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ROLE OF ZILLA PANCHAYAT IN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF GULBARGA DISTRICT



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ABSTRACT

Primary education is priority area in Karnataka and for this purpose, the Government of Karnataka has initiated many of the schemes to promote primary and higher primary education to all children between 6 to 14 years. Zilla Panchayats at different districts are looking after and monitoring these schemes for the educational development of the respective district. Gulbarga district is backward in Hyderabad-Karnataka region and Zilla Panchayat is playing significant role in educational development in the Gulbarga district. The paper presented the educational activities and developments achieved in Gulbarga district and contributions in terms of financial assistance made by Gulbarga Zilla Panchayat.

KEYWORDS :Zilla Panchayat , Educational Development , Primary education .

INTRODUCTION

Education is a basic human right and has been recognized since 1948. The Indian Constitution vide article 21, right to primary education to all children up to 14 years. With the universal declaration of human rights emphasis was increased on free and compulsory education for all children till they are aged 14 years. As such, Five Year Plans emphasized education for all. The Central Government has formulated many of the ambitious educational plans like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Karnataka state is a pioneer in the country to introduce several successful and innovative experiments in the field of school education. Many of the schemes such as Chinnara Angala, Nali-Kali,

Baa Marali Shaalege, Cooliyinda Shalege, etc are successfully executed. The numbers of schools are also increased and enrolment is also increased. The following table presented statistics on number of schools and enrolment in Karnataka.

Table No. 1. Numbers of Schools and Enrolment in Karnataka during 2008-09 to 2011-12

Schools/ Enrolment	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Lower Primary School (No's)	26644	26254	25889
Higher Primary School (No's)	30876	32041	33000
Enrolment Class I-V (In Lakhs)	54.42	54.6	53.27
Boys (In Lakhs)	28.6	28.2	27.49
Girls (In Lakhs)	26.82	26.4	25.78
Enrolment Class VI-VII Total (In Lakhs)	20.28	19.97	19.87
Boys (In Lakhs)	10.48	10.33	10.27
Girls (In Lakhs)	9.8	9.64	9.6

Source: Education in Karnataka, Department of Public Instruction, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore, 2012.

In order enhance enrolment and retention in schools the state government has given due attention to developing infrastructure with an emphasis on the basic facilities in the school. Under the national flagship programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for universalizing elementary education, the state has accorded special significance for the provision of infrastructure facilities such as school buildings, additional classrooms, maintenance and repairs of school buildings. The state has made efforts to comply with the national norm for provision of 8 basic facilities for schools, identified by the MHRD, comprising of Common Toilets, Girls Toilets, Electricity, Play Ground, Ramps, Library, Compound and Drinking water. The State government has identified 5 facilities on top priority as most essential for schools. These are drinking water, toilets, play grounds, compound wall and the school building.

The major concern in primary education in India in general and Karnataka in particular is the Out of School Children (OoSC). These include the Drop outs and Never Enrolled children. The state conducted a comprehensive household child census survey in December 2008, which estimated a total of 66,26,413 children in the age group of 7 to 14 years. Out of these children, 35,637 children remained out of school, which included 25,958 drop outs and 9679 never enrolled.

ROLE OF PANCHAYATS IN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

In rural areas, still there is illiteracy and increasing school drop out rates. Realizing this fact, the Government of Karnataka assigned management of schools to local Governments. The 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India marked a paradigm shift in democratic governance paving the way for institutionalization of Panchayats as viable institutions of local self-government. However, these constitutional provisions for devolution of power and responsibilities have remained only partially implemented because of the overall weak capacity of the institutions of local self government.

Of the three tier Panchayats, Zilla Panchayats are monitoring implementation of various schemes including educational activities. Apart from other developmental works, the Panchayats are monitoring elementary education, primary education, secondary education and adult education with all the facilities that are needed. For this purpose, a Educational and Health committee is set up at every Zilla Panchayat.

ROLE OF GULBARGA ZILLA PANCHAYAT IN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The panchayat system in Gulbarga district has three tiers. At the apex there is Gulbarga Zilla Panchayat. At the middle level there are 7 taluka panchayats representing each taluka in the district. At grass roots level there are 227 Gram panchayats covering 1210 villages in the district. Thus, this is a geographically big system in size covering 7 Talukas and 227 Grama panchayats. There are 43 Z.P. members out of which 23 are women members (36.9 percent) and 155 Taluka Panchayat members out of them 87 are women members (39%). There are five standing committees with Zilla Panchayat. These five Standing Committees are:

- + Planning, Finance and Audit Committee
- + Executive (Working) committee
- + Education and health Committee
- + Agriculture and industry Committee
- + Social Justice Committee

Of these committees, Educational and Health Committee is playing significant role in educational development of the district and Social Justice Committee is supportive to education of weaker sections (SCs, STs & OBCs) by providing different facilities such as hostels, scholarships, etc.

Educational and Health Committee:

This Standing committee elects the Chairman from among their members. The committee performs the following functions:

- + The committee is in-charge of all educational activities of the Zilla Panchayat.
- + undertakes the planning of education in the district within the framework of the national policy and the national and State plans
- + survey and evaluate the educational activities of the various institutions
- + performs such other duties pertaining to education, adult literacy and cultural activities as the Zilla Panchayat may assign to it
- + Health services, hospitals, water supply, family welfare and other allied matters.

The panchayat system in Gulbarga district is mainly handicapped by illiteracy of the people and the members. The rural literacy rate is as low as 42.3 percent. The rural social structure is highly backward and is dominated by caste hierarchy. The real power lies in the hands of the dominant upper caste in the society. The power relations are also supported by land ownership pattern. In this context it is less possible to expect that the Gram Panchayats will work efficiently at least in the initial stage. In the post 1993 phase the earlier studies on evaluation of Panchayat system in the district have brought out this fact (Degaonkar C.K.1999).

Zilla Panchayat of Gulbarga is active in building educational infrastructure in the district. Zilla Panchayat treated primary and higher primary education as most preferred sector and as such, released Rs. 5189.86 lakhs (2011-12) for providing different facilities such as building class rooms, water tanks, compound walls, toilets, etc to primary and higher primary schools. Even Rs. 33.99 lakhs is released for development of youth services and sports at rural and urban areas.

Consequently, though Gulbarga district is backward area, total 1049 lower primary schools and 1573 higher primary schools are imparting education in the district as on 31st March 2012. There are total 10795 class rooms, 3100 common toilets, 2905 girls' toilets, 3002 schools with electrical facilities, 1974 schools are with play ground, 2425 schools with ramps, 1708 schools are with compound, 3172 schools with drinking facilities and 2961 schools have well equipped library facilities. Further, there was total enrolment of 300002 students at lower primary schools and 109157 at higher primary schools in the district. Still, the statistics revealed that, there are 468565 children of 6 to 14 years of age are out of school in the district.

CONCLUSION:

Though Gulbarga district is backward, recently approved facilities and privileges under Article 371(J) of the Indian Constitution have helped for the overall development of the district. The Hyderabad-Karnataka Regional Development Board is also monitoring various developmental activities in the region including Gulbarga district. Still, the elected Panchayat members at different levels have to take much care in getting financial assistance for various developmental projects. As the illiteracy and under-development is more in Gulbarga district, the Zilla Panchayat should take initiation to look into the educational development as priority sector in the district. For this purpose, the Educational and Health Committee under ZP have to constantly monitor educational activities and improvement of educational facilities in the district.

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