

Karnataka Jnana Aayoga

Government of Karnataka

Third Quarterly Report for the Period Between 1st April and 30th June 2009

Working Group Meetings

I. Working Group on Health Sector held a meeting on April 17, 2009 and constituted Study Group on Medical Education; Traditional Health Sciences; Delivery of Health Services. Subsequently the Study Groups met on different occasions.

Meetings of the Study Groups:

- a. The Study Group on Medical Education met on May 25, 2009 and resolved to produce a status report on health issues and an action report on Medical Education and Research.
- b. The Study Group on Traditional Health Sciences met on June 13, 2009 and identified eight ideas to initiate knowledge process in traditional health sciences and decided to invite stakeholders from across the State for a consultation meeting.
- c. The Study Group on Delivery of Health Services met on June 3, 2009 and resolved to prepare a status report on the health services being provided by the State.

II. Working Group on Literacy and School Education held a meeting on May 20, 2009 and decided to:

- Hold stakeholders consultation-one each in North and South Karnataka.
- Submit position papers on Making Education a Community Movement; Primary Education and School Nurturing; Teacher Motivation and Accountability; Indices of Quality and Indigenous Education
- Form Study Groups on Examination and Textbook; Teacher Education; Education for Special Group; Educational Governance; and Review Group.

III. Working Group on Vocational Education held a meeting on May 11, 2009 and decided to:

- Develop a model to study the success of Centres of Excellence (COE) and to upscale them from the existing 50 to 200.
- Introduce accreditation and ranking of vocational training and education institutions.
- Identify 25 vocational training centres for (adoption by private sector) public private partnership. To draft an MOU between Government and Private partners initially for 5-10 years.
- Revise the existing apprenticeship policy to accommodate the market requirement and to support trainees.
- Impart skills to BA graduates to enhance their employability level through training. Two districts in backward areas to be selected for pilot project .

IV. Working Group on Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Management held a two-day meeting on June 5-6 and resolved to:

- Produce four Working Papers on need and relevance of Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Management disciplines.
- Disseminate the published working papers on public domain and circulate among teaching and student community across Karnataka.

V. Working Group on Higher Education held a meeting on June 4, 2009 and resolved to:

- Prepare a Concept Paper on constitution and functioning of 'Karnataka State Research and Innovation Fund.'
- Prepare a short report on the need and functioning of 'Karnataka Board for Undergraduate Education'.

VI. Working Group on Library and Knowledge Networks constituted Study Group on Community Knowledge; Libraries in Higher Education; Social and Cultural Heritage; and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Commission Meetings

Two meetings were held during this Quarter-one on April 17, 2009 in Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore and the second Meeting was held on June 27, 2009 in the campus of Karnatak University, Dharwar. Taking into consideration the outcomes of the Working Groups and Study Groups meetings, First Set of Recommendations as per the Commission's Terms of Reference and implementation Department for each Recommendation are being presented for the consideration of all concerned.

Recommendations

I. Build Excellence in the Educational System

1. To have a functioning and an effective school library with appropriate books and audio-video materials for the use of students and teachers in atleast 10% of the government schools in every educational block of our state during the year 2009-10.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Primary and Secondary).

2. To make available to all undergraduate college libraries and others in Karnataka select video-taped lectures of experts in Humanities and Social Sciences for the purposes of generating more interest and enthusiasm. This will also serve as training material for the teachers of Humanities and Social Sciences, who require upgradation and continuing education.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher), IUB and all the Universities.

3. To confine post graduate courses in Law to the newly created Law University of Karnataka and constituent Law Colleges of Universities in the state.

Implementing Department: Karnataka State Law University.

4. To establish an Advanced centre for Legal Research and Law related studies on the model of ISEC, NIAS etc. This centre could be either an autonomous one or part and parcel of the newly created Law University.

Implementing Department: Department of Law and Karnataka State Law University.

5. To transform two of the existing Universities into Model Universities in order to make them trendsetters for others. The blue print for such process has to be prepared by a Committee of Eminent Experts. In this process, there is need for appropriate policy and legislation by the Government of Karnataka with regard to governance, affiliation, examination and funding.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher).

6. To strengthen and empower DSERT, DIETs, BRCs and CRCs in the state of Karnataka for becoming decentralised lead resource institutions. These resource institutions need to be given necessary autonomy for catering to the unique needs of a district, block or cluster as the case may be.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Secondary and Primary).

7. To bring about reforms in pre-service and in-service teacher education by revising D.Ed. and B.Ed. curriculum; by upgradating elementary teacher education to degree level programmes and by increasing the number of graduate elementary teachers. Further, the DPI has to initiate effective measures to improve the quality of these institutions by better regulation of standards and norms.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Secondary and Primary).

8. To create an Autonomous Certification and Administrative Body in Karnataka to bring in more dynamism and contemporariness to the vocational education and training. This body could cover certain uncovered areas: bringing elements of quality, quantity and relevance on an ongoing basis and knowledge plus skills and certification, which will have wider societal acceptance.

Implementing Department: Department of Labour.

II. Promote Creation of Knowledge

9. To develop and depute one mobile Internet Van in every district of Karnataka for the purposes of creating awareness and interest in online availability of knowledge resources. This mobile unit could visit all the Block Resource Centres (BRCs) of that district as per a fixed timetable, which will be disseminated to all people through mass media and others. This effort could also explore Public-Private partnership model.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Primary and Secondary).

10. To develop the proposed Ayurveda University as a unitary and contemporary research oriented University rather than affiliating university with the conventional UG and PG courses.

Implementing Department: Department of Medical Education.

11. To introduce unconventional courses in Medical Electronics, Aviation, Marine Engineering, Solar and Wind Energy in select industrial training institutes of the state with an initial seed assistance provided by Government of Karnataka.

Implementing Department: Department of Labour.

12. Create Wikipedia type of portal in Kannada which will become the encyclopedia of all information in Kannada. The farmers, rural students, backward classes, homemakers (house wives) etc., will be the beneficiaries in addition to researchers and academicians.

Implementing Department: Department of Kannada, Culture and Information.

13. Establish 'Karnataka State Research and Innovation Fund' for encouraging colleges and Universities to pursue relevant research and also to build interface between state planning and research in Higher Education. A Standing Committee of Experts would invite proposals and extend support.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher).

III. Improve the Leadership and Management of Educational and Knowledge Institutions

14. To upgrade Indira Priyadarshini Children's library presently located in Cubbon Park, Bangalore into an invaluable resource center for the children of various schools of Karnataka in the fields such as Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Culture, History, Inventions, Innovations etc.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Primary and Secondary) and Department of Public Libraries

15. To rank all colleges (UG & PG) teaching Humanities, Social Sciences, Law and Management at the University level to start with and in the entire state subsequently. This exercise could be undertaken by an experts committee constituted by the respective Universities.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher).

16. To rejuvenate 'Prasaranga' (Publication division) of Universities by making them commercially viable through opening of book shops, providing avenues for faculty and students for showcasing their talents and by making available Indian reprints of foreign books in subsidised price.

Implementing Department: All Universities.

17. To increase Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education from 11.6% to 15% by measures such as
 - a. Special scholarship scheme of Rs 10000/- to all students who enrol for any UG course apart from Engineering and Medical in 39 most backward taluks of Karnataka identified by Nanjundappa Committee.
 - b. Increase the intake for UG courses in the existing colleges by permitting additional sections or shifts by making use of the existing infrastructure and

teachers. All those colleges with a good track record of at least five years could be considered for this purpose.

- c. Educational Institutions performing extremely well be awarded a onetime grant of Rs. 10 Lakhs in the select backward districts of Karnataka. Such grants could be awarded to a maximum of five institutions per district to be decided by an expert committee constituted by the Government of Karnataka.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher).

18. To introduce uniform academic calendar with specific dates for all universities of Karnataka with regard to admission, examination, declaration of results, issue of marks card and convocation for all courses including UG, PG, M.Phil. and Ph.D.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher).

IV. Promote Knowledge Applications

19. To design and develop an on-line catalogue of all Kannada books and materials and other knowledge resources available in the state of Karnataka along with their location and availability. This catalogue has to be comprehensive and updated from time to time. It is desirable to link such catalogue with the proposed Kannada wikipedia.

Implementing Department: Department of Kannada, Culture and Information.

20. To develop regional pharmacopeias for all districts, which can be put to community use and also be used in educational institutions, which strengthens the community and folk healer associations.

Implementing Department: Department of Health and Family Welfare.

21. To design and develop catalogue and digitization of medical manuscripts of Karnataka to bring into light and enrich the traditional knowledge heritage of the state.

Implementing Department: Department of Health and Family Welfare.

22. To constitute a multi-user and multi-lingual traditional medicine portal, Electronic Ayurvedic encyclopedia and Medical dictionary for Karnataka State. This is expected to serve rural and urban households on home remedies, give information about educational resources, reputed clinical centers and medicinal plants of the Karnataka.

Implementing Department: Department of Health and Family Welfare.

V. Making Government an Effective Service Provider

23. To design and launch State level programs on preventive healthcare (swastha-vritta). This would include retrospective research studies to identify good traditional health practices, which will contribute to enhance self-reliance in public health care.

Implementing Department: Department of Health and Family Welfare.

24. To make necessary amendments to the existing policy on Apprenticeship in Karnataka in order to make it to align with the changes in job market. The proposed amendments could include increased stipend to students, creation of an environment for private public partnership and adoption of open apprenticeship placement instead of ‘designated trade.’

Implementing Department: Department of Labour.

VI. Promote Inter Sectoral Interaction

25. To impart skill training in retail business, communication skills, life skills, data entry operation, entrepreneurship etc. to the present students pursuing BA course on an experimental basis in two districts of Karnataka. This training could be imparted along with their course in their respective colleges at no extra cost to the students.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher).

26. To promote collaboration between Universities and other bodies and institutions (including Private Universities, Deemed Universities, Foreign Universities, Professional Bodies, Industry Associations, Research Labs etc.). Such collaboration could include twinning programmes, faculty and student exchange, joint courses and joint degrees.

Implementing Department: Department of Education (Higher).

Stakeholder's Consultations

- A Summit of Vice-Chancellors of Karnataka was convened on April 17, 2009 to deliberate on achieving world-class standards in the universities of Karnataka. Twelve Vice-Chancellors and three special officers presented their ideas for achieving world-class standards in Universities of Karnataka. Prof. V. B. Coutinho, Former Vice-Chancellor of Gulbarga University presented a Concept paper on ‘Developing World Class Standards in Universities of Karnataka.’
- A meeting of twenty experts on humanities, social sciences, law and management disciplines was convened on June 5, 2009 to seek their expertise to popularise these disciplines.
- A consultation with students and teachers was held in the campus of Karnatak University, Dharwad on June 27, 2009. Prof. V.B. Coutinho facilitated the interaction. Opinion of students and teachers was sought on issues concerning higher education.
- A meeting with Honourable Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Shri.Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, Principal Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education, Director of KSEE Board, Director of DSERT, Consultant to Education Department (Planning), Director of Secondary School Education was convened to discuss issues relating to primary and secondary education.
- Invited fourteen Government Departments engaged in community services to seek their cooperation and suggestions on setting up of Community Learning Centres. The meeting was held on June 24, 2009. Department of Women and Child Welfare; Health and Family

Welfare Department; Rural Development and Panchayat Raj; and Public Libraries shared their experiences along with Members of Study Group.

Status Of Implementation Of Recommendations

Some of the Recommendations made by the Commission are being taken forward for implementation. The status of implementation is given below:

1. Skill training to Arts Graduates:

Two districts-Bijapur and Kolar have been identified for pilot project in consultation with Commissionerate of Collegiate Education and Skill Development Corporation. A detailed plan has already been prepared. The process would start by the end of August 2009 to this effect.

2. Developing Model Universities in Karnataka:

Karnatak University, Dharwar and Mysore University, Mysore have been identified in consultation with Department of Higher Education. An Expert Committee has been constituted. This Committee has already carried out consultations with all concerned. Its report would be submitted to the Minister for Higher Education by the end of August 2009.

3. Uniform Academic Calendar in all the Universities of Karnataka:

The decision has already been taken on June 30, 2009 at the meeting of Inter University Board (IUB). An announcement has already been made by Minister for Higher Education.

4. Increase in Intake into Higher Educational Institutions:

The Principal Secretary (Higher Education) and the Commissioner for Collegiate Education have already issued necessary orders dated 29-05-2009 to this effect.

5. Special Scholarship Scheme to increase Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER):

Department of Higher Education has forwarded this proposal to the Finance Department relating to thirty nine most backward Taluks identified by 'Higher Power Committee for Redressal of Regional Imbalances' Chaired by Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa.

6. Creation of Wikipedia Type Portal in Kannada:

The concept note is ready. Consultations have already been initiated with Kannada Development Authority and Department of Kannada, Culture and Information.

7. Formulation of New Apprenticeship Policy:

The draft policy has already been submitted to Department of Employment and Labour.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

All the Recommendations will be submitted and discussed with the Secretaries of the concerned departments for their comments and feedback. Subsequently, they will be presented to the concerned Ministries for necessary action and implementation.