

Memorandum

To

Date : 03.12.2011

Shri. Arun Sharma
Joint Director,
Rajyasabha Secretariat,
540, Fifth Floor, Parliament House Annexe,
New Delhi - 110001

Dear sir,

Sub : Submission of STFI memorandum on different aspects relating to the implementation of the Right to Education Act.

Ref : Your advertisement published in Times of India Dt. 18.11.2011.

We on behalf of School Teachers Federation of India (STFI), an all India Organisation with 19 Teachers organisation from 13 states representing 12 lakh teachers of the country submitting this memorandum on different aspects relating to the implementation of Right to Education Act. We are willing to appear before the sub-committee and present our views in detail.

SUGGESTIONS ON SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES ARE LISTED BELOW

1. Age of Admission : The prevailing pattern of school entry at Class-I in some states like Kerala and Andhra Pradesh is 5 years while at the national level (as per RTE) is 6 years. A sudden shift from 5 to 6 in school entry age without taking the parents into confidence will effect adversely at this juncture. A mechanism has to be developed for the transition. Other wise parents send their children to near by private schools resulting low enrolment in Govt. & Govt. Aided Schools. Three to four years can be considered as the period of transition. We suggest that the appropriate Govt. should provide for all children of 3 to 5 years free pre school education in primary schools as proposed in RTE (Chapter III Sec. 11)

2. Structural Change : The change in the structure of schooling system is another area of concern that deserves attention. Now it is not uniform in all states. In Kerala the pattern is lower primary-classes 1 to 4 upper primary-classes 5 to 7, High Schools classes 8 to 10 and Higher Secondary covers classes 11 & 12. In Andhra Pradesh Primary 1 to 5, Upper Primary 1 to 7 High Schools 6 to 10 and Intermediate 11 & 12. In Rajastan Primary 1 to 5, upper primary 1 to 8, few Ups with 6 to 8, secondary schools 6 to 10, senior secondary 6 to 12. The National patterns as per RTE is Elementary 1 to 8 classes, secondary 9 to 12. Diffrent states have their own reasons for their existing structure. We are not against the structural change making coterminous with that of national pattern. But any changes in the structural pattern might adversely affect the security of a large number of teachers. At the same time a number of problems arise in the service matters of teachers as in many states separate directorates and ministers are for Elementary and Secondary Education. Hence deep study and proper discussions are needed for any kind of alteration to the existing pattern and full financial support should be provided by the central Govt.

3. Provision of 25% seats for disadvantaged group in un aided schools : It is quite relevant to provide 25% seats in class 1 for disadvantaged group children in un aided schools where there is a dearth of adequate number of Govt. School. But in States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Govt. and Govt. Aided Schools are covering almost all habitations. The

public transport system is also comparatively better. Hence access to Govt. and Govt. Aided Schools is not at all a serious issue. In such states there is no need of seeking the help of private schools for achieving universal access as suggested in RTE. As per chapter - III. Sec 6 of the Act appropriate Govt. and local authority shall establish school within such area or limits of neighbour hood where it is not so established with in a period of three years from the commencement of the Act. Provision for Private Schools where there are enough Govt. Schools or Govt. Aided Schools is contradictory to the very Act. In the states where there is a strong system of neighbour hood schooling it is unconstitutional to guide the children towards private schooling by reimbursing the child's educational expenditure. It would lead to doubling of the expenditure of the state in economic terms.

We suggest that in all states Govt. Schools should be established in all habitations as directed in Chapter-III section 6 of the Act.

4. Teacher-Pupil Ratio : The Act provides 2 teachers in schools having children upto 60 and 3 teachers in schools having 90 students. As per the Act the child has Right to have a quality education. If two teachers are provided for 60 children, they cannot concentrate on quality and they cannot Evaluate the child comprehensively and continuously. And this leads to multi grade teaching also. At present in Kerala for every school they are providing one teacher for every class and a language teacher for a school i.e., 6 teacher for each school. If the provision of the act is implemented in state like Kerala this will lead to creation of schools with the same teacher handling more than one class at the same time which is a retrogressive change.

Our suggestion is there should be one teacher for every class. And one remedy to avoid such deviation is to amend the Act to insert provisions enabling states to amend the Act with the prior permission of the Center as is there in some enactments.

5. Filling up vacancies of Teachers (Chapter IV Sec. 26) : This should be amended. There should not be any vacancies. As in Kerala State, the appropriate Govt. must select 10% additional teachers and when ever vacancies arise or when ever a teacher goes on long leave like maternity Leave, Study Leave, Medical Leave etc., they can be posted in the respect places to cover the syllabus.

6. Special Training to children directly admitted in a class appropriate to their age (Chapter -II Sec.4) : As per the act the children admitted directly in a class appropriate to their age shall be provided with a special training in order to asper with others. The School Management Committee or the local authority shall provide a teacher. It is a practically difficult to arrange a teacher in the school exclusively from them as their number will be limited. To get fruitful results these children must be given special training as designed by the acadmic authority by establishing Block Level Residential School and appointing qualified teacher.

7. Collection of Fee : As per the Act no fee shall be collected from the child or his parent. In School teachers have to conduct Unit Test, terminal exams. For this there is no provision in SSA or RMSA funds. Previously in AP Special Fee was collected at the time of admission to meet these expenses. Children of weaker section were exempted. Sufficent fund must be provided by SSA or RMSA for examinations.

Yours faithfully

(Karthik Mandal)
STFI President

(K. Rajendran)
Gen.Secretary

(N. Narayanan)
Vice President

(V. Balasubrahmanyam)
MLC, AP