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

Quarter: II

Year: 2014-15

The information sent by the State of Gujarat on monitoring format has been analysed. The following suggestions are given for consideration of the SPO.

- **School Information: A**ll the CRCs, BRCs and Districts in the State have submitted information required in CMFs, BMFs and DMFs, respectively. All the schools have also provided the information required in SMFs. After making this achievement the State needs to give more focus on use of this information for providing onsite support to teachers and schools through CRCCs and BRCCs.

- **Number of Teachers:** There are 34984 primary teachers and 275071 upper primary teachers in position in the State. However, the State also needs to mention the status of required posts as per the RTE norms which has not been given.

- **Pupil Teacher Ratio:** It is reported that there are 1462 primary and 4498 upper-primary schools in the State having PTR above 1:30 and 1:35, respectively. The State has not mentioned anything regarding the information about number of teachers. Section 25 of RTE mandates that the ratio needs to be appropriately maintained by the concerned government. However, the adverse PTR shows that there is shortage of teachers and it needs to be taken care of.

- **Attendance Information:** Despite several steps taken by the State for improving students' attendance like conducting SMC meetings, activity based learning, special activities for children during SMC meetings etc, it is noticed from the attendance information reported that most of the schools in the State have average daily attendance below 80 percent. The State may motivate its academic functionaries to concentrate more in this regard.

- **Children with Special Needs:** There are about 108034 children with special needs in the State. On an average there are two child with special needs in each school. The State is making considerable efforts for their upliftment by providing various infrastructural and academic facilities like arrangement of resource room, conducting resource room activity, planning of camps, creating school environment to accept CWSN, arrangement

of school furniture etc. It is further informed that the State may refer to the handbook developed 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

- **Out of School (OoS) Children**: There are 35656 out of school children in the State undergoing special training in 3279 centers. It is appreciable that no child has dropped out of special training programme. The State may check the progress of the children who have completed their training and are enrolled in age appropriate classes, so that they don't become drop-outs again.

- **Curriculum Transaction:** It is appreciable that all the 66722 schools in the State are distributing textbooks within one week of the beginning of the session.

- **Strategies Adopted for Improving Teaching and Learning Progress:** It is appreciated that the teachers in the State have adopted various initiatives like practice based activities for mathematics and science, experiments using ICT, subject based TLM, educational tours etc for improving teaching and learning progress. The State may also share some of its innovative practices with NCERT.

- **School Management Committee:** As reported by the State in STMF, 33624 schools in the State have SMCs. However, as per Part I, Section A item no 2, the total number of schools in the State are 66722. The State may kindly provide information if the remaining schools have SMCs.

- **Learners' Assessment:** The State has not provided information regarding the learners' assessment in primary and upper primary levels. This information may kindly be provided.

- **School Visits by CRCCs:** It is mentioned in the STMF that 44216 CRCCs are visiting schools once in a month. However, there seems to be some discrepancy, as in Part I, Section A item no 1, the total number of CRCCs are reported as 4268. The State may kindly verify its information.

- **School Visits by BRCCs:** It is good to note that 224 BRCCs are planning their school visits by making schedules. The remaining BRCCs may also be motivated for the same. It is mentioned that each school was visited by BRCCs 3865 times on an average. This figure needs to be rechecked.

- **In-service Professional Development Programmes:** The information regarding the number of in-service teacher training programs for primary and upper primary level is being reported as 7 days. It is requested that the State mentions the number of programmes organized for primary and upper primary levels. Also, some issues have emerged from the in-service programmes like information and clarification on various topics like subjective research, new syllabus and its implementation; planning of need based training; sharing of videos and clippings in the training; inclusion of topic 'Education though IT equipments' in the training etc. The State may develop strategies to address these issues emerging from training programmes.

- **Training on Quality Aspects:** In part IV, item no. 2, the no. of districts providing training on different quality aspects has to be reported. However, in the STMF, the response has been given as good in all the different categories of 2a,b,c and d.

- **Status of CRCs/BRCs in the State:** The sanctioned number of CRCCs and BRCCs in the State are 4268 and 239 respectively. However, 3458 CRCCs and 224 BRCCs are in position. The State may fill up the remaining vacant posts of CRCCs and BRCCs so that adequate and timely support is available to teachers.

- **Performance of Educational structures:** 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 all academic structures are rated as 5 (1 as least and 5 as greatest). This is a good achievement as all the educational functionaries are performing at their best.

- **Web Portal**: The NCERT has launched a QMT portal which is available on http://www.ciet.nic.in/QMTs/index.php. The filled-in STMF provided by different States/UTs and the feedback given by NCERT can be viewed on the portal.