



Karnataka Jnana Aayoga

(Karnataka Knowledge Commission)

Government of Karnataka



Quarterly Report

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■ *Commission Meeting*

The eighth meeting of the Commission was held on February 20, 2010 in Vikasa Soudha, Bangalore. Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka reviewed the status of the implementation of first set of recommendations submitted by Jnana Aayoga. Based on the inputs provided and suggestions made by the Working Groups and Study Groups, Second Set of Recommendations were accepted by the Commission. In addition to the general proceedings of the meeting, there was a brief presentation on the aspects of a Knowledge Society by Prof. S. Sadagopan, followed by a discussion.

■ *Meetings and Interactions*

- A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on January 4, 2010 among KJA, Department of Collegiate Education (DCE) and Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC) at KJA Office to implement Skill Training to final semester students of 121 Government Colleges.
- Meeting with the principals of select Government first grade colleges was held on January 5, 2010 in collaboration with Department of Collegiate Education and KVTSDC. The meeting was convened to sensitize trainers and the principals about Skill Training Programme.
- The Committee for Selection of High School Library books met on January 13, 2010. The Committee decided to come out with a detailed list of the books (along with its publishers) to be distributed to schools. It was also decided to conduct a workshop for Headmasters, teachers and librarians of the select 225 schools
- Interaction meeting pertaining to the health-related recommendations of the Commission was held with the Department of on January 27, 2010. It was decided to identify an agency or a consultant to conduct a study on implementation of the recommendations.

- A meeting with Department of Collegiate Education (DCE) was held on February 3, 2010, to finalize the content of post-training reference material (life skills) for graduate students undergoing Skill Training programme.
- The Committee for Selection of High School Library books had an interaction session with the Government high school Teachers from Bangalore Urban and Rural districts on February 3, 2010. Teachers shared their observation on the status of school libraries, available resources (books and others) and its accessibility to children and on the need for enhanced infrastructure at libraries. They were also of the opinion that the books proposed to be given by Jnana Aayoga to schools must cover wide range of subject areas that interests and are relevant to high school children. The Committee also decided to take inputs and suggestions of the teachers in selection of books.
- A meeting with the experts on trend analysis of SSLC and PU results of the State was convened on February 5, 2010. It was decided that the expert committee will procure the data, analyze it and suggest intervention for enhancement of results at all levels.
- A meeting with Mr. Sanjiv Kumar, Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department, was held on February 19, 2010 at the office of the Department of Planning. A brief presentation on the constitution of the Commission along with the recommendations made by the Commission was made at the meeting. He expressed his willingness to associate with the Commission in its endeavours especially in the areas of School Education and Vocational Education.
- A meeting between Naandi Foundation, Hyderabad and Department of Primary and Secondary Education on '**School Nurturing Program**' was held on February 26, 2010. Possibilities for and areas of collaboration were explored in the meeting. It was agreed that Naandi foundation will focus more on the schools of north eastern districts of Karnataka.

- A meeting with the Hon'ble Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Sri Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri was held on March 20, 2010 along with the Principal Secretary (Primary and Secondary Education) to review the status of implementation of recommendations pertaining to Primary and Secondary Education department.

■ ***Second set of Recommendations***

The Commission meeting held on February 23, 2010 made the following recommendations:

I. ToR: Build Excellence in the Education System

- To introduce add-on course comprising of life and vocational skills to all students of UG programs in different Universities of Karnataka. This can start on voluntary basis and can be integrated into the course curriculum over a period of time. The students who complete this add-on course could be considered for the issue of a certificate to that effect by a competent authority. **(R. No. 27)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Higher Education and Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC)**

- To promote University Library and Information Network of Karnataka (UniLINK) as a registered cooperative to provide a collaborative space for creation, sharing and utilization of knowledge resources in the higher education landscape of Karnataka. **(R. No. 28)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Higher Education, Karnataka State Council for Higher Education and All the Universities of Karnataka**

- To increase the number of teacher awards and publish a compendium of all such awardees every year not only to recognize but to disseminate the good practices. This will encourage and inspire other teachers in the system. **(R.No.29)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Primary and Secondary Education**

- To introduce the accreditation of schools based on the robust and reliable quality standards on voluntary basis. Such an accreditation has to be external and professional in nature. **(R. No. 30)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Primary and Secondary Education**

- To introduce awareness and information on vocational knowledge and skills at secondary level of education. This would act as a bridge to the implementation of recommendations made by Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhlyan of Government of India. This can be made possible by distributing information booklets, mass media campaign and training the teachers. **(R.No.31)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Primary and Secondary Education, Department of Labour and Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation**

- To launch an exclusive portal and toll free helpline for all types of information and updates relating to Vocational Education and Skill Development in the State. This portal can consist of regional mapping of economic sectors, sector-wise demand for workforce, district-wise information on courses and trends in domestic and global markets to begin with. An introductory tour to expose students to the world of Vocational Education and Skill Development could also be included. **(R. No. 32)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Labour and Karnataka Vocational Training and Skills Development Corporation**

II. ToR: Build Excellence in the Education System

- To introduce 'Mentoring by top scientists' scheme for select talented rural students to create interest and enthusiasm for them regarding basic and applied sciences. **(R. No. 33)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Primary and Secondary Education**

- To start Post Graduate Department at the existing Government Homeopathy College in Bangalore to enable the students to pursue higher studies. **(R.No.34)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Medical Education**

- To set up Samudaya Jnana Kendra (SJK) at the grass root levels of our state to empower and enrich the lives of farmers, women, children, senior citizens and others in the community by providing right information and valuable knowledge on a dynamic basis. The information presently provided by Raitha Samparka Kendra, Public libraries, Primary Health Centers, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Anganwadi Kendras could be synergized and offered to the members of public in an integrated manner. **(R. No. 35)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj**

III. ToR: Build Excellence in the Education System

- To introduce Public Health Cadre in the Health & Family Welfare Department of Karnataka for the purposes of reviving and emphasizing the importance of Public Health services. This will provide competent and committed medical personnel as well as improve the quality of public health delivery. The present divisions have to be reorganized on the basis of integrated responsibilities and current needs in the state of Karnataka. **(R. No. 36)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Medical Education**

- To establish a School of Public Health in Karnataka to cater to the needs of human resources development. This school would address the wide spectrum of induction, training and research through formal and non-formal courses which will address the specific public health needs of Karnataka. The School could collaborate with Universities and other professional bodies for this purpose. **(R. No. 37)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Medical Education and Department of Health and Family Welfare**

- To introduce a Human Resource Development (HRD) division in Department of Health and Family Welfare for addressing the HR needs in a holistic and professional manner. This division can cover the entire gamut of human resources development from induction to manpower planning. Few professionals might be inducted as consultants in the Department. **(R. No. 38)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Health and Family Welfare**

- To review the existing Karnataka Public Libraries Act, 1965 and restructure the public libraries to play a more meaningful and involved role in a Knowledge Society. This will improve their performance and role in the society. **(R.No.39)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Public Libraries**

V. ToR: Making Government an Effective Service Provider

- To establish a homeopathic dispensary in Primary Health Centres of Karnataka at the rate of one in every taluk. This will facilitate maintenance of public health in a cost effective manner. **(R. No. 40)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Health and Family Welfare**

- To improve and strengthen primary health centres (PHCs) for more responsive, sensitive and quality healthcare services to the people of rural areas of Karnataka. Their infrastructure and quality of human resources have to be enhanced in such a way that they conform to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). Public-Private Partnership can be explored as a strategy for this purpose. **(R. No. 41)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Health and Family Welfare**

- To develop Health Management Information System (HMIS), an integrated health tracking MIS, to cover the information on the personnel, health management and health outcomes. This will facilitate decision making at right time and in a right manner. **(R. No. 42)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Health and Family Welfare**

- To increase the overall budgetary allocations to the health sector from the present 0.54% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to at least 0.60%. In the medium term, this could be increased to 1% of GSDP. **(R. No. 43)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Planning and Department of Finance**

- To throw open the libraries of Universities and Colleges to the members of public which will not only improve the dissemination of knowledge but increases the utilization of available knowledge resources. This will also increase the interface between educational institutions and society. A scheme for financial support for such libraries by the Government can be envisaged. **(R. No. 44)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Public Libraries, Department of Higher Education and all the Universities of Karnataka**

- To undertake a special drive to promote and enlist 'School Nurturing Programme' launched during February, 2009. The needs and requirements of schools have to be prioritized for identifying nurturers. A separate cell could be constituted at the office of Commissioner as well as at DPPIs of districts. This will shoulder the responsibility of database management, promotion, interface with the nurturer, study of outcomes and dissemination of experiences. **(R. No. 45)**

Implementing Agency: **Department of Primary and Secondary Education**

■ **Status of Implementation of Recommendations**

Of the twenty six recommendations made in the First Set, twelve have been at critical stage of implementation. Among these, primary implementation of few of the recommendations has been completed and few are on the verge of completion. Listed below are the recommendations completed or nearing completion.

Recommendations	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To have a functioning and an effective school library with 	KJA, in consultation with Dept. of Primary and Secondary Education, Government of

<p>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. (R.No.1)</p>	<p>Karnataka, has identified 225 Government high schools for the development of their libraries. An Expert Committee on selection of school Library Books was constituted under the Chairmanship of Smt. Sobha Nambisan. The Committee held an Interaction session with few Government high school teachers from Bangalore rural and urban districts. Teachers gave suggestions about the kind of books to be purchased and the measures to be taken to kindle the interest for reading in students. It was decided to get the recommended list of books from the teachers and to hold the workshop of teachers from the selected 225 schools.</p>
<p>▪ To transform two of the existing Universities into Model Universities in order to make them trendsetters for others. (R.No.5)</p>	<p>The <i>“Taskforce on Innovative Universities”</i> submitted the final draft of the Karnataka and Mysore Universities (Special Provisions) Bill, 2010 to the Department of Higher Education on February 10, 2010.</p>
<p>▪ To bring about reforms in pre-service and in-service teacher education by revising D.Ed. and B.Ed. curriculum; by upgrading elementary teacher education to degree level programmes and by increasing the number of graduate elementary teachers. (R.No.7)</p>	<p>A study on <i>‘Pre-Service Elementary Education in Karnataka’</i> has been entrusted to R.V. Education Consortium, Bangalore. The study will focus on the status and preparedness of D.Ed colleges across the state. The report of this study is expected at the end of May, 2010.</p>
<p>▪ Create Wikipedia type of portal in Kannada which will become the encyclopedia of all information in Kannada. (R.No.12)</p>	<p>Kanaja in terms of hits/visits (Source google analytics): 2396 visits from 28 countries. 1,302 (54.34%) are from direct traffic. Average 5.97 pages/visit 14,302 pages viewed during Jan-Mar 2010.</p>

	Around 1000 articles ready to be to be uploaded.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To impart skill training to the present students pursuing BA courses on an experimental basis in two districts of Karnataka. (R.No.25) 	On January 4, 2010, MoU was signed between DCE, KSVTDC and KJA to implement this programme under the name of SAHAYOG in 121 First Grade Government Colleges spread across 22 districts in the State. Final Year Graduate students pursuing Arts, Science and Commerce have been enrolled for Skill Training.

■ *Prioritization of Recommendations*

Commission has developed a priority-based approach spread over multiple phases to follow-up implementation of recommendations made. This has helped the Commission to focus its attention effectively and use resources optimally for enhanced productivity. The approach is as follows:

- A. Priority Recommendations which requires immediate attention. This is again sub categorised into three: a. Ongoing Projects (OP) b. Recommendations which requires Project Planning Approach (PPA) c. Recommendations which requires Conceptual approach (CA).
- B. Recommendations which could be taken up in second phase and the role of KKC would be limited to facilitation.
- C. Recommendations which can be clustered into one larger framework that can be pursued directly or indirectly by the Commission.

Based on these categories, the Commission has identified 13 approaches for the recommendations and Identified 18 recommendations as immediate priority.

■ *Setting up of Project Management Team*

To implement the recommendations and other ideas, Commission in collaboration with Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation (KVTSDC) has constituted a Project Management Team (PMT) which will perform the overall

execution, administration and management of the projects initiated by the Commission. PMT comprises of a senior consultant and two project managers.

In addition, there is a **Project Monitoring Committee** to regularly monitor and review the work of the PMT. It comprises of Secretaries of Labour and Higher Education Department, Executive Directors of Karnataka Jnana Aayoga and Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation and a Senior Consultant.

■ **Research Studies**

The KJA Research Committee proposed research studies on subjects relevant to the work of the Commission. Accordingly, a study on '**Building Knowledge Society in Karnataka**' to analyze Karnataka's potential for transformation and to suggest a roadmap to achieve it and another study on '**Aspirations, Expectations and Suggestions of Students and Youth of Karnataka**' to ascertain the educational and other needs of the upcoming society were considered and proposals were invited from competent agencies through e-procurement procedure. Based on the evaluation of the technical and financial bids, the studies have been entrusted to M/s Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Bangalore and Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE), Bangalore. The reports of both the studies are expected during the middle of next quarter i.e. July-september, 2010.

■ **Events**

- I. An Interactive discussion on **Internationalization of University Education** with Dr. S. Narasinga Rao, Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Oklahoma, USA was organised by KJA on January 8, 2010 at Vikasa Soudha. The meeting was presided over by Prof. M. Muniyamma, Member, KJA. Members of the Commission and representatives, Higher Education Department and Bangalore University attended the meet.
- II. Karnataka Jnana Aayoga co-organised a two-day South India Regional Workshop on '**Software Principles for the Public Sector with focus on Public Education**' in Bangalore on February 1 & 2, 2010 along with e-Governance Department, the Department of Public Instruction, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (Government of

Karnataka), and IT for Change and UNESCO. The objective was to lay down guiding principles for the architecture, design and implementation of public software in the public sector, based both on public sector principles and past experiences from public software projects. This workshop was attended by government officials and policymakers, representatives from civil society and academia from the four south Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

■ *Others*

The KJA website www.jnanaayoga.in has been updated with all the recent events and developments concerning the work of the Commission. The website has been rendered bilingual with a full-fledged Kannada version. The feedback and the idea sections of the website have received considerable and qualitative response. Periodic web polls conducted on the website have helped in ascertaining public opinion on various issues relevant to the work of the Commission.

■ *Conclusion and Way Forward*

The focus of the present quarter will be on the implementation of second set of recommendations. All incidental measures such as departmental interface, stakeholders' consultation, research studies etc., are drawn up for this phase. Impact studies are being planned on the implemented or initiated recommendations as the case may be to ascertain and evaluate the outcomes of such implementations. The Commission will also focus more on reaching out to a higher number of stakeholders across the state and also explore better and efficient methods, schemes and expanded possibilities to connect with the people.

