

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a flagship programme of Govt. of India with the objective to universalize elementary education by improving human capabilities to all children through extending community owned quality education in a mission mode. It gives emphasis not only the capacity building of individual and institutions at district, state and national levels, but also empowers them to bring reforms to improve efficiency of the delivery system.

Distance Education Programme (DEP) is a national component created by the MHRD, Govt. of India and operates in collaboration with the IGNOU having prime objective to build capacity of personnel and institutions associated with SSA activities in a sustainable manner. In the current scenario, the activities undertaken by DEP-SSA are mostly targeted to empower teachers for their effective participation in curriculum-related activities with focus on classroom processes and design such inputs to develop their human potentialities. Realizing the importance of Education of Children at primary level and improving competencies of teachers and other functionaries associated with training of teachers, DEP-SSA, IGNOU has planned to organize a National Seminar on “**Importance of English as Second Language at Primary Level**”.

### **Background of the Seminar**

Language is neither static nor homogenous. Language is dynamic and changing, and variation and diversity is its very essence. All languages show variation along different dimensions. English is a second language in India, nurtured in a different socio-cultural environment and having different functions and roles. This has led to Indianisation of English. The language environment of learners needs to be enriched by developing into community learning centers as advocated in the National Curriculum Framework 2005 (NCF 2005). Approaches and methods of teaching language needs to be exclusive but may be mutually supportive within a broad cognitive philosophy. Higher order skills can be developed once fundamental competencies are ensured. Proficiency and professional awareness are equally to be promoted. Developing understanding on basic concepts in English is challenging for all teachers at school level. It is, therefore, believed that teachers working at school level require developing their own understanding and competencies on the fundamental aspects of language skills in general and English in particular. It is essential on the part of teachers working at primary level to improve their professional competencies in teaching English as a second language.

Teacher Education Institutions are expected to meet the growing demand in developing such competencies in teachers a sense of appreciation towards teaching English. Development of appropriate teaching-learning strategies in the context of English teaching is one of the important area for improving professional competencies of teachers.

Considering the necessity to improve professional competencies of teachers at primary level in teaching of English, and improving learning achievement of children, DEP-SSA IGNOU is organizing the National Seminar with following objectives:

### **Objectives**

- To identify difficulties faced by teachers while teaching English at school level in general and at primary level in particular.
- To explore innovative practices and class room transactional strategies of making teaching of English effective and learning of English interesting at primary level.
- To share and discuss on strategies of enhancing English language skills at primary level and get an insight into the ways in which English has gained importance at school level in India.
- To motivate the field level functionaries and empower them on the contexts in which English is used for capacity building of teachers.
- To design and develop a curriculum framework in-service teacher-training package to help the teachers competent in teaching of English at primary level.

### **Themes**

Following themes are identified for this National Seminar:

**Issues in learning English at Primary Level :** Problems in teaching English, difficulties faced by teachers in teaching English, Learning Difficulties of Children, attitude of teachers towards teaching of English as second language, professional competencies of Teachers, improving overall classroom process for making teaching and learning of English interesting.

**Instructional Strategies of Teaching English:** Implication of curriculum of English at primary level, unit Planning, lesson Planning, micro teaching, innovative strategies used in classrooms.

**Innovative Practices of Teaching English at Primary Level:** Modalities of teaching English, principles of teaching English, skills needed for effective English teaching, and performance of children in developing, reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

**Instructional Planning and Remedial Teaching:** Competency based evaluation, diagnostic strategies, child-centered approaches, design and development of assignments for various categories of learners, development of alternative strategies, experimentation and remediation, evaluation an enable factor for learning and benchmarks for language proficiency.

**Teacher preparation and quality of Teaching:** Basic proficiency in English teaching, skills of teaching English appropriate to their situation and levels, preparation of materials for training and orientation.

### **Call of Papers**

We welcome original papers (preferably research and case studies) especially prepared for this National Seminar. Full paper of 10-15 pages (not more than 3500 words) including abstract typed in both sides and a separate covering page indicating the theme and title, address, contact no, e-mail ID etc. must be submitted **on or before December 15, 2008**. Paper must be written and presented in English. Send your full paper through speed post/courier/e-mail to the project Director, DEP-SSA, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110 068 or to the Coordinator, National Seminar, DEP-SSA, IGNOU, New Delhi – 110 068. No paper will be received / entertained after **December 15, 2008**.

### **Selection of Papers**

Paper will be screened by a duly constituted screening committee comprises of a group of experts. Priority will be given to Research Based Papers and related to Case Study, Experimentations and Innovations in the field of learning & Teaching English at primary level under specified theme as mentioned.

**DATE : January 19-21, 2009**

**VENUE : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

**TA/DA:** TA/DA will be paid as per norms of DEP-SSA, IGNOU to the participants whose papers will be selected by the Screening Committee and invited speakers. Intimation to

the authors of the selected paper will be sent separately indicating the exact venue and other details of the Seminar.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Accommodation, if required, shall be provided to the out-station participants if prior request is made to the organizers.



## National Seminar on Importance of English as Second Language at Primary Level

*January 19-21, 2009*



**DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME-  
SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN  
(DEP-SSA)**

(AN IGNOU-MHRD, GOVT. OF INDIA PROJECT)  
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### **Important Dates**

**Receipt of Papers : December 15, 2008**

**Screening of Papers: December 20, 2008**

**Communication on  
acceptance of Papers: December 26, 2008**

**Date of Seminar : January 19-21, 2009**