

# Regional Seminar

on

**'Issues, Concerns and Challenges in  
Implementing RMSA in NE Region'**



Date

**March 12-14, 2013**

Venue

**North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE),  
A Constituent Unit of National Council of Educational  
Research and Training (NCERT), Umiam, Nongsder,  
Shillong-793103, Meghalaya**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE) is organizing a Regional Seminar on **“Issues, Concerns and Challenges in Implementing RMSA in NE Region”** from **12 to 14 March, 2013** at **NERIE, Umiam, Shillong**.

## **ABOUT NERIE**

The North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE) is a constituent unit of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi. NCERT is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resources and Development (HRD), Government of India. NERIE was set up at Shillong in 1995 to cater to the educational needs of the North Eastern states, viz., Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. NERIE's mandate is to provide academic and technical support system to assist and advise the governments of the above mentioned states on policies and programmes on all aspects of school education and help in developing the State curricula. NERIE has taken initiatives to begin the pre-service courses soon. NERIE has recently shifted to its own and new campus in Barapani, outside Shillong.

## **ABOUT SHILLONG**

Shillong is the capital of Meghalaya. It is situated at an altitude of 1496 meters above sea level. It is well connected to Guwahati. The distance from Guwahati airport to Shillong is 125 Kms., and from Guwahati Railway station to Shillong is 100 Kms. The weather of Shillong in March will be moderate and pleasant.

NERIE is situated in Barapani; 20 Kms from Shillong (towards Guwahati) on Shillong-Guwahati Highway (NH-40). NERIE is located 2 Kms off the Orchid Resort Point on NH-40; near North East Space Application Centre (NESAC).

## ABOUT RMSA

*Rashtriya Madhymaik Siksha Abhiyan* (RMSA) is a scheme of the government of India for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at the secondary stage. It came into being after Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest deliberative and advisory forum on education in the country with education ministers of all the states and eminent educationists as its members, in 2004 and 2005 decided to make secondary education universal.

Secondary Education (classes IX and X) is a crucial stage in the educational hierarchy as it prepares the students for higher education and also for the world of work. It is, therefore, absolutely essential to strengthen this stage by providing greater access and also by improving quality in a significant way. Besides providing general education up to secondary level, it is utmost imperative to impart vocational education and other relevant skills to students at this level so as to compete in the job market. After RTE came into effect, RMSA has become essential.

The vision for secondary education as mentioned in the framework for implementation of RMSA (available at MHRD, GOI website) is to make good quality education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14-18 years. With this vision in mind, it further says, the following is to be achieved:

- ❖ To provide a secondary school within a reasonable distance of any habitation, which should be 5 kilometer for secondary schools and 7 -10 kilometers for higher secondary schools.
- ❖ Ensure universal access of secondary education by 2017 (GER of 100%), and

- ❖ Universal retention by 2020,
- ❖ Providing access to secondary education with special references to economically weaker sections of the society, the educationally backward, the girls and the disabled children residing in rural areas and other marginalized categories like SC, ST, OBC and Educationally Backward Minorities (EBM).

In order to meet the challenge of Universalisation of Secondary Education (USE), this framework further says that there is a need for a paradigm shift in the conceptual design of secondary education. The guiding principles in this regard are; Universal Access, Equality and Social Justice, Relevance and Development and Curricular and Structural Aspects. Universalisation of Secondary Education gives opportunity, to move towards equity. The concept of 'common school' will be encouraged. If these values are to be established in the system, all types of schools, including unaided private schools will also contribute towards Universalisation of Secondary Education (USE) by ensuring adequate enrolments for the children from under privileged society and the children Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.

The above goal, as per this framework, translates into the following main objectives;

- ❖ To ensure that all secondary schools have physical facilities, staffs and supplies at least according to the prescribed standards through financial support in case of Government/ Local Body and Government aided schools, and appropriate regulatory mechanism in the case of other schools.
- ❖ To improve access to secondary schooling to all young persons according to norms – through proximate location (say, Secondary Schools within 5 kms, and Higher Secondary Schools within 7-10 kms)/efficient and safe transport arrangements/residential facilities, depending on local

circumstances including open schooling. However in hilly and difficult areas, these norms can be relaxed. Preferably residential schools may be set up in such areas.

- ❖ To ensure that no child is deprived of secondary education of satisfactory quality due to gender, socio-economic, disability and other barriers.
- ❖ To improve quality of secondary education resulting in enhanced intellectual, social and cultural learning.
- ❖ To ensure that all students pursuing secondary education receive education of good quality
- ❖ Achievement of the above objectives would also, inter-alia, signify substantial progress in the direction of the Common School System.

So, RMSA is a comprehensive program of the Government of India to drastically change the scenario of secondary school education in the country. Given the enormity and diversity of our society, universalisation of secondary school education is indeed a daunting task. It takes care of all that are required to make universalisation of secondary education a reality in our country. Once again the focus is on access, quality and equity. Every attention has been paid to reach to nooks and corners of the country, to improve the quality of secondary school education and to bridge the gaps across the social groups. From institutional reforms and strengthening of resource institutions (such as NCERT, NUEPA, NIOS, SCERTs, SOS, CTEs, IASEs, University) to creating state of art infrastructure in schools, RMSA has detailed planning and wherewithal to execute them into reality. Planning, preparations and monitoring have to occur at all level for which RMSA has put detailed guidelines in place. Capacity building of teachers, educational planners and administrators form the important activities under RMSA. Curriculum revision, assessment & examination reforms, special focus on some important aspects of education at this level will some of the prime concerns of RMSA.

Therefore, in order to meet the challenge of universalisation of secondary education and the implementation of RMSA in its true spirit, there is a need to

understand the existing ground realities with respect to the preparations made by the states in terms of planning, teacher training, infrastructure, logistics, administrative set up, etc.

Hence, this seminar is proposed to understand the issues, concerns and challenges in implementing RMSA in the North East (NE) region of the country and also to come out with concrete recommendations through common sharing and consensus for its speedy and effective implementation.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The interested participants are requested to send their abstracts of not more than 300 words and full paper not exceeding 5000 words to the coordinator or co-coordinator of the seminar. Abstract and full paper should be sent in both hard and soft copy. A screening committee consisting of experts from NERIE and other institutions of repute will shortlist the abstracts and successful candidates will be accordingly informed. Some of the exceptionally good papers as decided by the panel of referees may be published depending upon the availability of funds. Papers should relate to the given themes concerning the NE region. However, a few exceptionally good papers from other parts of the country may also be accepted.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PAPERS/ABSTRACTS**

Abstracts of original work in not more than 300 words should be submitted within the deadline. Abstracts should be sent in soft copy to mail ids of coordinator/co-coordinator. The abstract should contain the title of the paper, name of the author(s) and their complete address including their designation, and the text. The text should clearly explain the novelty of the findings. The abstract should not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references. First name in the

list of authors will be considered as the main author. Name of the corresponding author should also be mentioned.

The author of the shortlisted abstract will be informed to submit the paper within the given deadline. The full paper may be submitted both in soft copy and hard copy. The paper should consist of following portions: **Abstract; Keywords-** This should include 3-5 keywords; **Text-** the text of the paper should be divided into the following sections: **Introduction, Methodology, Results and Discussion, Conclusions, Acknowledgments** and **References-** APA reference style may be followed.

## **IMPORTANT DEADLINES**

Abstract–	31 January, 2013
Full Paper –	28 February, 2013
Participation Confirmation-	08 March, 2013
Seminar dates-	12-14 March, 2013

## **LOGISTICS**

TA to participants will be restricted to AC-II train fare or as per respective entitlements, whichever is less. Air fare/AC-I train fare is not admissible. Local hospitality (lodging & boarding) for delegates will be arranged by NERIE, Shillong on request. No other DA will be paid.

Those seeking accommodation are requested to inform the coordinator/co-coordinator of the seminar well in time.

**There will be no registration fee.**

## SUB-THEMES

- ❖ Policy initiatives, coordination, collaboration and political will and RMSA
- ❖ Status and challenges in implementing RMSA in North East region
- ❖ Quality concerns in schools at secondary levels
- ❖ Equity/access in Education and RMSA
- ❖ Diversities in North East and secondary school education
- ❖ Indigenous Knowledge and Curriculum development for NE region
- ❖ NCF and RMSA
- ❖ RMSA and Environment Management/sustainable development in Schools
- ❖ ICT in schools and RMSA
- ❖ Science Education at secondary level in NE region
- ❖ Mathematics Education at secondary level in NE region
- ❖ Language Education at Secondary Level in NE region
- ❖ Social science education and its contextualization in NE region
- ❖ Issues of arts and aesthetics in secondary school in NE region
- ❖ Issues in capacity-building of secondary school teachers in NE region
- ❖ Assessment and Evaluation in secondary Schools of NE region
- ❖ Teacher Education (pre-service and in-service) in NE region and Secondary Education
- ❖ Monitoring and Supervision mechanism for secondary schools in NE region
- ❖ Systemic issues in implementing RMSA in the NE region
- ❖ Organic linkage between SSA and RMSA in NE region
- ❖ Organic linkage between secondary and higher education in NE region
- ❖ Vocationalization and secondary education
- ❖ Role of NGOs and RMSA
- ❖ Library and laboratories in schools
- ❖ RMSA and school management
- ❖ RMSA and funds
- ❖ RMSA and inclusive education
- ❖ RMSA and local bodies (PRIs)



- ❖ CCE and RMSA
- ❖ Environmental education and RMSA in NE region
- ❖ Issues of adolescence and guidance and counseling at secondary level of education in NE region
- ❖ Sports and physical education and RMSA in NE region

## **TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

### **12 March, 2013: (Tuesday)**

9:00 AM - 9.30 AM:	Registration
9.30 AM - 11.00 AM:	Inaugural Session
11:00 AM - 11:30AM:	Tea Break
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM:	Academic Session 1
1:00 PM - 2:00PM:	Lunch Break
2:00 PM - 3:30PM:	Academic Session 2
3.30 PM - 4.00 PM:	Tea Break
4.00 PM - 5.30 PM:	Academic Session 3

### **13 March, 2013 (Wednesday)**

09.30AM - 11:00AM:	Academic Session 4
11.00AM - 11.30PM:	Tea Break
11.30 AM - 1.00 PM:	Academic Session 5
1.00 PM - 2:00PM:	Lunch Break
2:00PM - 3.30 PM:	Academic Session 6
3.30 PM - 4.00 PM:	Tea Break
4.00 PM - 5.30 PM:	Academic Session 7

## **14 March, 2013 (Thursday)**

9:30 AM - 11:00AM:	Academic Session 8
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM:	Tea Break
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM:	Academic Session 9
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM:	Lunch Break
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM:	Open Session
3.00 PM - 4.00 PM:	Valedictory Function

### **OUTCOMES**

This three-day seminar will provide a challenging opportunity to educationists, teacher educators, civil society activists, research scholars, academicians, and teachers to come together and share their thoughts and experiences in order to make a scholarly and meaningful contribution for a better implementation of RMSA in the region.

**-----Principal and staff of NERIE, Shillong**

## Registration Form

Name: Mr./Ms./Dr./Prof: .....

Designation .....

University/Organization.....

Address.....

Telephone No.      Code :.....No: .....

Fax No.              Code :.....No: .....

Mobile No:.....

E-mail : .....

Accommodation required:              Yes/No

Signature

### PLEASE SEND THE FILLED-IN FORM TO:

#### **Coordinator**

Dr. Abhay Kumar, Assistant Professor, NERIE, Umiam, Nongsder, Near NESAC, Shillong-793103

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#### **Co-coordinator**

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