

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### Significance of the Survey

After independence of the country, systematic and planned efforts were needed to fulfill the national commitment enshrined under Article 45 of the Constitution for providing free and compulsory education for children upto the age of 14 years. Certain basic inputs such as identification of school-less habitations, their population and distance at which schooling facility is available were required for making planned efforts in the direction of fulfilling the said commitment. The First All India Educational Survey (AIES), undertaken in 1957 by the then Union Ministry of Education provided this information by covering all the States/UTs. Since then six more surveys have been undertaken by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) which provided basic inputs for planning new schools, upgrading existing schools, and also for enhancing the essential facilities in them. In addition, these surveys have also provided inputs to make schools more attractive as well as to provide quality education. Therefore, contribution of these education surveys in macro as well as micro-level planning of school education is recognised as quite significant. It may be pertinent to mention that, over a period of time, these surveys have acquired important status and are considered major source of educational statistics by different organisations at the national and international levels. The seventh in the series of AIESs was renamed as 7<sup>th</sup> All India School Education Survey (7<sup>th</sup> AISES ) to specifically indicate its scope i.e., School Education.

The proposed Survey is eighth in the series of AISESs. Its date of reference is **30<sup>th</sup> September 2009**. The proposed eighth AISES data would be useful for monitoring of implementation and assessing the impact of SSA, to provide Universal access, enrolment, retention and improvement of quality in elementary education and planning for Universalisation of Secondary Education.

### Objectives of the Survey

In school education, lots of changes have taken place since 2002 in term of schooling facilities and growth in enrolment due to various initiatives such as SSA. The objective of the survey is to develop the database to calculate and analyze a set of educational indicators for:

- (i) describing the current status of School education system at different levels with respect to access, enrolment, retention, participation in school process and achievement,

- (ii) assessing the progress of educational development and indirectly the success of policies, programmes and project interventions by tracking the direction and magnitude of change in the values of the indicators over time, and identifying problems or deficiencies in the system for necessary intervention, and
- (iii) assessing equity in educational opportunities and achievements across relevant levels and sub-populations of the education system for possible interventions needed to remove disparity by administrators, policy makers and researchers.

The objectives will be met by collecting data on the aspects broadly listed hereunder:

- (i) Availability of schooling facility for primary, upper-primary, secondary and higher secondary stages within the habitations (including SC/ST) in different population slabs. In case the facility is not within the habitation, the distance at which available.
- (ii) Availability of basic facilities in the recognised schools such as building, classrooms, drinking water, electricity, urinals, lavatories, incentive schemes and beneficiaries, medical check-up and vaccination/inoculation of students.
- (iii) Class-wise enrolment (Total, SC, ST, OBC, EBMC ñ Muslim) and children with disabilities by sex in primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary stages of recognised schools.
- (iv) The number of children with disabilities along with degree of disability in primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools.
- (v) The subject-wise enrolment and availability of teachers at higher secondary stage, availability of laboratories and library, physical education teachers, librarian, guidance counselor, non-teaching staff in the recognized secondary and higher secondary schools.
- (vi) The position of teachers (by sex and SC/ST/OBC) with academic and professional qualifications at different school stages in recognised schools.
- (vii) Distribution of recognised schools in regard to languages taught and languages used as medium of instruction.
- (viii) Enrolment and teachers in primary/upper primary classes of unrecognised schools.
- (xi) The position of enrolment and instructors in schools/centres under Education Guarantee Scheme & Alternative and Innovative Education (EGS&AIE).
- (x) Number of children and teachers by sex in pre-primary schools.
- (xii) The position of enrolment and teachers in oriental schools, viz., *Maktabs*, *Madrasas* and *Sanskrit Pathshalas*.
- (xiii) Class-wise enrolment by single age, new entrants, promotees, and repeaters in the context of UEE.

### **Operational Aspects of the Survey**

At the national level three organisations, namely, union Ministry of Human Resource

Development (MHRD), National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) are involved. The MHRD is to provide funds for the survey and administrative support for its efficient execution. The NCERT is to share the responsibility of providing all academic inputs, management and coordination of survey activities right from planning of the survey to dissemination of outcomes/reports. The NIC will be responsible for all computerisation activities of the survey and their coordination. Data entry of filled-in forms will be done by MIS unit of SSA at the district level.

A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Education Secretary (School Education, MHRD) will have representatives from MHRD, NCERT, NIC, RGI, NSSO, CSO and States/UTs. This committee will guide and monitor the progress of the survey and take administrative decisions from time to time.

To provide academic and administrative support in the execution of the survey and to monitor the progress of the survey, an Advisory Committee has been constituted at the national level. This Committee is chaired by the Director, NCERT and Head of the Department of Educational Surveys & Data Processing (DES&DP) is the ex-officio member-convener.

A State Survey Unit is created in every State/UT and the State Survey Officer (SSO) will be responsible for execution of all survey activities. Further in the case of states, District Survey Unit is to be created in each district. Whereas in case of UTs District Survey Units are not to be created and the work at the district level will be executed by the State Survey Unit. District Survey Officer (DSO) will be responsible for all the survey activities in the district. Data entry work will be undertaken at the district level with the help of MIS Unit under District Project Coordinator (SSA). Block/Town level Education Officer at the Block/town level will be responsible for data collection with the help of Headmasters/Principals/Enumerators. The data collection in case of Class I cities is to be organised at the Ward level. A Headmaster/Principal will be made in-charge of the ward for this purpose. Block/Town level officers will be responsible for providing complete and error free data by undertaking manual scrutiny with the assistance of teachers.

Every State Government and Union Territory Administration will constitute a State level Monitoring and Review Committee for providing administrative and operational support to the State Survey Unit. This Committee will be headed by the principal secretary/commissioner of Education/secretary of the State Government/UT Administration. In order to have close coordination between state and national teams, NCERT and NIC HQ are to be represented on this Committee. The State Survey Officer is the member-convener of the Committee.

**The first task of the survey is to prepare a comprehensive, up-to-date list of recognised schools for each block/town (ward in class I cities).** This list will be of great help in distribution of survey tools and receiving them back after they are filled-in. Prior to data collection every state has to develop a comprehensive plan for training at various levels, regarding data collection and manual scrutiny of data. Activities to be undertaken after completion of data collection and data scrutiny are transcription, validation and processing of data. Responsibility for accomplishing these activities lies with the DSO in close contact with DPC (SSA). DIO(NIC) would be responsible for proper

functioning of softwares to be used for the activities concerned. State Survey Units will be providing necessary support. For ensuring complete and error free data, exercise of data validation is to be undertaken at MIS unit of SSA at the district level.

For estimating extent of response error on some important items, the internal evaluation is to be undertaken after dispatch of filled-in tools for data processing. This will be done by undertaking iPost Enumeration Survey on a sample of recognized schools from sampled districts of country. In addition to the data items for internal evaluation of the survey, data on attendance of teachers will also be collected from these sampled schools to assess the situation of teachers' absenteeism. The iPost Enumeration Survey will be conducted by specially trained enumerators by personally visiting the selected schools and collecting data from school records. The Guidelines containing methodology, sampling design, tool for data collection, etc., will be made available separately.

As per the Survey Time-Schedule at Annexure-IV, the translation, printing and dispatch of tools have to be completed by the end of November 2009. The training of District Survey Officers has to be completed within the month of December 2009-January, 2010. The collection of data is to be carried out during months of January-February, 2010. Further, the Flash Statistics are to be released on priority basis latest by June, 2010 and Final Statistics to be released by the end of March 2011.

The periodical monitoring of utilisation of funds by the NIC and States/UTs is necessary. Therefore, statement of expenditure at the end of every quarter in the prescribed proforma is to be submitted to NCERT by NIC and all the State Survey Units.