



A STUDY OF EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF SELF-LEARNING MATERIALS (SLM) THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN MANIPUR

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ABSTRACT

Distance Education is the need of the present time so as to achieve the objectives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Effectiveness of Distance Education programme depend on the optimum utilization of a variety of communication services to bring desirable outcomes. Hence various training materials were developed. Realizing the need of utilization of such resource materials, a programme for training of master trainers, different resource and training was organized.

Key words:

Distance Education Programme (DEP), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Desirable outcomes, resource material, master trainers.

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INTRODUCTION

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is national programme designed to achieve the goals of universalization of Elementary Education. It has been national endeavour for which both the Central Government have been devising various measures through different modes. Distance education is the need of the present time so as to achieve the objectives of SSA. Effectiveness of Distance Education programme depend on the optimum utilization of a variety of communication services to bring desirable out-comes. To reach at large target group of SSA functionaries, it is considered to be an important strategy so as to suit all level/category of functionaries.

DEP-SSA has undertaken various activities like identification of the training needs, planning of need-based activities for the State, capacity building programmes for the teachers and other SSA functionaries, and capacity building activities in the development of distance delivery modes, etc in the states. Various training materials were developed by SPOs, SSA Manipur in collaboration with DEP-SSA. Development of material and its dissemination is not sufficient for the achievement of the national objectives, rather its effectiveness depend on utilization of the training materials. Realizing the need of utilization of such resource material, a programme for training of Master Trainers on utilization of different types

of resource and training materials (developed and produced at national /state level) was organized by DEP-SSA for the state of Manipur.

The main purpose of the training programmes was to

- Acquaint the master trainers on various types of self-learning materials- viz., Print, Audio, Video and Tele-conferencing.
- Acquaint the master trainers towards effective utilization of the Print, Audio, Video, and Tele-conferencing materials.
- Familiarize the master trainers about the various methods for effective use of resource material.

Objectives

- a. To know the effective organization of the training programme for the master trainers.
- b. To know the quality of support materials provided organizing training programme.
- c. To know the impression of the participants towards different components (SLMs, Media Technology, through distance learning, group discussion activities, etc.) Used/Covers during the training programme.

METHOD

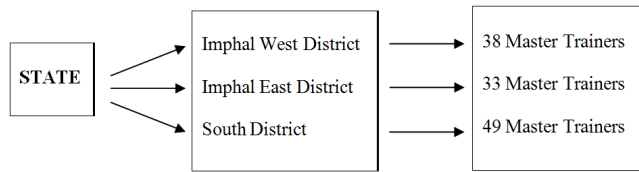
Survey method was adopted to examine the utility and effectiveness of the training programmes organized for the master trainers of the 3 (Three) Districts in Manipur State viz., Imphal West District, and South District, Manipur.

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Sample

The sample of the study consists of 120 master trainers. The participants include faculty of DIETs and BRCs functionaries. The details of the sample is given below:



Tool

DEP-SSA developed a structured opinionaire/feedbacks format to know the utility and effectiveness of training programme. The format contains 16 items covering different aspects like organization of the training programme. General impression of the participants towards the training programme. Strengths of the training programme, weak points of the training programme and suggestions for further development etc.

Analysis and interpretation

A-lysis and interpretation of data was made in the light of objectives and hypothesis of the study.

Table 1 Showing opinion of the participants towards the support material

Sl No.	Item	Response	Manipur		South District Manipur N=49
			Imphal west Dist.N=38	Imphal east Dist.N=33	
1.	Objectives of the programme were communicated to the participant beforehand.	YES	63.16	78.79	77.55
		NO	36.84	21.21	22.44
2.	Support materials about the programme were provided in advance.	YES	71.05	63.63	34.69
		NO	23.68	36.36	63.26

Table 1.1 shows the real status of the pre-arrangement of the training programme. Though most of the participants of Imphal West, Imphal East Districts and South District Manipur viewed that “objectives” of the training programme were communicated to them beforehand but about 29.01% of participants in Imphal West and East Districts and 22.44% in South District Manipur are not in favour of the above statement. Similarly, 67.34% of participants in Imphal West and East Districts and 34.69% in South District Manipur have viewed that the support materials about the programme was provided to them in advance but at the same time 63.26% of the participants of the South District Manipur do not agree with the above statement that they received any supported material in advance. So with regard to objectives of the training programme hypothesis (1,2,3) is accepted whereas with regard to the support material, the hypothesis is accepted

Table 2 Showing the opinion of master trainers towards quality of support materials

SL No.	Items	Response	Manipur		South District Manipur. N=49
			Imphal West Dist. N=38	Imphal East District N=33	
1.	Quality of support material	Excellent	15.38	18.18	4.08
		Good	81.57	75.75	69.36
		Poor	2.65	6.07	-

by Imphal West District and East but rejected for South District Manipur, is about 63.26% of participants had not received the material in advance.

The above Table clearly shows about the excellency of the support materials. About 70% participants viewed that quality of the support of materials was good and satisfactory. On the other hand, only 5 to 20 % of the participants viewed is excellent. This shows that though the quality of support material is good which helps the participants during training programme but further improvement is essential, so the hypothesis(1,2,3) is partly accepted and partly rejected.

Table 3 Showing general opinion of participants through distance learning material (to SLM)

Sl.No	Item	Response	MANIPUR		South District Manipur N=49
			Imphal west district, N=38	Imphal East District, N=33	
1.	Opinion about self material	Very useful	42.10	54.54	12.24
		Useful	52.63	39.39	40.81
		Not useful	-	-	-

About 48.32% of the participants of Imphal West and East Districts reported that the self learning materials were very useful for the teachers as well as master trainers whereas only 12.24% participants of the South District Manipur reported the same. So, there is a difference in opinion of the participants, and South District Manipur as far as usefulness of SLM is concerned. With regard to SLM, the hypothesis (1,2,3) is partly accepted for the Imphal West and East Districts and rejected for the South District Manipur.

Table 4 Showing the opinion of the participants towards the use of Audio and Video materials

SL.NO	ITEM	RESPONSE	MANIPUR		South District Maniur
			Imphal West District, N=38	Imphal East District, N=33	
1.	Audio Cassettes	Very useful	13.15	15.15	12.24
		Useful	34.21	27.27	22.24
		Not useful	-	-	08.16
2.	Video Cassettes	Very useful	05.63	03.03	18.36
		Useful	21.05	06.06	26.73
		Not useful	02.63	03.03	02.04
3.	Audio Broadcast	Very useful	10.52	15.15	04.08
		Useful	31.15	21.21	22.44
		Not useful	02.63	-	06.12
Video Broadcast	Very useful	-	-	12.24	
	Useful	21.05	03.03	22.44	
	Not useful	02.63	-	04.08	

The above table indicates the usefulness of the various modes of media in teaching learning process.

Table 5 Showing the responses of the participants towards the use of Teleconference, Website, Multimedia

Sl.No	Item	Response	MANIPUR		South District Manipur, N=49
			Imphal West District, N=38	Imphal East District, N=33	
1.	Teleconference	Very useful	13.15	03.03	02.04
		Useful	15.78	15.15	10.20
		Not useful	-	-	08.16
2.	Website	Very useful	02.63	-	06.12
		Useful	13.15	09.09	14.28
		Not useful	02.63	03.03	08.16
3.	Multi media	Very useful	13.15	06.06	20.40
		useful	15.78	-	42.85
		Not useful	-	03.03	02.04

It is clearly observed that very few participants (even less than 40%) from the 3(three) districts viewed that audio and video cassettes are useful for the training programme. Again there is a big question with regard to the use of various modes of Distance Learning Material. It poses a challenge to the effectiveness of distance learning material. So, the hypothesis (1,2,3) is rejected with regard to the use of audio, video programmes.

The above table shows the response of the participants the use of Imphal West and East Districts towards the use of teleconference, website and multimedia. It is found that maximum number of participants are not attending the above programmes. Only 15.78% of participants of Imphal West District, 15.15% of Imphal East District, and 10.20% of South District Manipur viewed that the programme of teleconferencing is useful. Similar is the status with regard to usefulness of website and multimedia packages. So, the hypothesis (1, 2, 3) is rejected.

Showing response of the participants towards the methods (i.e., Group) Discussion and Activity/Demonstration).

Table 6

Sl.no.	Item	Response	Manipur		South District Manipur, N=49
			Imphal West District, N=38	Imphal East District, N=33	
1.	Group Discussion	Very useful	34.21	18.18	02.04
		Useful	34.21	21.21	22.44
		Not useful	-	-	08.16
2.	Activities/Demonstrations	Very useful	47.36	27.27	12.24
		Useful	34.21	21.21	22.44
		Not useful	-	-	08.16

Table 6 reveals the option of the participants of Imphal West and East Districts and South District, Manipur regarding the methods used in the training programme. About 34.21% participants of Imphal West District reported that method used was very useful with regard to group discussion whereas 21.21% and 24.44% participants of Imphal East and West Districts and South District Manipur respectively reported that it is useful. Similarly, 61.22% participants of South District Manipur and 37.06% of Imphal West and East Districts reported that activity and demonstration method is very useful.

Table 7 Showing responses of the participants towards the programme co-ordinators and Resource persons

Sl.No.	Item	Response	Manipur		South District Manipur N=49
			Imphal West Dist. N=38	Imphal East Dist. N=33	
1.	Facilitator/programme co-ordinators.	Very useful	50.00	48.48	30.61
		Useful	36.84	24.24	53.06
		Not useful	-	-	-
2.	Resource persons	Very useful	60.52	60.60	30.61
		Useful	31.57	36.36	63.26
		Not useful	-	-	-

Above Table shows that 50% participants of Imphal West District, 48.48%, Imphal East and District reported that services of facilitators and programme co-ordinators were very useful; whereas 30.61% participants of South District Manipur reported the same in both the District. The response was less than 50% and again there is a difference with regard

to the opinion of the two districts. Similarly, more than 60% of the participants of Manipur (Imphal West and East Districts) reported that the Resource Persons of the training programme were very efficient and effective. But only 30.61% participants of South District Manipur reported the same.

Educational Implications

At the end of the training programme all the participants were asked to express their opinion i.e., to suggest some measures so as to improve the quality of such training in future. The suggestions obtained participants, organizers and the investigators for improving the quality of such training programme in future are as follows:

- Duration of the training programme should be increased to 4/5 days so as to cover the details of the utility of distance learning material and its effectiveness.
- Practical experience should be provided to the participants about its use as training material
- Discussion should be constituted as an integral part of whole training programme. Provision of group discussion should be made for effective and given priority. Participants should be encouraged to take actively in discussion.
- Teleconferencing programme should be made on effective utilization of distance learning material.
- Resource material regarding the training programme should reach to all the participants well in advance and accountability must be fixed on it.
- SLM for high School Teachers may be developed.
- Provision should be made in school time-table to use audio-video material in the class-room.
- Same type of training programme should be conducted at all districts level and problems related to field –area should be discussed.

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