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COLLECTOR'S

PES

Dear Sri Ashok Kumar,

15 JAN

D.O.Lr.No.149/SPD-DPEP/2001 Dt. 08.01.2002

NIZAMABAD

I am enclosing herewith a copy of tour report of Sri Sumit Bose, Joint Secretary to Government, M.H.R.D., Department of Elementary Education & Literacy, Government of India, New Delhi who visited the State last month.

Yours sincerely,

(M. NAGARJUNA)

Encl: Copy of tour report.

To

Sri G. Ashok Kumar, IAS
Collector & Dist. Magistrate,
NIZAMABAD.

(Extract of relevant portion)

23.12.2001

Visited Vailpur mandal in Nizamabad district, which has achieved 100% enrolment of children in the age-groups 5-14 years. 100 mandals have been targeted under DPEP for universalization in the first stage. There has been a tremendous amount of mobilization undertaken, through DPEP led by the Collector (G.Asok Kumar) and one witnessed the commitment of teachers, panchayats, representatives, village development committees, DW CRA groups. Each village in the mandal has put up a board showing the total number of children (boys & girls separately) and how many had been enrolled in schools.

I visited the residential bridge course being run since 1.8.2001 for boys at Vailpoor. It is housed in a large building which has been given on a concessional rent of Rs.1000 per month. There were four volunteers (paid Rs.1500 per month), one Caretaker who also conducted classes when required (paid Rs.2000 per month), an Accountant (paid Rs.1000 per month) and a cook and two helpers (Rs.1200 per month each). The community had provided steel trunks for each children (to keep their belongings) as well as toiletries and the gas ovens for cooking. Of the 86 children admitted (including from adjoining mandals), 13 had been mainstreamed in hostels run by the Social Welfare Department.

While interacting with community members and DCWCRA groups in the Mandal Resource Centre, not only was the enthusiasm for schooling evident but there was also a strong demand for adult literacy. Some of the women present were volunteers under TLC who took regular classes, while others mentioned they had specially appointed a "teacher" for their group.

Thereafter, visited a girls residential camp being run on the campus of the Telugu Bal Mahila Pranganam (of the Women & Child Development Department). The campus has good facilities including hostels and is an excellent location for the camp in which there were 128 children from four mandals (68 from Vailpoor). The District Manager of the programme was also doubling as the caretaker and her administrative staff was keeping the accounts etc. which is not only healthy convergence but good use of an otherwise under utilized facility.

Interestingly, all Panchayats in Vailpur mandal have passed resolutions under the AP Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1982 seeking permission from the Government to implement the Act to ensure 100% retention. The District Education Office, in turn has committed to provide the necessary support in the form of schools/camps and teachers.

During interactions with the Collector he also mentioned that a drive against child labour was planned to be launched in all the municipalities of the district from January 16, 2002 and children released from the workplace would be sent to bridge camps and schools.

ISSUES

Vailpur shows that social mobilization is possible through programmes such as DPEP (and SSA), even when strong NGOs may not be present. Unlike Shankapally and Chevalla mandals there is no NGO like MV Foundation in Vailpur, yet the community mobilization officer and others under DPEP have done a commendable job.

That residential bridge courses are a very useful tool in mainstreaming children and in taking them away from work is evident once again. The attached circular issued by AP DPEP gives the detailed costing of the bridge courses (Annexe-A). Even taking account community contributions and even if a Govt./Panchayat building is available for the camp, the cost per child will come to about Rs.7000-8000 per annum. As against this, the cost provided under EGS & AIE for residential bridge courses at Rs.3000 per child per year is unrealistic and we will have to take up this issue with IFD/MOF.