GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Concept is an organising idea which serves to pick out certain features in an object of thought and distinguishes it from other objects. To conceptualise is therefore fundamental to thinking at all, and we all begin its operation in early infancy. Kant famously wrote ‘no percept without concepts’ by which he meant quite literally that we cannot see things without an organising idea to tell us what to see. Elementary education, that is, class’s I–VIII consisting of primary (I–V) and upper primary (VI–VIII) is the foundation of the pyramid in the education system and has received a major push in the Tenth Plan through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

This section presents operational definition of various concepts used in the study.

Access: Means liberty to enter and at the same time ability to enter. Access is a physical approach and to provide access for all children to elementary education according to the National Norms or where not possible to provide alternative schools of teaching learning of comparable level.

Active Learning: A process whereby learners are actively engaged in the learning process, rather than passively absorbing lectures. Active learning involves reading, writing, discussion, and engagement in solving problems, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. It often involves cooperative learning.

Basic Learning Needs: Basic Learning Needs comprise both essential learning tools (such as literacy, oral expression, numeracy, problem solving etc.) and the basic learning content (such as the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, etc.) required by human beings to survive, to develop their full capacities, to live and work in dignity, to participate fully in development, to improve the quality of their lives, to make informed decisions and to continue learning.

Bilingual Education: Education where two distinct languages are used for general teaching.

Clan: it is a social division composed of unilineal descent groups, which are united by known links to common ancestor. It is usually exogamous and regulates marriage alliances.

Drop out: A dropout is the pupil who leaves school before the completion of a given stage of education.

Education for All (EFA): EFA is the provision of basic education in the sense of expanded vision proclaimed in the World Declaration on Education for All adopted by the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs.
Enrolment: Enrolment is the number of students registered on the rolls of an educational institution on a specific point of time. In the Indian context, the enrolment refers to the number of children enrolled as on 30th September of the academic session.

Ethnic Group: a group with a common cultural tradition and a sense of separate identity from the other groups with whom they interact or coexist in terms of some distinct criteria which may be linguistic, biological or cultural.

Equity: Equity means equitable access to and participation in all management and program functions regardless of special characteristics including but not limited to gender, race, colour, national origin, disability and age.

Gender Equality: Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities.

Gross Enrolment: Gross Enrolment is the total enrolment of pupils in a grade or cycle or level of education, regardless of age, in a given school year.

Gender Parity: Equal numbers of boys and girls enrolled.

Literacy: It is the ability to read and write which makes a person literate.

Net Enrolment: Net Enrolment is the number of pupils in the official school age-group in a grade or cycle or level of education in a given school year.

Out-of-School Children: Out-of-school children are those children in the official school age group who are not enrolled in schools. These comprise dropouts and never enrolled children or leaving at some intermediate or non-terminal point in a cycle of schooling.

School Mapping: School mapping is an exercise which is undertaken normally after a survey of all existing facilities, like school building (i.e. availability of classrooms, laboratories, lavatories, drinking water facilities etc.) library, library books, teachers, equipment, consumable stores, availability of schools in habitations/villages, etc. so that the deficiencies are pinpointed for taking corrective measures.

Shifting Cultivation: A type of agricultural practice found in forest clad and hill regions. A patch of forest land is cleared by slash and burn method for cultivation of mixed crops under broadcasting and hoe method. The practice of cultivation in the same plot continues for two to four years till the loss of fertility. The patch is left for regeneration of forest and a new patch of forest is selected for cultivation.

Stagnation: The retention of a child in a class for a period of more than one year.

Upper Primary Education: Upper primary education comprises three years duration and usually starts at the age of 11 years (though in some states it starts at the age of 10 years) and
continues up to the 13th year of the child. At this stage, education generally continues the basic programs of primary school level, though teaching is more subject-focused.

**Wastage**: The premature withdrawal of children from school at any stage before the completion of primary course. Educational wastage is the incidence in a country’s education, of dropout and repetition taken together.