

School Support Scheme – (SSS)

(Progress through Partnership)

A well-educated child can bring great changes in the society while enjoying its fruits- living wisely, comfortably and mentoring the next generations. But unfortunately not every child is blessed with the facility of pursuing studies in a learning environment which is interesting enough to hold their continuity.

1. Though the Government of Orissa has been making significant progress in school education in terms of enrolment of children in schools, concern on the poor quality of education and high drop out of ST & SC students, girls and children belonging to other marginalized group still remains to be addressed. With the passing of RTE Act, it has now become mandatory on the part of government to ensure 8 years of elementary education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years. The RTE calls for a paradigm shift in the educational provisioning and processes which till now worked like service providers. The Act interprets it as the responsibility of duty bearers and stakeholders to remain accountable for provisioning the schools for all children and completion of 8 years of elementary level schooling by all children across the State. This means addressing the core issues such as, poor infrastructure, inadequate teaching and learning materials, poor water and toilet facilities, etc. to ensure continuation of elementary education by the children.

Over 86%¹ of the budget for School and Mass Education in Odisha is spent on salaries to primary and secondary school teachers and as grant-in-aid to aided institutions, leaving very little for development of infrastructure in government schools. There are an estimated 2.7 lakhs² children who are out of school (not enrolled or dropped out from schools) and, even as efforts are being made to bring them to school, the need for additional resources has been growing rapidly.

With an array of policies and schemes in place, school attendance is improving: more children than ever between the ages of 6 and 14 are attending school across the country. However, the system faces shortage of resources, schools, classrooms and teachers. There are also concerns relating to teachers training, the quality of the curriculum, assessment of learning achievements and the

efficacy of school management. Given the scarcity of quality schools, many children drop out before completing five years of primary education; many of those who stay on learn little. This means that the whole service provisioning in these areas have to be reviewed and strengthened to retain children to complete their elementary education. We believe that it is the joint responsibility of the Government and citizens to improve school education, to provide incentives like mid-day meals, teaching learning materials, improve school infrastructure including state of the art information technology to all the Government schools in our state.

2. School Support Scheme intends to convert backward rural and urban Government and Government aided schools into quality schools (***sundar vidyalayas***) in 2-3 years of time so that they are on par with the best run schools in terms of infrastructure and performance.

The key objectives:

- To mobilize community support and other resources to address issues of provisioning access to quality education.
- To make an appeal to the '***partners in progress***' to support schools to contribute in kind towards infrastructure, school provisions and facilities for children and teachers.
- To seek the help of local community to improve the academic performance of the schools.

3. The programme provides abundant scope to the following potential 'partners in progress' to contribute in kind in the interest of education in the state.

- 1) Corporate houses
- 2) Elected representatives
- 3) Academicians/academic institutions,
- 4) Individual donors
- 5) Voluntary/socially-committed organizations
- 6) Industrial Establishments
- 7) Public Sector Undertakings
- 8) Banks and Financial Institutions, Associations of Trade and Industry
- 9) Media Groups
- 10) Other interested groups/organizations/individuals who can contribute time and attention for improvement of enrolment, retention and achievement in the school, homemakers etc.

4. The partner can choose to take up any one or any number of activities suggested below.

Activities:

- Provision of water and toilet facilities to the schools separately for boys and girls
- Construction and renovation of existing building
- Provision for developing school garden, fencing or compound wall
- Provision of equipment and furniture
- Provision of utensils for mid-day meals
- Providing computers for the students
- Building or strengthening of laboratory and library
- Developing of play ground/provision of play materials
- Sponsoring literary and scientific activities in the schools
- Providing aid and appliances for children with special need
- Helping raise kitchen garden with specific focus on papaya and drumsticks
- Improvement in hostel infrastructure.

5. Mode of extending support and receiving the support. →

Invitation to all interested partners through newspaper advertisement by Department of School & Mass Education. They will be requested to contact the concerned DIs (in case of elementary school) and CIs (in case of high schools) as the DLA (District Level Authority) and indicate their preference of school/schools where they want to extend support.



DLA will prepare a shelf of project/interventions pertaining to schools within his area of operation with the help of Head Master/Head Mistress. Any Head Master/Head Mistress concerned can also approach a Contributor/Partner/Donor and request for any contribution. He/she will facilitate the interaction of the contributor with DLA. DLA will consider the request of intervention given by the Head Master/ Head Mistress or share the shelf of projects/intervention with interested Contributor/ Partner/ Donor, as the case may be.

The partner and DLA will identify a school and the kind of infrastructures required with the help of concerned Headmaster/Headmistress and School Management Committee (SMC) with respect to elementary level schools and School Management and Development Committee (SMDC) with regard to high schools.



On recommendation of concerned HM & SMC/SMDC, the DLA (DI/CI) will allow the partner to give support to the school. A copy of written permission will be kept in the office of DLA for record.



The partner shall provide the support.

The Headmaster/Headmistress will enter the support provided in the Stock Register of the school.



The school takes care of the support extended from that point.

6. Collector of the district will monitor the 'School Support Scheme' every quarter and take appropriate action as deemed necessary with intimation to School & Mass Education Department.
7. Preferences would be given to the schools located in interior and tribal areas.
8. Other Guidelines →

- All items/equipments provided by the partner to the schools and all civil structures built by the partner in the school premises will become part of the school property and the ownership will remain with the school.
 - The partner will have no power to dispose off or transfer any of these materials once they are donated to the school.
 - However, the partner can put up a board on the school building mentioning the support provided to the school or on the item stating the name of the individual/group it has been donated by.
 - The partner will not be permitted to use the school premises for any kind of non-academic activities. The state government will not be liable for any legal responsibility by the donor during the implementation of the School Support Scheme.
9. Contribution will be made in kind not in cash.
10. The status of implementation of SSS will be reviewed by the Department of School & Mass Education at regular intervals and changes, if necessitated, will be made to make it as fruitful and beneficial as possible.
