

# **Programme and Policy of Gujarat State for Effective Primary Education**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Primary education is the backbone of the comprehensive development of a country. Stage between pre-primary and secondary education is known as primary education. The ultimate goal of primary education shall be called achieved when all eligible and able children between 6 to 14 years not only get enrolled to class 1<sup>st</sup> but they essentially complete class 7<sup>th</sup> in without dropping on in middle of the education. But even after 58 years of independence we have not gained success in the field of primary Education. Gujarat government has undertaken the efforts well in time and in last 8 years it has adopted various glorious steps to see Primary Education dream of success in own state.

To take measures to check the rate of dropouts and to increase enrolment Gujarat Government has initiated with a number of Programmes, which have shown very good outcome. The 'School Entrance Celebration' and 'Girls Education Rathayatra' programmes help to increase in literacy rate and the enrolment rate in Gujarat. Vidyalaxmi bond scheme has helped in retention and less dropout of girls. Construction of classrooms has helped in increase of quality education. The computer education programme has resulted into bringing the modern technology in school with equal participated of the society. The programme of building sanitary complexes has decreased the rate of girl's dropout in a large ratio. Such many other schemes have shown extremely encouraging results.

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## **Introduction**

Primary education is the backbone of the comprehensive development of a country. What do we mean by primary education? 'Stage between pre-primary and secondary education is known as primary education. It is thus called because, for majority of the people, it is of prime importance and the basic requirement of education'. As it is in 1882 the Hunter commission suggested resulted primary education in to the concept of people's education. Realizing the worth of primary education the Indian constitution has made primary education compulsory and free for the age group 6 to 14, by article 45. When Indian constitution was adopted in 1950, it was resolved that by 1960 the goal of primary education to all children between 6-14 years must be achieved. But till date it has never happened. UNESCO had noted, 'The percentage of the Indian population who are literate has gradually increased from 27.8% in 1961 to 54.3% in 1996, but a large part of the Indian population is still illiterate. According to UNESCO figures for 1995, the number of illiterates stood at 265 million, corresponding to 48% of the adult (age 15 and older) population'. The ultimate goal of primary education shall be called achieved when all eligible and able children between 6 to 14 years not only get enrolled to class 1<sup>st</sup> but they essentially complete class 7<sup>th</sup> in without dropping on in middle of the education.

Primary education is made compulsory and free for children. These children are segregated in the different groups to achieve success such as: urban and rural, backward area, tribal area further grouped into boys & girls. The enrolment of students in tribal area was only 12.4% in 1961 in the state of Gujarat. In India in year 1965-66 the literacy ratio between boys and girls was 90% & 47.6% respectively. The literacy ratio between urban

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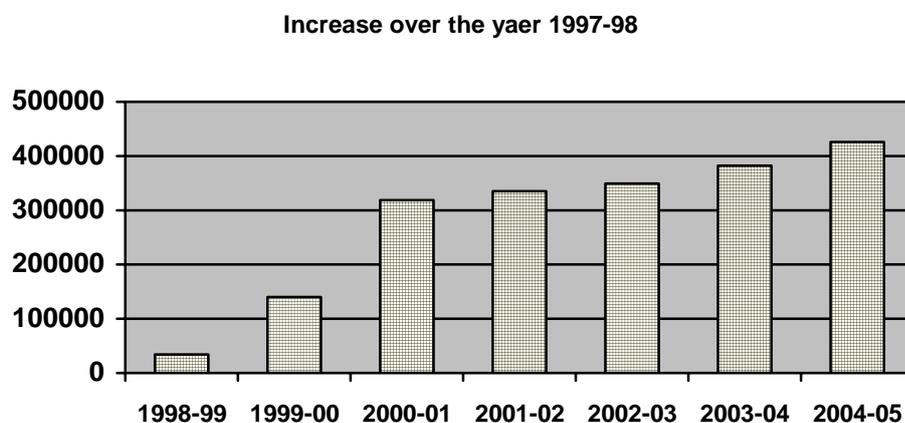
and rural area was 80.06 & 59.21 in 2001 in India. According to official statistics collected From census and national sample surveys, the literacy rates among scheduled castes and tribes are significantly lower than for the rest population – 37% for scheduled castes and 30% for scheduled tribes. Enrolment figures for primary education are also lower for these groups than for the rest of the population. There has been a caste gap of 10 – 20 % and a tribe gap of 15 – 20%.

This depicts that even after 58 years of independence we have not gained success in the field of primary Education. However each State Governments can turn the picture into bright colours. Gujarat government has understood it well in time in last 8 years it has under taken various glorious steps to see Primary Education dream of success in own state. To take measures to check the rate of drop outs and to increase enrolment Gujarat Government has involve a number of professionals, social workers, educationalist, sociologist and expert, and has come out with a number of schemes which have helped in resulting into encouraging results.

**School Entrance celebration Programme:**

To encourage 100 % enrolment of an eligible child to the school this unique scheme has been introduced. The school staff goes house to house and felicitate child with kumkum & sweet. The child brought to the school in decorated camel or bullock cart, tractor or other vehicle. There after the child enters in the school. The whole atmosphere becomes a celebration.

Chart: 1  
Results of School Entrance Celebration



“In many countries, school enrolment is a monotonous or perhaps a dull process. But in Niloshi village of Gujarat this year, it was quite the opposite. To the sound of traditional music and drumming, about 30 children, all under 6 years, were registered as first-graders and received their textbooks. ... Navsu Bhoya, mother of five-year-old Manisha, said: ‘without the ‘Shala Pravesh Utsav’ [enrolment drive], I would not have known that it was time for Manisha to join school. I always thought she was too small and could wait for a couple more years”, Say the website of UNISEF.

### **Girls Education Rathyatra**

Gujarat state holds 15<sup>th</sup> place in the country for literacy rate, and 21<sup>st</sup> place for female literacy in 2001. Hence the state Government has introduced girl’s education Rathyatra with an intention of putting the state amongst the first few in the literacy rate and to improve the female literacy rate in villages having less than 35% female literacy rate to achieve 100% enrolment of girls in std. 1<sup>st</sup>. The main aim of Girl’s RathYatra is that, all children eligible for enrolment, especially girls, were enrolled in Primary schools, and those children who had left the schools those re-enrolled.

This scheme concentrated in 2002 at the places, which had less than 20% female literacy rate, and in 2005 less than 35% female literacy rate. This celebration of Rathyatra goes on three days to bring awareness in parents and girl students. With a view to render social service in active manner to the Girls’ Education and School Entrance Celebration Chif Minister and other ministers, District collectors, District Development Officers, I.A.S., I.P.S. officers, officers of Secretariat, officers of the education Department and other departments moved from one village to another. Local MP and MLA and also various officers of taluka and district level, joined Girls’ Education Rathyatra programme and had sincerely contributed to the efforts of the state government to raise the female literacy level to the highest point.

Table: 1

Enrollment during ‘Girls’ Education Rathyatra

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
2003-04	81715	75847	157562
2004-05	108834	103616	212450
2005-06	118728	116357	235085

During Girls’ Education Rathyatra the villagers were given information and understanding of various schemes and projects of the state government. The questions and problems

raised by them were heard and solved immediately. This had a very positive impact at the village level.

### **The Vidyalaxmi Bond Scheme**

The scheme is launched to provide monetary benefit along with education in the areas identified in Girls' Education Rathyatra. This scheme helps to achieve 100% enrolment of girls in Std.1<sup>st</sup>, and the newly enrolled girls should continue studies up to Std.7<sup>th</sup>.

Table: 2

Dropout rate in Gujarat

Year	Drop out Rate in %	
	Boys	Girls
1991	44.63	53.41
1993	41.74	50.19
1995	34.94	41.10
1997	32.72	39.74
2005	8.72	11.77

The above table shows that the girls are major dropouts in comparison to boys. To hold this problem every girl enrolls fresh in Std.1<sup>st</sup> she has given a Bond of Rs.1000. The girl gets the value of the Bond plus interest when she passes Std.7<sup>th</sup>.

To make the scheme successful voluntary organizations, cooperative societies, cooperative Banks and donors have come forward and became partners to make the Vidyalaxmi Scheme successful.

The table:3 shows the number of Beneficiary Girls who were thus motivated with these Bonds and received donation during the year 2002-03 to 2004-05

Table: 3

Received donation and Benefited Girls in respective year.

Year	Donation	Beneficiary Girls
2002-03	Rs.163.47 lacs	1,10,829
2003-04	Rs.56.21 lacs	1,54,457
2004-05	Rs.35.98 lacs	1,30,000

In the budget of the year 2005-06 the provision of vidyalaxmi Bonds worth Rs. 15 crores for 1,50,000 girls have been made. Out of the scheme amount bonds have been distributed during kanya Kelavani Yatra itself.

### **Vidyadeep Scheme**

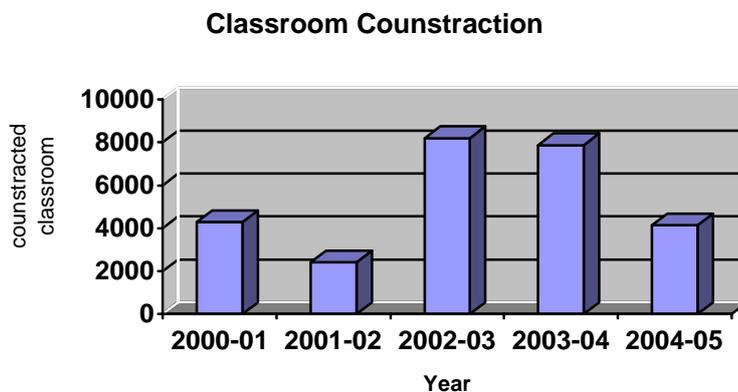
Gujarat state suffered a devastating earthquake on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2001. This took a very large toll of both children and teachers. The state government has implemented the Vidyadeep scheme in memory of the children who were victims of the devastating earthquake. The aim and object of the State Government in introducing the scheme is to satisfy its social duty towards the parents and guardians in their distress due to accidental death of their school going children. This scheme provides 24-hour insurance cover to each of the 85-lac students in all primary school. In case of accidental death of a student studying in primary school, the guardian is given Rs.25000. the entire premium for the Vidyadeep insurance scheme is being paid by the sate government. So far, the guardian of 943 children has already been paid an insurance amount of Rs. 302.50 lacs.

### **Construction of Classrooms**

The state government has in principle accosted requirement of one classroom per teacher, and has accordingly taken up the construction of deficit classrooms in all the primary schools in the state. The construction of classrooms of primary Schools was extreme slow during the years 1992-93 to 1996-97 and only 6597 classrooms were constructed. Government decided to replace the traditional method of construction of classroom by pre-fabricated method of construction.

Chart: 2

Number of classrooms constructed during 2000-01 to 2004-05



The decision has been taken to construct 6033 classrooms in the year 2005-06

### **Construction of School Sanitary Complexes**

The drop out rate for girls was high in std. 5 to 7. Investigation taken up to solve the situation revealed that upper level primary school did not provide separate urinals and lavatories for boys and girls. This has resulted in a higher drop out rate for girls in the upper standards. Under the school sanitation programme, the State Government has 22080 units has already been completed.

### **School Health Checkup Programme**

Gujarat State has achieved the pride of place in being the first in the country to introduce the special School Health Check up Programme. Medical officers conduct health check ups on all school going children. All the children are made aware of his/her health through health education. Minor ailments of such children are treated in the school itself. Those children who require further treatment are referred to the nearest center where they are examined and treated by specialists. Spectacles are provided free of cost to all children who require them. The children, who suffer from heart, kidney problems and from cancer, are sent to Super Specialty Hospitals.

Table: 5

A glance at Services Provided in Health Checkup Programme

Year	Total No. Of children	No. Of children Examined	No. Of children given treatment on the spot	No. Of children given specialist treatment
2003	8874693	8375014	1453584	47344
2004	9184141	8767421	1338266	46499
2005	8893351	8484393	1616152	74850

Table: 6

Specialist Treatment

Year	Child Specialists	Eye Specialists	Dentists Specialists	Skin Specialists	ENT Specialists
2003	9332	20234	8186	3591	4283
2004	11139	21142	5737	3651	3669
2005	17679	32304	10336	4872	6245

Table: 7

## Treatment by Supper Specialists

Year	Heart	Kidney	Cancer
2003	1258	71	10
2004	821	39	09
2005	186	15	06

Cases of complicated heart problems are sent to apex hospitals outside the state for the treatment. The expenses of the treatment at such outside hospitals are met from the Hon. Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

**Computer Education Scheme in Primary Education**

With a view to provide computer education in primary schools in the state, the state Government has implemented a programme of donating one computer to those primary schools having 5 to 7 standards, which have electricity, appropriate furniture, and teachers of the school having computer training and one or more computers are donated to the schools by other donors. In the year 2004-05 about 1000 computers were provided to such schools against computers received from other donors. The government made a provision of about Rest 400 lacs for the year 2005-06 under computer donation scheme. In the month of December-2005, 377 computers have been received as donation.

**Success of the Programmes**

Table: 8

## Retention and drop out rate std. 1 to 5

Year	Retention Rate in %			Drop put rate in %		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1990-91	55.37	46.59	50.98	44.63	53.41	49.02
1993-94	59.62	50.19	55.37	40.38	49.81	44.63
1997-98	67.74	61.05	64.69	32.26	38.95	35.31
2000-01	78.95	79.19	80.88	21.05	20.81	20.93
2002-03	80.92	80.86	80.88	19.08	19.14	19.12
2005-06	95.47	94.21	94.87	04.53	05.79	05.13

## **Conclusions**

- There has been an increase in literacy rate in Gujarat
- Because of school Entrance Celebration the enrolment rate has increased.
- Girl's enrolment has risen because of Girls Education Rathyatra Programme.
- Vidyalaxmi bond scheme has helped in retention and less dropout of girls.
- Vidyadeep has increased the faith of parents in the government.
- Construction of classrooms has helped in increase of quality education.
- The Health check up programme has helped in improving the health conditions of students.
- The girls Education Rathyatra has motivated to parents and girls students to enroll in a school
- The computer education scheme has resulted into bringing the modern technology in school with equal participated of the society.
- The scheme of building sanitary complexes has decreased the rate of girl's dropout in a large ratio.

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