**Economic Review of Tripura: 2015-16**

**(School Education)**

**Vision** : Developing schools as participative learning organizations to improve quality of education for building a value-based society.

**Mission**: Quality – centered education to facilitate learning and thinking for all round personality development of students in a conducive atmosphere.

**Objectives:** ♦Providing free and compulsory education.♦ Improving quality of education in a child friendly -teaching learning- process. ♦ Equitable inclusion of disadvantaged and weaker sections of the society. ♦ Formulating policy and carrying out institutional and systemic reforms to strengthen academic learning.

**Expansion of School Education.**

 Human resource development is considered as one of the critical factors in achieving economic growth of a country and has a far-reaching impact on socio-economic transformation as is witnessed across the countries .More importantly, inclusive growth which is currently much talked about is an impossible proposition without education for all. In fact ,no one can meaningfully participate in the developmental activities of a country nor can reap the benefit of development ,unless he or she is educated Thus ,much of the development of other sectors – agriculture infrastructure ,Industry and other allied sectors depends on the level of human resource development of a country.

 Keeping this in view, the State Govt. is according highest priority to education in its agenda since it attained statehood in 1972 and has been spending 12-14%of its annual budget for school education. The state School Education Department has been implementing some flagship programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal .and Rastriya Madhyamick Shiksha Abhiyan for improving the status of elementary and secondary education in the state. Simultaneously, the state is making sincere efforts through its literacy programme to make the state fully literate. Now, the literacy rate of Tripura is **96.82%.** In 2015-16, the state supplied girls’ bi-cycle **to 20,000 girls** students of class IX belonging to poor families with an annual income upto Rs 1.25 lakhs under a new scheme which is started in the financial year 2013-14 & In 2015-16 ,**5,06,365** children of Primary & Upper Primary ( I-VIII) have been benefitted under Mid day Meal Scheme.

 For reaching out more close to the public and the smooth running of administrative works, the State Govt. has segregated the Directorate of School Education into two parts accordingly to the cabinet decision in the year 2016 like the **Directorate of Elementary Education** for monitoring the functions of the elementary section of a school i.e from class I to Class VIII and the **Directorate of Secondary Education** which deals with the functions from class IX to class XII .

**Forward Moving**

 As an impact of the successful implementation of state’s own plan schemes as well as centrally sponsored flagship programmes, the state has witnessed a phenomenal expansion and improvement in the field of school education in terms of number of schools ,enrolment, school infrastructure development and manpower. Almost 100% net enrolment of 6 - 14 years old children has been achieved and gross enrolment at secondary stage is also in continuous increase. Drop-out rate at elementary stage is declining sharply and is likely to touch zero position in the next few years.

 **Major Focus areas**

 To sustain and push forward the progress and achievements so far made, the School Education Department will focus its all-round efforts on realizing the un-fulfilled targets and goals with emphasis on --

* Further enhancement of literacy rate to reach 100%.
* More facilities to access elementary and secondary education.
* Further reduction of gender-gap in enrolment, retention and completion of education.
* More supports to students belonging to SC, ST, RM and OBC.
* Removal of disparity at all level and ensure equity.
* Improvement of quality of education at all levels.
* Extension of ICT to all secondary level schools in phases.

**EXPANSION OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**

 “We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one’s own feet.”

 ----------Swami Vivekananda.

 Keeping this in view, the State Government has been playing a pivotal role in the development of the human resource of our state by providing all sorts of facilities as no community, state or nation can progress without the development of its human resource.

 The state Govt. is leaving no stone unturned for the expansion of education to each and every corner of the state which has been experienced by the state in the field of education since the acquisition of statehood in 1972. Recently a special emphasis has been given for improving the quality education to the entire process. By materializing different schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhijan, Mid day Meal, Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhijan, State Literacy Mission& SPQEM scheme our state is marching through the road of prosperity in the field of education. For reaching out more to the public and the smooth running of the administrative works, the State Govt. has segregated the Directorate of School Education into two parts accordingly to the cabinet decision in the year 2016 like the **Directorate of Elementary Education** for monitoring the functions of the elementary section of a school i.e from class I to Class VIII and the **Directorate of Secondary Education** which deals with the functions from class IX to class XII . After all the maxim ‘’The first duty is to educate people “as articulated by Swami Vivekananda is the motto of the education policy of the State Govt.

 A brief documentation is provided here-under to understand the developmental trajectory.