



सत्यमेव जयते

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Secretary
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New Delhi

D.O. No. 13-10/2021-IS-11

16th June, 2021

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, Covid-19 has adversely impacted the whole world including India. As a result of the pandemic, many children have lost one, and in some cases, both parents to the deadly virus. These children are in urgent need of food, shelter & psycho-social support at the moment. The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, have taken cognizance of the situation and are determined to work jointly towards providing necessary support to these children in need of care and protection.

2. In addition to announcements made with regard to PM Care Fund, to ensure continuity of education for such students, all efforts should be made to bring such children into the fold of the various schemes being run by DoSEL, which are as under :

- a. Samagra Shiksha which ensures equity and inclusion at all levels of school education
- b. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas – residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL)
- c. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools/hostels for educating children without adult protection who are in need of shelter and care
- d. Reimbursement against section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act for educating children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighborhood
- e. Provision of free textbooks, uniforms to all girls and boys belonging to SC, ST and BPL
- f. Free education at elementary level in all government and government aided schools under RTE Act
- g. Mid-Day Meal to all students at elementary level in all government and government aided schools
- h. DoSEL guidelines for educating children of migrant persons dated 13.7.2020.
- i. Guidelines for access to education with quality and equity and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on school education dated 7th January, 2021
- j. Covid response action plan sent by DoSEL on 4.5.21 providing for identifying and mainstreaming of Out of School Children and ensuring sustained Enrolment, Retention and Transition
- k. Manodarpan for mobilizing psychosocial support for Mental Health and Well Being of Students during COVID-19 and beyond
- l. SAMVAD Centre @ NIMHANS for building capacities of service providers including teachers, along with the telecounselling facility for children & caregivers.

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3. In view of the tragedy that may have occurred in the life of young school going children, following further action may be ensured:

- a. In schools, teachers are the first point of contact for the students and therefore may also be the first to come to know about any unfortunate incident in a student's family. As such, teachers may be oriented to keep track of students who have lost one or both of their parents due to the pandemic.
- b. All teachers should be suitably guided to furnish information relating to such children to Childline (1098) who will produce such children before Child Welfare Committee (CWC) within 24 hours (excluding journey time).
- c. Child Welfare Committee will take necessary steps for care, protection, development and rehabilitation of such children who are in need of care and protection.
- d. Further the details of such children may also be furnished to the education officers at District level, and further to the State for compilation.
- e. Conversely, the District Education Officers should be in active contact with the State Department for Child Welfare and proactively procure the details of children orphaned due to Covid or such children whose family has lost the breadwinner, so that the educational needs of such students may be taken care of in an age-appropriate manner.
- f. Various components of Samagra Shiksha as listed out above maybe utilised appropriately by consultation between CWC and District Education Officers.
- g. States/UTs may also let us know about the action taken in this respect to identify such children and provide necessary support within one month.

4. We would request your personal intervention in the matter so as to ensure rehabilitation and continuity of education to the children impacted as such by the pandemic.

Yours Sincerely,


(Anita Karwal)


(Ram Mohan Mishra)

To

1. Chief Secretary, All States and UTs
2. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department of Education, All States and UTs.
3. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, All States and UTs.
4. State Programme Director, Samagra Shiksha, all states and UTs

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