

## Intervention for Pre-school Education in Assam

The learning experiences of the pre-school years influence the rest of a child's life. This early period in development provides a foundation that guides children academically, socially, and emotionally. State Government, Assam vide notification dtd. 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1999 introduced 'Ka-Sreni' in elementary school since 1999. Child at the age of 4+ years are given admission in Ka-sreni. Accordingly, in all elementary level school Ka – Sreni was introduced.

Section 11 of the RTE Act, 2009 mandates for pre-school education as “With a view to prepare children above the age of three years for elementary education and to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years, the appropriate Government may make necessary arrangement for providing free pre-school education for such children”.



For fulfillment of the Section 11 of RTE Act, 2009, SSA, Assam had undertaken the initiative to provide a foundation that guides children academically, socially, and emotionally. Presently, in 40952 numbers LP & MV schools are having Ka-sreni in the State with total enrolment of 415314. Also, there are 18298 numbers of Anganwadi Center (AWC)s which are located in and around of school campus. Children of Ka-sreni and AWCs are provided Early Childhood Education together in these centres.

For implementation of the intervention of Ka Sreni, a major area was convergence programme with Social Welfare Department. SSA, Assam developed a coherent policy to support holistic learning opportunities for young children utilising the expertise and experience of ICDS in convergence with the Social Welfare Department. Such convergence programme was organised in State, District and Block level.

A series of joint meeting and training programme were organised for Anganwadi workers under Social Welfare Deptt. and Ka- sreni teachers under SSA. These training programmes were mainly for bridging the communication gap at the grass root, understanding the objective of the programme and transaction methodology.

For smooth transaction of these Ka Sreni different activities were undertaken. Some of the important activities are-

- Thematic Activity Books developed on the basis of Ka-sreni curriculum on 16 themes in four major medium viz Assamese, Bodo, Bengali and English were provided to teachers

as hand books. Teachers were given training. Songs, Rhyme & Games Books & TLM kits were also provided to the teachers.

- Free Text books namely Akonir Karmaputhi & Beginners' English is being provided free of cost to Ka-sreni learners every year.
- Provided Drawing & Colour book to Ka-sreni learners.
- Engaged 1165 Volunteers through SMC to support Ka-sreni classes. SMCs were given training on their role and responsibilities.
- 125 Volunteers (called District Core Group Members) have been engaged to monitor and provide training support to teachers.
- Convergence activities like training of AWWs to run the Ka-sreni in the schools having AWCs within the school campus, stipend of Rs.300/- per AWW to selected AWCs to provide support of Ka-sreni learners, joint visit of SSA & ICDS functionaries etc. are carried out with Social Welfare Deptt.



**This support system essentially could streamline these small kids to enjoy their childhood in school at their tender age and also prepare them for learning.**

