

EC Partners

Government of India

Department for
International
Development (DFID)

World Bank

Facts and Figures

- **EC contribution**
€200 million (19%
of total) granted
2001-2010
- **€2.47 billion** spent on
the programme in India,
45% financed by the
Government, 30% by
development partners &
25% by Indian States

Did you know?

20 % of children
aged 6 to 14 do
not attend
school in India*



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

Education

Providing elementary education in India

"Classrooms were filled with young people eager to learn. The Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternate Schools classrooms seem more democratic and in a perpetual state of flux..."

Micro-study in Betul District, Madhya Pradesh



A boys' class in
Madhya Pradesh

Context

Universal Elementary Education in India

The Government of India is deeply committed to achieving a universal elementary education (UEE) of satisfactory quality by 2010. Indeed, the 86th constitutional amendment makes elementary education a fundamental right for every child in India. European Commission funding for a nationwide programme launched by the Government of India is helping to implement a comprehensive approach to improving and developing an education system capable of offering 8 years of quality elementary schooling to all children.

Objectives

A holistic approach

- To reduce the number of children not attending school by at least 9 million in the 6-14 years age group
- To narrow existing gender and social gaps so that enrolment of girls is equal to that of boys
- To enhance the quality of education at all elementary schools in order to improve learning and transition rates from primary education

Impact

What has been achieved?

- The number of out of school children aged 6-14 years old reduced from **25 to 14 million**.
- Improved access to education for girls: **78 %** girls enrolled between **2001- 2006**
- **100,000** teachers recruited
- Class sizes reduced from **46 to 43** pupils per teacher
- Transition rates from primary to upper primary school increased from **75 to 87 percent**
- **77,342** school buildings constructed

*UNICEF statistic, 2006

Education

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A day in the life of...

Classrooms were filled with young children eager to learn. The Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternate Schools classrooms seem more democratic and in a perpetual state of flux...there was no furniture to restrict movement or establish authority. Girls and boys sit together in small circles...and teachers are literally on their feet, flitting from group to group and maintaining personal contact with the children...In the multigrade situation the teachers seemed to somehow handle the pressure of catering to children with different needs...The children too were comfortable pursuing tasks in consultation with each other as opposed to being monitored by the teacher. The children's ability to keep themselves engaged is a function of group dynamics created in a class whereby mixed groups of children with different abilities often provide the incentive and space for facilitating peer learning...students took charge in assisting their peers in either solving a mathematical problem or teaching them to spell correctly.



Children learn to read and write