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Topic of Research: Impact of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan in Uttar Pradesh: An Analytical Study of Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar Districts.

FINDINGS

This thesis examines the implementation and impact of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) on secondary education in Saharanpur and Muzaffarnagar districts of Uttar Pradesh, with a focus on access, equity, quality, and infrastructure in secondary and higher secondary schools. Using a mixed-methods design combining surveys of parents, students, teachers, and principals with administrative data and policy document review, the study evaluates achievements and persistent gaps in RMSA outcomes. The findings show substantial expansion and modernisation of school infrastructure, improved access through better connectivity and support schemes, rising enrolment of girls and marginalised groups, and enhanced teaching-learning processes via teacher training, ICT use, and learner-centred pedagogy. At the same time, the research highlights deficits in vocational education, remedial support, student hostels, inclusive and sustainable infrastructure, and continued disparities between rural and urban or remote blocks, compounded by teacher shortages and workload pressures. The thesis recommends targeted infrastructural development, universal and continuous teacher capacity building, strengthened vocational and remedial programmes, improved community engagement and stakeholder communication, data-driven and equitable budgeting, and deeper ICT integration to consolidate RMSA gains. It acknowledges limitations arising from its focus on two districts, limited qualitative probing of social-psychological barriers, and the absence of detailed comparative analysis across management types, it also calls for more granular, participatory, and ethnographic studies to guide future reforms. Minor differences between the districts include more pronounced overcrowding and under-resourcing in rapidly growing, high-population blocks of Muzaffarnagar compared to Saharanpur.