



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ASSESSMENT OF SARVA SHIKSHA MISSION IN THE HOOGHLY DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL
THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 13th July, 2017

Received in revised form

29th August, 2017

Accepted 08th September, 2017

Published online 31st October, 2017

Key words:

Impact analysis, District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Sarva Shiksha Mission (SSM), Mass media, etc.

ABSTRACT

Hooghly is one of the non-DPEP districts of West Bengal. However from census report 2011, it is revealed that the overall rate of literacy of the district is 81.80 per cent whereas, as per census 2001 as reflected on UNDP report 2011, the overall literacy of the district was 75.11 per cent. This article deals with Sarva Shiksha Mission (SSM) and its impact due to the participation of the parents of elementary students of two block of Hooghly district of the state of West Bengal. In this study, eighteen variables such as, Age of Father (X_1), Age of Mother (X_2), Father's Occupation (X_3), Mothers' Occupation (X_4), Family size (X_5), Home facility (X_6), Monthly expenditure towards student (X_7), Reason behind dropout (X_8), Financial condition (X_9), Interest towards society (X_{10}), Use of mass media (X_{11}), Government support towards Children (X_{12}), Satisfaction towards the institution (X_{13}), Necessity of private tuition (X_{14}), Protection from various diseases (X_{15}), Health conciseness (X_{16}), Monthly family income (X_{17}) and Social interaction (X_{18}) had shown their significant contribution on the participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission. The study found that eleven causal variables namely. Age of Mother (X_2), Home facility (X_6), Financial condition (X_9), Interest towards society (X_{10}), Use of mass media (X_{11}), Government support towards Children (X_{12}), Necessity of private tuition (X_{14}), Protection from various diseases (X_{15}), Health conciseness (X_{16}), Monthly family income (X_{17}) and Social interaction (X_{18}) had been identified as the strong contributors upon the predictor variable (Y) i.e. the level of participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission.

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Citation: Sanghamitra Basak, Shri Subrata Biswas and Prasenjit Deb. 2017. "Assessment of Sarva shiksha mission in the Hooghly district of West Bengal through the participation of parents", *International Journal of Current Research*, 9, (10), 60064-60067.

INTRODUCTION

The Sarva Shiksha Mission (SSM), a flagship programme of both union and provincial government, which has been the culmination of Operation Black Board (OBB), District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) and Shiksha Karmi Project etc. towards universalizing elementary education across the country. The mission of this programme is to increase the access to elementary education through providing the necessary requirements such as physical infrastructure, requisite numbers of teachers, adequate text books in proper time, adequate food during school hours, to ensure the 100 per cent enrollment, quality up-gradation, reduction of drop-out rate, reduction of gender differences, ensure the more participation of girls children and overall community participation.

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With the induction of SSM, the school managing committee has been revised and the people's participation has been guaranteed. It is therefore, essential that the issues of quality education, equity and retention in schools are addressed appropriately by restructuring and transforming the SSM into a National Mission for Quality Elementary Education. Sarva Shiksha Mission (SSM) was launched in the State of West Bengal from 2002. In the study of Sanyal (2012), he found that the insufficiency created an urge to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to overcome all the existing bottlenecks in the sphere of educational initiatives, leading to the birth of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan. The core idea behind the programme was to ensure enrollment of children in school, retention of children upto upper primary stage, bridging the gender and social category gaps in enrollment and retention and ensuring significant changes in learning achievement levels of children at the primary and upper level stages¹. According to Kaushal and Patra, the present status of progress

¹ Mission 'Education for All': Reflections from Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan

of elementary education is varied in nature. In some states the progress is distinctly noticeable, while on the other hand some Indian states are still struggle to achieve the goal of Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) for all². Rao (2009) conducted a study to evaluate the working of the school education management committee in a tribal area of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. It shows that community participation in improving education is negligible and that members of the SEMCs have limited awareness of the SSA³. Sharma (2013) identified the status of Universalisation of Elementary Education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the State of Manipur, and its constraint to achieve by 2010. This paper will be so useful for students and teachers in general for their academic purpose and for the researchers as a source of related literature in particular⁴. Patil and Malagi (2013) conclude that the factors like number of teachers and teacher-student ratio are responsible for achievement during 2007-08. The number of residential schools and teacher-student ratio are related with achievement of students during 2008-09; The three variables such as number of teachers, number of residential schools and teacher-student ratio influence on achievement in the year 2009-10 and 2010-11⁵. From the above studies, it is divulged that the community participation is one of the evolving areas for the success of Sarva Shiksha Mission.

Objective of the study

- To study the level of participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission.
- To examine the level of parental involvement in schools.
- To assess the socio-personal and attitudinal causal variables viz Age of Father (X_1), Age of Mother (X_2), Father's Occupation (X_3), Mothers' Occupation (X_4), Family size (X_5), Home facility (X_6), Monthly expenditure towards student (X_7), Reason behind dropout (X_8), Financial condition (X_9), Interest towards society (X_{10}), Use of mass media (X_{11}), Government support towards Children (X_{12}), Satisfaction towards the institution (X_{13}), Necessity of private tuition (X_{14}), Protection from various diseases (X_{15}), Health conciseness (X_{16}), Monthly family income (X_{17}) and Social interaction (X_{18}).
- To evaluate the contribution of causal variables on the predictor variable (Y) that is, the level of participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the district of Hooghly, there are 31 blocks and out of these blocks, two reference blocks that is Pursurah and Khanakul-II were chosen randomly from the western blocks of the district. In Pursurah block, there are 129 numbers of elementary schools. In Khanakul-II, the same figure is 179. The total number of student in the above mention two blocks are 28,675

and 33,621 respectively. With the help of random sampling method, 10 numbers of elementary have been chosen from each block having a total of 20 schools. From each school, 10 students were identified whose parents were selected as responded for the study. A structured scheduled was prepared with the help of 57 different open questions/ opinion/ option/ views/ comment/ answers were placed before the respondents. The data so collected were quantified and then analyzed with the help of statistical software like SPSS. The method of correlation, multiple regression and step-down model were applied to find out the casual relationship between and the nature variation between different independent variables with respect the dependent variable.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Correlation Analysis between dependent variable Y and other 18 consequent variables

Variables	'r' Value
Age of Father (X_1)	-0.1068
Age of Mother (X_2)	-0.3730**
Father's Occupation (X_3)	0.0165
Mothers' Occupation (X_4)	-0.1259
Family size (X_5)	0.0044
Home facility (X_6)	0.3381**
Monthly expenditure towards student (X_7)	0.1482
Reason behind dropout (X_8)	-0.1471
Financial condition (X_9)	-0.5035**
Interest towards society (X_{10})	-0.3195**
Use of Mass Media (X_{11})	0.2761**
Government Support towards Children (X_{12})	-0.5791**
Satisfaction towards the institution (X_{13})	0.0632
Necessity of private tuition (X_{14})	-0.6356**
Protection from various diseases (X_{15})	0.5012**
Health conciseness (X_{16})	-0.5271**
Monthly family income (X_{17})	-0.2943**
Social interaction (X_{18})	0.5256**

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 0.198* Significant at 5% level
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 0.259** Significant at 1% level

From the Table 1, it is shown that the variable viz. Age of Father (X_1), Age of Mother (X_2), Father's Occupation (X_3), Mothers' Occupation (X_4), Family size (X_5), Home facility (X_6), Monthly expenditure towards student (X_7), Reason behind dropout (X_8), Financial condition (X_9), Interest towards society (X_{10}), Use of mass media (X_{11}), Government support towards Children (X_{12}), Satisfaction towards the institution (X_{13}), Necessity of private tuition (X_{14}), Protection from various diseases (X_{15}), Health conciseness (X_{16}), Monthly family income (X_{17}) and Social interaction (X_{18}) on the level of participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission (Y). The role of the parents specially mothers of elementary school going children in participating the different programmes of SSM is very crucial and hence the variable like X_2 had shown its negative effect towards the level of participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission (Y). The negative sign indicate that participation of mother was more at their lower age. This implies that at lower age, the enthusiasm of the mother is high enough to participate it all programmes of SSM in order to the betterment of their children. Home Facility (X_6) confirmed the desirable effect on the level of participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission (Y).

² elementary education in Bihar: some reflections from DISE Data

³ Lack of Community Participation in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan: A Case Study

⁴ Universalisation of elementary education undersarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Manipur

⁵ Intervention of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Changing Academic Performance of Primary School Students

Here the critical value of correlation analysis of this variable shows 0.3381. This indicates that adequate home environment is the prime concern of every parent so that student can learn from home. In the district of Hooghly, since the overall literacy is more than 80 per cent hence in general the variable X_6 has shown its strong consequences on the dependent variable. The variable like financial condition had found the negative effect on the level of participation of parents towards impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission (Y). It is interesting to note that weak financial condition is leading the parents of elementary school children towards the more associatiship with schools and since Sarva Shiksha Mission is such a programme where different types of financial assistance such as distribution of free text books, distribution of school dress specially for the female children, providing mid-day meal to all elementary children of the schools and moreover financial assistance were given to the hands of the parents like Bidi labour scholarship, SC/ST scholarship, minority scholarship and others. Thus, low family income ensured higher participation towards SSM. The variable like Interest towards society (X_{10}) had shown its negative effect towards the predictor variable. This indicates that more association with the society in different activities ultimately leads the parents towards less interest towards the different programme of the schools related with the education of the children. Hence the negative correlation value highlighted less association with the participation towards SSM.

Use of mass media (X_{11}) had played a proactive role on the level of consciousness of parents. It is the mass media in the form of print and electronic media which spread out the different national and state level academic and other beneficial programmes among the parents. Thus the parents using the different mass media involved themselves in participation with SSM. It is the constitutional provision that State will provide free and compulsory elementary education for all children up to the age of 14 years. So it is the mindset of the parents of elementary school going children that the entire expenditure for their children would be borne by the government. Thus simply providing text books, mid day meal, dress for girls children; SC, ST, and minority scholarship would not suffice the demands of the parents. Hence the variable like Government support towards Children (X_{12}) had shown its negative correlation value. Still now in India, most of the learners in the village area are either first generation learners or second generation learners. In all practical cases, students are sometimes unable to access the text even in the class room environment; hence they required the additional guidance at home. It is not possible in all cases to extend such academic guidance from the parents. Thus, as an alternative way, private tuition is compulsory for those students. As a result, a gap was created between the teaching learning methodology of the private tutors and the specially trained school teachers. In this case, the necessity of private tuition (X_{14}) shows its negative bearing on the predictor variable.

Sarva Shiksha Mission is a holistic approach. Within the time frame of this mission, it is the additional approach that every school should checkup their children at least twice in a year by a medical team. Thus the children of every elementary school have been protected from various diseases. Hence the variable such as, protection from various diseases (X_{15}) was found its positive impact on the participation of the parents towards the impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission.

Health conciseness (X_{16}) has the negative critical value of correlation which indicates that still a large number of parents do not have the health awareness towards their children. Hence, health hazards are a common phenomenon for almost every child that results their irregular attendance in schools and ultimately it hampers the learning achievement of the children. Monthly family income (X_{17}) showed its negative correlation value on the dependent variable. Parents of low family income have an inclination towards the government supports on their children. Moreover, from the part of Sarva Shiksha Mission, additional financial grant has been provided to the students belonging to the financial weaker sections. Social interaction indicates that the parents interact with other members of the society and through this interaction and communication, the parents gathered knowledge which helps them in the participation with the programmes like Sarva Shiksha Mission. Hence, the variable X_{18} had shown its positive impact on the dependent variable.

Table 2. Multiple Regression Analysis

Variables	'B' Value	'r' value
Age of Father (X_1)	-0.013254	-0.216
Age of Mother (X_2)	-0.002598	-0.041
Father's occupation (X_3)	-0.049646	-1.280
Mothers' occupation (X_4)	0.025359	0.585
Family size (X_5)	0.034223	0.834
Home facility (X_6)	0.113002	2.688**
Monthly expenditure towards student (X_7)	-0.046023	-1.186
Reason behind dropout (X_8)	-0.030558	-0.777
Financial condition (X_9)	-0.194841	-4.050**
Interest towards society (X_{10})	-0.139071	-2.714**
Use of mass media (X_{11})	0.111360	2.499*
Government Support towards children (X_{12})	0.025447	0.374
Satisfaction towards the institution (X_{13})	0.031587	0.564
Necessity of private tuition (X_{14})	-0.437351	-7.370**
Protection from various diseases (X_{15})	0.233694	2.491*
Health conciseness (X_{16})	-0.234129	-4.924**
Monthly family income (X_{17})	0.014190	0.330
Social Interaction (X_{18})	0.109806	1.323

Critical value (2-Tail, 0.05) = +or- 1.979* Significant at 5% level
Critical value (2-Tail, 0.01) = +or- 2.621** Significant at 1% level

Multiple R = 0.87578
R Square = 0.76699
Adjusted R Square = 0.74382
Standard Error = 0.64183

Analysis of Variance

DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	Square
Regression	18	245.43788	13.63544
Residual	181	74.56212	.41195

F = 33.10011 Signif F = .0000

From Table 2, it is found that all these 18 variables are found together their regressional effect on the participation of the parents towards the impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission (Y) and they explain 76.69 per cent of the total agglomerated effect. From the multiple regression analysis, it is found that the seven variables out of eighteen causal variables namely, Home facility (X_6), Financial condition (X_9), Interest towards society (X_{10}), Use of mass media (X_{11}), Necessity of private

tuition (X_{14}), Protection from various diseases (X_{15}), and Health conciseness (X_{16}) are identified as the most significant variables in order to explain the total regression effect on the predictor variable. In the step down regression analysis, it is interestingly found that Necessity of private tuition (X_{14}) alone can explain 40.39 per cent of the total effect. The five variables such as Necessity of private tuition (X_{14}), Protection from various diseases (X_{15}), Health conciseness (X_{16}), Financial condition (X_9), and Home facility (X_6) can explain 74.12 per cent of the total effect and rest 13 variables can only explain 2.57 per cent of the total effect. This would explore the possibilities of considering more factors within the independent variables and at the same time some variables must be excluded in order to explain the predictor variable i.e. the participation of the parents towards the impact analysis of Sarva Shiksha Mission (Y). From the step-down regression model, the factor X_{14} will come up as the most predominant factor in identifying the dependent variable.

Table 3. Step-down Regression Analysis

Step I: X_{14}

Multiple R = 0.63555
 R Square = 0.40393
 Adjusted R Square = 0.40092
 Standard Error = 0.98150

Step II: X_{15}

Multiple R = 0.79070
 R Square = 0.62520
 Adjusted R Square = 0.62140
 Standard Error = 0.78026

Step III: X_{16}

Multiple R = 0.83714
 R Square = 0.70080
 Adjusted R Square = 0.69622
 Standard Error = 0.69892

Step IV: X_9

Multiple R = 0.85495
 R Square = 0.73093
 Adjusted R Square = 0.72541
 Standard Error = 0.66449

Step V: X_6

Multiple R = 0.86093
 R Square = 0.74120
 Adjusted R Square = 0.73453
 Standard Error = 0.65337

Analysis of Variance

	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square
Regression	5	237.18281	47.43656
Residual	194	82.81719	.42689

F = 111.12056 Signif F = .0000

Variables 'B' Value'r' value

Necessity private tuition (X_{14})-0.490035 -12.466
 Protection from various diseases (X_{15})0.351183 8.875
 Health conciseness (X_{16})-0.234997 -5.836
 Financial condition (X_9) -0.184335 -4.580
 Home facility (X_6)0.109570 2.774

Conclusion

According to Sharma (2014), she found that community participation in education system enhances the transparency and accountability of the education system as a whole.⁶ Thus the participation of all the stake holders of Sarva Shiksha Mission would ultimately increase the level of success of the programme. In the present study, a part of the community, say, parents of the elementary school going children had shown their active participation in achieving the goal of Sarva Shiksha Mission. The district of Hooghly of the State of West Bengal has its positional advantage due to its high percentages of overall literacy (81.80 per cent), female literacy rate of 77 per cent, the ratio of girls' to boys' enrolment of 0.96 per cent, gross enrolment ratio (GER) of 95.47 per cent, transition ratio from primary to upper primary of 96.70 per cent, and the drop-out rate of 3.15 per cent and hence there is a congenial environment that the participation of parents of school going children would be more in this district towards successfully implementation of universalization of elementary education.

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⁶ Community Participation in Primary Education