

# District Primary Education Programme(DPEP)

Dr. Rasheed Ahmad

Initiated in 1994, the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP). It was started from 41 district of various states and in 2002-03, it was under implementation in 271 districts in the country across 18 states. District Primary Education Programme is part of Social Safety Net Credit Adjustment Loan under the Structural Adjustment Programme of the World Bank to India in 1991.

Adopting an “**area specific approach**” with district as the unit, of planning, the key strategies of the programme have been to retain the sensitivity to **local conditions and ensuring full participation of the community**. It also seeks to strengthen the capacity of national, state and district institutions and organisation, for planning, management and professional support in the field of primary education.

## Objectives of the programme

1. To provide all children access to primary education through either the formal or non-formal stream]
2. To reduce differences in enrolment, drop-out rates and learning achievement among gender and weaker section groups to less than five percent.
3. To reduce overall primary dropout rates for all children to less than 10 percent.
4. To rise the average achievement rate by 25 percent by measured baseline level and ensuring achievement of basic literacy and numeracy competencies and minimum of 40 percent achievement in other competencies by all primary education children.
5. Alternatively provide access for all children to primary schooling or its equivalent through non-formal education.

### **Strategy of the programme**

- 1) Make the education sensitive to the needs and constraints of girls and children (especially from disadvantaged communities), and
- 2) Plan to generate demand for girls' education by creating enabling conditions for greater participation.

### **District Selection Criteria**

- 1) Female literacy levels below the national average,
- 2) whether organized a total literacy campaign (TLCs), if yes whether such campaigns are successful, whether it lead successfully enhanced the demand of UEE.

## Coverage

Initially 42 districts spread over 7 States (Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu) were selected in 1994. It was extended to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh subsequently. By 2002-2003 for which information is available, the programme is reported to be covering 60% of the child population in the country spread over 271 districts.

DPEP Coverage - Phase I, II and III

States	No. of Districts
Andhara Pradesh	19
Assam	9
Chattisgarh	20
Gujarat	15
Haryana	11
Himachal Pradesh	7
Jharkhand	17
Karnataka	6
Kerala	33
Madhya Pradesh	11
Orissa	16
Rajasthan	19
Tamil Nadu	7
Uttar Pradesh	54
Uttaranchal	6
West Bengal	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>

Source: Culled from Different Reports on DPEP Published by Government of India and Government of Andhra Pradesh

## **Funding of the programme**

DPEP is a centrally sponsored scheme, and as per the financial allocations 85% of the project cost is shared by Government of India (GOI) and 15% has to be from the budgets of respective State governments. The Central share and State share are passed expected to be transferred to State implementation societies.

The bulk of the funds for DPEP came from international bodies such as the UNICEF, ODA (UK), SIDA (Sweden), Netherlands etc. At present external assistance of about Rs. 6,938 crore composing Rs. 5,137 as credit from IDA and Rs. 1,801 crore as grant from DFID/UNICEF and Netherlands has been tied up for DPEP, (DFID is Department for International Development (UK), SIDA is Swedish International Development Authority)

## Major characteristics of DPEP

***Holistic View:*** Policy planners expect DPEP to adopt a holistic approach, from the schematic to the integrated, with emphasis on convergence of existing programme and resources.

***Decentralised Planning:*** District as the unit of planning and implementation. The key strategies of this district specific planning include conceptual clarity and sensitivity to local conditions

***Participatory Process:*** emphasis on the functionaries, teachers, parents and community members working at various levels are proposed to be associated with programme planning and implementation.

***Equity:*** major consideration to the disadvantaged groups such as scheduled caste, scheduled tribes, girls belongs to minority community and the disabled.

***Community Ownership.*** The DPEP expects community to own up the programme goals by adopting and participating innovative methods of project planning and implementation