

“A Critical Evaluation of the Shala Darpan Portal with Special Reference to Its Utilization, Challenges, and Improvement Measures in Government Senior Secondary Schools of Sikar District”

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Introduction

The Sanskrit saying *Nāsti vidyāsamaṃ cakṣur nāsti mātṛsamo guruḥ* aptly emphasizes the unparalleled importance of knowledge and the profound role of a mother as a teacher. This implies that there is no guiding light in this world comparable to knowledge, and no teacher comparable to a mother. It is an undeniable fact that a mother exerts the primary and most significant influence on a child's development; she is the child's first guru and teacher. The foundational knowledge she imparts becomes an indelible mark. Like a line carved in stone. Forming a permanent basis for the child's life.

After laying this initial foundation of knowledge, the child turns to school for further education and shapes a successful life through continuous learning. During this educational process, schools are required to maintain various records concerning their students. Prior to June 2015, all such school records and information were maintained physically. In June 2015, the Education Department of the Government of Rajasthan launched two portals: 'Shala Darshan' and 'Shala Darpan'. The former for primary education and the latter for secondary education. These portals enabled parents and the government to easily access comprehensive information regarding children and schools.

Subsequently, the two portals were merged to create a unified portal named 'Shala Darpan'. The Shala Darpan portal serves as a vital link between the department, schools, and parents, facilitating the easy maintenance and retrieval of necessary information. It houses academic and non-academic databases related to students, teachers, and educational institutions, all of which require regular updating.

Key Words: Shala Darpan, School management information system, Digital school administration system, E-Governance in education, Rajasthan school education

Significance of the Research

The proposed research aims to examine the current status of innovations in digitalization driven by the 'Shala Darpan' portal, assess the accessibility it has facilitated in senior secondary schools, and analyse the challenges encountered during its implementation. Furthermore, the analysis of data derived from this study will help make the Shala Darpan portal more user-friendly and accessible, while also aiding in the identification of solutions to the difficulties being faced.

Current Status: The proposed research will ascertain the actual status of the Shala Darpan portal in the senior secondary schools of Sikar district, specifically determining whether the portal is fulfilling the objectives for which it was originally launched.

Achievements: The proposed study will provide an opportunity to evaluate whether the Shala Darpan portal is successfully meeting its defined objectives.

Problem Resolution: Through this research, we will be able to identify the issues preventing the Shala Darpan portal from fully achieving its objectives, as well as the institutional challenges faced by government senior secondary schools while operating the portal.

Objective of the Research

An objective is a predetermined goal that guides an action or motivates behaviour. Every task or creation embodies a purpose or aim that provides the motivation for its execution.

We live in an era of digitization; offices and institutions everywhere are embracing it. The exchange of information across all sectors has accelerated through computers and the internet, enabling access to information from anywhere in the world. The Education Department of Rajasthan has not remained untouched by this trend; the Rajasthan Government launched the 'Shala Darpan' portal to digitize the department's operations. This portal makes various details regarding teachers, students, and institutions available online, ensuring easy access for everyone.

Through this research, the researcher has outlined the following key objectives:

1. To study the current status of the Shala Darpan system in Government Senior Secondary Schools of Sikar district.
2. To identify the challenges encountered with the Shala Darpan system in Government Senior Secondary Schools of Sikar district.
3. To conduct a survey aimed at finding solutions to the problems associated with the Shala Darpan portal in Government Senior Secondary Schools of Sikar district.

With these objectives in mind, the researcher initiated a survey to examine the actual status, challenges, and potential solutions regarding the Shala Darpan system.

Identification of the Problem

As the Rajasthan Education Department moves towards digitization, the 'Shala Darpan' portal has been launched in government senior secondary schools. The proposed study aims to identify and specifically examine the current status of this initiative and the challenges schools face during its implementation. Furthermore, the study seeks to conduct a detailed analysis of these issues and propose necessary solutions.

Research Duration

A period of approximately 45 days has been allocated for the proposed research study. During this time, data will be collected by obtaining feedback from Principals and 'Shala Darpan' in-charges at Government Senior Secondary Schools across various blocks.

Research Methodology -

The questionnaire method has been employed in this research study; specifically, two types of questionnaires have been utilized:

1. Principal Questionnaire
2. Shala Darpan In-charge Questionnaire

Sampling Design –

Taking all relevant factors into account, Government Senior Secondary Schools were selected from blocks across various educational zones of Sikar district. Data was collected from selected Principals and 'Shala Darpan' In-charges within the Senior Secondary Schools of each block. Data collection from these schools will be facilitated through the use of various questionnaires

S.No.	Block Name	Principals	S.D. In-charges
1	Dhod	5	5
2	Piprali	5	5
3	Dantaramgarh	5	5
4	Palsana	5	5
5	Nechhwa	5	5
6	Khandela	5	5
7	Shrimadhampur	5	5
8	Neemkathana	5	5
9	Fatehpur	5	5
10	Laxmangarh	5	5
11	Patan	5	5
12	Ajitgarh	5	5
	Total	60	60

Research Tool

Considering the nature of the research, the questionnaire has been adopted as the research tool for this study.

The researcher categorized the adopted tool into two specific questionnaires one for the Principal and one for the Shala Darpan In-charge to analyse the underlying reasons by examining the percentages of agreement and disagreement.

Statistics

In this study, the percentages and averages of the responses obtained from the Principal and Shala Darpan In-charge questionnaires have been analysed using statistical methods.

Hypotheses

This research study involves a survey regarding the current status, issues, and solutions related to 'Shala Darpan' in the Government Senior Secondary Schools of Sikar district. The study aims to identify the factors responsible for problems encountered while working on the portal and to propose remedies, thereby preventing similar difficulties in the future.

Action Plan for Testing Hypotheses

The testing of hypotheses will be conducted based on the Principal Questionnaire and the Shala Darpan In-charge Questionnaire.

The researcher will develop the aforementioned questionnaires, explain the significance of the research to the concerned individuals, and request them to provide unbiased responses.

Implementation of the Research Process

After preparing the questionnaires, the researcher explained the significance of the study to the Principals and Shala Darpan In-charges, who then provided their views clearly and thoughtfully in the designated forms. The scores derived from the statements will be compiled to calculate percentages.

Recognizing the importance of the research, the Principals and Shala Darpan In-charges completed the questionnaires judiciously, taking into account their own judgment, understanding, and the actual operational status of the portal.

Statistical Analysis

For the study, the researcher collected responses from 60 principals and 60 'Shala Darpan' in-charges via questionnaires. These responses were tabulated and analysed using calculations and percentage-based metrics; based

on this analysis, concrete conclusions were drawn regarding the current status, challenges, and solutions concerning 'Shala Darpan' in the Government Senior Secondary Schools of Sikar district.

Data Analysis

. Table 1- based on questionnaires administered to 60 principals

Q.N .	QUESTION SUBJECT MATTER	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES PERCEN TAGE	NO PERCENT AGE	DON'T KNOW PERCEN TAGE
1	1. Does your school have basic internet and computer facilities?	54	6	-	90	10	-
2	2. Do you manage Shala Darpan work yourself?	30	30	-	50	50	-
3	3. Is a Shala Darpan in-charge designated at your school.	54	6	-	90	10	-
4	4. Does the Shala Darpan in-charge also perform academic duties?	54	6	-	90	10	-
5	5. Does the PEEO school manage Shala Darpan work for subordinate schools?	48	12	-	80	20	-
6	6. Do you consider Shala Darpan an important milestone in school education?	48	12	-	80	20	-
7	7. Are you familiar with all Shala Darpan modules?	42	18	-	70	30	-

8	8. Are you aware of the Government Schemes section on Shala Darpan?	42	18	-	70	30	-
9	9. Are you familiar with the Staff Login facility?	54	6	-	90	10	-
10	10. Is all school data entered through Shala Darpan modules?	30	30	-	50	50	-

Total Principals: 60

Formula: $N\% = (N / \text{Total Number}) \times 100$

An analysis of the data in Table 1 reveals the following:

1. Regarding Statement 1, 90% of principals agree and 10% disagree that basic facilities like computers and the internet are available.
2. Regarding Statement 2, 50% agree and 50% disagree that they personally handle 'Shala Darpan' tasks.
3. Regarding Statement 3, 90% agree and 10% disagree that there is a designated 'Shala Darpan' in-charge at their school.
4. Regarding Statement 4, 90% agree and 10% disagree that the in-charge also has academic responsibilities.
5. Regarding Statement 5, 80% of principals agree and 20% disagree that they personally handle the school's administrative tasks.
6. Regarding Statement 6, 80% agree and 20% disagree that this is a milestone for school education.
7. Regarding Statement 7, 70% agree and 30% disagree that they are familiar with all the modules.
8. Regarding Statement 8, 70% agree and 30% disagree that they are aware of the contents of the 'Government Scheme' tab.
9. Regarding Statement 9, 90% agree and 10% disagree that they are familiar with the 'Staff Login' feature.
10. Regarding Statement 10, 50% of principals agree and 50% disagree that all data entry is performed via the modules.

Figure 1 – Percentage of Principals Responses

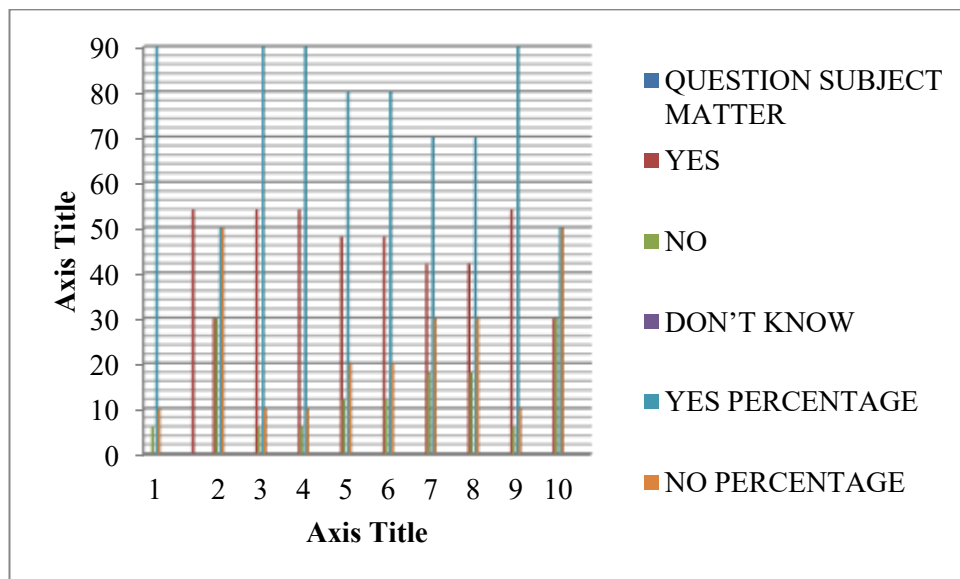


Table 2- Questionnaires administered to 60 In-charges.

Q.N .	QUESTION SUBJECT MATTER	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	YES PERCENT TAGE	NO PERCENT AGE	DON'T KNOW PERCENT TAGE
1	11. Are basic facilities like internet and computers available at your school	48	12	-	80	20	-
2	Do you also have teaching responsibilities?	54	6	-	90	10	-
3	Are you able to complete the syllabus on time?	42	18	-	70	30	-
4	Do you complete Shala Darpan portal-related work during school hours?	54	6	-	90	10	-
5	Do you require training related to the portal?	54	6	-	90	10	-
6	In your opinion, should a separate Shala Darpan in-charge be appointed?	60	-	-	100	-	-

7	Are you aware of the Staff Login?	54	6	-	90	10	-
8	You are aware of the government schemes section?	48	12	-	80	20	-
9	Are you aware of the Result Module?	48	12	-	80	20	-
10	Are you aware of the School Module?	54	6	-	90	10	-

Educational Utility

In contemporary times, modern communication innovations have made the exchange of information seamless and rapid; the intent of both the Central and State governments has been to ensure that the benefits of this communication revolution reach every individual across all sectors. 'Shala Darpan' serves as a beneficial platform within this communication revolution. Initially launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2015 as a pilot project, its implementation was gradually extended to all schools, and today, the Shala Darpan portal has become the lifeline of every school.

Its educational utility encompasses enhanced transparency, efficiency, and accountability within the education system; improved communication and collaboration among stakeholders; and better academic performance and outcomes for students. It also empowers beneficiaries to play an active role in their children's education. With its user-friendly interface and comprehensive features, Shala Darpan will remain instrumental in revolutionizing Rajasthan's education system and paving the way for a bright future for students—provided that operational issues are resolved in a timely manner; this research aims to address precisely that aspect.

Conclusion

Based on the responses provided via questionnaires by the school principals and Shala Darpan in-charges participating in the study, the researcher has reached the following conclusions:

1. Basic infrastructure required for the operation of Shala Darpan is available in almost all schools.
2. While Shala Darpan in-charges have been appointed in most schools, approximately half of the heads of institutions handle the Shala Darpan-related tasks themselves; this suggests that the heads are doing the work personally because the designated in-charges lack the necessary proficiency.
3. Although most Shala Darpan in-charges acknowledge that they have academic duties alongside their Shala Darpan responsibilities, they feel that their academic work is not significantly adversely affected by this additional charge.
4. Heads of institutions have acknowledged that subordinate primary and upper primary schools rely on them for Shala Darpan-related tasks, with only a few schools managing the work independently.
5. Most heads of institutions agree on the utility of the Shala Darpan portal. Most Shala Darpan in-charges and heads of institutions are familiar with the various modules of the Shala Darpan portal, such as the result modules and school modules.

In conclusion, it can be said that the Shala Darpan portal is a useful platform, although improvements are needed in certain areas related to it..

Delimitation of the Research Study

The scope of the research study has been defined by considering factors such as the quality of the study, the subject matter, and the resources (including labour) involved. Consequently, this research work is limited to the Principals and 'Shala Darpan' in-charges of Government Senior Secondary Schools within the blocks of Sikar district.

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