



All India Primary Teachers' Federation 26TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 27th & 28th November 2013 at Guwahati, Assam

MOBILIZING FOR QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

CONFERENCE REPORT

A quality education is one that satisfies basic learning needs, and enriches the lives of learners and their overall experience of living. Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills. Quality is at the heart of education, and what takes place in classrooms and other learning environments is fundamentally important to the future well-being of children, young people and adults.

There have been several efforts to enhance quality of public education made by the government. This primary education scheme has also shown a high Gross Enrollment Ratio of 93–95% for the last three years in some states. The current scheme for universalization of Education for All is the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which is one of the largest education initiatives in the world. Enrollment has been enhanced, but the levels of quality remain low. There are also worrying signs that improved access to school has not been accompanied by enhanced education quality. Deep-rooted inequalities linked to wealth, gender, language and location are still a major barrier to universal primary education.

AIPTF appreciate the initiatives taken by various organizations, individual, state government and the Central Government in the field of elementary education. But at the same time there is an urgent need for a people's movement to challenge the governments' apathy and to give forceful expression to popular aspiration for education; AIPTF decided to hold its 26th Biennial Conference on the theme: **"Mobilizing for Quality Education for All"** and the sub themes were:—

- ***Teachers at the Heart of Education***
- ***Standing up for the Right to Quality Public Education for All***
- ***The Way Forward for Mobilizing for Quality Education for All***

Pre-Conference Events

Workshop on “***Union Coverage for the Youth Force***” for General Council Members

AIPTF realized the fact that it is very important to generate awareness among members of the General Council of the Federation about the need and importance of involving and attracting young teachers which also include women to the union to take-up the positions in decision-making bodies at various levels. AIPTF organized a two day workshop on the theme of “Union Coverage for the Youth Force”. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. P. Ramanathan, Board Member, EIAPR by lighting the lamp; the ceremony was joined by Sh. S. Eswaran, Secretary General, Sh. Ram Pal Singh, President and Ms. Sulbha A. Donde, Senior Vice-President of AIPTF.



In the welcome remarks Sh. S. Eswaran mentioned that for unions, organizing young teachers and fostering young leadership has been seen as essential to increasing union membership and power.

The inaugural address was delivered by Sh. Ram Pal Singh. He highlighted the challenges for unions to attract young teachers. Non-interest among the young members and not understanding the importance of union in their professional lives are the major aspects on which we have to find the strategies to include the youth force in union’s day-to-day work.



Women Caucus

The women caucus is held to give visibility and take stock of the advancement of the women in education, society union and other spheres of life in the country. The Women Caucus was organised on 27 November 2013 in which nearly 8,000 women teachers assembled. Ms D. Hemo Prabha Saikaia, Chairperson, Assam Tourism Development Cooperation inaugurated the caucus and pointed out the difficulties and challenges faced by women and particularly girls in today's society. She stressed on more opportunities to be given to women.



Ms. Sulabha Donde Chairperson, WNP and Senior Vice President, AIPTF spoke on the role of women in all the sectors. The caucus reflected on the theme 'Unite for Quality Education and better education for a better India". While lamenting on the theme she said that "teachers are the most important educational resource for students and a critical determinant of educational quality, yet their contribution is not always fully appreciated. Teachers are routinely blamed for deficiencies in the education system and teacher training is sometimes dismissed as unproductive and expensive, resulting in the hiring of untrained and unqualified teachers"

Later, Contact persons for Women's Network Project from all the state affiliates of AIPTF who were present shared a Status report on Women's Participation in their respective states.

Inaugural Session of the 26th Biennial Conference



The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Assam Mr. Tarun Gogoi and it was organized from 27th and 28th November 2013 at Guwahati, Assam, India which was attended by more than 22,000 teachers from 24 states. Eminent educationists, political leaders and government officials graced this occasion. Presence of Education International Chief Coordinator from Asia-Pacific region Ms. Shashi Bala Singh and Mr. P. Ramanathan, Board Member, EIAPR filled the participants with enthusiasm. A copy of the program is enclosed.

“India has made remarkable progress in achieving almost universal enrolment at the primary level. But the rate of dropout at the primary level is still very alarming. There has been quantitative expansion of education, but the quality of education has left behind” said S. Eswaran, Secretary General, AIPTF.



In his speech he also shared that teachers are the most important educational resources and a critical determinant of educational quality. The quality of education system cannot exceed the quality of teachers. We need teaching workforce having strong content knowledge, a broad repertoire of pedagogical approaches and strategies and training in diagnosing students with diverse learning difficulties and in differentiating instruction based on their learning needs. To have a quality teaching workforce, there is a need for quality pre-service and in-service teacher education. (A Copy of the Speech is enclosed)



In his inaugural speech, the Chief Minister of Assam highlighted the role and responsibilities of the primary teachers and shaping the lives of children so that they become the responsible citizens. He highlighted that the vision of education is based on the fundamentals of knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviour and discipline. The world is progressing on the basis of these fundamentals but unfortunately there is something lacking in the basic education system. We have to evaluate this process and take appropriate precautionary measures. The educational system, should develop the whole personality of a child that would enable him to become a happy and contented human being at peace with himself and the society.



The Presidential address by Sh. Ram Pal Singh, President, AIPTF highlighted some the demands of the AIPTF and he reflected that it has become utmost important that primary education at national level should have uniform curricula and system so there is no further division of society because of



issues like rich-poor, urban-rural etc. The schemes like Public Private Partnership and Voucher system in School Education are promoting capitalist mindset and promoting investments in the field of education. As a result, dual system of education is being promoted and this has widened the gap between rich and poor. This has a negative impact on the societal structure and it is visible in the process of nation-building. It will the appropriate time to mention that education is the responsibility of the government and delegating this responsibility to private companies, panchayats etc. is not only reflects the attitude but neglecting the Constitutional provisions also.

AIPTF launched its National Campaign on “Unite for Quality Education” on 27th November 2013 and it was flagged off by Mr. Raman Bhai Vohra, Former Education Minister, Government of Gujarat, India. The rationale behind this campaign is to create awareness among the masses and to protest against the privatization and commercialization of the education. The rationale behind this campaign is that free basic education is the fundamental right of every child and key stone of poverty eradication.

Video for MQE

The AIPTF know that education plays a vital role in the context of broader development efforts infestation growth in reaching poverty. India has made remarkable progress in achieving almost universal enrolment at the primary level. But the rate of dropout at the primary level is still very alarming.

The AIPTF has been making serious efforts towards achieving quality education for all. There is an urgent need to improve the quality of teachers with a view to raising the learning achievement of students. The AIPTF objective is to protect the interests of all stakeholders to promote high quality public education for all.

The AIPTF is to address this fundamental problem. As the condition stand today, India will not be able to achieve quality public education for all by 2015. Endeavours by all stakeholders are needed to improve the quality of primary education and for achieving quality public education for all. In order to seek support from all the stakeholders, the AIPTF addresses this fundamental problem with national level plan of campaign for mobilizing for quality public education for all.



The Launch- ceremony was followed by cultural programme by the Assam State Primary Teachers Association depicting the rich culture and folklore of Assam.

Second Day (28th November 2013)

Next day it was more business meetings and discussions on sub-themes. The main speakers were Ms. Shashi Bala Singh, Chief Coordinator, EIAPR, Mr. P. Ramanathan, Board member, EIAPR, Mrs. L.S. Cangson, Mission Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA), Assam, Mr. Hemanta Narzari, Commissioner, SSA, Assam and Mr. U.C. Das, Director, Elementary Education, Assam

In her key note address Ms. Shashi Bala Singh on the subtheme of the Conference- Teachers at the Heart of Education- shared the role of teachers in imparting education and the challenges faced by them at their workplaces i.e. schools. She also opined that there are many factors responsible for poor quality of education besides the not-so-good quality of para-teachers.

Reinventing the role of teachers inside and outside the classroom can result in significantly better schools and better-educated students. But though the roots of such improvement are taking hold in today's schools, they need continued nurturing to grow and truly transform India's learning landscape.

While Mr. P. Ramanathan shared the historical development of AIPTF. He shared that credit for AIPTF's recognition and expansion at national and international level for its quality of work, achievements and professionalism goes to its members and their strength, hard work and dedication

The officials from the Department of education expressed their solidarity with the cause of teachers and extended their support in fulfilling some of the needs and demands of the teachers.

The states presented their reports on the achievements and the challenges faced by them during the recent times and the state of art report on the primary education. The

resolutions were read out and passed unanimously. The resolutions are enclosed herewith.

To recognize the services of the eminent teachers from the state, AIPTF has initiated **Valiant Leaders Awards**. This year the awards were given to Ms. Ila Paul Basu, deputy General Secretary and Mr. S. Anbalagan from Tamil Nadu for their achievements and role played in strengthening the AIPTF. AIPTF salute these valiant leaders.

The Conference concluded with a vote of thanks to Sh. Paban Singh Ghatowar, Hon'ble Central Minister for Development of North East Region. Govt. of India for special address, Sh. Tarun Gogai, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam State for inaugurating the Conference and Dr. Himanta Biswas Sarma, Hon'ble Health and Education Minister, Govt. of Assam state and Chairman of Reception Committee of this conference for the guidance and support provided by him for making necessary arrangements for the success of this conference. Mr. P. Ramanathan, Board Member-EI APR for coming to India and addressing the teachers and for providing invaluable guidance to improve the quality public education for all. Their participation has strengthened the Conference manifold. All of us are sure to be benefited immensely by their wisdom and experience.

Our special thanks to Ms. Shashi Bala Singh, Chief Coordinator, Asia Pacific Region, Education International for her continued support to the AIPTF for its growth and development.

Our sincere and special thanks are also due to Sh. Bhaben Chandra Borah, President and Sh. Jibon Chandra Borah, General Secretary, ASPTA Assam Shri Thanu Buragohain, President, Reception Committee and his associates and all district leaders for untiring efforts made by them for the last a few months to organize the Biennial Conference. Though Assam is a hilly area, but these stalwarts have generated adequate resources for the success of this conference. We also thank members of General Council, Executive Committee, General Secretary and President of all the state affiliates of the AIPTF and all the teachers who have come from different states without bothering for travel hazards to participate in this Conference. Their participation in such a great number reflects amply the unity and solidarity of the AIPTF.

During the crucial hours of AIPTF, staff in the secretariat shared the responsibility and worked sometimes day and night and also even on holidays according to the need. I

convey my thanks and appreciation to them for their cooperation. We convey our thanks to one and all including those working behind the screen for the support rendered by them over the months to make the conference a grand success

