

# Saakshar Bharat Mission: 2012 A Study in the Context of Manipur

**Dr. S. Kiran Singh**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Education  
Thoubal College, Thoubal-795138, Manipur  
E-mail: eduksoubam@rediffmail.com*

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**Abstract**—Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the then Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 to create a literate society through a variety of teaching learning programs for illiterate and neo-literate adults in the age-group of 15 years and above. This program was undertaken on the basis of adult women literacy rate of 50% or below in the districts of the country as per 2001 census and implemented in 365 districts across India including four districts of Manipur namely Thoubal, Chandel, Senapati, Tamenglong district. Keeping this in view, Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) in Manipur was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 at Thoubal district and the same was launched simultaneously in the three hill district namely Chandel, Senapati and Tamenglong.

**Objective of the study:** *In the present study, the investigator explores the result achieved by adult learners and how far the program was efficient for eradication of illiteracy in the state.*

**Methods:** *The investigator adopted the normative survey method for thorough and comprehensive study.*

**Results and discussion:** *The result obtained in the present study provide valuable evidence regarding the majority of the adult learner feel that participation in the literacy program has increased their own knowledge and consequently realized social, economic and political status and all the drop-outs learners are from the economically backward section of the population. They wanted earning for their livelihood, instead of learning and could not deviate from their normal works.*

**Keywords:** *Saakshar Bharat Mission, illiterate adult learner, neo-literate adult learner.*

## **Background:**

Adult education is a package educational program for adults outside the formal educational system aiming at providing more information and better knowledge and skills for improving their life style and also their earning capacity. The basic aims of adult education is to enable the people to become confident and self reliant by understanding the situation in which they live and in solving their problems. It was one of the most important and formidable issues of Indian education. A person was called illiterate, if he cannot read and

write simple letter either in print or manuscript. Adult education means imparting knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetics to individual in their productive age group of 15-35 years who at their educable age could not go for formal schooling.

The National Adult Education Program (NAEP), 1978 visualized adult education as, “a means to bring about a fundamental change in the process of socio-economic development”. And, National Policy on Education, 1986 envisaged that adult education would be a means for reducing economic, social and gender disparities and nation as a whole would assume the responsibility for providing resource support. Working out the implementation strategies, the Program of Action recommended that “emphasis in adult education program should be on skill development and creation of awareness among the learners of the national goals, of development programs and for liberation from oppression.

## **Establishment of linkages between adult education and development programs:**

Adult education is both a process through which effective delivery mechanisms are created for the deprived sections of society, and a forum through which such sections secure information and understanding regarding the processes of development. Hence, it is of importance that effective linkage is established between adult education and development programs. Some of the ways in which this will be done as follows:

1. The various programs for development of SC/ST and other educationally backward sections may also include a component of literacy and adult education wherever possible.
2. Literacy and adult education may also form an important part of the various programs of women’s development.
3. The programs of labour welfare may also be given special attention to literacy and adult education. Employers will be required, if necessary by law, to organize literacy and skill development programs for their employees. Welfare

funds for various categories of workers will be used for running literacy and adult education programs and due attention will be given in the various schemes for unorganized workers.

### Introduction:

Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM), a centrally sponsored scheme of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India was launched by the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohon Singh on the International Literacy Day, 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. This program is a mission undergoes to eradicate illiteracy in the country. The principle target of the mission is to impart functional literacy to 70 million adults in the age-group of 15 years and beyond by the end of 2017. Auxiliary target of the mission is to cover 1.5 million adults under basic educational program and equal number under vocational like skill development program. Within these targets, the mission will primarily focus on, but not limited to women, SC, ST, Minorities, other disadvantaged groups and adolescents in rural areas in low literacy states will be other focus groups. The SBM program came into operation from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009 and implemented in 365 districts across India and the four districts of Manipur were included in the list.

In Manipur, Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) also called National Female Literacy Mission was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 by then Hon'ble Education Minister Shri L. Jayentakumar Singh at T.T. Indoor Stadium, Thoubal and the same was launched simultaneously in the three hill district namely Chandel, Senapati and Tamenglong. Out of 9 districts in Manipur, only 4 districts namely one district in valley (Thoubal) and three districts in hill (Chandel, Senapati, Tamenglong) was taken up because of the fact that the program was undertaken on the basis of adult women literacy rate of 50% or below in the districts of the country as per 2001 census.

### Significance of the study:

The paper entitled "Saakshar Bharat Mission: 2012 A Study in the context of Manipur" attempt to find out the result achieved by the adult learner through the literacy program. The study also finds out how far the program was efficient for eradication of illiteracy in the district.

### Objectives of the Study:

1. To examine the achievement of adult learners in Saakshar Bharat Mission.
2. To analyze the program was efficient for eradication of illiteracy in the state.

### Key words:

1. **Bharat:** Bharat ('Bha' means Light and Knowledge, 'rata' means Devoted) means "devoted to light as against darkness". The name "Bharat" was symbolic in nature

revealing the fact that the whole country was highly enlightened spiritually.

2. **Mission:** Mission means an important assignment given to a person of group of people.
3. **Saakshar:** The word Saakshar is used in India meaning LITERATE.
4. **Saakshar Bharat Mission:** Saakshar Bharat Mission is a Government of India initiative launched by Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh to create a literate society through a variety of teaching learning programs for non-literate and neo-literate of 15 years and above. It was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 as a centrally sponsored scheme.

### Design of the study:

The design of the study formulated in connection with the present study were discussed under the used of sample, tools, data collection, statistical technique.

### Sample:

The sample chosen for the present study comprised of 400 adult learners (100 each from 4 districts) and 80 volunteer teacher (20 each districts) on the basis of random sampling.

### Tools:

In the present study, the investigator adopted self designed "Interview Schedule for Adult Learner" as tools for collection of the required data from the adult learners.

### Source of Data:

In the present study, the investigator used both primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected from the personal interview with the respondents and secondary data were collected from the reference books, reports, journal, articles and other portal websites etc.

### Method of the study:

The present study adopted the normative survey method for thorough and comprehensive study.

### Statistical techniques used:

Analysis and interpretation of the data of the present study was done by using percentage.

### Finding of the study:

1. It has observed that adult learners who are the recipients of the program are found to be ignorant and too simple minded. The learners could not understand the value of opening adult education centre. The value of the program i.e. Literacy, Functionality and Social awareness can be achieved only when the adult learners are interested in the adult education program. Promotion and other development programs can be undertaken only when the recipients are ready to receive the end results.

2. It is observed that there are a number of potential learners in the villages even they are heavily engaged in their day-to-day household duties. Something in concrete forms should be done so as to bring them to the nearest adult education centres.
3. It is found that almost all the drop-out caused by the pressure of family problem, poverty, illness etc. Thus, they could not attend the classes in adult education centres. All the drop-outs are from the economically backward section of the population. They wanted earning for their livelihood, instead of learning and could not deviate from their normal works.
4. Difficulty in identifying illiterate adults as they have inferiority complex to be an illiterate person.
5. All the volunteer teacher reported that the SBM program in the Manipur was very useful to the learners. It promotes the knowledge of 3R'S which could be very useful to their respective occupations. It also provided knowledge of social awareness and functionality.
6. In rural areas, almost all the learners never turn-up to their adult education centres during cultivating and harvesting seasons, as they were engaged in agricultural works.
7. It is very interesting to note that majority of the adult learner feel that participation in the SBM program has been increased their own knowledge and consequently realized social, economic and political status. Most of the learner can write their name, address, family members, friends, letter, count the numbers, fill-up bank account form, read newspaper, books, journal, magazine etc.
8. The main problems faced by the volunteer teacher are irregular attendance of learners as they are heavily engaged in search of their livelihood, discontinuousness of the study by the learners and non-availability of facilities in the centres for the professional and vocational improvement of the learners.
9. All the volunteer teacher expressed their desire for providing Radio, TV, Computer, Projector in adult education centres in order to attract the program.
10. Most of the volunteer teacher faced the problem of putting suitable accommodation throughout the course, even though, most of the adult education centres are organised at volunteer teacher or learner house, community halls.
11. All adult education centres have no provision for vocational training like sewing, knitting, embroidery, cane and bamboo works etc even though more emphasis should be given to such crafts at an adult education centre.

### Conclusion:

In Manipur, Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) was successfully implemented on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 and a great successful. After implementation of the program, the literacy rate of women was increased year by year in the state. This means that the concern authorities of the Directorate of Adult Education, Government of Manipur and District Literacy Samiti (DLS), Thoubal does not neglected for eradication of illiteracy in the state of Manipur.

With such as a result, Government of India awarded the **Satyen Maitra Memorial National Literacy Award for 2011** to Thoubal district for best performing district in the country in the implementation of Saakshar Bharat Mission. Manipur State is now among the top **“Model State”** in the country which successfully implementation of this program. The District Literacy Samiti, Thoubal in collaboration with BGVS, New Delhi, State Literacy Mission Authority, Manipur, State Resource Centre, Shillong, JSS, Thoubal organised a Kala Jatha (Saakshar Bharat Yatra) on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 as an environment building program in Manipur.

### Suggestion:

1. Extension lecturers on first aid, use of fertilizer, holding of pesticide and insecticide, preservation of environment, conservation of soil, pollution of water, small family norms, habit of saving account etc should be made for the benefit of the adult learners from time to time.
2. The higher authorities should pay regular visit, hold meeting and discussion with villagers and other influential persons to solved the important problem on the spot in consultation with the local people.
3. There should be a provision for introduction of learning by doing adopting the activities like agriculture, weaving, carpentry and other vocational works so as to make the program directly related to the needs of the learners in their day-to-day life.

### Recommendation:

1. Proper motivation of learners is the most important factor in teaching. In adult education, it is compulsion which keeps a person within a learning situation and encourages him/her to learn.
2. Introduction of vocational courses which is directly linked with life like agriculture, horticulture, weaving, knitting, sewing, pottery making, basket making etc to the centre in order to increase the functional knowledge or skill of the learners.

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