



Vision

The idea that inclusive education is the key to inclusive development in a knowledge society is the guiding principle of the department of education and culture. The department's commitment to improve equity and quality of education at all levels of education is a reflection of this conviction. The department has already taken several steps to improve access, equity, quality and social justice both in schools and in colleges, both in the Government and in the private sector. It will continue to implement more programmes towards this end over the next two years.

M A Baby



Improving to A+ Quality

MAJOR PROJECT
on the Anvil

Shifting to student-oriented

A radical restructuring of the undergraduate system in all Universities in the State is being implemented from 2009-10. In tune with the 11th plan perspective on higher education and the guidelines issued by University Grants Commission (UGC), Choice based Credit and Semester system and Grading will be introduced in all undergraduate courses in all Universities. A combination of continuous and end semester evaluation system will also be put in place as part of the new curriculum. The learning process will become more open ended and student oriented. The introduction of the new curriculum will make undergraduate education more quality oriented and ensure greater mobility of students from one university to another.



The Government

took steps to ensure quality education for all children. Schemes were evolved to improve infrastructure, quality of teachers and to ensure equitable access at all levels of education.

104 low performing schools were identified on the basis of SSLC results March 2006. A special scheme was evolved to improve the performance of these schools. Dramatic improvement was made in the SSLC results within the first year of implementation of the scheme and the trend of improvement is sustaining.

A scheme for computer assisted learning has been

implemented in all schools. Broadband connectivity has been made in all secondary and higher secondary schools.

Single window system was introduced for admission to higher secondary schools, thereby ensuring transparency and social justice in the admission process.

A scheme for the award of 10000 scholarships each worth Rs.5000/- on the basis of

merit-cum-means has been introduced at the higher secondary level.

A Higher Education Council was established to co-ordinate the schemes for improvement of quality and equity in higher education. Schemes like restructuring undergraduate education, establishment of cluster of colleges, setting up a higher education scholarship fund, teacher

exchange programme, setting up a data bank on higher education, evolving a policy on higher education etc. are being implemented by the Council.

New national level institutions for study and research in higher education like IISER, IIST have been established. The Central University will start functioning this Academic Year itself. The status of 'Kalamandalam' has been enhanced to that of a deemed university.

Steps have been taken to ensure social justice in professional education through legislation and through consensual arrangements for regulating admission and fee.



5 OTHER PROJECTS Envisaged

- 1 A film festival complex would be set up at Thiruvananthapuram
- 2 A Golden Jubilee Memorial Hall will be built for Sahitya Academy
- 3 A scheme for enhancing quality in Science and Mathematics will be implemented for school students
- 4 Teacher Exchange programme between the States of Kerala and West Bengal will be implemented
- 5 A 100 crore higher education scholarship fund will be initiated

Introduced 10th equallency programme as a part of continuing education programme for the first time in the country. Also introduced equallency in elementary and primary level. Along with new schemes which have been implemented under continuing education for providing greater access to marginalised sections.

There have been five fold increase in the budget allocation for cultural activities. The number and amount of pension for artists have been enhanced. A comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for setting up a welfare fund for artists.



Setting priority on line

The functioning of the department under the present Government is qualitatively different from that of the previous Government. This may be seen in the setting of priorities and in the implementation of the schemes. From primary level to the

post graduate level, the emphasis of the present Government is on inclusive development as against the exclusivist agenda of the previous Government. Schemes like improving the performance of the lowest performing school and of restructuring undergraduate education in the arts and science



colleges throughout the State reflect the change in the perspective of the present Government. The legislation for regulating unaided professional educational institutions and the implementation of single window system of admission in higher secondary schools also bring out the same priorities. The participatory character in the implementation of the projects is the characteristic of people-friendly approach to governance, which is the hallmark of the present Government.

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Improved Performance

A novel scheme was evolved by the Government in 2006 for improving the quality of the lowest performing schools in the State. 104 schools with less than 33 per cent results in the SSLC examination across the state were identified under this scheme. A study was undertaken to identify the reasons for the low performance of these schools. On the basis of the study, steps were taken to provide food, special coaching, infrastructural facilities and emotional support for students, especially those in the 10th class. This was done through the collective intervention of teachers, parents, representatives of the people and general public, with the active involvement of the Local Self Governments.

Of the 104 schools identified only 97 were actually included in the scheme 2006-2007. The number was increased to 107 in 2007-2008.

The following table shows the dramatic improvement in the performance of the students, in terms of SSLC results over the period from 2006-2009.

107 Schools				
Percentage	2006	2007	2008	2009
100	0	5	25	25
90 and above	0	13	56	56
75 and above	0	47	88	85
60 and above	0	77	97	101
50 and above	0	91	107	105
50 less	0	6	0	2
33 less	104	0	0	0