CHAPTER - V
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Study of the various records connected with the execution of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme and perusal of reports connected with that campaign helped to arrive at a few conclusions. With the introduction of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan campaign 43,656 village education committees, 4088 cluster resource centres, 385 block resource centres and 16 urban resource centres came into being according to the reports of the District Information System for Education (DISE). There are 80,593 habitations in all the districts of Tamil Nadu. 80,220 habitations have upper primary schooling facilities within 8 km radius. 338 habitations have children of school going age, 6-14 years but they do not have upper primary schools for them either by the distance norm or the population form.

In the whole of Tamil Nadu there are 36,688 government aided lower primary schools and 13,586 upper primary schools and after their being upgraded the resultant numbers are respectively 36,841 and 13,929 their ratio being 66:25. The expenditure budgeted for the maintenance of these schools over the 8 years between the years 2001-02 to 2008-09 is ₹3821.28 crore with the Government of India meeting ₹2219.10 crore and the Government of Tamil Nadu meeting ₹840.94 crore together a total of ₹3060.04 crore.

A total of 1610 lower primary schools and 4367 upper primary schools were opened between the years 2001-02 and 2007-08. Lower primary schools were not opened in the year 2004-05. The smallest number of schools at both levels was opened in the year 2006-07. The growth rate of lower primary
schools is 256.19 per cent and that of upper primary schools is 2116.75 per cent. A total of 18,866 teachers were appointed to the lower and upper primary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the period between the years 2001-02 and 2006-07 of whom 2800 were posted in lower primary schools and 16,066 in upper primary schools.

Of the total number of 9,842,753 pupils admitted into the elementary schools in all the districts of Tamil Nadu under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan 6,123,687 were in the lower primary classes and 3,719,066 in the upper primary classes. There is an increase of 9.13 per cent in student enrolment in the districts of Tamil Nadu at the lower primary level and 9.87 per cent at the upper primary level.

There is an increase of 9 per cent in student enrolment at the lower primary level in Tamil Nadu during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 consequent on the effective implementation of SSA. However, inter district disparity can be observed in the number of students enrolled. Student enrolment at the lower primary level is the highest in Coimbatore district. Lowest enrolment at the lower primary level is in Dharmapuri district during the period, between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

Student enrolment at the upper primary level is the highest in Tiruvallur district. More than 40 per cent of increase in student enrolment at the upper primary level can be seen in Coimbatore, Madurai, Namakkal and Vellore districts. In Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, the Nilgiris, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts the number has decreased.

Madurai district records the highest level of increase in student enrolment at the elementary school level in the study period. More than 20 per cent
increase in student enrolment at that level can be seen in Coimbatore, Madurai, Namakkal, Tiruvallur and Vellore districts during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08. The highest decline in student enrolment at that level can be seen in Dharmapuri district. It was due to the displacement of labour community to the State of Karnataka in search of their bread and butter.

Student enrolment in elementary schools under SSA in Chennai district during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 shows 5.51 per cent increase. Student enrolment at the lower primary level is higher than at the upper primary level.

The data related to student enrolment in elementary schools under SSA in Coimbatore district during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 show 27.45 per cent increase. Student enrolment at the upper primary level is higher than at the lower primary level.

There is a decline of 3.83 per cent in student enrolment in elementary schools under SSA in Cuddalore district during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08. The decline rate at the upper primary level is less than at the lower primary level.

There is 53.32 per cent decline in student enrolment in the elementary schools in Dharmapuri district during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. At the upper primary level the decline is less than at the lower primary level.

Student enrolment in elementary schools under SSA in Dindigul district during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 records a decline of 1.79 per cent. At the lower primary level student enrolment is 6.48 per cent but from the fifth standard to the eighth standard it has increased. Student enrolment in elementary schools under SSA in Erode district during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 records an increase of 1.86 per cent. Though there is a fall of 6.36 per
cent in enrolment at the lower primary level it is offset by the 17.67 per cent increase at the upper primary level.

Student enrolment under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Kancheepuram District shows 7.83 per cent increase during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. There is more than 10 per cent increase in student enrolment in the third, seventh and eighth standards during the period of study. It could be seen from the study that there is 0.96 per cent increase in student enrolment in elementary schools in Kanyakumari district during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. More than 5 per cent increase in student enrolment is there in the third and fifth standards during the study period.

Student enrolment has increased by just 0.08 per cent in elementary schools in Karur district during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08 though student enrolment records an increase of more than 18.00 per cent in the seventh and eighth standards during the period of study.

There is an increase of 8.99 per cent in student enrolment in elementary schools under SSA in Krishnagiri district during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08. The increase is more than 10 per cent in the third, fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth standards.

There is 62.54 per cent increase in student enrolment in elementary schools under SSA in Madurai district during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. All standards show an increase in enrolment of more than 50 per cent during the study period. There is a decline of 4.06 per cent in student enrolment in elementary schools in Nagapattinam district during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. This is due to large population belongs to labour class. Increasing
trend in student enrolment can be seen in the fifth, sixth and seventh standards during the study period.

The record of student enrolment in elementary schools in Namakkal district is bright as the increase in all is 46.99 per cent during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. There is an increase of more than 60.00 per cent in student enrolment in the sixth, seventh and eighth standards; it is 82.75 per cent during the period.

Student enrolment in the elementary schools of Perambalur district has declined by 0.80 per cent during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. Increasing trend in student enrolment can be seen in the first, sixth, seventh and eighth standards during the study period. There is 1.32 per cent decline in student enrolment in the elementary schools in Pudukkottai district during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. But increase can be seen in enrolment to the eighth standard during the study period. A high level of decline can be seen in the fourth and fifth standards of the schools in that district.

Student enrolment in the elementary schools of Ramnad district records 3.52 per cent increase in between the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. Increase in student enrolment is high in the sixth, and eighth standards during the study period.

Student enrolment in the elementary schools in Salem district shows just 0.33 per cent increase during the study period 2003-04 and 2007-08. There is 9.44, 11.29 and 12.04 per cent increase in student enrolment in the sixth, seventh and eighth standards respectively during the period.

Student enrolment in the elementary schools in Sivagangai district declined in numbers by 2.93 per cent during the period from 2003-04 to 2007-
Though there is a fall in the number of students enrolled at the lower primary level but in the sixth, seventh and eighth standards enrolment increased during the study period. The increase in the number of students enrolled in the elementary schools is less than 1 per cent in Thanjavur district during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. Student enrolment declined in the second and fourth standards but increased in the other standards during the period.

The number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in the Nilgiris district decreased by 5.99 per cent during the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. The highest decrease has been in the first and second standards during the study period. The number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in Theni district decreased by 3.14 per cent during the period in between 2003-04 and 2007-08. The decrease in enrolment seems to be high in the first and second standards during the study period.

The number of students enrolled in the elementary school in Thiruvallur district increased by 27.69 per cent during the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. There has been an all round increase of more than 25 per cent in student enrolment during the period.

The number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in Thiruvarur district decreased by 5.90 per cent during the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. The highest decrease is from the first standard to the fifth standard.

Increase in the number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in Thoothukudi district was less than 1 per cent during the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. There has been increase in enrolment in the sixth, seventh and eighth standards during the period.
Student enrolment in the elementary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan campaign declined by 0.89 per cent in Tiruchirappalli district during the period from 2002-03 to 2007-08. It could be seen that from fifth standard to eighth standard enrolment increased during the period.

The number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in Tirunelveli district increased by 6.27 per cent during the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. There has been an increase in student enrolment all round during the period.

The number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in Tiruvannamalai district recorded a decrease of 3 per cent during the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. It could be seen that enrolment decreased in the first, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh standards during the period.

The number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in Vellore district increased by 57.96 per cent in between the period 2003-04 and 2007-08. There has been an all round increase of more than 45 per cent during the period.

The number of students enrolled in the elementary schools of Villupuram district has decreased by 4.37 per cent during the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08. An increase in student enrolment can be seen in the third and eighth standards during the period.

There has been a decrease of 0.36 per cent in the number of students enrolled in the elementary schools in Virudhunagar district from 2003-04 to 2007-08. The decrease is in the first to the sixth standards but it has increased in the seventh to eighth standards.

The postulated second hypothesis there is significant variation in student enrolment in elementary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan standard wise
and district wise in Tamil Nadu during the period between 2003-04 and 2007-08 can be regarded as valid in the light of the discussions made in the foregoing paragraphs.

There is in general a declining trend in getting out-of-school children into bridge courses under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. But getting out-of-school children into bridge courses under SSA seems to have had better success in Kancheepuram, Madurai, Namakkal, Salem, Trichy, Tiruvallur, Tiruvarur and Vellore districts.

Completion of lower primary level schooling by pupils is more than 95 per cent in Kanyakumari, Chennai and Madurai districts. It is quite low in Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam, Salem, Sivagangai, Theni, Tiruvarur and Vellore districts. Completion rate of lower primary level schooling is high in Chennai, Dharmapuri, Sivagangai, Coimbatore, Kancheepuram, Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam, Ramnad, Tiruvarur and Virudhunagar districts.

Completion Rate at the upper primary level is more than 95 per cent in Chennai and Trichy districts. In general the completion rate at the upper primary level is quite low in Sivagangai, Theni, Thiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Vellore, Krishnagiri and Karur districts. But increase in the completion rate at the upper primary level can be seen in Tirunelveli, Kancheepuram and Salem districts.

There is more than 80 per cent decline in repetition rate at the lower primary level in Chennai, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Pudukkottai, the Nilgiris, Tiruvallur and Tiruvannamalai districts during the period from 2002-03 to 2007-08 because of the effective implementation of SSA scheme.

There is 64 per cent decline in repetition rate at the upper primary level at the state level during the period from 2003-03 to 2007-08. A more than 70 per
cent decline in repetition rate at the upper primary level education can be seen in Chennai, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Kancheepuram, Ramanad, the Nilgiris, Trichy, Thirunelveli and Tiruvallur districts in between the period 2002-03 and 2007-08 because of the effective implementation of SSA scheme.

There is about 88 per cent decline in school dropouts at the primary level in Tamil Nadu during the period from 2002-03 to 2007-08 consequent on the effective implementation of the SSA. In general school dropouts at the lower primary level is quite low in Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Kanyakumari, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Ramanad, Trichy, Thirunelveli and Tiruvarur districts. However, the declining trend in school dropouts at the lower primary level is very encouraging in Chennai, Cuddalore t, Erode, Kancheepuram, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Thirunelveli, Tiruvarur, Vellore and Virudhunagar districts.

District wise dropout rate at the upper primary level shows that the declining trend in school dropouts is about 84 per cent. in Tamil Nadu during the period from 2002-03 to 2007-08 consequent on the effective implementation of the SSA. In general the school dropout at the upper primary level is quite low in Ramanad, Trichy, Chennai, Kanyakumari and Kancheepuram districts. The marked declining trend in the rate of school dropouts at the upper primary level is quite impressive in Thirunelveli, Ramnad and Kancheepuram districts; they record more than 90 per cent fall in school dropouts rates.

There is significant increase in transition from V to VI standard elementary schools in Tamil Nadu because of the effective implementation of SSA. It is quite impressive in Theni, Trichy, Tiruvarur and Vellore districts.
More than 10 per cent growth in the rate of attendance at the lower primary level can be noticed in Chennai, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvalluvar, Tiruvarur and Vellore districts consequent on the effective implementation of SSA. Though schools in some districts had attendance rate below 90 per cent at the lower primary level in 2002-03, the position improved in 2007-08.

There is a growth of more than 10 per cent in the attendance rate at the upper primary level in Chennai, Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Karur, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Theni, Trichy, Tiruvalluvar, Tiruvarur and Vellore districts. Schools in districts such as Chennai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Theni, Trichy, Thirunelveli, Tiruvarur and Vellore recorded attendance 90 per cent at the upper primary level in 2002-03. However, their attendance rate improved in 2007-08.

The postulated third hypothesis 'There is significant inter district disparity in pupil teacher ratio, repetition rate, dropouts rate, transition rate and attendance rate under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the period between 2002-03 and 2007-08 can be regarded as valid in the light of the discussion in the foregoing paragraphs.

There seems to be an increase of more than 100 per cent in the number of lower primary schools benefited by maintenance grants as it could be seen from data related to Chennai, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri, Theni, the Nilgiris, Tiruvannamalai and Thoothukudi districts presented in Table - 54. The number of lower primary schools receiving school maintenance grant is low in Pudukkottai, Sivagangai and Thanjavur districts.

There is more than 120 per cent annual increase in the number of upper primary schools benefited by school maintenance grants data relating to
Dharmapuri, Karur, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Salem, Thanjavur, Theni, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Vellore districts testify (vide Table-55).

There seems to be more than 150 per cent annual increase in number of schools benefited by various grants in Chennai, Thanjavur, Ramanad, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi and Virudunagar districts.

The number of upper primary schools benefited by various grants increase 150 per cent annually as evidenced by data relating to Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigal, Erode, Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam, Ramanad, Salem, Theni, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Vellore and Virudunagar districts (vide Table-57). It is clear the the progressive implementation of the SSA has led to increase in the number of schools receiving various grants during the period 2002-03 to 2008-09.

Hence the postulated fourth hypothesis, that there is significant inter district disparity in the receipt and utilization of school maintenance grants and various other grants made under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the period between 2002-03 and 2007-08 is held valid. The entire discussion will show that the postulated first hypothesis "There is significant improvement in the educational scenario consequent on the implementation or the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan campaign in Tamil Nadu is valid".

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will be more effective and the enrolment of children will be increased at the elementary level in all the districts of Tamil Nadu without disparity, the drop outs will be prevented and the retention ratio will be increased, if the funds allocated by the central and State Goverments would be properly utilized without misappropriation and for the purpose to which it has been sanctioned.
The end result of primary education is "Functional Literacy" and "Effective Permanent Literacy". Thus primary education result in an economically productive input. Primary education also results in changes in attitudes which are relevant from the economic point of view. To achieve the economic growth, which leads to globalization, effective permanent literacy is being achieved by the effective implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.