

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES: A TOOL FOR EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROTECTING CHILD RIGHTS

A. KRISHNAMOORTHY¹ & R. JEYANTHI²

¹Senior Lecturer, DIET, Oddanchatram, Tamil Nadu, India

²Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Gandhigram Rural Institute,
Deemed University, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

This paper high light, the Tamilnadu government free schemes for school age children. Education is a key to economic development and the enjoyment of many other human rights. Government schemes are tool for achieving education for all and also making to enjoy their rights.

KEYWORDS: Government Scheme, Education for all and Child Rights

INTRODUCTION

The right to education is a fundamental human right. Every individual, irrespective of race, gender, nationality, ethnic or social origin, religion or political preference, age or disability has the right to free and compulsory education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stage. Ensuring access to education is a precondition for full realization of the right to education. Without access, it is not possible to guarantee the right to education. Providing access to schools secures only one part of the right to education. Access to schools is no longer a major problem. At the primary stage, population has schooling facilities within one kilometer, the upper primary stage within 3 kilometer, and secondary stage has 5 kilometer. The country has made impressive achievement in the school accessing facilities. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among racial or religious groups. The right to education does not limit education to the primary or the first stage of basic education, or among children of a particular age range. Quality of education is the other side of coin. The right to education is also not an end to itself, but an important tool in improving the quality of life. Education is a key to economic development and the enjoyment of many other human rights. Education provides a means through which all people can become aware of their rights and responsibilities, which is an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality and peace.

CHILD RIGHTS

The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines basic rights of children covering multiple needs and issues. India endorsed it on December 11, 1992.

- The right to Education:
- The right to Expression:
- The right to Information:

- The right to Nutrition:
- The right to Health & Care:
- The right to protection from Abuse:
- The right to protection from Exploitation:
- The right to protection from Neglect:
- The right to Development:
- The right to Recreation:
- The right to Name & Nationality:
- The right to Survival:

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AND CHILD RIGHTS

The **Constitution of India** follows the principle of protective discrimination and thereby commits itself to safeguard the rights of children through policies, laws and action. These

Commitments are reflected through:

- **Article 15 (3):** Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children. This is an enabling Article and should be used more consistently for child protection.
- **Article 21:** Protection of life and personal liberty—No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. Most protection issues can be taken up under this Article.
- **Article 21A:** Free and compulsory education for all children of the age of 6 to 14 years. While this article secures the fundamental right to education in the 6-14 age groups, it must be the endeavor of the State to guarantee the provision of free and quality education to children aged below 6 and up to 18 years.
- **Article 23:** Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour—(1) Traffic in human beings and *beggar* and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. This article clearly highlights the commitment of the Constitution prohibiting trafficking in human beings. However, there is a need for a comprehensive law on anti-trafficking, which will take into account the provisions of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
- **Article 24:** Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc. —No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
- **Article 39 (e)** provides that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.
- **Article 39 (f)** provides that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in

conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. Under Article 39 (e) and (f) the Constitution recognizes the child's right to protection from all forms of abuse and exploitations, and their right to freedom and dignity. However, to ensure the implementation of this article there is need to create a strong protective framework, which will respond to the violations faced by children.

- **Article 45:** State shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education to all children until they complete the age of six years. For the first time the need for early childhood care and education for children below 6 years has found a specific mention in the Constitution of India. Although currently it is a Directive Principle for the State to follow, it must be perused by the State as a recognized obligation.
- **Article 47:** State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.

TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT WELFARE SCHEMES IN SCHOOLS

Article 21A and 45 provides free and compulsory education for 6 to 14 years child. With reference to these articles, Tamilnadu government providing free welfare schemes for school age population.

- Free bus for all school age (STD I to XII) children.
- Free books for all children (std I to XII)
- Free noon meal for all children.
- Free chapels for primary children.
- Free school bags for all children.
- Free uniform for primary and upper primary children.
- Free bicycle for higher secondary school children.
- Free color pencils for primary school children.
- Free geometry box for upper primary school children.
- Free atlas book for upper primary school children.
- Free note for upper and secondary school children.
- Scholarship for SC/ST girl child in upper primary school.
- Scholarship for MBC girl child in upper primary school.
- Scholarship for SC/ST child in higher secondary school.
- Free laptop for all children in higher secondary level.
- Special scholarship for father or motherless students for avoiding dropouts in X, XI and XII standard.

Apart from these schemes, the (RTE 2009) government pays fees for economically backward children when they

are studying in self financing schools. The headmaster is responsible person for claiming and receiving the student's certificates of date of birth, community and income from the competent authority of revenue department.

EDUCATION FOR ALL (DIET, SSA AND RMSA)

Every district has District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), it is monitored by State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). The major roles of DIET are ensuring the quality of pre service teacher education, in-service teacher training in elementary education and non formal and adult education.

Sarva Shiksha Abiyan (SSA) is a scheme for attaining 100% enrollment and retention rate in elementary education in formal schools and makes facilities for schooling in school less areas through Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS). SSA scheme conducting many skill development programmes among teachers and educational awareness programmes among VEC and SMC members.

Rastriya Mathima Shikshan Abiyan (RMSA) is a scheme for ensuring 100% enrollments and completing secondary education (standard IX and X) for all children.

Establish of DIET and SSA should raise the enrollment nearly cent percentage in school catchment areas. The dropout rate of the primary school children is minimized and retention rate is increased. Role of DIET, SSA, RMSA and Tamilnadu government welfare schemes to school children are very effective tool for ensuring education for all and protecting rights among children.

CONCLUSIONS

The government schemes are powerful tool for achieving education for all as well as the child enjoying their rights.

REFERENCE

1. Annual Work Plan and Budget 2015-16, (2015) SCERT, Chennai.
2. Chief Minister's Vision 2020, (2011) Tamilnadu State Government.
3. Government of India, (2011) Census of India.
4. Guideline of DIET, (1987) Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India.
5. National Policy of Education, (1986) Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India.