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Dr. Anita Priyadarshini
Joined as Director
of DEP-SSA, IGNOU.

From the Desk of the Director

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first volume of DEP-SSA newsletter for the year 2010-11. It is hoped that through this newsletter, we will be in a position to provide an overview of DEP-SSA activities. This year DEP-SSA has approached the States with refresher and orientation programmes for teachers. DEP-SSA for the first time has introduced weekly Faculty Development Programmes for teacher educators i.e. DIET functionaries. Besides, teleconferencing is being used extensively for all these programmes. DEP-SSA has also developed multi-lingual Wiki Portal.

Further on, the activities of DEP-SSA shall be focused to reach out to teachers in remote areas by using distance education technologies. Efforts are being made to develop specific content in local language. The partnership with professional agencies would endeavour to improve the quality of the DEP-SSA programmes. We hope that states would come forward to participate in these programmes so that the larger cause of universalisation of education is achieved.



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NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES

First Quarterly Distance Education Coordinators Meeting

The first quarterly Distance Education Coordinators (DEC) Meeting was organized on July 27-28, 2010 at IGNOU, New Delhi. Participants from 12 different states like; i) Mizoram, ii) Assam; iii) Karnataka; iv) Tamil Nadu; v) Punjab; vi) Uttarakhand; vii) Madhya Pradesh; viii) Delhi; ix) West Bengal; x) Daman; xi) Diu; and xii) Chhatisgarh participated in the two day meeting. Prof. K. R. Srivathsan, Pro Vice Chancellor IGNOU and the then Director DEP-SSA addressed the participants at the inaugural session and focused on effective utilization of technology for developing social networking with teachers across the country. The two day programme deliberated upon the following activities:

1. Presentation of activities initiated under DEP-SSA for capacity building of state level functionaries.
2. Presentation of activities of individual states pertaining to training of teachers and utilization of DL interventions.

Initiative was taken to orient the state level representatives on the following areas for their capacity building in relation to effective integration and implementation of DL materials/ interventions during training of teachers

1. Use of multilingual wiki portal as a tool for training of teachers.
2. Design and development of educational video programmes

Sh. A. K. Tiwari, Under Secretary, SE & L, MHRD Government of India, Sh. A. K. Singh, Chief Consultant (Pedagogy) TSG, Ed. CIL & Sh. O. P. Nautial, Sr



Consultant(Pedagogy) TSG, Ed. CIL participated in the first day programme and addressed participants on different issues and concerns pertaining to training of teachers for improving quality at elementary level.

Exhibition for Display of Distance Learning Materials:

An exhibition was organized for display of DL materials already developed in different states in the form of print, audio, video, and multimedia programmes. The aimed was to collect DL materials for documentation and development of a Resource Center at DEP-SSA. The effort is to establish a Resource Center as an Open Knowledge Center at national level for the SSA. Participants of DEC meeting were requested to bring the material and display them during the two-day programme. Responses of participants from different states were quite encouraging. Participants displayed their materials as well as explained them to other participants. It was an excellent opportunity for participants for inters state sharing of experiences through materials developed at the state level.

State Resource Group Meeting

DEP-SSA State Resource Group Meeting was held in West Bengal on July 21, 2010 at the Conference Room, SPO, West Bengal under the chairmanship of Additional State Project Director, SSA West Bengal. The main objectives of the meeting were to finalize the action plan for the implementation of Orientation and Refresher programmes on pilot basis in different districts of West Bengal. Chairman Primary Board and Chairman Upper Primary Board West Bengal assure to extend all support for the implementation of the pilot project. Director SCERT, West Bengal also focused on concretizing the strategic plan of implementation of this project. Besides this programmes like research on transition pattern of children from Upper Primary to Secondary stage, evaluation of training module on Inclusive Education and Girls Education and finalization of training

module on Learning Disability and its implementation in collaboration with DEP-SSA were discussed. Dr M. K. Dash from DEP-SSA assured all support for effective implementation of these modules as well as translation of the same from English to Bengali. Additional State Project Director appreciated the support and cooperation of DEP-SSA, IGNOU in facilitating the strategic implementation training programmes in West Bengal.

Planning Meeting

A Meeting with Director, Directorate of Education Delhi was organized on June 03, 2010 with the participation of the State Project Director, SSA, Delhi; Jt. Director, SCERT and other senior officers of Govt. of NCT Delhi. The proposal pertaining to the organization orientation and refresher programme was discussed at length. Various features of the proposal like- continuous evaluation strategies, project work, group work and presentation etc were discussed. The meeting led to finalization of the refresher and orientation programme.

Subsequently a meeting was organized in the office of the SCERT, Delhi in presence of Joint Director, SCERT, Teachers training coordinator, SSA, Delhi for finalization of strategic plan to be implemented for training of teachers in Delhi. The content was identified and finalized; accordingly programme schedule was prepared for implementation. In collaboration with SCERT, Delhi a focus group discussion was organized for need assessment of teachers for assessing their needs and accordingly identified resource persons were oriented for designing and development of their content and strategic plan.

Nodal Officers Meeting

A meeting was organized with the nodal officers of 7 participating states on July 19, 2010 at DEP-SSA, IGNOU for finalization of strategies of implementation of orientation and refresher programmes. During the meeting with the consensus of participating state representative the following decisions were taken:

1. Duration of each phase of refresher and orientation programme will be of 13 days
2. Four content based areas like first language, second language, EVS and Mathematics and two other areas like Right to Education Act and Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation will be taken up.
3. Services of best available Resource Persons of the state will be utilized the programmes.
4. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme will be carried out by a duly constituted committee at the state

level under the chairmanship of State Project Director, SSA.

5. Academic evaluation of the programme will be done as per the original project proposal under the supervision of the Coordinator of the programme.
6. Project Work will constitute an integral part of the orientation and refresher programmes.

The programme will be organized by DEP-SSA in collaboration with State Project Office of concerned state SSA.

Orientation Programmes for Capacity Building of Teachers at Primary Level

DEP-SSA organized orientation programmes of 13 days duration for capacity building of newly recruited teachers in collaboration with seven states (West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and Delhi) in the **First Phase** during **September 6-21, 2010**. The **Second Phase** commenced from **September 24** with five participating states (West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Chandigarh). The programmes were organized in DIETs under the active supervision of the Principal DIET and the faculty of DIET. Attempts were taken to utilize the services of best available state level resource persons. Inputs from national level were provided to participants and resource persons through teleconferences. During the programmes video clipping were shown to participant teachers so as to serve as a trigger for initiating meaningful discussion and interaction. In these training programmes, blended approach is being followed for making them participatory and improving their quality.

The following contents are covered during each phase of the Orientation Programme:

1. Right To Education Act
2. Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation
3. Teaching of First Language
4. Teaching of Second Language
5. Teaching Environmental Studies
6. Teaching Mathematics

In addition to the above content, Project Work also constitute an integral part of the orientation programme. Participants were explained the different aspects of project work. They identified a topic of his/her choice and developed a project proposal later worked on that proposal under the supervision of resource persons. The objective of the project work was to familiarise the participant about project work so that they could take up action research



project for improving their professional competencies.

There were systematic evaluation strategies for evaluation of the performances of participants in different dimensions like: i) evaluation in each area; ii) evaluation in group discussion and interaction and presentation; iii) evaluation in project work; and iv) evaluation through pre-test and post-test. The programme was organized with systematic approach of monitoring and supervision. DEP-SSA deputed one Expert to each state for monitoring the strategic implementation of the programme and monitoring the performances of resource persons well. Feedback was also collected from participants about the performances of resource persons. The purpose was to improve the mode of implementation of the programme from time to time. For the first time training programme was organized in a collaborative mode with State SSA and teleconferencing as a tool of communication technology was integrated with face-to-face approach under SSA.

Multimedia-Multilingual Wiki-Portal

DEP-SSA designed and developed an interactive multimedia portal during 2009-10 using media wiki. The portal is now upgraded to multilingual wiki portal. The wiki portal is available in Hindi, Bengali, Oriya, Malyalam and Punjabi to enable the teacher educators to generate content in local language and share the same across the country with other teacher colleagues. This is at a pilot stage for testing before the roll out. A workshop was organized for internal staff members of DEP-SSA to impart wiki skills and develop skills for generation of online training material through collaborative mode on **April 26-27, 2010** at DEP-SSA, IGNOU. The basic objective of this workshop was to empower the faculty members of DEP-SSA on various aspects of wiki skills for propagating the skills further to grass root level.

Workshop on Development of On-line Training Modules for Teachers through Open Wiki:

DEP-SSA, IGNOU organized a five day workshop from September 13-17-2010 at State Project Office, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission, GandhiNagar, Gujarat. Dr. Nisha Singh Programme Officer DEP-SSA highlighted the importance of collaborative learning in the field of education and Ms. Divya Raj & Mr. Vivek Ranjan focused on areas like; i) importance of wiki in education; ii) creation of account and user page on wiki; iii) creation of practice area on the user page called 'sandbox'; iv) basic editing syntax on wiki; v) how to upload an image on the wiki; vi) internal and external links; vii) framework of the training module; viii) planning for insertions of audio, video and links within the module; ix) upload media files (pdf, flash, you tube, video); x) create tables; xi) collaboration mechanisms in development of module; xi) audio recording using audacity and its conversion into MP3 files for uploading on the wiki; xii) video capturing and its conversion into flv file using the any video converter (AVC) software for the purpose of uploading in the wiki; and xiii) use of open office and Indic fonts. Each step was followed by intensive practice by the participants. At the end of the five-day orientation programme participants developed the following modules:

Science	: Acid and Base; Sound
Mathematics	: Mathematical Logic
English	: Teaching vocabulary through pictures
Evs	: Environment 2. Saints of India

The module developed by the participant teachers and teacher educators were discussed thoroughly. Participants enjoyed the new mode of design and development and production of modules for training of teachers.

Dr. M.N. Bhad, Director, GCERT, Gujarat addressed the participants and emphasized continuous upgradation of the modules developed by the participant teacher educators and focused on technology enhanced collaboration for improving professional development of teachers and teacher educators across the country.





Launching of Certificate Programme in Chess as Mind Booster

In a major departure from the existing programmes being conducted under DEP-SSA a new initiative was taken to offer courses through this Project. It envisaged that such courses would help to engage teachers in their professional development. The first course identified has been “Certificate Programme Chess As mind Booster”, a non credit course in collaboration with NIIT, the giant company in IT training. On September 23, 2010 an MOU was signed with NIIT in the presence of World Chess Champion Grand Master Viswanathan Anand. This programme aims at encouraging children to play chess for development of their skills in logical thinking and also to improve their life skills and concentration. It is also open to teachers, teacher educators and general public. On this occasion, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai said- ‘we are confident that this programme will encourage more and more people to learn and play chess and will help in making India the world’s foremost nation in chess once again’. Prof. K. R. Srivathsan, Pro Vice Chancellor, IGNOU focused on the importance of offering this programme through DEP-SSA in general and shikshadhara multilingual portal in particular and pointed that this would certainly make school education more exciting at elementary level. Dr Anita Priyadarshini, Director, DEP-SSA said that the chess programme would serve as a resource for schools and would build the mental faculties of a child at the same time add the learning process.



Organization of Teleconferences

Teleconferencing is one of the potential communication tools used extensively by DEP-SSA for training of teachers, teacher educators and other functionaries associated with education of children at elementary level. During the current financial year, DEP-SSA organized teleconferences for academic as well as administrative purposes. The planning meetings with DEC’s and other officers of State Project Offices of 7 participating states namely Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh & Delhi were organized for development of strategic action plan for implementation of refresher and orientation programmes during June and July 2010. Various administrative issues were discussed and finalized during the teleconferencing.

DEP-SSA also uses teleconferencing for training and orientation of field level teachers and teachers educators. Teleconferencing as a training tool has been integrated with orientation programme for providing on-site support to participants. During first phase of orientation programme (September 6-21, 2010) and second phase (September 24-October 9, 2010) DEP-SSA uses teleconferencing extensively for providing national level exposure to teachers and other trainers/master trainers. Every alternative day teleconferences were organized for providing exposure to participants to interact with national level experts and participants of other participating states. During teleconferences resource persons from NCERT, Jamia Millia Islamia, IGNOU and other national level institutions addressed the participant teachers and interacted on different content and contextual issues. Responses of teacher’s and teacher educators were quite interesting and motivating. Integration of teleconferencing with face to face training has been found to be effective for sustaining interest and enthusiasm of teachers.

Documentation of DL Resource Materials

DEP-SSA is planning to develop a resource centre for documentation of distance learning materials designed and developed for training of teachers across the country. National level institutions like; IGNOU, NCERT, NUEPA etc are constantly working in the field of training of teachers for quite a long time. Many training modules and audio video programmes have been designed and developed from time to time. Training modules on different areas like- Content based, context based and pedagogical areas have been developed by different state project offices under teachers training unit and other units associated with training of teachers. In few states many audio video materials have also been developed

to supplement the training modules. DEP-SSA decided to collect samples of materials from different national and state level institutions and document them.

Video Clipping on Teaching of English

DEP-SSA organized teleconferences on teaching of English during last many years for different target group. Some of the programmes were organized at national level and some for individual states like Haryana, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand etc. An initiative has been taken to prepare short video clippings from the teleconferencing programmes. Which can be used at different times for training of teachers and also can be used to supplement training modules (print modules). As the programmes were available in Beta form, 17 betas were converted into DVD and then five important programmes like- i) issues of teacher training; ii) use of theatre in education; iii) action research; and iv) development of assessment tool have been identified for the production of video clippings. The selected shots are to be edited and a complete video footage will be prepared. With the help of these video clippings a structured training package will be developed for the benefits of field level functionaries. Similar initiatives will be taken for developing packages on teaching of Science and Mathematics as well.

Video Film “Understanding Light”

DEP-SSA designed a small video film on understanding ‘Light’ for training of teachers and teacher educators associated with teaching Science at Upper Primary Level. The film presents basic concepts in light, i.e., Properties of light, principles of reflection and applications like periscope and its use. An effort is made in the film to adopt the learner-centric approach in teaching scientific concepts & principles at the upper primary level. The film has been previewed once and is being modified based on suggestions of the Preview committee.

Video Films in English at Primary Level

Two films namely- i) facilitating story writing in English; and ii) composing rhymes are in the process of development. The concepts in the two films are presented using discourse oriented pedagogy. The objective of both films is to orient the teachers teaching English at primary level in effective implementation of constructivist approach through discourse oriented pedagogy in classroom. The production of the two films is in progress and will be finalized soon.

Training Module on Life Skills Development

As per the approval of PAB DEP-SSA will be designing and developing a training module on Life skills for training and

orientation of teachers. The main aim is to integrate teaching of Science, Mathematics and English with various life skills. An expert committee meeting was held on July 03, 2010 for finalization of units and sub units to be incorporated in the training module. On the basis of expert opinion the following units were identified and accordingly structure of the units was also finalized.

- Unit 1: Introduction to Life Skills
- Unit 2: National Curricular Framework 2005: An Understanding
- Unit 3: Characteristics of Elementary Stage Learners- A Review
- Unit 4: Techniques of Imparting Life Skills-I
- Unit 5: Techniques of Imparting Life Skills-II
- Unit 6: Techniques of Imparting Life Skills-III

Unit writers were identified to write the units in self learning format to make it interesting with participatory approach. The units are under the process of development. On the basis of this module a national level workshop will be organized during the current academic year for orientation of master trainers selecting two/three resource persons from each state. Initiatives will be taken to organize more state level workshops for developing a resource pool in each state, so that from next year the module will be integrated in teachers training programmes. Initiatives will also be taken to translate the module from English to local languages for wider benefit at grassroot level functionaries associated with training of teachers at elementary level.

Weekly Faculty Development Programme for Teacher Educators of DIET

One of the objectives of DEP-SSA is capacity building of teacher educators and faculties of SCERTs/ DIETs/SIEMATs/SITs etc. The need for strengthening teacher support system is one of the serious concerns of all institutions associated with training of teachers across the country. Teacher educators of DIETs are considered as master trainers for facilitating training of teachers at district level. DEP-SSA for the first time initiated an activity for providing training/ orientation to teacher educators in a systematic and structured way. To start with DEP-SSA, IGNOU developed a strategic training package for recurrent training of teacher’s educators on different burning issues. The design of the programme aims at content upgradation as well as pedagogical considerations for capacity building of teacher educators. Currently the programme is being implemented for teacher educators of different DIETs of Delhi & Haryana in collaboration with SCERT, Delhi every Saturday since July

2010 at IGNOU campus. Following areas were covered during July-September 2010

July 2010: Inclusive Education & Modalities of Curricular Adaptations for Education of Differently Aabled Children:

(Introduction to Inclusive Education & Modalities of Curricular Adaptation; Curricular Adaptation for Education of Hearing Impaired (HI) Children in Inclusive School; Curricular Adaptation for Education of Visually Impaired (VI) Children in Inclusive School; Curricular Adaptation for Education of Mentally Retarded (MR) Children in Inclusive School; and Curricular Adaptations for Education of Children with Learning Disabilities

August 2010: National Curriculum Frame Work (NCF)

2005: NCF 2005: Quality Dimensions for elementary education & Critical Pedagogy and Construction of Knowledge; NCF 2005: Language Acquisition (First & second Language); NCF 2005: Science & Mathematics Education; NCF 2005: Teacher Education at Elementary Level

September 2010: Information and Communication Technology in Teacher Education:

Introduction to collaborative learning and learning objects, introduction to wiki and its implications, wiki skills, on-line design and development of training module, Development & Finalization of Training Module on Wiki using Multilingual DEP-SSA Portal, Identification of external and internal links for the already developed module and linking up with the same on Wiki, Use of Audacity for Recording and Editing of Voices, Use of Audacity for Recording and Editing of Voices **followed by linking recorded audio with the already developed module**, Development & Finalization of Training Module on Wiki using Multilingual DEP-SSA Portal & Use of Audacity for Recording and Editing of Voices **followed by linking recorded audio with the already developed module**, Identifying activity for the training module, Arrangement of items required for activity, and Performing the activity, Video recording of activity and its linkage with the already developed module, Searching video clippings from you tube and integrating with already developed module, editing and finalization of learning object on wiki.

At the end of the three day programme teacher educators developed the following learning objects which are available in DEP-SSA multilingual portal.

1. Introduction to Communication
2. Reinforcement
3. Action Research for Teachers
4. Parts of Flower
5. Concept of Fraction
6. Simple Machines
7. Air Around us
8. Introduction to Direction in Geography.

STATE INITIATED ACTIVITIES

Orientation on Action Research

SSA, Assam in collaboration with DEP-SSA organizes a two day orientation programme on Action Research for field level functionaries during May 24-25, 2010 at Guwahati, Assam. About 50 participants comprised of District Programme Officers, Teacher Educators and Teachers participated in the programme. DEP-SSA provided all academic support pertaining to design of the programmes and its effective implementation. Dr. M. K. Dash, Programme Officer, DEP-SSA participated in the programme as one of the resource persons and oriented the field level participants on areas like; i) conceptual clarity on Action Research; ii) identification of topic for Action Research; iii) development of proposal for Action Research; and iv) strategic means of conducting Action Research with systematic step and approaches. The programme was quite participatory and lively. Participants from each district of Assam designed and developed complete a proposal during the course of the two day programme. Mechanism of evaluation was also adopted for assessing the performance of participants for providing motivation to them.

Workshop on Action Research

Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission (PBSSM) organised a state level orientation workshop on Action Research at Kolkota, West Bengal on July 18-19, 2010 in collaboration with DEP-SSA. The programme was targeted at District Research Coordinators of 18 different districts of West Bengal. From each district two teachers also participated along with the Research Coordinator. The following items were covered during the two-day programmes:

1. Research and Action Research
2. Need and relevance of Action Research
3. Identification of topic for Action Research
4. Development of Proposal for Action Research
5. Strategies to workout Action Research Proposal
6. Development of Report of Action Research

DEP-SSA supported PBSSM in design of the programme and its effective implementation. Dr. M. K. Dash, programme officer from DEP-SSA participated as resource person and conducted the two day programme showing examples and illustrations at each step. Participants developed proposal on different areas like; teaching Science, teaching Mathematics, teaching Languages focusing at learning improvement of children. This was the first such workshop organized at state level for the capacity building of field level functionaries like; teachers and coordinators.

Workshop on Research Study

PBSSM organized a two-day workshop at DIET, Nadia during June 17-18, 2010 in collaboration with DEP-SSA. All Research Coordinators of 18 districts participated in the two day programme. This was aimed at training and orientation of participants on Analysis and Interpretation Data as one of the area of Research Methodology. Dr. M.K. Dash, from DEP-SSA participated in the programme as resource person and oriented the field functionaries with an objective to develop a conceptual clarity in participants about the analysis and interpretations of quantitative and qualitative data in research. Attempt was made to develop a clear understanding in participants through demonstration of analysis and interpretation of data collected for the research study on “Transition Pattern of Children from Upper Primary to Secondary Level in West Bengal”. The programme was quite interesting, participatory and during the course of programme the data collected from 10 different districts of West Bengal were analyzed separately for each construct. Each participant contributed significantly for the completion of the first draft of the analysis and interpretation of the research study on transition pattern.

Training Module on Learning Disability

DEP-SSA in collaboration with PBSSM designed and developed a training module on learning disability for

training and orientation of teachers, IED coordinators and other field level functionaries associated with education of children at elementary level. The training module comprised of units like; i) understanding learning disabilities; ii) characteristics, causes and types of learning disabilities; iii) identification of various types of learning disabilities; iv) bases for intervention; v) teaching learning strategies and material-I (TLS & TLM); vi) teaching learning strategies and material-II (TLS & TLM); vii) supportive interventions; viii) skill development; ix) awareness and resource mobilization; and x) utilization of SSA resources for children with learning disabilities and referral agencies. The module is developed in English for training and orientation of Master Trainers. Translation of the module from English to Bengali has been carried out for training and orientation of grassroot level functionaries like teachers, BRCCS, CRCCS and other functionaries.

Technology Enhanced Collaboration for Improving Quality of Education at Elementary Level: DEP-SSA organizes a national seminar on “Technology Enhanced Collaboration for Improving Quality of Education at Elementary Level” during February 24-26, 2010. About 54 papers were presented during the three day seminar. All the papers were scrutinized and 20 papers were selected for publication. The selected papers were processed, formatted and edited. The papers will be published in the form of document for the benefit of field level functionaries.

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson	:	Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU & Chairman, Advisory Committee, DEP-SSA
Convener	:	Dr Anita Priyadarshini Director, DEP-SSA
Coordinator	:	Dr. Manoj Kumar Dash Programme Officer, DEP-SSA
Members	:	Dr. Nisha Singh Programme Officer, DEP-SSA Ms. Archana Kaul Magazine Programme Officer, DEP-SSA & All Distance Education Coordinators, State Project Offices, SSA
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