

NCERT

NEWS

OCTOBER – 2008

National Consultation on KGBV Scheme

The National Consultation on Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme under SSA held from 11–12 August 2008 was attended by officials from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), New Delhi, State Project Directors (SPDs) of different states, eminent academicians from universities, centres of higher education, NCERT's own experts, representatives of non-governmental organisations and various stakeholders of the scheme such as students, teachers and wardens of KGBVs.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify issues pertaining to the effective implementation of KGBV scheme;
- Evolve suitable solutions for strengthening the scheme; and
- Suggest recommendations for future directions.

The two-day deliberations initiated in-depth discussions on different thematic areas.

THEMATIC AREAS

- Exclusion Inclusion and Equity;
- Problems and Solutions;



Director, NCERT addressing the participants



LIFE ETERNAL THROUGH LEARNING

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



एन सी ई आर टी
NCERT

The intertwined Hansas symbolise the integration of three aspects of the work of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT): (i) Research and Development, (ii) Training, and (iii) Extension. The design has been adapted from an Ashokan period relic of the third century B.C. found in excavations near Maske in the Raichur district of Karnataka.

The motto has been taken from the *Isavasya Upanishad* and means life eternal through learning.



- Text, Context and Quality;
- Integrating Gender Sensitivity;
- Recruitment, Posting and Capacity Building of Teachers;
- Building Awareness of Health, Nutrition and Hygiene;
- Financial Management;
- Strategies for Partnership among Government and Civil Society; and
- Envisioning KGBV: Future Prospects.

Overall Recommendations: Some of the major recommendations are: need to adopt

gender-sensitive approach, inbuilt provisions for girls with disability, preparation of socio-economic profile of KGBV girls, use of NCERT textbooks in KGBV schools, use of Science and Maths Kits developed by NCERT, 15% of National Talent Scholarship (NTS) to be reserved for KGBV girls for their transitions to secondary and senior secondary stages, reservation of at least ten seats for KGBV girls in Navodaya Vidyalayas and KGBV teachers should be encouraged to participate in in-service training programmes, etc.

Language and Beyond

SAMAJH KA MADHYAM — EK PARISAMVAD SHRINKHLA

The Department of Languages, NCERT organised a two-day symposium *Samajh Ka Madhyam — Ek Parisamvad Shrinkhla* from 27–28 August 2008 in Patna.

During the discussions it was reiterated that language is the natural medium for understanding and knowledge. It is also the principal medium of learning and self-expression and, therefore, education. It is necessary for the free flow of ideas, and every child should get an opportunity to express himself/herself in the language of their choice, particularly in their mother tongue. The mother tongue as a medium of understanding can eliminate the linguistic and cultural gaps caused by the difference between the school language and the home language. Education in the mother tongue will enable the learners to express themselves coherently and would enhance their comprehension of other subjects.

ISSUES

- Relationship between children's home language/mother tongue and understanding multilingualisms;
- Mother tongue as a medium of understanding/learning in context with other subjects such as mathematics, science and social science; and
- The need to recognise linguistic diversity, thereby making efforts to bring them closer.

Language cuts across the curriculum, therefore, the medium is as important as the matter.

In this context a multilingual approach is essential to accommodate indigenous and endangered languages. This would safeguard tribal, minor, minority and endangered languages because languages flourish in each other's company. English is used as a link language in India as well as at the international level, and as a medium of knowledge acquisition and literacy. Therefore, it is important that students learn English along with the other Indian languages.

Professors Ram Janma Sharma, Anita Rampal, Rajesh Sachdeva, Arun Kamal, Shri Rohit Dhankar, Shri H.K. Dewan, Shri Mithileshwar, faculty members of NIE, RIE (NCERT), faculty members of SCERT, Patna and Bihar Shiksha Board, teachers and experts from Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar, and members of UNICEF spoke at the symposium.



Samajh ka Madhyam



Capacity Building Programmes

USE OF PUPPETS IN EDUCATION

A five-day workshop was organised from 25 to 29 August 2008 at CIET. In this training programme, 24 primary school teachers participated from different states of northern region. The main objectives of the programme were to promote the use of puppets in teaching-learning, to use locally available materials in puppet-making and to develop scripts through participant's activity.

The programme emphasised on development of stick and glove puppets, their correlation with the textbook and development of scripts for puppets plays.

In this training programme, five video scripts were developed of which two were produced.

TRAINING ON 'EASY NOW' AT CIET

CIET (NCERT) organised a 7-day training programme from 6–12 August 2008 on 'Easy Now' in collaboration with Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA), a constituent of Commonwealth of Learning. Twelve CIET faculty members were oriented in designing and developing lessons by using 'Easy Now', a technique in which easily available (free) software like audacity, windows movie maker, etc. are used to design classroom lectures.

FINAL CUT PRO (FCP)

CIET has recently acquired the computer based Final Cut Pro (FCP), Non Linear Editing (NLE) System for video editing of ETV programmes produced in CIET for transmission on Gyan Darshan educational channel. A 10-day training programme for development of production and technical staff of CIET was organised from 18–29 August 2008 in collaboration with CEMCA.

Six persons from CIET were selected for this training focused on operation of FCP editing software and handling of the system by resource person, Shri Dewaan Singh Bisht.

ENRICHMENT LECTURE SERVICES

The programme, 'Academic Enrichment Lecture series-cum-Foundation Day' was organised on 5 July 2008, by PSSCIVE at Bhopal. The objective of the programme was to organise lecture-cum-discussion sessions with eminent educationists on topics related to vocational education and to create a learning environment. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Babulala Gaur, Minister of Commerce, Tax and Industry, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Eminent speaker, Shri K.P. Sarin spoke on 'Food Processing Industries and Modular Vocational Studies' and Shri Rajendra Kothari spoke on 'Skill Development Solutions to Economic Problems'. The principals, faculty and students of PSSCIVE and RIE Bhopal attended the programme. An exhibition of the publications by PSSCIVE was also arranged.

Dr Pinki Khanna, Reader, PSSCIVE coordinated the programme.

MODULAR COMPETENCY BASED VOCATIONAL CURRICULUM

A working group meeting for development of modular competency based vocational curriculum on Retail Marketing Management was held at the Federation of Madhya Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bhopal from 28 July-1 August 2008. Resource persons included experts from universities and professional institutions, including PSSCIVE.

Twenty-four modules were developed along with objectives, syllabus and inputs for the course, list of reference books and career mobility.

Dr P. Veeraiah, Sr. Lecturer, PSSCIVE coordinated the programme.

TRAINING OF IASE TEACHER-EDUCATORS

The Department of Women's Studies organised a five-week training programme from 28 July–30 August 2008 at NIE Campus, New Delhi, in which twenty teacher-educators from Institutes of Advanced Studies in Education (IASEs) and Colleges of Teacher Education across nine states participated. The objective was to sensitise



trainees towards the upliftment of Muslim girls in the context of universalisation of secondary education; and preparing them for undertaking action researches on issues related to upliftment of Muslim girls through education. The major areas identified were: improving attendance rates of Muslim girls in Class IX, sensitising community on importance of vocational courses for dropout Muslim girls and improving achievement of Muslim girls in Class VI, especially in Mathematics and Science. Dr. Anita Nuna was the coordinator of the programme.

FIVE-DAY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME

DESSH developed manuals in various Social Science areas and Commerce for in-service teacher education. In this connection a five-day teachers' education programme for senior secondary history teachers was organised in the NIE Campus from 25-29 August, 2008. The programme was attended by the teachers from KVS, NVs and DAV schools. Professor Neeladri Bhattacharya, JNU, Chief Advisor of the History textbooks delivered the keynote address on

'School History—the New Paradigm'. Professor Krishna Kumar, Director, NCERT talked on 'Vision of School Education in 21st century'.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Dr. Aparna Pandey, Lecturer in Geography conducted the first training programme of five-day duration for geography teachers/resource persons (Northern Region) in Geographic Information System in collaboration with Indian Institute of Remote Sensing in Dehradun from 21-25 July, 2008. Twenty-two teachers from different school organisations such as KVS, NVS, DAV and NIE/RIE faculty members participated. This programme was especially designed for Post Graduate teachers in Geography so as to make them aware about the technique through practical activities. The participants were exposed to application of GIS on the basis of content given in Geography textbooks of the Higher Secondary Stage. The participants were provided with lecture notes as well as soft copies of GIS software, Arc view 3.0, to transact GIS content in the classroom.

Paper Presentations

- Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology (MPCST) and Department of Science and Technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh organised a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Mission for Excellence in Science—*Vigyan Manthan*—at MPCST, Bhopal, on 4 July 2008. Dr V.S. Mehrotra, Reader, PSSCIVE participated as a member of the advisory committee.
- Professor Poonam Agrawal, Joint Director, PSCIVE participated in a meeting with the MHRD officials at NCERT, New Delhi for the finalisation of EFC Memo and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of the Post Secondary Education on 18 July 2008. Dr Asfa M Yassia, Reader and Dr V.S. Mehrotra, Reader, PSSCIVE also attended.
- Dr. Manoj Kumar Mishra, Reader in English, RIE, Bhopal presented a paper at an International Conference on "Literature and History" held at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia from 24-25 July, 2008.

His paper was on 'Which History, History of the Crown or Commoners Caught in Conflicts? A Discourse on Ruskin Bond's Endeavour to tap the Hidden resources of History from Below as a Source Material for *A Flight of Pigeons*'. The conference was jointly organised by Australasian Association for Literature, Centre for Cultural History, Macquarie University, Sydney, and the University of Western Sydney.

Every perfect action is accompanied by enjoyment. By that you can tell that you ought to do it. I don't like people who pride themselves on working painfully. If their work is painful, they would better have done something else. The delight one takes in one's work is the sign of fittingness.

—ANDRE GIDE



Orientation Programmes

PROGRAMME ON SPECIAL EDUCATION GROUPS

The NCF-2005 and National Focus Group reports have highlighted various issues and concerns crucial to providing education to children from disadvantaged groups such as persistence of stereotypical thinking regarding children from marginalised groups. These need extensive discussion among the teacher educators working in various DIETs, SCERTs, Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to facilitate removal of architectural as well as attitudinal barriers, and also to prepare and encourage the pre-service and in-service teachers for the use of effective curriculum adaptations.

In many places where teacher-educators might be aware of the issues and concerns highlighted in NCF-2005 and national focus groups reports, they need to understand the relevance for development of curriculum, syllabus, textbooks and other supplementary materials. The comprehensive action plan for inclusion in education of children and youth with disabilities, prepared by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, MHRD emphasises quality education through appropriate curricula, organisational arrangements, teaching strategies, resource use and partnerships with communities. DEGSN, NCERT organised a two-day orientation programme through teleconferencing for teacher-educators in Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, HP, J&K, Delhi, Haryana, etc. on 21 and 22 August 2008 at the 14 NCERT EDUSAT learning centres. The teacher-educators desired to know more about classroom management in an inclusive environment, details of multi-grade and multi-ability teaching, care of children with blindness and low vision, the difference between inclusion and integration, etc. The experts sitting at the teaching end, i.e. the CIET studio at New Delhi, actively interacted with the participants and appreciated the concerns raised by them. Further, the participants also sought advice on how to

motivate illiterate parents for sending their children to school, inclusion strategies for the hearing impaired child, mentally retarded child, providing the quality education in inclusive setup, helping to overcome the stereotypical thinking and attitude associated with the education of the disadvantaged children including Children with Special Educational Needs (CWSN), building sensitivity among teachers, etc.

Professor Neerja Shukla, Head, DEGSN, advised the participants to take up small research projects to identify prevailing prejudices. During the teleconferencing a power point presentation followed by two sample lessons was shown to the participants by Mrs. Bharti, the programme coordinator.

TRAINING-CUM-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Three workshops were conducted during 1 April to 31 October, 2008; one each for teachers of Western region, Northern region and Eastern region.

OBJECTIVES

- To impart training to Science and Mathematics teachers of the upper primary stage in developing Graded Learning Material in Science and Mathematics at the upper primary stage.
- To develop Graded Learning Material in the form of cards with the help of teachers in science and mathematics at upper primary stage.

The workshop for teachers of the Western region was conducted at the Regional Institute of Education, Bhopal from 30 June to 4 July 2008. It was attended by twenty teachers from states of western region. One external resource person Dr. Jayashree Shinde, Sr. lecturer, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, five faculty members from CIET and RIE, Bhopal were involved in conducting this workshop. Seven packages of Graded Learning Material were developed during the workshop.



The workshop for teachers of Northern region was conducted at the Central Institute of Educational Technology, NCERT, New Delhi from 8-12 September 2008. Twenty-three teachers from the states of Northern region attended this workshop. One external resource person from CIET and RIE Bhubaneswar were involved in conducting this workshop. Eight packages of Graded Learning Material were developed during the workshop.

The workshop for teachers of Eastern Region was conducted at Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar from 22 to 26 September 2008. Twenty-three teachers from the states of eastern region attended this workshop. One external resource person Dr Jayashree Shinde, Sr. Lecturer, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai and 5 faculty members from CIET and RIE Bhubaneswar were involved in the conduct of this workshop. Six packages of Graded Learning Material were developed during the workshop.

TRAINING ON ACTION RESEARCH

One of the specific objectives of this programme was to orient district functionaries to train primary teachers in conducting action research. The first training programme was organised from 8-12 September 2008. Ten district functionaries and six primary teachers from Gujarat and Goa participated. They were oriented on concept of action research, identification of classroom problem, nature of variables, procedures of collecting evidences, experimental designs, action hypotheses, etc. Participants have prepared action research proposals. Primary teachers will conduct the action research on the proposals that they have prepared in this training programme, whereas district functionaries will select some primary teachers and help them in conducting action research on the guidelines provided in this training programme. The programme coordinator was Dr. U. Lakshminarayana, RIE Bhopal.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE

The programme for the training of teachers/Key Resource Persons of the tribal welfare

department was held in two phases. The first phase of the programme was planning meeting from 14-16 July, 2008, regarding development of training materials. The second phase was from 15-19 September 2008 which was purely training in nature. Twenty-five participants were deputed.

FOCUS AREAS

- NCF-2005, content Enrichment
- Teaching Social Science and its relevance
- Objective and Methodology of Teaching Social Science
- Maps New Trends and Techniques
- Infrastructure Development of India
- Man and Environment
- Main Challenges before Indian Democracy
- Group work
- Group presentation

Feedback was received on content, language and illustrations of the textbooks.

GENDER SENSITISATION

A five-day long Video-conferencing programme on Gender Sensitisation was organised by the Department of Women's Studies, NCERT from 4-8 August, 2008 through Educational Satellite Network of CIET. The objective was to sensitise the teachers towards Gender Issues in Curricular Areas with reference to NCF-2005.

Around 2500 teachers from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, CBSE Schools and State Board Schools interacted with 35 experts present at the CIET studio during the sessions. The teachers attended the sessions at twenty centres in different States. The questions raised and the observations helped to create widespread sensitivity among the teachers about various gender related issues in different curricular areas.

The cross-cutting nature of gender was emphasised during the interactive sessions held with the teachers from different curricular areas, e.g. Science and Mathematics, Social Sciences, Languages, Health and Physical Education and Art Education and it was conveyed that the



curricular areas should be seen through a Gender-lens. The subject experts were drawn from the departments of NCERT, Universities, NGOs and schools.

It was generally recognised that the new NCERT textbooks had suitably integrated the

gender issues in all subjects, that gender issues were more pronounced in the rural areas and the marginalised sections of society.

The programme was coordinated by Dr Neerja Rashmi, Reader, Department of Women's Studies.

Briefs

AUDIO, VIDEO, MULTIMEDIA SCRIPTS/ PROGRAMMES

- A series of 24 Audio programmes based on *Bal Ram Katha* was produced. In addition, 12 Audio programmes under the series *Rimjhim* were produced.
- Three video scripts on Concepts of Mathematics, five video scripts on the topics of Social Sciences, 10 scripts on the topics related to Health and Physical Education, and 11 scripts on Career Counselling were developed.
- Seven audio scripts in the area of Science, Technology and Environment, 10 Audio scripts on 10 different Women Achievers from various fields were prepared.

TRAINING MODULES DEVELOPED

- A workshop was organised at RIE Bhopal from 22-26 September 2008 to develop strategies and training material on teaching of Science and Mathematics. Nine resource persons attended the workshop. Strategies for training of DIET/D.Ed. teacher educators were discussed in the workshop. Training material (modules) have been developed for teaching of Science at primary and upper primary stage on the basis of constructivist approach as envisaged in NCF-2005. The programme was coordinated by Dr. V. K. Kakaria.
- A workshop was organised in two phases from 22 to 26 September 2005 and 20-22 October 2008 at RIE, Bhopal. The objective of the workshop was to develop the training material based on constructivism approach in social studies with the help of ten subject experts from Gujarat and RIE, Bhopal. A training material meant for DIET faculty was

developed, keeping in view the practical aspects of using critical pedagogy in teaching-learning process of Social Studies. The programme was coordinated by Dr Ratnamala Arya.

PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

A three-day workshop was organised at NIE, New Delhi from 3-5 September 2008 on development of Training Package to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in planning, management and evaluation for DIET faculty.



Workshop on development of training package

Experts including faculty of PPMED wrote the modules (identified in an earlier workshop held at NIE, New Delhi from 18-20 December 2007).

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF NTS

National Talent Search Scheme identified 1000 talented students for the award of NTS scholarship. It follows a two-stage selection process: the first stage conducted by states/UTs and the second by NCERT. It was observed that state representation of candidates is uneven. A proforma for evaluation of question papers of MAT were prepared. All the states/UT level question papers were analysed by experts from 14-18 July 2008. Feedback was provided for improving future question papers.



Thursday Lecture Forum

The following lectures were organised by DERPP at NCERT, New Delhi.

- *The Child's Rights in Sweden — an Experience* by Dr. Saroj Pandey, DTEE, NCERT on 10.07.08
- *Indegenous People in India* by Mr. Gam Shimray (Ireland) on 17.07,2008.
- *The mystique of Maldives — a study of Gender and Peace* by Dr. Gouri Srivastava, DWS, NCERT on 24.07.2008
- *Science of communication* by Dr. Pramod Dubey, DOL, NCERT
- *Mid-term Achievement Survey—Classes III and V* by Professors SKS Gautam and Mamta Aggarwal, DEME, NCERT on 14. 08.2008

Staff News

SUPERANNUATION

- Dr. Kamlesh Mittal, DCETA on 31.07.08
- Shri V. K. Sharma,UDC, Publication Department on 31.08.08.
- Shri S. K. Sarangi, Admin. Officer, RIE, Bhubaneswar on 31.08.08.
- Dr. Brahm Prakash, Professor in Chemistry DESM on 31.08.08.
- Dr. V. K. Jain, Professor, DEME on 31.08. 08
- Dr. Mohd. Akhtar Husain, Reader, CIET on 31.08.08.
- Shri Nasiruddin Khan, Reader in English, Department of Languages, NIE on 30.09.08.
- Dr I.P. Aggarwal, Professor of Chemistry (PCA), Regional Institute of Education, Bhopal, on 30.09.08.

APPOINTMENT

- Ms. Nidhi Gupta as Jr. Hindi Translator on 21.07.08.
- Dr. Netra Singh, Reader in Geography, DESSH on 1.9.08.

DEPUTATION

- Shri Devender Kumar appointed as VSO, NCERT on deputation w.e.f. 18.08.08.

PROMOTED

- Ms. V. Vasanthamal, APC, RIE Mysore promoted as A.O. at Mysore, on 16.04.08.
- Shri P.V. Tiwari, Jr. Accountant promoted as Sr. Accountant on 06.05.08 at NIE.
- Shri Hari Har Mehto, LDC promoted as UDC on 10.07.08 at NIE.
- Shri Mohar Singh, LDC promoted as UDC on 08.09.08 at NIE.
- Shri Bishnu Kundu, APC, RIE, BBSR promoted as Admn. Officer on 23.09.08 at RIE, BBSR.

Back Margin

The sound of children collectively cramming multiplication tables is a familiar feature of our primary schools. In the name of mathematics children start imagining a subject which conveys a sense of fear from the very beginning. As a school subject mathematics has somehow acquired an image which suggests that only a few can master its knowledge and skills. Given this image, teachers and parents commonly believe that only those who are more intelligent than others can get good marks in mathematics. The idea of less or more intelligence is in itself an old, rigid belief which ignores the diversity inherent in the human intellectual capacity. The popularity enjoyed by this belief has made it very difficult for our system to use the curriculum as a means of children's balanced development. On top of such beliefs, there is a common Darwinian ideology that life is a tough competition in which only a few can succeed.

Especially in the context of mathematics and science, ideas of this kind create all kinds of misconceptions about children in the mind of the teacher. Training programmes seldom challenge such ideas. Teachers start with the assumption that learning of mathematics and science is dependent on a child's mind, rather than on the quality of the teaching material and methods used in the classroom. A project started by NCERT under the auspices of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is trying to struggle with such beliefs. This project attempts to provide the basic skills of mathematics to children of Classes I and II in a manner which would ensure that no child is deprived of basic mathematical skills. Attaining these skills in mathematics and enjoying their application are among the natural rights of every child. Obviously, these rights cannot be attained by cramming and passing in an exam, nor is this the purpose of these rights.

KRISHNA KUMAR

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