



Research Paper

Implementation of Gunotsav: Improving the Quality of School Education in Assam

Sunila Kumari rai (research Scholar) & Dr. Narender Singh (Supervisor),
Department of Education, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh.

Abstract: In Article no-21(A) of the Indian Constitution, the Right to Education Act 2009 mentions that free and compulsory education is provided to each child up to the age of 14 years. It also mandated that every child in India aged 6 to 14 years has the constitutional right to receive quality and inclusive education. It focuses on the enhancement of quality-based education at the primary level. For the assessment of quality in primary education, the state of Assam has implemented the Gunotsav Program-which means a celebration of quality in 2017. The Gunotsav is a qualitative program for assessing the quality of school education adopted from the Gujarat state of India. This program tries to fulfill the mandate of RTE, 2009 where all the children have constitutional rights to receive quality elementary education.

Keywords: Gunotsav, Right to Education, Quality education, improve.

Received 22 May, 2024; Revised 02 June, 2024; Accepted 04 June, 2024 © The author(s) 2024.
Published with open access at www.questjournals.org

I. Introduction:

School Education has a great role in every country. It is a main pillar of any developing country. The government of India has taken various programs and schemes for the development of education. Most of the programs and schemes of the government are for enhancing the quality of school education. In India, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was established in New Delhi on 1st September 1961 to bring academic support to developing the quality of school education. The NCERT has also created primary and upper primary school evaluation methods by Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). According to the Educational Dictionary, "the quality of education is the evaluation of educational level and effect". The word quality is used mostly in research and educational fields. Quality in education refers to students' learning outcomes (Mukhopadhyay,2001). We know that Students' high marks and high percentages do not mean that they high level of quality. Quality education does not only mean achieving a high percentage but also developing personality and adapting practical and theoretical knowledge which can be helpful in real life (G, Sandhya & Basumatary,2019).

Gunotsav is a program designed for qualitative improvement in Primary & Secondary Education which includes learning outcomes of children as well as Co-Scholastic activities, use of resources, and community participation as a whole. Gunotsav in elementary education is an initiative taken by the Gujarat government towards quality enhancement bringing awareness about quality among school functionaries and society with a focus on teacher evaluation (Thapa& Srivastav,2021). Gunotsav is a mass assessment process that focuses on the evaluation of 'quality education' and reviews the utilization of basic facilities in schools (Good Practices & New Initiative for Education in Gujarat,2013). The word Gunotsav means celebration of quality. It is a Gujarat government initiative program for the enhancement of the quality of elementary education which began in 2009(Thapa &Srivastav).

Gunotsav is noted as a success story in a document of the 12th Five-Year Plan of the India Government (Planning Commission). Gujarat government has implemented the project called Gunotsav as an effort to concentrate on quality along with the enhancement of education. The major aim of this project is to see whether the child has achieved a minimum level of learning of the standards in which he studies or not. It is an effort to prepare an accurate plan and to implement it to remove the weakness. If the child has not achieved the expected level, in one sense, it is a diagnostic and remedial process. Still, it is its specialty that not only the Department of Education, but the Gujarat Government including the chief minister also shown a personal interest in the project officials of higher cadre has established example by arranging evaluation process in all primary schools of Gujarat state (Maheriya, C,2022).

The first phase of Gunotsav was implemented in Assam in 2017. Gunotsav is mainly focused on qualitative improvement in school education, including children's learning outcomes as well as co-scholastic activities, use of available resources, and community participation as a whole. To assess school education in the state and grade the schools accordingly to formulate a specific strategy to achieve positive change in elementary and Secondary Schools in the State, the program of Gunotsav has been designed and implemented in the academic years, 2017, 2018, 2022 and 2023. For the assessment of quality, the entire government employees including the Honourable Chief Minister, Ministers, Hon'ble MLAs, Chief Secretary to the Govt of Assam, senior IAS, IPS, and IFS officers, class I & II officers of the state are engaged as an External Evaluator of Gunotsav and visited schools. The Gunotsav program included all the Government and Provincialized, Tea Garden management Schools, Tea Garden Model schools, and Adarsha Vidyalayas are covered in three phases. It has also included the students of classes I to IX (Executive summary Gunotsav 2023, Kahilipara, Guwahati).

II. Objectives of the study:

- 1 To study the concept and objectives of the Gunotsav program.
- 2 To study the impact of Gunotsav in qualitative improvement of elementary education in Assam.
- 3 To study the role and importance of the Gunotsav in school education.

The Gunotsav program in Assam: The Assam Government has implemented 'Gunotsav-a quality initiative' from the academic year, 2017 to ensure attaining grade-specific learning outcomes by all children defined by NCERT. The Gunotsav program includes -

- All Government/Provincialized/Tea Garden Management Schools of Elementary and secondary level will be covered.
- The districts will be covered in three phases
- Scholastic evaluation will be for classes I to IX
- There will be both self-evaluation and external evaluation.
- Evaluation will be for two days for each school.
- On the 1st day of the two-day evaluation, all schools will conduct a self-evaluation. The external evaluation of the respective schools as per schedule will be done on the respective date of external evaluation. The evaluation process of the Gunotsav – To know the academic outcomes of the children, the Gunotsav program includes two types of assessment process-
- Self-evaluation Schools conduct self-evaluations in the presence of the School Management Committee/School Management District Committee. All assessment records have been kept in the prescribed format for verification by an external evaluator on the day of the External Evaluation.
- External Evaluation is done by an External evaluator. Based on the self-assessment conducted by schools, students were selected randomly by external evaluation.
- On the day of external evaluation, teachers will be interchanged within the cluster.
- Evaluation is based on Optical Mark Recognition.
- Individual question papers are provided to each student.
- The colour of the OMR sheet for the Lower Primary, Upper Primary, and Secondary levels is different. The colour of packets of confidential materials is also different for LP, UP, and secondary levels.
- All confidential packets are to be opened in front of the External Evaluator.
- The grading process of the school includes -
 1. Scholastic (Both Skill-Reading, Writing & Numeracy/Basic Mathematical Operations and subjects) – 90%
 2. Co-scholastic – 5%
 3. Community Participation – 5

III. Importance of Gunotsav program in school education in Assam:

The National Policy on Education (NEP1986) has stated that Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation should analyze both scholastic and non-scholastic aspects of the evaluation. It is a system of keeping records of the growth and development of the students continuously. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which is now subsumed under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan has three primary goals at the elementary stage i.e., access, retention, and quality of education. The scheme's primary goals are to provide quality education and grow students' learning outcomes, to ensure equity and inclusion at all levels of school education. After the achievements of access and retention, the focus has shifted to quality education in elementary education. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF-2005) has also given importance to comprehensive evaluation and regular. In 2009, the Right to Education Act more focus on quality education at the elementary level which is the foundation of the learning level. According to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Education, the objective is to provide inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to secondary school levels. For the assessment of the objectives of different policies and programs, the Assam Government has given

importance to implementing the quality evaluation program. Gunotsav program is an evaluation program of quality in elementary education in Assam. The state has taken various initiatives after Gunotsav to improve the quality of the school. This program assesses the learning gaps, the learning outcomes of the children, and how it improves properly at the elementary level. Through the Gunotsav program Government has collected easy educational information about the school and the performance of the children.

Benefits of the Gunotsav program in Quality enhancement at elementary schools: When we studied the Gunotsav program in different journals, articles, and research papers, most of the researchers found that the Gunotsav program is a very effective program to assess the children's learning outcomes, learning gaps and role of schools. The Gunotsav program has a positive role in the quality development of elementary education (Borthakur & Kakati, 2019). This program will help to generate greater participation among all the stakeholders and to ensure the better functioning of elementary education (Chetia & Brahma, 2021). After the implementation of this program, most of the schools has improved their quality in both scholastic and non-scholastic areas. Some benefits are

- It helps to track the academic performance of each child across all subjects throughout the elementary level.
- It helps to identify the learning gaps of children.
- It helps to design and implement remedial strategies based on the identified learning gaps.
- Enhance the learning of students through timely regular feedback and bring about improved learning outcomes.
- To increase the retention rate and reduce the dropout rate of the children of elementary school.
- It helps to create awareness and greater participation among the community of people and all stakeholders.
- Ensure better school functioning.

IV. CONCLUSION

Gunotsav is the greatest primary education program through which the quality of Elementary Education in Assam can be evaluated. It has a positive impact on the elementary education of the state in various ways enrolment of students, attendance of both teachers and students, students learning outcomes and gaps, development of innovative teaching-learning materials, strengthening of community participation, and better functioning of school education. Through the Gunotsav program, every school has achieved a better result or rank every year in Assam. (2017-2023). This program is helpful for the development of school education and the quality of state education.

References:

- [1]. Borah, B. (2010). Quality elementary education and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan a status study of Lakhimpur District of Assam. Publication No.303531 [Doctoral thesis, Rajiv Gandhi University] <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/303531>
- [2]. Borthakur, S. & Kakati, K. K. (2019). An Evaluative Study on Assessment of Learning Level of Children Through Gunotsav – An initiative of Celebration of Quality by the State of Assam. International Conference on Recent Trends and Practices in Science, 978-93-85822-92-6
- [3]. Chetia, J. & Brahma, G. (2021). Gunotsav: Quality Improvement of Primary Education in Assam. International Journal of Aquatic Science, 12(03), Retrieved from https://www.journal-aquaticscience.com/article_133397_3e8bfd9afca7
- [4]. Dave, M. D. (2021). A study of Opinions of Primary School Teachers regarding the Gunotsav Programme. International Journal of Research in all Subjects in Multi Languages, 9(11), Retrieved from-https://www.rajimr.com/ijrsm/ wp-content/uploads/2022/03/IJRSML_2021_vol09_issue_11_Eng_12.pdf
- [5]. Shah, D. B. (2004). Educational Research. Ahmedabad: University Library Development, Board, Gujarat State.
- [6]. Gunotsav 2.0. (2022). Ministry of Education. Retrieved from https://diksha.gov.in/explore-course/course/do_3130638183039713281275?referrer=utm_source%3Dmobile%26utm_campaign%3Dshare_content&moduleId=d_o_3130639549003202561814 on July 2022.
- [7]. <https://educational-system.blogspot.com/2013/02/role-of-ncert-in-promoting-quality-of.html>
- [8]. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/disparities-seen-in-grading-of-govt-schools-under-gunotsav-6059712/>
- [9]. Kapoor, S. (2016). Quality in Education. Publication No. 315632 [Doctoral thesis, Tata Institute of Social Sciences] <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/315632>
- [10]. Konwar, R. (2022). Ensuring Quality Elementary Education in Assam through GUNOTSAV – a qualitative initiative. Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science, 10(3). 19-23, Retrieved from <https://www.questjournals.org/jrhss/papers/vol10-issue3/Ser-5/C10031923.pdf>
- [11]. M.H.R.D. (2020). sets out standards and accreditation for school education. In National Education Policy 2020 (pp. 70–74). Gandhinagar: Indian Institute of Teacher Education
- [12]. Maheriya, C. (2022). A Study Opinions of Primary School Teachers Regarding Gunotsav Programme. Publication No 371440 [Doctoral thesis, GLS University, Ahmedabad] <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/371440#>
- [13]. Prasanthi, K. (2018). Quality of School Education in India A Study of Public Schools in Hyderabad. Publication No. 408140 [Doctoral Thesis, University of Hyderabad] [Sodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in](https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)
- [14]. Sharma, R. (2019). Disparities are seen in the grading of govt schools under Gunotsav. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/disparities-seen-in-grading-of-govt-schools-under-gunotsav-6059712/>
- [15]. Sharmah, S. (2012). Problems and Issues in Indian Education. New Delhi: Vikash Publishing House Private Limited.

- [16]. Thapa, G., & Srivastav, S. (2021). Comparing Gunotsav and Gunotsav 2.0 Programs of Evaluation at Elementary level in Gujarat. *EduInspire-An International E-Journal*, 8(1), 72-81. Retrieved from- http://ctegujarat.org/eduinspire/Edu_Issue/21/Jan/11_Ganga%20Thapa%20&%20Pro.%20Sujata%20Srivastav.pdf
- [17]. Trivedi, N. (2015). Views of Teachers, Principals, and CRC on Gunotsav in primary schools. *International Journal of Research in Humanities & Soc. Sciences*, 3(9), 49–52. Retrieved from- https://www.rajmr.com/ijrhrs/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/IJRHS_2015_vol03_issue_09_10.pdf
- [18]. Patel, S. R. (2022). Assessment in primary schools of Gujarat in the perspective of National Education Policy 2020. *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*, 10(10), 382-383 Retrieved from- <https://ijert.org/papers/IJCRTU020069.pdf>
- [19]. www.elementary.assam.gov.in (Gunotsav/Elementary Education/Government of Assam, India)