Critical Review of Rashtriyamadhyamikshikshaabhiyan [RMSA]

Dr Ali Imam,
Integral University and Akansha Kapoor PhD Scholar
Corresponding Author: Dr Ali Imam,

Abstract: RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA) is one of the initiatives of Government of India to achieve the goal of universalisation of secondary education (USE) by 2017. This scheme is to provide access to secondary education all over the country with good infrastructure. The scheme envisages provision of: Infrastructure and resources in secondary education to create higher capacity and improvement in the quality of learning in the schools filling the missing gaps in the existing secondary schools system Additional support for education of girls, rural children and students belonging to SC/ST, minority and other weaker sections of the society. A holistic convergent framework for implementation of various schemes in secondary education.

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I. INTRODUCTION

RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, for the development of secondary education in public schools throughout India. It was launched in March 2009.The vision for secondary education is to make good quality education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14-18 years with this vision in mind and the following is to be achieved: Provide a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation - this should be five kilometres for secondary schools and 7-10 kilometres for higher secondary schools ensure universal access of secondary education by 2017 (GER of 100%) Universal retention by 2020 Provide access to secondary education with special reference to economically weaker sections of the society, educationally backward girls and disabled children residing in rural areas and other marginalized categories like SC, ST, OBC and Educationally Backward Minorities (EBM).

II. NEED FOR RMSA

As central government of India was able to find out the hard core realities of elementary education conditions in India through its programme called SarvashikshanaAbhiyan and was able to monitor the quality of elementary education, the idea of RMSA was born. The Government had thought of making good quality secondary education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14–18 years. In order to meet the goal of Universalization of Secondary Education (USE), there was a need for a paradigm shift in the conceptual design of secondary education. The guiding principles in this regard are Universal Access, Equality and Social Justice, Relevance and Development of Curricular and Structural Aspects. In order to achieve Universalisation of Secondary Education, the concept ofofRashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA) has been evolved. Through RMSA the Government of India has made a commitment to expand and improve secondary education in the country. Need for RMSA emerges from the loopholes of universalisation of secondary education system, such as disparity in schooling facilities in various regions of the country also, the disparities among various categories of schools must be reduced (CABE Report, 2005). Owing to the cultural shift and real time quality of secondary schooling as recommended by the MHRD report, RMSA came into existence.

III. OBJECTIVES OF RMSA

RMSA is sponsored by central government in order to achieve Universalization of secondary education and also to improve its quality.
It was announced in the year 2017 by Prime minister of India. It will be included in the
11th five year Plan. RMSA scheme prime objectives are:
* Infrastructure and resources for capacity building at secondary schools.
* To supplement the gaps existing in secondary school system
* Supportingeducation of girls, rural children, SC/ST students, minority, marginalized and other backward classes of society

- To bring out framework for effective implementation of other schemes in secondary schooling system
- To Provide a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation –like a secondary schools within 5 km distance and higher secondary school within 7 to 10 km
- Universalization of secondary education by 2017
- Universal retention by 2020
- Provide access to secondary education to economically weaker sections of thesociety, educationally backward girls, and disabled children residing in rural areas
- Provide access to secondary education to marginalized categories like SC, ST, OBC and Educationally Backward Minorities

RMSA sub objectives:
- To ensurephysical facilities, staff, and other requirements as per the prescribed standards through financial support toall secondary schools (Government/Local Body and Government aided).
- To ensure appropriate regulatory mechanism.
- Improve access to secondary schools for all young people according to norms through proximatelocation, efficient and safe transport arrangements, residential facilities based on need including openschooling. However in hilly and difficult areas, these norms can be relaxed and residential schools maybe set up in underserved areas.
- To Ensure that no child is deprived of secondary education of satisfactory quality due to gender, socioeconomic,disability and other barrier
- To enhance intellectual, social and cultural learning at secondary school stage.
- To ensure quality education to all students at secondary schools

IV. CRITICAL REVIEW OF RMSA

In this article researcher had identified the critical review areas to be considered in order to control its quality and implementation. They are
- Causes of absent
- Reason behind private tuitions
- Lack of infrastructural facility such as Library, girls rest room, Science laboratory materials, Art labs
- Drawback of present secondary education
- Remedial measures of secondary education
- Lack of social awareness
- Role of Mid-day Meal

As researcher explored the data, it was found that, many secondary schools (including Government/Local Body and Government aided) yet lack in physical facilities or infrastructure
- They do not have required no of teaching staff
- Teacher pupil ration is not properly monitored
- There is a Lack of infrastructural facility such as Library, girls rest room, Science laboratory materials, Art labs
- Financial support from the government has not been productively utilized.
- There is no appropriate regulatory mechanism to follow up the funds released and the output
- There is need for safe transport arrangements.
- Many of the hilly and difficult areas yet do not have secondary schools built
- There is a lack of residential schools as per the survey.
- Quality of education varies among rural, urban and city schools.

V. CONCLUSION

This article is based on the data collected by the researcher by personally visiting the secondary schools. The scholar had interviewed some of the secondary school principal and teachers to understand the RMSA implementation. The scholar finds that, there are a lot of issues at the ground level to implement RMSA. These issues vary from attitude of the teachers and principal towards RMSA to inappropriate use of funds. Infrastructure in terms of both men and material is yet not in place. Reaching out to the needy is still a concern and achieving USE is still a distant dream.

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