

The Right to Education Campaign

The role Asha can play



Objectives

- Understand the context of the Right to Education (RTE) bill
- Support the RTE campaign
- Contribute to the campaign by means of time and resources



Background

- Constitution of India states that:
 - all children in the age group 6 to 14 have a fundamental right to free and compulsory education as will be detailed in law by the government
- Originally stated as:
 - "The State shall endeavor to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years."
- The Supreme Court in the case *Unnikrishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993)* ruled that the right to education is a fundamental right that flows from the Right to life in Article 21.
- In 1997, Government of India envisaged a constitutional amendment to make education a fundamental right
- In 2002 education as a fundamental right was passed as 86th amendment to the constitution.



Current Situation

- Education is a concurrent subject => both State and Center are responsible. By not passing a Central legislation for RTE, central government is abdicating its duties under the constitution.
- The government has circulated a Model Right to Education Bill 2006, asking state governments to enact their own laws conforming to its broad parameters.
- This model bill is a much diluted version of the original draft bill by CABE
- As a bait, the states were told that if they enacted the law the Centre would fund major portion of SSA.
- The amount spent by the states for elementary education is more than that by the central government.
- State governments will not care, even if some states enact the bill, it will be diluted further and implementation and usage of it will be a big question.
- **Loss is for the people, for the poor and for the young minds!**

Why did the govt. drop the bill?

- Main reason no money!!
 - Education is a fundamental right. It is an obligation of the government to provide the same.
 - Some Instances of Central Government spending:
 - In the year 2004-05 an additional Rs. 5,010 crore was collected through the 2% education cess for funding universal basic education, but only Rs.2000 crore extra was spent for the purpose.
 - The funds given in form of corporate subsidy (in terms of lost revenue generation) through the SEZ bill (which was passed in 2005) stands at Rs.90,000 crore as per finance ministry of India.
 - Government has allocated Rs. 9,320 crore in 2005-06 for National highway Development Program (NHDP).
 - Government has promised to spend an additional Rs.20,000 crore (estimated) on increasing seats in higher education institutions over the next three years.



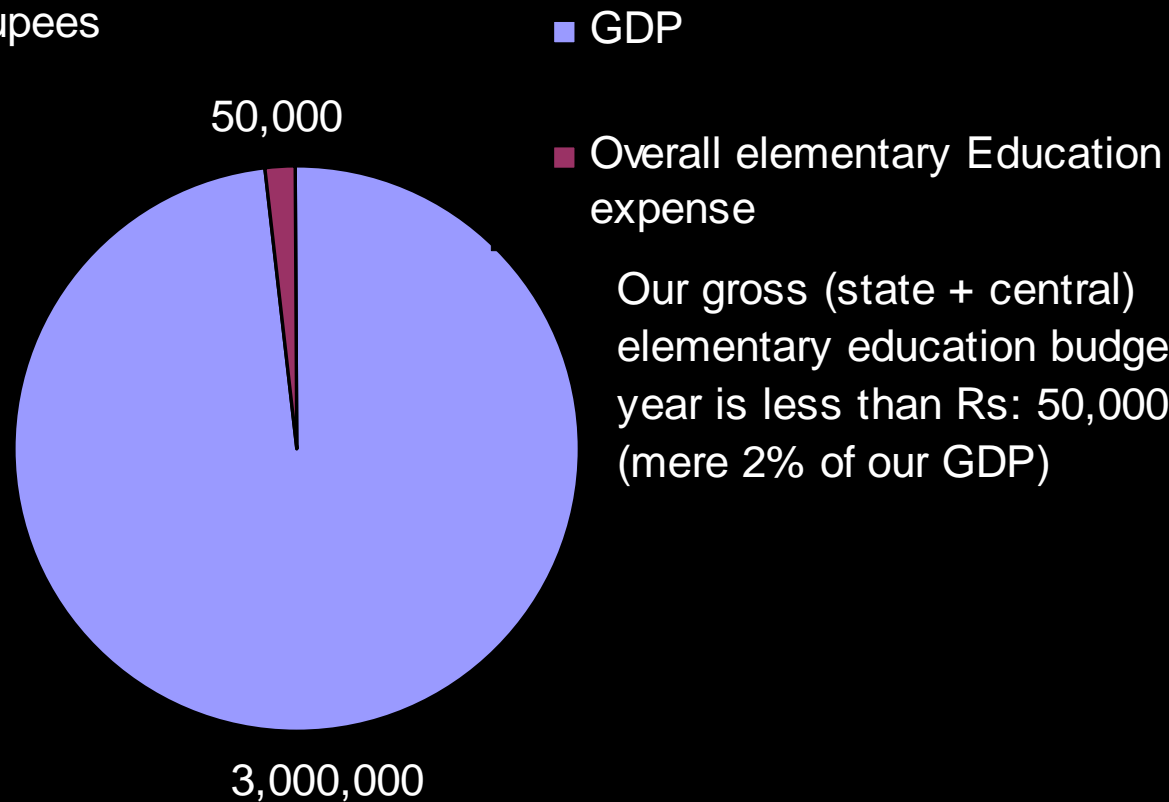
How much does it cost?

- **CABE** :Implementation of the Bill will require an annual average of Rs 53,500 crore to Rs 72,700 crore **more** for next six years
 - the current expenditure on primary education is nearly Rs 46,000 crore
 - If the government enacts a law, then an addition of Rs 36,000 crore need to allocated.
 - some state governments may be fiscally constrained to fund this incremental expenditure
- This would imply an estimated increase of 6.4%-8.5% to the central government's annual budget.



Statistics** (Expenditure*)

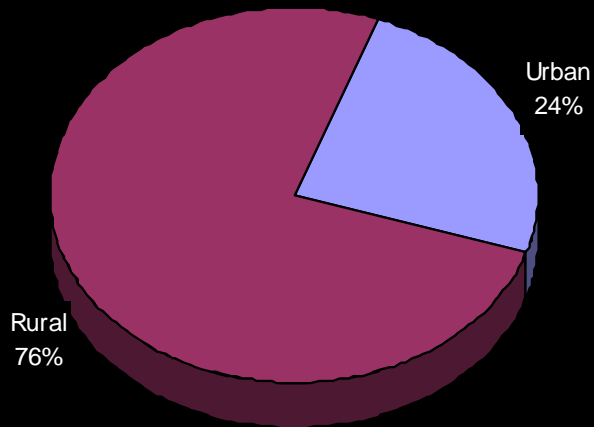
In crore of Rupees



* The less than 2% of GDP computation is from the CABE report
<http://education.nic.in/htmlweb/cabe/Fcebill.pdf>

** The statistics represented in this document are from
<http://www.educationforallindia.com/analyticalreport2005tables.pdf>

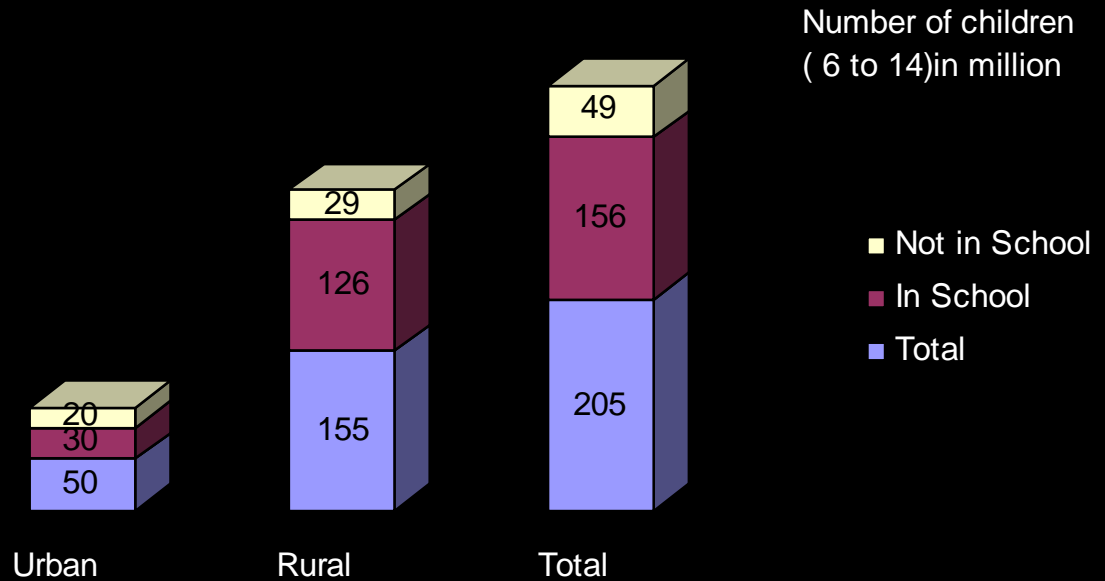
Statistics (Number of Children)



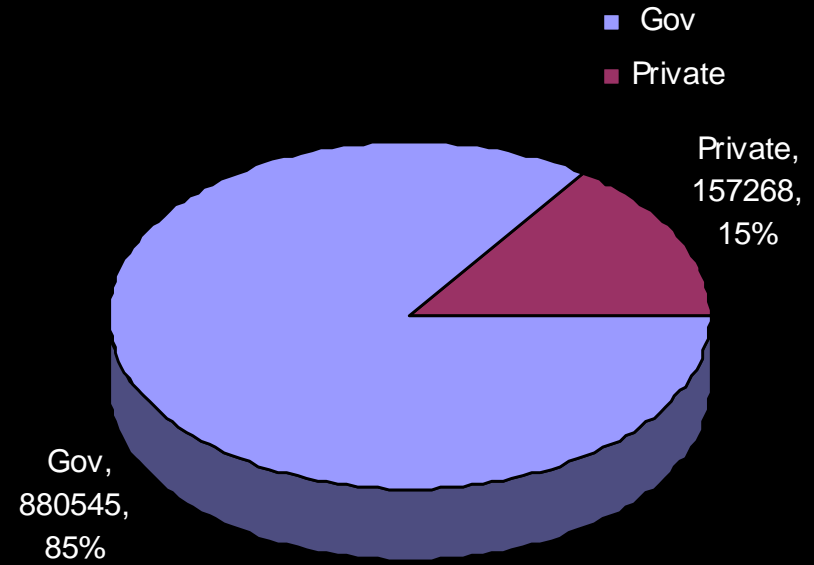
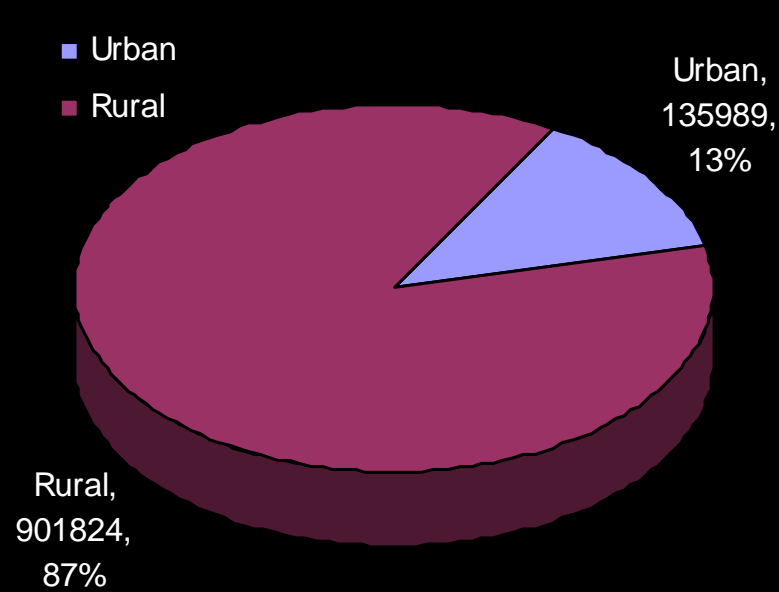
Number of children (6 to 14)in million

	Total	In School	Not in School
Urban	50	30	20
Rural	155	126	29
Total	205	156	49

450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0



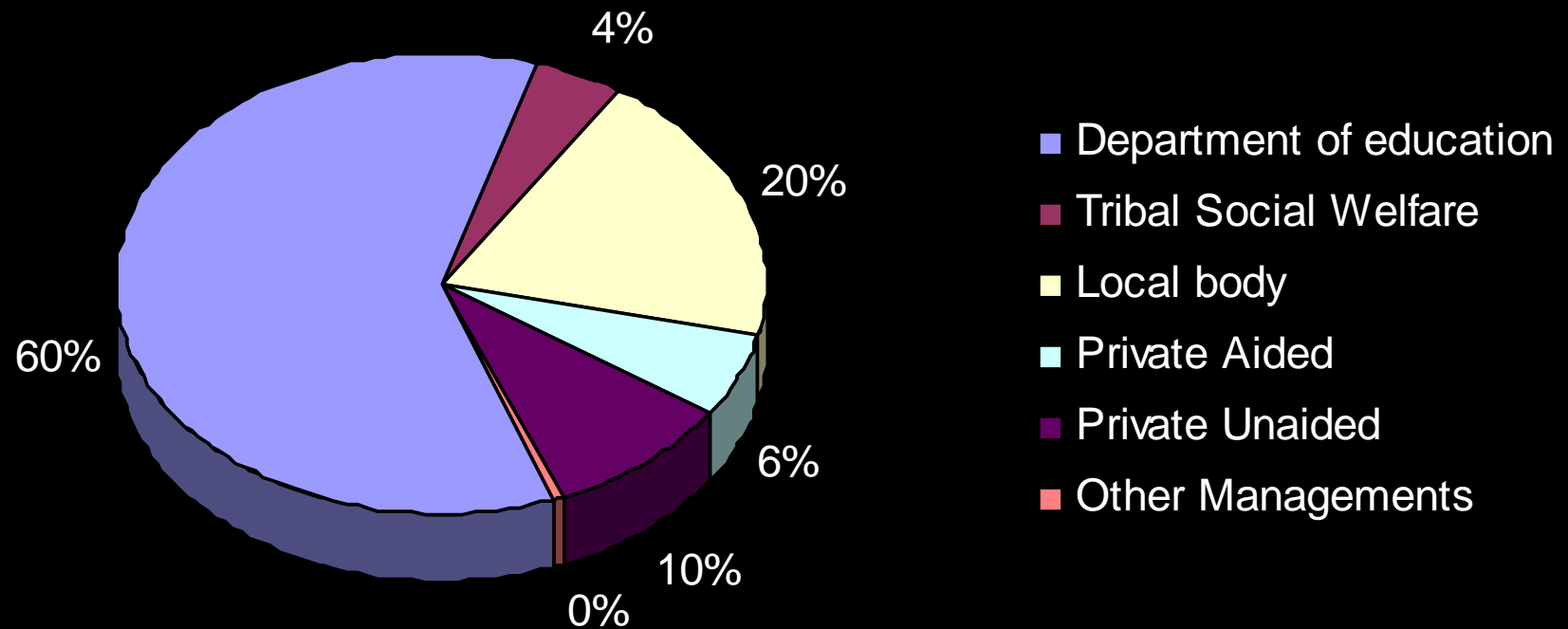
Statistics (Number of Schools)



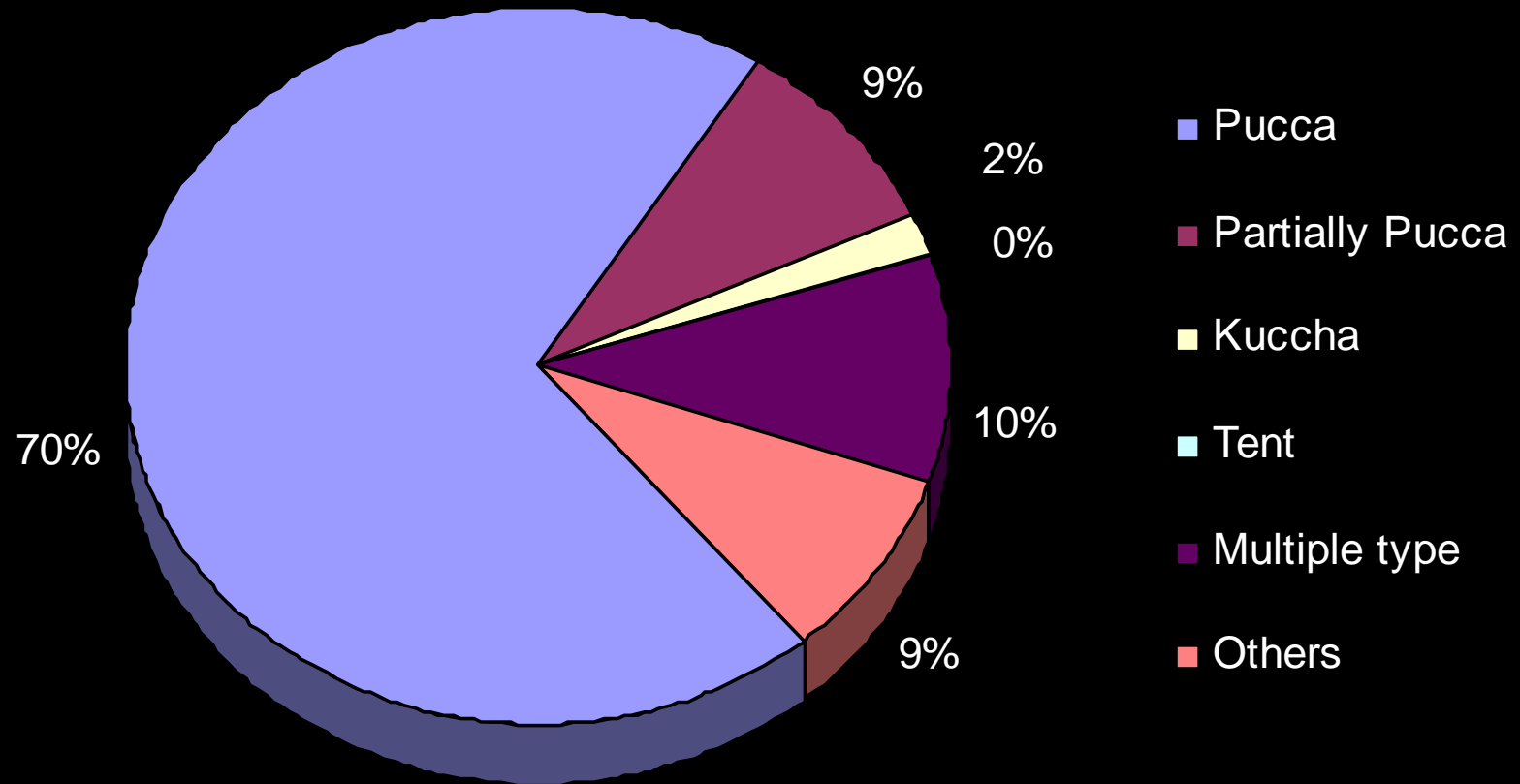
Number of schools

Urban	135989	Gov	880545
Rural	901824	Private	157268
Total	1037813	Total	1037813

Statistics (Management type)



Statistics (Infrastructure)



Statistics (Quality)

As % of total schools

- Single Teacher 14%
- No drinking water 20%
- No Toilet 54%
- No electricity 72%
- No black board 8%
- Black board at ground level 47%
- Computer in School 9%
- No play ground 50%

What can the RTE bill do?

- It can increase the standard of infrastructure
- Provide education of “equitable quality”
- Thru SMC, it can increase the participation of the people, check corruption.
- Clear roles and guidelines for the governments
- Above all, it will give a legal infrastructure thru which we can question and improve our elementary education.



Campaign Demands

- **Not abdicate its constitutional obligation**
- **Recognize the importance of elementary education**
- **Present the Right to Education Bill in the Indian Parliament**
- **Provide for Free and Equitable Education**
- **Make Right to Education Enforceable and Justiciable**
- **Provide space for public feedback and criticism**
- **Provide for Timely Implementation of the Bill**



Asha Efforts

- Accountability Protest on 14th August at the Indian Consulate in San Francisco
- Other upcoming efforts
 - To publicize the issue locally (15th August Melas, etc.)
 - Online petition
 - Media support, press releases
- Future efforts
 - To put pressure on GoI to take up RTE bill
 - Provide feedback on various sections of bill



Conclusion

- Right to Education Bill is a step in the right direction to address the anomalies and disparities in elementary education.
- Politics that recognizes education as a right of the citizen and that attempts to build organic links between educational institutions and the community is essential for improving our education system.



What can we do?

- Read and educate ourselves about the issue
- Sign the petition and forward it to friends and family
- Participate in the campaign by providing your technical, artistic, and/or other skills
- Persevere and continue to strive for the cause of education, education related issues and policies!
- Come join the protest on the 14th

