

## Quality specifications in schools

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## QUALITY SPECIFICATIONS IN SCHOOLS

The GoI and UNICEF are working in close collaboration with state governments, teachers, and local communities across India to design and demonstrate the Quality Package Project in 14,000 primary schools. An important innovation of this project is the prior specification of what constitutes quality in four key areas: teaching-learning processes, teacher support, school and classroom environment, and community participation. This addresses a constraint often encountered in education projects.

While there is a general agreement as to the main inputs required to promote enrolment, completion and learning, the quality of the inputs both in terms of design and delivery is not always satisfactory. This in turn is predicated upon a lack of specification as to what should constitute quality.

Communities and local officials are being invited to map their schools against the proposed specifications, and develop quality development plans that will be integrated into Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan plans. The process will be supported with integrated solutions by the project. Key quality specifications will be monitored, along with the impact on enrolment, completion and learning; and the project inputs will also be costed. By studying the relation between the quality specifications that have been realised in the schools, costs and the impact variables, it will be possible to identify what specifications are critical to ensuring enrolment, completion and learning, as well as the cost of achieving these. This in turn will be critical to take the project to scale.