

DISCUSSION ON

Extending outreach of Secondary and Senior Secondary Education

With Universal Elementary Education(UEE) becoming a reality, near universalization of secondary education is a logical next step. Further, universalisation of quality secondary education implies creating secondary schooling provisions of a defined standard irrespective of the location and management of the institution to accommodate all those eligible grade VIII and grade X students who are willing to participate in secondary and higher secondary education. It is expected that initiatives such as RTE of eight years of schooling would not only be increasing participation levels in elementary education but also substantially improve the internal efficiency of elementary education in the coming years and ensure higher levels of transition to secondary schooling. Further, with the improvements in retention and transition rates particularly amongst the more disadvantaged groups, there is an increasing pressure on the secondary schools to admit more students.

A wide range of centrally sponsored schemes are being run by different secondary school institutions and bodies so as to ensure greater geographical coverage, social and gender inclusion and use of ICT for quality enhancement. RMSA is now envisaged as a single comprehensive scheme to address issues



of coverage and quality in secondary education in a holistic manner.

Agenda for discussion are: -

- To what extent we have made quality education available, accessible and affordable to the target population in the age group of 14–18 years. What is negative impact on society and economy of not doing this?
- How can we increase access to post elementary education across the country in a manner so as to ensure no child is denied the opportunity of completing his/her school education?
- How can we address the geographical and social disparities in secondary education?
- What needs to be done to improve student participation in Science and Mathematics subjects?
- What can be done to overcome shortages in qualified teachers for Science and Mathematics? How can we engage with DST engage to address the needs of science & Maths teachers for both primary/ secondary education?
- To what extent can ICT be used in secondary/ senior secondary schools to enhance teaching-learning process?
- What kinds of pupil assessment systems are desirable at secondary level to ensure problem solving and critical training amongst children?
- Is there a need to improve secondary/senior secondary text books?



- What is needed to improve teacher performance?
- How many languages should be taught at secondary/senior secondary level?
- Is a PPP model to expand schooling at these levels, feasible?
- How can ICT based interventions enhance use of hands on education, field visits, etc?

