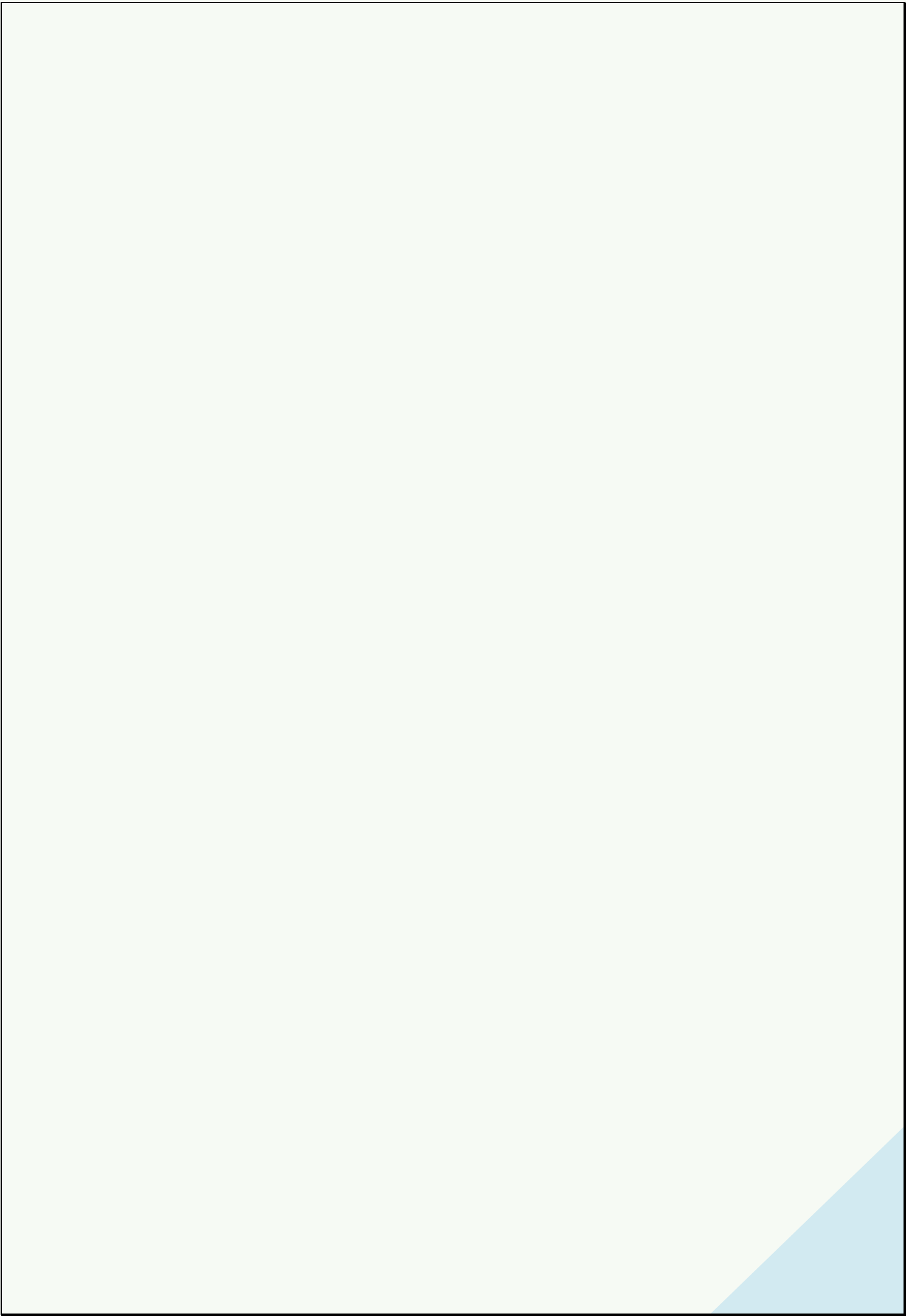


“पहली शिक्षक- माँ”

(An Initiative to Promote Mother
Engagement for Pre-Primary Classes in
Primary Schools)



Himachal Pradesh



Background

Parents play a vital role in the development of their child. Majority of the learning during early years takes place at home. As the child grows, other stakeholders like teachers, community etc. also become a part of learning journey of the child.

National Education Policy 2020 focuses on recognizing, identifying, and fostering the unique capabilities of children by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote their holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres.

“पहली शिक्षक-माँ” an initiative to Promote Mother Engagement for Pre-primary Classes in Primary Schools

Children spend considerable time at home and thus family, especially the mother continues to be the stakeholder who supports their major learning when it comes to early years. Particularly, mothers are the prime caregivers of the children in this segment. They can also be considered as child’s first teacher.

Thus, regular connections between teachers and mothers can play a vital role in the overall development of children.

Keeping the above in view, Samagra Shiksha Himachal Pradesh envisages to focus on strengthening the role of mothers in overall development of the child in Early Childhood Care and Education under Pre-primary program through “पहली शिक्षक-माँ”.

The initiative intends to reach mothers of ~50,000 children enrolled in 6,028 Pre-Primary classes running in Primary Schools across the state. The program will be supported by Pratham Education Foundation.

Program Objectives:

- Enabling mothers for supporting the children through home-based developmentally appropriate activities and thus imparting quality education
- Creating awareness amongst mothers on child care i.e., health, well-being, safety and nutritional requirements
- Enabling mothers for supporting teachers to create early years environment in the school
- Fostering a learning environment where mothers learn from each other in groups

Keeping the above listed objectives as a key focus, the initiative was launched on December 13, 2023 at Sundernagar, District Mandi. This mother engagement initiative

was launched by Sh. Ashish Butail, Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Education) Government of Himachal Pradesh in the presence of other dignitaries.

The initiative has three main components which are as under:

- ✓ **Monthly Mother Meetings at the School level** on bag free day (i.e. fourth Saturday of every month)
- ✓ **Sharing of Bi-weekly WhatsApp messages** to be delivered by Samagra Shiksha with concerned teachers who will be sharing these with mothers. These messages would contain simple and doable activities pertaining to different development domains (Physical, Socio-emotional, Cognitive, Language and Creative) which the mothers can conduct with children at home easily
- ✓ **Quarterly Webinars for mothers** on different themes pertaining to Early Childhood Care and Education facilitated at the state level

Registration at the Event

Selected mothers from different districts were also invited for the event. Over 600 mothers of children studying in Pre-Primary classes were invited to the event from across the state.

The event was formally inaugurated by the chief guest at 2:00 PM. However, different events for participating mothers were scheduled since early morning. In addition, presentations were also given by young children on this occasion.



Registration of mothers was done district-wise at the venue. For this district-wise corners were made at the venue.

Stalls on the Occasion

There were different stalls at the programme venue. These stalls included:

1. Readiness Fair
2. Ideal Classroom
3. Mother Meetings
4. Engaging mothers through games



The readiness fair stall was designed to showcase all the development appropriate domains i.e. Physical Domain, Socio-Emotional, Creative, Cognitive and Language. Mothers visited these stalls along with children and got an overview of the developmental domain activities that are conducted usually in schools.

Stalls depicting ideal classroom, mother meetings etc. were also designed on this occasion. The intent was to showcase the developments done in Pre-Primary over the years.

The demonstration of mother meeting was showcased to give an idea to mothers on ways such meetings are conducted in schools.

Presentation by School Children

Presentation by school children from District Mandi was also given on the occasion. These presentations included poems, songs, dance etc. in which children ranging from Pre-Primary to Elementary standard showcased their skills.



Welcome of Chief Guest



The chief guest for the occasion was Hon'ble Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Education) Sh. Ashish Butail. He was accompanied by other dignitaries and officials.

Visit to Readiness Fair by Chief Guest

Hon'ble Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Education) Sh. Ashish Butail visited the Readiness Fair for Pre-Primary students organized on the occasion. Stalls catering to different development domains (Physical, Socio-Emotional, Creative, Cognitive and Language) were displayed on the occasion. The chief guest was oriented on the developmentally appropriate activities in these domains by State Pre-Primary Co-ordinator, Samagra Shiksha.



A stall depicting an ideal Pre-Primary class was also showcased on this occasion. This stall covered all the activities related to Pre-Primary which are ideally covered during a day in any school.



Lamp Lighting by the Chief Guest

Before formal inauguration of the program, the chief guest did the ceremonial lamp lighting. Other dignitaries on the occasion also lit the lamp followed by State Pre-Primary Coordinator.



Launch of “पहली शिक्षक-माँ”



Post the lamp lighting by the dignitaries, the program “पहली शिक्षक-माँ” was launched by the chief guest, Sh. Ashish Butail. The launch event was also webcast live and mothers of children studying across 6,031 preprimary classes in primary schools connected virtually.

Thereafter, the chief guest and other dignitaries were honored by State Pre-Primary Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha. The chief guest also released two booklets related with the initiative. These are “Mataon ke liye Gatividhi Pustika” and “Seekhen aur Sikhayen”. These booklets consist of activities catering to five development domains which mothers can conduct with their children at home.



Journey of Pre-Primary

The State Pre-Primary Coordinator Sh. Daleep Kumar Verma also shared the journey of Pre-Primary in Himachal Pradesh through a presentation. He pointed out that the program began in 3391 Primary Schools of the state and has gradually increased to 6,031 schools across the state.

The journey of this program was also showcased through video glimpses. This video

highlighted the efforts put in over the years for enrolling age-appropriate children in Pre-Primary classes.

The State Pre-Primary Coordinator also shared the objectives and main components of “पहली शिक्षक-माँ” with the chief guest, other dignitaries and the participants on this occasion.

Though sharing by a Mother

Mothers present on the occasion also expressed their interest in sharing their thoughts on this occasion. Due to time constraint the opportunity to put forward their thoughts could be given to one mother only.

She expressed her gratitude for starting pre-primary classes which made it easier for mothers like her to enroll their age-appropriate children in the same. She was happy to share that her child had learnt a lot during these two years and was confident that he would perform well during the future years too.

She also felt happy in sharing that the initiative “पहली शिक्षक-माँ” would give opportunity to mothers like her to connect with the learning of their child and know about latest innovations in Pre-Primary through regular development domain based bi-weekly WhatsApp messages, mother meetings and webinars.

Address by Chief Guest

The chief guest also addressed the participants on this occasion. Interacting with the participants, he highlighted the importance of mother in the life of a child.

He emphasized on the fact that mother plays a vital role during early years of the life of a child and children idolize mothers during this phase. He also pointed that Government of Himachal Pradesh pays attention to this aspect and thus has come up with an innovative program named “पहली शिक्षक – माँ”

Under this initiative daily activities based on five development domains will be sent to mothers through teachers via WhatsApp. The mothers can then conduct these activities with children at home. These messages shall be sent on biweekly basis.

In addition, webinars on different aspects related to development of children shall also be conducted on quarterly basis. During these webinars, experts from different domains shall be invited for talks and the key findings shall be web cast.

Hon'ble Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Education) Sh. Ashish Butail also pointed that mother meetings shall also be held on last Saturday of the month (i.e. bag free day). Five development domain-based activities shall also be held on this day for the children.

Vote of Thanks

The program ended with vote of thanks in which State Pre-Primary Coordinator thanked the chief guest for taking out time from his busy schedule and launching the initiative “पहली शिक्षक – माँ”.

Conclusion

To maintain the continuum of this initiative, District Level Workshop on “पहली शिक्षक-माँ” An initiative to promote mother engagement for Pre-primary classes in primary schools will be organized in the last week of January 2024 or in the month of, February, 2024 on different development domains (Physical, Socio-emotional, Cognitive, Language and Creative).



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