

An Assessment of In-service Training Programmes under DPEP in Five West Bengal Districts

Funding Agency: West Bengal District Primary Education Programme (WBDPEP)

Coordinator: Achin Chakraborty

This study, sponsored by the State Project Office of the West Bengal District Primary Education Programme (WBDPEP) was completed in November 2005. It has examined the impact of the short duration in-service training programmes for teachers on primary education in the five districts of West Bengal, namely, Bankura, Birbhum, Coochbehar, Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas, where the DPEP was launched in 1997-98.

The study focussed on learning achievements by students as an outcome indicator. It also brought out the pattern of distribution of learning achievement across groups of students belonging to different socio-economic categories and related it to the input side, especially teachers' training programmes.

It was found that, although by and large the training programmes have been successful in sensitizing the teachers about the need for learning modern pedagogical tools, they have not been as effective in orienting them towards the need for closing intergroup disparities and weakening the close association between the student's innate social characteristics and her learning achievement. The IDSK team that carried out the study consisted of Achin Chakraborty, Barnita Bagchi, Bidhan Kanti Das, Dhiraj Bandopadhyay and Sugeeta Upadhyay.