutions: Under this scheme one time grant was given to those aided Educational Institutions which have successfully completed 100 years and 75 years of their establishment to upgrade the existing infrastructure. The grant is meant for improvement of infrastructure like construction/renovation of school building, play ground, compound hall, equipments, furniture, toilets, drinking water facilities, electricity, etc.

Assistance for Adoption of Government Primary and Middle Schools: The scheme is designed to support Govt. Primary and Middle schools with poor enrolment to promote and provide better academic and administrative set up with the support of private managements. The Government Primary and Middle schools having an enrolment of less than 20 students are selected for adoption. These schools for all administrative and academic purposes are under the control of the respective private managements and teachers will be posted by Government on deputation. The scheme provides financial assistance in the form of annual maintenance Grant of Rs. 10,000/- for the purpose of repairs, general maintenance, etc. the electricity and water supply at actual cost and book grant of Rs. 3000/- for stationary and newspaper etc.

Drinking Water and Toilet Facilities to the Students: This scheme was announced in 2010-11 to support the infrastructure of the schools. The aim of the scheme is to provide drinking water and toilet facilities to the Government schools. The State Govt. has made provision of Rs.200.00 Lakhs in the budget 2010-11.

Infrastructure Development Scheme: The maintenance, repairs, and construction of new school buildings for Government Primary, Middle, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools is carried out under this scheme. The estimate for construction of new school building is prepared by the Public Works Department as per the approved drawing from Chief Architect, Public Works Department. The Director of Education issues sanction order to P.W.D for construction on obtaining administrative approval and expenditure sanction. Maintenance, repairs, construction of toilet blocks and compound walls are carried out by the P.W.D. and GSIDC. Minor repairs works of the schools up to a ceiling of Rs.50,000/- per work is also carried out by the Village/Urban Education Committees. The civil works of Government Primary and Middle Schools are also attended to by Goa Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Revised Infrastructure Loan cum Grant Scheme: The scheme envisages the providing of interest free loan cum grant to the Govt. aided Institutions to upgrade the existing infrastructure or construction of new building, playground etc. The scheme was notified in the Government Gazette dated 11-12-2008. Applications have been received from the Aided Educational Institutions are scrutinized by the scrutiny

committee held on the on 1st Oct'2009 and committee has approved 3 applications received under the scheme. However payments are yet to be released.

Computer Education Schemes:

Computer Education Plan - ICT @ School Scheme: The State Government for enhancing IT literacy at school level and to strengthen the computer laboratories in all high and higher secondary schools in the State. The ICT @ School Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme with the centre providing grants to the tune of 75%, balance 25% being the state share.

EDUNET Scheme: With the Explosion and penetration of information technology in every field of development and progress, the knowledge of computers has become an inevitable part of education. The students of higher secondary school need to handle computers on a daily basis to achieve the desired output in skills related to IT. The Govt. of Goa is smartly and diligently striving to increase computer literacy, which increases employment opportunity, greater earnings potential, greater access to resource and greater control of assets the Govt. of Goa introduce EDUNET scheme to provide support to the students for their further studies and to enable them to use computers and information technology as a tool to enhance not only learning but also to empower them towards earning (employment/ self employment). Under the scheme, students are provided with the latest technologically advance multimedia computers with ink-jet printers, UPS and software (both operation system and anti-virus, etc.)

Human Resource Development Schemes:

Teacher Education Scheme: To explore possibility of tying up with reputed institution for holding specially designed courses for SCERTs /DIETs.

Providing Laptops to Higher Secondary Teachers: Interest free loans to the extent of Rs. 40,000/- for purchase of laptops are provided to Secondary and Higher Secondary teachers. The scheme has been started on 4th Sept 2009.

Non Formal Education Schemes: To achieve 100% literacy in the State, it is proposed to identify children who are left out from the system of formal education and make them literate under the system of non-formal education. They are mostly the children of migrant labourers. The objective of this scheme is to identify children who are left out from the formal education and bring them under the umbrella of education.

Pre-Vocational Scheme: A New of pre-Vocational courses for Std. IX & X has been introduced from the academic year 2010-11 onwards to curb the drop rate in std IX & X due to limited understanding of concepts of Science, Social science & Mathematics by providing the option of Mathematics, Social science & Science. Schools have been permitted to introduce the same.

Vocational Education at +2 Stage: The scheme of Vocationalisation of education at +2stage was introduced in the state of Goa from the academic year 1988-89 with a view to provide an alternative to higher education and bring work and education closer. The main objective of the scheme was to provide diversification of educational opportunities and to enhance individual employability, reduce mismatch between the demand and supply and skilled manpower as an alternative for those pursuing higher education and remaining unemployed. Vocational education is a distinct scheme which intends to prepare students for identified occupations, so as to create areas of self employability. These courses are provided in the higher secondary schools along with general stream subjects.

Suggestions:

- Proper implementation of the schemes should be done from the top level
- Plans and policies of the government should be percolated at the grass root level for the deserving.
- Proper monitoring of the schemes should be done, by appointing experienced officials.
- Creating awareness in various forms of media about the various welfare schemes.

- Emphasis should be given to technical and vocational education.
- The state is lacking special school, so quite a substantial number special schools needs to be established.
- Special schemes need to be framed for special children so that more and more children are enrolled.
- Students should be encouraged to take up technical and vocational education
- Public should be involved in the implementation of certain welfare schemes
- Night schools should be opened so that the working community can take up education after their working hours.
- Schemes for human resource development should be implemented in the field of education.

Conclusion: It can be concluded that the various educational welfare schemes are very much beneficial for the development and upliftment of educational standard, thereby increasing the literacy rate in the state of Goa.

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