Report of

State Level Consultation on
Taking ahead the agenda of SDG4 and role of the Government and CSOs

Organised by
National Coalition for Education

In collaboration with
Sustainability Foundation
# PROGRAMME AGENDA

Taking ahead the Agenda of SDG4 and the role of the government and Civil Society Organizations

18th January, 2019, Redcross Bhawan, Bhubaneswar

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Panelist</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 to 10:00 hrs</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 to 11:00 hrs</td>
<td>Inaugural session&lt;br&gt;Welcome to the guests and inaugural address</td>
<td>Naba Kishor Pujari, Founder and Managing Trustee, Sustainability Foundation</td>
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<td>Dr Ramakant Rai, National Convener, NCE India</td>
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<td>Mr Rampal Singh, President, All India Primary Teacher’s Federation</td>
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<td>11:00 to 11:30 hrs</td>
<td>Context setting: Commitment to Convergence, partnership and collective pursuits of SDG4</td>
<td>Dr Ramakant Rai/Noopur</td>
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<td>11:30 to 12:30 hrs</td>
<td>Analytical review of implementation of RTE in Odisha</td>
<td>Dr Prasant Kumar Acharya</td>
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<td>12:30 to 13:00 hrs</td>
<td>Achieving agenda of SDG4-Role of teachers and initiatives of the state government</td>
<td>Sraban Bag, Asst. Professor of Education, Sambalpur University</td>
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<td>13:00 to 13:45 hrs</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:45 to 14:15 hrs</td>
<td>Action agenda for accelerating progress on SDG4</td>
<td>By participants/panelists</td>
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<td>14:15 to 14:45 hrs</td>
<td>Closing session and Vote of thanks</td>
<td>Dr Subhashree Das, Trustee, Sustainability Foundation</td>
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<td>14:45 to 15:00 hrs</td>
<td>Group photos followed by travel reimbursement claim at registration desk</td>
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Programme Introduction

**National Coalition for Education (NCE India)** organized a state level consultation on “taking ahead the agenda of SDG4 and role of government and the CSOs” on 18th January at Redcross Bhawan, Bhubaneswar.

The Consultation was organized in collaboration with the **Sustainability Foundation**, a non-profit organization working towards actualizing the goals of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Odisha. The objective of the consultation was to take stock of the state government’s initiative to achieve SDG4 in the state and will produce a fact-sheet on key RTE indicators to support for a roadmap to achieve the target in a time bound manner.

The consultation witnessed the participation of teachers, CSO members, academicians, RTE Activists, representatives from NGOs and research organizations who discussed various aspects of Right to Education, Sustainable Development Goals 4 and concluded with a set of recommendations on what role should the government play and how CSOs should complement to achieve SDG4 agenda in the state of Odia.

Various issues such as **Context setting: Commitment to Convergence, partnership and collective pursuits of SDG4, Analytical review of implementation of RTE in Odisha and Achieving agenda of SDG4- Role of teachers and initiatives of the state government** was vividly discussed in the day-long consultation.

Mr Naba Kishor Pujari, Founder of Sustainability Foundation in his inaugural address stated that ‘School closure decision is not only a violation of Right to Education of the children but also will lead to forced migration and child labour in those areas. There are already more than 10 lakhs child labour in the state and nearly 1 lakh children from our state migrate to neighbouring states as child labour every year.'
Also, the dropout rates among tribals are also high, 28.5 per cent children drop out of schools by Class 5 while 72.7 per cent by Class 7. So, school closure will further push towards an increasing number of drop out children in those areas which will affect the implementation of Right to Education in the state.

**Context setting: Commitment to Convergence, partnership and collective pursuits of SDG4:**

Dr Ramakant Rai, Convener of NCE India made a detailed presentation on implementation of Right to Education in India vs the state of Odisha, Targets and achievements of state on Sustainable Development Goals 4 and quality education. During his presentation, he emphasized on the bigger role of the state actors and the Government of India to push the agenda to achieve the target in a time-bound manner. He cited various instances of the lack of the Government’s will to effectively implement the Right to Education and drew points from the evidences from the public hearings on RTE and highlighted how the role of SMCs, local authority, SCPCR could have impacted better towards achieving education for all.

**Mr. Rampal Singh, President: AIPTF**

Rampal Singh, President of the All India Primary Teacher’s Federation who attended the consultation as the Chief Guest told the participants: “The Right to Education Act (RTE) calls for equal opportunities in education for children in India and it is the responsibility of the governments to be accountable to make this happen”.

He also put points on how the government is sideling the issues of teachers who are the backbone of any education system. While the Act advocates for recruitment of regular and trained teachers, many states have adopted the policy of recruiting contractual teachers who are paid very less to justify their roles in the system. The No-Detention Policy was scrapped by the Government which will also cost us very high in the future. However, the major conspiracy to destroy the education system is privatization. Our federation is consistently fighting against the privatization of public education.

As a nation, we could not make it to MDGs and SDG 2030 is another options available for all of us. If the Government is really concerned to achieve the Goals set under SDG4, then the groundwork must have begun. However, the sluggish development in this regard has shown
the step-motherly attitude of the Government towards public education in our Country, he concluded.

**Analytical review of implementation of RTE in Odisha**

Dr Prashant Acharya, former Chief of the state monitoring team for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan in his presentation gave an analytical overview of implementation versus existing challenges in implementing RTE Act in Odisha.

He highlighted about major initiatives, structural reforms, institutional strengthening in the department of Education and lauded the efforts of the state government about making education a prime agenda always. However, he also pointed out on school dropout, effective functioning of SMCs and other prevailing issues where the role of the state government has been passive.

**Achieving agenda of SDG4- Role of teachers and initiatives of the state government**

Mr. Sraban Bag, an experienced researcher on RTE and Assistant Professor of Education in Sambalpur University spoke on academic and administrative initiative of the state government on teacher education. However, he also lamented on the issue of untrained teachers in public schools, Inefficient method of teaching, less emphasis on professional
development needs and attitude of teachers, lack of practice in schools and colleges, Non-Functional Days in Schools and financial insecurity and status quo of teachers.

Ms. Noopur Singh, Executive Director, NCE India

Ms. Noopur Singh in her address spoke on the work of NCE India on RTE Act and SDG4, and called for an evidence based advocacy to achieve specific results on RTE. She urged the participants to collect as much as ground reality report and submit them to NCE so that they can use those evidences for ensuring appropriate actions in this regard.

She also spoke about the Global Monitoring report and NCE’s effort monitoring High level Political Forum report, Voluntary National Report and Spotlight report.

Open session

After the plenary sessions are over, an open discussion session was organized where participants spoke on the issues of RTE from their perspective regions and sought solutions
on these issues. They also suggested some actions to be taken by NCE to strengthen the effective implementation of RTE in India and especially in the state of Odisha.

**Concluding session**

The consultation after a day-long fruitful deliberations on RTE and SDG 4 was concluded with a proposal to organize a close working group meeting to further take head the agenda towards actualizing SGD4 in Odisha. It was also discussed that a public hearings on RTE could be organized to gather more facts on RTE so that we can make more accountable to the government through evidences.

Among others, Dr Smarita Pradhan, Trustee of Sustainability Foundation, Ms. Archana and Mr. Amit Kumar from NCE India National Secretariat attended the consultation.

Dr Subhashree Das, Trustee of Sustainability Foundation gave formal vote of thanks to the participants and panelists for their active participation, deliberation and sharing of knowledge to further help strategize possible actions on SDG4 and RTE Act.

-End of the report-