



# AWARENESS ON RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT AMONG SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Kandipalli Ramakrishnarao Research Scholar Dept.of Education Acharya Nagarjuna University Guntur Andhrapradesh
2. Dr.C.Grace Indira, Associate Professor St. Joseph's College of Education for Women; Guntur Andhrapradesh

**Abstract:** Education is the right of all children and through the 86th amendment act, article 21(A) was incorporated in the Indian constitution which made education as a fundamental right. Accordingly the Right of children to Free and Compulsory Education act (RTE) has come into force from April 1, 2010.. Every child in the age group of 6-14 years will be provided 8 years of free compulsory elementary education. The RTE act mandated the formation of School Management Committees (SMC) in every government-funded schools to encourage community and more particularly, parental involvement in school development. Under the RTE Act parents have been entrusted certain powers through the SMC elected by them; proper exercise of the same can initiate a process of improving schools. The School Management Committee members should understand the RTE act for its effective implementation. The present study was conducted to know the awareness of Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members .The investigators selected 96 SMC members from 32 Government elementary schools in Vizianagaram district as respondents and data collected through the questionnaire on RTE . It was found that majority of the SMC members are not fully aware about RTE Act. Significant differences were found in the awareness of SMC Chairperson and Members male and female, rural and urban area respondents . This study revealed that there is a need to create awareness among School Management Committee members about RTE Act for its effective implementation in Elementary schools .

**Index Terms -** *Right to Education Act (RTE), School Management Committee (SMC) Elementary schools,*

## INTRODUCTION

The right to education of children was recognized as a fundamental right in India in 2002 vide Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. Consequently, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 was enacted to enforce this fundamental right of children. The RTE Act, which came into force in 2010, aims at universalizing primary education i.e., education of all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years (Classes I to VIII).The RTE act mandated the formation of School Management Committees (SMC) in every government-funded schools, it was to encourage community and more particularly, parental involvement in school development. To sum up, it can be said that community participation in education through local bodies like the PRIs and a School Management Committees (SMC)

has been recognized as very important by most of the policies and recommendations of various committees and commissions in India

### **Features of Right to Education (RTE) Act-2009**

Some of the provisions of RTE Act are as follows

- Free and compulsory education between the age group of 6-14 years.
- Free and compulsory education from classes 1 to 8.
- Ensure availability of a neighbourhood school within 3 km
- Pupil -teacher ratio (1:30) is to be maintained in the school
- No child is denied admission because of lack of proof of age
- Prohibition of screening procedures for admission of children.
- Right of child to seek transfer to any other school
- Providing special training facility/remedial teaching
- Qualification, terms and conditions of services of teachers
- Prohibition of board exam at elementary level.
- Awarding certificate for completing his/her elementary education
- Prohibition of physical punishment and mental harassment.
- Prohibition of holding back and expulsion
- Making school environment free of fear, trauma and anxiety
- Provide infrastructure including school building, and learning material.
- Provision for safe drinking water , playground, and toilet facilities
- Assessing the learning ability of each child.
- Maintaining duties of teachers and redressal of grievances.
- Constitute a school management committee for every school.
- Laying down the curriculum and evaluation procedures
- Focusing on all round development of child.

## School Management Committees (SMC)

The School Management Committee (SMC), constituted under the Right to Education Act 2009 plays an important role in ensuring accountability in Government schools. The Act envisions the SMC as a decentralized governance model which empowers them to keep track and monitor functioning of the schools and oversee that the school grants are used effectively. The SMCs consist of representatives of the local authority, parents or guardians of students, and the Head teachers and teachers of the school. Three-fourths of SMC members must be parents or guardians and half must be women. SMCs play a pivotal role in developing the tri-annual School Development Plans and annual work plans for the schools in every district and subsequently for every state of India. The RTE Act also highlights the critical role of parents as part of SMCs for developing a sense of ownership towards good education of their child and for strengthening and improving performance of schools. Overall, SMCs focus on holistic development of the schools, which not only accounts to ensure good school infrastructure, but also supervision/monitoring of finance, management, and academic progress of children,

### Functions of School Management Committee:

The School Management Committee shall perform the following functions namely :

- Monitor the functioning of the school.
- Preparation, of the School Development Plan (SDP)
- Monitor the utilization of the grants received from the government.
- Monitor the enrolment and attendance of all children studying in the school
- Effective implementation of the Mid-Day Meal and other Government schemes.
- To check the attendance and punctuality of teachers working in the school
- To prepare an annual account of receipts and expenditure of the school.
- To ensure that meetings of SMCs should be conducted on a regular basis.
- To discuss about the participation of children's and their access in the school.
- To focus on increasing the participation of parents and communities in school development.
- To participate in all school programmes and activities regularly.
- Maintenance of norms and standards prescribed in the RTE act which would include classrooms, school facilities, teacher-pupil ratios, etc.

### Need for the present study:

From the above discussion, it is clear that the community participation in the form of School Management Committees (SMC) is very important for managing the school affairs. Under the RTE Act 2009 the Government of India has empowered these School Management Committees (SMC) to monitor the academic performance of children, attendance and quality of education in schools, supervising regular supply of quality and hygienic mid-day meals, supervise and monitor aspects relating to distribution of textbooks, maintenance and repairs of building, creation of infrastructure at the school, ensuring drinking water and toilets, ensuring cleanliness and sanitation, and ensuring the proper utilization of grants. The effective implementation of any legislation depends on the proper understanding of the practical challenges that are faced on ground in the process of implementation. The school management committee members should understand the RTE act for its effective implementation. Hence the investigators made study to know the awareness of school management committee members about the Right to Education Act and its implementation in Elementary schools of Vizianagaram district.

### Key Terms:

- **School Management Committee (SMC):** According to Article 21-A of Section 4 of the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, School Management Committees (SMC) shall be constituted in all in every government-funded schools to encourage community and more particularly, parental involvement in school development.
- **Elementary school:** Elementary education means education from first class to eighth class. Elementary school means that imparts education between class I to class VIII. It includes all the existing schools in Andhra Pradesh namely Primary schools offering education from classes I to V and Upper Primary Schools from Classes I to VIII
- **Right to Education Act(RTE)- 2009** - The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act passed by the Indian Parliament on 26th August 2009 and Published in Gazette on 27th August,2009 by the Government of India.

### Statement of the Problem:

**“Awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members”**

### Objectives

- 1) To study the level of awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members .
- 2) To find out whether there exists any significant differences in the awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members with respect to their Designation ,Gender, Education and Locality,

### Hypotheses:

- 1) There is no significant difference in the awareness on Right to Education Act among Chairperson and Members of School Management Committees .
- 2) There is no significant difference in the awareness on Right to Education Act between male and female members of School Management Committees.
- 3) There is no significant difference in the awareness on Right to Education Act among Primary Secondary and Degree qualified members of School Management Committees.
- 4) There is no significant difference in the awareness on Right to Education Act among members of School Management Committees in Rural Urban and Tribal areas

### Method

In the present study descriptive survey method was employed. It was designed to explore the awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members.

### Sample

The sample for this study was 96 School Management Committee Members of 32 Elementary schools of Vizianagaram district were selected through simple random sampling. The sample of 96 School Management Committee members is found to have the following sub-samples

**Table No1 Table showing the particulars of Sample distribution of SMC Members**

Variable	Category	Number	Total
Designation	Chairperson	32	96
	Member	64	
Gender	Male	41	96
	Female	55	
Age	Below 35	57	96
	Above 35	39	
Education	Primary	48	96
	Secondary	35	
	Graduation	13	
Locality	Rural	51	96
	Urban	30	
	Tribal	15	

### Tool

The tool was a questionnaire prepared by the investigators to find out the awareness Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members. Right to Education Act (RTE) awareness questionnaire for School Management Committee members was constructed by the investigators and it is standardized with the help of the research experts. There is total of 30 questions for maximum of 30 marks. The answers were later quantified for analytical purposes.

## Collection of data

The data was collected by the investigator from School Management Committee members in elementary schools of Vizianagaram district. The SMC members were explained the purpose of this research and requested to respond to the questionnaire on Right to Education Act (RTE) awareness .

## Delimitations of the study:

The study was subjected to several delimitations. Due to the time constraint the investigator had chosen a limited sample and it was confined to collect the data from School Management Committee members in elementary schools of Vizianagaram district of Andhrapradesh

## Data analysis and interpretation

The researcher used relevant statistical techniques viz. Mean, SD, and t-values/F-values for statistical and analytical purposes with a view to get better results for this study.

**Table No.1:-Table showing the awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members:**

Variable	N	Mean	Mean percent	S.D.
Awareness on Right to Education Act	96	14.38	47.93%	3.42

- Table 1 show that the mean score for a sample of 96 School Management Committee is 14.38 for a total of 30. The secured mean is slightly less than 15 i.e. 50%. Therefore, it can be said that the awareness level of the School Management Committee members is average (47.93%) which is slightly less than 50%. The SD also indicates less dispersion of the scores from the mean.

**Table No.2:-Table showing the level of awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members :**

Variable	Level	Marks scored	N	% of SMC Members
Awareness on Right to Education Act	Low	0-11 (below 40%)	21	21.87%
	Average	12-17 (40% to 60%)	47	48.96%
	High	18 and above (60% above)	28	29.17%

- The above table shows that only 29.17% of School Management Committee members have high level awareness on Right to Education Act and 48.96 % of School Management Committee members shows average level and 21.87% School Management Committee members have low level of awareness on Right to Education Act . From this it is clear that awareness on Right to Education Act is average among School Management Committee members .

**TableNo3:- Table showing the significance of difference between mean scores of Awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee based on relevant subsamples of interfering variables.**

Variable	Category	Number	Mean	SD	t/F-test
Designation	Chairperson	32	16.43	2.93	<i>t'</i> -value 6.23**
	Member	64	12.35	3.07	
Gender	Male	41	15.84	2.54	<i>t'</i> -value 5.04**
	Female	55	12.97	2.91	
Age	Below 35	57	14.83	3.37	<i>t'</i> -value 1.84 *NS
	Above 35	39	13.64	2.62	
Education	Primary	48	11.79	2.89	<i>F'</i> -value 20.36**
	Secondary	35	14.26	3.05	
	Graduation	13	17.22	2.37	
Locality	Rural	51	13.38	2.82	<i>F'</i> -value 11.33**
	Urban	30	16.62	3.63	
	Tribal	15	13.08	3.28	

\*\*Significant at 0.01, \*Significant at 0.05 and NS : Not Significant

### Results and discussion:

- From the above table it was observed that the mean score of awareness on Right to Education act among SMC Chairpersons was 16.43 whereas for the SMC members it was 12.35 .The derived t- value was 6.23 which was statistically significant at 0.01 level. This shows that SMC Chairpersons and SMC members differed significantly and SMC Chairpersons are more aware about Right to Education act .
- With regard to Gender the mean score of awareness on Right to Education act of male category SMC members was 15.84, whereas for female category SMC members it was 12.97. The derived t – value was 5.04 which was statistically significant at 0.01 level. This shows that both male and female category SMC members differed significantly and male category SMC members had more awareness about Right to Education act than female SMC members.
- With regard to Age, the mean score of awareness on Right to Education for below 35 years age SMC members was 14.83, and for the above 35 years age SMC members was 13.64. The derived t – value was 1.84 which was not statistically significant . It clearly shows that below 35 and above 35 years age group SMC Members did not differ significantly in their awareness about Right to Education act .

- With regard to their education of SMC members, the mean score of awareness on Right to Education act of Primary education qualified SMC members was 11.79, Secondary education qualified SMC members was 14.26, and Graduation qualified SMC members was 17.22. The derived F-value was 20.36 which was significant at 0.01 level. This shows that all SMC members basing on their qualifications differed significantly and Graduation qualified respondents had more awareness on Right to Education act. than Primary, and Secondary education qualified SMC members.
- The mean scores awareness on Right to Education act of SMC members in rural area was 13.38 whereas for urban and tribal areas was 16.62 and 13.08 respectively. The 'F'-value was 11.33 which was statistically significant at 0.01 level. This shows that all the categories of SMC members basing on their locality of the school differed significantly and urban category respondents awareness on Right to Education act is higher than rural and tribal category respondents.

### Findings of the study

The findings of the study are summarized as follows.

- It is observed that awareness on Right to Education among School Management Committees members is average. It was found that School Management Committee Chairpersons and members of School Management Committees differed significantly in their awareness about Right to Education act and SMC Chairpersons are more aware about Right to Education act and its implementation in Elementary schools.
- The male and female School Management Committee members differed significantly in their awareness about Right to Education act. Male SMC members are more aware about Right to Education act and its implementation in Elementary schools than female respondents. It was also found that there is no significant difference between the awareness about Right to Education act among SMC members based on their age, and they expressed one and the same opinion.
- With regard to the awareness on Right to Education act among the SMC members it was found that Graduation qualified SMC members are more aware about Right to Education act than Primary and Secondary education qualified SMC members. It was also observed that Urban area SMC members are more aware about Right to education act than that of Rural and Tribal area SMC members.

### Conclusion

This study helps to draw very interesting conclusions regarding the awareness on Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members. The awareness about Right to Education Act among School Management Committee members is average. Many of the SMC members are not aware about their role and responsibilities and aware about the provisions of Right to Education act. The School Management Committee members should be aware of the Right to Education act for its effective implementation in elementary schools. The government should conduct orientation programmes for all the SMC members on Right to Education Act for enhancing quality in elementary education.

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