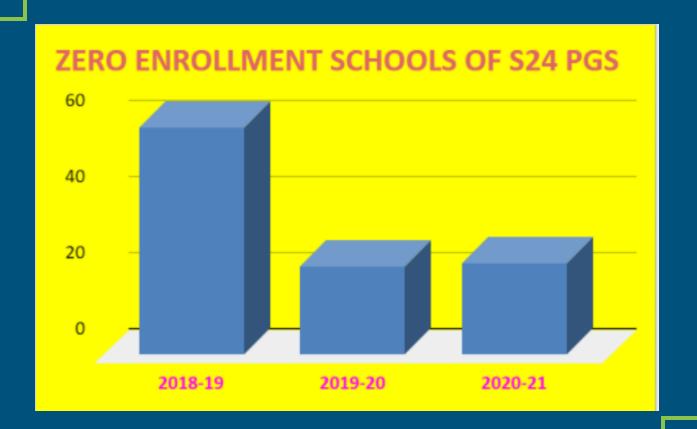
## ZERO-ENROLMENT SCHOOLS OF SOUTH 24 PARGANAS: A TRACER STUDY

## PROPOSAL 9

## Objectives of the study

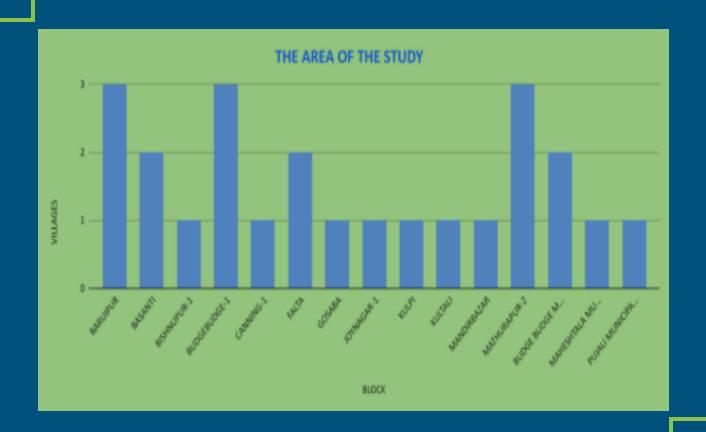
- To find out the teacher availability IN THE SCHOOL,
- To map the school vis-a-vis habitation,
- To locate the school going children in the locality,
- To find out the institutional reasons for non-enrolment,
- To identify the INFRASTRUCTURE GAP for non-enrolment.

## TREND OF ZERO ENROLLMENT IN S 24 PGS



### LOCALE OF THE STUDY

The study covered 12 Blocks & 3 municipalities of the district of South 24 Parganas.



# POSITION OF THE ZERO ENROLLMENT SCHOOLS

## Types of tools

#### Secondary Data Capture Format

- UDISE REPORT ON ZERO ENROLLMENT SCHOOLS,
- UDISE REPORT ON <= 100 enrollment schools

#### Structured interview schedule

- FOR HOIs
- FOR SI/s
- FIELD DIARY

## FIELD OBSERVATIONS

## Hols views on Zero Enrolment Schools

- Most of the Hols have reported against the unavailability of Teaching Staff.
- Most of the Hols have blamed the lack of proper infrastructure available in their Schools.
- A few of the Hols have taken initiatives like visiting local residences to increase enrollment.

- A few Hols have also arranged to develop better links with the Community by inviting them over or by visiting them.
- Hols have also informed their immediate superior Authorities (SI/S of the respective Circle and DI/S of the concerned District)
  regarding the miserable situation that they are in presently.
- A few of the Hols have requested help in setting up smart classrooms to attract the children by even NGOs.

### SI/Ss views on Zero Enrolment Schools

- Financially sound guardians unwilling to admit their children in Government Schools.
- Guardians prefer HS Schools to Jr. High / High Schools.
- Lack of human and material resources essential for running a School.

- Relations among the Staff themselves and with the Hol are not healthy.
- Standard of teaching and learning is not satisfactory.
- Failure to build up a healthy School
  Community link.

## SI/Ss views on Zero Enrolment Schools

#### Role of the Government:

- Government intervention is required for allocating Human Resources from these Zero Enrolment Schools to neighboring Institutions where there is a demand.
- Physical resources of these zero enrolment
  Schools should be taken care of by the
  Government.

#### Suggestions:

- Human Resources to be reallocated in neighboring Schools where there is required.
- Material Resources of zero enrollment Schools should be utilized in setting up the neighbouring schools.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

 The Zero Enrollment schools must be shut down immediately with merging of resources among the nearby schools. This needs close scrutiny of resources, mapping of the schools and appropriate organisation to take up the process. This should not be "reverification of pupil strength" activity.

2. Restructuring the schools by consolidating small schools (< = 100) in an area needs to be undertaken without further delay. This would bring efficiency by pooling students and teachers, without compromising access and result in better utilization of resources, and supervision. This study has identified 100 and below enrollment schools in South 24 Parganas. The restructuring activity may start from here. Continuing schools without the minimum strength is a drain on the state exchequer, which eventually erodes the capacity of the system to deliver quality services. This will also address another burning problem of "Zero Teacher Schools".

3. Thus there will be schools closed and without students but these are Government properties. These school buildings with other related physical resources may now be transferred to the concerned District Magistrate to turn these sites as "Permanent Hub of Social Schemes" (PHSS) for "Duare Sarkar" & "Parai Samadhan" or various related efforts of the Hon'ble CM of the State. These centers to be manned by contractual employees which will generate employability efforts of the Government.

4. This study needs to be escalated to all the districts of the State with an appropriate budget and mandate. The return on investment (RoI)will impact on the exchequer as well as brand building of the Government.

