

National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Education (NPEGEL)

The National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), is a focussed intervention of Government of India, to reach the “Hardest to Reach” girls, especially those not in school. Launched in July 2003, it is an important component of SSA, which provides additional support for enhancing girl’s education over and above the investments for girl’s education through normal SSA interventions. The programme provides for development of a “model school” in every cluster with more intense community mobilization and supervision of girls enrolment in schools. Gender sensitisation of teachers, development of gender-sensitive learning materials, and provision of need-based incentives like escorts, stationery, workbooks and uniforms are some of the endeavours under the programme.

The scheme is being implemented in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) where the level of rural female literacy is less than the national average and the gender gap is above the national average; in blocks of districts which are not covered under EBBs but are having at least 5% SC/ST population and where SC/ST female literacy is below 10%; and also in select urban slums. About 3272 educationally backward blocks are covered under the Scheme in the 24 States of Assam, Haveli Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal Meghalaya, West Bengal and one UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

Under NPEGEL, around 35,254 Model cluster schools have been opened, 25,537 ECCE centres are being supported, 24,394 additional classrooms have been constructed, and 1.85 lakh teachers have been given training on gender sensitisation, remedial teaching to 9.67 lakh girls, bridge course covering 1.53 lakh girls, including additional incentives like uniforms etc. to about 71.46 lakh girls (upto 31st December, 2007). An outlay of Rs.708.44 crore was approved under NPEGEL for 2007-08.