

**National Conference on Innovations in Educational Administration  
and Awards Function**

**5-7 March, 2017**

**A Brief Report**



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## **National Conference on Innovations in Educational Administration and Awards Function, 5-7 March, 2017**

The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi has instituted the National Awards for Innovations in Educational Administration. The main objective of the Innovation Awards programme is to recognise innovative ideas and best practices adopted by district and block level education officers for improving the functioning of public system of education and effective management of the educational administrative system at district, block and institutional levels. Innovative ideas and best practices adopted by district and block level education officers are shared in the National Conference on Innovations in Educational Administration coinciding with the National Awards Function organised by NUEPA in New Delhi. This is an annual activity of NUEPA since its launch in 2014-15.

### **Context of the Programme**

District and Block level education officers are crucial link between the schools, community and the higher level of educational administration. Efficient functioning of the system at field level largely depends on the efficiency and effectiveness of administration at this level. The District and Block Education Officers are critical actors of educational administrative system at the field level. Effective implementation of educational policies and efficient delivery of educational needs, channelized through variety of programmes and schemes of educational development, are key responsibilities of the educational officers at the field level. Though all the field level education officers are supposed to ensure effective functioning of the system, considerable amount of variations are found in the implementation of policies, programmes and schemes and their outcomes across the states, regions, districts and blocks. The varying experiences may be linked to variety of causative factors impacting the implementation and outcome but equally important is the role and responsibilities of district and block level education officers. They may prove to an active agent of change if they take up the responsibility as a challenge and make difference in the functioning of the system. Some of the education officers at district and block levels are more successful than the others in changing educational scenario at their level. They succeed in implementing educational policies and programmes and efficient delivery of educational needs. The reason for their success, among others, is also link to their innovative initiatives. They find space for innovative initiatives with the help of new ideas. Innovative initiatives in case of educational administration are taken well within the broad framework of Rules, Guidelines and norms of educational administration. Education officers are, therefore, loaded with twin responsibilities- on the one hand they have to ensure that no rule and guidelines of the educational administration are violated; on the other they have to make difference in the functioning of the system through their innovative initiatives. Some of the officers successfully overcome the problems and transform the challenges into opportunities at their own level. These negotiated initiatives taken by the education officers for improving the functioning of public system of education and government schools define the context of innovations and good practices in education administration. Though variety of innovations

take place at the field level of educational administration, there is hardly any mechanism to recognize and document them for wider dissemination. Since no systematic attempt has been made to recognize grassroots innovations in educational administration, most of them are either unnoticed or remain localised which limit the replicability and scalability of such innovations.

The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) endeavours to create space for recognizing innovations in educational administration at the field level through its scheme of National Awards for Innovations in Educational Administration. Consequentially keeping this in view, NUEPA instituted the National Awards for Innovations in Educational Administration for District and Block Level Education Officers during 2013-2014. Since its launch, three rounds of national awards programme and national conference on educational administration have been conducted. Nearly 400 education officers from different states and UTs have participated in these conferences and awards function.

The main objectives of the National Awards for Innovations in Educational Administration are:

- To recognize innovations in educational administration at the district and block level
- To award those who conceived and implemented the innovations
- To document and disseminate innovations

### **Awards Function of 2016-17**

The third annual award presentation function for the year 2016-17 was organised by NUEPA on 07 March, 2017 at 11:00 A.M in Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. **Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Human Resource Development was the Chief Guest of the awards function.**



The function was attended by a large number of district and block level education officers from more than twenty states and union territories of India besides resource persons and participants from different universities and institutions.

The awards function started with the welcome address by Prof Jandhyala B.G. Tilak, Vice Chancellor (I/c), NUEPA. He extended warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Human Resource Development and expressed sincere thanks for accepting the invitation and gracing the occasion with his presence. Invitees and participants of the awards function. In his welcome address Prof Jandhyala B.G. Tilak outlined the major highlights of the programme and gave a detailed overview of the modalities followed in the execution of the programme.



He reiterated the fact that there are officers at the field level who successfully respond to the challenges and ensure efficient functioning of the public system of education. In order to ensure efficient delivery of educational services, they find new ways of execution, often adopting innovative ideas, developing replicable practices and thereby setting examples for others.





He also highlighted the importance of innovations and good practices at the field level and motivating such officers and recognizing their efforts for their innovative practices. He further stressed on the fact that there is a need to recognise such contributions of District and Block Level Education Officers and based on this vision, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi launched a programme of National Awards for Innovation in Educational Administration in 2014. He concluded by stating that officers participating in the conference will continue with zeal of improving the government school system.

Shri J. Veera Raghavan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India chaired the National Award presentation function. He appreciated the concept and purpose of the programme and stated that such programmes will help in motivating the field administrators to take up good work.



Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India presented the National Awards for Innovations in Educational Administration to 23 district and block level education officers from different states and regions of the country. In addition to National Awards in Educational Administration 20 district and block level education officers were also given Certificate of Appreciation for their innovative initiatives in educational administration and governance of schools.



Shri Prakash Javadekar addressed the participants of the National Conference on Innovations in Educational Administration and Awards Functions. He congratulated the awardees of the Innovations in Educational Administration and appealed to the officers of the education department to work with zeal towards improving the public system of education. He expressed his concern about the poor functioning of the government schools. He emphasised that the quality of education imparted in government schools needs to be improved. He shared his own experiences of government schools and its efficient functioning in the past. He recalled the ways in which formal education in olden days was also linked with skill development. Thus, every child after completing the elementary or secondary education was also equipped with some livelihood skill. He visualized the present education system to function in similar ways so that every individual is not just educated but also empowered.



He also expressed his discontentment towards the current situation in government schools in terms of facilities, transparency in governance, accountability, and so on. In order to make the system function effectively, he stressed on the importance of innovations. He emphasized that innovations are important in any system and at any level. Innovations not only deal in conceiving and executing an idea, but improving the overall efficiency of the system. Within the context of education, Shri Prakash Javadekar highlighted that innovations should be taken up by everyone at all levels - teachers, principals, and administrators. He stressed that fact that all should work as a team to ensure successful implementation of the innovation.



The awards function concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Kumar Suresh, Head, Department of Educational Administration.



### **National Conference on Innovation in Educational Administration**

Coinciding with the National Award presentation function a three – day National Conference on Innovation in Educational Administration, 05-07 March, 2017 was also organized by NUEPA, with participation by about 150 district and block level education officers from across India and resource persons and faculty from different universities and institutions located in Delhi. The focus of the conference was on a host of innovations by district and block level officers who were selected for awards. This proved as an ideal forum for learning and sharing of experiences.

Prof. Mohd. Akhtar Siddiqui, Professor of Education at Jamia Millia Islamia, and former Chairman, National Council of Teacher Education was the key note speaker at the inaugural session, which was presided over by Prof Jandhyala B. G. Tilak, Vice Chancellor (I/c), NUEPA.



There were several education experts who participated and interacted with the field level officers during different sessions of the conference. Variety of cases of innovations and good practices in educational administration were presented by 75 District and Block Level Education Officers from 20 states and Union Territory.



## Photo Gallery

**NUEPA Faculty, staff and participants during Award Function**



### Group Photos

**NUEPA Faculty with the Hon'ble Minister, MHRD**



**Awardees of the Conference with the Vice Chancellor and Faculty, NUEPA**

