



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN TRIPURA (2005 – 2015)

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ABSTRACT: Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 is a Constitutional commitment in India. Significant efforts have been made in our country to universalize elementary education. The current paper examines the status of elementary education with respect to quantitative and qualitative achievements. In this study the presented data were collected from different publication of Central Government and from the State Government department and agencies. The findings clearly show that there are significant growth noticed with respect to number of schools, number of students' enrolment and employment of teachers at the elementary level of school education in the state of Tripura. Significant efforts have been made by the state government in the last twenty years to improve the condition and system of elementary education. It is also noticed that impressive progress has been made in every sphere of elementary education in the State.

1. Introduction

Tripura has a long history of organized school education system. Tripura was a princely ruled state prior to 1949. Tripura was merged with India on 9th September, 1949 and the administration was taken over on 15th October, 1949. Tripura became a Union Territory on 1st July, 1963 and attained the status of a full-fledged State on 21st January, 1972. As per Bengal Administration Report (1874-75) the prospect of education in Tripura was far from bright and very little attention was paid to its improvement up to that period. Up to the year 1889-90 mismanagement in the area of school education continued. In 1890-91 some arrangements for betterment of school education was made by the rulers. It is to be mentioned here that education in all levels had been free in Tripura up to 1915-16. A remarkable step have been taken by the state administration in 1931-32 by introducing compulsory primary education in the State capital, Agartala, under the State Act 2 of 1932. In the year 1907-08 there were 137 primary schools in the State with 4011 number of students. In 1926-27 there were 139 primary schools with 4215 number of primary schools. During the year 1943-45 the number of primary schools was recorded as 123 and the number of students was 5115. In the year 1949 the number of primary schools was 379 and number of senior basic schools was 35. Number of students was 13762 in primary schools and 2910 in senior basic schools. In 1949 there were 391 teachers in primary schools and 122 in senior basic schools. During the year 1972, the year of achievement of Statehood, the number of primary schools rose to 1643 and the number of senior basic schools rose to 339. During the same year the number of students in primary schools was 172895 and 41427 in senior basic schools. In the same year the number of teachers in primary schools was 4727 and number of teachers in senior basic schools was 2070.

2. Methodology

The present study is an attempt to trace the status of elementary education in Tripura. In this study, secondary data has been taken into consideration. The data has been collected from State Elementary

Education Report Card: 2002, 2005, 2010, and 2015 and the Statistical Abstracts published by the Directorate of Statistics, Government of Tripura.

3. Result and Discussion

It is observed that there was a flow of impressive progress in the area of elementary education in the state of Tripura from the attainment of Statehood. After 10 years of the attainment of Statehood, in the year 1982, there were 1792 primary schools and 294 senior basic schools with 325504 students at primary level and 70010 students at senior basic school level. In the same year there were 5442 teachers working at primary level and 3002 teachers working at senior secondary level. In 1992 the number of primary schools increased to 2067 and the number of senior basic schools rose to 427. In the same year the number of students was noticed as 394931 in primary schools and 131995 in the senior basic schools. During the same period there were 10703 teachers in primary schools and 4657 teachers in senior basic schools. In the year 2000 more progress was noticed in the area of elementary education in the state of Tripura. During that year there were 2068 primary schools and 421 senior basic schools in the state. In the same year there were 470171 students in primary schools and 154365 students in senior basic schools. The number of teachers in primary schools and senior basic schools was 10340 and 881 respectively in the year 2000.

Over a period of time, the number of elementary level schools, number of students' enrolment and number of teacher at the same level of school education has increased significantly. Table-1 traces the trend of growth of schools at elementary level for a period of 10 years. In the year 2004 the number of schools at elementary level was 3143. In the year 2006 there were 3679 schools in the state at the elementary level of school education. During next five year 838 new schools was either established or upgraded. In the year 2015 the number of elementary schools was increased to 4818.

Table: 1
Number of Schools at Elementary Level

	2006	2011	2015
Primary only	1998	2317	2569
Primary with Upper Primary	1007	1294	1842
Primary with Upper Primary & Sec/Higher	602	816	328
Upper Primary only	NIL	1	1
Upper Primary with Secondary/Higher Sec.	72	75	78
TOTAL	3679	4503	4818

Source: State Elementary Education Report Card: 2002, 2005, 2010, 2015

Table-2 shows the trend of students' enrolment at the elementary level of school education in Tripura from 2006 to 2015. It may be observed that there are ups and downs in the number of students' enrolment during this period. In the year 2004 there were 641201 students in the elementary level. In 2006 the number of students' enrolment increased to 697525. But in 2011 there was a slight decrease in the number of students' enrolment in elementary sections of school education in Tripura. In the year 2011 the number of students' enrolment in elementary stage was 603580. There is a further decrease in the number of students' enrolment in elementary sections may be observed in the year 2015. In 2015 the total number of students' enrolment in elementary sections of school education of Tripura was 577215. In order to assess the pattern of growth in enrolment in elementary sections of school education across the districts of Tripura it is observed that most of the districts have shown positive growth in enrolment. But two districts namely Dhalai district and Unakoti district shows negative growth in enrolment of students' in elementary sections.

Table: 2
Total Enrolment at Elementary Level

	2006	2011	2015
Primary only	1,63,489	117642	124002
Primary with Upper Primary	2,17,000	178177	293978
Primary with Upper Primary & Sec/Higher	3,01,590	293995	146561

Upper Primary only	NIL	172	176
Upper Primary with Secondary/Higher Sec.	15,446	13594	12498
TOTAL	6,97,525	603580	577215

Source: State Elementary Education Report Card: 2002, 2005, 2010, 2015

Among the factors influencing the quality of education, numbers of sufficient and quality teachers' are undoubtedly most significant. Teachers occupy a vital place in the education system and contribute a lot for the development of the education process. Table-3 indicates number of teachers in elementary sections of schools in Tripura in different years starting from 2006 to 2015. In 2004 there were 27371 teachers working in the elementary sections of the schools of Tripura. In the year 2006 the number of teachers in elementary sections increased to 31013. Total number of teachers in elementary schools of Tripura shows an increasing trend over the years. In 2011 there were 32162 teachers in the elementary sections in schools of Tripura. A significant growth in numbers of teacher in elementary sections noticed during the next five years. In the year 2015 the number of teachers working in elementary sections was 46593.

Table: 3
Number of Teachers at Elementary Level

	2006	2011	2015
Primary only	7809	8385	10073
Primary with Upper Primary	8322	11675	21526
Primary with Upper Primary & Sec/Higher	13794	11511	13157
Upper Primary only	NIL	18	13
Upper Primary with Secondary/Higher Sec.	1088	573	1824
TOTAL	31013	32162	46593

Source: State Elementary Education Report Card: 2002, 2005, 2010, 2015

In the area of educational development dropout rate is considered as a negative indicator. It projects the inefficiency of the education system and weakness of teaching-learning environment. But table-4 indicates a positive trend in case of dropout rate in elementary classes of schools in Tripura. It is clear from the said table that the dropout rates in the area of elementary education exhibit a decreasing trend over the years. In 1976 the dropout rate at the elementary level was 80.25 percent. In the year 1986 the dropout rate at the same level decreased to 71.19 percent. Unfortunately the rate increased to 75.59 in 1996. In the year 2006 the dropout rate decreases to 21.42 percent. In 2011 there was a significant development with a lower rate of dropout (9.06 percent). In the year 2013 the dropout rate at the elementary level of school education in Tripura was just 7.03. It indicates a significant development in the area of elementary school education in Tripura. In the year 2015 the dropout rate in the elementary sections of school education of the state of Tripura was recorded as 1.62 percent only.

Table: 4
Dropout rate at Elementary Level

	1976	1986	1996	2006	2011	2013	2015
Boys	79.7	71.10	74.94	21.86	9.62	7.67	1.81
Girls	80.8	71.30	76.36	20.96	8.46	6.40	1.43
Total	80.25	71.19	75.59	21.42	9.06	7.03	1.62

Source: Statistical Abstract of Tripura 2010 and Economic Review of Tripura 2016-17

As per UDISE (2019-20) data and report of the Government of Tripura there are 2562 Junior Basic Schools and 1241 Senior Basic Schools in Tripura in the year 2019-20. During the same year there are 33806 students in Pre-Primary schools, 328590 students in Primary Schools and 191817 students in Upper Primary sections. In the year 2019-20 there are 22045 teachers in Primary schools and 10926 teachers in Upper Primary sections of the schools of Tripura.

4. Conclusion

Based on the discussion and analysis presented above on different component of elementary school education in Tripura one gets the impression that the elementary education of the state progressed rapidly though it has certain areas of concern. A few schools still do not have all kind of teaching-learning facilities. The number of teachers over the time improved significantly but still there are schools that do not have adequate number of teachers. Therefore, there is a need to take necessary steps to ensure good quality education at the elementary level. The state government needs to provide all facilities to the schools to ensure the expansion of quality education throughout the state.

References:

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