

# **‘Praveshotsav’ – Special Enrolment Drive**

**Bihar Education Project Council, Education Department, Bihar**

## **Introduction:**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to address the growing developmental necessity of India. The NEP emphasizes on the development of the creative potential of each individual. It is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities but both foundational capacities such as numeracy and literacy.

The new education policy must provide to all students, irrespective of their place of residence, a quality education system, with particular focus on historically marginalized, disadvantaged, and underrepresented groups. Education is a great leveler and is the best tool for achieving economic and social mobility, inclusion, and equality. Initiatives must be in place to ensure that all students from such groups, despite inherent obstacles, are provided various targeted opportunities to enter and excel in the educational system.

The enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009 has been a landmark step towards ensuring quality education to all children in India. This Act serves as a building block to ensure that every child has his or her right to a quality elementary education guaranteed. As per the Act, the State has a legal obligation to ensure elementary education to all children in the age-group of 6-14 years. RTE Act 2009 calls for a multi-pronged approach to education considering the physical and psychological needs of the child, conduciveness of physical environment of the school, level of community engagement and types of pedagogical approaches used in classrooms to address the diversity of learners.

## **Enrollment Drive in 2020:**

The terrifying and severe impact of COVID-19 has shaken the world to its core. In an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of India closed all educational institutions. Schools were closed from 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Bihar, as a consequence of which, learners were affected. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous children from poor migrant families across the country were forced to drop out of school and move back with their parents to their places of origin. A mapping-cum-enrollment drive was conducted between 1-15 July 2020. During this drive 15,44,710 (7,91,967 boys and 7,52,743 girls) children which includes 58,256 children from returnee families were identified and enrolled in the Government schools. Another enrolment drive was also conducted between 1-12 October 2020 to track the left-out children and get them enrolled in the schools.

**Enrollment Drive in 2021:** Bihar Education Project Council, together with inter departmental convergence with Rural Development Department and Social Welfare Department, commenced the Praveshotsav or Special Enrolment Drive on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.



Children of 6 years of age were enrolled in class 1, and special attention was given for enrolment in classes 6 and 9 to ensure that all children are enrolled in the school and there is no drop-out. The teachers, and frontline Government workers conducted door-to-door surveys to identify and enroll out-of-school children.

Several Government schools creatively spread awareness about the drive to persuade parents to send their kids to schools. Government Primary, Middle School had decorated the classrooms with learning aids to attract kids. Teachers decorated the classrooms with learning aids like abacus, cushion balls and plastic bats to evoke interest in students and build optimism in students for continuing school. Several schools have opted for street plays to create mass awareness. More parents came forward for admission after watching these street plays.

### **Inauguration of 'Praveshotsav – Special Enrolment Campaign'**

The Special Enrolment Drive was launched on 8 March 2021 which was inaugurated by Hon<sup>ble</sup> Education Minister, Government of Bihar. Activities such as street play by children as well as teachers, Kala Jatha, Prabhat Pheri and other school level activities were organized to create awareness about the importance of education at community level. Government officials from BEPC, Education Department, teachers and school children were present during the inaugural session of Praveshotsav. The Education Department also issued a guideline for Praveshotsav - Special Enrolment Campaign.



**The following dates were finalized for enrolment campaign:**

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|--|-----------------|
| 1) Launch of Enrolment campaign at state | : 8 March 2021  |
| 2) Meeting with VSS / SMC across state   | : 9 March 2021  |
| 3) Childrens enrolment in schools        | : 10 March      |
| 4) Review meeting with VSS/ SMC          | : 16 March 2021 |



Apart from Education Department, various other departments and organizations such as Social Welfare Department (ICDS), Rural Development Department (JEEVIKA), UNICEF and PRATHAM also contributed during enrolment drive. As a result of state Government was able to enroll more than 36 lakhs children in schools.

After analyzing the enrolment data, it was observed that enrolment in class 1 was less than the projected population of children of 6 year of age. Therefore, District Education Officials have been given directionsto go through the projected population of their district and take necessary stepsto



ensure enrolment in class 1 in schools where the target has not been achieved. Due to COVID-19 pandemic schools are again closed from 5th April, 2021. Even in these tough times, directions have been given to identify and enroll the left out children in the schools. As soon as the pandemic is over, our schools are ready with all safety measures to start educational and learning activities.

**Street Play:** The street play was organised within the community by professional actors. However, in many places teachers as well as children were also involved in role play/street play. These street plays were organized at community level which helped in creating awareness amongst community on various scheme for children, importance of education and children's attendance in school.



**Prabhat Pheri:** The school authority organized Prabhat Pheri in their respective areas. Teachers, children, SMC members were involved in conducting Prabhat Pheri. Banners and slogans were made in local languages. During Prabhat Pheri, schools maintained the protocol of COVID 19 Pandemic. Children were provided mask, sanitizer etc. and proper care was taken by the school authority.



- 1) **IEC Materials:** For publicity and disseminations, school authority had developed IEC materials which were displayed at important place /common areas for wider view. The banners, posters were prepared to make the community aware about the enrolment campaign. Disseminations of messages were done by using loudspeakers where songs on education were prepared in local languages. The van was hired by schools which was fitted with Loudspeakers where education related songs were aired, announcement/appeal was made to community to send their wards to schools etc. were disseminated.



- 2) **Meeting with VSS /SMC:** The VSS and SMC were the critical link in this campaign. Regular meeting was conducted with VSS and SMC member to make them aware about the situation. Capacity building program was also conducted for VSS and SMC member.



A Parent-Teacher meeting (PTM) was held on 9 March 2021 on conducting door to door survey for mapping of out of school children and linking them with schools. The second Parent-Teacher meeting held on 16 March 2021 to review on left-out children. The PTM helped in involving community and making the enrolment drive a successful one.

- 3) **Greeting of children in the school:** Since after a long gap children were going to attend schools, hence school had planned to greet each and every child in a unique way. In some schools, children were greeted with garland of flowers, whereas some schools provided bouquet to their students. Some Government schools provided mask, sanitiser, hand wash to their students on the first day of the school. The schools were decorated with flowers, balloons, proper sanitization was done by school authority, thermal check up of each child was conducted by teachers of the schools.





It was ensured by the school authority that every child enrolled in school are welcomed properly, getting a conducive environment, having proper care with dignity and getting quality education. Parents and children were also honoured by HM, VSS member and teachers.



### **Outcome:**

Praveshotsav ó Special Enrolment Campaign was a grand success. It was conducted in a campaign mode and ensured that every door is knocked in the community. Children, teachers, parents and community all participated in this campaign. As a result, about 36.77 lakh children were enrolled in school which is commendable.

### **Way forward:**

In order to provide quality education to the enrolled children, Bihar Education Project Council has initiated some activities for the academic year 2021-22.

*Catch up Course:* With support of SCERT and UNICEF a 60 days Catch-up Course has been developed to bridge the learning gaps of the children.

*Special Training:* As the Out of School Children data is mapped, Bihar Education Project Council will start Special Training to them in a planned manner.