SMC Participation: A Step Towards Development Of Primary Education In A Tribal District Gajapati Of Odisha

Abstract
A community's members are a rich source of knowledge about their community and of energy and commitment to that community. Education policy makers all over the India have come to view community participation as an effective means of promoting primary education, in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Further, community participation and empowerment in decision making has commonly been understood and propagated as an attempt to counter act centralised actions. It is assumed that community participation and empowerment has the potential to make a major contribution towards living conditions as well as enriching their life styles through education. School management Committees (SMC) is constituted for the management of education at village level. The problem at village level can be better understood by members of the village and they can think of some viable solution. Considering this factor SMC is constituted and is deputed with powers to carry on the management of school. This would generate interest amongst the community members and more and more people would get involved in promoting education. The study was conducted to know the rate of participant of SMC for promoting primary education in a tribal block i.e Gumma of Gajapati district of Odisha. The conclusion can be drawn that maximum members of SMC are not attending the school meeting, they don't know various grants which is being received by the school for development purpose and the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) is poorly monitoring by the SMC. Sometimes, it seen that above 50% of SMC members are being involved in infrastructural development work in the school only.
1. Introduction

The State Government is committed to the Universalisation of Elementary Education in the State with the aim of fulfilling the constitutional obligation with the assistance of Central Government. Keeping in view the need for Universalisation of Elementary Education, there has been expansion at Primary and Upper Primary School stage of education, in the Government sector, especially in rural areas as well as backward areas. Orissa has a 15% population belonging to the SC and 22% of population to the ST category. The community is not so educated and empowered to take care of their schools and participate in school management activities, which is one of the important factor obstructing for the development of primary education in tribal areas. It is time to empower the community members in general and the SMC in particular, so that they can collaboratively and actively participate in the school activities.

Though SMC is the local authority and having the decision making power, without the participation of SMC in primary education, the development of primary education will be a myth.

2. Why is community participation essential?

The following are some of the key reasons:

- Active participation of local residents is essential to improved democratic and service accountability.
- It enhances social cohesion because communities recognise the value of working in partnership with each other and with statutory agencies.
- It enhances effectiveness as communities bring understanding, knowledge and experience essential to the regeneration process. Community definitions of need, problems and solutions are different from those put forward by service planners and providers.
- It enables policy to be relevant to local communities.
- It adds economic value both through the mobilisation of voluntary contributions to deliver regeneration and through skill development, which enhances the opportunities for employment and an increase in community wealth.

3. Objectives of the Study

The study undertaken by the investigator has the following objectives;

1- To know the parentage of attendance of the SMC Members in SMC meeting in school.
2- To find out the knowledge of the SMC members regarding various grants/ funds received by the school.
3- To know the involvement of the SMC members in Mid-Day Meal (MDM).
4- To study the interest of the SMC members in construction work in schools.

4. Research Questions

The present research focused on some pertinent questions in the context of involvement of SMC towards development of primary Education.

1- How many of them (SMC) took part in the meeting conducted in the school?
2- Do they have the knowledge regarding various funds which is being received by the school?
3- Do they monitor the quality of MDM in school?
4- Does the SMC involve in construction work in the school.
5-
5. Delimitations of the Study
The present study has been delimited as follows:
1-The study has been conducted on 100 SMC members.
2-The study is confined to only one blocks i.e. Gumma Block of Gajapati District.
3-The study has been conducted on those SMC, who are the member of the primary school.

6. Method of the Study
The research method of the study was descriptive survey in nature. As descriptive survey focuses on studying the existing conditions as it prevails and makes comprehensive descriptions of the same, the present study also focuses on studying the involvement of SMC towards development of primary education.

6.1. Population and Sample
The population of the study comprised all the SMC members of primary school in Gumma block of Gajapati district and the sample of the study comprised 100 SMC members. All the samples were selected purposively keeping in mind the factor of ST dominated habitations/population. Out of the Hundred (100) SMC Members, 60 (60%) belongs to ST category and 40 (40%) belongs to other social category.

6.2. Tools Used
For collecting data, the investigator of the study used a self-developed Questionnaire for SMC members and the Questionnaire was prepared by considering the factors like Involvement of the SMC and their interest towards development of primary education.

6.3 Techniques of Analysis
The collected data were tabulated and analysed by percentage with respect to the research questions mentioned in the study.

7. Results and Discussion
The major purpose of the study was to assess the involvement of SMC in primary education system. Data with regard to the mentioned purpose were collected from 100 SMC members of primary schools. Such data were tabulated and analysed by percentage wise and the obtained result have been discussed in the following;

A. Preparation of SMC in School Meeting.
The data pertaining to the interest of the SMC towards attendance in various meeting in the school have been presented in table-1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Preparation of SMC in School meeting</th>
<th>Responded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-1 reveals the fact that 32% of SMC members are attending the meeting in the school and the major i.e. 68% of the SMC are not attending in various meeting in the school.

B. Knowledge of SMC regarding various funds which is being received by the school.
The data pertaining the knowledge of SMC regarding various Govt. grants/funds received by the schools have been presented in table-2.
Deepak Kumar Das:: SMC Participation: A Step Towards Development Of Primary Education In A Tribal District Gajapati Of Odisha

Table-2 Knowledge of SMC regarding School Grant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Preparation of SMC in School meeting</th>
<th>Responded</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>87</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-2 shows that 13% out of 100 100% knows about various funds/grants received by the schools from Govt. and 87% of respondent do not know regarding various funds which is received by the school.

C. Monitor the Mid-Day Meals (MDM) programme by SMC.

The data pertaining to the monitoring of MDM the SMC members have been presented in table-3.

Table-3: Monitor the (MDM) by SMC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Monitor the (MDM) by SMC</th>
<th>Responded</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is cleared from the above table that only 37% of responder SMC are monitors, the MDM programme in the school, where as 63% of the Responded are not monitored the same MDM programme in the school.

D. Involvement in Construction work in the School.

The data pertaining to the involvement of SMC member in the construction work in the school.

Table-4: Involvement in Construction work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Involvement in Construction work</th>
<th>Responded</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As per the analysis from the above table, we can say that 56% of the respondents are in the construction work or any in fractural development in the involved in the construction work.

8. Qualitative Analysis

The filled experience of the researcher can be shared here for better qualitative analysis of the table- 4 containing the involvement of SMC in construction work in the school. It is seen from the field that only the president of the school management committee (SMC) are involved in the construction work or any infrastructural development in the school. Rather than president of SMC, not a single member of SMC is involved in the construction work. It is happening, because for any infrastructural development, the funds provided to the joint account of Headmaster and the SMC president of the concerned school. For this purpose, only the involvement of SMC president is seen.
9. Major Findings
The findings of the study are as follows;

- Due to lack of interest of the SMC members, less are attending various meeting which is organised by the school.
- Very poor precatory of the SMC knows regarding various Govt. grants/funds provided to the school.
- Monitoring of MDM is now a challenging issue. But only 37% of the responded are involved in the process of monitoring, which is not satisfactory.
- The involvement of SMC president is increased in the physical and infrastructural development in the school.

10. Educational Implications
The following implications may be derived on the basis of the findings of the study;

- The SMC should involve in both curricular and co-curricular activities in the school.
- The SMC should be sensitized on every fund which is received by the school for development purpose.
- The awareness programme for MDM should be initiated by both Govt. and Non-Government organisation (NGOs)
- The SMC is decision making authority should be involved in the process of planning for development of primary education.

11. Suggestions
The following suggestions may be derived on the basis of the findings of the study;

i. The SMC meting may be finalised in particular day of every month and the meeting schedule may be communicated earlier to the member.
ii. The SMC members may attend schools on rotation basis for regular monitoring of school activities.
iii. The view of SMC members may be recorded and accordingly the step can be taken for future course of action.
iv. Though the MDM programme is the focus area of Govt. for the drop out students, the SMC may be involved to fulfil the aims and objective of MDM programme.
v. For any expenses, the view of each member of the SMC may be taken through resolution.

12. Conclusion
The role of the Govt. is to provide free and compulsory elementary education to the age group of 6-14 as per RTE- Act-2009. The Indian constitution has given has empowered the community to take decision in his accept of development. For the development primary education the role of school management committee is almost important. SMC is the decision making authority. The school management committee should come forward with positive attitude towards development of primary education.

References