

**Shiksha Samvad** was organized at Government Rest House in Hathin on Sunday March 6, 2011 by State Representative (Haryana) of NCPCR. The discussion was organized with help from the local social activists and an organization named Mewat Shiksha Mission. The participants included social activists, teachers from Government schools in Mewat, Sarpanchs of villages and officials of Education Department from Mewat.

The undersigned while welcoming the participants informed the gathering about the below mentioned objectives of Shiksha Samvad:

1. Awareness building on Children's Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act. 2009.
2. Motivation of local social activists working on the issue of Education.
3. Awareness building about the role of NCPCR as monitoring agency for RTE.
4. Inviting suggestions from local community leaders and parents of children attending schools.

The provisions of RTE Act 2009 were discussed and the participants were asked to give their suggestions on "How the schools of Mewat can be improved and how every child can be brought to school"? The following suggestions were offered by the participants:

1. Every participant raised the issue of construction work being carried out by the teachers even after implementation of RTE Act which clearly says that Non Teaching jobs should not be done by teachers. The teachers are engaged in construction work which is also breeding corruption in schools as they are harassed by Sarpanchs and other people supervising the work demanding bribes. It was suggested that this activity should be stopped immediately.
2. The girls drop out after passing grade five in case there is no upper primary school in the village as the girls are not allowed to travel to other villages due to safety reasons. There is no proper public transport available in the villages and girls cannot walk through empty fields to reach schools. It was suggested that every school may be upgraded to upper primary so that the girls could complete their elementary education, guaranteed by RTE Act.
3. It was also pointed out by most of the participants that the teachers in govt. schools are not doing teaching jobs seriously and are often found absent or reading newspaper, drinking tea etc.. The teachers are not at all accountable for the quality of education in schools. It was suggested that the remunerations of teachers should be linked to their performance which could be judged through the performance of the child in studies.
4. It was further pointed out by parents and teachers also that the officials from office of Block Education Officer or District Education Officer very rarely visit the schools and even if they do visit, the purpose of the visit generally remains as inspection of attendance register of teachers. The officials never see what is being taught to the students and the quality of education being provided is never assessed. The monitoring staff should visit schools more frequently and also be accountable for the performance of the students in the schools.
5. It was also pointed out that the cooking of MDM takes a lot of time of teachers and many times irregularities are found in handling of grains and supply of MDM. It was suggested that the supply of MDM should be outsourced to some agency as being done in many districts. Haryana Government has given this work to outside agencies in many districts but not in Mewat. The observation of the parents is that some teachers are not interested to let this lucrative activity go away from their hands and the higher authorities are also not pressing for it due to reasons not disclosed to parents. Some teachers have written to the authorities to outsource this service but it is not being done yet. The participants were of the view that NCPCR may take up this issue

with the highest authority and find out why the outside agencies are not assigned to supply MDM in Mewat whereas it is being done in many districts of Haryana.

6. SMC's are not yet constituted according to RTE Act and are non functional even in the previous form as the parents are never informed about the names of members of SMC. It was suggested that list of SMC members may be painted on the wall of the school and the date of SMC meeting may be conveyed to the parents through teachers.

It was also suggested by some social activist participants that we should organize community meetings in every village for awareness building of parents and motivate the schools and parents to reconstitute SMC and it should function properly which is the only "Mantra" to improve government schools. We have offered them all support in organizing the community meetings in all the villages and shall provide awareness building material through the partner NGO of NCPDR working on Social Audit in Mewat soon.

A booklet containing Education Rules of Haryana Government, RTE Act in simplified form prepared by Directorate of Education, Haryana and fee refund order was given to all participants as part of awareness building material.





List of Participants:

| Name                   | Village/Org                    | Phone Number |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Mr. Shamuddin       | Mewat Shiksha Mission          | 9813857541   |
| 2. Md. Haroon          | Sarpanch Malai village         | 9416475661   |
| 3. Raghunath Sharma    | Journalist, Dainik Jagran      | 9416594285   |
| 4. Fakur Khan          | Hathin                         | 9671454499   |
| 5. Umardeen Qureshi    | village Malai                  | 9813982075   |
| 6. Shaukat Ali         | Village Malai                  | 9017588300   |
| 7. Shareef             | Village Guraksar               | 9813394458   |
| 8. Mehboob Khan        | Khilluka                       | 9813237450   |
| 9. Lakhn Singh Kataria | Shaheedane Mewat Sabha         | 9813272252   |
| 10. Yasin Khan         | Dhokalpur                      | 9991227214   |
| 11. Mohd. Yunus        | Chaisa                         | 9812148306   |
| 12. Mohd. Rafeek       | Malai                          | 9813104343   |
| 13. Shamsuddin         | Meethaka                       | 9813013650   |
| 14. Sarfuddin Khan     | Head, Shaheedane Mewat Sabha   | 9466469872   |
| 15. Subhas Singhal     | Journalist                     | 9416296755   |
| 16. Mukut Khan         | Mewat Shiksha Mision           | 9813045578   |
| 17. Haneef Khan        | Lecturer Comm., Govt. school   | 9416770551   |
| 18. Khalil Ahmed       | Social Activist, Patuka, Tauru | 9991188406   |
| 19. Abdul Razak        | Dhokalpur                      |              |
| 20. Saddik Ahmed       | A.P.C. (SSA) Mewat             | 9813409478   |
| 21. Sirajuddin         | Hathin                         |              |
| 22. Rafik Ahmed        | Ransika                        |              |
| 23. Baldev Singh Rawat | Ex. Chairman, Hasanpur         | 9050873006   |
| 24. Rampal             | Sarpanch, Hasanpur             | 9671505104   |
| 25. Gajraj Singh       |                                | 9991485793   |
| 26. Birmee             | Gulawad                        | 9050479187   |

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Suraj Kumar and with an assurance by the participants that similar meetings shall be organized in all the six blocks of Mewat.

Suraj Kumar, State Representative (Haryana) NCPCR.