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Vidya Vahan: A Tool for Tribal Women Education

Introduction

The only thing which is permanent is change but change with an updation is something which India needs to increase its pace of development to a greater extent.

And one such updation which our government can adopt as a part of its new education policy is the education of old age tribal women residing in remote areas of the country. Tribal old age women can be educated and lead to empowerment through EVAN named as "Vidya Vahan". Which will be a moving van with the digitalising education system.

This mobile van should be well equipped with all necessary teaching aids required as per the geographical and social specification of the tribal residing the other areas. These are like projectors, sound systems, light, education materials, microphones, etc. There should be two or more female tutor along with this van to teach the women in the area. Who can explain, guide and teach them personally with the teaching aids?

The tutor should be well versed in the regional and local language used by the tribal's in that area so that maximum output can be generated from the use of this van. Also, there should be some cultural tools too like songs, dances, etc in regional languages in order to attract more and more old age women towards this van. And also with the involvement of these local languages the level of connection of the students with the tutor can be maximized too.

With the adoption of this initiative in the new education policy not only marginalised women living in far-off places can be connected with the mainstream but also the vision of total literacy can also be achieved in a feasible manner.

How Vidya Vahan will work?

After arrangements of all the basic requisites of the tool, a proper and systematised planning need to be done by the policy makers for its effective implementation. A van should cover 3-4 nearby villages in a week and at least 2 days in a week in each village where such targeted tribal resides.

For its proper implementation, there must exist proper coordination of Van accompanists with the local Panchyat members so that more and more old age women residing in that area can be benefitted from the scheme. It is also the duty of the local representative to develop the trust among the old age tribal women and the male members of their family towards the benefits and the most likely outcome of this Vidya Vahan Scheme provided by the government.

The tutors should use more and more of audiovisual modes instead of written study materials and that too in regional and local languages used by the tribal people. Because the women will find their selves more comfortable with their own languages and can connect more with the study aids provided to them.

There should be periodic review sessions for the students in order to assess the impact of the education sessions provided to them and also to know and evaluate their expectations from the program. And, if possible to make the necessary changes and updation in the education provided to them.

There should also be a periodic assessment of older age tribal women attending those sessions and those performing best among all should be provided with some rewards in cash or kind to motivate them to participate more and more in them.

Prerequisites for implementation of this policy:

- Mobile Van: It is the most important element of this plan as it is mainly based on mobile vans. These vans will run from places to places in order to have large outreach among old age tribal women who are residing in remote areas, where easy access through roads is not easily possible.
- Female Tutor: It is also one of the most important elements of this project as the tribal women can find themselves more comfortable with the female tutor instead of the male tutor. And they can connect more with the females for their education sessions.
- E Tutorial Material: The academicians must develop a complete yet catchy tutorial material to be used under this project in order to attract more and more no. of old age tribal women.
- Connectivity among remote areas: It is also the most important requirement for the implementation of this project as the van can only and only each and provides their services where there is road connectivity otherwise this will not work accordingly.

Benefits of implementing Vidya Vahan:

- Maximum Outreach in remote areas: By adopting this mode of delivering education to old age tribal women maximum outreach of old age tribal women can be achieved. Even concentrated marginalized people residing in far-off places can also be covered through this mode of delivering education.
- Personal Connectivity: This mode is based on personal interaction also as the female tutor is also there in the van to connect personally with the low marginalized targeted women. And this connection will help in attaining the maximum outcome.
- Low Cost: The implementation cost of this project is quite low as compared to other infrastructural setup required for teaching those marginalized tribal old age women.
- One to many communication models: It is based on one too many communication models so one tutor can at a time teach large no. of women with focus and desired outcome.
- Mobility: Van is mobile and can cover more than one village in a day. And there is no any special setup required for starting a session it can be started in an open area.
- Less infrastructure expenditure outlay: The infrastructure cash outlay is quite low in this model as compared to traditional models of delivering education to such remote tribal people.
- Employment opportunities: This will create employment opportunities for a large no of peoples in form of setup engineers, tutors, van drivers etc.
- Lesser time involvement of tribal women: This method will create more outcome as compare to other modes because it involves lesser time involvement of tribal women. And this lesser time also motivates them to take part in this project to get a basic education as well as leading to their empowerment.

- Social Awareness: In this model along with education there would also be the development of social awareness among the participants. As daily classes will develop unity, awareness, and strength among them.

Points to be kept in mind for implementation of Vidya Vahan in India:

- Motivating women towards the project: More and more women should be motivated towards this project and attend this program to make the best outcome of this.
- Attractive design outlay of Van: The van should be attractively designed so that a large no of participants should be attracted towards it.
- Well equipped teaching aids: The van and the setup should include well defined and equipped teaching aids. The aided materials should be as per the specification and norms set by the government in its education policy.
- Focus on teaching through local/regional languages: The study materials and the audiovisuals should be prepared in regional languages to establish a better connection with the students.
- Emphasis on teaching through cultural heritage: The teaching material should also consider cultural heritage as tribal women are more related and attached to their cultural heritage.
- Proper Monitoring: There must be proper monitoring of the government initiated scheme to get the maximum possible outcome of the scheme.
- Systematised planning: All the steps taken for implementation should be as per the planned schedule and proposed methodology.

Conclusion

By introduction of this mobile van education model, a new milestone can be set up in establishing new education policy. With the help of this education can reach among the tribal old age marginalized women residing in far off and remote areas. With the help of this, even those areas can be covered under outreach where it is not possible to setup complete infrastructure. Also, the complete building setup requires huge capital outlay whereas through this model a single van can cover a few nearby villages in a week with proper scheduling if already made.

This Vidya Vahan can become a very effective tool for driving adult women education of tribal women residing in very remote areas. As through this, those targeted population can be brought into the mainstream of society through education which would not have been possible through traditional ways. These regular classes will also lead to their self-confidence and self-motivation towards education.

And it is rightly said that a family becomes empowered only when the females are well educated and empowered. And this can be achieved well in tribal areas through this Vidya Vahan Van tool.

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