

## Early Childhood Education (ECE)/ Pre-Primary Education

- At present, in Rajasthan, Department of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) operates 62,022 Aanganwadi Centers (AWCs), out of which 40,220 AWCs have been integrated either physically or functionally with primary/ upper primary/ secondary/ senior secondary Government Schools by Department of School Education with the aim to avail them Early Childhood Education and make them ready for school education along with nutrition.
- Out of these integrated AWCs 19,049 AWCs are located and functional in premise of government schools while 21,171 AWCs, situated within 500 meters radius of government schools are functioning under control thereof.
- Early childhood education material developed by ICDS previously for the age group 3-6 years (workbooks namely, Kilkari for 3-4 age group, Umang for 4-5 age group, Tarang for 5-6 age group and consolidated Activity Bank) is being used to ensure better learning of students in AWCs.
- During the session 2018-19, 100 SRGs at state level have been trained in order to train district/ block level trainers, who will further train AWWs and Mentor Teachers across state.
- From Beginning, the Department of Education have a vision to transform Aanganwadi centers into Pre-primary Education Centers in convergence with Dept. of ICDS.
- In order to avail better teaching- learning environment in AWCs; following tasks (Both physical development and Academic one) are prioritized in the component 'Early Childhood Education' in the state: -
  - \* Development of Child Friendly Activity Based Learning Room
  - \* Availing Child Friendly Furniture for students
  - \* Development of Workbooks (Domain-wise) separately for every age group i.e 3-4, 4-5 & 5-6 years
  - \* As above, development of Teaching - Learning Material also in order to ensure entertaining & joyful environment in the AWCs.
  - \* In continuation to trained 100 SRGs, training programme to train 05 KRPs (03 from Dept. of Education and 02 from Dept. of ICDS) per block at district level and, Anganwadi Workers & Mentor Teachers of integrated AWCs at block level.
  - \* Orientation of State, District & Block level Officers in connection with existing rules/ guidelines of ICDS & DoE regarding AWCs (ECCE program sponsored by both departments) in order to ensure effective monitoring of the program run by the state government.
- Keeping in view effective monitoring of all AWCs, Dept. of School Education has appointed 'Mentor Teachers (Female – Primary Teachers 'on priority')' who are providing regular support to Aanganwadi Workers and enrolled children in all integrated AWCs.
- Efficient monitoring of AWWs/ MTs is being ensured under supervision of concerned In-charges i.e. Principals/ HMs of integrated schools.
- Parents and AWW Meetings (PAM) are being held regularly for effective community participation in integrated AWCs.
- Students enrolled in AWCs (Age group 3-6 years) while completing 6 years of age are being given admission in class-I; hence, collective efforts are being made in order to ensure reduced dropout rate in the state.

## Adarsh Vidyalaya Yojana

- In Rajasthan, **under Adarsh Vidyalaya Yojana, a designated secondary/ senior secondary school of secondary set-up has been declared and is being developed as ‘Adarsh School’ at every gram panchayat level** in rural and urban areas in the state with the aim to strengthen education system and to ensure quality education to students.
- Adarsh School of the Gram Panchayat is functioning both as ‘Mentor School’ to primary/ upper primary schools of elementary set-up and as ‘Resource Centre’ of that panchayat catchment area.
- Adarsh Schools are being developed as ‘Centre of Excellence’ in phase wise manner by availing them all necessary facilities like – class rooms at par with enrolment, functional lavatories, electricity supply, clean drinking water, playground as well ICT Lab with internet connection.
- At present scenario, 5,590 rural Adarsh Schools and 197 urban Adarsh Schools have been fully developed in the state.
- Development of Adarsh Schools has led the state to increased enrolment as well higher board results in government schools.

**In order to ensure qualitative teaching – learning environment, following tasks are being prioritized in Adarsh Schools across state: -**

- **Availability of all basic facilities** like – physical infrastructure: classrooms at par with enrolment, boundary wall, developed playground, clean drinking water, functional lavatories and toilets for girls and boys students as well staff, Computer lab equipped with internet access.
- **Availability of ICT Labs** in phase wise manner.
- **In order to ensure quality education, implementation and practice of** student centered education system like- Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE), Activity based learning (ABL) for students of primary classes of the schools.
- **Leadership training** for Principals/ In-charges of Adarsh Schools.
- **Filling up vacant administrative/ teaching posts** of Adarsh Schools.
- **Development of schools** with the help of leveraged funds available through public representatives, Swaichhik Anudaan, MP/ MLA-LAD, Bhamashah contributors, Akshay Petika, Balsabha, CSR fund flow as well other donations.
- **Effective monitoring and regular evaluation the Adarsh Schools with** assigned responsibility to district and block level education officers under the guidance of District Collector and Sub-division Officers.

## Utkrishta Vidyalaya Yojana

- In Rajasthan, under Adarsh Vidyalaya Yojana, a designated secondary/ senior secondary school of secondary set-up has been declared and is being developed as ‘Adarsh School’ at every gram panchayat level. On the same theme, **under Utkrisht Vidyalaya Yojana, a designated primary/ upper primary school of elementary set-up has been declared and is being developed as Utkrisht School under the mentorship of concerned Adarsh School at gram panchayat level** with aim to strengthen education system and to ensure quality elementary education.
- Schools indentified under Utkrisht Vidyalaya Yojana are being developed as ‘Centre of Excellence for elementary education’ in the state.
- Development of Utkrisht Schools has led the state to increased elementary enrolment as well higher exam results in government schools.

**In order to ensure qualitative teaching – learning environment, following tasks are being prioritized in Utkrisht Schools across state: -**

- **Availability of all basic facilities** like – physical infrastructure: classrooms at par with enrolment, boundary wall, developed playground, clean drinking water, functional lavatories and toilets for girls and boys students as well staff.
- **In order to ensure quality education, implementation and practice of** student centered education system like- Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE), Activity based learning (ABL) for students of primary classes of the schools.
- **Leadership training** for Headmasters/ In-charges of Utkrisht Schools.
- **Filling up vacant administrative/ teaching posts** of Utkrisht Schools.
- **Development of schools** with the help of leveraged funds available through public representatives, Swaichhik Anudaan, MP/ MLA-LAD, Bhamashah contributors, Akshay Petika, Balsabha, CSR fund flow as well other donations.
- **Effective monitoring and regular evaluation of the Utkrisht Schools** with assigned responsibility to district and block level education officers under the guidance of District Collector and Sub-division Officers.

## **Panchayat Elementary Education Officer (PEEO)**

- State has approx. 65000 schools across 33 districts and 302 educational blocks and Gram Panchayat consecutively.
- In order to increase the participation of gram panchayat in strengthening school education, Principal/Headmaster of Senior Secondary/ Secondary / Upper Primary School i.e. highest of the panchayat headquarter has been designated as Panchayat Elementary Education Officer across the state.
- As primary/elementary education management also is the part of Panchayati Raj system in the state, PEEO ensures effective coordination among elementary school management, community and Panchayati Raj system.
- PEEO deals with various administrative, financial as well academic responsibilities towards schools of elementary setup under control.
- Through PEEO, schools are able to engage community at large in school management activities, place school development plans in gram sabha, influence allocation of resources therefrom, resolve issues which are pending at gram Panchayats and mobilize resources both from Dept. of Education as well Dept. of Panchayati Raj.
- Besides above, PEEOs have also been assigned responsibility to provide supportive supervision to schools of elementary setup (Pre-primary and primary education), located in catchment area of his/her gram panchayat. Primary focus of the same is on providing support for effective implementation of State Initiative of Quality Education (SIQE) in the state.
- Rajasthan is the pioneer state in integrating Aanganwadi Centers (AWCs) with Senior Secondary / Secondary / Upper Primary Schools to ensure smooth transition between pre-school education and primary school education. PEEOs lead enrolment drive both for AWCs and Schools of the catchment area.
- PEEO is responsible to ensure that AWCs integrated with their school open/s on time and function/s as per ICDS time table. Through a mentor teacher, PEEO also provides support to Anganwadi Workers and ensures child friendly environment for appropriate learning processes in AWCs.
- Hence, he/she plays important role in and bears whole responsibility towards AWC monitoring, mentoring and qualitative deliverables therein regarding pre-primary education for children, age of 3 to 6 years.

With reference to above, it is evident that as PEEO, a school principal has to perform following primary as well quite important tasks to ensure quality learning environment in the schools under control:-

- Supervision of and support to schools of elementary setup,
- Effective monitoring and mentoring to AWCs, integrated with schools,
- Effective implementation of school development plan,
- Effective execution of administrative, educational and financial responsibilities,
- Holistic development of education in the jurisdiction.