

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SECTORAL SUMMIT OF NEC ON 'EDUCATION, SPORTS, ART & CULTURE' AT  
NEW DELHI ON 20-21 AUGUST 2007**

**ISSUES & CONCLUSIONS**

In accordance with the decision taken at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting of NEC, the M/o DoNER and NEC have held seven sectoral summits. The 8<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Summit to review 'Education, Sports, Art & Culture' programmes in the NER was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 20-21 August, 2007. The Issues & Conclusions arrived at in the Education Sector are as under:

**ISSUES - HRD SECTOR**

1. The dropout rates are very high in the NE States. Except for Manipur, the dropout rates in all the other NE States are higher than the all India average. However, some States specifically Sikkim and Tripura mentioned that the dropout rates have improved considerably.
2. All the States mentioned that the funds released by HRD in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) are on the 50:50 (Central Grant: State Share) basis whereas the States are seeking 90:10 ratio.
3. The SSA goals are: all children in schools, education guarantee centres, alternate school, 'back to school camp'. Bridging of gender and social gaps by 2007 in elementary by 2010, universal retention by 2010 and focus on satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
4. The issues pertaining to NE in SSA are as under:
  - Bring Out of School Children (OOSC) to schools/EGS/AIE.
  - Identification of eligible habitations without schools (eg. Meghalaya, Manipur, Assam).
  - Reduce dropout rates.
  - High cost of conventional infrastructure. Explore alternatives
  - Contextualise curriculum and textbooks.
  - Large number of untrained teachers
  - Low achievement level of students
  - Convergence with DWM, TSC and ICDS
  - Lack of stability of tenures of Education Secretary/ State Project Directors of SSA
5. The Integrated Education for Disabled Children programme is 100% assistance under various components for education of disabled children. This assistance is provided to the State Governments and NGOs. The scheme is under revision and the new scheme intends to cover every identified disabled child through systematic attempt. Proposals under the

scheme have not been received from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

6. Merging has been done of two former schemes of Educational Technology (ET) and Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) and is categorized as ICT @ Schools. The main objective is to provide for computer aided education for the students of Government and Government-aided schools in 90:10 ratio. The scheme is under revision for more wider coverage and qualitative inputs.
7. There is a surge in demand due to progress in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is to reach at least a modest target of 75% in class IXth to Xth by the end of XIth Plan, it will involve net increase of enrolment of about 90 lakhs.
8. Proposal for Universalization of Access to & Improvement of Quality at the Secondary Stage (SUCCESS). The goal is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons. The objective is to make all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms. Availability and access to everyone within 5 kms for secondary school and 7-10 kms for higher schools. Equity through removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barrier to ensure good quality education for all students.
9. National Literacy Mission launched on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1998 to impart functional literacy to illiterates in 15-35 age group. The schemes are - Adult Education and Skill Development. Total Literacy Campaign, Post Literacy Programme, Continuing Education Programme, Project for Residual Illiteracy support to NGOs/ Institutions/SRCs for Adult Education and Skill Development. Jan Shikshan Sansthan and State Resource Centre.
10. Census of 2001 Literacy Scenario in the NE:

Mizoram	88.80%
Tripura	73.19%
Manipur	70.53%
Sikkim	68.81%
Nagaland	66.59%
India	64.84%
Assam	63.25%
Meghalaya	62.56%
Arunachal	54.34%

11. The Female Literacy is an area of concern. To bring them to 80% is a major task.
12. Lowest literacy districts (out of 150 identified countrywide):  
 Arunachal Pradesh (7) - East Kameng, Tirap, Lower Subansiri, Tawang, Upper Siang, Upper Subansiri, Changling.  
 Nagaland (4) - Mon, Tuensang, Longlang, Kiphire  
 Assam (3)- Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Darrang.

13. A campaign mode has been adopted largely on a voluntary basis. Primers have been prepared in nearly 45 tribal dialects in association with NLM.
14. There is a slow pace of implementation of programmes in almost all the States in the NLM. The programmes are for 18 months and 12 months but get extended to many years, which is a cause of concern. Continuing Education is also not picking and utilization of funds is extremely slow.
15. Amalgamation of Total Literacy, Post Literacy and Continuing Education Programmes into a broad based Lifelong Education & Awareness Programme (LEAP).  
Restructuring of a Zila Saksharta Samiti by integrating them with the Panchayati Raj System over the Plan Period.
16. There are a number of issues with regard to Mid-day Meal:
- Inadequate manpower and management structure
  - Insufficient State Budgetary Provisions
  - High cost for food grain transportation
  - Delay in Release of Cooking Costs
  - Mismatch in utilization of food grains - cooking costs
  - Low wages for cooks and helpers
  - Absence of Monitoring systems.
- There is a need to be transparent through display of information under the Right to Information such as quantity of food grains received/utilized, other ingredients purchased/ utilized, number of children who avail meal, daily menu, roster of community members involved.
- Involvement of Panchayats/local self governing units/communities/parents in delivery of MDM.
17. The present education scenario of NER has following features:
- High in literacy but low in quality
  - Dissonant with the regional ethos
  - Offers mostly single track education
  - Very little emphasis on Vocational Education
18. Intervention of MHRD in N.E.:
- Ministry has established Six Central Universities viz. Assam University Silchar, Tezpur University, Mizoram University, North-East Hill University (NEHU) Shillong, Manipur University and Nagaland University.
  - Three more Central Universities in the NER viz. Sikkim University, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura University have been established/converted to Central University w.e.f. 09.04.2007, 02.07.2007 and 02.07.2007 respectively. Thus each State in the NER have at least one Central University.
  - Central Universities being Statutory Autonomous Bodies, chart out their own growth and development plans. University Grants Commission (UGC) provides requisite Plan and non-Plan funds

within the overall constraints of resources. Government ensures that newly established Central Universities are able to take of as pacesetter institutions in the Region.

- Establishment of a Central Institute of Technology (CIT) at Kokrajhar, Assam
- Establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Shillong. The total outlay for proposed IIM has been projected at Rs. 120.67 crore (Non-Recurring) for 5 years and Rs. 45.08 crore (Recurring) till the end of 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.
- North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE) at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- Setting up of Gyan Vani Radio Station at Guwahati and Shillong.
- Proposed establishment of a Rajiv Gandhi Chair in Contemporary Studies at North East Hill University (NEHU).
- An Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati.
- National Institute of Technology, Silchar. The Institute became a Deemed University w.e.f. 13.12.2005.
- North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST) at Itanagar.
- Setting up of Engineering/Management Faculties in Central Universities of North East. An amount of Rs. 5 crore has been released for each Engineering Faculty and Rs. 2 crore for Management Faculty in the Region.
- Taking over the full administrative and financial control of Tripura Engineering College (TEC). Agartala and upgradation of the same as National Institute of Technology (NIT) w.e.f. 01.04.2006.

### **CONCLUSIONS - HRD SECTOR**

1. Most NE States have a high percentage of untrained teachers. It was decided that a massive Teachers' Training programme will be launched with the support of NCERT and IGNOU. One component of the programme, to be undertaken with the support of Teachers' Training Institutions and through SCERTs and DIETs, will be led by NCERT which will coordinate the same with all concerned authorities and agencies. Simultaneously, IGNOU will launch the programme through Distance mode on a vastly expanded scale, for which they may strengthen their set-up in the NE Region.
2. Shri P. P. Shrivastav, Member NEC will be in overall charge of the programme of training of Teachers of the NE States.
3. Given the geographical condition of Arunachal Pradesh, the problems of the State are unique. Their infrastructure particularly residential accommodation is not available in remote areas, therefore teachers do not go to these distant places. It was decided to form a Committee with HRD, NEC and DoNER to seek solution to specific problems of Arunachal

Pradesh. The recommendations would be applicable to other States which have similar areas. The SSA norms may be examined for meeting these requirements.

4. For recruitment of teachers for schools the institution of village Panchayats may be used on the lines of Punjab State. Initial recruitment may be done from the Village Panchayat area first, then from Anchal area and then lastly from the district etc.
5. Community Polytechnics should be involved for vocational training alongwith conventional system.
6. The State Governments in the NE Region are having problem of training students in both the Hindi and English languages. There should be language training centres established. The proposal may be sent to MHRD/ MDoNER for consideration.
7. Nagaland does not have any National Institute. Ministry of HRD to consider establishment of a Central Institute in Nagaland.
8. Under the Mid-Day Meal the wages for cooks and helpers are not adequate. Care should be taken to ensure that minimum wages are paid to them. A synergy may be established with the NREG Scheme for ensuring minimum wages for the cooks and helpers at least for 100 days.
9. For delivery of Mid-Day Meal (MDM) teachers are involuntarily being involved. Village Panchayats local self governing units/communities may be made responsible for the effective delivery of MDM. Parents may also be involved for this purpose.
10. Carriage costs for hill areas of NER to be looked into.
11. All the States mentioned that the from this year funds are being released by HRD under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) on the 50:50 (Central Grant: State Share) basis whereas they seek 90:10 ratio.
12. Engineering and Management Faculties should be operationalised and modern course also introduced as an amount of Rs. 5 crore has been released for each Engineering Faculty and Rs. 2 crore for Management Faculty in the Region.
13. Process of updating/upgrading the knowledge and competencies of teachers, specially in science and mathematics to be addressed by the Ministry of HRD.

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**ISSUES - SPORTS SECTOR**

1. Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs supports promotion & development of indigenous games & martial arts as part of the existing NSTC scheme. Out of 27 Schools, 2 Schools have been adopted for Promotion of Indigenous Games & Martial Arts. These are Ramswarup Agarwal Memorial School, Dharang, Assam; and, Bal Vidya Mandir, Thoubal, Manipur.
2. The Ministry has also sanctioned various projects for sports infrastructure development in NER and also supports schemes for SAI Training Centre schemes and Special Area games scheme.
3. The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has formulated a draft Sports policy, seeking more funds for promotion of Sports in the Country including NE States. The Policy has been put up on Web site and also circulated for comments and approval by the States.
4. Implementation of various projects has been delayed for long. Indira Gandhi Stadium in Nagaland, which was inaugurated in 1986, has not been completed as yet.
5. Sports develop character, health and feeling of brotherhood. Hence it is necessary to promote sports in all the States and youth should be involved in sports activity at a young age. This will also help in weaning away of the youth from unlawful activities and will also provide them employment opportunities.
6. The projects also suffer due to inadequate funding by the Ministry. Many of the ongoing projects are lying unfinished. In NER 59 projects worth 39 crore have been approved. These should be implemented immediately.
7. National Sports Academy, funded by M/o DONER under NLCPR scheme, which was announced by Prime Minister in 2006, has started functioning from July 2007.
8. Sports infrastructure development in Hill and rural areas needs to be developed on priority.

9. Proposals were retained under NLCPR scheme but no funds have been released. Also, NEC releases funds in small installments, which does not help completion of the project in time.
10. Funding under Central Sector Schemes needs to be revised as the NER states face lot of financial constraints.
11. State Governments have created some sports infrastructure, but the same is not adequate. Financial Support from M/o Sports and Youth Affairs, M/o DONER/NEC should be provided in this regard.
12. Centre of Excellence should be developed for providing training for coaches, as there is an acute shortage of professional coaches.
13. Proposal submitted to the M/o Sports, M/o DONER/NEC should be expeditiously sanctioned for creation of sports infrastructure and promotion of sports in NER.

### **CONCLUSIONS - SPORTS SECTOR**

1. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) have drafted a Sports Policy with the theme of Sports for all. The Policy has been circulated to all the States and also put up on the internet for comments and endorsement by the State. All the States appreciated, supported and endorsed the Draft Sports Policy subject to minor amendments, if any.
2. "Catch them Young" policy should be adopted for exploiting the immense potential in sports and for promoting the sport activities in the Country.
3. Due to inadequate funding many of the projects are lying unfinished. Sufficient funding should be provided for early completion of the projects. NEC should release funds in three installments for completion of the projects sanctioned by it. Projects retained under NLCPR schemes will be followed up for expeditious sanction. The State Governments should submit Utilization Certificate at the earliest as delay in submission of UCs results in delay in release of funds.
4. The State Governments in NER are not able to develop Sports infrastructure due to financial constraints. MoYAS and Ministry of DONER may consider providing financial support for developing sports infrastructure in rural/urban/hill areas. In case of request for funds from Ministry of DONER, projects will need to be prioritized by the State Governments in their Priority Lists.
5. Funding under Central Sector Schemes of MoYAS should be done in 90: 10 ratio.
6. MoYAS will examine providing support for popular games like Archery and other indigenous games in NE States.
7. MoYAS will also examine providing support for setting up Centre of Excellence for training of Coaches and also for developing Yoga Centres.
8. Adventure Sports will be included as an important component of Sports Policy as it has tremendous potential in NER.

9. MoYAS will take up the matter with Taekwondo Federation for relocation of National Taekwondo championship in Nagaland instead of Vishakhapattanam.
10. The DPRs of projects proposals under NLCPR will be expeditiously by MoYAS/SAI.
11. Sports Authority of India will take up repairs of Dimapur Sports complex building and will also take up construction of Hostel.

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**ISSUES - ART & CULTURE**

1. There is a need for cultural exchange between the people of the rest of India and those of the North East at the general level of masses so that there is a stronger emotional integration amongst the people of different regions of the country.
2. There is an overwhelming need for creation of infrastructural facilities in the NER for development of artistic and cultural traditions.
3. One of the reasons why installments cannot be released is the non-availability of UCs from different Government Authorities.
4. There is need for exporting the handicrafts and handloom items of the NER to other countries and selling them to the rest of India.
5. Documentation of Tribal art and way of life is an immediate necessity since, without an exhaustive effort to that end, many tribal cultures will face an imminent demise on the onslaught of modernity. However, Ministry of Art & Culture, GOI, is working on documentation of intangible heritage of the country.
6. As far as craft/handloom items are concerned, lack of design and lack of economies of scale are the two prime constraints.
7. Majuli Island is the biggest riverine island of the world and it is suffering from erosion because of the Brahmaputra river. This erosion would have to be taken care of and the Government of India would have to present a proper case for declaration of this island as the World Heritage Site since it has so many Sattara Culture Centres on this island.

**CONCLUSIONS - ART & CULTURE**

1. The Summit unanimously appealed that Scheme of Setting up of Multipurpose Cultural Complex should be revived.
2. NEC to take up an exercise to organize trackings to identify flora and fauna of North East for promotion of integration with the rest of India.

3. NEC to work out what should be done for intellectual Property Rights of Crafts, Handicrafts of NE as has been done in China.
4. NEC would have to act as single window for development of floriculture and adventure sports and exports of flowers and handicraft items.
5. Non-availability of UCs is sometimes a manifestation of larger problems afflicting the NER and the NEC should look into the problem in a holistic manner and factor the NE-specific problems into the solution.
6. NEC would set up a cell for generation for public awareness in the NER about the Central Schemes. It should disseminate information about such schemes so that the people in the NER can take advantage of the same.
7. In case of the schemes/ projects in the Art & Culture sectors, the maxim of accepting only those worth more than Rs. 2 crore would be relaxed.
8. An Institute of Mountaineering, Adventure Sports and Disaster Management should be located in Arunachal Pradesh at Dirang near the snow line. North Eastern Council has already communicated to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for allotting 30 to 40 acres of land for this purpose. The preliminary Report is under preparation. Dr. (Smt.) Barthakur, Member, NEC to coordinate this issue.

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