

**Proceedings of the 14th meeting of the Executive Committee
of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Samithi held on 23.12.2006 at 11.00 A.M.
at the conference hall of the office of the State Project Director,
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Bangalore.**

Members Present is given in the annexure.

Joint Director, SSA welcomed the members.

Subject No 1.	Confirmation of the proceedings of the 13th meeting of the E.C., SSA held on 10.8.2006.
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There were no comments on the proceedings of the 13th E.C. meeting. The proceedings were confirmed.

Decision: E.C confirmed the proceedings.

Subject No 2.	Action taken on the proceedings of the 13th meeting of the E.C., SSA held on 10.8.2006.
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The State Project Director explained the action taken on the proceedings of the 13th E.C. meeting. The committee noted the action taken on the proceedings of the 13th E.C. meeting and further action was suggested on the following points-

2.1 The SPD to get the quarterly monitoring formats developed by the NCERT examined and quickly finalize brief quarterly monitoring format of our own, after taking the report from the sub-committee constituted by the Secretary under the chairmanship of the Director of Public Instructions (Primary Education). This should be done incorporating the monitoring needs as developed by the NCERT to the extent possible without causing a burden on teachers and CRPs in data collection.

2.2 A single and uniform set of registers could be developed and supplied to all schools to avoid maintaining multiple registers. While doing so the SPD to study the Attendance cum Achievement Register of Madhya Pradesh State. There should be a single cash book for all the purposes-state budget, project funds, SDMC etc at the school level and the aim of development of a uniform set of registers should be to reduce the burden of documentation on the Head Teachers

and other teachers. These registers should be introduced during the next academic year.

2.3 The Committee was informed that the Agastya Foundation's science centre is not functioning at Raichur as the organization has decided to work in Koppal and the SPD had discussions with Mr. Ramji Raghavan, chief of Agastya Foundation, regarding use of the Koppal Science centre for teacher training. The Committee felt that a mobile science lab in Raichur was required and decided that in the 2007-08 AWP proposals should be included for Mobile Science Laboratories in certain very backward regions like Raichur and Yadgir.

2.3 The Committee approved the proposal of providing teacher training in Science using the Science Centre of Koppal run by Agastya Foundation. The Committee also suggested that DIETs should be involved in these trainings in order to develop sustainable capacities in training in Science in them.

2.4 The Committee noted the action taken on Remedial Teaching using KSQAO results and suggested that "Remedial Teaching" should be undertaken in schools where the KSQAO results were below 40 per cent. The committee also suggested that remedial teaching should be extended to children during summer holidays also by the volunteers since mid day meal was being given in drought affected blocks. The schools where Akshara Dasoha Programme would be implemented in summer should be specially targeted for remedial teaching.

2.5 On the subject of shifting of the B.R.P.s and C.R.P.s to the administrative control of the DIETs the Committee suggested that the Commissioner should take an early decision.

Decision: E.C noted the action taken on the previous meetings proceedings, after taking the above decisions on further action.

Subject No 3.	Activity wise review of the progress under SSA
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The progress achieved under SSA till 30.11.2006 was placed before the committee. The committee reviewed the progress and recommended the following actions –

- 3.1 Decided to recommend to the PAB to increase the unit cost of maintaining Residential Bridge Course centres on par with the rates fixed for KGBVs.
- 3.2 A regular trained teacher of the department should be deputed to teach in the residential bridge course centres in order to maintain quality of education in these centres.
- 3.3 Some members of the Committee pointed out that many beggar children are found in some of the traffic junctions of Bangalore city. The Committee decided that SSA should make efforts should be made to put these children in residential bridge course centres and Smt Yashoda Bopanna, DDPI, SSA, should take the responsibility of organizing this and submit report to the committee in the next meeting.
- 3.4 The Committee asked the Director, DSERT to ensure 15 person-days of training to teachers in the state. Training of teachers in English should be ensured for at least 2 teachers per school. DSERT was also directed to plan for the training of teachers during summer holidays. It was decided that resource persons other than the CRPs / BRPs also to be identified and used for the training of teachers. The training programmes should be organised simultaneously in all the blocks through EDUSAT and Face to Face methods so that all teachers would be given a minimum of eight days training during summer holidays.
- 3.5 The committee was appraised that NIAS was working on the data management of teacher training and report was expected shortly. The committee further discussed on the effectiveness of the teacher training programmes. It felt that Director, DSERT should ensure that Activity based, participatory methods of training should be followed and not the conventional lecture method in all

the teacher training programmes. It decided that the DIET staff, CRPs and BRPs should be trained in the content enrichment, training methodology, use of teaching aids and training skills before March 2007 and the same staff should be utilised for training of teachers during summer of 2007. DSERT was instructed to report the progress in the next meeting of the E.C.

- 3.6 The committee also decided that the training of the members of SDMCs should be completed before February 2007.
- 3.7 Director DSERT submitted that funds were insufficient under the head Radio programmes and about 24 lakhs was due for payment towards broadcasting of radio lessons. After discussions, DSERT was permitted to utilise the funds available under EDUSAT for the payments to be made towards the radio lessons.
- 3.8 State Project Director, Mahila Samakhya submitted that there was no fund available towards the management cost incurred for management of KGBV schools in Karnataka. After detailed discussions the committee opined that the proposal may be submitted to MHRD in the next Annual Work plan for approval.
- 3.9 The Chairman of the committee instructed that the progress of civil works for the year 2006-07 need to be speeded up particularly in the North Eastern Districts of the state.

Subject No 4.	Approval of the proceedings of the Procurement Committee
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The proceedings of the State Level Procurement committee were placed before the house for ratification. The decisions taken in the committee were in the interest of the implementation of the project. As such the committee ratified the decisions taken by the state level procurement committee during the period 13.3.2006 to 18.9.2006.

Decision: E.C ratified the decisions taken by the State Level Procurement Committee during 13.3.2006 to 18.9.2006.

Subject No 5.	To provide Maintenance & repair grant to Government schools running in rented buildings
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The State Project Director explained that there were 1653 government schools running in the rent free or rented buildings. Most of such buildings belonged to mosques or other non profit organisations and they were not maintained properly. The Schools being the users have to take care of regular maintenance of these buildings, like painting and small repairs. But such schools were not being provided repair and maintenance grants under SSA, as the buildings did not belong to the Government or the SDMC. The Committee was requested to consider providing repair and maintenance grants to schools running in the rent free and rented buildings. The Committee was also informed that the MHRD had been requested in this regard, but the Ministry has not agreed to the proposal. After detailed discussions the following decision was taken.

Decision: The Committee approved the proposal of providing repair and maintenance grants to government primary schools running in the rent free and rented buildings also, out of the state share of SSA. The Committee suggested that the SPD should again make a case to the Government of India.

Subject No 6.	Approval of the Audit report of SSA for the year 2005-06
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The Annual Audited Financial Statements, Audit reports, Audit certificate and Management reports were placed before the committee for consideration and approval. The Chairperson suggested that action should be taken on the suggestions (observations) made in the Reports and placed before the E.C. in the next meeting. The committee, after detailed discussions, approved the Annual Audited Financial Statements, Audit reports, Audit certificate and Management reports for the year 2005-06.

Decision: E.C. approved the Annual Audited Financial Statements, Audit reports, Audit certificate and Management reports for the year 2005-06. It directed that compliance report on the observations made in the Notes and Management Report be submitted to E.C. in the next meeting.

Subject No 7.	Appointment of the Chartered Accountants as auditors for taking up the audit of SSA accounts for the year 2006-07.
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The committee was informed that as per the provisions of the Manual on Financial Management and Procurement, the accounts of SSA had to be audited by an external agency i.e. a Chartered Accountant firms.

Earlier CA firms were selected during 2003-04 and were continued till 2005-06. Now expression of interest was invited from CA firms for auditing of the accounts of SSA for the year 2006-07 and the evaluation of the applications is being done. The selected firms will be eligible for a fee of Rs.0.22 for every expenditure of Rs.1000.00 each. The committee after detailed discussion took the following decision.

Decision: E.C. approved the proposal to engage the services of CA firms to get the accounts of SSA for the year 2006-07 audited. However, the Committee suggested that SPD should examine the fixing of rate as per procurement procedure.

Subject No 8.	Regularisation of the remuneration paid to resource persons in excess of the provisions.
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The Chief Accounts Officer, SSA, submitted before the committee that in most of the districts remuneration for the resource persons engaged in the training programmes of teachers was paid at Rs 100.00 per session. This has been done at the district level under a misconception that the orders of DSERT, in this regard, were Rs.100.00 per session, where as the permitted rate was Rs 100 per day. The Committee was further informed that this matter has been discussed at the meeting of the State Level Audit Committee, on 18.9.2006, and the committee has recommended that this excess expenditure could be regularised, as a one time exception. The committee after detailed discussions

Decision: The Committee approved the regularisation of the excess remuneration paid to resource persons as one time exception and instructed the DSERT to establish/streamline norms for incurring expenditure towards the training programmes and submit the proposal in the next meeting.

Subject No 9.	Internal Audit Report on accounts of SSA for 2004-05
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The report of the Internal Audit (IA) Wing of SPO, SSA, was placed before the Committee. The IA wing had conducted audit of 11 districts. Various observations were made in the report. Follow up action was being taken by the SPO. The matter was placed before the committee as per the requirements of the Manual on Financial Management & Procurement of SSA. The committee discussed the matter in detail.

Decision: E.C approved the report and suggested that the follow up action taken on each observation should be placed before the committee in its next meeting.

Subject No 10.	Conducting the children census for the year 2007
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The committee was briefed about this subject as follows: As per the guidelines of the MHRD the child census had to be conducted in the state during February 2007. During the previous years ICR technology was used for consolidation of the data collected during the census. Though comprehensive child wise data was collected during the previous year substantial revision was required this year as the MHRD has revised their data requirements substantially. Also there were several errors in the data and the names of the parents and children were in English. The committee discussed the matter in detail and after verifying the cost implications decided that house to house re-survey was imminent. As far as data collection format was concerned it was decided that pre-printed stationery in Kannada could be used using the previous year's data and those can be used for habitation level survey.

Decision; The Committee approved the conduct of the Child Census 2007.

Subject No 11.	Procurement of Computer hardware and UPS for Computer Assisted Learning Centres for the year 2005-06 & 2006-07
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The committee was informed that the tenders called, during 2005-06 for the procurement of computer hardware and UPS to schools under the innovative

activities of SSA was cancelled due to various reasons. It was therefore decided to procure computers to the schools together for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 by calling tenders. The specifications were approved by the Technical Advisory Panel. The UPS systems will be procured from out of the management cost which was estimated to cost approximately around 5.00 crores. The committee examined the proposal and approved the same.

Decision: The Committee approved the proposal to procure computer hardware, costing approximately Rs 15.00 Crores, from the funds available under the head innovative activities for computer education for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 and the UPS systems from out of the management costs .

Subject No 12.	Maintenance of the accounts at SDMCs and capacity building of SDMCs and block level functionaries on account maintenance.
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The committee was informed that large amount of monies were available with the SDMCs and that proper account maintenance by the SDMCs was a challenge. The training programmes conducted were not yielding the desired results in terms of prudent account maintenance. In Tamil Nadu State Chartered Accountants have been appointed to verify and maintain the Accounts at the school level. The Committee was further informed that similar exercise could also be taken up in the state and Chartered Accountant firms may be appointed to provide services of maintaining the records at schools and training the teachers as well, in maintaining the accounts. The committee examined the proposal and approved engaging Chartered Accountant firms for the maintenance and audit of the accounts of schools since the inception of SSA.

Decision: The Committee approved the proposal of appointing Chartered Accountancy firms / companies to maintain accounts of SDMCs and audit them since the inception of the SSA project.

Any other subjects with the permission of the Chair:

The following matters were placed as additional agenda with the permission of the Chair.

Subject No 13.	Reimbursement of Travel Expenses of the consulting engineers
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The SPD briefed the Committee on this subject as follow: the services of consulting engineers were procured under SSA for providing technical guidance, supervision and quality control to SDMCs for the implementation of civil works. As per the contract the travel expenses should be reimbursed to the consulting firm at Rs 3000.00 per month per engineer. However, for the period 2005-06 the consultancy agency did not submit the bills before the end of 31/3/2006. Bills totalling Rs. 58.86 lakhs pertaining to the year 2005-06 were presented subsequently. Hence the matter was placed before the committee for approval to incur the expenditure from the management cost during 2006-07. The Committee discussed the issue and felt since the contract provided for the reimbursement of the travel expenses at prescribed rate, the delay in submission of bills could be condoned, and hence took the following decision.

Decision: The Committee approved the reimbursement of travel expenses of the Consulting Engineers pertaining to the period 2005-06 to the Engineering Consultancy Agency, as per the terms of the contract, totalling Rs 58.86 lakhs.

Subject No 14.	To try out the idea of zero class
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This subject was proposed by the Chairman of the Committee and the Secretary, Primary and Secondary Education. Lack of pre-primary school going experience among young children affects their capacity to assimilate the class room experience in their initial years in schools. Urban and relatively better off children have the benefit of Kindergarten exposure. The Anganwadi does not really provide the Kindergarten kind of educational experience to children. Also under aged children who are admitted to class I find it very difficult to cope with the achievement levels of others. It is also State policy not to refuse admission to under aged children, and therefore, children who are below six end up in Class I. It was, therefore, felt that a zero (0) class may be introduced prior to class I for Children above the age of 4 and half years but below 5 years and 10 months. The matter was discussed in detail and the committee decided that this concept could be tried out in all the government

schools of 4 blocks- one block in each of the divisions- of the state during the academic year 2007-08.

Decision: The committee decided to introduce zero class for the children of age between 4.5 and 6 years in all government schools of 4 blocks during 2007-08.

Subject No 15.	Proposals to be submitted to MHRD, GOI for consideration for the Annual Work Plan of SSA, 2007-08.
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Many issues that required revision and reconsideration by the MHRD, GoI, were raised and discussed by the Committee, and the following decisions were taken:

1. The fund sharing pattern during the 10th plan was 75:25 between the GoI and the state governments. The Committee decided to recommend to the MHRD, GoI, to continue the same fund sharing pattern during the 11th plan period also.
2. The GoI had sanctioned BRCs for the 176 CD blocks and District Project Management team for 27 Revenue districts under the SSA programme. The State Government had proposed, during 2006-07, that Educational Districts and Blocks should be considered for district projects teams and BRCs respectively, in the interest of better project management and more rational allocation of management personnel. The GoI had not agreed. The Committee recommended that MHRD be requested again to re-consider our proposal in this regard.
3. SSA had not provided funds for the construction of compound walls to school buildings during 2006-07. Many members felt that compound walls were essential in many schools. As such it was suggested that MHRD be requested to consider providing grants for the construction of compound walls under SSA to the state in the 2007-08 plan.
4. Presently computers are provided to schools under the head innovative activities. The coverage is very limited as there is a limit of Rs 15 lakhs per

district per year. But ICT based education has become very essential in all the schools. As such it was decided to request MHRD to increase the coverage of CAL to more schools in the state.

5. The impact of the programme of SSA on the elementary education has been very encouraging. However, Secondary Education also needed a project like the SSA. The Committee therefore recommended that the MHRD should expedite its proposal to extend SSA to Secondary Education also.
6. Many of the school buildings that are old need to be demolished and a new one needs to be constructed. Also many school buildings require major repairs which can not be done with the present maintenance and repair grants. It was decided to request MHRD to consider providing funds for the construction of school buildings in place of the dilapidated ones and to provide for major repairs of school buildings. It was also decided to request MHRD to consider providing assistance towards the repair and maintenance of the CRC, BRC and DPO offices.
7. Many members also felt that the unit cost fixed for various activities was not revised since the programme was launched in 2001-02, or even since DPEP was launched in 1995 and that there was cost escalation and funds were not sufficient to meet the requirements. For example, school grant, teacher grant of Rs 2000.00 and Rs.500.00 respectively or remedial teaching is not sufficient. As such it was decided to request MHRD to revise the unit cost of various activities under SSA.
8. Presently KGBV residential schools are planned to provide education for the out of school girls up to class VIII. It would be better if the same is extended till class 10. Or else the girls studying in these schools are likely to drop out again. It was, therefore, decided to request MHRD to consider extending the KGBVs up to class 10.
9. The state government is providing text books free to all the children studying in government schools from class I to class VII. But the text books themselves are not sufficient. Work books are also needed to be distributed

to the children along with the text books as this would help achieve increase in quality of primary education. As such it was decided to request MHRD to consider providing workbooks for the children studying in classes III to VIII under SSA.

10. It was also decided to request MHRD to start residential schools for boys on the lines of KGBV to reduce the drop out rate among the rural children. For achieving this it is essential that the unit cost of Residential Bridge Courses should be brought on par with the unit cost of KGBVs. The Committee decided to recommend to the G.o.I as such.

11. It was felt by some members that KGBV schools started do not have the Science and Mathematics teachers. As such the quality would suffer. Hence the members suggested that MHRD may be requested to consider providing a Science and a Mathematics teacher to KGBV schools. The Committee was informed that a recommendation to MHRD to shift the KGBVs from model 3 to model 1 was made, which the GoI had not accepted. The Committee, after discussion, decided that as far as possible the KGBV girls should be sent to the nearby High School to study 8 standard and near by Higher Primary School to study 6th and 7th. Where such facilities are not available the Education Department should depute Trained Graduate Teachers for Science and Mathematics.

Decision: The committee decided that the above proposals should form part of the State's AWP for 2007-08 and a separate request should also be submitted to the GoI for the consideration of MHRD.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

(sd)
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