

STATE RESOURCE CENTRE FOR ADULT EDUCATION, M.P., INDORE

Education is the key to development. For development to be self-sustaining it has to be accompanied by corresponding changes in the attitudes, values, knowledge and skills of the people and the only way this change can come about is through education. And yet majority population is illiterate. To combat this problem, adult literacy program has been going in one form or the other. Under National Literacy Mission, launched in 1998 the setup for providing academic and technical resource support to adult education program is of State Resource Centres in each State Work as the academic power houses. SRC, Indore, established in 1985, has been allotted to BGMS - a state level NGO, which, for last 37 years has been working for leadership development among rural women. For its outstanding work in the field of adult literacy, the organization had also received Nehru Literacy award in 1979 with support from Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. SRC has been providing qualitative, academic and techno pedagogical resource support to literacy program in Madhya Pradesh since its inception. The support systems include -

- * Development of teaching learning materials
- * Development of training material,
- * Imparting training to literacy functionaries
- * Evaluating TLCs/PLCs,
- * Conducting research studies,
- * Production and distribution of literature for neoliterates
- * Multimedia work and
- * Implementing innovative, supportive and research oriented projects.

In view of the paradigm shift in implementation of adult education program from traditional centre based program to Total Literacy Campaigns to Saakshar Bharat Programme, the SRCs have a multifarious role to play in providing resource support to the districts from the planning stage of literacy programme till their conclusion and then with continuing education. Though SRC does not implement the program but it associates itself closely with the implementing agencies such as Zila Lok Shikshan Samitis (District Literacy Program Committees) and with other agencies like voluntary organizations and educational institutions implementing the program in the state.

The major functions performed by SRC are broadly:

DEVELOPING MATERIALS FOR ALITERATE ENVIRONMENT

Principal functions of SRC include developing materials for a literate environment. Various categories of prototype teaching learning materials are produced such as

- * The basic literacy materials are the primers in 2 parts viz. Basic Literacy Primer and the Bridge Primer, wherein the curriculum incorporates teaching of 3 R's, awareness and functionality components into one. Exercises and self-evaluation through test papers are also in-built.

- * Promotional materials produced by SRC include print materials in form of posters, pamphlets, leaflets, wall newspapers, stickers, etc. and non-print materials such as audio and video cassettes, spots, films for television, scripts for street corner plays, etc. that can help in building up an environment conducive for literacy.
- * For strengthening of teaching learning process in basic literacy phase, teaching charts and other aids like flash cards, games etc are produced for volunteers along with other enrichment materials such as teachers guide, reference book, informative booklets, folders, activity based manuals, etc.
- * For retention of acquired literacy skills among learners a large number of follow-up materials for continuing education are produced in variety of formats such as cartoon and comic books, games, illustrative and photographic booklets on various issues for enhancing their awareness and functionality and also for cultivating reading habit among the neoliterates.

The process adopted for materials development involves a number of steps:

- * The materials are prepared in workshops involving writers, subject experts, field functionaries and many a times the learners as well.
- * Manuscripts, thus produced, are pre-tested
- * Prototype copies are published and distributed
- * Feedback is taken through studies conducted to further improve the materials and make them need based.

The materials produced by SRC are also available for other NGOs/institutions that take up literacy, life skills education, capacity building work.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Under Saakshar Bharat Programme, Zila Lok Shiksha Samiti being the implementing agency for literacy program in the district, it is essential that a common understanding and vision is shared by all its members and functionaries at all levels. To achieve this, capacity building is taken up by SRC at various levels that include:

- * Orientation of the core group members,
- * Training of full timers, resource persons
- * Model trainings conducted for master trainers and even preraks as per need.

Training methodology used is participatory in nature and based on experiential learning. Several training materials and modules have been designed for different levels of functionaries to enrich their knowledge and enhance their skills for efficient management and implementation of the literacy program in all its phases from basic literacy to continuing education. An innovative project was also taken up for capacity building of Preraks. A distance education approach was adopted using monthly dispatches and periodic personal contact programs. This approach was well received and its results were encouraging. Supportive monitoring is conducted in the districts from time to time which helps the ZLSS to redefine its plan of action and the approaches to further enhance the

effectiveness of the program. Capacity building of functionaries of NGOs/Institutions is also taken up on demand. The area of capacity building for these organizations broadly include trainings on life skills education, PRA, ToT for SHGs, ToT on Training skills etc.

ADVOCACY

Workshops and seminars are conducted for sensitizing all sectors of society to evoke their participation in the literacy program. Advocacy at various levels - community level, state level and national level is carried out for promotion of literacy. At community level out reach activities are carried out with:u PRI members - Village Education Committee members; neoliterate men and women and volunteers. The objective is to maximize their participation in the program and to help them organize themselves to become active participants in the community development process. To empower the women and develop leadership skills among them, special programs are carried out such as awareness camps, training of self-help groups, skill development trainings.

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Empanelled by National Literacy Mission as an external evaluating agency, SRC Indore was assigned the responsibility of External Evaluation of district level Literacy Programme and Jan Shikshan Sansthan. SRC conducted the External Evaluation in the following districts:

- * TLC - Buldhana, Raigad (Maharashtra), Jaisalmer, Chittorgarh (Rajasthan), Bokaro, Sahebganj, Deogarh, Giridih (Jharkhand), Dantewada (Chattisgarh), Samastipur (Bihar), Papumpare (Arunachal Pradesh)
- * PLP - Giridih (Jharkhand)
- * CE - Davanagere, Mandya (Karnataka)
- * JSSs evaluated - Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Dharavi, Pune, Aurangabad, Nashik (Maharashtra), Unnao (NP), Dehlnal, Howrah (West Bengal), Dehradun, Bageshwar (Uttaranchal)

RESEARCH STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION

To test out the efficacy of the inputs being provided by SRC by way of technical resource support to the ZLSS and those being provided by ZLSS directly in the field during the implementation process, research studies are conducted which give an insight into the strengths and weakness of the programme and provide guidance for further improving the inputs. Case studies, innovations, success-stories are documented and shared with all concerned.

LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION FOR ADOLESCENTS

The low literacy status of women and the low participation of girls in school create a need for reinforcement of the strategies to promote girls' education. One of the problem areas identified is the education of girls in the age group of 11 upwards who have never enrolled in schools. Specially designed and planned education programme is needed for this age group to enable their enrollment and retention in schools. For this purpose, a multipronged approach is being used by Rajya Shiksha Kendra by starting Kasturba

Gandhi Balika Vidhyalay (KGBV), girls' hostels, residential bridge courses for out-of-school girls aged 9-18 and converting some of the existing schools into model cluster schools in selected blocks. To make the curriculum more relevant to the lives of the girls, Life Skills Education program was started in these institutions. The program is supported by Rajya ShikshaKendra, Bhopal, UNICEF, and Bhopal. State Resource Centre, Indore is the nodal agency providing technical resource support to the program. The main emphasis of the project is to develop a model for promoting girls education and holistic development to lead towards healthy and empowered adolescents both in school and out-of-school. The implementation strategies include capacity building, development of need based training and IEC materials, networking, documentation, information sharing, advocacy.

LITERACY RESOURCE CENTRE FOR GIRLS & WOMEN (LRC)

In 1994, the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) launched the Program for Developing Literacy Resource Centers for Girls and Women (LRC). The objective of the program is to implement innovative projects and strategies for improving the literacy situation especially for girls and women and to contribute to the achievement of "Education forAll" in Asia and the Pacific, through the close partnership with outstanding literacy organizations in the region. In 1999, SRC Indore has been identified as a partner organization for LRC by ACCU. Now 15 literacy organizations in 14countries are working as partner organizations for LRC in theAsia/Pacific region. Indore LRC aims at promoting human development through literacy and continuing education towards creatinga learning society in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The main activities of LRC include innovation, material development, training, capacity building, information sharing, networking and advocacy by using information technology. LRC building is established with support from ACCU and Japan Embassy. The training centre was inaugurated by Director-General, ACCU, Japan and Second Secretary, Japan Embassy, India. In-charge Director, MHRD was also present on the occasion.

AWARDS

SRC received second national award in the field of research in the year 1997 for the research study titled 'Literacy Nexus with Socio-Economic Development'. For the year 1998, SRC Indore was the recipient of UNESCO-NLM award for outstanding contribution in the field of adult literacy. In the year 2004, Honorable President of India awarded SRC, Indore for its outstanding contribution in the Accelerated Female Literacy Programme (AFLP) in U.P. and Bihar states.

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