

**Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India**



सत्यमेव जयते

Evaluation Study

**Assistance to Voluntary Organizations
working for Scheduled Castes (SCs)**

TRUAGRICO

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EVALUATION REPORT

MARCH 2020

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TransRural Agri Consulting Services Pvt. Ltd.

1. Executive Summary

The Ministry is charged with the promotion of welfare, ensuring social justice and empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalized sections of society. It is the responsibility of the Ministry to reach the target groups to bring them into the mainstream of development by assisting them to overcome their social, physical and educational handicaps. In this manner, their progress through the capacity building can be ensured. With this view, the concerned ministry has framed the scheme relating to the promotion of education among the marginalised section of society.

To assess the outcomes of the intervention and to improve the efficiencies and effectiveness of the programmes, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organises evaluation and impact assessment studies of its schemes. Also, the ministry treats evaluation of its policies, programmes, schemes, projects and interventions as an instrument of accountability. Considering the size and scope of the programme implementation, the policymakers and implementers must know the benefits and impacts of such development intervention. Further, issues and challenges limiting the effective implementation of the programme at the grass-root level can be diagnosed through a detailed micro-level data analysis and corrective measures can be outlined, accordingly.

1. Objectives of the Evaluation Study: The overall objective of the current study is to diagnose and identifying the factors contributing to success/ or failure of various interventions under the scheme and deriving lessons for improving the performance through mid-course corrections and better design of future programmes. The specific objectives of the study are as envisaged in the ToR document.

2. Methodology: To meet the ultimate objectives of the study, the methodology for the selection of beneficiaries and voluntary organizations has been followed as mentioned in ToR. As per given ToR, the selection of target groups includes coaching institutes and ultimate beneficiaries have been made. Structured interview and focussed discussion methods are followed for the collection of data by using a questionnaire for separately coaching institutes and beneficiaries. To analyse the collected information, excel based statistical tools (Average, Frequency, Percentage Analysis etc.) were used along with the graphical presentation of data for proper visualization of the results.

3. Major Observations: These observations are based on the survey of Voluntary Organizations and the beneficiaries. The major findings of the study provide meaningful insights that can help draw certain policy implications. These insights are as follows.

3.1 Outcome of the Scheme based on Result Framework Document

a) Rajasthan: In the state of Rajasthan, around 6300 students have been benefitted under the scheme during the last three years. Survey was conducted in two schools which have benefitted around 600 students (including students who got benefited more than once after being promoted to next class). The percentage of students who got promoted to next class was around 95 percent which indicates that the scheme has achieved an outcome which is significant.

b) Telangana: In the state of Telangana, around 500 students have been benefitted under the scheme during the last three years. Survey was conducted in one school and one hostel which have benefitted around 500 students (including students who got benefited more than once after being promoted to

next class). The percentage of students who got promoted to next class was around 90 percent which indicates that the scheme has achieved an outcome which is significant.

c) Odisha: In the state of Odisha, around 3411 students have been benefitted under the scheme during the last three years. Survey was conducted in eight schools and two hostels which have benefitted around 3111 students (including students who got benefited more than once after being promoted to next class). The percentage of students who got promoted to next class was above 90 percent which indicates that the scheme has achieved an outcome which is significant.

d) Maharashtra: In the state of Maharashtra, around 11352 students have been benefitted under the scheme during the last three years. Survey was conducted in 13 Schools and 11 hostels which have benefitted around 7398 students (including students who got benefited more than once after being promoted to next class). The percentage of students who got promoted to next class was around 96 percent which indicates that the scheme has achieved an outcome which is significant.

e) Assam: In the state of Assam, around 1500 students have been benefitted under the scheme during the last three years. Survey was conducted in five schools which have benefitted around 1500 students (including students who got benefited more than once after being promoted to next class). The percentage of students who got promoted to next class was above 90 percent which indicates that the scheme has achieved an outcome which is significant.

f) Andhra Pradesh: In the state of Andhra Pradesh, around 1203 students have been benefitted under the scheme during the last three years. Survey was conducted in four schools which have benefitted around 1203 students (including students who got benefited more than once after being promoted to next class). The percentage of students who got promoted to next class was around 97 percent which indicates that the scheme has achieved an outcome which is significant.

3.2 Other General Observations

It has been observed that the voluntary organisations involved in the program implementation have substantial experience in running the institutions. But, institutions like schools and hostel were located in remote places. Due to a distant location, the benefits couldn't be extended to a larger extent that needs due attention. Largely, the community follow the traditional system of information as contact programme through people, and it was one of the most used methods for mobilization of the students under the programme. Other methods also work but in a limited manner. The status of infrastructure available with the institutions was noticeable. Because the majority of the institutions were operating in a rented building that may cause uncertainty in the sustainable functioning of the institutions. The procedure of selection of the students that opted by the VOs as first come first was also found undesirable at a larger extent. In such circumstances, merit can be ignored, and needy person can also be deprived of the benefits of the scheme.

The status of funding to VOs is also noticeable. MoSJ&E is a major source of funding to them for the programme. The contributions from other sources were very limited. The question arises on the sufficiency of the present quantum of assistance to VOs for implementing the scheme. It needs due

consideration to meet the changing/ growing requirement of VOs which must be met keeping in view the expected results.

It can be inferred from the analysis that VOs are focussing in school education in general and marginalised section of the society in particular. A considerable proportion of new admission in total enrolment, a substantial promotion of students to the next class and bringing down the dropout rate especially in the case of SC category reflects the success of the programme. Hence, it can be concluded that this programme has played an important role in educating the children from marginalised section of society. It has also emerged from the fact that both teachers and students are more serious in attaining the benefits of the programme. The student-teacher ratio has given encouraging signal in making the intervention successful. The prevailing student-teacher ratio is noticeable as compared to national-level estimates.

As per the provisions, the VOs have provided certain facilities that include infrastructure, study-related facilities, food and health and so on. All these facilities are available at the schools and hostels. But there exist gaps between availability and adequacy of facilities that are essential to give due attention in general and food and health-related facilities in particular. The reasons behind the gaps were shortage and inadequate resources with VOs. It was found that VOs were attempting efficiently to improve the quality of education in terms of giving due attention to the academic activities within and outside the classrooms.

It can also be concluded from the fact that ultimate beneficiaries also realised the gaps between the availability and adequacy of facilities. The various factors include local and institutional are responsible for existing gaps. During a crisis, the management also attempts to manage the resources to maintain certain adequacy especially in food and health-related facilities. Interestingly, the impact of the national flagship programme such as Swachh Bharat was also visible in terms of keeping the camp lean.

The punctuality and regularity in terms of attendance of both teachers and students were surprisingly good. The management of schools and hostels also found efficient in delivering the services under the programs. The study also reflects that all possible efforts were made by the management to maintain a cordial relationship with students to provide a proper environment within and outside the classrooms.

This programme has brought certain attitudinal changes not only among the students but also their parents and community as well. Still, there is a need to aware the marginalised section of the society to bring forward and make them capable to be part of the process of development.

4. Recommendations

Some important Recommendations derived from forgoing study and conclusions are;

The present programme/ intervention has yielded encouraging results in education attainment as well as improvement among the students belong to the marginalised section of the society. This programme has contributed substantially to enhancing enrolment and decreasing dropout rate

among the students in general and students belong to SC community in particular. But the study shows that most of these schools are being operated at a distant location. Therefore, it can be suggested that this programme can be scale up in SC concentrated areas, with a focus to increase the presence of such facilities in more accessible areas.

The focus of the program in the existing states of the implementation can be increased in the top five SC concentrated districts (in each state). In the case of Andhra Pradesh, currently the program is run mostly in Anantapur, Guntur and West Godavari districts. The top five SC concentrated districts of the state are Guntur, East Godavari, Krishna, West Godavari and Prakasam districts. In the case of Telangana, the top five districts are Karimnagar, Mahbubnagar, Rangareddy, Nalgonda and Warangal. The top five SC concentrated districts of Assam are Nagaon, Cachar, Karimganj, Morigaon, Sonitpur districts. In the case of Maharashtra, focus can be increased in the districts of Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Solapur and Nanded. In Odisha, the focus districts should be Ganjam, Cuttack, Baleshwar, Jajapur and Bhadrak. In the case of Rajasthan, the top five districts with high population of SC are Jaipur, Ganganagar, Nagaur, Alwar and Jodhpur.

The study shows that the programme is focussing on a specific number of students that around 200 during the year. Therefore, several expected beneficiaries can be enhanced so that maximum and possible target group can be benefited.

There is a need to make the programme more gender sensitive. The participation of females is very limited i.e. slightly more than one-third. In this regard, there is a need to generate awareness among the communities. The civil society, as well as communities, can contribute considerably to make the program more gender inclusive.

It is experienced that there exists a considerable gap in availability and adequacy in the required facilities. These gaps are due to resource constraints. Thus, there is a need to revise the financial estimates or to make it rational as per the requirement of the VOs so that they can run the programme efficiently. At the organisation level, efforts can also be made to generate resources from sources other than MoSJ&E.



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