

## **A Study on Implementation of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme at secondary level of education in District Pulwama**

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<b>ABSTRACT</b>
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*Education means change which takes place in various spheres of life of an Individual. It finds out numerous solutions for the problem of individuals and serving them to arrive at their destination.. It enables the individual to draw out of their hidden capacities and to develop his/her personality. It is the route of initiating the child into their mode of life. The study aimed to find out the dropout among students and implementation of RMSA Scheme at secondary level in district Pulwama. Self- developed questionnaire was used for data collection. The sample comprised of 18 teachers from 18 rural secondary schools of district Pulwama of J&K (India). The study observed that the RMSA scheme has been implemented at secondary level of education in district Pulwama as per Guidelines of MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development) Govt. of India. But the target of universal retention has not been achieved. Therefore various steps must be taken to achieve universal retention among students at secondary level.*

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**Key Words:** *Implementation, Secondary Level, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Scheme*

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## **1. Introduction**

The secondary stage of education is an essential period in school education as it helps the children to develop important skills for higher education. In J&K Union Territory, the secondary stage consists of 9 & 10 classes; almost the age of the children at this level is 14-16 years. It helps the students not only to choose different careers but also to develop a clear understanding of various issues in society. The stage of education enables the children to strengthen their democratic values. Thus secondary education should be qualitative in nature.

Following the commitments of the Govt. of India to universalize the education at secondary level in the 14-18 years of age, provision of universalizing secondary education has become a salient feature of the Secondary Education Commission (1952-1953) and National Policy of Education 1986 since independence. Various efforts have been taken under the RMSA Scheme to universalize access in relation to schools, while as, it also emphasizes quality in secondary education through field-based holistic and convergent approaches, in this context, Indian Govt. identified nodal agency at the national level to bring about expansion at secondary level in the quality of education through the multiplicity of the initiative.

### **Literature Review**

Various studies have been reviewed related with the present study. Chand & Bala (2018) assessed the attainment of indicators at the secondary level in terms of access, quality, and equity and observed that no such barrier that created problems among students in accessing the school. There

has been no such difference in the attendance pattern of various backgrounds (SC/ST/girls/minorities). All schools fulfilled these indicators of access, enrolment, and retention. Kapoor & Imam (2018) viewed that there are numerous issues at the ground level to implement RMSA. These issues are attitude of the Teachers and Principals towards RMSA to inappropriate utilization of funds. Non-material and material resources are not properly available in schools. Equity is still a concern, and achieving USE is still a far-away dream. Sharma (2015) that about 101 students were dropped out since 2011-14 due to various reasons like family, personal, and health problems. The study further indicated that the enrolment rate of secondary school students was increased during the academic years 2011-14, which included SC, ST, OBC, minority, and general students. Sachdeva (2016) expressed teachers teaching in RMSA schools are very keenly interested in taking an active part in the research process; they have also shown that there is an increase in available facilities in schools as a result of which parents are showing their interest in enrolling their wards in schools. Education is facilitated with the implementation of RMSA, and about more enrolment.

### **Significance**

Secondary education is the backbone of entire education system. Because at this stage of education students are preparing themselves for higher education. The Govt. of India has launched various schemes and policies for development of secondary in the country. The most important scheme namely RMSA scheme that was introduced in the year 2009 for development of quality

education among students in the country. The researcher has taken it into the consideration and viewed the aims of scheme and took an initiative to conduct a study on secondary schools that were upgraded and sponsored under the scheme in district Pulwama of J&K (India). The researcher reviewed the literature related the present study and found no study has been conducted in her native living (Pulwama) on the scheme. Hence it necessitates the study.

#### **4. Objectives of the study**

1. To study the implementation mechanism of RMSA in District Pulwama.
2. To study the dropouts among students at secondary school in district Pulwama.

#### **5. Methodology**

The study was carried out in district Pulwama of Kashmir (India) and all 18 schools were included in the studies that were upgraded under the scheme of RMSA from 2013 to 2017. The sample comprised of 18 teachers that were selected randomly from all schools. Self-constructed questionnaire were distributed among teachers. The data were collected in the month of June (2019).

#### **6. Analysis and Interpretation of the Data**

##### **6.1 Implementation mechanism of RMSA Scheme**

The implementation of RMSA started from pre-preparatory activity plan framed by CEO office Pulwama, after the successful formation of activity plan a survey is conducted by U-DISE (Unified District Information System for Education) regarding the infrastructure, enrolment; staffs

sanction staff available, posts vacant, population, number of households, accommodation, number of schools, etc. as per the norm. The scheme was implemented if the school had sufficient land available for building and should be within walking distance of 5 kilometres. All 18 middle schools of district Pulwama were upgraded to high schools because the total enrolment in each school exceeded 300.

Under the scheme of RMSA, the focus was laid upon the quality by strengthening the school in terms of staff, specific subject teachers, and appointment of non-teaching staff such as laboratory assistant, library assistant, and one resource person.

## 6.2: Dropout of students

As evident from table 2, it has been observed that in the year 2012 the drop out among girl students in secondary schools was higher (2.59%) than boys (0.33%). while as, during the years (2015-2017) the dropouts of both boys and girls remained above 1%, but over the years the dropouts among girl students was higher than boys(2012-2019). However there has been decline in the dropout level of boys than girls in the years 2017-2019.

**Table 1. Dropouts of students in selected secondary schools of district Pulwama**

Academic Year	Class ix and x Drop out level							
	Gender	Boys	Number	percentage	Girls	Number	Percentage	Total
2019		3	355	0.84%	5	388	1.28%	743
2018		3	345	0.86%	6	351	1.70%	696
2017		3	351	0.85%	4	404	0.99%	755
2016		6	399	1.50%	5	367	1.36%	766
2015		4	367	1.08%	3	283	1.06%	650
2014		1	298	0.33%	5	193	2.59%	491

### **6.3 Improvement in retention**

In RMSA Sponsored secondary schools, (15, 83.33%) teachers responded that after implementation of RMSA, there had been an improvement in retention among girl students in secondary schools whereas, only 15.04% said that there had been no improvement in retention among girl's students after implementation of RMSA.

### **7. Suggestions**

1. The Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme should be implemented in letter and spirit so that the barriers remained under RMSA scheme can be eliminated.
2. Special provision should be there in secondary schools especially for poor and needy students so that aim of universalization of secondary education can be achieved.
3. Govt. should take such initiatives for the society and parents as well to make aware them the importance of secondary education.
4. There should financial support for students especially girls in schools so that they can complete their prescribed course of education.
5. Efforts should be made to provide vocational education to the students at secondary level so that they make ourselves independent not burden on their parents.
6. Some incentives should be given to the poor students for motivational purposes.

## 7. Conclusion

Education makes a children good human being and eminent member of the society. But the education makes the children responsible member of society should always innovative in nature. The students at secondary level of education are at the path to make their life independent and resourceful. The govt. should take major steps for the development of education among students at any level of education. Because education is the only way that a man remains free from bondages and barriers. The scheme of RMSA was launched in the country for the holistic development of education at secondary level but this scheme is not only a good way for promoting qualitative education but more programmes and policies should be in the country for educational development and for the nation welfare and the progress.

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