

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN CHANDAULI DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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Knowledge equips a person with the power of wisdom. So knowledge equipped person thinks and works rationally in all spheres of life and gets success in his future. It is education which provides knowledge to a person. Primary education empowers a child with knowledge and skills. Therefore, primary education system of a country should be very strong. Article 45 of Indian Constitution makes strong provision of free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 and makes it the bounden duty of states. Many educational schemes have been started in the country, some by the Central Government and some by the State Governments, as Governments know that mass literacy is the basic requirement for economic development and social equality.

Studies of NIEPA reveal that educational indexes have shown a vast improvement in the last decade. But inter-state disparities still prevail. Sinha (1990) found that the enrolment indicators have shown very high index in Kerala, & Nagaland while it has been very low in Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana. He also found that inter- state disparities were lower at the primary stages of school education as reflected by the coefficient of variation.

Several programs initiated by Government of Uttar Pradesh have shown remarkable results in the form of increased enrolments, improved infrastructure and better achievement scores. District Primary Education Program is one of the most successful program of elementary education. Agarwal (1998) analysed the enrolment and retention data for the DPEP districts and found that the index of Gender Parity was more than 95 percent thus showing the near absence of gender related inequalities.

The most recent and popular central scheme for primary education is 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'. It is a central scheme whose implementation lies on state governments. It is a jointly funded scheme which was started in 2002.

Primary Education in Chandauli District:

Chandauli district is small district of Uttar Pradesh. It consists of nine blocks with 102 'Nyay Panchayats'. There are 1755 habitations with a population of 15, 58,080 (Dainik Jagaran, 22nd September.2008). Literacy rate in the district is 58.83 percent with a female literacy rate of 42.96 percent.

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As far as primary education is concerned there are 917 primary schools in the district. Out of 917 primary schools 909 are in rural areas and 8 are in urban area. Total number of enrolled students in the district is 2, 12,064 (BSA Office Data, 2007-08).

Teachers in Primary Schools:

There is a lack of primary school teachers in the district. It has been reported that during 2007-08, 2883 teachers were working against 3692 posts of primary teacher. So, 809 posts of teachers were vacant in the district which forms 22 percent of the total posts. Table: 1 shows the current position of teacher's availability in the district.

Table 1 showing Teachers in primary schools of Chandauli, 2007-08

Posts	Total	Working	Vacant
Principal	917	577	340
Assistant Teacher	2775	2306	469
Total	3692	2883	809

Source: Annual Progress Report, BSA Office, Chandauli, p. 279.

So, 22 percent posts of primary school teachers are vacant in the district. Lack of teachers is a big problem. There are some schools in district which are being run by one teacher (Total 18 schools). This number was 87 in 2002 (7th All India School survey). Female teachers consist of only 19 percent of the total which is very low. To fulfill the shortage of teachers 1690 posts of 'Shiksha Mitras' have been sanctioned. Dhanapur block of the district is in a very bad position. There are 106 primary schools in the block with 23,085 strength. There are only 189 teachers in these schools (BSA Office data). Position of almost all the blocks is more or less same, as far as number of teachers is concerned.

Students in Primary Schools:-

In the year 2006-07, there were 2, 81,209 students in primary schools of the district. In rural primary schools, strength of students was 2, 72,241 and there were 8968 students in urban primary schools. As nine blocks of the district are rural areas and only 'Nagar Palika Mughalsarai' is an urban area, strength of students is more in rural primary schools. The percentage enrolment of SC students in primary schools was 29.27 percent. Share of SC girls in total SC enrolment was 46.60 percent. But the enrolment of ST students was very low. It was only 0.33 percent. ST-girl enrolment was 41.25 percent in the primary schools of the district. Office data of BSA office, Chandauli, presents a very good picture of educational indices. Net enrolment Ratio in

the district was 93.91 and GER was 95.73. Gender gap was 6.6 points in primary education in the year 2006-07. In the year 2007-08 total number of enrolled students go down to 2, 12,064 (Annual Report, BSA office, 2007-08).

Table2 showing Enrolment in Primary Schools of Chandauli (2006-07)

Community	Male	Female	Total
All	150012	131197	281209
SC	43951	38360	82311
ST	561	394	955

Source: Annual Report, BSA Office, Chandauli.

Facilities in Primary Schools:-

There were 915 primary schools in the district in 2006-07 which gone up to 917 in 2007-08. All these schools are government schools. Besides them there were 166 private primary schools. As far as government schools are concerned, 43 schools possess two rooms each and 232 schools had three rooms. 130 primary-school buildings were in very bad position. Some schools had no building at all. 90 percent schools of 'Chakiya' block were without boundary wall.

Table:3 showing Facilities in Primary Schools of Chandauli District (2007-08)

NO.	Facilities	No. of School
1	Buildings in bad position	130
2	School with two rooms	43
3	School with three rooms	232
4	Schools without toilets	70
5	Schools without drinking water	117

Source: Annual Report, BSA Office, Chandauli, pp. 19-20.

Drinking Water and Toilets:-

70 schools were without toilets in 2007-08. So 92.35 percent primary schools had toilet facility. But only 12 percent primary schools had separate toilets for girls. 87.22 percent primary schools had drinking water facility.

Out of School Children:-

During 2006-07, 6303 children were out of school, in the district. This forms 2.66 percent of child population in the age group 6-11 years. 2.92 percent, SC children were out of school. 2.32 percent rural children and 1.07 percent urban children were out-of-school in 2006-07. Study done by Zaidi (1991) revealed that poor facilities in school, unattractive school atmosphere, irrelevant curriculum are main causes of drop-

out. So it is quite important to create a healthy educational environment in the school. Chandauli is also suffering with the same problems, that is why drop-out and number of out of school children is quite high.

Other Programmes:-

As per BSA Office, Chandauli, there were 36 'Shiksha Guarantee Kendras' in the district in 2007-08. These Kendras try to educate those children who are out-of-school due to some reason or other. A total number of 1157 children were enrolled in these kendras with 570 girl enrolments. Attempts are also being made to include the excluded students into the main stream education. Residential and non-residential bridge courses were organized in which 1800 children got enrolled.

Teachers' Training:-

Each block of the district has a Block Resource Centre (BRC) with facility of teacher's training. The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) is situated in Sakaldiha Block. A new institute, located in Chandauli, started working again in 2006. This institute has lack of teachers and employees. There were only two lecturers and three clerks in the institute during 2006-07. Each and every teacher has to undergo short term (20 days) training in BRC / NPRC. There are two types of training for Shiksha Mitras. First one is induction training of 30 days and second one is re-orientation training of 15 days. During 2007-08, 2,533 primary school teachers, 10 teachers from aided Madararas and 15 teachers from schools which are governed by social welfare department, were selected for training.

Recommendations:

Primary education in Chandauli district shows that there is a big room for improvement in this level of education. Literacy rate including female literacy is very low in the district. Main cause of low literacy rate is complex geographical conditions as well as low socio-economic conditions of the district. Major proportion of population dwells in villages and do not understand the importance of education. There is an urgent need to blow air of awareness among people through educational awareness programs. NGO'S must come forward for this noble work. Special allowances should be paid to primary school teachers for serving in backward areas. This can be a very good measure to tackle the problem of dearth of teachers. Preference should be given to trained teachers in while recruitments. In-service training should be followed by follow up action. Special efforts should be made in the form of incentives, flexible school timings, and evening classes. Facilities in schools should be increased. Separate toilets for girls, room for library, kitchen for mid-day meal, seating arrangement, ground and boundary walls are some basic facilities which should be arranged. Budget allocation should be

increased for planning and providing educational facilities in rural areas. School development committee should be formed. Parents teachers and community members should make active participation in this committee and the committee should be made responsible for maintenance of physical infrastructure of school, preparation and distribution of mid-day meal as well as teachers' attendance.

Conclusion:-

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan launched by government of India, has also been adopted by U.P. Government. Its aim is to provide education to all children up to the age of 14 years. State government had released Rs.3678.51 crore in the financial year 2006-07 for elementary education. Education of SC, ST children and girls is being emphasized. Chandauli is a newly formed district. It originated on 27th May 1997. Being a newly born district, Chandauli district is facing many difficulties. Its nine blocks are rural areas. Most of its primary schools are facing similar problems of lack of teachers and infrastructural facilities. Chandauli has started its journey just now and there is a long way ahead. Need of the time for achieving UEE, is the proper attention of Government. These things can change the educational scenario of the district and can make it an educationally developed district.

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