

EQUITY COMPONENT & COMMUNITY TRAINING

Ques. What is 'Equity'?

Ans. 'Equity' is nothing but inclusion of all children into the fold of secondary education irrespective of cast, creed, religion & regions with equal opportunity in all aspects of education.

Ques. Are there any financial and physical norms for equity under RMSA?

Ans. Not yet developed under RMSA. So far, States/UTs are allowed to develop any intervention as per need under the component. As far as financial norm is concerned, there are no fixed norms yet; interventions are approved based on the following points:

- Interventions followed by an analysis of need at the school/district/state level.
- Interventions for/related to coverage of children into the secondary education are approved based on the number of children/schools per district.
- So far Rs. 500 per child for any kind of need based activity related to children has been approved.
- Specific reports related to drop-out, retention and transition rate have been taken into account for any kind of intervention related to children performance/skill/empowerment programme.
- Achievement level of the children is also being considered for remedial/special training for those who dropped-out after class VIII & IX.
- Special training programme for that children/student who discontinued their study after class VIII or children who are never enrolled after class VIII.
- Equity action plan may be referred for preparation of need based equity interventions.

Ques. Are only 20% children allowed for taking remedial/special teaching? Whether activity of this kind may be either taken into quality component or equity component?

Ans. Till now only 20% of the children are only allowed to avail the activity of remedial teaching. This activity may be taken under either of the two component-Equity or Quality. Apart from the existing 20% provision, if required, state/UT may propose for those who drop-out or never enrolled children outside the regular school with all the necessary details.

Ques. Is any awareness programme for improving retention of the children being included either in quality or equity?

Ans. Depends upon the category of children, whether the programme only caters for the children in the schools located in the special focus districts/disadvantaged areas having frequent issues like drop-out, irregular of attendance, reluctance in attending classes, migrated etc or for those who repeatedly drop-out of the schooling system due to economic, social, demographic or by any specific reason then that should be included under equity component otherwise in general it should go to quality. Nature of proposal is essentially defined the area.

Ques. Other than the children belonging to SC/ST/Minority community, is state/UT allowed to consider the children belonging to other areas like naxalite affected districts/blocks or areas affected by natural disasters for special attention under equity component?

Ans. Yes. Children of any community may be considered for special attention if they are really deprived of schooling facility continuously for several years. Issues related to the subject must be clearly spelt-out in the proposals.

Ques. Is Self-defense activity for the children in the schools may be regarded as learning enhancement programme or programme for retention?

Ans. This should be called as programme for improving retention. This may be more or less being focused in those areas having retention problem or high drop-out specially girls.

Ques. Is unit cost fixed at Rs. 300/ per member for SMDCs training under RMSA? Is there any provision to enhance the same up-to Rs. 500/ as the expenditure incurred may vary from state to state and district to district between hilly & plain areas?

Ans. Yes, Rs. 300/ is fixed so far under RMSA. It may raise/enhance to Rs. 500/ after the revision of the framework.

Ques. How many SMDCs members may be trained at one time in a school? And for how many days?

Ans. RMSA at present only allowed training for up-to 25 members of SMDCs per school. It depends upon the number of members consist by a SMDCs in a school. Only 3 days training is allowed under RMSA.

Ques. Is there separate budget for SMDCs training?

Ans. Yes. Since 2010-11 RMSA provides separate budget for the SMDCs training. Earlier it was incurred under MMER. Now it is outside MMER.

Ques. Is RMSA allowed to conduct capacity building programme for the trainers of SMDCs? What is the provision for the budget?

Ans. Yes. Budget for the same may be taken from MMER. Otherwise state/UT may give separate proposal with all requisite details for a separate budget taking as mandatory for the SMDCs trainers outside MMER. It depends on PAB until revision of framework.

Ques. Is there any criteria fixed for SMDCs meeting at the school level? And who is the chairman of SMDCs?

Ans. There are no separate criteria fixed for the meeting of SMDCs. This is mandatory to organize/conduct SMDCs meeting every month or otherwise every quarter. School principal is the chairman of each SMDC.
