A Brief report of Ahmedabad Consultation

Date: 29th September, 2015

Venue: Ahmedabad Management Association (Opp. IIM, Ahmedabad) organized by RTE Forum in collaboration with Gujrat RTE Forum and Cfd

A Consultation on Strengthening RTE Act and Role of School Management Committee was organized at Ahmedabad Management Association, Ahmedabad by RTE Forum in collaboration with Centre for Development (CFD), RTE Resource Centre, IIM on 29th September, 2015. The program was a follow up exercise to identify the development in the role of SMCs after the last year consultation with SMC members.

Consultation started with the welcome note by Ms. Anuradha Ghatri.

Mr. Rafi Malek addressed the consultation and placed a brief note and the concept regarding the consultation. He outlined the crucial role of SMC in realizing the goals of RTE. He shared some experiences while working with SMCs in Bavla and Dhandhuka blocks of Ahmedabad. He said that the role of School Management Committees of Government primary schools. He said that this is very important to strengthen SMCs to strengthen Government primary schools.

Imran boharia from CFD made a small presentation on 3 schools data of Ahmedabad city. He said that schools are not more familiar with organizations' and denied to give data. SMCs are not aware with their rights and duties.

Mitra ranjan from National RTE Forum said after 5 years of enacting of RTE Act only 10% schools comply the norms of a school. Governments are not in mood to apply whole act. This is time to awake and unite to work on implementation of RTE Act in our state. He said that it has tremendous potential to transform the existing system of education, characterized by cynicism and a defeatist outlook of the system functionaries and stakeholders, including teachers and parents. Through its positive action and a constructive dialogue with other stakeholders the SMC can work towards reinstating a well functioning school system. It was realized that NGOs and CSOs can contribute in making SMCs functional through strengthening participatory process.

Ashish Ranjan from IIM RTE resource centre stated that SMCs are not aware of their rights and duties. The important work of organizations is to train SMCs and their capacity building.

Abdul Hakeem Ansari from SMET gomtipur said that he initiated with a new pressure group of community to monitor school system. It led to very successful results. He said that government form a clear Rule/Guideline on formation of SMCs in the State Rule; special training for SMC members and school staff to participate in SDPs and setting up of a social audit process of schools.

Yusuf bhai Ajmeri, Corporator Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation from Danilimda ward said he is newly elected member and he is always ready to raise issues with you to strengthen government schooling system.

Shailesh Christian from Sahyag shares experiences from Vatwa area. He said SMC is neither nominated nor elected. This is very important to improve election to constitute SMCs.

Mr. Dilip Mer, DCPO, Ahmedabad said he is product of social movement and he had some powers in JJ Act to implement RTE Act as District Child Protection Officer, So you can use me for implementation of this Act.

Noorjahan Ansari from Niswan said when SMC knows their rights than school run smoothly and community friendly. She had positive experience from Juhapura area. She also suggested which include appropriate participation of women and children; training programmes with teachers

Robert David from Sahyag said that we all to focus on SMC training. We should start from today.

Consultation was moderated by Mujahid Nafees Gujarat RTE Forum. He said it's very common that SMC members are not aware about their responsibilities, the members are not being elected with due election process and there is always a tussle between teachers and SMC members which must be resolved.

To sum up, the participants outlined the crucial role of SMC in realizing the goals of RTE. They said that it has tremendous potential to transform the existing system of education, characterized by cynicism and a defeatist outlook of the system functionaries and stakeholders, including teachers and parents. Through its positive action and a constructive dialogue with other stakeholders the SMC can work towards reinstating a well functioning school system. It was realized that NGOs and CSOs can contribute in making SMCs functional through strengthening participatory process. Mr. Rafi from Cfd shared some experiences while working with SMCs in Bavla and Dhandhuka blocks of Ahmedabad. Mr. Imran from CfD shared a PPT identifying the challenges.

Members from various SMCs also shared their problems while working with schools. It was felt that it's very common that SMC members are not aware about their

responsibilities, the members are not being elected with due election process and there is always a tussle between teachers and SMC members which must be resolved. Some recommendation was also suggested which include appropriate participation of women and children; training programmes with teachers and SMC members; developing a clear Rule/Guideline on formation of SMCs in the State Rule; special training for SMC members and school staff to participate in SDPs and setting up of a social audit process of schools.

Mr. Ashish Ranjan, RTE Resource Centre, IIM, Ahmedabad; Mr. Dilip Mer, DCPO, Ahmedabad; Mitra Ranjan, RTE Forum; Mujahid Nafees, Gujarat RTE Forum along with members from several organizations, SMC members, parents and teachers participated in the meeting.

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Report by Mujahid Nafees

Gujrat RTE Forum