

Minutes of the Meeting on Language Education Policy at Elementary Stage held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

A meeting on Language Policy was held at 11-00 P.M on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at State Mission Office, SSA, Assam. The meeting was chaired by the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Elementary Education in presence of Mission Director, SSA, Assam, Director of Elementary Education and Director of SCERT, Assam Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University and other distinguished members present.

The list of participants is attached herewith at annexure-I.

Agenda of the Meeting :

Date : 30.06.2017, Venue : SSA, Conference Hall

1. Chairman takes the Chair
2. Self Introduction of the participants
3. Welcome address from the Chair.
4. Presentation on present status on Language Policy on Elementary Education in Assam by SCERT Assam.
5. Discussion and deliberation by the participants
6. Consolidation of comments/views made by the member present.
7. Miscellaneous
  - a. Discussion on the proposal of Nepali Sahitya Sabha to notify Nepali as Language not as medium of Instruction.
  - b. Any other
8. Vote of thanks

After welcome address by the Commissioner & Secretary, Elementary Education, Assam, he stated that the objective of the meeting is to discuss as per agenda the issues relating to formulation of State Language Policy for Education at Elementary level and for arriving at a consensus of opinion so that a decision can be taken in this regard.

This was followed by introductory session of the participants.

- SCERT, Assam made a brief presentation on the status of Language Education Policy at Elementary Level till date. The major points of discussion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were also reviewed. SCERT Assam made a brief presentation on the discussions held so far regarding formulation of Language Policy. For convenience of all, the minute of 3<sup>rd</sup> Language Policy meeting was also read out and discussed.

The discussion took place with the following key issues relevant for formulation of Language Education Policy at Elementary Level.

- Clarity regarding confusion between Language and medium of instruction.
- Weightage of Language learning in routine.
- Skill development.
- Future career prospects.
- Availability of teacher to teach the language.

*After threadbare discussion and exchange of opinions, the following points emerged:*

- Language learning is very crucial as it also facilitates the learning of other subjects in the curriculum. However, care should be taken to ensure that there is no **unnecessary burden on the children of learning languages**. At the same time, the issue of generating a feeling of respect towards languages of different groups and keeping provision for these in the school syllabus also needs to be addressed.
- There should be a balance between the weightage given to Language and different subjects in the routine. The learning of other subjects cannot be put at risk at the cost of learning too many languages. The present era emphasizes on development amongst



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children. Moreover, the future career prospects of children cannot be ignored. So, subject load on the learners to be minimized as per as possible.

Though the need for revision of NCF, 2005 has been voiced at higher level, yet, as of now, the formulation of Language Policy of Education is to be based on NCF 2005. NCF 2005 strongly advocates for learning through home language. But, Assam being a multi-lingual and multi-ethnic state, it may not be always possible to get qualified teachers for different languages. However, to bridge the gap, teachers need to be provided with training on gaining proficiency of the local language of his/her posting and whose language is different from the local language/home language of the children.

- For the state of Assam having linguistic and ethnic diversity, the following may be accepted as stated by **Sri Gauri Kanta Bhuyan** a member the Committee on Language Policy for Education at Elementary Level.
- ✓ **The State Language for everybody within the state.**
- ✓ **The National Language**
- ✓ **English: As it obviously opens vistas of knowledge and avenues of employment.**
- In the presentation SCERT, Assam displayed before the member the existing Language Strategy formulated for Language Education at Elementary Level which is given below.

**Language Strategy for elementary stage of school education by SCERT, Assam**

Primary		Upper Primary	
Ka-Shreni	Class I - IV	Class V	Class VI - VIII
Home Language and readiness for MOI and English Language	Home Language (Mother Tongue) + Medium of Instruction (MOI) + English	MOI + English	L <sub>1</sub> - MOI (100 marks) L <sub>2</sub> - English (100marks) for non English medium school. - Any other region based MIL (100 marks) for English medium school.  <b>For Non Hindi Medium schools</b> L <sub>3</sub> A - L <sub>3</sub> Hindi (100 marks) for non Hindi Medium school <b>Or</b> - L <sub>3</sub> (i) Hindi (50 marks) + L <sub>4</sub> Any MIL other than MOI or any one of the Other Language like Rabha, Deori, Tiwa etc. <b>Or</b> classical Languages like Arabic/Sanskrit (50 marks).  <b>For Hindi Medium schools</b> B - L <sub>3</sub> Regional Languages (100marks) for Hindi Medium school <b>Or</b> L <sub>3</sub> (i) Regional Language (50marks) + L <sub>4</sub> and MIL other than MOI or any one of the Other Language like Rabha, Deori, Tiwa etc <b>or</b> classical Languages like Arabic/Sanskrit (50marks). Note : L <sub>3</sub> = L <sub>3</sub> (100 marks) <b>Or</b> L <sub>3</sub> (i) (50marks) + L <sub>4</sub> (50marks)

- For English Medium L<sub>2</sub> will be Regional Language.
- For Hindi Medium L<sub>3</sub> will be Regional Language.



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- The Vice President Bodo Sahitya Sabha opined that according to them proposed Language Policy should be as the following
  - (i) L1 – Mother tongue (Bodo in case of Bodo medium)
  - (ii) L2 – English
  - (iii) L3 – Hindi (50%) and State Language (50%)

He further stated that, in the proposed Language Education Policy the learning of State Language should be made compulsory.

The following vital issues were also raised and decision from the State Govt. was awaited/solicited:

- Whether the Language Policy to be formulated will be applicable for the state as a whole or for the Government schools only.
- Making Assamese, compulsory it being the State Language, in private schools, where at present it is treated as optional.
- Introducing Assamese in Central Schools.
- Commissioner & Secretary, Elementary Education stated that the points of discussion would be circulated to the members present, which they can discuss with their related organizations. A timeline will be fixed and final meeting would be convened for final formulation of the Policy.
- The vote of thanks to the members was offered by the Chairperson.

Preetam Saikia, IAS  
Commissioner & Secretary  
Elementary Education, Department, Assam  
Cum  
Chairman of the Committee on Language  
Policy of Assam

No SSA/TT/SCERT/Lang. policy/1013/2014-15 / 1658-A

Dated: 30.06.2017

Copy to:

- 1) The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam, Elementary Education Department.
- 2) The M.D. SSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati - 781019
- 3) The Director of Elementary, Education, Assam Kahilipara.
- 4) The Director, SCERT, Assam.
- 5) The Members of the Committee on Language Policy of Assam.
- 6) The Members present in the Meeting.....

(Aruna Rajoria, IAS)  
Mission Director, SSA, Assam  
&  
Member Secretary of the Committee  
on Language Policy