



**Budget Speech**  
**of**  
**Mass Education Extension &**  
**Library Services Department**  
**2021-2022**

**Demand No. 14**

**By**

**Janab Siddiqullah Chowdhury**  
**Minister-in-Charge**

**Department of Mass Education**  
**Extension & Library Services**

**Hon'ble Mr. Speaker Sir,**

I rise to present the budget of the Mass Education Extension and Library Services Department for the financial year 2021-22.

On the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 381,56,23,000 /- ( Three hundred eighty one crore fifty six lakh twenty three thousand) only be granted for expenditure under Demand No.14 , Major Head : "2202-General Education", " 2205-Art & Culture ", " 2235-Social Security and Welfare", " 2251-Secretariat Social Services", " 2515- Other Rural Development Programmes ", " 4202-Capital Outlay on Education - Sports, Art and Culture" and "4235 - Capital Outlay on Social Security and Welfare". The present motion for Demand No. 14 covers the provision for the Mass Education Extension & Library Services Department during the financial year 2021-22.

While presenting the budget for the Department, I take pleasure to inform the Hon'ble members that specific intervention since the inception of the pro-people Govt. i.e. "Ma-Mati Manusher Sarkar" has brought about qualitative improvement in the functioning of the Department not only at the State level but also at the lower levels. Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that we have been able to set new standards in administering the affairs of the Department. At its core, lies our determination to serve the people with an inclusive approach . Our initiatives in carrying forward the activities of the Department are not merely confined in taking policy decisions to cleanse the system but extend to take concrete measures to address specific requirements of



the ground realities. The Hon'ble members will be happy to know that we have introduced democratic functioning in the management structures of the libraries and have involved the right persons who can contribute substantially to our vision for reaching the benefits of our library network even to the farthest corners of the State. It has also been the constant endeavour of our Government to bring about qualitative change in the whole spectrum of the activities of the Government which essentially hinge on transparency, de-politicization and common interests of the masses. Our initiatives have also been directed towards ensuring free flow of information and knowledge through our library network. The infrastructural development and expansion of library services for Jungle Mahal, SC/ST dominated areas and minority dominated areas have been specially taken care of. Hon'ble Members will further be happy to know that we have already taken a number of administrative steps for better management of the Special Schools for the visually impaired, physically challenged and mentally retarded children across the State under the administrative control of the Department.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Department of Mass Education Extension & Library Services being a service oriented Department, is sensitive to the aspirations of the various cross sections of the people, with particular focus on women and marginalized sections of the society. At the same time we are keen to preserve and protect our rich cultural heritage through our Departmental activities, particularly in the matter of maintenance of Libraries and their rich collections of Books - ancient and contemporary.

Before I go into the details of the Budget proposals for the year 2021-2022, I would like to mention that we have gained experiences during the last ten years in office, and based on the successes we have achieved and the lessons we have learnt, we shall continue with the road map we have drawn with the sincerity and sensitivity it requires. We are not complacent in



what we have achieved, rather, we are more determined to achieve what we have not.

The Department of Mass Education Extension and Library Services comprises of 2(two) directorates viz. the Directorate of Library Services and the Directorate of Mass Education Extension.

Hon'ble Members,

Let me first take up the matters which are related to the Library Services Directorate:

Public Library is considered as people's university. Public Libraries act as centre for all round socio economic and cultural development which in turn leads to a source of quality education of the common people. The library also is a place where people of all age group might visit irrespective of caste, creed, religion and gender. First Public Library was established in the year 1836 in undivided Bengal. Presently West Bengal has a well developed Network of Public Libraries under the control of Department of Mass Education Extension & Library Services. After several attempts West Bengal Public Library Act was enacted in the year 1979.

Presently there are 2480 Public Libraries in West Bengal out of which, there are 13 Govt. Public Libraries, 2460 Govt. Sponsored Public Libraries and 7 Govt. Aided Libraries. Out of 2473 Govt. and Govt. sponsored Libraries there are 1 State Central Library, 1 Special Library (i.e. Uttarpara Jaikrishna Public Library), 26 District Libraries, 236 Town / Sub division Libraries and 2209 Rural/ Area/ Primary Unit Libraries. The Department is in the process of improving Library Services through different traditional and innovative activities.

The Department has taken up following works to achieve the goal.



## **1. Infrastructural Development:**

Infrastructural Development by way of sanctioning grants for construction, repair renovation of Government and Government Sponsored Public Libraries as well as for purchase of books, furniture, supply of drinking water in the libraries etc. are a major thrust area of this Directorate.

Special thrust has also been given for the development of the public libraries situated in the Jungle Mahal, SC/ST dominated area, Minority area and economical backward areas of West Bengal.

## **2. Modernisation Programme :**

An endeavour to modernize public libraries in the State was initiated by networking through a Wide Area Network (WAN) linking the apex State Central Library and the 25 District Libraries through creation of a Web Portal. Total 796 Libraries have been brought under the purview of computerization programme. Training has been imparted to the Librarians of those libraries. 35,416 rare and old books have been converted into the digital format. 35,416 books are now available in the digital archives of the portal ([www.wbpublibnet.gov.in](http://www.wbpublibnet.gov.in)).

## **3. Implementation of the Matching Schemes of State Govt. and Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF):**

State Govt. has been collaborating with Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation towards implementation of the matching schemes of the Foundation funded equally by the State Govt. and the Central Govt. These schemes include construction of Library buildings, storage and display of books, purchase of books, mobile library services and organization of workshops / seminars, Book Fairs, computerization of State Central Library, District Libraries and other Public Libraries. Efforts have been taken to implement schemes this year.



#### **4. Organization of Book Fairs in the Districts :**

Book Fairs are being organized in the Districts every year under the supervision of Local Library Authorities. These fairs give an opportunity to the book lovers and libraries at the district level to get books of their choice at their door steps.

In the year 2020-2021, Book Fairs have been organized as per Central Schedule i.e., the schedule prepared by the Department.

#### **5. Career Guidance Centers in different libraries :**

The State Govt. created Career Guidance Centers in State Central Library, 26 Govt. and Govt. Sponsored District Libraries, and 232 Town / Sub divisional Libraries and have been getting special grant for this purpose.

The Career Guidance Centres are becoming very popular and helpful to the users i.e., the unemployed youths. They get various information from books, journals, newspapers, periodicals etc. for appearing in the competitive examinations and interviews.

#### **6. Financial Assistance to Non-Govt. and Non-Sponsored Libraries :**

State Government renders financial assistance to the Non Govt. and Non-Sponsored Libraries, Libraries under Non-Govt. and Non Sponsored Educational Institutions run by different Minority Communities in recognition of their services rendered to common people.

During 2019-20, Total Rs. 3,68,50,000/- (Rupees three crore sixty eight lakh fifty thousand) only was allotted and released to 1474 Non Govt. Non Sponsored libraries / Libraries under Non Govt. and Non-Sponsored Educational Institutions run by different Minority Communities of West Bengal in the State.

## **7. Community Library cum Information Centers in the districts :**

Community Library cum Information Centers (CLICs) were established in those Gram Panchayats where there is neither a Govt. nor a Govt. Sponsored Library. Till date 319 CLICs have been established.

From 2012-13 the Honorarium to the Community Library Organisers has been increased to Rs.1500/- from Rs. 800/- per month. Presently 198 CLICs are functional.

## **8. Purchase of books in language other than English and Bengali :**

Supply of books to public libraries in Nepali, Santhali, Urdu and Hindi languages has been undertaken by the Book Selection Committee for selection of books under the scheme of State Govt. and matching scheme of Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation. Librarians have been instructed to purchase such books from District Book Fairs.

## **9. Human Resource Development:**

The State Govt. is at present conducting Certificate Courses in Library Science at People's (Janata) Govt. College, Banipur, North 24 Parganas for the educated unemployed youth and deputed candidates working in the Govt. & Govt. Sponsored Libraries.

## **10. Convergence with School Education Deptt. :**

The Directorate is implementing a Convergence Scheme with School Education Department keeping reference books for school children in libraries and to cater services to the school children. Schools situated within 1 km of the libraries were taken into consideration. So far 1462 libraries were tagged with 1600 schools (Secondary and Higher Secondary) consisting of 57040 books, thus benefitting 53245 students.



## **11. Model Libraries :**

The idea of Model Libraries was conceived in the year 2016-2017 with the help of Indian Public Library Movement(IPLM), a frontal organization of NASSCOM. The training process in 85 model libraries has been almost completed. After completion the Model Libraries will act as Role Model for other libraries.

## **12. Cyber Corners :**

One Cyber Corner at State Central Library with 15 Computers, 3 Kindles and 2 Tabs with internet facility has been catering needs of the local people/ readers.

## **13. Special initiatives :**

- "Read Your Own Book" section in State Central Library where anybody may bring his / her own book and read in the library has been functioning in a more organized way and space under "Read Your Own Book" has been increased in the said library. Efforts have been taken to open "Read Your Own Book" section at some other libraries.
- Initiative has been taken for a drive of new membership in all the Public Libraries in the State. The members has been classified into four types : (i) Children Member ( upto 18 years age), (ii) General Member ( 18 years to 60 years), (iii) Senior Citizen Member ( above 60 years), (iv) Global Member ( Distinguished Person). So far about 3 lakhs readers have been applied for new membership.

**Hon'ble Members, now let me turn to the issue which are dealt through the Directorate of Mass Education Extension.**

The Directorate of Mass Education Extension is entrusted with the responsibilities of carrying out the following activities:

- I. Education and training for the children with special needs
- II. Welfare Homes



- III. Literacy Programme
- IV. Shramik Vidyapith
- V. Janata College
- VI. Scholarship to the students with special need
- VII. One Time Grant
- VIII. Felicitation to the students of Special Schools and Welfare Homes
- IX. Strengthening of Administrative Structure

**I. Education and training for the children with special needs :**

Of all the programmes implemented under the auspices of the Department of Mass Education Extension and Library Services, the programme for education and training for the children with special needs occupies the centre stage. This Directorate extends support to those Non-government organisations, who come forward to take care of the educational need of differently-abled students. In consonance with the provision of the PWD Act. 2016 and the relevant rules it is envisaged to expand the network of the existing schooling and hostel facilities for the children with special needs (Visual and Hearing impairments and the children suffering from Mental Retardation). Recognition is given to those organisations, for running the Institution which obey the specific Govt. rules and regulations. The number of Sponsored Special School under the control of this Department is 74 wherein 5544 numbers of students are scattered in different districts of the State. The present strength in Recognised Institutions is 4582. The State Government has given due consideration for coverage of more differently-abled children under its special schooling network. The State Government lays also emphasis on qualitative improvement of teaching in the schools through targeted interventions. Strengthening



of infrastructural facilities of special schools to suit the specific requirements of the students including provisions of musical instruments, hearing aids, transport facilities, handicrafts and other equipments is priority in this sector. Development of facilities of both indoor and outdoor games, felicitation for extra ordinary performances in academic and extra-curricular activities etc. of the students with special needs is also in focus areas. The students are provided with school shoes, school bags, festival and winter garments. Convergence with the School Education Department in respect of free text book distribution, free mid-day meal among the students in special schools has been set-up. Arrangement for availing free health checkup of the students of sponsored special schools has been made with the Health Department and local Hospitals. Endeavors are taken to upgrade the deserving schools from primary to upper primary and from upper primary to secondary standard. During the FY 2021-2022 budget allocation of Rs.979 lakh has been proposed in the Budget.

## **II. Welfare Homes :**

In keeping with the policy framework of the Government for coverage of large numbers of children under the social safety net, the State Government's efforts are on to strengthen the infrastructure facilities of the existing 50 units of Social Welfare Homes of the State of which 10 are State run, 1 is sponsored by the State Government and 39 are Government aided. The main purpose behind running the Welfare Homes under the Directorate of Mass Education Extension is to provide social security and education to children, who come from socially and economically marginalized sections of the society and who are incapable of arranging their basic needs. Apart from providing food, shelter and other basic necessities to the inmates of these Homes, education is imparted upto Higher Secondary level. The inmates, who attain 18 years



of age or pass out the Higher Secondary examination (whichever is earlier), are kept in these Homes. Presently, there are 5200 inmates residing at Welfare Homes. Maintenance grant @ Rs. 1600/- per inmate per month is provided to the inmates of the Homes. Also the inmates get school bags, school shoes, festival garments and winter garments. One-time grants are given to the authorities of Social Welfare Homes run by NGO. This apart, fund for conducting educational tour, sports are provided to the authorities of Social Welfare Homes. Every year the mega event of Sports & Cultural Meet is held at State level after completion of the competitions amongst the inmates at districts and zonal level of all welfare homes. Efforts will be taken for enhancement of existing rate of maintenance grant of inmate of Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 2200/- per month per inmate. Framing of new policy to affiliate more Aided Welfare Homes; enhancement of sanctioned strength of inmates of welfare homes will be initiated during this FY. Initiation of construction work of new building on the allotted land at Barrackpore, North 24 Pgs for the State Welfare Home (for girl inmates) which was accommodated at Dhanyakuria will be taken up. The process for setting up of new State Welfare Home at Gopalpur, Purulia II Block, in the district of Purulia will be undertaken. To provide vocational training for the inmates of Welfare Homes is a focused area under this sector. Convergence with the Deptt. of Technical Education, Training & Skill Development for training of the inmates in the Govt. colleges of ITIs, ITCs and Junior Polytechnic it is being taken up during this FY. In the current FY 2021-2022 an amount of Rs. 2100 lakh is proposed in this sector.

### **III. Literacy Programme :**

In the financial year 2021-2022, the scheme under literacy a new format, if taken up by the Government of India will be implemented subject to the approval of State Govt.



with the firm commitment to achieve the desired goal. This apart different programmes for awareness campaign for eradication of illiteracy, observance of International Literacy Day will be organized. The proposed budget under this head for 2021-2022 for implementation of different programmes under literacy schemes is Rs. 1350 lakh (including share of Central assistance).

#### **IV. Shramik Vidyapith :**

The aim of Shramik Vidyapith is to provide Vocational Training for skill development leading to job opportunities and self employment. The target group constitutes the dependent children of workers in the organized and unorganized sectors, who are literate, unemployed and above 15 years of age. Vocational training courses of different trades are conducted free of cost. Short term vocational training courses in different trades would be conducted if the suitable ambience is occurred after the present pandemic situation of COVID - 19.

#### **V. Janata College :**

The colleges are located at Banipur, North 24-Parganas and Kalimpong. The colleges conduct short term vocational training courses in different trades.

#### **VI. Scholarship to the students with special need :**

Disabled students of class IX onwards are given Scholarship under this programme. Those who score 40% marks in the last examination and whose family income is not more than Rs. 2 lakh per year, are provided with such scholarships. In the year 2021-2022, Rs.420 lakh has been proposed in the budget for awarding scholarship to eligible students with special need.

#### **VII. One Time Grant :**

Financial assistance is given to non-sponsored, non-recognised Institutions for students with disabilities and



Welfare Home for destitute children. Institutions having 10-50 students are given an assistance of Rs. 75000/- and Institutions having more than 50 students are given assistance of Rs. 1, 50,000/-.

#### **VIII. Felicitation :**

Disabled students of Special Schools and students of Welfare Homes, who perform well in the Madhyamik or Higher Secondary examination of the year concerned, are felicitated to encourage their efforts. The students who excelled in the said exams are felicitated in the programme to be organized at the district level.

#### **IX. Strengthening of Administrative Structure :**

The scheme/(s) for strengthening of administrative structure at state head quarter and district offices will be taken up. The proposed budget for the purpose for 2021-2022 is Rs. 252 lakh.

Total Budget for Rs 5100 lakh has been proposed for the Financial Year 2021-2022 for implementation of different schemes/ programmes pertaining to the Mass Education Extension Directorate and that has been allocated provisionally in different Heads of Accounts under Demand No.14.

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