

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

The government of India launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) initiative in 2001 with the goal of achieving the universalization of elementary education (UEE). The Indian Constitution's Article 21 A promises compulsory and free education for children ages 6 to 14 to be a basic right, giving the SSA its legal foundation.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan began as an intervention plan in 2002, and SSA was functioning from 2000-2001. Over the course of multiple stages, the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) covered 272 districts in 18 states across the nation. The State Governments (15%) and the Central Government (85%) split the cost of the programme. Several other organizations, notably the World Bank, the Department for International Development (DFID), and UNICEF, provided funding for the Central share. By 2001, the project had received over \$1500 million in funding, and it had 50 million youngsters under its umbrella. The SSA Program is anchored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India (GoI).

On April 1, 2010, the Right to Education Act (RTE) went into effect. Some educators and decision-makers think that the passage of this law has given SSA the legal authority needed to carry out its execution.

Key Facts about Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

A few key facts about SSA have listed below;

- SSA is referred to as a campaign that promotes "Education for All."
- Former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the architect of the SSA initiative.
- This programme is being carried out by the Central Government in collaboration with the State Governments.
- The SSA's original deadline for achieving its goals was 2010, although it has since been extended.
- Aiming to serve 1.1 million households with 193 million children, SSA strives to build infrastructural facilities for education.

- The Constitutional 86th Amendment Act gave the SSA legal support when it mandated compulsory and free education for children between the ages of 6 and 14.
- The New Education Policy 2020 seeks to reintegrate roughly two crores of out-of-school kids.
- An approximate 6.2 crore schoolkids (those between the ages of 6 and 18) were not enrolled in school in 2015, according to the National Education Policy of 2019.
- A component of the SSA is Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat.
- To track the SSA project, the government has developed a portal with the name "Shagun." It was created by the World Bank and the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

Objectives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

Following the passing of the Right to Education Act in 2010, the SSA adopts a comprehensive strategy to achieve its goals. The goals are to improve management, management, planning, teacher preparation, and curriculum. The following is a list of SSA's broad goals:

- To establish new schools in areas with no existing educational institutions
- To make the current school infrastructure stronger
- To offer alternative educational facilities
- To build new schools
- To expand the number of classrooms, bathrooms, and water fountains in the schools.
- Grants for school improvement must continue
- To give children free uniforms and textbooks
- To strengthen the teaching staff in schools where there is a teacher shortage. These schools are provided with additional teachers.
- To improve and increase the capabilities of the current teachers at the schools by;
 - Provisions for Extensive Training
 - Managing the grants allows for the development of teaching materials.
 - At the cluster, block, and district levels, the academic support infrastructure is being bolstered.
- To give pupils both quality education and life skills.
- Promoting both the schooling of children who are differently abled or who have special needs, as well as the schooling of girls (the larger

goal being to transform the position of women). The Ministry of Human Resources and Development also states that the SSA aims to provide children of members of the following groups with equitable educational opportunities:

- SC
 - ST
 - Muslim
 - Landless Labourers, etc
- By providing computer instruction to kids, SSA also aims to close the digital gap by understanding the academic needs of historically underserved groups.
 - Providing universal access, enrollment, retention, and excellent elementary-level education for all children are the key areas of attention under the Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE).

Prior to 2010, the SSA's time-bound objectives were: All kids should finish 5 years of elementary school by 2007.

- By 2010, every youngster will have finished eight years of school.
- By 2007 and 2010, respectively, the social and gender category inequalities in primary education will be closed.

Role of SSA in Universalisation of Elementary Education

The cause of the Universalisation of Elementary Education has been supported by the Constitution of India through the provisions given below:

National Education Policy, 1986

The policy referred to the need for all students to remain in school until they turn 14 years old. Additionally, it stated that before India enters the 21st century, children up to the age 14 shall receive a free, mandatory education that meets international standards.

Constitutional Mandate of 1950

It stated that up to the age of 14, all kids should get free and mandatory education from the government.

The mandate specified that the State should try to accomplish this within 10 years of the Indian Constitution's entry into force.

Ministries Involved in SSA Scheme

Merging of programs and initiatives from different Ministries and Departments is a fundamental tenet of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's implementation to meet

its goal. The following plans and programmes from different ministries and departments are noted to intersect with the SSA:

- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHandFW)**
 - give the Model Cluster School services
 - Regularly examine your general health by visiting referral hospitals, government hospitals, or PHC
- **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**
 - Expand the Midday Meal Program to all schools that qualify
 - National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
 - Enable admissions that are age-appropriate
- **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**
 - Promote pre-school enrolment and learning
 - Encourage benefits based on Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to the children already in schools.
- **State PWDs**
 - Provision for geospatial technologies to facilitate social mapping and school mapping practices at the grass root level
- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoSJE and MOTA)**
 - Merging of necessary funds to construct residential facilities

Government Initiatives under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

The table below lists the plans and initiatives taken up under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

Initiative	Key Facts
Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat	<p>Objective: To work on the reading and writing skills of children from Class I and Class II, along with their skills at mathematics. It follows a dual approach:</p> <p>Early Reading and Writing with Comprehension – To work on children's development of linguistic skills by improving their reading and writing using comprehension. Early Mathematics – To encourage interest in Mathematics by rooting it in the social and physical world.</p>
Shagun Portal	To track the growth of SSA. This was introduced in 2017.
Shaala – Siddhi	School Standard Evaluation Programme (Shaala – Siddhi) is a programme to aid the achievement of SSA's goals.

National Campaign: Clean India: Clean Schools

Swachh Vidyalaya **Objective:** To ensure a functioning source to provide clean water, proper hygiene, and sanitation.

