

## Education Update

### **Govt has to bear Rs 3,800 cr to implement 25% quota under RTE-Sep 22, 2011**

BANGALORE: The finance department wanted to know what would be the extra burden to the state to implement the 25% quota in private schools under the RTE. It got a mind-boggling figure of Rs 3,800 crore.

The state unit of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan furnished this exact figure to the government on how much it would cost the government to reimburse private schools ( ICSE/CBSE) if the 25% seats are reserved for poor students in these institutions. The government will have to bear this amount till 2020 when the first batch of the 25% will finish class 8.

According to the figures available from SSA, the number of students who would join private schools as part of the 25% quota in 2012 is around 99,000. The figure has been arrived at by calculating the 25% of the total number of students studying in Class one of unaided schools as of today (which is 3,98,000).

The year 2013 will have twice this number as there would be 25% in Class 1 and Class 2. By the academic year 2019-'20, all classes in the state will have the 25% quota. The total number of students whom the government has to fend for in private schools would be around 7.5 lakh. The reducing growth rate is taken into consideration for calculation.

The unit cost spent on one child by the government is calculated to be around Rs 7,000. The expenditure includes the teachers' salary, infrastructure, midday meals and other incentives. According to the draft rules, all the children admitted under the 25% quota are also entitled to the facilities given by the state-- scholarships, free uniforms, free textbooks, free midday meals, free schoolbags, writing materials, and any other that may be introduced from time to time.

It is estimated that Rs 1,500 crore would be required per year to implement the landmark law that promises free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 6 and 14. This amount will be shared by the Centre and the state at 65-35 ratio. However, the department is still unclear on how the funding should be for the 25% quota. It was this lack of clarity in funding that also irked the private schools when the draft rules were being made. "To get even a few thousand rupees, they ask bribe in percentages. If we give a petition today, we get the refund after six months," said P T Joseph of Independent School Federation of India.

The Right to Education Act was implemented in 2009, but Karnataka is yet to notify it. According

to the education department, the law is now expected to be notified in 15 days.

The numbers game

\* Rs 3,800 crore to teach 25% quota in private schools

\* Around 99,000 students will join private schools in 2012

\* In 2020, all the classes in the state will have the 25% poor students

\* Total number of 25% students in 2020 will be around 7 lakh.

{<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bangalore/Govt-has-to-bear-Rs-3800-cr-to-implement-25-quota-under-RTE/articleshow/10071246.cms>}

### **AP literacy rate static: Minister**

HYDERABAD/MAHBUBNAGAR: In a grim reminder of falling literacy rates in the state, information minister D K Aruna said the agrarian families were not showing any interest to educate themselves, a cause of concern to the government. "Unless there is proper coordination between social networking groups and government organizations, it would be tough to achieve hundred per cent literacy by 2012," she said while addressing a meeting in connection with international literacy day celebrations in Mahbubnagar on Thursday.

She said with the farmers not inclined to empower themselves towards attainment of literacy, the state literacy rate was not moving forward. Despite odds the government was formulating several literacy programmes for the benefit of illiterates and underprivileged, she noted. The minister said the government was providing all facilities, including mid-day meals, in all the government schools to curb dropout rate among the students as well as uplift the standards of education.

{<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/AP-literacy-rate-static-Minister/articleshow/9917199.cms>}



## **Parents prefer private schools- Oct 1, 2011**

**BANGALORE:** The trend of getting children admitted to private schools rather than government-owned ones continues in the state.

According to the figures available from Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, schools in the department of education lost 6.21 lakh students between academic years 2006-'07 and 2010-'11. Around 2.08 lakh may be due to demographic changes.

However, in the remaining 4.13 lakh children, officials feel there may be a lateral shift to private school. That's an overall shift of over 4% in four years from government schools.

They say the figure is an "insignificant phenomenon" when compared to the overall trend, especially in neighbouring states like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

Nearly four of every five elementary schools in the state are either run by the government or supported by it. It's only in high schools that private participation is considerable. Even then, nearly 3 of 5 high schools are either managed or supported by the government.

However, government schools cater to the majority of the rural population. The report points to the commercial intentions of private players. "The participation of private players both in regard to aided and unaided managements is quite low in rural areas. It's marginally visible only in case of high schools which are normally located in big villages. It is clear that commercial designs outweigh concerns of rural development among private players," it stated.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bangalore/-Parents-prefer-private-schools/articleshow/10194596.cms>

## **Andhra Pradesh fixes upper fee limit for private schools**

**Hyderabad:** A panel constituted by the Andhra Pradesh government has recommended that private schools in urban areas should not charge more than Rs.24,000 per annum as tuition fee up to Class 5 and Rs.30,000 up to Class 10. The six-member panel was constituted last month following public complaints that several schools effected a steep hike in tuition fees from the academic year 2009-10.

The five-member expert panel headed by commissioner of intermediate education Luv Agarwal has asked the managements of all such schools to roll back the fee hike. The new fee structure recommended by the panel will come into effect from the next academic year.

The tuition fee for private schools in rural areas has been fixed at Rs.15,000 per annum up to Class 10. The fee excludes transport, food, books, uniform and hostel charges.

The panel fixed a maximum registration fee of Rs.100 for all schools. It also prescribed that schools should not collect more than Rs.5,000 as caution deposit and it should be refundable.

The panel, which submitted its 14-page report to the government Friday, clarified that the upper fee limit does not mean that all schools can collect it. The fee would be decided after taking into account the expenditure incurred by the school. It also laid down that the fee structure should be revised only once in three years.

All private schools in the state will also have to take permission from the district-level fee regulatory committee for increasing the fee. The committee will be headed by the district collector.

The panel recommended that all schools set up a governing council by including representatives of the management, teachers and parents. It also asked schools to set up a parent teacher association, which should be consulted by the management on the fee hike.

It also suggested that buying books, stationery and uniform from the school should be optional and that transport charges be collected on the basis of distance.

The committee also directed schools to do away with tags like international, talent, techno, model and e-school. "The schools should be named as primary, upper primary and high schools," it said.

This direction is significant as schools with tags like international and techno were found collecting huge fees. The panel also clarified that the tuition fee includes charges for all extracurricular activity and the schools can't collect the fee under different heads. It also made clear that schools should not collect development fee or recover advertising expenditure from students. The panel's recommendations have come as a major relief for parents, who had taken to the streets last month to protest the steep hike in fees by several schools. Some schools were collecting anywhere between Rs.30,000 to Rs.100,000 as tuition fees.

[http://www.indiaedunews.net/Andhra\\_Pradesh/Adhra\\_Pradesh\\_fixes\\_upper\\_fee\\_limit\\_for\\_private\\_schools\\_8585/](http://www.indiaedunews.net/Andhra_Pradesh/Adhra_Pradesh_fixes_upper_fee_limit_for_private_schools_8585/)



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### **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