

Current Status of School Management Committees of Of Zilha Parishad Upper Primary Schools in Ahmednagar District

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to understand structure, process of formation, functioning of the School Management Committee and awareness of School Management Committee members in school activities as mentioned in the RTE Act, 2009. Current reaserch is related to functioning School Management Committee and its current status of Zilha Parishad Upper Primary Schools in Ahmednagar district. This study is limited to current status Of the Zilha Parishad Upper Primary schools in Ahmednagar district. Discriptive Servy method is applied to the reaserch. In Ahmednagar district there are 14 educational blocks, out of these 3 blocks were selected for research. From 3 blocks 20 upper primary schools were selected by using the random sampling method. From the 18 schools, head masters 18, chairperson of School Management Committee, 17 and cluster heads, 18 were selected as respondant. Data was collected with the help of self-prepared multiple choice questionnaire. Statistical tool percentage was applied for the analysis to collected data.

Key words:

RTE, School Management Committee, MDM, School Development Plan, Enrollment, out of school children, special need children.

Introduction:

Education is a means of social change. It also affects economic, social and cultural status of a person. In short we can say education gives shape to the society and society contribute to education. After independence different efforts were made to educate all.

Article, 45 of Indian constitution says that it is a responsibility of the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age 6 to 14 within the time limit of 10 years after independence. National policy on education, 1968 focused on free and compulsory education and school management. National policy on education, 1986 stressed on participation and involvement of

local community in educational planning and management. Plan of Action, 1992 recommended Village Education Committee for participation of society. The aim of VEC was educate to all: access, universal retention, equity, achievement of children, enrollment expanding, raising learning outcome and reducing gaps of learning outcome. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, 2001 recommended Universal Elementary Education. National Curriculum Framework, 2005 recommended community participation for quality and accountability.

86 Amendment to the constitution of India was done in 2002 and Article 21A was introduced in the Indian constitution. According to the article education became fundamental right of children. According to article, 21A Right of children To Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 was passed by Government of India. According to RTE Act, 2009 it is responsibility of government of India to provide free and compulsory education to children of the age 6 to 14 years.

In Part 4 of RTE Act, 2009 according to section 21, every government school (other than non-grant schools) form School Management Committee before 30 september,2010. School Management Committee perform the functions:

- a) Monitoring school functioning
- b) Preparing School Development Plan.
- c) Monitoring and Utilization of funds received from Govt. and others.
- d) Monitoring MDM scheme in the school.

According to RTE Act, 2009 article 21A of Indian constitution, School Management Committees has been constituted in all schools to perform the above mentioned function.

Researcher wants to take review of the current status of the SMCs. To find out the Current Status of School Management Committees of Zilha Parishad Upper Primary Schools in Ahmednagar District, researcher took review of the related literature. **Rout (2014)** in his study Functioning of School Management Committees in Rural Elementary Schools: A case study, it is observed SMC was performing supportive role of controlling and monitoring school, 100% enrollment and 100% presentee, teacher's regularity and punctuality, utilization of funds in the school but didn't do better for PTR. **Kumar (2016)** in his study Roles and functions of School Management Committee of Government Middle Schools in district Kullu of Himachal Pradesh: A case study, it is observed SMCs were formed according to the norms of RTE Act, 2009. Majority of SMC members aware of the functions and knew their roles and responsibilities regarding SMC. SMCs were doing better to prepare SDP and develop basic facilities: toilet, electricity, drinking water, TLM and sports equipments. Due to SMCs enrollment and retention rate was improved but lack of administrative support frustrate the members. **Sherawat and Roy (2021)** in her study Expected Roles and Function of the School Management Committee: An investigation for effective functioning, observed proper selection process of SMC as per the norms of RTE Act, 2009 was not followed. It is also revealed that the schools were not having PTR as per the norms of RTE and teachers were involved in the non academic duties instead of involving performance improvement of students. Members were not conveyed the meeting agenda before 8 days and active participation of SMC members were not taken. **Rajbongshi (2020)** in her study on the School Management Committee in Monitoring and Supervision of Elementary Education in Sivsagar District of Assam observed SMC members were not aware of RTE rules and they could not perform their role effectively. SMC members need support and knowledge based training. SMC need influential and capacity building efforts for implementation school level decisions.

Rationale of study:

School Management Committee (SMC) performs different functions related for over all development of the primary education. It controls and monitor the school, prepare the school

development plan (SDP) and keep watch on grants received by government and other sources and maintain the record. SMC creates awareness about responsibilities of parents, schools, local bodies and state government related to child right. It has to take follow up of teacher's duty, solve their problems, sanction the casual leave to headmaster and recommend the long leave and keep watch on teacher's irregularity, misbehave, and regular absentee. SMC has to observe school building construction and repairing of the school. The functions like Enrollment and retention of children, their progress and availability of learning facilities in the school, the SMC also have to do. Responsibility of observing MDM and maintaining the income and expenditure record is of SMC. It has to bring the out of school children in the main stream of education and make them lifelong learners. All above are the functions of SMCs and their purpose is Universal Elementary Education for all and community participation in the education. Thus SMC plays very prominent and important role in primary education. Especially in the rural areas responsibilities of SMCs are more important. Many studies have been done related to roles of SMCs all over India. But in Maharashtra and especially in Ahmednagar district none of the study done related to SMCs on upper primary level. Therefore, the investigator is interested to study the current status of functioning of SMCs in the upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the current status of School Management Committees of zilha parishad upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district.
2. To study the difficulties in functioning of School Management Committees of zilha parishad upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district.
3. To suggest the solutions to the difficulties in functioning of School Management Committees of zilha parishad upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district.

Investigator have some questions regarding to the present study. These questions are related to five different areas of SMCs:

1. SMC awareness
2. Student and their learning
3. School development plan
4. School monitoring and controlling
5. Grant deployment

Research Questions:

1. Does SMC members have awareness about structure, role and functions of SMC?
2. Does SMC perform the role of school monitoring and controlling as per RTE Act, 2009?
3. Does SMC work for children's education properly according to the RTE Act, 2009?
4. Does SMC prepare School Development?
5. Does SMC utilise the grants received by government and other sources properly?

Delimitations of the study:

There were certain delimitations of the present study. The study was delimited to the functioning of School Management Committee at upper primary level. The study was also delimited to the upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district covering rural and urban schools.

Method of the study:

The main aim of the study is to investigate the current status of School Management Committee of upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district. Hence, to achieve the major objective of the study, descriptive servy method was adopted by the investigator.

Population and Sample:

1. **Population:** The main objective of the study is to investigate the current status of School Management Committee (SMCs) of upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district. There are 14 educational blocks in Ahmednagar district. All the upper primary schools, all headmasters of upper primary schools, all SMC chairpersons and all the cluster heads of clusters in the Ahmednagar district was the population of the study.
2. **Sample:** Sample for the present study was selected from the above population. 3 blocks: Akole, Sangamner and Rahata were selected for the study. From three blocks 18 upper primary schools, 18 headmasters of upper primary schools, 17 chairpersons of the SMCs from 17 SMCs and 18 cluster heads from the 18 clusters were selected by random sampling method for the study.

Sampling method	Block	School	Headmaster	SMC chairperson	Cluster head
Random sampling	3	18	18	17	18

3. Tools and techniques:

For the present study self prepared questionnaires were used for school headmasters, SMC chairperson and cluster heads to collect appropriate data.

4. Procedure of data collection:

Permission of education officer was taken to collect data. Data for the present study was collected by using google forms. Google forms of all questionnaires were prepared. Separate what's app groups of head masters, SMC chairpersons and cluster heads were created. Google forms of questionnaire was send to the respective group. Clear instructions about filling up the google form were given on each what's app group. Investigator requested all the respondant for filling the google forms. Follow up was taken. After getting the responses, google spread sheets were developed and required data was collected.

5. Statistical technique:

Investigator applied simple statistical tool percentage to the received data to draw out conclusions.

Data Analysis and Findings:

Data related to 'The Current Status of Scho0l Management Committee of Upper Primary Schools in Ahmednagar district,' was collected by school head masters, SMC chairpersons and cluster heads with help questionnaire on an individual basis, was tabulated and analysed with the frequency count and percentage.

TABLE: 1 SMC awareness

Sr. no	Questions	head masters N=18				SMC chairperson N=17				cluster head N=18			
		y	%	n	%	Y	%	n	%	y	%	n	%
1.	Does SMC working in the school?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0
2.	Does SMC formed according RTE norms?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0
3.	DOE meetings of SMC according to RTE norms?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0
4.	Does notice of SMC meeting issued to SMC members before 8 days?	9	50	9	50	9	50	9	50	10	59	7	41
5.	Does selection of SMC members done through parent meeting?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0
6.	Does SMC Chairperson is selected among the SMC members?	18	100	0	0	15	88	2	12	18	100	0	0
7.	Does more than 50% members attend SMC meetings regularly?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	17	94	1	6
8.	Do women members attend SMC meetings regularly?	10	56	8	44	10	59	7	41	12	67	6	33
9.	Does proceeding of SMC meeting kept?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0
10.	Does proceeding of SMC meeting is available to see all?	17	94	1	6	16	94	1	6	14	77	4	23
11.	Do SMC members known their duties and roles?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	15	83	3	17
12.	Does SMC chairperson selected from student's father/mother or guardians?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0
13.	Does SMC restructuring take place after every 2 years?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	17	94	1	6

Table no.1 is related to the awareness of SMC members about the SMC of upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district.

1. The cent percent head masters, SMC chairperson (100%) and cluster heads (100%) admits that SMCs are working in their schools.
2. The cent percent head masters, SMC chairperson (100%) and cluster heads (100%) agreed that SMCs are formed according to RTE norms.
3. The cent percent head masters, SMC chairperson (100%) and cluster heads (100%) agreed that SMC meetings are conducted according to RTE norms.
4. 50% head masters, 50% SMC chairpersons and 59% cluster heads noted that agenda of SMC meeting is given to SMC members before 8 days and 50% of the head master, SMC chairpersons (50%) and 41% cluster heads responded that agenda of meeting is not given to the SMC members before 8 days.
5. The cent percent head masters (100%), SMC chairperson (100%) and cluster heads (100%) admits that selection of SMC members is done through parent meeting.
6. The cent percent head masters (100%), SMC chairperson (100%) and cluster heads (100%) admits that selection of SMC chairperson is done through SMC members.
7. The cent percent head masters (100%), SMC chairperson (100%) and cluster heads (100%) admits that minimum 50% of SMC members attend SMC meetings regularly.
8. 56% head masters, 59% SMC chairpersons and 67% cluster heads responded that women members of SMC attend the meetings regularly while 42% head master, 41% SMC chairperson and 33% cluster heads remarked that women members not attending the meetings regularly.
9. The cent percent head masters (100%), SMC chairperson (100%) and cluster heads (100%) noted that proceedings of SMC meeting was kept.
10. 94% head masters, the 94% SMC chairpersons and the 77% cluster heads responded that proceeding of SMC meetings were available to all, Where 6% head master, 6% SMC chairperson and 23% cluster heads remarked that proceeding of SMC meetings were not available to all.
11. The cent percent head masters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 83 % cluster heads noted that SMC members know their duties and role, where 17% cluster heads do not agree that SMC members know their duties and role.
12. The cent percent head masters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 83% cluster heads responded that proceeding of SMC meetings were available to all. Where 17% cluster heads remarked that proceeding of SMC meetings were not available to all.
13. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons and 94% cluster heads responded that restructuring of SMC of upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district are taking place after every two years. Where 6% cluster heads responded that restructuring of SMCs were not taking after every 2 years.

TABLE: 2 Student and their learning

Sr. no	Questions	head masters N=18				SMC chairperson N=17				cluster head N=18			
		y	%	n	%	y	%	n	%	y	%	n	%
14.	Does SMC works for 100% Enrollment and students 100% Attendance.	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0
15.	Does SMC works for out of school children and children having special needs to bring them in main stream and retain them?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	17	94	1	6
16.	Does SMC monitor the MDM properly?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	15	83	3	17
17.	Does SMC takes students' progress review regularly?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	16	88	2	12
18.	Does SMC works for students making available learning facilities?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	17	94	1	6
19.	Does SMC works to create the awareness about responsibilities of parents, school and local bodies about the right of children?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	15	83	3	17

Table no.2 related to 'students and their learning' of upper primary schools in Ahmednagar district.

11. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons and cluster heads responded that SMC works for 100% enrollment and 100% attendance.
12. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons and 94% cluster heads admitted that SMC works for out of school children and children having special needs. But 6% cluster heads disagreed that SMCs are working for out of school children and special need children.
13. The cent percent head masters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 83% percent cluster heads said that SMCs monitor the MDM properly, where 17% cluster head observed that SMCs does not monitor MDM properly.
14. The cent percent head masters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 88% percent cluster heads agreed SMCs takes review of Student's progress regularly, where 12% cluster heads not agreed SMCs take review of Student's progress regularly.
18. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 94% cluster heads observed SMCs were making available learning facilities to the students where 6% cluster heads not agreed SMCs were making available learning facilities to the students.
19. The cent percent head masters and SMC chairpersons (100%) and 83% cluster heads agreed that SMCs works for creating awareness about the responsibilities of parents, schools and local

bodies regarding children's right, where 17% cluster heads did not agree that SMC works for creating awareness about the responsibilities of parents, schools and local bodies regarding children's

TABLE: 3 School development plan

Sr. no	Questions	head masters N=18				SMC chairperson N=17				cluster head N=18			
		y	%	n	%	y	%	n	%	y	%	n	%
20	Does School Development Plan is prepared in the SMC meeting?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	15	83	3	17
21	Does SMC works to develop the physical facilities planned in SDP?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	17	94	1	6
22	Does SMC keep watch on classroom and other constructions, casual and special repairing in the school?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	17	94	1	6
23	Does SMC monitor school norms for recognition according RTE (classrooms, furniture, library, kitchen shed, toilet, drinking water etc.)?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	15	83	3	17

Table number 3 related to making of School Development Plan (SDP) by SMC.

20. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 83% cluster heads agreed that SMC prepares SDP, where 17% cluster heads did not agree that SMC prepare SDP.

21. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 94% cluster heads agreed that SMC works to develop physical facilities planned in SDP, where 6% cluster heads did not agree that SMC works to develop physical facilities planned in SDP.

22. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 94% cluster heads agreed that SMC keep watch on classroom constructions, casual and special repairing in the schools. where 6% cluster heads did not agree that SMC keep watch on classroom constructions, casual and special repairing in the schools.

23. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons (100%) and 94% cluster heads agreed that SMC monitor school norms for recognition according to RTE (classrooms, furniture, library, kitchen shed, toilet, drinking water etc.) where 6% cluster heads did not agree that SMC monitor school norms for recognition according to RTE (classrooms, furniture, library, kitchen shed, toilet, drinking water etc.).

TABLE: 4 School monitoring and controlling

Sr. no	Questions	head masters N=18				SMC chairperson N=17				cluster head N=18			
		y	%	n	y	%	n	y	%	y	%	n	%
24	Does SMC monitor the working of school?	16	88	2	12	17	100	0	0	16	88	2	12
25	Does SMC sanction H.Ms casual leave and recommend the long leave?	11	61	7	39	11	64	6	36	12	66	6	34
26	Does SMC monitor teacher's irregularity, misbehave and regular absentee?	17	94	1	6	17	100	0	0	16	88	2	12
27	Does SMC take Follow up of teacher's duty?	17	94	1	6	17	100	0	0	16	88	2	12
28	Does SMC solves Teacher's problems?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	18	100	0	0

Table number 4 related to school monitoring and controlling by SMC.

24. The 100% SMC chairpersons, 88% head masters and cluster heads noted that SMC did the monitoring and controlling of schools, where 12% head masters and cluster heads did not agree that SMC did the monitoring and controlling of schools.

25. The 66% cluster heads, 64% SMC chairpersons and 61% head masters noted that head master's casual leave was sanctioned and long leave was recommended by SMCs, where 39% head masters, 36 SMC chairpersons and 34% cluster heads noted that SMCs did not sanction casual leave and recommend long leave.

26. The cent percent SMC chairpersons, 94% head masters and 88% cluster heads noted that SMCs monitor teacher's irregularity, misbehave and regular absentee, where 12% cluster heads and 6% head masters noted that SMCs did not monitor teacher's irregularity, misbehave and regular absentee.

27. The cent percent SMC chairpersons, 94% head masters and 88% cluster heads noted that SMCs take the follow up of teacher's duties, where 12% cluster heads and 6% head masters noted that SMCs did not take the follow up of teacher's duties.

28. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chairpersons and cluster heads noted that SMCs solve the problems of teacher

TABLE: 5 Grand deployment

Sr. no		head masters N=18				SMC chairperson N=17				cluster head N=18			
		y	%	n		y	%	n	%	y		n	
29	Does SMC keep watch on the deployment of grants received by govt. and other sources?	18	100	0	0	17	100	0	0	17	94	1	6
30	Does SMC prepare income and expenditure record of school?	11	61	7	39	16	89	1	11	10	56	8	44

The table number 5 related to grants received by Government and other sources and its deployment.

29. The cent percent headmasters, SMC chair persons (100%) and 94% cluster heads noted that SMCs keep watch on deployment of grants recieved by Government or any other resources, where 6% cluster heads noted that SMCs did not keep watch on deployment of grants recieved by Government or any other resources.

30. The 89% SMC chairpersons, 61% head masters and 56% cluster heads agreed SMCs prepare income and expenditure record of schools, where 44%cluster heads, 39% headmasters and 11% SMC chairpersons did not agreed that SMCs prepare income and expenditure record of schools.

Conclusions:

1. SMCs are formed according to RTE norms and working in all upper primary schools.
2. SMC meetings are conducted according to RTE norms in all upper primary schools.
3. Agenda of SMC meeting is not given to the SMC members before 8 days in most of upper primary schools.
4. Selection of SMC members is done through parent meeting, Selection of SMC chairperson is done through children's father, mother/parents (SMC members) in all upper primary schools.
5. SMC members know their duties and roles and minimum 50% SMC members attend SMC meetings regularly in all upper primary schools.
6. Attendance Of women members in SMC meetings is not satisfactory in upper primary schools.
7. The proceeding of SMC meeting is kept and make available to all in upper primary schools.
8. SMC restructuring is taking place in all upper primary schools after every 2 years.
9. SMCs are working for 100% enrollment, 100% presentee, out of school children and children having special needs in all upper primary schools.
10. SMCs create awareness of responsibilities of parents, schools and local bodies about right of children, monitor MDM scheme, making learning facilities available in the schools and take the review of students' progress regularly in all upper primary schools.
11. SMCs prepare School Development plan and work in developing school physical facilities planned in SDP in upper primary schools.

12. SMCs keep watch on classroom and other constructions, casual and special repairing and monitor RTE recognition norms in (classrooms, furniture, library, kitchen shed, toilet, drinking water etc.) in upper primary schools.
13. Situation of sanctioning H.M.'s casual leave and recommending long leave by SMCs is not satisfactory in upper primary schools.
14. SMCs take follow up of teachers' duties, solves teachers' problems and observe teachers irregularity, misbehave and regular absentee in upper primary schools.
15. SMCs always keep watch on deployment of funds received by government and prepare income and expenditure record of schools.

Suggestions:

For Head Masters: As a secretary of SMC:

1. Head master should organize SMC meeting once in a month and give notice of SMC meeting to SMC members before 8 days.
2. Headmaster should keep proceeding of SMC meetings and make it available to all.
3. Headmaster should restructure the SMC after every 2 years
4. Headmaster should prepare SDP with the help of SMC.
5. Headmaster should get sanctioned casual leave and demand for long leave from SMC.
6. Head master should always keep good contacts and communication with SMC chairperson as well as SMC members to monitor and control the functioning of school.
7. Meeting of SMC should organize according to the time of members.

For SMC chairpersons:

1. The SMC chairpersons should fully aware of the SMC rules and regulations given in the RTE Act, 2009.
2. The SMC chairpersons should keep watch on functioning of schools.
3. The SMC chairpersons should take review of teacher's regularity, teachers misbehave and absentee, take follow up of teacher's duties and solve the teacher's problems if any.
4. The SMC chairpersons should sanction casual leave of headmaster and recommend the long leave

For cluster heads:

1. Cluster heads should attend SMC meeting regularly to observe the functioning of SMC.

For SMC members:

1. SMC members should attend the SMC meetings regularly and take part in different activities organized by school.
2. Women members of SMC should attend the SMC meeting regularly.
3. SMC members should study the rules and regulations of SMC mentioned in RTE, 2009

For government:

1. Government should organize awareness training to the SMC chairperson and members.

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