

Boon of Saakshar Bharat Mission-2012 in Tamenglong District, Manipur.

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Abstract:

The launching of Saakshar Bharat Mission on 8th September, 2009 a centrally sponsored scheme of Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India was to further accentuate Adult Education especially illiterate women as the new variant of National Literacy Mission covering all adult women in the age group 15 and beyond. The present study analysed the boon of Saakshar Bharat Mission – 2012 in Tamenglong District. There were 11,579 illiterate women in the district who were enrolled as learners. They were taught by 1,147 Volunteer Teachers (VTs) who were supervised by the 112 Preraks in 56 Adult Education Centres (AECs). The programme was carried out in the specified period from 15th January 2010 – 31st March, 2012(Phase-I).

The First Learners' Assessment was placed under the pilot study. The 2nd. & 3rd.Learners' Assessment revealed learners appearing 1,290 and 2,869 attaining 81.08% and 79.78% respectively. For the Final Assessment there were 8462 female learners from basic literacy and 3214 female learners from neo-literates and school drop-out. Altogether 11,676 took the exam for the final assessment. There were 2186 learners declared under Grade-A; while 2891 were placed under Grade-B making A+B = 59.99 % and as many as 3385 were placed at Grade-C from among the Basic Learners. From among the neo-literates and school drop-out 839 learners got Grade-A, 1064 got Grade-B; Grades A+B= 59.20% and 1311 were placed for improvement. Women Census literacy trends in Tamenglong district i.e. 39.68% (1991), 49.11% (2001) & 63.76% (2011) and last decadal growth of 14.65%, have been considered to be a positive indicator of Saakshar Bharat Mission-2012 in Tamenglong District, Manipur.

Key Words: Saakshar Bharat – It is taken out from Sanskrit word 'Saakshar' means 'Literate' and 'Bharat' means 'India'.

Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) – Literate India Mission

Lok Shiksha Kendras – These are adult education centres (AECs) where teaching- learning programmes are carried out. The numbers of AECs are different from area to area depending on the number of learners.

Volunteer Teachers (VTs) -The village level literacy educators who are volunteered to teach illiterates adults in AECs. They are usually found out by the Preraks and community leaders. They are the real workers at the grass root levels to teach illiterate adults in the ratio 1:10 within 24 months.

Primers – these are the teaching materials supplied to both volunteer teachers and learners containing components of basic literacy, basic education and continuing education materials. Primers are usually arranged to suit the local conditions of the learners.

Tamenglong – It is one of the nine districts of Manipur on the west having female literacy rate 49.11% in 2001 census of India (below 50% Literacy of women). The district is dominated mainly by Naga tribe such as Rongmei, Liangmai, Zeme, Inpui, Chiru and few Kuki tribes. It is a tribal dominated district of Manipur.

Adult Education – ‘Adult education may be thought as the conscious efforts of mature persons to learn something new’ – Morgan and Holmes.

In the opinion of S.N. Mukherjee, ‘Adult education includes all instruction, formal and informal imparted to adults’.

According to Liveright and Haygood, ‘Adult education is the process whereby persons who no longer (or did not) attend school on a regular and full time basis undertake sequential and organised activities within a conscious intention of bringing about changes in information, knowledge, understanding or skills, appreciation and attitudes, or for the purpose of identifying and solving personal or community problems’.

Thus, adult education includes all forms of educative experiences needed by matured adults on varying interests and requirements. It denotes the entire body of organised educational processes, whereby adults develop their abilities, enrich their knowledge, improve their technical or professional qualifications and bring about changes in their attitudes and behaviour for social, economic and cultural development.

Introduction

“While male literacy went up to over 75% in the last census and is expected to be higher now, female literacy was only 54% in 2001. My government will make every woman literate in the next five years. Increased female literacy is expected to become a force multiplier for all our social development programs”. - (Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, Hon’ble President of India in her address to the Parliament on 4th June, 2009).

“ Our government will make sustained efforts for social and economic empowerment of women....female illiteracy will be reduced by half in the next three years”.-(Dr. Man Mohan Singh, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India in his speech on 15th August, 2009).

Following these, the Prime Minister of India Dr. Man Mohan Singh launched Saakshar Bharat, a centrally sponsored scheme of Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India on the International Literacy Day, 8th September, 2009. It aims to further accentuate Adult Education, specially of women, by extending education option to those adults who having lost the opportunities of formal education, now feel a need for learning of any type, including literacy, basic education (equivalent to formal education), vocational education(skill development), physical and emotional development, practical arts, applied sciences and recreation.

Goals and Objectives of Saakshar Bharat Mission

Goals: Saakshar Bharat will strive to create a literate environment that bolsters and sustains a literate society and provides ample opportunities for continuous improvement in the level of adult literacy, specially belonging to Focused Groups in Focused Areas. It will work towards raising the overall literacy rate to 80% and reducing the gender gap in literacy to 10%, besides minimising regional, social and gender disparities in literacy levels throughout India.

Objectives: The mission has four broad objectives, namely-

- (i) To impart functional literacy to illiterate adults in the age group of 15 and above.
- (ii) To enable the neo-literates to continue their learning beyond basic literacy and acquire equivalency to a formal educational system, including vocational education.
- (iii) To equip the neo-literates with vocational skills to improve their living and earning conditions.

- (iv) To establish a learning society by providing opportunities to neo-literates for lifelong learning and continuing education.

Targets, Target Specific and Area Coverage

The principal target of the mission is to impart functional literacy to 70 million adults in the age group of 15 years and beyond. Women being the specific target and focus on women as predominant beneficiaries of the entire programme. The category wise target of Saakshar Bharat is shown on the table below:

TABLE-1. Category Wise Targets Under Sbm Pprogramme In Million

CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
SCs.	4	10	14
STs.	2	6	8
Muslims	2	10	12
Others	2	34	36
Total	10	60	70

Programme Framework And Operational Framework Of Saakshar Bharat Mission

The programme entails identification of non- literates through a survey, area wise mapping of their learning needs and imparting them instructor based teaching of about 300 hours spread over three months or beyond base on local conditions. Classes will be convened at times and venues suitable to the learners with enough flexi approach. Under this approach, voluntary teaching takes place on a mass scale where a volunteer can teach on average 8-10 learners, learning usually takes place at the pace suitable to the learners.

The Lok Shiksha Kendras (Adult education centres) is the operational arm of the mission at the grass roots level. The activities include literacy, basic education, vocational education and continuing education within their territorial jurisdiction. Two Preraks are engaged on payment of honorarium to discharge administrative and academic tasks. Preraks will also be assigned teaching responsibilities. Together with volunteer teachers they constitute the resource group in a village. A Prerak should be at least a matriculate and one of them should be a woman. One AEC will be set up in every Gram Panchayat having a population of 5000 and another AEC in case the population is more than 5000 in one Gram panchayat.

Teaching Learning Materials

To ensure uniformly high standards, all the materials for basic education, equivalency and continuing education will be quality assured by an expert committee set up by the NLMA/SLMA. The thrust of the programme is to ensure sustainable level of literacy, the teaching learning process will have to be more participatory and learner centred. Variety of methods, media and strategies may be adopted. Primers are arranged to suit the local conditions based on local language and dialect.

Analysis on Assessment and Certification Of Achievements

These tasks were done by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and State Open Schools (SOS). There were summative assessments only which were non-incursive promoting courage and only confidence. The total assessment would be of 150 marks: 50 marks each for Reading, Writing and Numeracy in three levels of grades A, B, and C as under:

60% and above (Good): Grade – A, 40% and above (Satisfactory): Grade – B, Less than 40% (needs improvement): Grade - C,

Learners with grade A and B were eligible for certificate while grade C candidates were made to re-appear for the certification. In consultation with NLMA, the results and certificates were developed by NIOS as a joint certificate.

Significance of The Study

The adult education department, Manipur has been implementing adult education programme since the establishment of the directorate of adult education, Manipur in 1980. The department has concluded total literacy campaign programme in all nine districts in 2007 and concluded post literacy programme in nine districts of the state in 2008-2009.

The main objectives of these programmes were to eradicate illiteracy and retention of literacy among illiterate adults in the age group of 15-35 years and above.

With the launching of the Saakshar Bharat on the 8th Sept. 2009, the department of Adult education, Manipur was intimated to begin the implementation of Saakshar Bharat Mission 2012 in four districts of the state in the first phase i.e. Thoubal, Chandel, Tamenglong and Senapati districts where adult female literacy rate is below 50% base on 2001 census of India.

Thus, the department has launched the Saakshar Bharat Mission 2012 by the Hon'ble Minister of Adult Education, Local MLAs, Commissioner (AE) on the 15th January, 2010 at Thoubal district in the state and the same was launched for other three districts viz. Chandel, Senapati and Tamenglong simultaneously.

Survey works of Saakshar Bharat Mission were completed in four districts in the month of May, 2010. And identified 92,994 illiterate women in the age group 15 and above; Tamenglong-11,579, Thoubal-34,299, Chandel- 14,648 and Senapati- 16,737+15,731(15,731 illiterates from Mao-Maram, Paomata, Purul sub-divisions of Senapati district which were excluded in 2001 census but included in the survey of SBM). Consequently, the government of India has finalised at 257 adult education centres, Thoubal- 64 AECs, Chandel-59 AECs, Senapati-78 AECs and Tamenglong- 56 AECs.

Objectives of The Present Study

1. To find out the achievement percentage of the SBM in Tamenglong District.
2. To ascertain the population of female learners who did not achieve the desired levels of literacy.
3. To find out the number of drop-out learners in the programme.
4. To find out the literacy trends of women in the district.

Delimitation of The Study

The present study is confined only to Tamenglong district of Manipur on the implementation of Saakshar Bharat Mission 2012 from 15th January 2010 to 31st March, 2012 (1st phase) on women illiteracy.

Hypotheses

1. Cent percent of the learners had achieved the desired literacy skills (3R's) due to Saakshar Bharat Mission in Tamenglong district.

2. There are no absentees/ drop- outs in all the learners' assessment from all the adult education centres of different blocks of Tamenglong district.
3. There is no significant increase in literacy rate of women in Tamenglong district after Saakshar Bharat Mission.

Methodology and Procedure

Population – For the present study the whole number of illiterate adult women in the age group 15-35 in Tamenglong district has taken as the population of the study. It is ascertained and found out through population survey on illiterate women which is called an existent population. No other sample or a representative proportion of the population has employed under the present study.

Tools – Research Interview Schedule is used as the tool of the present study. Interview is a verbal questioning – a conversation with a purpose in which the interviewer posed questions and the interviewee responded the questions with positive and effective relationship between two counterparts. A series of questions based on unstructured interviews which provided greater flexibilities is thus constructed for the purpose.

Analysis and Interpretation Of Data

The first Learners' Assessment was confined only to the pilot study which is not shown in the present study.

Table -2 Analysis on the achievement of learners based on 6th March (2nd Learners' Assessment) 2011.

Name of Block	No of regd. learners	No of learners appeared	No of absent	Grade A 60%+	Grade B 40%+	Grade C Below 40%	Total achievement Grade A+B	% of achievement A+B	% for improvement
Tamenglong	414	412	2	293	23	96	316	76.69	23.33
Nungba	313	308	5	262	7	39	269	87.33	12.66
Tamei	248	246	2	178	13	55	191	77.64	22.35
Tousem	329	324	5	238	32	54	270	83.33	16.66
Grand total	1304	1290	14	971	75	244	1046	81.08	18.91

Source: Derived from SBM, Tamenglong.

From the given table, it was found that there were 1304 learners registered out of which 1290 appeared the examination. Altogether 1046 were succeeded comprising Grade A and B scoring 81.08%. Meanwhile, 244 learners at 18.91% were placed for improvement.

Table -3 Analysis on the achievement of learners based on 20th August (3rd Learners' Assessment) 2011.

Name of Block	No of regd. learners	No of learners appeared	No of absent	Grade A 60%+	Grade B 40%+	Grade C Below 40%	Total achievement Grade A+B	% of Achievement A+B	% for improvement
Tamenglong	1030	942	88	648	111	183	759	80.57	19.42
Nungba	725	650	75	511	23	116	534	82.15	17.84
Tamei	650	477	12	228	99	138	327	68.55	28.93
Tousem	861	812	49	516	153	143	669	82.38	17.61
Grand total	3093	2869	224	1903	386	580	2289	79.78	20.21

Source: Derived from SBM, Tamenglong.

From the given table, it was found that there were 3093 learners registered out of which 2869 appeared the examination. Altogether 2289 were succeeded comprising Grade A and B scoring 79.78%. Meanwhile, 580 learners at 20.21 % were placed for improving their learning.

Again, from the tables 2 and 3, the numbers of learner absent/drop-outs in the second and third assessment in all the adult education centres namely; Tamenglong =90, Nungba =80, Tamei =14 and Tousem = 54, altogether 238 and comprising 5.72%. Thus, the hypothesis that “*There are no absentees/drop-outs in all the learners' assessment from all the adult education centres of different blocks of Tamenglong district*” is rejected.

Table -4 Analysis on the achievement of learners based on 18th March 2012 (4th/ Final Learners' Assessment 2012).

Name of Block	No of regd. learners	No of learners appeared	No of absent	Grade A 60%+	Grade B 40%+	Grade C Below 40%	Total achievement Grade A+B	% of achievement A+B	% for Improvement.
Tamenglong	4607	4607	0	685	1433	2489	2118	45.97	54.02
Nungba	2965	2965	0	1064	1079	822	2143	72.27	27.72
Tamei	1790	1790	0	766	540	484	1306	72.96	27.03
Tousem	2314	2314	0	510	903	901	1413	61.06	38.93
Grand total	11,676	11,676	0	3025	3955	4696	6980	59.78	40.21

Source: Derived from SBM, Tamenglong

From the given table, it was found that all the 11,676 registered learners appeared the examination. Altogether 6980 were succeeded comprising Grade A and B scoring 59.78% had been the final outcome of

the Saakshar Bharat Mission-2012 in Tamenglong district. Meanwhile, 4696 learners were placed under the need for taking improvement examination forming 40.21%.

Thus, the hypothesis that “Cent percent of the learners had achieved the desired literacy skills (3R’s) due to Saakshar Bharat Mission in Tamenglong District” is rejected since as many as 4696 (40.21) learners have been placed to go for improvement examination.

The block wise achievement percentages could also be observed in order of merit in which Tamei block = 72.96, Nungba block = 72.27, Tousem = 61.06 and Tamenglong block = 45.97 respectively.

Table -5 Trends of women literacy in Tamenglong based on various census of Manipur, India:

Sl. No.	Year of census	Women literacy	Male literacy
1	1991	39.68	59.92
2	2001	49.11	67.04
3	2011	63.76	76.74

Source: Census of India, Directorate of Census Operations, Manipur.

From the above table the last three decades has shown that women literacy rate of Tamenglong in 1991 was 39.68; in 2001 was 49.11 and that of 2011 was 63.76. The decadal growth of literacy during 1991-2001 was 9.43% and that of 2001-2011 was 14.65%. This trend indicates that Saakshar Bharat Mission 2012 has helped in the elevation of women literacy in Tamenglong. It is also found that there exists 20.24% and 17.93% differences between male and female literacy in 1991 and 2001 making a large gender disparity. But, the latest 2011 census of India indicates that the gender gap has been considerably reduced to 12.98%. This has been due to the increase in women literacy which is brought about by SBM in the last two years or so.

Thus, the hypothesis that “There is no significant increase in literacy rate of women in Tamenglong district after Saakshar Bharat Mission- 2012” is also rejected as the literacy rate of women in 2011 census = 63.76% which was as low as 49.11% in 2001.

Findings and Educational Implications

The main findings of the study in respect of Tamenglong districts are:

1. 2001 census of India revealed that Tamenglong has 49.11 % of women literacy.
2. Chief Minister of Manipur launched the State level SBM-2012 on the 15th January, 2010 at Thoubal followed by the launching of the same of Tamenglong district.
3. The Primers such as *Kariw Thanh in Ruangmei, Pabiw Kasan in Liangmai, Karchibe ‘mBy in Zeme and Vahtha in Thadou Kuki* were the basic primers used in SBM-2012 in Tamenglong.

4. Tamenglong has been divided into four blocks viz. Tamenglong block, Nungba block, Tamei block and Tousem block having adult education centres 18,14, 11 and 13 respectively altogether 56 AECs. There were 11,579 illiterate women enrolled learners who were taught by 1147 volunteer teachers who functioned under 112 full time facilitator preraks.
5. Regular monitoring and supervision were carried out four times in every month. This ensured quality performances.
6. Learners' Assessment and certification were done by the NIOS. For this the learners were made to write the examinations in their literacy centres and the papers were sent to NIOS for evaluation.
7. During the 6th March Second Learners' Assessment -2011, there were 1304 registered learners but 1290 appeared the examination. 1046 were declared pass at 81.08% and 244 were placed for improvement examination comprising 18.91%.
8. During the 20th August Third Learners' Assessment -2011, out of 3093 registered learners 2869 took the examination. 2289 were passed at 79.78% and 580 were placed to take improvement examination comprising 20.21%.
9. During the 18th March Fourth/ Final Learners' Assessment-2012, there were 11676 appeared the examination. They comprised of basic literacy, neo-literates drop-outs and school drop-outs. The overall success rate of Tamenglong district stood at 59.78%.
10. The blockwise achievement percentages could also be observed in order of merit in which Tamei block = 72.96, Nungba block = 72.27, Tousem = 61.06 and Tamenglong block = 45.97 respectively.
11. The trend of women literacy in Tamenglong district based on census reports of India of 1991 was 39.68%; 2001 was 49.11% and that of 2011 was 63.76%. There was a decadal growth of 14.65% in 2001-2011 which was a good indicator of Saakshar Bharat Mission-2012.

Conclusion

This study is undertaken to ascertain the impact of adult education programme in Tamenglong District singly focusing on the latest and recently completed adult education programme popularly known as 'Saakshar Bharat Mission-2012'. It is a new variant of National Literacy Mission in which the primary target is to raise women literacy and to narrow the gender disparity in literacy by 1st March 2012.

Saakshar Bharat Mission-2012 has laid its foundation on the concept of adult education. The concept has brought a new hope for adults who could not get opportunity of receiving education during their school years by making changes in various facets of the lives of adults. It is essential that the masses may be trained in various habits to enable them to lead a happier life. Literacy will provide them to liberate from the chains of ignorance. Adult education would bring them in close contact with their community and country's cultural heritage.

The importance of adult education for human resource development is imperative for the economic development as well as for strengthening the bases of democracy. It enabled the participants to do works more effectively things they have to do normally in their day to day life tasks relating to their occupation, personal, home, family and societal life. Adult education has been playing a significant role in social, economic and political development of the country in which we are living.

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