



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION J&K REGIONAL BRANCH



News Letter

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CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

People resist change; however change is need of the hour. To seek a practical and methodical solution of breaking down the barriers to such an impending issue, IIPA (J&K Regional Branch) in collaboration with Asian Centre for Organization of Research and Development (ACORD), New Delhi organized a one day interaction seminar on the theme 'creating and sustaining a strong bond between citizens and Government' on March 16, 2012 which was attended by Ministers, senior bureaucrats and members from the civil society. Jenab Omar Abdullah, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir was the chief guest and Shri Tara Chand, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister was the guest of honour.



While addressing the August gathering the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that the participatory change and involvement of the citizens in the governance is important



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EDITORIAL

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary education is the foundation for the entire education structure and deserves the highest priority from Govt. to spread mass literacy for economic development, modernisation of social structure and the effective functioning of democratic institutions. Therefore, primary education after independence gained impetus as Govt. of India emphasised the provision of free and compulsory elementary education up to 14 years of age. Also, the central Govt. helped the states financially to expand Primary Education by bearing 34% of the total annual expenditure. However, in spite of this the primary education still remains a cause of concern.

A number of factors have contributed to this sad state of affairs. While outlining these factors, it has been seen that the primary education has been the responsibility of municipalities and the district boards which have not risen equal to the occasion due to lack of working capacity, interest and funds. In addition, accountability of these institutions is borne neither by the states nor any central agency which has resulted in financial dwindling and deterioration in quality of the primary education. Moreover, there is acute dearth of trained teachers, which is felt more in rural areas. Another cause of concern is an ill-conceived, narrow and unsuitable curriculum, which is not adequate enough to channelize the innate propensities and tap the potential of the children.

Some natural obstacles like living in distant or inaccessible areas, lack of connectivity vis-à-vis, transport facilities, heavy rainfall, unreachable terrains etc. in turn affect primary education. Further failure of children, or non-cooperation of parents/guardians to send children, especially girl child, to the school have also contributed to the present sorry state of primary education. Hence, it is important to overcome the hurdles in the expansion of primary education by evolving a definite education policy in which the municipalities and district boards share the

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today and shall be the key to development in the future. He said that the citizen of today is much better informed and wants to participate in the development and change process. Today the elected government has to perform and deliver results in line with the expectations of the electorate of the state.

He said that he is keen to transform the relationship of people with the Government from present 'complainants and critics status' to partners and collaborators in the process of development and responsibility. He said that involving and including people in a meaningful way in good governance particularly at the civic services level is mandatory. Transition to participatory based governance requires equal contributions from both the government and the citizens. For effective implementation of participatory based programmes, the citizens should come forward and start sharing responsibility with the government. Also, public participation in identifying problems, finding the solutions jointly with the Government and implementing these on ground and share benefits and responsibilities should be the aim and objective of participatory Governance.

To make inclusive development and ensure sustained participation of people in development, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has sought the expert opinion of ACORD and has solicited the roadmap for participatory governance in Jammu & Kashmir. He said that Jammu & Kashmir, after successfully introducing Panchayati Raj, should set the ball rolling for rural model of participatory development and set an example for the country.

Jenab Abdullah asserted that the effort in this direction is aimed at building partnership with all groups of citizens and stakeholders in the state to further the progressive development of all regions and to bring transparency in the functioning of administration. This would also accommodate the public aspirations in plan formulation and implementation of the development works.

Earlier, in the two hour long interactive session, Chairman

ACORD, Prof. M. D. G. Koreth and Dr. (Ms) Kiron Wadhwa presented the case study of Delhi and Rajasthan and shared the benefits of introducing the participatory based governance. Prof. Koreth said that the idea of democracy is all inclusiveness but in a country like India with immense diversity it is difficult to achieve. However, ACORD helped the Delhi government to introduce "Bhagidhari" with a vision to create a close bond between the government and the citizens. The model was developed based on the theory of large group dynamics which aims at taking care of divergent and opposing interests. He said that it is important to understand that people's perceptions are social facts and no government can succeed in the long run without paying adequate attention to people's perceptions. Dr.(Ms.) Kiron Wadhwa in her presentation emphasized on issues pertaining to macro and micro level implementation of citizen centric programmes. She said that genuineness and commitment of political and senior bureaucracy is critical for successful implementation of the programmes. Democratizing the process is critical for reaping full benefits of the participatory based governance. Dr. Ashok Bhan in his welcome address emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir needs a citizen centric and a participative model of governance so that people are associated in the process of development at all levels. The success story of 'Bhagidari' programme, an initiative towards creating and sustaining a strong bond between citizens and government, will require a lot of keen involvement by the Minister of State, Advisors, Heads of Departments and the top brass of the society. He reiterated that the J&K Regional Branch of IIPA which has been organizing seminars, programmes, workshops and interactive sessions covering various issues of concern to the public, is rated as one of the most active branches in the country and the government must make use of resources of the regional branches for such like activities.

Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand, Ministers, Taj Mohi-ud-Din, Abdul Gani Malik, Qamar Ali Akhoun, Ministers of State Ajaz Ahmad Khan, Javid Ahmad Dar, Economic Advisor to Government, J. A. Khan, various Administrative Secretaries, Heads of the Departments, Vice Chairman, IIPA and former PSC Member, A. M. Watali, Vice Chairman IIPA, C. M. Seth, Secretary IIPA, J B. S. Johar, Members of IIPA, retired Government officers and senior citizens were present on the occasion. Joint Secretary IIPA, Vikrant Kuthiala presented the vote of thanks.



responsibility of spreading primary education and also made accountable.

In addition to the above, the emoluments of the primary teachers should commensurate with other departments of the states along with an effective promotion policy for the primary teachers need be framed for sustaining their interest in this profession. Measures to educate parents /guardians should be adopted. Failures in the primary classes may be eliminated to reduce the drop out rate especially of the girl child. Teaching methods be made

appealing and interesting for sustaining the interest of children. Incentives to children in the form of scholarships may be given besides the midday meals.

There is no dearth of programmes like Sarvashiksha Abhyan, Shiksha Mitra, Sahaj Shiksha Kendra, Rehbari Tallem, however it is important that the Government get serious about inefficient and inadequate teacher training programmes and a feeble number of trained teachers. The need of the hour is to make the teaching profession very attractive so that it drives the youth towards it. Addressing these issues will go a long way in achieving the objectives.

EXPERT SPEAKS

Q. What ails primary education in our country?

Ans. A situation of sharing must be created to ensure a positive, active and productive contribution by the private sector education. The promotion of sharing and making it more vibrant will depend upon the clearance of road blocks and unnecessary irritants (so called legal frame work controlling private system of education).

Q. What should be done to bridge gap between government and private schools?

Ans. The major ailments of our primary education in the country are:

- a) Access and retention
- b) Poor government funding
- c) Very poor monitoring
- d) Lack of strategies for Inclusive Education
- e) Lack of attention on the out-of-school children
- f) Negligence of girl child's education
- g) Lack of appropriate infrastructure
- h) Absence of quality education
- i) Over burdening of curricular contents
- j) Lack of emphasis on skill development

Q. Please comment on Sarvashiksha Abhiyan.

Ans. (1) The strategies to school 5.88 lakh out of school children in the age group 6-14 .

- (ii) Working of Education Guarantee Centers in the State.
- (iii) Sharing of primary instructional responsibilities with voluntary agencies.
- (iv) Capacity building programs for teachers.
- (v) Assessment of special focus groups: EGIS, Civil works, Gender and Research and Monitoring.
- (vi) Associating Composite Regional Center with the assessment of SSA appliances and teacher training modules.
- (vii) Infrastructure for the children with Special Needs © W S N).

Q. What is your opinion about Mid Day meal in schools?

Ans. I have never subscribed to the Mid Day meal practice in schools. It could serve as a valid motivational strategy but the implementation is only a very sad commentary.

Q. Suggest some strategies to prevent girl child from dropping out of school.

Ans. Making VEC's, Panchayats, VA's, NGO's productively functional in this area.

Professor AG Madhosh
Former Head, Dept. of Education,
University of Kashmir.



Release of October 2011 issue of the Newsletter



Adoption of Green Belt Park at Channi Himmat by The Regional Branch

INTERACTION SESSION ON “INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN”

An interaction session on “India and Afghanistan” was organized by IIPA, Regional branch on October 25, 2011. Dr. S.S. Bloeria, Vice Chancellor, Central University, Jammu during the lecture discussed in detail the historical relations between India and Afghanistan. Besides historical perspective, Dr. Bloeria also threw light on India's policy towards Afghanistan, India's interest in geo-political context and India's investment in various projects in Afghanistan. The function was presided over by Dr. Ashok Bhan, Chairman IIPA and attended by Army, BSF, J&K Police, faculty members and research scholars of University of Jammu and members of IIPA.



IIPA ORGANIZED 2ND S.P. SAHNI MEMORIAL LECTURE

To perpetuate the memory of Shri Sati Sahni, 2ND S. P. Sahni Memorial Lecture on 'Cultural Resources of Jammu and Kashmir-Mapping and Conservation' was organized by IIPA on November 28, 2011. Dr. S.S. Bloeria, Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu, said that 40-50 books could be compiled if his vast written material was properly researched and utilized. He said Sahni possessed three vital qualities that made him a prolific writer and an ace photographer of the times- discipline, systematic approach for preservation of old things and a wonderful memory. Director, Information and Public Relations Kh. Farooq Renzushah, said the great contribution of Shri Sahni was his vast collection of photographs that are visual marvels. Shri Saleem Beg, in his speech said that Shri Sahni was probably the first person who realized the importance of photography in documenting history. He suggested digitization of his photographic collections, terming it a great national asset for posterity.



10TH VEERANNA AIVALLI MEMORIAL DEBATE

The 10th Annual Veerana Aivalli Memorial debate was organized by IIPA, J&K regional branch on December 15, 2011 in coordination with the University of Jammu. The topic of debate was “In the opinion of the house moral education should be made an integral part of school curriculum.” Twenty teams from various institutions participated among which MBS College of Engineering and Technology lifted the winner's trophy. Bandey Zain- Ul Abden from Department of Political Science bagged the first prize, whereas Rakshit Sharma from GGM Science College and Amandeep Singh from MBS College stood 2nd and 3rd respectively. Shri Kuldeep Khoda, IPS, Director General of Police presided over the prize distribution function.



TOWARDS POLICE REFORMS IN J&K

In collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), the Regional Branch hosted two interactive sessions on the topic "Towards Police Reforms in J&K" on February 13 and 27. Home Commissioner Shri B.R.Sharma, DGP Shri Kuldeep Khoda members of the civil society, members of the IIPA and Officers of J&K Police participated in the sessions. The CHRI was represented by Shri Kamal Kumar, former Director of NPA Hyderabad and Ms Maya Daruwala and Regional Branch by Dr S.S.Bloeria, Dr Ashok Bhan, Prof K.L.Bhatia, Prof Rekha Choudhary, Shri A.M.Watali, Shri B.N.Saraf and Shri J.B.S.Johar. Other participants included Justice (Retd) O.P.Sharma and Shri Arun Joshi.

There was a consensus on need for a new citizen centric Police Act. The Act must follow the spirit of Supreme Court guidelines and need not be dictated by individuals or groups sitting in chairs of authority but should be based on views of the people. It should make police a service

provider rather than a force, upholder and not mere enforcer of law and protector of democracy and constitution and not Government in power. Participants felt that police must be held accountable but multiple agencies to scrutinize police actions can be counterproductive and merely demonizing the police. The new Act must define relations between police and political heirarchy, within police and relations of police with the community. Police image will not change till the police stations are citizen friendly and able to carry out investigation in a professional manner. Simultaneously, society must also be willing to pay for modernization of police as well as to improve socio-economic status of policemen. The participants were conscious of some apprehensions in the transitional phase but wanted focus to remain on protecting people from harassment. It was felt that law should make it obligatory that police is autonomous in its operational functions and accountable.



Shri. Mehmood-ur-Rehman, former Vice-Chancellor AMU & former Chairman, IIPA, J&K Regional Branch visited us on May 3, 2012

Dr. P. Koushal, Hony. Secy. Jharkhand (Ranchi) Regional Branch of IIPA at our Regional Branch on April 26, 2012

RTI WORKSHOP FOR PIOs

A one day workshop for Controlling Officers and PIO's under RTI Act was organized by IIPA, J&K Regional branch on February 18, 2012. Shri. G.R.Sufi, State Chief Information Commissioner was the chief guest of the workshop, which was attended by 130 PIO's of various State departments. In this inaugural address Sh. Sufi informed the audience about their right to seek information from public authority and also suggested the PIO's to supply correct and complete information. The inaugural was followed by two sessions. In the first

session Prof. S.K.Sharma, State Information Commissioner outlined the role of PIO's under RTI Act and Sh.D.C. Raina, former Advocate General discussed "Right to Information under Constitution and RTI Act-Harmonising right to information and efficiency in governance. In the second session, Sheikh Shakeel, Prof. K.L.Bhatia and Prof. V.K.Kapoor interacted with the audience on the topics "RTI implementation and role of NGO's", " RTI-some case studies" and " How common citizen can benefit from RTI" respectively.



Income & Expenditure of IIPA, J&K Regional Branch for the year 2010-11

1.	Balance as on 01-04-2010	= ₹ 6,82,234.23
2.	Grant-in-aid received from Government/IIPA New Delhi during 2010-11	= ₹ 7,93,574.00
	Total	= ₹ 14,75,808.23
3.	Expenditure during 2010-11	= ₹ 5,13,294.23
	Balance as on 31-03-2011	= ₹ 9,62,514.00



A view of interaction on "Police Reforms"



Prize Winners-Veeranna Aivalli Memorial Debate

33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on January 7, 2012 which was presided by former Chairman Shri J A Khan, IAS (Retd), Economic Advisor to the Government of J&K and attended by 69 members.

The annual report for the year 2011 was presented by Shri J B S Johar and Shri T P Singh, Treasurer presented the audited statement of accounts for the financial year 2010 – 2011. Dr. Ashok Bhan while highlighting the achievements of IIPA (J&K) regional branch said that in future IIPA should associate with the new Central Universities and focus on trainings and publications including JK Journal of Administration and Management (JKJAM). Dr. Bhan congratulated the members of Kashmir branch for re-starting the activities which was acknowledged by Sh. J A Khan in his presidential remarks. Sh. Khan emphasized the need for recording the history of the Regional branch in terms of members, infrastructure and programmes.

The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- * Identifying mechanism to raise funds and effective investment of savings for higher returns
- * Identify training opportunities for skill development at the grassroots level.
- * Creating environment and climate change awareness programmes for public and private sector
- * To encourage government to bring Panchayati raj institutions in the state at par with the rest of the country
- * To explore the option of holding AGM on rotational basis in Jammu and Srinagar respectively.
- * To extend efforts in the direction of supporting the deprived sections of the society.
- * Adopt villages for monitoring centrally sponsored schemes.

Elections for 2012-14 were held with Er. V.N. Sharma as the Returning Officer.

Dr. Ashok Bhan was unanimously elected as the Chairman and Dr. C M Seth as the Vice – Chairman (Jammu) , Shri A M Watalli as the Vice-Chairman (Kashmir) and Shri B R Sharma, IAS as Vice-Chairman (Central). Shri J B S Johar was elected as Secretary and Shri T P Singh as Treasurer.

Other Office Bearers elected are:

Vikrant Kuthiala
Joint Secretary (Jammu)
G.M. Andrabi
Joint Secretary (Kashmir)
Prof. Versha Mehta
Director (Seminars)
Dr. Alka Sharma
Joint Director (Seminars)
Sh. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi
Joint Director (Kashmir)

Members of the Executive Committee elected are:

Pawan Kotwal, IAS
Sh. Lal Chand, IFS
Manoj Kumar Dewidi, IAS
Nisar Ahmed, IPS
Chander Gulhati
Vikram Gour
V.N. Sharma
Basheer Ahmad Shah
Prof. Mehraj-u-din
Kh. Bashir Ahmad
Prof. S.M. Afzal Qadri
M.M. Gupta
Jagjeet Singh Sudan
Dr. G.N. Qasba
Prof. Rekha Choudhary



*Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah
with members of the Executive Committee*



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