



Seminar on

Universalisation of Elementary Education in the Urban Areas

With a Special Focus on Urban Slums

Date : February 12-14, 2007

**Venue : National Institute of Educational
Planning and Administration (NIEPA)
17-B, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016**

While variety and diversity of caste, language, religion and geographical features have given India a rich cultural heritage; they have also been responsible to some extent in creating the socio-economic disparities in the country. Such disparities are particularly apparent in rural and urban settings. Concerted efforts have been made ever since independence to bridge the gap between rural and urban India. A number of programmes and schemes have been launched with a focus on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities. These programmes indeed have helped to reduce the wedge between rural and urban areas but still large gaps persist. The inequalities exist not only between rural and urban areas but they can also be seen within the rural as well as urban areas.

Urban India is heterogeneous and characterized by wide inequalities both in terms of income and access to social and physical infrastructure. In urban areas the rich and posh colonies with all the amenities coexist along with slums with absolute lack of minimum facilities. The slums acutely epitomize the deprivation and inequalities in urban India. The slum dwellers do not have access to many of the benefits of urban development as they have emerged in haphazard manner and are considered illegal in nature. The living

conditions of slum dwellers is worst than that of the rural poor because of limited space and higher density of population, lack of basic services like water, sanitation, unaffordable healthcare, unhealthy environment, poor education facility. The locational, social and economic segregation of slums presents special problems in the provision and expansion of education. Besides the impact of current changes in urban governance with regard to financing and provision of urban services on access and equity in education remains uncertain. It is in this context that the issues and concerns relating to universalisation of elementary education in urban areas in general and slums in particular need to be paid greater attention.

In the above backdrop, NIEPA proposes to organize a "National Seminar on Universalisation of Elementary Education in Urban Areas: With a Special Focus on Slums" from February 12-14, 2007 at New Delhi. The main purpose of the Seminar is to provide a forum to the practitioners and policy makers to reflect on issues and problems of educational planning and management in slums. It is expected that the Seminar would provide inputs for policy formulation and designing appropriate strategies for the improvement of educational status of slum children.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited from professionals and practitioners on the following themes:

1 Planning for Educational Provisions in Urban Slums

- * Institutional arrangement for educational planning in urban areas
- * Issues and problems related to allotment of the land and planning for schools
- * Planning and implementation of programmes for the education of the urban disadvantaged

2 SSA and Urban Slums

- * Management structure under SSA in urban areas, their role and functions in planning education for urban slums
- * Issues related to variations in institutional arrangements and planning process in urban areas across the states
- * The role of community in the planning process in urban areas
- * Issues and problems in the formulation of District Elementary Education Plan (DEEP) in urban areas

3 Issues of Access, Retention and Achievement in Slum Areas

- * Extent of availability of schooling facilities for slum children
- * Status of infrastructure in schools catering to slum children
- * Status on enrolment and out of school children
- * Causes of low enrolment and high dropouts of the slum children
- * Achievement levels of children from the slum areas
- * School quality in the context of slum areas

4 Alternative Modes of Provision including NGOs Efforts for UEE in Slum Areas

- * Diversification of provision within the public sector
- * Role of public and private sectors in the provision of education
- * Sharing of experiences of NGOs working in slum areas across the states

Submission Dates

*Contributors are requested to send a copy of abstract of the paper in around 1000 words on any one of the above-mentioned themes to confslums@gmail.com by **October 16, 2006**.*

The papers may focus on policy issues or field experiences related to the identified themes. The first level screening of paper will be made on the basis of the abstract submitted. Short listed contributors would be required to submit the full paper (8000-10000 words) by **December 15, 2006**. Outstation participants will be provided with accommodation at NIEPA Hostel. TA/DA will be paid to the paper contributors.

For further information please contact :

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