ABSTRACT

Education has the power to eradicate all evils from society. It is our constant Endeavour to reach out to as many children as we can and not only to provide them with a loving home but also good quality education that enables them to become contributing members of the society.

The most significant development, however, was that Article 21-A, inserted in the Constitution of India through the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 to make elementary education a fundamental right, and its consequential legislation, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, became operative on 1st April 2010. This development has far reaching implications for elementary education in the years to come: it implies that every child has a right to elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. The RTE Act incorporates the principles of child centered education spelt out in the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986/92 and elaborated in the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005; these have now become part of educational legislation.

Government has since revised the Framework of Implementation for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to correspond with the provisions of the RTE Act, as also the fund sharing pattern between the Central and State Governments to provide for a more favorable sharing ratio for the States. The Government has also accorded approval to a financial estimate of Rs 2.31 lakh crore for the implementation of the RTE Act over a period of five years for the period 2010-15.

The 13th Finance Commission earmarked a sum of Rs 23,068 crore for the same period specifically towards elementary education. Notification of teacher qualifications under section 23 of the RTE Act and the prescription of a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) were other significant developments pursuant to the RTE Act becoming operative in the country. Several initiatives were also taken in the States to support the RTE Act, including that: (a) 20 States notified the RTE Rules, (b) 31 States issued notifications prohibiting corporal punishment and mental harassment; (c) 25 States issued notifications prohibiting screening for admission and capitation fees; (d) 31 States issued notifications prohibiting expulsion and detention; (e) 30 States issued notification banning Board examinations till completion of elementary education; (e)
27 States notified academic authority under RTE Act. Several States have also initiated steps to conduct the TET.

These policy initiatives have contributed to a new vibrancy, meaning and urgency in the country’s efforts to universalize elementary education, and are expected to infuse new life in the schooling system in the years to come.

Government is taking many measures to improve the quality of education to remove poverty and illiteracy. Minority education commission is formed to develop minority people, provision of scholarships for minorities and 4% reservation for Muslims for achieving higher education. As state has been bifurcated on June 2nd, 2014, Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh. Now proposal is there for 12% of reservation for Muslims to achieve higher studies and uplift of Muslim minorities.