

INTRODUCTION

Universalisation of elementary education is the constitutional commitment in India. Efforts have been made in the past to achieve the goal but despite spectacular quantitative expansion of educational facilities, the goal is still a far distant dream. The focus of the programmes like the District Primary Education Programme and recently launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is on decentralized planning process with emphasis on disaggregated target setting and participatory planning approach. District is considered as a spatial unit of decentralized planning. To develop district elementary education plans, a variety of activities need to be initiated at different levels among which diagnosis of present status of educational development in the district is the most important one. The diagnosis exercise helps the district planning team in identifying educationally backward areas, focus groups and major problems in the districts. This needs analysis of a variety of information. The information in the raw form serves only the limited purpose unless the same is converted in the indicator form. Reliable annual or the perspective plan cannot be developed unless demographic and enrolment projection exercises are undertaken. In the light of the above, the present series consists of the following modules:

1. Information requirements for developing district elementary education plans
2. Indicators of educational development with focus on elementary education: concept and definitions and
3. Projections of population, enrolment and teachers.

The prime objective of these modules is an effort towards capacity building at local levels in the area of educational planning in general and information need, use of indicators and projections and forecasting of demographic and educational data in particular. The present set of modules should be seen in continuation of the earlier set of twelve modules on district planning developed by the institute. The modules should not be considered as the self-learning modules. The target group is primarily the planners and practitioners who organize training programmes in district planning in education. The set of modules should form the basic teaching-learning material to organize training programmes at the local level. Efforts have been made to explain the concept of indicators and projections techniques by taking practical examples.