

**Proceedings of the 16th meeting of the Executive Committee
of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Samithi held on 12.4.2007 at 10.00 A.M.
in 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 15th meeting of the E.C., SSA held on 9.2.2007.
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There were no comments on the proceedings of the 15th E.C. meeting. The proceedings were confirmed.

Decision: E.C confirmed the proceedings.

Subject No 2.	Action taken on the proceedings of the 15th meeting of the E.C., SSA held on 9.2.2007.
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The State Project Director explained the action taken on the proceedings of the 15th E.C. meeting. The committee noted the action taken on report and further action was suggested on the following points-

2.1 The quarterly monitoring formats developed were tried out and the report was presented by Sri. E. Nanjappa, Senior Programme Officer, SSA. It was decided that the same could be printed and distributed to all the schools by 28th of May 2007. Mr Dogra, Under Secretary, MHRD, GOI Under Secretary, MHRD, GOI, requested that a copy of the formats so developed may be sent to Government of India.

2.2 The Director Programmes of SSA presented a report on the registers that were developed to reduce the burden on teachers. 18 registers were developed. The Chairman instructed that the same be tried out in a few more schools as to the quantum of work of work that can be reduced. It was also suggested that registers of all other school based programmes like mid day meals should be looked into, while preparing the final list.

2.3 The Committee commended the efforts of the DDPIs of Bangalore North and South districts in identifying and enrolling the beggar and street children in Residential Bridge Course centres. 130 children were enrolled in RBCs. The committee also suggested that the benefit of hot cooked mid day meals be extended to these children. In this regard NGOs like Akshaya Patra or Adanya Chethana may be requested to supplement the efforts of the department. The committee also suggested that additional children identified may be enrolled in the same RBCs so that larger number of children would make the RBCs economically viable. The committee felt that such efforts may be made more often, at least once a month, and more children be identified and enrolled in the RBCs.

2.4 The Committee suggested that the posts of Deputy Project coordinators may be created in the five educational districts for the better implementation of the project. The SPD informed the Committee that the Commissioner for Public Instructions had been requested to depute one Senior Lecturer from each of the five DIETs in Yadgir, Chikkodi, Chikkabalapur, Madhugiri and Bangalore North. However, Secretary suggested that five posts of DyPC be created for the duration of the project. The Committees decided to create these posts to be filled by deputation from the department.

2.5 The Committee noted the action taken on starting residential bridge course centres to tackle seasonal migration. The Committee, further, suggested that more RBCs could be opened to provide education for the children of workers employed in brick factories, silk industries, construction work, mines, etc. It was also decided that the SPD will write to the concerned departments to help the education department provide education to the children of such labourers.

2.6 The Committee also suggested that the Commissioner for Sugar and Cane Development should be requested to direct the Sugar Factories to compulsorily facilitate and run tent schools near the sugar factories to provide education to the children of the labourers who come to the factory for seasonal work. SSA

would provide teachers, books, uniform cloth, TLM while building/temporary structure, note books, stitching charges should be provided by the factories.

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

Subject No 3.	Approval of the decisions of the Procurement Committee
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The proceeding of the procurement committee was approved. Mr Dogra, Under Secretary, MHRD, GOI suggested that the funds from management cost should not be used for procuring the Bhogola Sangathi. The SPD informed the Committee that in the 2006-07 AWP provision of Rs 50 lakhs was made for providing TLM for BRC, CRCs. The Committee appreciated the idea that Bhoogola Sangathi, a very good resource book on Geography, produced by the DSERT, is being provided to the Cluster Schools. It decided that this book set should be provided to all the 2500 CRCs.

The Chairman enquired about the MP3 players. The SPD informed that there was provision for supplying recorded radio programmes to schools in the AWP 2006-07. The decision to supply MP3 players has been made accordingly. The Committee was also informed that Urdu schools were not receiving radio programmes as there was no programming available in Urdu language. It was therefore decided to partner with EDC for production of Urdu and English programmes. Mr Dogra, Under Secretary, MHRD, GOI, requested SPD, SSA to send a set of CDs to MHRD.

Decision: E.C approved the decisions of the State Level Procurement Committee with a modification that the TLM in the form of Bhoogola Sangathi be supplied to all the 2500 CRCs.

Subject No 4.	Proposal of the Reading Cards
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The proposal of extending a Reading Support programme was placed before the committee in its previous meeting. It was decided that the matter be referred to an expert committee. The committee, constituted for this purpose under the

chairmanship of the Director, DSERT, had given its report, which was placed before this (Executive) committee for discussion. The same was discussed in detail, after a brief presentation by the Director, DSERT. The main findings of the Expert Committee were: (a) reading cards for reading support could be used, but they should be graded and should be related and contextualized to the curriculum and text books; (b) they should be activity oriented, better designed with broader mix of content (stories, poems, local culture, history, general subjects), should have better illustration; (c) cards should be district specific so that local context in terms of content and language is reflected in the cards; (d) Forty five days of accelerated reading programme would not be sustainable as reading was a complex exercise and it had to be related with meaning, context and comprehension; and finally, (e) without careful design, paying close attention to content, pedagogy and process, and without proper grading the cards by carefully relating them to the competencies expected from each class, the programme should not be up-scaled to the entire state.

Father Felix expressed the concern that mere reading was not sufficient. Reading should be followed by comprehension of the same, and that depends on our success in relating the cards to the context of the children.

Mrs Padma Sarangapani felt that the reading cards should be made more regional specific with rich illustrations. She also expressed the concern that the children in minority schools also are suffering with poor reading skills. As such attempts should also be made to provide reading cards in other languages as well.

The State Project Director outlined the following broad issues that need discussion and decision. (a) The Expert Committee did not favour the term "Accelerated", as it has suggested a long term reading support programme; (b) Reading cards, if introduced, should be carefully integrated into the class room transaction so that teachers do not see this as additional burden; (c) Focus on teacher training on the use of the cards, so as to make the teachers own the programme and use the cards in their own way and under a process; (d) Design of the cards to be cleared by an Expert Committee, headed by an expert in languages and pedagogy.

The Secretary felt that if students did not know how to read then they would not be able to approach any other subject. He also referred to the recent NCERT recommendation that a reading cell was required in SERT. Supporting reading was therefore important in order to improve learning levels. He also felt that the text books were not written separately for each district or each region, therefore, why insist on cards to be region specific. Though it is desirable to have reading material in regional variants of the language, it was felt that developing such texts would take time and effort. The Secretary further felt that reading cards were for those weak in reading and therefore cards could not be seen as additional or supplementary reading material.

The SPD, felt if a comprehensive reading support programme using cards was planned, it could target students at different levels of reading competence. For some cards could serve as supplementary reading material, as well. After detailed discussions the committee approved that a comprehensive reading support programme, with active use of appropriately designed reading cards, should be introduced in all the districts of the state, in a phased manner, given the constraint of resources. The Committee, further suggested that based on the approval of the AWP&B by the GOI and availability of funds under the head remedial teaching, and the contribution of partners, including the Akshara Foundation, the State Project Director could decide on the number of districts in which this programme could be extended. While deciding on the programme the expert committee report should be kept in mind.

The priorities while selected districts (in case all the districts cannot be chosen.) should be: North Eastern Karnataka, followed by North Karnataka and some selected districts of south like Chamrajnagar, Kolar and Chitradurga.

Decision: E.C approved the proposal to extend the programme of appropriately prepared reading cards in all or selected districts of Karnataka considering the availability of funds under SSA and the contribution of partners like Akshara Foundation in this programme.

Subject No 5.	Proposal of "Namma Shale"
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The Karnataka State Trainers Collective KSTC made a presentation on the project proposal Namma Shale. The Committee was informed that the total cost of this proposal was around Rs 180.00 crores over 2 to 3 years ie Rs 40,000.00 per school. The committee examined the proposal and the funds available under SSA towards community training which was Rs. 60.00 per person for 2 days per school. However since KSTC was implementing the project in 4 clusters with assistance from Azim Premji Foundation, the same could first be evaluated and based on the report, a proposal may be submitted to the Committee keeping in mind the economic viability and replicability of the activities in a large scale.

Decision: The Committee decided that the project of KSTC being implemented in 4 clusters may be evaluated by an external agency and then a revised proposal be placed before the committee for considering the feasibility of up scaling the proposal to a larger level.

Subject No 6.	Establishment of SIEMAT
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This matter was placed before the E.C as one of members, Mrs Padma Sarangapani from National Institute of Advanced Studies had requested the Chairman of the Committee to discuss the process in establishment of SIEMAT with other organisations. The State Project Director explained the need for SIEMAT, its objectives, the structure and the role of the SIEMAT. He explained that the department of the education in Karnataka required an institution like SIEMAT, as a large number of officers serving in the department in various capacities needed training in public policy, public administration and management, and that the capacities of the few public sector training institutions of administration in Karnataka were limited, and also their expertise in modern management discipline was not sufficient.

Establishment of SIEMAT was mooted by GOI and it was included in National Policy on Education 1986. Proposals were invited from the Administrative Training Institute, Mysore, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and Institute of Social

and Economic Change, Bangalore for the establishment of SIEMAT in Karnataka. Only one of them responded and a proposal was received from ISEC, Bangalore. A MoU between the GOK and ISEC was about to be signed, at which point of time, GoK proposed to establish the SIEMAT in Dharwad. Karanatak University Dharwad was requested to take up this task. But since the response from Karnataka University Dharwad was not very encouraging, it was felt necessary to invite organizations that have expertise in coordinating and organizing training and capacity building programmes for Educational Managers to partner with Government in setting up and running SIEMAT.

Padma Sarangapani raised three concerns with regard to this proposal: (1) need for a SIEMAT should be reviewed; (2) Need for partnership should be re-examined as this was a core function of the state and there should be no partnership with private organizations; and (3) The reasoning behind the invitation to the APF and the process that was adopted should be shared with the Committee.

The SPD mentioned that the Government was of the opinion that a SIEMAT was necessary. Question about the need for SIEMAT was not raised by the Government, at this juncture, because the Government had already gone through a process and was about to sign a MoU with ISEC. It was also a policy of the GoI to have SIEMAT and some states had already set up a SIEMAT. Further, the need for training and capacity building of the Educational Managers was a felt one, and existing institutions were not filling this gap. DSERT was looking after teacher training, curriculum development, text book writing and research.

The DSERT Director, The DPI (Primary) and several other officers of the Education Department present in the meeting strongly felt the need for training and capacity building of Educational Managers. They suggested that SIEMAT was necessary and Government should proceed with its setting up.

The State Project Director made it very clear that the modalities of the partnership were not yet worked out. This matter was discussed in great detail by

the members and later it was decided that SSA would prepare a proposal based on today's discussions and place the same before the next E.C.

Decision: EC decided that a proposal on the establishment of SIEMAT would be prepared by the SPO and placed in the next meeting. The proposal should have clarity on the need for SIEMAT, its aims and objectives, roles and responsibilities, modalities of setting up, its relationship with other institutions.

Subject No 7.	Establishment of Science centres in North Eastern Karnataka (NEK)
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The State Project Director explained to the committee that Agasthya Foundation was running a few science centres in the state – one in Koppal and one in Kolar districts. It had set up mobile science labs in each of these districts. This mobile lab would visit one or two schools every working day and each of the schools in the districts would be visited twice in an academic year and show experiments to the children and the teachers as well.

Agasthya foundation has submitted a proposal for setting up mobile science laboratories in the districts of Gulbarga, Raichur, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Bidar and Bellary. This proposal would cost Rs 21.12 lakh per district which includes the running costs of two mobile laboratories and a science centre per district. The funds allocated under Science Museum and Science Labs would be utilised for this activity.

Now it was placed before the committee to consider availing the services of the mobile laboratories of Agasthya Foundation for a period of five years, in the districts of NEK as these districts are educationally backward. The committee examined the proposal and approved to procure the services of mobile laboratories from Agasthya Foundation in the districts of NEK.

Decision: The committee approved to procure the services of Mobile laboratories from Agasthya foundation on the same lines and funding pattern as agreed to in case of Koppal and Kolar district.

Subject No 8.	Extension of Financial Assistance to unaided Madrasas/ Samskruta Pathashalas.
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The State Project Director explained to the house that many children were attending unaided residential Madrasas/Sanskrit Pathashalas and were receiving only religious instructions. These children are considered out of school by GOI since these children are not getting formal education in these centres. Under SSA an amount of Rs.3000.00 per child per year is available for assistance to provide formal education to out of school children under the Non-Residential bridge courses. Therefore, a scheme was proposed for the consideration of the Committee for linking mainstreaming strategies for out of school children to residential Madrasas or Sanskrit Pathashalas. The committee discussed the matter in detail. It approved the proposal and further suggested that Government school teachers may be deputed to these centres and also the remuneration proposed for educational volunteers should be enhanced.

Padma Sarangapani suggested that teachers and educational volunteers attending to providing mainstream curriculum based education to students of madrasas / pathashals should get academic support and training from the department and the BRPs and CRPs should visit them and provide training and guidance.

Decision: The Committee approved the proposal to start Non residential bridge courses in unaided Madrasas /Sanskrit Pathashalas under SSA with the suggested modifications.

Subject No 9.	Delegation of powers of selection of NGOs at district level.
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It was placed before the committee that the selection of Non Governmental Organisations for implementing various out of school strategies under SSA was being done at the state level Grant in Aid Committee. Delay was being caused in the

selection process by the state level Grant in Aid Committee for various reasons inherent with any centralized arrangement. Many of the NGOs who would come forward to run RBCs in remote taluks would be small ones and they do not come up with good quality proposals. They may be in a position to deliver the goods as the assignment could be a small one. The GIAC also cannot meet more than once in two months and this also causes delay. As such it was placed before the committee to consider delegating the power of selection of NGOs for proposals whose value was less than Rs.10.00 lakhs to the District Level Procurement Committees. The committee approved the proposal.

Decision: The committee approved to delegate the powers of selection of NGOs for the proposals less than Rs 10.00 lakhs to District Level Procurement Committees.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks.

Sd-
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State Project Director
Member Secretary
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sd-
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