

Innovative initiative of SSA Tripura in the field of identification of Out of School Children (OoSC) through household survey and enrolment through yearly enrolment drive, 'VIDYALAYA CHALO ABHIYAN' programme:

The Universal Elementary Education programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims at attaining the goal of universal enrolment of children in the age group of 6-14 years in schools and retaining them in the schooling system until completion of eight years' Elementary Education with assured equitable quality. In Tripura, as per U-DISE 2016-17, drop-out rate at the primary and upper primary stages have come down to 4.12% and 5.25%, respectively; and in the Elementary Stage, the rate is 4.52%.

Reasons of School Drop-out at Elementary Level

- Majority of the families belong from poor economical background and children are often engaged in earning of wages rather than attending schools,
- While parents are going out for earning of wages, elder children of the family remain in the home for taking care of siblings rather than attending school,
- Students feel less interest to attend school due to language barrier in some areas,
- Migration to other States for earning by the concerned family is another reason,
- In some cases, the parents being illiterate fail to motivate the children to study.

Background

In Tripura, there was an initiative namely, "Admission Mela" since the early days of implementation of SSA Programme, aiming at admission of all children. But, with the ultimate aim of bringing the drop-out rate to zero, in the year 2009, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, the State adopted a new initiative of enrolment drive programme namely, '**Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan**'. The main focus of this programme is to bring all Out-of-School Children under the ambit of education.

Initiatives undertaken

Every year, a lot of activities are undertaken in the State so that no child in the age group of 6-14 years is left outside the schooling system. These activities start with conducting a large-scale door to door **household survey** to identify the children, who are, due to some unavoidable exigent circumstances are still outside the arena of education – either by way of not being enrolled in schools at all or by way of dropping out of the schooling system, after being enrolled. After the said identification process, a list of all such children (by name, habitation etc.) is prepared for the entire State.

In order to materialize this, a week-long special enrollment drive programme by the name of "**Vidyalaya Cholo Abhiyan**" is carried out throughout the State with active and enthusiastic participation of all SSA functionaries, academicians, educational administrators, public

representatives, members of the 3- Tier Panchayati Raj Institutions / Local Urban Bodies, School Management Committees, parents, guardians etc. in the beginning of every academic year i.e during 1st week of January. In course of organizing this programme, concerted efforts are made to enroll all out-of-school children (dropped out & never enrolled) **identified in Household Survey, the children left out in the Household survey and those children attaining the school-going age in the post-survey period** including Children With Special Needs.

Strategies adopted

During this important programme all Blocks, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats are adopted by officers and SSA functionaries as observer. Entire School Education Department remains exclusively concentrated to successful organising of Vidyalaya Cholo Abhiyan for the purpose of **enrolment of all identified out-of-school children as well for creating awareness on increasing regular attendance of students in school, hygiene and sanitation i.e to keep School premises, class rooms, offices and toilets cleaned on regular basis, importance of proper hand wash and also to lodge complaint or to give feedback (if any) in the Toll free number of Mid-Day-Meal Grievance Redressal Cell.**

In order to stimulate the awareness campaign, General appeal by the Honb'le Minister, School Education Department, Tripura is publicized in various local newspapers. Well – decorated vehicles roam around the State with appeal to people for ensuring enrolment of children in schools and also to increase regular attendance of students in schools and to get involved in the Swach Vidyalaya Programme. Leaflets are distributed among people, Posters in Bengali and local languages are displayed throughout the state.

Outcomes

Due to the successful implementation of these initiatives, the mountainous number of identified Out-of-School Children (OoSC), i.e., 93971 in the year 2001-02 has come down to **601** as identified through **House-Hold-Survey** conducted in 2016. Subsequently, during the special enrolment drive programme **Vidyalaya Cholo Abhiyan 2017** a total of **453** out-of-school children could be enrolled in school. All the remaining **148** children are profoundly disabled who are not practically able to attend regular school. Out of these uncovered children, 122 have been brought under the **Home Based Education**, through intervention of Inclusive Education component.

Decreasing trend of identified Out of School Children and Enrolment during Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan

Year	Total OoSC	Enrolment during VCA
2001-02	93971	62187
2006-07	15376	12154
2010-11	3588	2992
2016-17	601	453



Mass rally during Vidyalyaya Chalo Abhiyan



Distribution of free text book at the time of enrolment of an Out of School Child



Campaigning through decorated vehicle, 'Message on Wheels'



Provision of Home Based Education to an Out of School Child with Special Need