

All India Primary Teachers' Federation



Report of the

Shiksha Yatra - National March for Quality Education

Background:

AIPTF is continuously making efforts and taking steps to ensure quality of education for all. It has accelerated the efforts after Government of India passed and implemented Right to Free and Compulsory Education act in 2010. Because it was hoped that to achieve the targets inscribed in Act, Government in order to achieve the figures may ignore qualitative aspects. The fears of AIPTF to some extent were not unfounded. In order to achieve the targets, qualitative aspects were ignored.

Introduction:

AIPTF felt that there is an urgent need to improve the quality of education. Endeavours by all stakeholders are needed to improve the quality of primary education and for achieving quality public education for all.

AIPTF took an initiative through the Yatra for creating awareness among teachers, their unions, central and state governments and its arms, political leaders, students, parents, school authorities and public at large. The purpose of this campaign is to bring home the message to decision- makers of the Government that communities are concerned that quality education is vital to their children's future.

Objectives of the Yatra:

To mobilize the society, the AIPTF focussed on the following major issues:

- ❧ To raise awareness among Central & state governments and public at large that quality public education for all is one of the fundamental pillars of a just and equitable society;
- ❧ To generate awareness that privatization undermines public education and is detrimental to the interests of society



- ☞ To raise awareness among central government, state governments and public at large that quality public education for all is one of the fundamental pillars of a just and equitable society;
- ☞ To generate awareness among teachers about different provisions of the RTE, 2009;
- ☞ To generate awareness among all stakeholders that the provision of high quality of education is essential to education for all;
- ☞ To generate awareness among parents/guardians and community members about the need and importance of quality education;
- ☞ To network and mobilise the support of the teachers' organisations and other civil society organisations for quality public education.

It was a golden opportunity for AIPTF to pre-launch this campaign for uniting all the stakeholders for ensuring the quality of education during its 26th Biennial Conference held at Guwahati, Assam on 27th November 2013.



A detailed and well-planned Campaign plan was prepared and AIPTF finally launched the “Yatra” in three streams covering 23 states from 1st to 27th February 2014. The route plan of the three streams were decided in Executive Committee and State General Secretaries meeting held on 27th and 28th August 2013 at Shikshak Bhawan, New Delhi.

Route - I: Under the leadership of Sh. Ram Pal Singh, President-AIPTF

Name of State	Starting Point	Ending Point	Days
Gujarat	Somnath	Zalod	6
Rajasthan	Kusalgah	Jhunjhunu	4
Haryana	Loharu	Panchkula	3
Punjab	Dera Bassi	Pathankot	3
Himachal Pradesh	Kandwal	Paonta Sahib	3
Uttarakhand	Kulhalpur	Kichha	4
Uttar Pradesh	Baheri	Bagpat	4
Total			27

This Shiksha Yatra travelled a distance of 5168 km and interacted with the cross section of society through approximately 623 meetings with government officials, community leaders, students, teachers and elected representatives to solicit their support and unite for Quality Education.



Route - II : Under the leadership Sh. S. Eswaran, Secretary General-AIPTF

Name of State	Starting Point	Ending Point	Days
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Oosur	5
Kerala	Nayyattinkara	Palakkad	3
Karnataka	Attibele	Karawar	3
Goa	Pollem- Canacona	Mapusa-Bardez	1
Maharashtra	Sawantivadi	Pench N.P.	4
Andhra Pradesh	Bhodhan	Bori	3
Madhya Pradesh	Maikepar Bonkatta	Majhigwan	3
Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot	Kosi	5
Haryana	Hodal	Gurgoan	1
Total			27

Route Two of Yatra covered the distance of 6088 km and conducted approximately 630 meetings to spread the message.





Route -III: Under the leadership of Sh. Braj Bihari Pandey, Treasurer-AIPTF

Name of State	Starting Point	Ending Point	Days
Orissa	Puri	Birmitrapur	5
Jharkhand	Simdega	Ghatshila	5
West Bengal	Belpahari	Daikhola Mod	5
Bihar	Purnia Mod	Baliya Border	6
Uttar Pradesh	Baliya	Ghaziabad	5
Total			26

This stream of Yatra covered the distance of 4120 km and conducted approximately 621 meetings.



This Shiksha Yatra travelled a distance of 15376 km. and interacted with the cross sections of society through approximately 1874 meetings/ dialogue sessions to solicit their support and unite for Quality Education.



All these streams of Yatra culminated in a conference on 1st March 2014 at New Delhi. The venue for the event was Constitution Club of India located in the heart of the capital city. The occasion was graced by the dignitaries and representatives from Government of India, inter-governmental agencies, colleagues from

other teachers unions. The highlight of the event was the presence of esteemed members of the Regional Committee of EI Asia Pacific region. Mr. Ram Pal Singh, President, AIPTF while welcoming the guests shared that it is joyous moment for AIPTF that in the culmination of this important and timely campaign the members of the highly important Committee for the Asia-Pacific region are present with us. The Conference was attended by more than 1200 teachers from the neighbouring states.



The experiences from the field of the Yatra were shared by Mr. S. Eswaran. He highlighted the response of various groups like students, community leaders, teachers and other government officials about the Yatra. He gave the summary of all the three yatras through a power point presentation.

The Conference was inaugurated by Ms. Vrinda Sarup, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. She expressed her views on quality education and the infrastructural facilities in the government run institutions and highlighted the major schemes and initiatives taken to promote quality education for all especially at elementary level.



It was a golden opportunity for AIPTF to have Ms. Susan Hopgood, President, EI during this Culmination Conference and her address infused new blood in this campaign. While delivering her address she shared that Since the Education for All framework was established in 2000, countries have made progress towards the goals. However, too many will still be far from the target in 2015.

The new goals after 2015 should be guided by the principles of upholding education as a right, making sure all children have an equal chance of education and recognizing the learning stages at each phase of a person's life. There should be one core set of goals aligned with the global development agenda, accompanied by a more detailed set of targets that make up a post-2015 education framework. Each goal must be clear and measurable, with the aim of ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Chairperson, EI Asia-Pacific Regional Committee Mr. Yasunaga Okamoto expressed his views that EI embarked on the "Unite for Quality Campaign" to spread awareness around the world that for a sustainable, peaceful and prosperous future, securing and realising quality education for all was our priority. It called on all EI affiliates and 30 million educators round the world to unite.



He also expressed that as we have overcome economic, cultural and social differences to work on providing access to quality education for all children around the world who are our future. All affiliates and every union member have committed to work in solidarity. I would also like to pay tribute to the fact that through the initiatives of AIPTF in India for UQE, various stakeholders have joined together.



Reflecting the views on behalf of Development Cooperation partners, Mr. Henrik Herber mentioned that all the partners are joining together to congratulate AIPTF for this great and wonderful task. He expressed that the outcomes of the Yatra will have positive impact on the education system in India. An effort done by AIPTF to bring together all the stakeholders through this Yatra is a significant step.

Speaking on behalf of National Council for Education, Research & Training (NCERT), an apex body in the country for policy making on primary education, Prof. Sinclair mentioned that all the tools like quality



teachers, tools for teaching and learning and quality environments for teaching and learning are necessary.

“Virtually every country in South Asia has identified improving education quality as one of its highest national priorities. In spite of progress in responding to the demand for increased school access, developing more effective national planning and policy mechanisms, and implementing massive training programs for teachers and administrators. Till today dissatisfaction persists with the quality of education imparted to support national economic and social aspirations was highlighted by Mr. Alisher Umarov, Chief of Education & Prog. Specialist-UNESCO, New Delhi.



The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. R. C. Dabas, Vice-President-AIPTF and national anthem.



Outcomes

AIPTF expects that the Yatra in various parts of the country involving the educationally backward communities, tribal groups and inhabitants of hilly and remote areas will bring about the following changes:

- Awareness among society for quality public education including teachers at the grassroots level, their unions, parents, political leaders and the civil society;
- Improvement in the quality of education in public schools;
- Improved infrastructure in government schools as per norms and standards;
- Better and safe working conditions for teachers;
- Improvement of learning conditions in government primary schools;
- Provision of professional training to contract teachers and their mainstreaming within stipulated time;
- Renewed energy in the union especially in the areas where it was dormant;
- Increase in the membership of union

Conclusion:

AIPTF appeals to all the stakeholders for cooperation through this yatra to enlighten one and all with their role and function in education and development of the country.

THIS YATRA HAS CONCLUDED BUT IT HAS STARTED A NEW JOURNEY FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO UNITE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION.



**सभी के लिए
शिक्षा हेतु
एक सार्थक पहल**

अखिल भारतीय प्राथमिक शिक्षक संघ

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