

Brief Note on Scheme of Adult Education and Skill Development (Saakshar Bharat)

Erstwhile scheme of Saakshar Bharat was launched as the national adult education programme of India on 8th September 2009, the 'International Literacy Day', and was extended till 31st March, 2018. The programme aimed at achieving 80% national literacy level and reducing the gender gap (between male and female) of literacy to the level of 10 percent points. **It is pertinent to mention that Scheme of Saakshar Bharat has been discontinued from the financial year 2018-19.**

2. The four broad objectives outlined in the programme were : (i) to impart functional literacy and numeracy to non-literate and non-numerate adults; (ii) to enable the neo-literate adults to continue their learning beyond basic literacy and acquire equivalency to formal educational system; (iii) to impart non and neo-literates relevant skill development programmes to improve their earning and living conditions; and (iv) to promote a learning society by providing opportunities to neo-literate adults for continuing education.

3. The districts that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent or below, as per 2001 Census, were made eligible for coverage under the Saakshar Bharat programme. In addition, all districts affected by extremist violence, irrespective of their adult female literacy rate, were also eligible for coverage under the programme. Accordingly, a total 410 districts including 35 Left Wing Extremism Affected districts were identified as eligible for coverage under the programme. Of the 410 districts eligible for coverage under the Saakshar Bharat programme, 404 districts in 26 States and 1 Union Territory covering about 1.64 lakh Gram Panchayats (cluster of Revenue Villages) were covered.

4. The coverage of the beneficiaries under the programme was primarily women belonging to the deprived sections of the society. The principal target was to impart Functional Literacy to 70 million non-literates (SCs-14 Million, STs-8 Million, Muslim-12 Million and others-36 million) including 60 million women.

5. Only an adult, who conformed to prescribed competency levels in reading, writing and numeracy, was certified as literate. Assessments were conducted through a system developed by the National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) in consultation with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Bi-annual assessments were conducted every year on pre-decided dates in the month of August and March.

6. Financial Progress of Saakshar Bharat Scheme is as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Expenditure
1.	2009-10	315.00	345.00	335.43
2.	2010-11	1167.00	388.50	373.01
3.	2011-12	488.50	487.80	471.49
4.	2012-13	590.00	420.89	387.33
5.	2013-14	572.00	354.00	297.26
6.	2014-15	450.00	371.35	358.25
7.	2015-16	450.00	360.00	344.09
8.	2016-17	320.00	244.15	209.42
9.	2017-18	320.00	320.00	213.29
10.	2018-19	320.00	52.95	48.00

(contd...)

7. Under this programme, **around 7.64 crore adult learners were certified as literate**. The assessment-wise details of learners who appeared in the assessment tests and got certified are as under:

S. No.	Assessment	Learners Appeared			Learners Successful		
		Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
1	Ph-1 20th Aug 2010	324317	194068	518385	212303	122202	334505
2	Ph-II 06th Mar 2011	3568686	789924	4358610	2517581	585284	3102865
3	Ph-III 20th Aug 2011	3020576	1587763	4608339	2057992	1125147	3183139
4	Ph-IV 18th Mar 2012	7629075	3068482	10697557	5801030	2219921	8020951
5	Ph-V 26th Aug 2012	2678179	1045924	3724103	1935470	764145	2699615
6	Ph-VI 17th Mar 2013	3886570	1500330	5386900	2836790	1122309	3959099
7	Ph-VII 25th Aug 2013	3268074	1361269	4629343	2412333	1023497	3435830
8	Ph-VIII 09th Mar 2014	3772853	1512454	5285307	2771483	1114101	3885584
9	Ph-IX 24th Aug 2014	2691253	1086813	3778066	1987802	809638	2797440
10	Ph-X 15th Mar 2015	4914774	1995501	6910275	3679595	1471604	5151199
11	Ph-XI 23rd Aug 2015	7628191	3391067	11019258	5638221	2457799	8096020
12	Ph-XII 20th Mar 2016	6176334	2705906	8882240	4680533	2034398	6714931
13	Ph-XIII 21st Aug 2016	6376018	3083292	9459310	5051595	2417979	7469574
14	Ph-XIV 19th Mar 2017	6938470	3021755	9960225	5654922	2503459	8158381
15	Ph-XV Aug 2017	4964141	2085432	7049573	4011041	1691367	5702408
16	Ph-XVI Mar 2018	3130301	1369843	4500144	2548606	1130508	3679114
	TOTAL	70967812	29799823	100767635	53797297	22593358	76390655
