

## **5.3 EDUCATION**

The Ninth Plan treats education as a crucial investment in human development. Education strongly influences improvement in health and demographic profile and in the third year of the Ninth Plan, the schemes of Education Sector are being implemented, with the aim of achieving, total eradication of illiteracy and improving quality of education at all levels from primary school to universities. Various steps have been taken by the Department of Education and by the Planning Commission which resulted in rationalisation/convergence of schemes. A major initiative, has been the launching of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to ensure that the schemes of elementary education are implemented in a holistic manner. This is a step towards achieving the objective of universalisation of elementary education in a Mission Mode Form. The Planning Commission, while allocating funds, ensured that schemes of education of women and other disadvantage groups received priority. A new scheme National programme for Women's Education is being formulated. In addition, focus is on increasing education opportunities for the educationally backward blocks (EBBs) in the country and in the under-developed North – Eastern States. A Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission for India's Development as Knowledge Society. This was in pursuance of a call given by the Prime Minister on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1999 in which he underlined the following Five point Agenda:

- Leveraging of existing competencies in IT telecom bio-technology, drug design, financial services and enterprise wide management.
- Global networking.
- Education for developing a learning society.
- Vibrant government-industry-academia interaction in policy-making and implementation.
- Economic and business strategic alliances built on capabilities and opportunities.

The Task force is to submit its report by the middle of august 2000.

### **ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

2. Elementary education continues as a priority area of the education sector as a part of major strategy of the Ninth Plan, to fulfil the commitment for universalisation of elementary education.

#### **Annual Plan 1999-2000**

3. As against the approved outlay of Rs.3035.13 crore during 1999-2000, anticipated expenditure was about Rs.3703.63 crore which represents an increase of 22 per cent. Major share in the increased expenditure goes for mid day meal programme. However, there has been a shortfall on all other major ongoing programmes namely: Operation Black Board, Non-formal Education, Teacher's Education. Expenditure on these for the year 1999-2000 works out to Rs.640 crore as against the budgeted outlay of Rs.969 crore. As regards the External aided projects viz. Shiksha Karmi Project, Lokjumbish Project, District Primary Education Programme and Mahila Samakhya, the anticipated expenditure has been about

## Chapter 5.3: Education

Rs.1069.53 crore as against an approved outlay of Rs.827.03 crore. This is due to an increase in the expenditure on District Primary Education Programme (DPEP).

4. Planning Commission has sponsored evaluation studies on all Centrally Sponsored Schemes of elementary education to assess their impact on the effectiveness of primary and upper primary schooling. The studies have revealed that there is a need for reorganising the schemes. Since a number of schemes are being implemented in the elementary education sector resulting in overlapping of certain activities in more than one scheme, Planning Commission felt that there was a need for convergence so as to achieve the goal of UEE in a mission mode approach. Accordingly, the Department of Education suggested that there should be a single holistic scheme viz.: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for taking care of all components in the primary and upper primary schools. Under the scheme, it is proposed to ensure that every child in the 6-14 age group is provided elementary education by 2010 A.D. There will be special focus on children belonging to SC/ST communities, Urban slum dwellers, low females literacy blocks.

5. Gender Disparities are conspicuous in regard to girls enrolment and retention. Compared with boys, fewer girls enrol in school, fewer stay in school, and those who do stay, learn less with lower learning achievement. The gender gap in education is significantly larger in scheduled caste and schedule tribes and greater in rural areas than in urban. At the all-India level, the Girls account for only 43.5 per cent of enrolment at primary stage and 40.5 at upper primary stage. However, drop out rates for girls at primary stage has steadily come down to 41.22 per cent in 1988-99 from 70.90 per cent in 1960-61. Girls attendance in schools has been increasing steadily.

### Annual Plan 2000-01

6. In the Central Sector, an outlay of Rs.3608.75 crore has been approved by the Planning Commission for elementary education for Annual Plan 2000-01 as against outlay of Rs.3035.15 crore for annual Plan 1999-2000 (the increase is around 19 per cent). An outlay of Rs.1076.22 crore is earmarked for the schemes funded by external agencies like World Bank. The externally aided schemes include DPEP, Lok Jumbish, Mahila Samakhya, Shiksha Karmi etc. The major share of external funding is accounted by DPEP.

7. Recent initiatives like Nutritional support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) is being continued to give boost to universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment, retention attendance and improving the nutritional status of children. In the year, under review, more DPEP Projects were set up. Further Non-formal Education Programme (NFE) is proposed to be revised. The Education Guarantee Scheme is being implemented vigorously in Madhya Pradesh. This is a community centred initiative for UEE which is being implemented since 1997. More State/UTs are proposing to launch Employment Guarantees Schemes shortly.

## SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Review Of 1999-2000

8. Secondary Education prepares young persons between age group of 14-18 for entry into higher education. Various schemes have been formulated to strengthen secondary

schools education (class IX-XII) with focus on Science Education, Environment Education, Population Education, Culture and Values, Computer Literacy etc. The NCERT has been providing academic and technical support for qualitative improvement of school education. It performs important function of conducting and supporting research and offering training in Educational Research Methodology. The NCERT also organises courses for educational research workers. The major focus is on curricular review. As against an outlay of Rs.558.45 crore for the schemes on Secondary Education, the anticipated expenditure is to the tune of Rs.594.50 crore.

### Annual Plan 2000-01

9. During the current year, an outlay of Rs.600.00 crore has been approved for the scheme of secondary education of which Rs.344.00 crore has been allocated for the Navodaya Vidyalayas. This accounts for more than 50 per cent of the total outlay. The Department of Secondary Education is currently reviewing the functioning of Navodaya Vidyalayas. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, introduced in February 1998 is being continued. Efforts are being made to introduce more and more vocational courses. The Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE) provides impetus to research and development and technical support in the field of vocational education. An outlay of Rs.35 crore has been approved under Annual Plan 2000-01 for the schemes on Vocationalisation of Education.

## UNIVERSITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION

### Annual Plan 1999-2000

10. The growth in Higher Education has been impressive. With an idea of expansion of higher education there has been an increase in number of colleges and in their enrolment in last 50 years. At present there are 185 universities, 42 deemed to be universities and nearly 11,000 colleges in the country. In addition there are a number of unrecognised institutions. In order, that Higher Education Institutions become centres of excellence, it was decided that accreditation procedures should become obligatory for all universities. A number of initiatives were taken to improve access and quality in higher Education.

11. At the beginning of the year 1999-2000, the total number of students enrolled in universities and colleges were 74.8 lakh, 12.25 lakh in university departments and 61.93 lakh in the affiliated colleges. Eighty per cent of the total enrolment was concentrated in the three faculties of Arts (40 per cent), Science (20 per cent) and Commerce (20 per cent) while the remaining 20 per cent was absorbed by the professional faculties. The strength of the faculty has also gone up in both university department as well as in affiliated colleges.

12. There was a significant increase in enrolment of women students in the year 1999-2000 and women account for 34 per cent of the total enrolment. In 1999-2000 25.74 lakh women students enrolled themselves in universities/colleges.

13. The University Grants Commission (UGC) continued its programmes for development of under graduate and post-graduate education. The Commission has introduced a special scheme for the construction of women hostels with a view to provide safe

environment to women students pursuing higher studies in universities. Twelve universities were provided assistance upto 60 per cent of the total cost of their projects.

14. At present there are 116 State Universities which get grants under UGC eligible schemes. In 1998-99 three universities received grant amounting to Rs.110.17 crore. The central universities received Rs.71.68 crore from UGC as development assistance. In addition in the year 1998-99 UGC provided an amount of Rs.637.43 crore to meet maintenance expenditure of universities. The Commission has also decided, to relax the minimum eligibility requirement for National Eligibility Test (NET)/(SET) examination for the SC/ST category.

15. Apex level research coordination institutions such as the Indian Council of social Science Research, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, Indian Council of Historical Research, Indian Institute of Advance Study and continued their activities in their respective fields. Support is being extended to the Association of Indian Universities so as to facilitate the exchange of view and to discuss matters of common concern in the university system.

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

16. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) was set up in 1988 with the objective of providing literacy and life skills to persons in the age group 15-35 years by the year 2005.

### **Review Of Annual Plan 1999-2000**

17. During 1999-2000, an outlay of Rs.110 crore was provided for the schemes of Adult Education Programme. The NLM continued to follow a multi-pronged strategy for eradication of illiteracy in the country. So far, 457 districts have been covered under Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Goa Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal and Union Territories of Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry. Of these, 220 districts have entered into Post Literacy stage and 80 districts are in the Continuing Education stage. The scheme of continuing education continues to be taken up in districts which had completed the total literacy/post literacy phases and the basic unit of the scheme is the Continuing Education Centre (CEC) with a nodal CEC overseeing the working of a cluster of CESs. These focal points provide centres, etc.

### **Annual Plan 2000-01**

18. In the Annual Plan of 2000-01, an outlay of Rs.120 crore has been provided for Adult Education. During the year, efforts will be made to establish Continuing Education Centres and Nodal Education Centres under CE programme where TLC/PLC phase has been over. Efforts will be made to achieve convergence with programmes of Nehru Yuvak Kendra, National Service Scheme, National Service Volunteer Scheme, etc. at the grassroots level. The infrastructure on these institutions may also be used, as far as possible. Facilities created in other education sectors shall be utilised for resource support to Adult Education. More material will continue to be developed in regional languages and local dialects. Attention will be given to provide adequate quality training to volunteers. The Directorate of

Adult Education will continue to extend resource support in the field of training, basic/post literacy material, media, monitoring and evaluation.

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION

19. Technical Education contributes significantly to the process of economic and technological development of India by producing high quality manpower needed for various sectors and by providing essential services through research and innovations. Major programmes of 1998-99 continued in 1999-2000.

#### Review Of 1999-2000

20. An outlay of Rs.452.18 crore was approved for the schemes of technical education. Efforts have already been initiated to implement the recommendations of Nation Task Force on information Technology and Software Development through various agencies like NCERT, IGNOU, and UGC etc. that are part of the Education Sector.

21. The Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management has been set up at Gwalior and the Indian Institute of Information Technology at Allahabad. A High Powered Committee to review the Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) has submitted its recommendations in order to produce World Class skilled personnel in the area of IT to meet the future challenges of the country. Efforts have been initiated to develop the area of computer software with suitably enhancing and strengthening, training and associated programmes.

22. To strengthen the polytechnic education in India, the second phase of World Bank Assisted Technician Training project has been completed. It has enhanced the participation of women in polytechnics education by adding 66 women's wings to the system. Moreover, to facilitate participation of women in Technical Education in coeducational polytechnics, hostels for women have also been constructed and 2 special polytechnics have been set up for imparting technical educational to the handicapped.

#### Annual Plan 2000-01

23. For the schemes of Technical Education an outlay of Rs.500.00 crore has been approved under Annual Plan 2000-01. Within Technical Education, high priority is being given to modernisation and in laboratory, library, workshop, computing facilities in Engineering and Technological, Management Pharmacy and Architecture Institutions in the country. Modernisation is expected to enhance functional efficiency of these institutions for teaching, training and research purposes.

24. As a follow-up of the recommendations of the National Task force on Information Technology and Software Development, an Inter Ministerial Committee has been set up. This Committee has finalized the necessary steps to be taken for speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Task force. A token provision of Rs.1.00 crore has been made in the annual Plan Outlay for 2000-01 for this purpose. The AICTE will extend the Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) for full time teachers of approved degree level engineering institutions including those offering courses like MBA, MCA, Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture, Town Planning, Applied Arts and Crafts so

that the existing teachers in various streams of technical education may enhance the professional qualifications and competence. A provision of Rs.70.49 crore has been made for the current financial year. The newly established IITM Gwalior will run core educational programmes including a five-year integrated programme leading to Diploma in Information Technology and Management with an entry level qualification of a Bachelor Degree, aiming at producing leadership manpower, augmenting and harnessing the potential of information technology with management skills and training in an integrated manner. The capacity of the Institute is to be increased from the current year. Budgetary provision for the current year is Rs.15 crore. Indian Institute of IT set up at Allahabad in 1999-2000 will start its academic programmes from the current year, targeting at development of all areas of IT and its application through an extensive network of educational research and development programmes. It will also develop links with the industry so as to involve the best professionals in IT and its application areas in finding solutions to problems relevant to the country from a scientific, strategic, commercial or societal points of view. Budget for the current year is Rs.11.50 crore.

25. As recommended by the Review committee, the Ministry of HRD will take initiatives for developing a curriculum for these organisations in order to enable them to achieve excellence in education, research and training through the scheme entitled “Centres of Excellence”. The RECs’ capability in computer, library, resources and equipment for R&D will also be enhanced. Rs.60 crore have been budgeted for the current financial year. For sustaining the gains made under the two phases of Technical Education Project started by the World Bank assistance, the project proposal has been formulated for initiating the third phase of the project. The project proposal aims at the integrated development of Technical Education system by creating strong linkages within the system, as also systems and processes through which development of other institutions would continue. A token budgetary provision of Rs.0.01 crore has been made for the current financial year so that the scheme may take off smoothly.

26. Following the successful completion of first phase of Technology Development Missions in seven generic areas, it has been decided that second phase will soon be launched for extending and strengthening of meaningful university/institute and industry interaction in selected areas. The National Steering Committee on Technology Development Mission, in consultation with appropriate scientists/Institutions/Committees will work out the areas in which new Missions would be launched.

### **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT, BOOK PROMOTION AND COPYRIGHT**

#### **Review Of Annual Plan – 1999-2000**

27. During the year under review, Planning Commission supported the schemes for promotion and development of Languages, Book Promotion and Copyright that are being implemented through Language Institutes, autonomous Organisations and Subordinate Offices like Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Central Hindi Directorate under Department of Secondary and Higher Education.

28. The Central Hindi Directorate continued schemes of preparing bilingual, trilingual and multilingual dictionaries including those of foreign languages to give access to non-hindi speakers. Teaching of hindi through correspondence courses is continuing and so far 4 lakh

people have benefited. It is also being promoted through audio-video cassettes. Financial assistance was also given to 192 NGOs and Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, for the promotion and development of hindi, particularly in non-hindi speaking States. (By an Act of Parliament DBHPS has also been declared an Institute of National Importance). Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology aims to develop all Indian Languages as media of Instruction. It worked for formulation of uniform terminology in hindi and other modern Indian languages. Kendriya Hindi Shiksha Mandal, Agra continued appointing and imparting training in Kendriya Hindi Sansthan and its various centers and particularly through its Extension programmes in tribal areas. Its Tribal Language Research Unit is developing Language teaching material in social studies as school text books, for Nagaland. Thirteen eminent Hindi scholars have been selected for 1999-2000 Hindi Sevi Samman Yojana for their contribution to the development and propagation of hindi, hindi journalism, research and creative literature, scientific and technical literature in hindi, etc.

29. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore continued implementing schemes of training of teachers in Modern Indian Languages under the three language formula and development of Indian languages through research training (of Secondary School teachers) and material production. Annually it assists 40 NGOs for development & promotion of Modern Indian languages besides its regular programmes. Planning Commission was a member on the Review Committee for the Scheme of Appointment of Modern Indian Language Teachers (preferably South Indian Languages) in hindi speaking States as the response of the States has not been good. The recommendations of the Report are under consideration. Studies were also conducted in various tribal languages for preparation of workbooks, teacher guides, etc. The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad with its regional centres worked in bringing improvement in the standard of teaching of english language.

30. National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language assisted 54 Calligraphy Training Centres who have introduced computerised calligraphy training in these centres in the country. Similarly National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language was supported for implementing several programmes of Publication, Compilation and evolving of small literature. 100 per cent Central Assistance is also given for salaries of Urdu teachers appointed in blocks/Districts against new posts for a period of 5 years. For promotion and development of sanskrit language, a number of plan schemes were supported by the Planning Commission which are being executed by Department of Secondary and Higher Education through Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Vidyapeethas, Sanskrit Mahavidyalayas and Shodh Sansthans. Establishment of new Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeethas in those States where there are none, are also being supported for promoting sanskrit learning and research. Financial Assistance was provided to 954 Voluntary Sanskrit Organisations. Maharishi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan continued financial support and released grants to 25 Vedic Institutions/Vidyalayas and 34 units for payment of honorarium to teachers and stipend to students of oral traditions of vedic recitation. Under Central Plan Scheme of development of Sanskrit Education, grants are given to students of High/Higher Secondary schools for scholarships besides salary to teachers of sanskrit and other modern subjects in sanskrit pathshalas.

31. For promoting Book promotion activities in pursuance of National Education Policy of 1986, Planning Commission extended support to ongoing Plan programmes and schemes of Department of Education and National Book Trust, an autonomous Organisation

for publication of original, as well as of translations in english, hindi, and eleven other major Indian languages. Financial assistance was given to various organisations, authors and publishers engaged in field of book promotional activities to promote publication of reasonably priced books for higher education, text books and reference material. A national centre for children's literature has been set up. An outlay of Rs.9.00 crore has been approved for schemes as Planning Commission also supported the Plan schemes of Department of Education for effective implementation of Copy Right Act.

32. For Language Development and for Book Promotion & Copyrights, Rs.62.90 crore and Rs.6.50 crore were allocated respectively under Annual Plan 1999-2000 against which the anticipated expenditure is to the tune of Rs.54.16 crore and Rs.3.86 crore respectively.

### **Annual Plan 2000-2001**

33. The Development of Languages & Book Promotion and Copyrights would continue to get due attention and Planning Commission would continue to support ongoing Plan Schemes & Programmes. In the Section of Copyright, programmes are being supported in view of India's obligations to WIPO/WTO under International Copyright Conventions and would promote research on Intellectual Property Rights and sensitising enforcement. The Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs.75 crore for Development of Languages and Rs.9 crore for Book Promotion and Copyrights for year 2000-2001.

34. Plan Schemes of Central Hindi Directorate for Promotion and Development of Hindi are being supported for successful implementation of three language formula and to fulfil the demands of more assistance by NGOs in the North East particularly for promotion of Hindi. Setting up of new centres of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, programmes for strengthening of its existing regional centres etc. are also proposed to be continued with the Plan support of Planning Commission. Programmes of Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore for providing training of teachers in Modern Indian Languages under the Three-Language formula would be supported as well. The Scheme of Appointment of Teachers in Modern Indian Languages would be revised as per recommendations of the Review Committee, in which Planning Commission was also represented.

35. The proposals of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language to promote programmes of Publication and training by giving financial assistance, besides to Training Centres for Urdu Calligraphy and their computerisation etc. would also be supported. Financial support would also be extended for approval of Urdu Teachers, a new scheme, implemented during the year 1999-2000. Likewise, continuing programmes of National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language would also be supported by Planning Commission. Similarly Planning Commission would also support continuation of Plan Schemes of Department of Education for Development of Sanskrit Education.

### **Book Promotion and Copyright**

36. All ongoing Plan programmes of National Book Trust of publication of books particularly children's literature, with the objective of inculcating the reading habit among the people generally and the children in particular would also be supported.



### EDUCATION FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

37. The National Agenda for Governance lays special emphasis on the empowerment of women (including girls). The broad social benefits of educating women are almost universally accepted. There is a proposal to launch a new scheme for women's/girl's education in educational backward block of the country (EBBS) namely "National Programme for Women's Education". The programme will provide incentives like free text books uniforms etc. The thrust will be on increase in and retention of primary and middle school girl's enrolment.

38. The ongoing scheme namely Mahila Samakhya has expanded its coverage to 51 districts and over 7335 villages in States of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Kerala. The Mahila Samakhya programme is not constrained by the target interventions. Under the programme, education is an ongoing process of learning and empowerment which transcends mere quest for literacy. The Sangha (Village level women's collective) is the nodal point around which the programme evolves. Sanghas address a wide range of issues which relate to the livelihood, education and health. Sanghas have played an active role in enrolling children specially girls in the village schools. The NGOs and community play a component role in Shiksha Karmi Project which gives great attention to girls reaching the goal of UEE. The other programmes specifically benefiting girls/women at secondary, higher secondary, college and university level would continue in the year 2000-01. For the scheme of Mahila Samakhya an outlay of Rs.110.00 crore has been budgeted.

### EDUCATION FOR ST/ST AND EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD MINORITIES

39. The National Policy on Education envisages paying great attention to education of educationally backward minorities in the interest of equity and social justice under the Area Intensive Programmes for education backward minorities 100 per cent financial assistance is given to State Governments and Voluntary Organisations for the establishment of new primary/upper primary schools, higher secondary schools. Assistance is given for basic infrastructure and facilities in areas of concentration of educationally backward minorities Rs.15.00 crore was allocated in 1999-2000 for the scheme which has been raised to Rs.18.00 crore in the current year.

40. For modernisation of Madrasas Rs.10.00 crore has been allocated. For taking care of problems of SC/ST students relaxation and concession have been made in the schemes of education at all levels.

41. The University Grants Commission provides financial assistance to selected universities/colleges which organise appropriate coaching classes to train persons belonging to educationally backward minority communities to enable them to compete in various competitive examinations. 22 Universities and 57 Colleges have been brought under this scheme which includes then coaching centres.