

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan - a cohesive approach to making education accessible to all through Teachers and Technology

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The Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, is a newly launched centrally sponsored scheme for school education in keeping with government's slogan of 'Sabko Shiksha Achchi Shiksha', and 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. The MHRD, acknowledging the importance of school education as a holistic continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to Senior Secondary levels, has unified the three foremost schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education (STE) to establish this scheme in early 2018.

The vision of the scheme is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education in line with the SDG4 for Education - equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. It aims to improve school effectiveness, bridge social and gender gaps to provide equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes for students, promote vocationalisation of education and strengthen teachers training institutions.

The scheme provides impetus on digital and sports education, besides investing heavily on skill upgradation of teachers through the recently launched online learning portal of 'Diksha'. By integrating teachers training and technology, the scheme looks to facilitate effective convergence and linkages between the different support structures in education to propel newer innovations in pedagogy, mentoring and monitoring support to widen the access to good quality education. The scheme brings a paradigm shift to the education system by incorporating vocational education as a part of the mainstream curriculum.

The scheme leverages the results of the previous schemes to focus on improving systemic performance of states through enhanced emphasis on competencies. Further it will synchronise the implementation mechanisms and transaction costs at the central as well as state levels, particularly in using state, district and sub-district level systems and resources.

This centrally sponsored scheme for K-12 class will be implemented through a specially constituted State Implementation Society (SIS) in each state. At the National level, there would be a Governing Council headed by Minister of Human Resource Development and a Project Approval Board (PAB) headed by Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy. The scheme also envisages active participation of all stakeholders especially the parents/guardians, School Management Committee (SMC) members, and community towards the efforts to ensure quality education to children.

The scheme postulates flexibility to the States and UTs to plan and prioritize their interventions within the scheme norms and the overall resource envelope available to them. Funds are proposed to be



allocated based on an objective criteria based on enrolment of students, committed liabilities, learning outcomes and various performance indicators.

The scheme would have fared better by amalgamating the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) run by the MWCD as well to provide a seamless graduation of the child from anganwadi to primary schools. The current scheme, does however, bank on the enhanced coordination that the elementary education has established with the ICDS structure in the past few years to continue to provide impetus to its objectives. The scheme also dovetails on a host of other schemes such as NCLP, ADIP, and PMKVY etc. to ensure the universal access and retention of the integrated scheme.

The scheme reinforces the government's approach, of utilising technology to provide quality solutions to every sector. While the integration is definitely welcome and expected to rationalise conjoined efforts and resources to provide quality education, it leaves to see the impact when states operationalise it this year when the budgets have already been firmed for the individual schemes and the country prepares itself to go to elections next year.