

PROGRAM FOR THE BACKWARD DISTRICTS OF NORTH EAST KARNATAKA (NEK)

Action plans in the name of 'Edu-Action' are being developed for sub sector reports on education. The later has been consolidated as shaping education in Karnataka (Eduvision).

"Pre School and elementary education" is a sub sector in which following areas have been identified as key priority areas.

- (1) Policy for pre school education for 4-5 year old.
- (2) Quality improvement in elementary education.
- (3) Program and strategy for small schools and multi grade teaching.
- (4) Program for the backward districts of North East Karnataka(NEK)
- (5) Effecting transition from 4 + 3 + 3 to 5 + 3+ 2.

At the first instance Programme for the backward districts of North Eastern Karnataka has been taken up for which the Action plan is prepared based on the 'eduvision' document, the other relevant studies and other departmental documents.

Several key problems and issues specific to this region have been discussed in the document. Problems of teacher attendance; student attendance; student incentives not reaching on time, lack of access in school less habitations, lack of adequate infrastructure and learning aids; lack of transactional skills and remedial measures have been dealt with.

The Action plan to focuses on these problems have been discussed so as to achieve the stated objectives of Universalisation of Elementary Education. in North Eastern Karnataka region. These efforts are expected to provide the much needed impetus for educational reforms in the region.

- (1) Access and infrastructure.
- (2) Quality improvement and capacity building.
- (3) Incentives to the needy disadvantaged and girl children.
- (4) Monitoring and evaluation.

The Action Plan of North Eastern Karnataka will be implemented from 2003-04 under financial assistance of World Bank till 2006-07. Details of year wise amount required as shown in the table.

Year						(Rs.in lakhs)
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Total Recurrent	0.26	2509.97	2678.83	2846.19	2842.02	10877.27
Total capital	0.00	6000.00	6700.00	6800.00	6696.00	26196.00
Grand Annual Total	0.26	8509.97	9378.83	9646.19	9538.20	37078.27

On the basis of Dr.D.M.Nanjundappa High Power Committee Report for Redressal of Regional Imbalances (2002), the following are the few actions taken towards Northern part of Karnataka.

- Separate Additional Commissionerates were established at Belagum and Gulberga from the year 2003-04.
- Separate Karnataka Regional Secondary Education & Examination Boards were established at Belagum and Gulberga Divisions.
- During 2001-02 Hot Cooked Midday meals programme were launched on pilot basis in 8724 government primary schools in 07 Northeastern districts of Karnataka.
- 50 percent of Non-salary grants of the state education budget under primary and secondary heads are earmarked for the Northeastern Karnataka region from 2001-02.
- 2587 primary teachers posts were shifted from other parts of the state during 2001-02 and 2002-03 to this region to improve teacher-pupil.
- Teacher pupil ratio in NEK districts was reduced from 42.04 in the year 2001-02 to 40.97 in the year 2003-04.
- Bifurcation of large education Districts to improve efficiency- Gulbarga and Belgaum districts were bifurcated into Gulbarga South and Gulbarga North (Yadagiri) and Belgaum South and Belgaum North (Chikkodi) respectively
- **Improving Quality : The topmost priority:-**
Innovations in curriculum reform, textbook revision and teacher training were introduced under District Primary Education Programme thus moving towards a more child centered activity oriented pedagogy.
- KELI-KALI -A radio programme to provide Academic support to Primary school children from 2001-02.
- **Learning Guarantee scheme -In collaboration with Azim Premji Foundation (APF), Bangalore**

The most intense effort of the APF is currently concentrated in the seven northeastern districts of Karnataka through its incentive based Learning Guarantee Programme. It is not an intervention but a methodology to identify the schools that can guarantee certain minimum levels of learning to their children. All Government Lower Primary Schools and Government Higher Primary Schools in 48 blocks in the 7 districts (numbering around 9,000 schools) are eligible to participate in the programme. The programme will span three years – 2003, 2004, and 2005. The acquisition of the expected levels of learning outcomes by the children is being evaluated by an independent team using relevant day-to-day life application oriented testing techniques. The children are being tested for the learning outcomes of the previous class in the subjects of Kannada and Mathematics only.

Over 1,900 schools in the region have volunteered to participate in the programme. A preliminary survey of a small sample of these schools in one district indicates significant levels of heightened interest and enthusiasm for accepting and meeting the challenges posed by the programme.

The “100% Learning Guarantee School”

The Lower Primary School at Hanakanahalli, a small village in Bellary district of Karnataka, stands out as a perfect example of what dedicated teachers, a supportive SDMC and enlightened parents together can achieve. The school, which was graded B last year, upped its ante this year and emerged as an A grade school. It is also the only school which has all its students demonstrating 100 per cent achievement in Kannada and Mathematics. This multi-grade school has just two teachers, who manage the 33 students of the five classes in just two rooms one of which also serves as the office.

The head teacher, Champavati, who has just retired, emphasizes that parents take an active interest in the school activities. They also check with the teachers about the progress of the children. The school, too, is committed as it does not enjoy many local holidays unlike the schools in the neighborhood. None of the village children are seen loitering because they are either in the school or in the adjacent anganwadi. "Our children reflect the overall progress of the school" says Champavati.