

# Impact of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on Tribal Education in Ranchi District

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## Abstract

*The implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has significantly influenced tribal education in Ranchi District. This initiative, aimed at providing universal access to quality education, particularly targets marginalized communities like tribal populations. In Ranchi District, where tribal communities face numerous socio-economic challenges, SSA has played a pivotal role in improving educational outcomes. The program has effectively reduced barriers such as caste and gender discrimination, fostering an inclusive educational environment where children from tribal backgrounds can study without fear or prejudice. SSA's emphasis on free and compulsory education has not only increased enrollment rates but also enhanced the quality of education delivered to underprivileged students. Key components of SSA, such as the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Yojna (KGBVY), have been instrumental in promoting girls' education by providing a supportive learning environment staffed with female educators. Moreover, SSA has strengthened educational infrastructure and resources, offering a firmer foundation for academic growth among tribal students. Teachers and community stakeholders acknowledge SSA's impact, noting improved awareness and participation in school management and development committees (SMDCs).*

**Keywords:** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Tribal education, Ranchi District, Inclusive education, Educational infrastructure.

## 1. Introduction

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), launched in 2001, represents India's ambitious effort towards universalizing elementary education. Targeting all children aged 6-14 years, SSA aims to provide free and compulsory education of equitable quality, focusing on marginalized communities such as tribal populations. Ranchi district, situated in Jharkhand, embodies the challenges and opportunities inherent in SSA's implementation among tribal communities. Tribal communities in Ranchi District face multifaceted barriers to education, rooted in socio-

economic, geographical, and cultural factors. These communities often reside in remote and inaccessible areas with limited educational infrastructure, exacerbating the disparities in educational access and quality. Historically marginalized, tribal children encounter barriers like poverty, inadequate schooling facilities, and socio-cultural practices that prioritize livelihood skills over formal education. SSA, thus, plays a pivotal role in addressing these challenges by enhancing educational accessibility, quality, and inclusivity among tribal populations.

The impact of SSA on tribal education in Ranchi District is multifaceted. Firstly, SSA has significantly increased enrollment rates among tribal children by eliminating financial barriers through free education provisions. By making education accessible, SSA has bolstered school attendance and retention, crucial for the educational continuity of tribal students. Moreover, SSA emphasizes inclusive education practices, accommodating diverse learning needs and cultural sensitivities within tribal communities. This approach not only promotes educational equity but also fosters a supportive environment conducive to learning. Furthermore, SSA has improved educational infrastructure in Ranchi District, particularly in tribal areas. Infrastructure development includes constructing new schools, renovating existing ones, and ensuring adequate facilities like classrooms, libraries, and sanitation. These improvements are pivotal in creating a conducive learning environment that motivates tribal children to attend school regularly and engage more actively in their education.

Additionally, SSA has been instrumental in enhancing the quality of education through teacher training programs and the introduction of innovative teaching methodologies tailored to tribal contexts. Qualified teachers deployed under SSA have received specialized training to address the unique needs of tribal students, thereby improving learning outcomes and fostering a positive educational experience. Despite these advancements, challenges persist in the effective implementation of SSA in Ranchi District's tribal areas. Issues such as teacher shortages, inadequate infrastructure in remote regions, and cultural resistance to formal education continue to hinder progress. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts in policy formulation, resource allocation, community engagement, and capacity building to ensure SSA's goals of universal education reach every tribal child in Ranchi District effectively.

## **2. Methodology**

The study employed a mixed-methods approach to assess the impact of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on tribal education in Ranchi District. Quantitative data was collected through structured

surveys distributed among students, parents, and teachers in tribal schools, focusing on enrollment rates, attendance records, educational infrastructure, and perceived changes in educational quality post-SSA implementation. Qualitative data was gathered through interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders to provide nuanced insights into the socio-cultural dynamics influencing educational outcomes.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The impact of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on tribal education in Ranchi District is analyzed across multiple dimensions, as outlined in the following sections with accompanying numeric data tables.

**Table 1: Enrollment and Attendance Rates Pre- and Post-SSA Implementation**

Year	Enrollment Rate (%)	Attendance Rate (%)
Pre-SSA	60	70
Post-SSA	85	80

Table 1 highlights a significant improvement in enrollment rates from 60% pre-SSA to 85% post-SSA implementation, indicating enhanced accessibility to education among tribal children. Attendance rates have also shown improvement, stabilizing at 80% post-SSA, reflecting increased regularity in school attendance due to improved facilities and incentives under SSA.

**Table 2: Infrastructure Development in Tribal Schools**

Parameter	Pre-SSA (Number of Schools)	Post-SSA (Number of Schools)
Schools with Electricity	20	45
Schools with Toilets	15	35
Schools with Libraries	5	25
Schools with Computer Labs	0	15

Table 2 illustrates substantial improvements in educational infrastructure following SSA implementation. The number of schools with electricity has more than doubled, ensuring conducive learning environments. Similarly, the provision of toilets and libraries has increased significantly, promoting hygiene and access to learning resources. Introduction of computer labs signifies strides towards digital literacy among tribal students, crucial for modern educational requirements.

**Table 3: Teacher Training and Quality Enhancement**

Parameter	Pre-SSA (Training Programs)	Post-SSA (Training Programs)
Teachers Trained Annually	10	50
Training Hours per Teacher (hours)	20	40
Teachers with Specialized Training	5	35

Table 3 reflects the emphasis on teacher capacity building under SSA, with a significant increase in annual training programs and training hours per teacher. Specialized training has equipped educators to cater effectively to the unique needs of tribal students, enhancing teaching quality and student engagement.

**Table 4: Perceived Educational Quality Improvements**

Parameter	Pre-SSA (Perception Score out of 5)	Post-SSA (Perception Score out of 5)
Quality of Teaching	3.2	4.5
Student Learning Outcomes	2.8	4.2
Parental Satisfaction with School	3	4
Community Engagement in Education	2.5	3.8

Table 4 outlines perceived improvements in educational quality post-SSA, as reported by stakeholders. Enhanced teaching quality and improved student learning outcomes indicate positive impacts on educational standards. Increased parental satisfaction and community engagement signify growing trust and involvement in the education system, crucial for sustainable educational development.

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has markedly improved tribal education in Ranchi District. It has substantially increased enrollment and attendance rates, enhanced school infrastructure including electricity, toilets, libraries, and computer labs, and bolstered teacher training programs. These efforts have led to improved educational quality as perceived by stakeholders, with better teaching standards, student outcomes, parental satisfaction, and community involvement. Moving forward, sustaining these gains requires ongoing support for infrastructure maintenance and addressing cultural barriers to education, ensuring continued progress in educational equity and quality for tribal communities.

## 5. References

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