



Colloquium: Community Monitoring of the RTE Act: Impact of a Unique Pilot

Speaker:
Kiran Bhatta

Date / Time:
May 8, 2014 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Venue:
10th Floor, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

Abstract:

Under the aegis of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights [NCPCR] – the legally mandated agency for monitoring the RTE, a unique pilot of community-based monitoring was conducted in 2011-2013 across 10 states of India. This pilot developed a methodology and set of tools for conducting a process of concurrent monitoring by the community as well as a social audit of the implementation of RTE. The pilot that followed roughly the school calendar consisted of a 3 part process consisting of i) a baseline survey of schooling facilities and listing of out-of-school children before the start of the school year; ii) a process of concurrent monitoring through the school year including monthly “shiksha samvads [education dialogues] at the Block office; iii) social audit at the end of the year to review the performance through the preceding year.

A first of its kind effort, it turned out to be an extremely interesting exercise with many unintended consequences and outcomes. In this presentation I will share some of the outcomes in terms of the impact on the main stakeholders involved, i.e., the community [including the groups that conducted the exercise]; the schools and teachers as well as the government officials as well as some of the lessons learned for future efforts in community monitoring of RTE.

A Note on the Speaker:

Currently Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, she was the National Commissioner, RTE at the NCPCR when the RTE Act was passed. She set up the RTE Division at the Commission and designed the RTE monitoring programme and activities for the Commission in its first 3 years. She has worked in the area of education for almost 20 years during which time she has been associated with various research projects such as the PROBE report and the FOCUS report. She was a member of the Bordia Committee that revamped SSA in accordance with RTE and also of the Expert Group that re-wrote the SSA Guidelines. She is currently member of the Advisory Group on Education Management and Information Systems

[EMIS] at NUEPA that houses the District Information System for Education or DISE. She has also worked at the UNICEF office in Delhi on issues of social exclusion in education and is also a member of the Right to Food Campaign, the National Campaign for People's Right to Information and the Centre for Women's Development Studies. She has a Masters degree in Economics from the USA and an MPhil in Development Studies from the London School of Economics, UK.