

Secondary Education in Manipur

A Status Study

SANGEETA ANGOM*
LEISANGTHEM BINITA DEVI**

Abstract

Education in its broadest sense of development of youth is the most crucial input for empowering people with skills and knowledge and giving them access to productive employment in future. The Eleventh Plan places the highest priority on education as a central instrument for achieving rapid and inclusive growth. Elementary education has received a major push in the Tenth Plan through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). In the view of the demands for rapidly changing economy, a mere eight years of elementary education would be grossly inadequate for the young children to acquire necessary skills to compete in the job market. Therefore, a mission for secondary education is essential to consolidate the gains of SSA and to move forward in establishing a knowledge society. Moreover, secondary education serves as a bridge between elementary and higher education, the success of SSA thrown open the challenge of expanding access to secondary education through its universalisation. With this context, the present paper aims to study the present status of secondary education in Manipur. It also tries to capture the major gaps in enrolment, dropouts and school retention at secondary level. Finally, the paper also attempts to examine the schemes and policy taken up by the State Government for universalisation of secondary education in Manipur. The paper is based mainly on secondary data collected from Selected Educational Statistics, Census Report, Statistical Report of Manipur, DISE data, data from Directorate of Education(s), Manipur, Board of Secondary Education, Manipur and RMSA, Manipur.

Introduction

The Eleventh Five Year Plan places the highest priority on education as a

central instrument for achieving rapid and inclusive growth. Elementary education has received a major push in

* Assistant Professor, NUEPA, New Delhi

** Project Consultant, NUEPA, New Delhi

the Tenth Plan through the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA). In the view of the demands for rapidly changing economy, it was felt that a mere eight years of Elementary Education would be grossly inadequate for the young children to acquire necessary skills to compete in the job market. Therefore, a mission for secondary education is essential to consolidate the gains of SSA and to move forward in establishing a knowledge society. Moreover secondary education serves as a bridge between elementary and higher education, the success of SSA thrown open the challenge of expanding access to secondary education through its universalisation. The Eleventh Plan aims to i) Raise the minimum level of education to Class X and accordingly universalise access to secondary education; ii) Ensure good quality secondary education with focus on Science, Mathematics, and English and iii) Aim towards major reduction in gender, social and regional gaps in enrolments, dropouts and school retention.

With this context, the present paper, based mainly on secondary data, aims to study the present status of secondary education in Manipur and also to capture the major gaps in enrolment, dropouts and school retention at secondary level. Finally, the paper also attempts to examine the schemes and policy taken up by the State Government and RMSA, a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of secondary education in Manipur.

Secondary Education in Manipur

The secondary education which serves as a bridge between primary and higher

education is expected to prepare young ones between the age group 14 to 18 for the world of work and entry into higher education. The secondary education starts with Classes IX to X leading to higher secondary Classes XI and XII.

The State Government of Manipur primarily looks after the school education, both primary and secondary education in the state. The high school stage of education consisting Classes from IX and X is under the academic control of the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur and higher secondary schools education comprising of Class XI and XII is under the control of Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur. The Board of Secondary Education and Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur conduct the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) and Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate (HSSLC) examinations, respectively. The Directorate of Education (schools) under the supervision of the Secretariat Education Department is taking care of the administration of school education in the state. The Board of Secondary Education, Manipur was set up during the year 1972-73. The State Institute of Education (SIE) was set up during 1973 for academic improvement of school education in Manipur. Towards the end of Fourth Plan, the Department of Education was reorganised to cope with the rapidly expanding education at all stages and it was bifurcated into two; one to look after school education and other to deal with higher education (college and university). The total population of Manipur is 21,66,788 and

literacy rate is 70.53 (Census, 2001) and the total population is 2,721,756 and literacy rate is 79.85 (Provisional Census, 2011).

History of Formal Education in Manipur

The traditional system of education in Manipur was gradually replaced by the Western education system with the arrival of the British in Manipur in the early nineteenth century. Maharaja Chandra Kirti Singh gave his consent to Sir James Johnstone, Political Agent in Manipur in the year 1885 by allotting a plot of land in Imphal East for establishing an English Middle School. This was the first formal system of education in Manipur. The Johnstone Middle English School was upgraded to High School Level under Calcutta University by the year 1921. It was converted into State Government School in the year 1946.

Progress in Educational Institutions Capacity

Size of school education in the state is generally measured in terms of three indicators, namely, number of educational institutions, number of teachers and students. The state has progressed in these indicators. Till the year 1947, the number of High Schools was only six with an enrolment of 3705 and 111 teachers. In the year 1997, the number rose to 501 High Schools with an enrolment of 1,74,670 including 82,840 girls with 366 teachers. In the year 2005-06, the numbers of schools and number of teachers were 4088 and 28,506 with an enrolment of 6,01,588 students.

Types of Secondary Schools in Manipur

The types of secondary schools in Manipur are government secondary schools, private-aided secondary schools and private secondary schools. The Board of Secondary Education, Manipur has recognised 823 schools as on 11 May 2011. Among these recognised schools 230 are government schools, 103 are aided schools and 490 are private schools. The dominance of private schools in terms of number and enrolment of students is the significant feature of school education in the state.

Table 1
Number of Secondary Schools in Manipur

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Secondary Schools</i>	<i>Number of Senior Secondary Schools</i>
2001-02	564	95
2002-03	540	147
2003-04	540	112
2004-05	588	118
2005-06	603	102
2006-07	701	103
2007-08	701	103

Source: Statistics of School Education, 2010

In the last six years, number of secondary schools has increased from 564 to 701 and shows an increasing trend except for the years 2002-03 and 2003-04. Number of senior secondary school also increased from 95 in 2001-2002 to 103, however sudden increase happened during the year 2002-03, and then gradually it decreased (Table 1). Table 2 shows the district-wise secondary schools in Manipur by management in 2010-11.

Table 2
District-wise Secondary Schools in Manipur by Management (2010-11)

<i>District</i>	<i>Sec./ Hr. Sec. Schools</i>	<i>Govt. Colleges having 10+2 Classes</i>	<i>Govt. Central</i>	<i>Local</i>	<i>Private Aided</i>	<i>Private Unaided</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Bishnupur	27	2	1	1	11	34	76
2. Chandel	7	0	1	0	6	16	30
3. Churachandpur	28	2	3	0	7	47	87
4. Imphal East	34	1	2	1	32	86	156
5. Imphal West	44	0	3	0	30	92	169
6. Senapati	12	1	1	1	11	73	99
7. Tamenglong	13	1	2	0	5	15	36
8. Thoubal	32	1	2	0	29	62	126
9. Ukhrul	27	1	0	1	5	17	51
Total	224	9	15	4	136	442	830

Source: SEMIS Data 2010-11

Enrolment Trend

According to Table 3, the enrolment of students at Class IX and X from 2001-02 to 2007-08 shows a steady growth except for the year 2002-03. Enrolment at Classes IX and X in 2002-03 shows slight decrease from the earlier year whereas in case of Classes XI-XII, it shows a sudden jump from 16,982 to 37,826. When we make a comparison for both the classes, it shows that

enrolment at Classes XI-XII is very small. This may be due to children being sent out of the state for further schooling or may be some of them do not continue further schooling. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in Classes IX to XII shows an increasing trend from 40.49 in 2001-02 to 50.97 in 2007-08. According to SEMIS 2010-11, the GER of the state at secondary education has reached up to 79.56.

Table 3
Number of Enrolled Students in Secondary School

<i>Year</i>	<i>Enrolment of Students in Secondary Schools</i>		<i>Gross Enrolment Ratio in Classes</i>
	<i>IX - X</i>	<i>XI - XII</i>	<i>IX-XII</i>
2001-2002	67244	16982	40.49
2002-2003	62921	37826	51.32
2003-2004	70910	21238	46.24
2004-2005	73565	23178	48.61
2005-2006	75924	23918	49.43
2006-2007	78353	24683	50.70
2007-2008	78765	24804	50.97

Source: Statistics of School Education, 2010

Table 4
Number of Teachers at Secondary Schools

Year	Number of Teachers in	
	Secondary Schools	Sr. Secondary Schools
2001-2002	9534	2528
2002-2003	9175	3104
2003-2004	9175	3104
2004-2005	9058	3075
2005-2006	8933	3033
2006-2007	8801	3006
2007-2008	8725	2991

Source: Statistics of School Education, 2010

Teachers in Secondary Schools

Table 4 shows the number of teachers serving in secondary schools. During 2001-02, the number of teachers employed was 9,534 but the number decreases to 9175 in 2002-03 and remains the same in 2003-04. Then from 2004-05 to 2007-08, it shows a gradual decrease. However in case of senior secondary school, the number of teachers shows an increasing trend from 2001-02 to 2007-08.

Number of Teachers, Enrolment and TPR at Higher Secondary Schools

Tables 5 and 6 show the number of teachers, enrolment and TPR at higher secondary schools and high schools.

Table 5 shows a decreasing trend of the number of teachers at Higher Secondary Schools from 2005-06 to 2007-08 in Manipur as well as in all India. It is also evident that male teachers are more than the female teachers and the percentage of Higher Secondary School trained teachers are below 50 per cent of the all India average

showing slight decreasing trend. However, the number of female teachers per hundred male teachers has increased from 81 to 82 within two years in case of Manipur whereas it shows a decreasing trend in all India figure from 62 in 2005-06 to 58 in 2007-08.

The all India figure for enrolment at Secondary/Senior Secondary has increased by 30 times from 1.5 million in 1950-51 to 44.5 million in 2007-08. The figure for enrolment of students for two years as given in the Table 6 also shows the same trend. Boys' enrolment shows a slight decreasing trend for all India figures which is contradictory with the case in Manipur. However, the girls' enrolment at Higher Secondary Schools shows an increase at both state and all India level.

On the basis of Higher Secondary School enrolment and the number of teachers, the teacher pupil ratio for the years 2005-06 and 2007-08 is indicated in Table 6 and the ratio has now increased from 34 to 37 and 22 to 23 in India and Manipur, respectively.

Table 5
Number of Teachers, Enrolment and TPR of Higher Secondary Schools

State/ Country	No. of Teachers			% age of Trained Teachers	Female Teachers per 100 Male Teachers	Enrolment			TPR
	Men	Women	Total			Boys	Girls	Total	
Manipur 2005-06	1673	1360	3033	40	81	36865	29225	66090	22
India 2005-06	637911	393868	1031779	90	62	19885679	15155482	35041161	34
Manipur 2007-08	1643	1348	2991	38	82	38352	31165	69517	23
India 2007-08	603306	348511	951817	93	58	19750216	15638872	35389088	37

Source: Selected Educational Statistics 2008 and Statistics of School Education, 2010

Table 6
Number of Teachers, Enrolment and TPR of High Schools

State/ Country	No. of Teachers			% age of Trained Teachers	Female Teachers per 100 Male Teachers	Enrolment			TPR
	Men	Women	Total			Boys	Girls	Total	
Manipur 2005-06	5366	3567	8933	42	66	118302	108033	226335	25
India 2005-06	695551	427325	11228766	89	61	19904974	16056744	35961718	32
Manipur 2007-08	5210	3515	8725	42	67	122935	111825	234760	27
India 2007-08	728228	446830	1175058	89	61	21507636	16887044	38394680	33

Source: Selected Educational Statistics, 2008 and Statistics of School Education, 2010

Number of Teachers, Enrolment and TPR at High School

Table 7 shows an increasing trend of the number of teachers at High Schools from 2005-06 to 2007-08 in Manipur as well as in all India. It is also evident that male teachers are more than the female teachers and the percentage of

High School trained teachers is below 50 per cent of the all India average showing no change in the number for the last two years. However, the number of female teachers per hundred male teachers has increased from 66 to 67 within two years in case of Manipur whereas the number remains the same in all India figure.

The all India figure for enrolment at High School for two years as given in the Table 7 also shows an increasing trend where the boys' and the girls' enrolment is on increasing trend from 1.99 million to 2.15 million and 3.59 million to 3.83 million, respectively for all India. In Manipur, it also shows an increasing trend from 2.26 lacs to 2.34 lacs in total where the boys' and girls, enrolment increased from 1.18 lacs to 1.22 lacs and from 2.26 lacs to 2.34 lacs, respectively. The teacher pupil

ratio for High Schools for the years 2005-06 and 2007-08 is indicated in Table 6 and the ratio has increased from 32 to 33 and 25 to 27 in India and Manipur, respectively.

Number of Schools, Number of Teachers and Enrolment at District Level

Table 7 shows the district wise-number of schools, number of teachers and students enrolment for the years 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Table 7
District-wise Number of Schools, Number of Teachers and Enrolment

District	2005-06			2007-08		
	School	Teachers	Enrolment IX-XII	School	Teachers	Enrolment IX-XII
Bishnupur	59	873	10443	68	851	10822
Chandel	23	405	2228	27	378	2331
Churachandpur	79	1390	7066	84	1357	7329
Imphal East	132	1671	19813	157	1641	20531
Imphal West	148	4071	30467	187	3999	31604
Senapati	67	843	6712	78	837	6946
Tamenglong	53	376	3144	29	365	3260
Thoubal	110	1657	15576	124	1621	16157
Ukhruel	47	680	4393	50	667	4589
Total	705	11966	99842	804	11716	103569

Source: Selected Educational Statistics 2008 and Statistics of School Education 2010

Teacher-Pupil Ratio in Secondary Schools

Table 8 shows a gradual increase of TPR from 20 in 2001-02 to 27 in 2007-08 except for the year 2002-03 in secondary schools but for higher secondary school

the case is different where the data show a decreasing trend. This analysis depicts that there are more enrolled students than the number of teachers in secondary schools than the senior secondary schools.

Table 8
Pupil-Teacher Ratio of Secondary Schools

Year	Pupil-Teacher Ratio at Secondary Schools		
	Secondary Schools	Sr. Secondary School	Gender Parity Index
2001-2002	20	24	0.87
2002-2003	19	20	0.94
2003-2004	23	22	0.93
2004-2005	24	23	0.93
2005-2006	25	22	0.93
2006-2007	26	23	0.94
2007-2008	27	23	0.95

Source: Statistics of School Education, 2010

Gender Parity Index in Secondary Schools in Manipur

Gender Parity Index (GPI) measures progress towards gender equity in education and when its value equal to 1 at any level of education, then it shows that there is no gender disparity at that level. Table 8 indicates an increased trend from 0.87 in 2001-2002 to 0.95 in 2007-2008 and in the following years, the state may completely eliminate gender disparity.

Secondary School Examination Results

HSLC examination is conducted by the Board of Secondary Education Manipur and Higher Secondary Leaving Certificate Examination is conducted by Council of Secondary Education. The following tables show the High School Leaving Certificate Examination (HSLC) for the last six years from 2005-2010 and district-wise HSLC examination result in 2010.

Table 9
HSLC Examination Result for the past Six Years

Year	Enrolled		Appeared		Division						Total	PC
	Male	Female	Male	Female	I		II		III			
					Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
2005	13254	13067	13093	12976	1082	695	2723	2027	2023	1599	10159	39
2006	12250	12676	12082	12571	1446	1036	2740	2029	1490	1103	9844	40
2007	11415	11813	11266	11689	1993	1480	3038	2640	1551	1217	11919	52
2008	12354	12510	12206	12403	2198	1644	3765	3157	1824	1805	14393	58
2009	14041	13935	13888	13796	2381	1644	4096	3459	2222	1886	15688	57
2010	14264	13290	14093	13188	1052	591	4207	3205	4079	3443	16577	61

Source: Result of HSLC Examination, Board Secondary Education, Manipur, 2010

Table 10
District-wise HSLC Examination Result & Pass Percentage, 2010

Sl. No.	District	Appeared	Passed Students at Different Division				Pass P.C.
			I	II	III	Total	
1.	Imphal East	4279	290	769	944	2003	47%
2.	Imphal West	5794	476	1225	1354	3055	53%
3.	Bishnupur	2028	117	405	546	1068	53%
4.	Churachandpur	2161	168	764	481	1413	65%
5.	Thoubal	4106	240	1058	1194	2492	61%
6.	Chandel	2080	33	800	709	1542	74%
7.	Senapati	3779	268	1516	1015	2799	74%
8.	Tamenglong	1228	12	234	588	834	68%
9.	Ukhrul	1826	39	641	691	1371	75%

Source: Result of HSLC Examination, Board Secondary Education, Manipur 2010

Table 9 shows that during the year 2005-2008, number of girls enrolled are more than boys for HSLC examination but in the years 2009 and 2010 the number boys' enrolled rose up. It also shows that the number of male candidates appearing in the examination are more than the female ones except for the years 2006 and 2008 due to large number of female dropout from the examination. Total pass percentage of students over the last six years in HSLC examination shows a significant increased trend.

According to Table 10, Imphal West district recorded the highest number of students appeared for HSLC with a pass percentage of 53 per cent whereas Tamenglong district, the lowest with a passed percentage of 68 per cent in the year 2010. The Chandel and Senapati districts recorded as having the highest passed percentage of 74 per cent whereas Imphal West district as having the lowest passed percentage of 47 per cent. However, the highest number of students passed out with first division is from the Imphal West district, and

Tamenglong district having the lowest number students passed out in first division.

Dropout Rates in Schools in Manipur

Dropout rates given in Table 11 show an increasing trend for classes I to V and I to VII from 27.06 and 37.75 in 2001-02 to 37.49 and 41.93 in 2007-08 respectively. However, dropout rates for the Classes I to X shows a decreasing trend from 53.90 in 2001-02 to 44.60 in 2007-08.

Table 11
Dropout Rates in Different Classes

Years	Dropout Rates in Classes		
	I-V	I-VIII	I-X
2001-02	27.06	37.75	53.90
2002-03	25.60	32.93	60.54
2003-04	26.41	30.61	49.02
2004-05	31.18	32.80	43.02
2005-06	31.06	35.97	41.91
2006-07	45.69	41.22	43.80
2007-08	37.49	41.93	44.60

Source: Selected Educational Statistics 2008 and Statistics of School Education 2010

Table 12
Dropout Rates during 2005-06 and 2007-08 at all categories

State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
All Categories									
Manipur	29.84	32.36	31.06	36.34	35.56	35.97	44.42	39.09	41.91
2005-06	35.80	39.25	37.49	41.03	42.88	41.93	47.91	40.83	44.60
2007-08									
India-2005-06	28.71	21.77	25.67	48.67	48.98	48.80	60.10	63.56	61.62
2007-08	25.70	24.41	25.09	41.34	42.68	56.55	56.55	57.33	56.71
SC-Manipur									
2005-06	32.89	21.26	27.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2007-08	63.99	51.72	58.18	3.07	3.07	3.07	-1.12	1.47	0.13
India-2005-06	32.11	33.81	32.86	53.68	57.12	55.17	68.15	73.76	70.57
2007-08	34.37	24.52	30.09	53.56	51.12	52.47	68.05	68.90	68.42
ST-Manipur									
2005-06	46.77	56.79	51.58	56.27	62.69	59.51	71.50	71.27	70.40
2007-08	63.77	69.90	66.70	62.64	65.37	63.95	67.61	73.56	70.61
India-2005-06	40.21	39.29	39.79	62.88	62.86	62.87	78.02	79.21	78.52
2007-08	31.04	31.68	31.34	62.62	62.31	62.48	76.02	77.97	76.85

Source: Selected Educational Statistics 2008 and Statistics of School Education 2010

As given in the Table 12, the dropout rates in Classes I to V, I to VIII and I to X show an increasing trend in Manipur which is in contrast to all India figure. And the dropout rates in all categories show higher than all India figure in both the years.

In case of scheduled-caste students, dropout rates in Manipur have increased from 2005-06 to 2007-08 with more than 50 per cent increased in dropouts for Classes I to V and negligibly increased for Classes I to X. Similar trend of dropout rates observed in the case of ST students with 70.40 per cent and 70.61 per cent of dropouts for Classes I to X in 2005-06 and 2007-08, respectively. But the number of dropout rates of ST students is more than SC students in Manipur.

However, all India dropout rates for SC students show a decreasing trend

with large number of SC dropout students for Classes I to X as 70.57 in 2005-06 and 68.42 in 2007-08. The similar trend is observed here for the ST students where the highest number of students dropout was for the Classes I to X.

In all categories, the girls' dropout rates are more than boys in Manipur. However, in all India figures, boys, dropout rates are more than the girls for Classes I to V but for Classes I to VII and Classes I to X, girls, dropout rates are more than the boys.

In SC categories, the boys' dropout rates are more than that for girls in Manipur for both the years for Classes I to V, However, for classes I to VIII, there is same rates (3.07) of dropouts for both boys and girls and for Classes I to X, girls dropout rates are more than boys. In all India figure, it shows

that the girls' dropout rates are more than the boys in 2005-06 for Classes I to V and Classes I to X but in 2007-08, the boys dropout rates are more than girls for Classes I to V and I to X.

In Manipur, the ST girls, dropout rates are more than that for boys for Classes I to V and I to VIII in 2005-06 and 2007-08 but for Classes I to X, boys dropout rates are more than that for girls in 2005-06 and vice versa in 2007-08. The all India figure shows that ST boys' dropout rates are more than girls in 2005-06 for Classes I to V and I to VIII but more girls' dropout rate for Classes I to X. In 2007-08, more girls' dropout rates among the ST students for Classes I to V and I to X but lesser girls' dropouts for Classes I to VIII.

Main Policies and Schemes for Secondary Education

The Department of Education (School), Government of Manipur has different policies and programmes for the secondary education in the state. Under the sponsorship of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, the Department of Education(S) has conducted National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Examination since 2008 in Manipur. Meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections are awarded scholarships to arrest their dropout at Class VIII and the main objective is to encourage them to continue their studies till Class XII. In the year 2010, the Department has conducted the examination and selected 164 students for the scholarship.

The Department of Education(S) also awards merit scholarship for the students who passed Class X

examination and Class XII examination conducted by Board of Secondary Education, Manipur and Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur. The scholarship was given to first 300 students. The merit scholarship is Rs 6,000 per annum for Class X and Rs 12,000 per annum for Class XII.

The Department has been giving awards to the first division students of Classes X and XII examination conducted by BOSEM and COHESM. The students who score 60 per cent to 74.9 per cent. Receives Rs 3,000 and Rs 5,000 for the students who score 75 per cent and above and this grant is shared between the school management, teaching faculty and the student of the school.

The Department also conducts School Meet. It is organised to inculcate a sense of integrity among school-going youths; to expose the youths to different opportunities and avenues and to let youths of different areas acquaint with each other's culture, identity, ethos, etc. In the Meet, students and teachers in charge from each districts of the state took part in inter-district sports competition and other extra-curricular activities.

The State Government is also concerned for the quality education in the schools. The State Government has established seven Special Category English Medium Schools (Model School) in various districts so far aiming at imparting quality education to students. The admission to these schools are done through an Admission Committee headed by Zonal Education Officer concerned and teachers for these schools are selected from among the

young and dynamic government school graduate teachers through a screening committee.

A special coaching class under the remedial teaching scheme has been taken up in close co-ordination with the district level educational establishments and students bodies as a part of the continuing process for improvement of the students preparing for HSLC and HSSLC Examination 2010-11.

Under the mission for ICT in school education, the State Government has plan to provide all the Government and Aided High and Higher Secondary Schools of Manipur, the facility of computer education by way of installing ten computer systems with requisite accessories to each school. And under computer education programme, the government shall also provide one laptop each to the students of Elementary level under One Laptop per Child (OLPC) scheme. At the first phase of this programme, two hundred laptops have also been distributed to the students of four schools (Govt/Private) (Annual Administrative Report 09-10, Dept. of Education(S), GOM).

The Department of Education(S) has also selected five schools for upgradation of infrastructure of school buildings in hill districts during the year 2010-11 under the Special Plan Assistance for improving infrastructure of schools.

The Board of Secondary Education, Manipur has the scheme of continuous and comprehensive evaluation since 1993 in Classes IX and X and the scheme has been modified from the academic session 2010-11 in Classes III-X in all schools affiliated to BOSEM.

Policies and Programmes of RMSA at Manipur

A centrally-sponsored scheme, RMSA launched by the Government of India on 2 March 2009 is envisaged to enrol students into Classes IX to XII for achieving universalisation of secondary education by 2017 and full retention by 2020. The scheme was started in Manipur formally on 20 April 2010. The financing pattern between centre and the state for RMSA is 90:10.

RMSA is implemented in Manipur under the administrative umbrella of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* Society, but with a separate State Project Director and Additional State Project Director who are assisted by a mixture of staff drawn from SSA and contract employees especially appointed for implementation of RMSA. At the district level, there will be District Programme Coordinators. Existing district education structure and manpower will be mostly utilised for implementation of the scheme, and if required, qualified staff may be appointed from the open market on contract basis.

In the context of the Universalisation of Secondary Education (USE), RMSA in Manipur has been progressing by doing works during the year 2010-11 in terms of additional schools, additional classrooms, science laboratory, library, arts and crafts room and students' toilet facilities and drinking water facilities. The activities in the pipeline for the scheme are to employ adequate number of qualified subject teachers, separate male and female staff rooms, boys, and girls, separate common room for recreation that gives a little relief from studies during the course of the day, as

also to facilitate vocational studies and activities, a big auditorium to train themselves to address public functions and other facilities need to be provided to meet the challenge of education with credibility and quality. It, inter-alia, requires assessment and provision of educational needs, physical infrastructure, human resources, academic inputs and effective monitoring of implementation of the programmes. The scheme will initially cover up to Class X. Subsequently, the higher secondary stage will also be taken up preferably within two years of the implementation.

Concluding Remarks

Manipur has shown considerable progress in terms of literacy rates, number of schools, number of teachers and students enrolment since 1951. The dominance of private schools in terms of number, enrolment of students and performance in the examinations is one of the significant features of school education in the state. In terms of access of secondary education, Manipur is fairly poised to achieve more than the national target of 75 per cent

over the next five years. The Gross Enrolment Ratio for secondary level could have achieved a much higher if the schools are located and spread over at strategic places for access easily. In terms of efficiency, participation and access, the state has made a progress but the main issue here is the lack of quality education. Lately, the state has focus more on qualitative achievement than the quantitative achievement with the broad aims and objectives of RMSA goals. Quality secondary school education can be brought through large number of trained specialised teachers in their subjects. There is a need for giving in-service training programmes on massive scale besides providing adequate infrastructure facilities in the schools like science labs, libraries and other facilities. In this regard, for bringing quality education and for achieving aims of universalisation of secondary education in the state, much effort is needed to implement properly the State and Central government policies and plans through both Education Department (S) and RMSA scheme with full cooperation from the stakeholders.

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