

**Notification No: 550/2023**  
**Date of Award: 12-12-2023**

**Name of Scholar: Kashif Matin**

**Name of Supervisor: Prof. Arshad Ikram Ahmad**

**Name of Department: Educational Studies**

**Topic of Research: Implementation of RUSA in the State of Bihar: An Exploratory Study**

### **Findings**

The present study was conducted with the broader objective of studying the implementation of the Rashtriya Uchcharat Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA) in higher education institutions in the state of Bihar. In the advent of RUSA, the centre tried to address the issues of equity, access, and quality in higher education institutions under the administrative control of the state of Bihar so that students of the states could get quality education at their doorsteps.

The study was conducted in two phases. Document analysis was done in the first phase of the study. The researcher carried out detailed desk research on secondary data related to the RUSA scheme, such as the RUSA official document, RUSA draft guidelines, the Bihar state higher education plan (2018–19) document, and Bihar (RUSA 1.0 and 2.0). In the second phase of the study, data was collected from the targeted respondents and analysed in consultation with the researcher's supervisor. The mixed-methods approach for data collection was used as the researcher collected both quantitative and qualitative data concurrently. The data was gathered quantitatively with the use of structured interviews with the principals of the RUSA-funded colleges via face-to-face mode. At the same time, the researcher administered an observation schedule on the college premises for the purpose of data cross-validation. In-depth interviews

were conducted to gather qualitative data from RUSA institutional coordinators, equity officers, and members of the RUSA committee at the institution level. Subsequently, the item-wise analysis of the data and interpretation was made.

The study revealed that all the sampled RUSA-funded institutions improved on many counts. However, the improvement seemed to be on certain dimensions across these institutions while some dimensions, i.e., quality, remained unattended. This leads to the question why, despite infrastructure-related improvement as observed in the sampled institutions, which directly or indirectly affects the quality of education, these institutions could not perform well on this front. In view of this, the researcher tried to study the functioning of RUSA-funded institutions in terms of the ways they availed of and utilised the fund.