

SPECIAL FOCUS DISTRICTS

Special Focus Districts (SFD) are identified on the basis of key indicators such as programme indicators (infrastructure gaps, gender gaps, retention rate, OoSC etc) and Social indicators (SC & ST concentrated districts, Minority Concentrated districts, Naxalite affected & Border Area Districts).

Some districts characterized by marginalization and backwardness are yet to be at par with other districts. This has created a growing need for focused attention under the programme on marginalized and backward districts in order to bring parity across the country. In view of the above-mentioned need the Ministry of HRD, decided to give special focus under SSA to backward districts identified on indicators of Infrastructure deficit districts, concentration of SCs, STs, and Minority, out of school children, high Gender Gap. In addition to these, districts identified by the Ministries of Tribal Affairs and Minority also included in the special focus districts. The Ministry identified total **412** districts (Ministry of Minority districts-121 + Ministry of Tribal affairs-54) based on the above said indicators and requested the concerned states to prepare detailed and need based plans for these districts so that the social & infrastructure gap can be bridged. Several thousand crores were sanctioned to these special focus districts under SSA, mainly for construction, teachers, new school and KGBVs. The number of districts identified in each category and basis for selection is as under.

ROGRAMME INDICATOR GROUP			SOCIAL CATEGORY GROUP				
Infrastructure Gap Distt.	OoSC > 40,000 Distt.	Gender Gap > 10% (P) & 20% (UP) Distt.	ST (25% & above) Distt.	SC (25% & above) Distt.	Minority Concentration Distt.	Naxalites Affected Distt.	Border Area Distt (BAD)
245	53	96	109	61	141	35	94
Category A	Category C		Category B				

Categories and basis for selection

1. SFD – A

- ACR gap > 3000 and PS:UPS ratio > 2.5:1
- Entitlement for civil construction upto 50% of the total outlay
- 245 districts

SFD-A districts have got higher outlay for all interventions including 50% of outlay for civil constructions. The focus is also to maximize all the activities for promotion of activities SC/ST/Minority children and girls. Attention was to give to improve the implementation and monitoring mechanisms in these districts.

2. SFD – B

- Concentration of SC, ST (25% and above) & Minority (121 PMOs + 88 Muslim)
- Naxal Affected and Border Area Districts.
- 314 districts

SFD-B districts are those districts, which are required to do targeted planning and resources allocation to address the requirements of children from socially disadvantaged groups in SC/ST/Minority categories, Naxalite affected and Border Area Districts (BAD) across all SSA interventions.

3. **SFD – C**

- OOSC > 40,000 and Gender gap > 10 % (P) & 20% (UP).
- Focus on enrolment of OoSC and reducing gender gap.
- 157 districts

SFD-C districts are those districts where the focus is directly on addressing the programme indicators showing deficit development e.g. number of out of school children and gender gap. The district plan provides for interventions to address that particular shortcoming e. g where there are large numbers of OSSC adequate provisions for AIE is ensured after proper social mapping and Household data.

Focus under RMSA

Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a national programme launched in a time bound manner where focus on **coverage of special focus groups** is also a prime concern under RMSA programme. Details are envisaged in **Chapter-VI** of the framework where education of children belonging to SC/ST/OBC and other educationally backward minorities are given high priority including 15 point programme for the welfare of minorities.

Major focus for coverage will be in the following components;

- Saturation of Access
- Enrolment
- Gender Gaps
- Retention
- CWSN
- Achievement level and
- Open schooling facility

Note: The above sections are given at Para 6.2.5 to 6.5.4 of the framework in **chapter-VI**.

Other than the above strategies **RMSA** also recognizes the need for extending following interventions and resource support to the children belonging to SC/ST/OBC educationally

backward children minorities including differently abled children at secondary and higher secondary stage:

- Providing textbooks, Workbooks and stationeries etc.
- Providing uniforms footwear etc.
- Boarding & lodging for each child
- Stipend for day scholars

Following points may be considered accordingly;

1. In view of the above precedence's, the identified special focus districts may be given highest priority in the AWP&Bs for the coverage after thorough mapping is to be done.
2. Survey & School mapping exercises must be done in the SFD at-least two months before submission of the districts plan to the MHRD /TSG.
3. Format as developed may be sent early before the appraisal is started.
4. Priorities in respect to all the components including civil-works must be worked-out by the concerned units and informed to all the special focus districts (SFD) before the appraisal.
5. A separate pre-appraisal at the state level may also be conducted in each state before the appraisal at the national level.

[Note: List of special focus districts and format are enclosed.]

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