

CHILD TRACKING SYSTEM (CTS)

SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) envisages Universal enrolment, Universal retention and Universal achievement in eight years of elementary education. Despite of the best efforts of the Govt. of Orissa, it was not been able to bring every child to the school. “**Hard to Reach**” Children continued to be out of the school system. Many of them were not coming to the schools after enrollment or were becoming dropouts. Migration of the children with their parents, who were searching for work at different places were the challenges to the system. Also the major reason of the children is due to engage of the children in different works to earn for their family. To bring them into this mainstream of Elementary Education, there was a need to know ‘*who are they*’.

1. Challenges:

- i. The earlier system did not have a comprehensive list (village wise) for these children.
- ii. The children who would enter the school at 5+ age need to be targeted much before the next academic session begins.
- iii. There was the problem of duplication of enrolment in various institutions.
- iv. There was a problem of complete coverage of all 6-14 years of children in all habitations/slums to provide them the schooling facilities.
- v. There was the possibility of fake names in the school register by mistake or intentionally for availing undue benefits, which was over reporting the enrollment.
- vi. There was a need to provide the benefits of free text books, mid-day meal, uniform as well as aids and appliances for disable children to the exact child.

2. Past experience:

To estimate the volume of children- enrolled/ never enrolled/ Out of School/ dropout with different caste/gender/age, house-to-house survey was conducted in the state during 2001-02 by the teachers, as a pre-project activity before initiation of SSA. The data collected from the household survey were used for the preparation of perspective plans for SSA. The data is being updated manually through Village Education Registers (VER) on a piecemeal basis at the school point by the teacher concerned. But, the coverage was not 100% in the house-to house survey, due to various field problems. In some districts, the VER has not been maintained regularly because of its voluminous structure.

3. Introduction of CTS (Child Tracking System) :

To have a comprehensive data base of children from 0-14 years, the “**Orissa Child Census-2005**” was conducted during 2nd -10th October 2005 through door-to-door household survey. It covered each & every household in the state and a computerized database of all the

children of 0-14years, with their name, age, sex, caste, educational status, the reasons for out of school and other indicators were built up by the end of November 2005.

The objective of this Child Census was to track each and every child in 0-14 age group through out the state, prepare the data base, use the findings through on-line “**CHILD TRACKING SYSTEM**” software and update it annually with a little effort.

The various utility of the “**CHILD TRACKING SYSTEM**” using the data generated from the child census were as follows.

1. Tracking each and every **child** in 0-14 age group through unique **CHILD CODE**.
2. Assessment of the **Reason for being out of school** for every out of school child and providing remedial actions for them.
3. Identifying the **Future school going children** in every village wise and preparing advance action plan for them in terms of infrastructure based on micro planning.
4. Tracking each In-school children with their attendance, achievement, health status etc. and provide incentives, text books, uniform and coaching etc. for their improvement.
5. Count the number of children going **to unrecognized schools/institutions** and to bring them to mainstream of education.
6. Utilisation of this data base by other departments of the Govt. like Health & Family Welfare, SC/ST Development, W & C.D., Labour etc. for their projects & programmers.
7. Linking the **School Information system (SIS)** and **Teacher’s Information System (TIS)** with CTS to access the need in infrastructure development and Teachers requirement w.r.t. the children in any school.
8. Giving access to the general public to get the detail information from this system through web (Internet) along with the progress in the education status of their children.

4. Process of development:

During 2005, through “Child Census” the database of 0-14 years children was created and accessed through Child Tracking System Software for use.

In door-to-door survey, a team of School teachers, Anganwadi workers, Village Education Committee, activists & Self Help Group functionaries using the 26 point survey format from each of the household in the state. Over 40,000 teams were being trained on the process, who did all the basic work of door to door survey. Over 6000 monitors, 400 odd supervisors and 30 principal supervisors were also been trained about the process, its objective and the outcomes, who guided the whole process for its timely completion.

The detail activities were being undertaken in the first phase was as follows.

- i. Updation and Validation of names of Block/ULB/, GP/Ward Nos, Village/ Local Area Names and Habitation/ Street Names and providing unique code to them.
- ii. Creation of EMIS (Educational Management Information System) Code for each and every school/ institution
- iii. Engagement & training of Enumerators, validation team, Monitors, Supervisors etc. and explaining their responsibilities.
- iv. Door-to-door survey using Non-ICR formats

The database of children was created using ICR Technology to convert the raw data from ICR formats to usable database within matter of days by scanning and validation of these forms. No manual data entry was required in this process.

The most important work was the usability of the created database by the interventions of the department, by other departments and by the citizen. For this, the State MIS server room was setup with required hardware & software & the **web based Child Tracking System** was developed and implemented using this database of around 1.03 crore children. For accessibility of the information through CTS software, it was linked to www.opepa.in. This website was awarded as the *Best Government Website at 10th National e-Governance conference in 2006*.

Child Tracking System (CTS) has been honored with "*Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration-2007*" for its uniqueness in the country.

5. Utilisation of the system:

- Using the information system developed through CTS, different programme were carried out by different interventions to achieve their goals related to UEE.
- The first use of this information was the removal of the fake, duplicate & double information from the school records. It provided the actual child enrollment in the schools and helped in closing & merging of the institutions having less child strength. It helped in providing the exact information on Child Population, Enrollment, Out of School Children, Dropout rate, GER, NER etc. and removed all the fake figures from the previous system.
- The identification of pre-school children helped in getting the information on the exact no. of children, who will enter to the elementary system. This provided the support to all the schools about planning for provision of text books, uniforms etc. to the students at entrant level.

- The disaggregated information of out of school children in different age group helped in opening of alternative schools, providing bridge course, RBC, NRBC facilities etc. to the exact children having the need.
- Identifying the Child Labors in the state, making them enrolled in NCLP Schools and keeping the information of all NCLP Schools with the enrollment position. Also to identify the potential child labors in different villages/habitations.
- The information on the tribal children with their mother tongue and the schools carrying these children, helped in introducing the Multi Lingual Education (MLE) in the state. Activities for Girls education were easier to be carried out with CTS.
- Development of useful educational indicators and use of those in need based plan became easy for the organization.
- SC&ST Development Department, Health Department, Labour Department & WCD Department used these information for their own activities.
- The website helped the citizen to check the information of their child, school, teacher etc. and provide feedbacks in strengthening the system.

6. Sustainability of the project :

Change is the law of nature. Growth and progress are synonymous with change, more so with the children. A child who was reading in class-I in 2005 in most likelihood would have gone to class-II in 2006. Apart from change of class; some children might have changed school; some children might have dropped out of school and there were new admissions of 5 year olds. There was a need to track all these changes so as to keep the database **live** and **active**.

2006 :The database was improved with incorporating additional parameters such as the achievement level of students, attendance rate etc. in the database. During 2006, printed data sheets of In & Out of school Children was supplied to each school to validate the names and other parameters (if incorrect) and update the status of each child. The collected/ updated information was computerized and made web based as was done earlier to get the comparative progress w.r.t. that in 2005.

2007 to 2015, CTS was merged with the **Village Education Register(VER)**, where the printed VERs are supplied to the schools to use the information for the whole year, update it after the enrollment session and send it back to District/Block data center for computerization. It was a regular annual activity to update the information in every year and publish the outcomes for the purpose of taking need based activities under SSA and other similar projects for the benefit of

the children. The VER updation & DISE data collection are carried out simultaneously to reduce the time factor, expenses and complete the activities much before the planning process starts for subsequent years. All information are made available in website through Child Tracking System. “*Status of Elementary Education in Odisha*” was published every year as a booklet form for sharing all information to the Administrators and Users. CTS data was linked with DISE data to bring School infrastructure, Teacher, Students as well as Out-of School Children in the feeder habitations to one information platform and establish the linkage towards teachers & community responsibility for education of children as well as improving quality education in a school. *GIS web integration of DISE & CTS data* is done to confirm the geographical existence of the schools w.r.t. distance of the feeder habitations and the distance as well as natural barriers for a child to attend the school. *Intervention monitoring Information System (IMIS)* was linked to CTS to provide information related to the child as a beneficiary from the SSA activities related to each intervention. *Quality Monitoring Tool (QMT)* is designed for linkage with CTS to obtain the child wise performance in various subjects and to prepare Child Report Cards.

Household Survey-2016 :-

Right to the Children for Free and Compulsory Education (RCFCE) Act. 2009 and State RCFCE Rule-2010 insists to maintain the Child Records of 6 to 14 years age group Children in the State and to ensure to provide elementary education to each and every such child. Household Survey-2016 is conducted afresh to identify the children from 0-14 years as follows.

SI No	Time Line	Activities to be taken up
1	1 st week, March, 2016	Preparation, finalisation and approval of module & format
2	2 nd week, March, 2016	Issuing letter with formats and module to all districts Discussion with all DEOs, DPCs & BEOs through VC on guidelines
3	3 rd & 4 th Week, March, 2016	Printing of format at district level Preparation of master list of habitations with no. of households Media publication for awareness at both State & District level.
4	1 st week, April, 2016	Constitution of survey team habitation- wise
5	2 nd & 3 rd week, April, 2016	Training to district, block & cluster level people by the state team on methodology and filling of formats
6	3 rd & 4 th Week, April 2016	Household survey by team Validation by CRCC on the coverage of all habitations and households including all wards and slums in ULBs. Flash reporting.

7	1 st to 3 rd week, May, 2016	Data entry by block level functionaries like MIS-Cum-Planning Coordinators & Accountants. GP/ ward wise print out of database and distribution at CRC level to confirm the database covering all habitations and households. Finalisation of database at block/ ward level
8	4 th week, May, 2016	Final consolidation at district level Approval from Collector. After approval, GP & block wise data to be submitted to PR Deptt to maintain the same at GP, PS & ZP/ULB level
9	1 st week, June, 2016	Submission of database to SPO
11	2 nd & 3 rd week, June, 2016	State level consolidation Sharing with all Districts through V.C. Approval by Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha
12	4 th week, June, 2016	Web hosting of habitation/village/GP/block/ULB/district/zillaparisad level data for public information. Submission of the data base on in & out of school children to Hon'ble High Court, Orissa

Outcomes of Household Survey :-

- Total 85,27,533 numbers of Households in 95,105 habitations of the State were surveyed.
- Database of 98,19,578 Children between 0-14 years has been prepared with their details where 37,82,523 children are of 0-5 age group, 59,92,984 children of 6-14 years are reading in schools and 44,071 children were identified as Out of School children. Steps have been taken to enroll them into Schools.
- Data of 0-14 years children were handed over to W&CD Department for ensuring their enrolment in Awanganwadis and implement child related activities.
- Database of all In-School Children are tagged to their respective classes in the schools.
- Fake, duplicate names from enrollment register were removed during the survey.
- All activities of SSA, MDM etc. are made child centric.
- Steps have been taken to link Aadhaar number to each child in the database.
- Household Survey data will be updated annually during April-June to update the educational status of each child and to add the new entrants to this age group.