



PARENTS' OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF 5T POLICY IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF SUNDARGARH DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Education is considered as the acquisition of knowledge, skills and many other attributes of human personality. To fulfil such task every educational institution needs adequate learning facilities and practises. In recent years 5T, initiative model of education has been started with the significant transformation of government secondary schools in the state Odisha which provides good quality education, adequate infrastructure facilities, accountability academic excellence and capacity building of both students and teachers. The present article is an attempt to analyse the parent's observations on the impact of 5T policy and to record the suggestions of the parents for the better impact of the 5T policy in secondary schools of Sundargarh District. A sample group 100 parents observations recorded in a checklist and face to face interview were conducted to record their suggestions. The findings of the study reveals that 5T policy has impact on the increased infrastructure in secondary schools of Sundargarh district.

KEYWORDS: 5T Initiatives, Transformation Programme, Odisha Secondary School, Capacity Building, Educational Institutions

INTRODUCTION

After the Covid-19 pandemic, the state government of Odisha has decided to launch an innovative transformation programme under the 5T initiative for strengthening government secondary schools, which is well known as the "5T High School Transformation Programme". The primary objective of the above programme was to adopt modern technologies to enhance classroom teaching and learning, required infrastructure facilities and to develop capacity building of both students and teachers. The High School Transformation Programme under state government. 5T (Teamwork, Technology, Transparency, Transformation and Time Limit) initiative targets to encourage the environment of local bodies SMC/SMDC, parents and alumni members for the development of infrastructure, making the environment cheerful for teaching and learning. The main objectives of the 5T Programme are adapting classroom teaching to embrace technological advancements that go beyond traditional methods like chalk and board. By incorporating various technologies, we can enhance the learning experience and cater to diverse learning styles. The 5T scheme was aimed at changing the way classroom teaching is conducted and taking it away from the traditional methods of chalk-and-board. The policy focused on smart classrooms for classes 9 and 10 in each school, e-laboratories, e-libraries, adequate drinking water facilities, electricity and games and sports facilities in the targeted schools.

This paper assesses the status of the schools after implementation of policy by the parents, who are considered one of the stakeholders in the 5T school transformation programme. The policy was implemented in 67 high schools in Sundargarh district among a total of 142 high schools in 5 districts under the 5T initiative in the first phase in the month of November 2021. Later on number of schools increased in the remaining block of the Sundargarh district.

OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the parent's observations on the impact of 5T policy in secondary schools of Sundargarh District.
2. To record the suggestions of the parents for the better impact of the 5T policy in secondary schools of Sundargarh District.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey method was adopted for the study. The parents were given a checklist and also interviewed after filling out the checklist. 20 secondary schools were selected out of the 10 blocks of Sundargarh. From each school, 5 numbers of parents were randomly selected for the sample. The total number of parents was 100. There are 35 female and 65 male representations in the sample. Almost all the sample parents were the SMDC members and visited the school frequently. The study included only the availability of equipment, use of equipment, and increased facilities for students and teachers in

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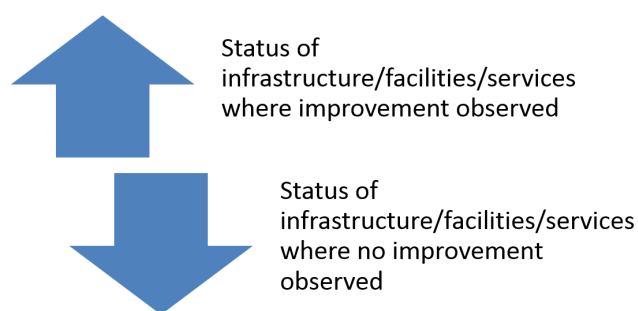


Figure 1: Framework of Analysis of Responses on Impact of 5T Policy

INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT UNDER 5T SCHEME	Available	Not available	No Idea
Two smart classroom	90		10
Repairing of existing sports infrastructure	60	10	30
Sports room to have equipment for indoor and outdoor games	90		10
Organisation of Sports events	93		7
Activities of Sports and Physical Welbeing for Students	87		13
Motivation of students to take part in competitions held outside the school	67	10	27
Practising yoga, exercises and play sports	97		3
Devices like computers, keyboard, projectors, screens and TVs in school	81		19
Students Seating Arrangement	93		7
Renovation of the existing science laboratory	75		25
Availability and Drinking Water Facility	93		7
Hand washing basin with multi-tap facility	95		5
Required number of functional toilets	95		5

Table 1.1: Majority Responses on Availability of Infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT UNDER 5T SCHEME	Available	Not available	No Idea
Availability of internet connection in school	11		89
The existing IT Lab is converted to an e-library	12		88
Existing computers available in ICT lab is being used for e-library/ A terminal with multiple desktops	12		88
Cataloguing of e-books and documents	12		88
Internet connection in e-library	12		88
Availability of latest science equipment for class 9th and 10th student	12		88
Water and gas connections for laboratories	13		87
Furnishing of the laboratory with ample space	13		87
Training of teachers	12		88

Table 1.2: Majority Responses on not Availability of Infrastructure

In Tables No. 1.1 & 1.2, the column of “Availability” cited the number of parents’ responses who recorded the availability of equipment/service/facility in the schools. The “Not available” column indicated the vice versa. The column “No idea” indicates that parents are unaware or do not like to report.

In Table No.1.1 the responses of the parents reveals that 5T policy has impact on the increased infrastructure in school such as availability of two smart classrooms, availability of equipment like computers, keyboard, projectors, screens and TVs in school, reforms in seating arrangement in the class, renovation of the existing science laboratory, sports and physical wellbeing for Students, Repairing of existing sports infrastructure, sports room to have equipment for indoor and outdoor games, organisation of sports events, motivation of students to take part in block/district/state/national level competitions, practising yoga, exercises and play sports, availability and drinking water facility, hand washing basin with multi-tap facility and adequate toilets with running water facility in schools.

In Table No.1.2 the responses of the parents reveal that the 5T policy has no or less impact on the infrastructure, such as the availability of internet connection in school, the existing IT lab being converted to an e-library, existing computers available in the ICT lab being used for the e-library, a terminal with multiple desktops, cataloguing of e-books and documents, internet connection in the e-library, and availability of the latest science equipment for 9th and 10th students. Water and gas connections for laboratories, furnishing of the laboratory with ample space and training of teachers are also not improved as per parents’ observations.

Suggestions from the parents:

- Schools need a greater number of teachers.
- The existing teachers need to be trained on how to use smart boards and other internet work.
- A special computer instructor should be appointed in each school to support teachers and students as well.
- In some of the schools, the capacity of the e-library as well as the computer room is only up to 30 students. But in schools where more than 50 students are studying in Class IX and Class X, students are facing problems doing the same class. Therefore, some required measures should be taken to increase the capacity of the students.
- Sports activities need to be properly placed in the school timetable.
- School should be given a sufficient contingency fund to purchase gas and other equipment for labs.
- 45 minutes is not sufficient to use the lab for 50 or more than 50 students.
- Every classroom should have a smart board in the school.

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