

Observations on the Implementation of Monitoring Tools for Quality Enhancement in the State of Sikkim

Quarter: II

Year: 2014-15

The QMT data provided by the State Project Office, Sikkim has been analysed. Following suggestions are given to bring improvement in quality monitoring data and in the schools and classroom processes

- In part I, section A and Item no. 1 (a) the State has given information regarding number of CRCs, BRCs and Districts. However, no information about the CRCs who have submitted CMF, BRCs who have submitted BMF and Districts which have submitted DMFs has been provided. It is desired that this information may be submitted.
- The information regarding the number of in-position and required posts of teachers in the State indicates that there is requirement of 1500 posts in primary and 1000 posts in upper primary level. It is appreciated that this number has decreased from the last quarter. However, the State may carry out the redeployment of the teachers. The State has not reported information regarding the pupil teacher ratio in the State. This may kindly be reported as this is very important in the light of RTE Act.
- Most of the schools in the State are having attendance above 80 percent as indicated by the attendance information provided in item number 4 in section B. Some schools in the State also have attendance below 80 percent. Although this number is quite low, the number of students having attendance below 70 percent has increased from the last quarter. The State may look into issues being faced by the schools not having proper attendance.
- There are about 1059 children with special needs, i.e. approximately one child per school, in the State. The State has made infrastructural improvements like ramps and disable-friendly toilets in schools. Teachers need to be sensitized about the needs of such children. In this regard, State may refer a recently developed handbook by the Department of Education of Groups with Special Needs, NCERT titled *Including children with special needs-Primary Stage* which is also available on the NCERT website.

- The State has reported 1035 out of school children (OoSC) who are admitted to age appropriate classes as per RTE provisions. However, number of centers where these children are undergoing special training has not been mentioned. The State has not mentioned the number of children dropped out of special training programme up to last quarter. It is to be ensured that sufficient training centers are there and some check needs to be kept on OoSC after their training so they do not dropout.
- It is appreciable that all the schools in the State are having School Management Committees (SMC). It has been reported that only 26 percent of the total schools have prepared school development plans involving SMCs. The State needs to make consistent efforts through BRCs, CRCs for involving SMC members in school functioning and planning.
- According to per the learners' achievement provided by the SPD, it is observed that most of the students are scoring Grade B, C and D in both primary and upper primary levels. This has reflection on the quality of classroom processes coordinated efforts are required for improving the learning outcome of the students. Role of CRCs in providing on site support to the schools and teachers is very crucial. In this regard the State may obtain and incorporate in schools educational kits for different subjects developed by NCERT at elementary level to make learning more enjoyable and interesting for students.
- The CRCCs may be motivated to visit schools more frequently at least once in a month to assist the teachers through proper guidance and any other required support. The State may also find out the problems being faced by CRCCs if any for visiting schools and accordingly strengthen them for so. The CRC educators also need to be strengthened by the DIETs in providing onsite support to the teachers.
- The State has mentioned in Part III item no.6, that zero in-service teacher programme has been conducted for primary teachers. Further, it has been reported that the target achieved is 100 percent. This requires rechecking of the records.
- As per the SPD's perception on extent up to which the academic structures are meeting State's expectation in providing desired support for quality improvement of education process, it has been observed that CRCs and DIETs are marked at point 3 on five point scale (1 as least and 5 as greatest). Knowing this fact necessary step may be initiated to make CRCs and DIETs more functional.