

## Education Update



### **1. Education sector sees 24% hike in Union Budget allocation.**

This time education sector got a 24 per cent hike in budgetary allocation for the next fiscal at Rs 52,057 crore to take forward ambitious programmes like universalising secondary education and increasing enrolment ratio in higher education.

This Union Budget also brought in cheers for SC and ST students with the announcement of introduction of a scholarship scheme for them at the pre-metric level. And also provided facility for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) students who till now only had access to post metric scholarships, will now get assistance at the pre-metric level too.

### **2. Don't crib on free seats to poor, Supreme Court tells to private schools.**

Supreme Court said private educational institutions cannot complain about Government's decision to reserve 25 per cent of seats for economically weaker sections (EWS) under the RTE Act as it is an investment for the country's future prosperity.

However, the apex court also said it was willing to strike down the legislation if the private schools are able to establish that Constitutional principles have been violated by enactment of the Right to Education Act under which free and compulsory education had been made mandatory for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.

### **3. Supreme Court asks AP govt. to pay Rs 3,500 crore to private colleges.**

The Supreme Court directed the Andhra Pradesh government to pay by June 15 around Rs 3,500 crore as reimbursement to private engineering colleges towards fees for the poor students whose parental income was less than Rs. one lakh per year.

And the apex court passed an order on appeal filed by the state government challenging the Andhra Pradesh High Court which had asked it to pay the students' full fee at the stage of admission itself.

But the colleges have complained that the government is not paying the fee for SC, ST, BC and EBC students at the beginning of academic year. They said the government had promised to reimburse later and they are finding it difficult to run the institutions at the expected standards.

Advocates Bina Madhavan and Krishna Kumar Singh, counsel for Consortium of Engineering College Managements, contended that state had not reimbursed the colleges for 2008-09 and 2009-10, which amounted to around Rs. 4,037 crore and the government had so far paid only Rs. 300 crore.

They also opposed the plea of Andhra Pradesh government for granting time till September 2011 for payment of the reimbursement, contending that the new academic session will commence by July and it would cause additional burden on the faculty.

### **4. Girls go to govt schools, boys to private' Times of India.** March 11, 2011

At a time when Women's Day is being celebrated with much fanfare the world over, India has a long way to go when it comes to educating 'Girl'.

While a growing number of parents across rural India have begun sending their girls to school, there's a countrywide preference for sending boys to private schools and girls to government schools. Educationists feel this has a lot to do with the perception that private schools are better than government schools, and that if one has to spend on education, the perceived return on investment is higher for a boy.

According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2010, one of the most authoritative private surveys for rural India, the percentage of girls in government schools is higher than boys in the seven to 14 age group, while the percentage of boys is higher in private schools.

**5.RTE effect: City's private schools must apply afresh for recognition**  
**Indian Express.**

March 11, 2011, Chandigarh

With the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act in Chandigarh, it will be mandatory for all private schools in the city to apply for fresh recognition within three months of the date of implementation. The recognition, to be granted by the UT Education Department, would be allowed on the basis of a self-declaration form, the six-page performa for which has already been prepared and uploaded on the official website making it accessible to schools.

All schools, irrespective of whether they are already recognised or their recognition or renewal case is under process, as is the case with many private schools, have to apply afresh now. No financial burden has been attached with the recognition process for the schools as the Department has exempted any application fee for it.

Going by the RTE Act implemented on February 11 through a circular released by the office of the District Education Officer (DEO), all private unaided schools would be filling the 'self declaration-cum-application for grant of recognition of school' form and submitting it to the DEO within three months.

In the declaration, not only information about the school management but also about their students and staff too would be required to be revealed by the schools. From total number of students in each class in both the general and reserved categories, EWS and disadvantaged group, 10-column details sought separately for each teacher in primary, upper primary, elementary and secondary levels.

**6.Research Article**  
**Public-Private Partnerships for Quality Education in India**  
**Karthik Muralidharan**  
March 29th 2011

Karthik Muralidharan is an assistant professor of economics at the University of California, San Diego where he has been on the faculty since 2008. In this paper he discusses about the contribution of private schools and how the challenges of providing quality education can be overcome.

The summary of the research paper is as under:

While the focus of education policy in developing countries such as India has largely centered on increasing the resource base and the number of government-run schools, the role of private fee-charging schools in the primary education sector has not been appreciated as much by academics and policy makers. However, as several recent papers point out, private fee-charging schools increasingly cater to a substantial fraction of the primary-school going population in India. In this essay, he first summarizes evidence from all-India data regarding the prevalence and characteristics of private schools in India and shows that they outperform government-run schools on various measures of performance. He then discusses how a system of scholarships/vouchers for poor students can be designed so as to obtain the efficiency benefits of the private sector while negating its biggest disadvantage – which is the fact that it allocates goods and services largely according to people's ability to pay.

Finally, Karthik considers some of the most important concerns with voucher-based systems and discusses ways in which these can be mitigated. In particular, he emphasizes that increased use of private provision combined with public financing does not in any way absolve the state from its duty of ensuring universal quality education, but instead provides a potentially more efficient and equitable way of doing so.

**To read the full article, visit the link below:**

**<http://econ.ucsd.edu/~kamurali/papers/Other%20Writing/public%20private%20partnerships%20for%20quality%20education%20in%20india.pdf>**



**About us**

ISFC is revolutionizing access to quality education for the low income population in India. It lends money to established schools at the lower end of the pyramid to unlock their dreams that have been constrained on account of lack of capital. In addition to being a compelling business proposition, this has potential to positively impact the lives of millions of children over the coming years.

**Indian School Finance Company**

**Head Office :-**

Grandpa's Royal Mansion, 3rd Floor,  
H.No.3-6-2/1/2,Himyatnagar,  
Hyderabad

**Branch Office :-**

No. 41, First Floor | 6th Cross, 3rd  
Main, Margosa Main Road |  
Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560003

**Contact Us :-**

Hyderabad - 040-66505000  
Bangalore - 9242956338  
Warangal - 9440067576

**Website :- [www.isfc.in](http://www.isfc.in)**