



# Seventh International Conference on Adult Education

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● Sub-regional consultation  
South Asia

New Dehli, 30 March 2021, 2-5pm IST

Zoom link - <http://bit.ly/ConfinteaVII22>

# CONFINTEA VII Country Presentation of India

by

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**Adult Education Bureau**

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## March 30, 2021

### Profile of India

**Republic of India; Bharat Ganrajya**, is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It has achieved all-round socio-economic progress since its Independence. It covers an area of 32,87,263 sq. km, extending from the snow-covered Himalayan heights to the tropical rain forests of the south. India is the 7th largest country in the world with 28 States and 8 Union Territories. As per census 2011 total population of India is 1,210,193,422 (which includes 623.7 million males and 586.4 million females). The literacy rate of India is **74.04** per cent, (82.14 for males and 65.46 for females). The state of Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 93.91 per cent literacy rate, closely followed by Lakshadweep (92.28 per cent) and Mizoram (91.58 per cent).

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### FOCUS ON ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY

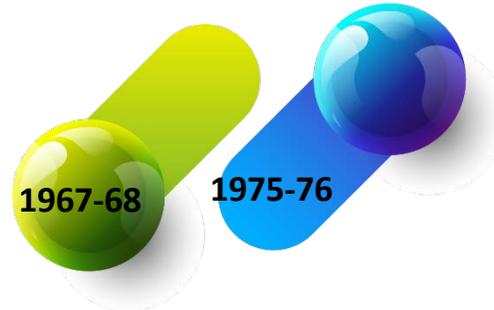
- **SDG 4.6** – “Ensure that all youth and adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy by 2030”
- As per **Census 2011**, the absolute number of illiterates of the country in 15 years and above age group are 25.76 crore (Male 9.08 crore, Female 16.68 crore) which is around 35% of world’s total adult illiterates.
- **National Education Policy of India 2020** recommends “strong and innovative government initiatives for adult education - in particular, to facilitate community involvement and the smooth and beneficial integration of technology - will be affected as soon as possible to expedite this all-important aim of achieving 100% literacy”.

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### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA SO FAR

**Farmer's Functional Literacy Project (FFLP)** An inter-ministerial project for farmers' training & functional literacy to promote the acceptance of high yielding variety and usher an era of Green Revolution



**Functional Literacy for Adult Women (FLAW):**

Scheme included a component which enabled illiterate adult women to acquire functional skills along with literacy, to gain better awareness of health, hygiene, child care practices and in the process facilitated attitudinal changes.

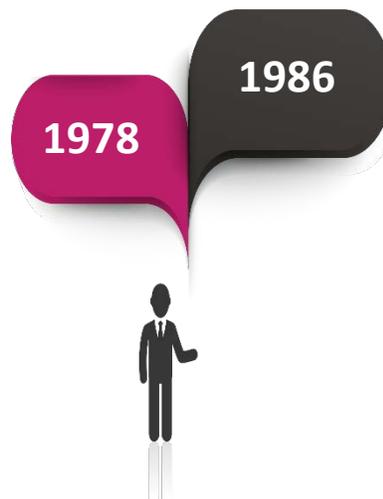
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### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA SO FAR

#### **National Adult Education Programme (NAEP)**

First nationwide literacy programme taken up at micro level to eradicate illiteracy through project approach was launched on 2nd October, 1978. Target of 10 crore non-literate adults in the age-group of 15-35 years within a time frame of 5 years.



#### **Rural Functional Literacy Project (RFLP) & Mass Programme of Functional Literacy (MPFL)**

Launched on May 1, 1986 for 15-35 age group by involving National Service Scheme (NSS) and other students in colleges and universities.

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## ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA SO FAR

### National Literacy Mission



National Literacy Mission (NLM)

Launched on 5th May, 1988 to impart functional literacy to non-literates in the country in the age group of 15-35 years. Composed of Total Literacy Campaign (TLC), Post Literacy Programme (PLP) and Continuing Education Programme (CEP). Under TLC around 12.74 crore Adult Learners were made literate.

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### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA SO FAR

### SAAKSHAR BHARAT

- Launched on 08.09.2009.
- Sanctioned in 404 districts in 26 States and 1 UT, covering 1.64 lakh GPs.
- Basic Literacy Primers in 14 languages and 28 local dialects were printed and distributed to learners.



- 10.08 crore learners appeared for the Basic literacy Assessment Tests conducted by NIOS during August, 2010 to March, 2018.
- 7.64 crore learners (Female: 5.38 crore, Male: 2.26 crore) passed the Assessment tests and were certified as literates.

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### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN INDIA SO FAR

#### Padhna Likhna Abhiyan (Reading Writing Campaign)

- Launched on 25.04.2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Sanctioned in all districts in 36 State/UTs, covering both rural and urban areas.
- New Basic Literacy Primers designed & developed by NCERT.



- 51 lakh adult illiterates targeted.
- New Citizenship Education like financial literacy, legal literacy, digital literacy, disaster management and civil defense and electoral literacy has been integrated in basic literacy curriculum.
- Basic Literacy Assessment Test will be conducted shortly by NLMA and NIOS.

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### New Approach of Adult Learning and Education (ALE)

- New National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education (NCFAE) with five types of programmes, i.e. **(a) Foundational literacy and numeracy; (b) Critical life skills; (c) Vocational skills; (d) Basic education; and (e) Continuing education.**
- Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)** for online learning, teaching and assessment & certification in the form of e-Certificate through mobile App.
- Special focus on citizenship education like legal literacy, financial literacy, digital literacy, etc. for adults.
- Adequate ICT support to Adult Education through Government as well as Philanthropic/CSR approach.
- Flexibility to States and UTs in implementing Adult Education.
- Adequate involvement of Social Media/ Media and other media for robust promotion and effective implementation of the scheme of adult education.
- Convergence and Partnership with public, private and international organizations.
- Strong political and administrative will, and effective decisions for implementation of Adult Education programme.
- Online Monitoring Framework for the Scheme.

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### Challenges and priorities for future action to promote ALE concepts and practices

- Highest number of Illiterates in country.
- Lack of participatory approaches i.r.o. Adult Education and Adult Education Centres (AECs).
- Inadequate resources of ICT enabled support
- Inadequate resources to implement Adult Education in the states/UTs.
- Lack of adequate budget and other financial assistance.
- Absence of legislation on Adult Education.

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### The priorities for future action to promote ALE concepts and practice will include following measures

- All illiterate of 15 years and above age group are to be made literate, there will be no geographical limitations in implementation of the Programme across the country. A robust scheme has been proposed to cover 13 crore non-literate adults
- Provision of *Continuing Education and Life Long Learning* beyond functional literacy for enhancement of quality of life viz. Basic Education, Skill Development and Critical Life Skills etc.
- A sustainable Institutional Framework at all levels of implementation with adequate financial resources.
- Intra and Inter-sectoral Convergence; Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships viz. PSUs, NGOs, Civil Society, International organizations.
- Support of Civil Society may be sought for achieving the target.
- Right to Adult Education to integrate formal, non-formal and informal learning through a well-designed framework. Alternatively, the scope of Right to Education (RTE) to be expanded to cover non-literate Adults.

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### Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on ALE

- Nation-wide lockdown effected Padhna Likhna Abhiyan (Reading Writing Campaign), a scheme of Adult Education during FY 2020-21.
- The scheme is school going students centric with *Each-1 Teach-1* approach within their vicinity or family/surroundings.
- The scheme is based totally on volunteerism however volunteers, voluntary teachers couldn't deliver their services to the scheme during Covid-19 pandemic.
- Adult non-literates couldn't be identified.
- Difficulties in transmission of Primers/Teaching Learning Materials for learners through physical mode.
- Difficulty in organizing online/virtual classes for adult learners due to unawareness and availability of adequate ICT support with volunteer teachers and adult learners.
- Lack of organizing physical training, physical consultation and other mass mobilization activities for promotion and implementation of adult education in the country.

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### Innovative practices in Citizenship Education (Critical Life Skills)

- Financial Literacy
- Legal Literacy – Rights, Duties and Entitlements
- Digital Literacy
- Electoral Literacy
- Disaster Management and Civil Defense
- Environmental Literacy
- Health care awareness and family welfare
- Child care and education
- Commercial skills
- Awareness on how apply (Voter registration, Aadhar, Forms related different entitlement/ schemes etc.) through offline and online mode

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### Prospects for Sub-Regional Cooperation

- Exchange of learning, experiences, best practices and innovative ideas of sub-regional cooperation as well as globally may be shared among the member countries.
- Sub-regional seminars/consultation meetings may be organized twice in a year on Adult Education in which participation of every member country may be made mandatory.
- National visits of sub-regional country delegation may be proposed on adult education and lifelong learning.
- Special orientation / training programmes may be organized for the government officers involved in implementation of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning activities.

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# Photographs

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### Voluntary Teachers

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### ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES



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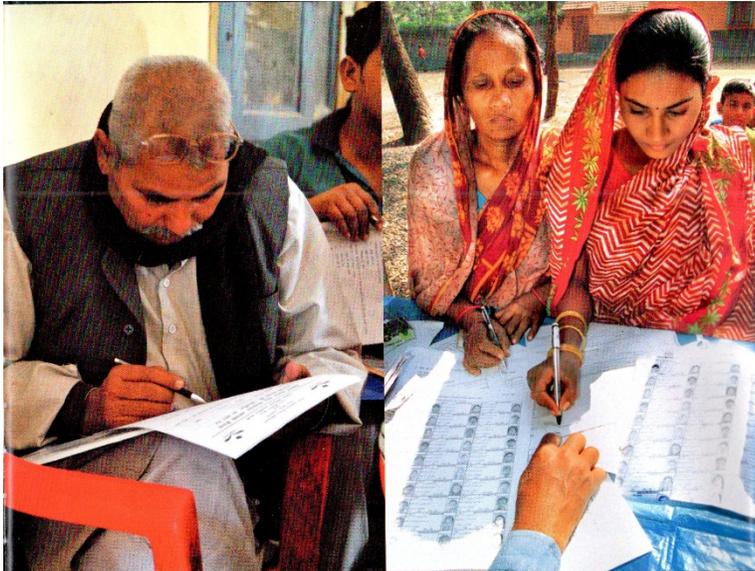
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### DIGITAL LITERACY CLASSES



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## CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION



## VC DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



*Thank you*