



OPERATION KAYAKALP: UPGRADATION OF 1.33 LAKH GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN UTTAR PRADESH

Operation Kayakalp "Ek Nayi Soch"

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Abstract : Operation Kayakalp was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in June 2018 to upgrade 1.33 lakh government schools with child and Divyang-friendly infrastructure. This extensive campaign covers 19 essential parameters and has involved interdepartmental financial convergence, technical and operational capacity building, comprehensive monitoring, and community participation. The initiative has led to significant improvements in school infrastructure, increased enrollment, reduced dropout rates, and enhanced teacher motivation.

IndexTerms - Component,formatting,style,styling,insert.

INTRODUCTION

Operation Kayakalp, initiated by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in June 2018, aims to renovate and create child and Divyang-friendly infrastructure in 1.33 lakh government schools. The program includes 19 essential infrastructural parameters such as toilets for boys, girls, and children with special needs (CWSN), safe drinking water, functional electricity connections, classroom furniture, and boundary walls. The program's goal is to create a conducive learning environment that can accommodate the diverse needs of all students.

NEED OF THE STUDY.

The quality of school infrastructure significantly impacts student learning outcomes, attendance, and overall academic success. Despite numerous government initiatives, many schools in India, especially in Uttar Pradesh, have historically faced severe infrastructural deficits. Poor sanitation, lack of clean drinking water, inadequate classrooms, and the absence of Divyang-friendly facilities have hindered inclusive education. Operation Kayakalp is a pioneering initiative aimed at addressing these gaps comprehensively. Studying its impact provides valuable insights into how infrastructure development can enhance the education system, promote higher enrollment, and create a more inclusive learning environment. Additionally, analyzing this initiative helps in understanding the replicability of such models for other regions facing similar challenges.

3.1 Population and Sample

The study focuses on government schools in Uttar Pradesh that have undergone infrastructure upgrades under Operation Kayakalp. A stratified random sampling method was used to select a representative sample of 5,000 schools across various districts. The selection criteria included schools from urban, semi-urban, and rural areas to ensure comprehensive coverage.

3.2 Data and Sources of Data

The data for this study was collected from multiple sources, including:

- Official government reports and guidelines related to Operation Kayakalp.
- Survey responses from school administrators, teachers, and students.
- Data from the Prerna portal, which tracks infrastructure improvements and enrollment trends.
- Field observations and geotagged photographic evidence collected during monitoring visits.

3.3 Theoretical framework

Variables of the study contains dependent and independent variable. The study used pre-specified method for the selection of variables. The study used the Stock returns are as dependent variable. From the share price of the firm the Stock returns are calculated. Rate of a stock salable at stock market is known as stock price.

Importance of School Infrastructure

Previous studies underscore the significant impact of adequate school infrastructure on student performance. Glewwe et al. (2011) found that better school facilities lead to improved academic outcomes. Similarly, Earthman (2004) highlighted that students in schools with better infrastructure show higher levels of academic performance and reduced absenteeism. Inclusive infrastructure, especially for children with disabilities, is crucial for providing equitable educational opportunities (UNESCO, 2017).

Challenges in Indian School Infrastructure

Despite various initiatives, many schools in India still lack basic infrastructure. Reports indicate that numerous schools do not have proper sanitation facilities, safe drinking water, or adequate classroom space, which adversely affects student attendance and performance. Operation Kayakalp was conceived to address these critical gaps in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Methodology

Population and Sample Size

The study focuses on government schools in Uttar Pradesh that have undergone infrastructure upgrades under Operation Kayakalp. A stratified random sampling method was used to select a representative sample of 5,000 schools across various districts. The selection criteria included schools from urban, semi-urban, and rural areas to ensure comprehensive coverage.

Data Source

The data for this study was collected from multiple sources, including:

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Financial Convergence

An extensive interdepartmental convergence campaign was initiated, mobilizing over Rs. 10,500 crore from various channels such as Samagra Shiksha Funds, the 15th and 5th State Finance Commission, District Mineral Fund (DMF), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and community participation. Government Orders (GOs) and guidelines were established to ensure the effective implementation and saturation of school infrastructure.

Capacity Building

To achieve the program's ambitious targets, extensive capacity-building measures were undertaken:

- Workshops and Training: Technical and operational workshops were organized at the state, district, and block levels. More than 1 lakh masons, 58 thousand Gram Pradhans, 15 thousand Panchayat Secretaries, 5 lakh teachers, and many officials underwent training.
- Manuals and Guidelines: A detailed Technical and Operational Manual was developed in collaboration with UNICEF. This manual was distributed to stakeholders at various levels.
- Training Methods: Training was delivered through classroom sessions, on-site training, exposure visits, Zoom webinars, and YouTube live sessions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure transparency and accountability, a robust monitoring and evaluation framework was established:

- Baseline Survey: A detailed Baseline Survey (BLS) was conducted in November 2019 to identify infrastructural gaps.
- Mid-Line Geotagged Survey: An independent Mid-Line Geotagged Survey (MLS-IV) was conducted in November 2024. This survey included photo protocols for concurrent monitoring.
- Monthly Progress Reports: Schools were required to submit Monthly Progress Reports (MPR) through the Prerna portal.

Outreach Campaign

A massive outreach campaign was conducted to raise awareness and ensure community participation:

- Jan-Andolan: The campaign aimed to create a people's movement through hoardings, posters, banners, digital billboards, LED vans, street plays (Nukkad Natak), and digital media.
- Community Engagement: The campaign engaged communities to take ownership of the school infrastructure improvement process.

Monitoring Mechanism

A three-tier comprehensive monitoring mechanism was established:

- Perna Dashboards: Dashboards were developed for real-time monitoring from the state to block level.
- MIS Reports: Management Information System (MIS) reports ensured detailed tracking of progress.

Results

Outcomes Achieved

Operation Kayakalp has led to significant improvements in the infrastructure of government schools:

- Saturation of Parameters: The saturation level of 19 essential parameters increased from 38% to 93%. Over 1 lakh PS/UPS/Composite schools were upgraded to 4-Star and above.
- Dropout Rates: There was a notable reduction in dropout rates.
- Enrollment and Attendance: Student enrollment increased from 1.52 crore in 2016-17 to 1.91 crore in 2022-23. Attendance rates also improved significantly.
- Teacher Motivation: Improved infrastructure and learning environments enhanced teacher motivation and engagement.

Discussion

Impact on Educational Outcomes

The comprehensive upgrade of school infrastructure under Operation Kayakalp has positively impacted educational outcomes. The significant increase in enrollment and reduction in dropout rates demonstrate the effectiveness of improved facilities. Furthermore, the enhanced motivation among teachers indicates a better overall learning environment.

Challenges and Limitations

Despite the successes, the program faced challenges such as delays in fund allocation, logistical issues in remote areas, and resistance to change among certain stakeholders. Addressing these challenges requires continuous effort and adaptive strategies.

Future Directions

Future research could explore the long-term impact of improved infrastructure on student academic performance. Additionally, the scalability of Operation Kayakalp's model to other regions could be investigated to replicate its success.

Conclusion

Operation Kayakalp has successfully transformed the infrastructure of 1.33 lakh government schools in Uttar Pradesh. Through financial convergence, capacity building, comprehensive monitoring, and community engagement, the program has significantly improved school facilities, increased enrollment, reduced dropout rates, and enhanced teacher motivation. The success of this initiative highlights the importance of a holistic approach to educational infrastructure development and provides a model for other regions to follow.

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