

Resume of Activities during the last Five Years in the Area of Research

The research activities of the department focus on critical issues of policy, planning and implementation of programmes relating to the education of the girl child encompassing all the stages and streams of school education including vocational, technical and professional education. The findings have provided the basis for recurrent policy review, major policy decisions and new action programmes and schemes needed for promoting education of girls and gender equality. Brief outline of the researches undertaken by the department during the last five years are as under:

- 1. Strategies adopted for Enrolling Girl's in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) managed by different agencies in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat (2014-15, ERIC funded) :** The research study was undertaken to assess the strategies adopted for enrolling girls in KGBVs managed by different agencies in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat. The major finding that emerged was that parents and the community members regarded KGBV schools as good educational institutions for marginalized girls. In all the states visited, it was found that the demand for admission in KGBV was more than the supply. It was also found that intermixing of girls from different communities was very apparent, these phenomena led to healthy interaction among girls from different communities and the scheme linked their lives, education and livelihoods together.
- 2. A Study of National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) (2014-15, ERIC funded):** The aim of the study was to assess the status and implementation of the NPEGEL. The study was conducted in five north-eastern states, namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. Contribution of the NPEGEL in girl's educational and overall developments were collected from the field through personally canvassed interview schedules, observations and focus group discussions. The findings revealed that the programme has made a significant contribution in improving educational status of tribal girls. The community awareness programmes and sibling care services motivated parents to send daughters to schools regularly; 'Mobile library', 'best school award' and 'programmes on innovative activities contributed to improvement of girls' education. Some appreciable state initiatives

included gender-inclusive environment in the local community and community mobilization and organization of various capacity-building activities.

3. Analysis of the Elementary Stage Textbooks of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Manipur and Rajasthan (2014-2016, SSA funded) : The textbooks of elementary stage have been analysed, both in house and with some states in workshop mode. Tools for analysis were developed which are available on NCERT website in Hindi, English, Urdu and Sanskrit. The overall report has been completed and has been placed on NCERT website for further utilization by concerned states. The findings of the analysis highlighted that there is a need for greater portrayal of women in unconventional roles. In addition there is a need to build gender sensitivity in teachers' and students' pages, wherever they have not been reflected. Stereotypes need to be addressed in textual materials across states. Human values have been reflected in nearly all textbooks.

4. Study of Ashram Schools of Chhattisgarh at Primary Stage from a Gender perspective(2016-17): The objectives of the study were to examine the socio-economic background of students and teachers, evaluate existing infrastructure facilities, examine class room processes and outside classroom activities from a gender perspective, analyze the performance of students in the last five years and to identify academic and other challenges related to safety and security faced by students and teachers in these residential schools.

It was conducted in six schools in urban and rural settings of two districts of Chhattisgarh, having tribal population. The strategies evolved from the study were that there should be greater availability of teaching learning material for facilitating activity based learning. The School Management Committee should be proactive in addressing issues related to environment, gender sensitivity and for making Ashram Schools places of joyful learning. There is need for appointment of teachers in art, folk music, sports and basic skills for personality development of children. There should be provision of library and first aid facilities for children. Solar cooker and gas as alternative fuels for cooking should be promoted. Solar panels for electricity should be installed. There should be constitution of a State Level Committee to look into the uniformity of facilities available in all residential schools for tribal children at the elementary stage and to examine the incentives and schemes from time to time.

5. Policy Research on Education and Skill Development from the Perspective of Gender Equality – A comparative study of India and Korea (2018-19):

Despite Sustainable Development Goals of UN to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, the reality is that in most countries women encounter inequality in various spheres. South Asia remains the most gender-unequal region in the world (UNICEF, 2005a). In India cultural and social beliefs and practices interface with each other to form multiple and overlapping disparities that exclude girls from their right to quality education. The policy initiatives have brought dividends but a lot more needs to be achieved. Education has played a pivotal role in the progress of Korea as a developed country. The development of Korea is a model of Education-driven National Development. Gender disparity, however, has also been rooted in traditions in Korea as it is in India. While Educating for Equality is the aim, policy support is a must. Therefore, analyzing the policies and plans of India and Korea will help in identifying the initiatives taken to bring about equality with an aim to transform the scenario into a gender just society. Outcome of the findings of the research will help in formulating policies and plans aiming at achieving SDGs and sustained national development. The relevant literature for the project has been identified and collected. Indicators for analysis of the policy documents have been developed and finalized. A visit was undertaken to Seoul in November where in the research team visited KWDI and KRNET and interacted with Korean officials regarding relevant policies brought out by Korea and India. The project is in progress and will be completed next year.

6. Participation and Performance of Girls in National Talent Search Scheme (NTSS): A Spatial-Temporal Study from the Viewpoint of Gender Gap Analysis (2017-19):

Year after year, in Board examinations of secondary or senior secondary stages, girls fare better than boys, but surprisingly, when it comes to other competitive exams, such as, National Talent Search Examination, JEE-IIT etc. the number of successful girl candidates is greatly skewed. This gender disparity is disturbing, causes of which need to be systematically analyzed and appropriate steps taken to break the barriers. This research was therefore, undertaken with the objectives: to analyze the trend of participation and performance of girls in NTSS; to identify the causes of gender gap and gender stereotyping at every stage of selection in NTS Scheme; to explore the impact of socio-economic background and nature of inputs in success of awardees; to arrive

at success stories of meritorious girls and to suggest strategies to improve the participation and performance of meritorious girls. The project is ongoing and will be completed soon.

- 7. Status of Girls' Hostel Scheme: An Exploratory Study Focusing on Scheduled Caste (SC) Girls at Secondary Stage (2018-20):** The present study has been undertaken with an objective to examine the infrastructure facilities; the role of scheme in enhancing the enrolment and retention of SC girls in the catchment areas and perception of parents and students. The study involves suggesting strategies for better implementation and improvement of the scheme. The study will be conducted in one state from each region on the basis of certain indicators such as SC population, number of Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB's), female literacy rate, hostels functional for at least two years and educational indicators such as dropout and enrolment rates. A total of ten hostels, one from each district will be selected. The study is in progress and will be completed in March, 2020.