

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ON
RASHTRIYA MADHYAMIK SHIKSHA ABHIYAN
IN RESPECT OF
SCHOOL MAPPING EXERCISE AND NEW SCHOOL'S PROPOSAL**

Q 1. How do we decide on the village/ habitations where secondary schools are to be opened?

Ans. School Mapping exercise {Manually (Through Formats) or Geo Informatics System (GIS) based mapping} along with distance matrix exercise is the method which we can apply to decide appropriate location for opening of new secondary schools.

Q 2. What is School Mapping exercise?

Ans. School mapping (SM) is a normative approach to the micro-planning of school locations. It is an essential planning tool to overcome possibilities of regional inequalities in the provision of educational facilities.

The term school mapping seemingly implies that the exercise is confined to location of schools. This is not true. School mapping is an exercise useful to rationally allocate educational facilities of any type related to any level of education.

There are two major characteristics of the School mapping exercise.

1. School Mapping incorporates spatial and demographic dimensions into the educational planning process.
2. Location of educational facilities depends on the norms and standards prescribed by the authorities.

Q 3. What are the Major objectives of the School mapping exercise?

Ans. The major objectives of school mapping exercise are:

- ❖ To address existing disparities in the distribution of educational facilities.
- ❖ To create equality of educational opportunities.
- ❖ To identify most appropriate location (Habitation or Village) for opening of new Secondary School or alternatives.
- ❖ To identify the location for opening of alternatives to formal school.

Q 4. Is school mapping exercise necessary before preparing proposal for secondary school?

Ans. Para 5.3.1 of RMSA framework state “Undertaking detailed mapping of Secondary Schooling Provisions, course mapping and streamlining the Secondary Education database is of paramount importance for universalization of access” . Further Para 3.13.2 of framework state that evidences of School mapping and micro planning habitation wise/village wise/cluster wise/urban area wise/slum wise/ward wise should be available

in the District Plan. So we can say that Habitation wise school mapping exercise is necessary before preparing proposal for secondary school.

Q 5. What are the suggestive steps to do school mapping exercise?

Answer: -

Following are the suggestive steps to complete school mapping exercise:

Step 1

- Deciding the administrative unit (District, Block and schools level) for carrying out the school mapping exercise
- Each and every habitation may be listed for mapping exercise. (Website- www.indiawater.IMIS)
- Habitation wise population with availability of schooling facility with distance data may be collected through GIS or Mapping

Step 2

- Listing of all habitations/ villages to identify served area through GIS or Mapping
- The available High schools and details of schools from SEMIS
- High schools and their catchment area

Step 3

- Listing of all habitations/ villages to identify un-served areas through GIS or Manual Mapping.
- Details of Upper primary schools located in the catchment area from DISE.
- Distance Matrix exercise should be done.
- A list of UPS may be prepared which are eligible for upgrading into secondary level as per the State's norm.

Step 4

- Actual physical verification should be done by a team Block and District level officers for confirming details of existing Secondary Schools.
- Actual physical verification should be done by a team block and district level officers for confirming details of Upper Primary Schools eligible for upgrading into secondary level.

Step 5

- Based on the final verification, prioritization may be done.
- Propose year wise existing gap in the existing secondary schools
- Propose year wise new secondary schools selected for opening
- Propose year wise other strateis like residential schools/ Hostels facility/ Transportation facility etc. to fill the gaps for providing universal access, universal enrolment and universal retention.

Q 6. At the time of school mapping exercise, how would we measure distances?

Ans. At the time of school mapping exercise, distances imply walking/ cycling distance by road. These distances between habitation to habitation or school to habitation are measured through a manual survey. If we collect distance data from Geo Informatics

System (GIS) based survey, we get aerial distances. Data of aerial distances should be physically verified. It is important to take into consideration the possible walking distance without barriers for children. Therefore if there are any barriers like a river without a bridge or a hilly terrain, which cannot be crossed by children, the distance should not be seen as aerial distance. It should be measured through the route, which the children can travel without difficulty.

Q 7. What should be the unit for school mapping exercise?

Ans. Mandal/Block should be the unit for school mapping exercise.

Q 8. In the school mapping exercise, how would the catchment area of school be measured?

Ans. In the school mapping exercise, it may be better to measure catchment area of a school taking into account distance between habitations than distances within habitations. Distances within habitations are of less concern even when it is longer, but distance between habitations are of more concern even when it is shorter. The nearby habitations may share educational facilities. Therefore distances between habitations are more important than distances within habitations to locate any educational facility.

It is also important to take into consideration the possible walking distance for children without barriers. Therefore if there are any barriers like a river without a bridge or a hilly terrain, which cannot be crossed by children, then distances should not be seen as aerial distance. It should be measured through the route, which the children can travel without difficulty.

Q 9. How would we calculate expected enrolment of class 9th students?

Ans. We would calculate actual enrolment of class VIII students of Upper Primary Schools which are located within the catchment area of Upper Primary school proposed for upgrading into Secondary level. Total actual enrolment of class VIII enrolment would be expected enrolment for class IX.

Q 10. What are the objectives set for achieving goal of access, under RMSA?

Ans. Following are the access related objectives set under RMSA :-

- To make good quality secondary education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14-18 years.
- To provide secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation, which should be 5 kms. for secondary schools and 7-10 kms. for higher secondary schools.
- Ensure universal access of secondary education by 2017 (GER of 100%),and
- Universal retention by 2020.
- To ensure that no child is deprived of secondary education of satisfactory quality due to gender, socio-economic, disability and other barriers.

- To ensure that all secondary schools have physical facilities, staff and supplies up to the prescribed standards.

Q 11. What are the norms set under RMSA for upgrading Upper Primary Schools into secondary level?

Ans. Interpreting the relevant provisions of RMSA framework, enrolment and distance norms are evolved in various PAB meetings and being followed at the national level for approving Upgradation/ new Secondary Schools under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

Following are the Norms for upgrading upper Primary schools into secondary school (To warrant 2 section school) at the national level.

- Distance norm- Non-availability of High school facility within a distance of 5 km.
- Enrolment Norm-
 - 1) At least 70 children should be enrolled in class 8 of feeder UPSs within catchment area.
 - 2) Availability of at least 25 children (Which may be relaxed in certain conditions) in class 8th of the Upper Primary Schools proposed for up gradation.

Q 12. What are the circumstances under which the norms of up gradation under RMSA be relaxed.

Ans. Interpreting the relevant provisions of RMSA framework, (As per Para 2.1.1 and Para 4.2 of RMSA framework) following relaxed norms are evolved in various PAB meetings and being followed at the national level for approving Upgradation/ new secondary schools under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

Relaxations on National norm on case to case basis

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| Case 1 | <p>In case of special situation like SC, ST, Minority, LWE Affected Districts and MDM Educational backward blocks to short out economic and social barrier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-availability of High school facility within the distance of 5 km. • At least 50 children should be enrolled in class 8 of feeder UPSs within catchment area to warrant 2 section schools. |
| Case 2. | <p>In case of special situation like Hilly/ Difficult Terrain/ River (Natural/ physical Barriers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-availability of High school facility within the distance of 3 km. • At least 50 and 25 children should be enrolled in class 8 of feeder UPSs within catchment area to warrant 2 sections and 1 section school respectively. |

Case 3. In case of special situation like difficult terrain and low density of population in the State (North East Region / HP / J&K / Uttarakhand), and international border areas to address school specific/ habitation specific barriers.

- Non-availability of High school facility within the distance of 5 km or as per State specific norm
- At least 50 and 25 children should be enrolled in class 8 of feeder UPSs within catchment area to warrant 2 section and 1 section school respectively.

Q 13. what are the cost norm set for constructing one and two section new secondary schools?

Ans. As per the scheme norms, estimated cost for construction of two section school is Rs. 58.12 lakh and for construction of one section school, cost norm is Rs. 46.86 lakh.

Q 14. After completing school mapping exercise, it is found that some blocks are having low access percentage or the no. of high schools is very low in comparison with the no. of habitations in the blocks, Shall the enrollment norm i.e. 70 and more enrolment for starting class 9th be relaxed.

Ans. Yes, Enrolment norm can be relaxed in certain circumstances (Refer to Q. No. 13) and one or two section school may be provided in this condition.

Q 15. One of the villages is 7 km far from to nearest high school. Village population is 2000, enrollment in 8th std is 25. Is it possible to upgrade that school?

Ans. Yes, Enrolment norm can be relaxed in certain circumstances (Refer to Q. No. 13) and one section school may be provided in this condition. If the school/ habitation is having specific barriers, than it is possible to upgrade that particular school.

Q 16. One of the villages is 3 km away from the nearest high school. Enrollment in class 8th std is 25 in Upper Primary school situated in the village. There is no other UPS available in the catchment area of proposed Upper Primary school. A river is in between the village and the nearest high school. Is it possible to upgrade that school?

Ans. River is in between the village and the nearest high school, which may be considered as natural barrier. In case of natural barrier like Hilly/ Difficult Terrain/ River, we may consider relaxation of following enrolment and distance norm and approve one or two section school.

- Non-availability of High school facility within the distance of 3 km.
- At least 50 and 25 children should be enrolled in class 8 of feeder UPSs within catchment area to warrant 2 sections and 1 section school respectively.

Considering above norms, In this case Upper Primary school would be eligible for upgrading into one section secondary school.

Q 17. What are the norms set under RMSA for establishing of Hostels/ residential facility in premises of existing secondary school?

Ans. RMSA framework provisioned for establishing of Hostels/ residential schools in para 2.1.3, para 6.2.2, para 6.2.5, para 6.2.8, para 6.2.9. There is no described financial norm to sanction residential facility in the premises of existing secondary schools under RMSA framework. Therefore PAB has not decided to provide residential facility to the existing schools till now.

Q 18. What are the norms set under RMSA for establishment of Residential schools?

Ans. RMSA framework provisioned in para 2.1.3, in respect of establishment of Hostel / residential schools, but there is no described financial (recurring and non-recurring) norm to sanction residential schools under RMSA framework therefore PAB has taken unanimous decision not to approve residential facility to the existing schools.

Further, RMSA framework revision is under process and only after than proposal may be considered for establishing of residential schools and upgrading of KGBVs. If the proposal is considered for upgrading Ashram School, KGBVs or other Upper Primary Schools attached with the hostel facility following norms may be applied with the approval of PAB.

- Distance norm may be relaxed as per RMSA norm or State specific norm.
- At least 50 and 25 children should be enrolled in class 8 to warrant two-section and one-section school respectively.
- Hostel facility should be available.

Q 19. Can Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBVs) be upgraded?

Ans. Yes, Under RMSA, there is a provision to provide new school to the girls to continue their education in the same standard and management of education without any interruption. Considering this fact, KGB Vidhyalayas along with residential facility/ hostels are eligible for upgradation into secondary level.

Q 20. Which Model / type of KGBVs, can be upgraded under RMSA scheme?

Ans. It is mentioned that KGBVs scheme is a centralized scheme for providing residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities in difficult areas.

KGBVs scheme has I, II, and III model. Model I KGBVs are schools with hostels for 100 girls, Model II KGBVs are schools with hostels for 50 girls, Model school III KGBVs are hostels in existing schools for 50 girls.

In view of providing school, All KGBV Model may be eligible for upgrading into secondary level on the basis of relaxed enrolment norm i.e. At least 50 and 25 children should be enrolled in class 8 to warrant 2 section and 1 section school respectively.

Q. 21. What are the norms set for upgrading KGBVs under RMSA scheme?

Ans. If the proposal considered for upgrading KGBVs or other Upper Primary Schools attached with the hostel facility following norms may be applied with the approval of PAB.

- Distance norm may be relaxed as per RMSA norm or State specific norm
- At least 50 and 25 children should be enrolled in class 8 to warrant 2 section and 1 section school respectively.
- Hostel facility should be available.

It is also mentioned that all proposed KGBVs are situated in EBB and therefore state government may take benefit of the other centrally sponsored scheme i.e. Girls' Hostel scheme and may provide hostel facility in the same premises of the proposed location of the secondary school.

Q 22. What are the essential information required in the proposal for opening of new secondary school.

Ans. Following are the essential information required in the proposal for opening of new secondary school.

1. Name of the Upper Primary Schools With full address:
2. School DISE Code :
3. Special geo-physical and other features of the habitation
4. Village Panchayat / Town panchayat / Municipality /Corporation / Township /(other/ specify)
5. Cluster Name (CRC) :
6. Block Name :
7. Educational profile of block:-
8. Educational District:
9. Date of upgradation as Middle School
10. Enrollment Particulars :(From latest DISE Data)
11. Details of nearby Upper Primary/ Middle Schools within a distance of 5 K.M from this school (All kinds of management including private self-finance)
12. Details of nearby Govt. and Govt. Aided High /Higher Secondary Schools within a distance of 10 K.M from this School.
13. Land details of the Middle School (In acres)
14. Details of land acquired for the purpose of upgrading the school into High School
15. Details of Community Contribution
16. Signature and name of the Authorized Signatory with seal (AEEO/AEEO/DEO/ Chief Educational Officer/ Dist. Prog. Coordinator)

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