



Purpose of the Joint forum

The purpose of this Joint Forum is to bring home the message to decision-makers in the Government that quality education is vital to children. Through this mobilization for quality education, we seek the support of Teachers, Teachers organisations, Government and its officials, political leaders, like-minded organizations, inter-governmental organisations, parents, students & school authorities; community and media.

Background

In pursuance of the Dakar Framework for Action (2000), India launched its flagship programme - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in 2001, to achieve quality education for all by 2015. The Constitutional amendments have been made in 2002 to make education a fundamental right. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009 (RTE) was enacted and became operative from 1st April 2010 to ensure Quality Public Education for All.

The initiatives taken by the Government at various levels resulted in increased enrolment of children (both boys & girls), increased literacy rate and improved infrastructure. Special measures have been taken to address the needs of children with special needs including incentives and schemes to increase the enrolment and retention.

However the nation is not producing the desired results and the quality of current public education is under attack. Many de-professionalization trends have been emerged such as privatisation, commercialisation, PPP, shortage of qualified and trained teachers, recruitment of teachers on contractual basis, teacher-pupil ratio with poor working conditions, lack of teaching and learning environment and tools and insufficient allocation of budget has only compounded the problem.

Three organisations – AIPTF, AISTF & AIFTO along with other CSOs like UNESCO, National Coalition for Education (NCE) and institutions like NCTE and NCERT have been making serious efforts towards achieving quality education for all.

The Speakers

Mr. Ram Pal Singh, President, AIPTF - Welcome address and about Joint Forum on Quality Education

Mr. D. V. Pandit, Secretary General, AIFTO – Introductory Remarks

Mr. S. Eswaran, Secretary General, AIPTF &VP, EI - “Unite for Quality Education: Better Education for a Better World”- Education International’s Campaign

Prof. Saroj Yadav, Dean (Academic) NCERT/ Mr. Jangira – “Quality Education: Impediments and Challenges in achieving it”

Prof. Santosh Panda, Chairperson-NCTE – “Role of Educational Organizations/Agencies”

Mr. Rama Kant Rai, Convener, NCE and Mr. Ambrish Rai, RTE Forum
-“Role of Civil Society Organizations in promoting Quality Education”

Mr. Dhirender Pundir, Editor, News Nation Channel – “Role and Responsibilities of Social Media”

Mr. Alisher Umarov, Chief of Education, UNESCO New Delhi, delivered presentation on the UNESCO’s work for Post 2015 Education Agenda. UNESCO recommends to its Member States the following overarching education goal for Post 2015 Development Agenda: “Ensure equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030”, aiming to achieve just, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable societies. Under this goal one of the targets focused on teachers: all governments should ensure by 2030 that all learners are taught by qualified, professionally-trained, motivated and well-supported teachers.

Way Forward

The Joint Forum believes that there is an urgent need to improve the quality of teachers with a view to raising the learning achievement of students. The objective of this Joint Forum is to protect the interests of all stakeholders to promote high quality public education for all.

The three member organizations of Education International namely AIFTO, AIPTF and AISTF appreciate the initiatives taken by the government to achieve elementary education for all and feel that there is a need for all the stakeholders to come together and join hands to work in close cooperation to achieve quality education.

The Joint Forum resolute to create a conducive environment and a vibrant platform, where all stakeholders (Teachers Unions, Government, Academicians, INGO and NGO) join hands to achieve the dream of Education for All (EFA) goals and providing quality education to all children in India.

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