

Scheme for setting up of 6000 Model Schools at Block Level as benchmark of excellence

1. Background:

Secondary education was not a thrust area during the Tenth Plan period. There were a few small schemes to enhance access and to improve quality, but the coverage was neither large nor comprehensive. The plan schemes concentrated on continuing the school systems run by autonomous organizations of MHRD and included efforts for integrated education for the disabled, girls' education through provision of hostel facilities, use of ICT in schools, vocationalisation of higher secondary education and open and distance learning.

1.2. Since universalisation of elementary education has become a Constitutional mandate, it is absolutely essential to push this vision forward to move towards universalisation of secondary education, which has already been achieved in a large number of developed countries and several developing countries. Paras 5.13 – 5.15 of the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) deal with Secondary Education. Para 5.13 of the NPE, inter- alia, stated that,

“Access to Secondary Education will be widened with emphasis on enrolment of girls, SCs and STs, particularly in science, commerce and vocational streams.....”.

1.3. C A B E Committees

1.3.1. A Committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the highest deliberative body in secondary education, on “Universalisation of Secondary Education” was constituted in September 2004. The Committee in its report submitted in June 2005, inter alia, had recommended certain norms regarding facilities in Secondary Schools. These norms are broadly based on the norms for Kendriya Vidyalayas.

1.3.2. Besides the Committee on Universalisation of Secondary Education, CABE had also, at the same time, set up another Committee on “Girls' Education & Common School System”. The Committee has recommended, inter alia, that:

“.....State should invest in public schools system with standards, norms, building, etc., with the same standards as that of Kendriya Vidyalayas”.

1.4. The Central Government is committed to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons. A major initiative for expanding secondary education will be taken up in the 11th Plan. The norm would be to provide a secondary school within 5 KMs. and a higher secondary school within a distance of 7-8 KM of every habitation by the end of 11th Five Year Plan. The GER of secondary education is targeted to increase from 52% in 2004-05 to 75% in 2011-12. Similarly, GER for higher secondary level is targeted from 28% to 45-50% during the

11th Plan. The general objective is to universalise secondary education (up to class 10) by the end of the 12th Plan. During the 11th Plan, while access to secondary education will be universalised, there will be adequate focus on quality improvement. Not only universal enrolment, but universal retention and satisfactory quality of learning will be the priority. In spite of the effort to expand access to quality secondary education, there will be need to have high quality schools for talented rural children, who may not be in a position to access quality schools in urban areas, without compromising Government's commitment to common school system.

2. Prime Minister's Independence Day Announcement

2.1. Prime Minister in his Independent Speech, 2007, has, inter alia, stated, as under:

“ I request states to give priority to education, as education alone is the foundation on which a progressive, prosperous society can be built. Growing revenue earnings have improved the fiscal capacity of the States. They must now give priority to education.

Towards this end, our Government has decided to invest in setting up good quality schools across the country. We will support 6,000 new high quality schools – one in every block of the country. Each such school will set standards of excellence for other schools in the area.”

2.2. In the meeting of the full Planning Commission held on 13.9.2007, the Prime Minister in his opening remarks has, inter alia, stated

“To kick start the initiative, the proposal for setting up 6000 high quality model schools with costs to be shared by the Centre and the State needs to be finalized within the next few weeks. The mechanism for setting up and managing these schools – whether in the government sector or through private partnership in some aspects – should be worked out by MHRD, in consultation with the Planning Commission. It must be recognized that about 60% of secondary schools are under private management and the Ministry and the Planning Commission should focus on incorporating the role of the private sector wherever possible. An outline of the proposal should be available within two months.”

3. The concept of Model school: Basically a model school will have infrastructure and facilities of the same standard as in a Kendriya Vidyalaya and with stipulations on pupil -teacher ratio, ICT usage, holistic educational environment, appropriate curriculum and emphasis on output and outcome. Some of the key features of a model school will be:

- (i) Education provided in a Model school should be holistic and integral touching upon physical, emotional and aesthetic development in addition to academics.

- (ii) Either brand new schools may be established or existing schools may be converted in to Model schools.
- (iii) Necessary infrastructure will be provided in such schools not only for satisfying teaching needs, but also for sports and co-curricular activities. There will be sufficient scope for sports, recreation and out door activities. Facilities like play ground, gardens, auditorium etc. will be provided in Model schools.
- (iv) The curriculum should cast the local culture and environment and learning should be activity based.
- (v) These schools will have adequate ICT infrastructure, Internet connectivity and full time computer teachers.
- (vi) The Teacher Pupil Ratio should not exceed 1:25 and the classrooms will be spacious enough to accommodate at least 30 students. However, classroom-students ratio will not exceed 1:40.
- (vii) These schools will be provided with Arts and Music Teachers besides subject specific teachers as per the usual norms. These schools will also create facility for activities emphasizing Indian heritage and art & craft.
- (viii) Special emphasis may be given on teaching of Science, Maths and English. If required, bridge-courses may be introduced for weak students.
- (ix) The school curricula should include the material/items that inculcate leadership qualities, team spirit, participation abilities, development of soft skills and ability to deal with real life situations.
- (x) Health Education and health check up will be introduced in these schools.
- (xi) A good library with books and magazines for students and teachers will be provided.
- (xii) Field trips and educational tours will be an integral part of the curriculum.
- (xiii) Medium of instruction will be left to State Governments. However, special emphasis will be given on English teaching & spoken English.
- (xiv) Affiliation of these schools to a particular examination board will be left to State Governments.
- (xv) Selection of students will be through independent selections test.

- (xvi) Selection of Principals and Teachers will also be through an independent process to be developed in consultation with State Governments.
- (xvii) Model schools will have appropriate pace setting activities so that schools in the neighbourhood can benefit.

4. Implementation

4.1. 2500 of the 6000 model schools will be set up in the Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) on Kendriya Vidyalaya template. Another 2,500 schools will be set up under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Modalities for establishing the remaining 1,000 schools have not yet been finalized.

4.2 Model schools on Kendriya Vidyalaya norms

In view of the recommendations of the two CAGE Committees on “Universalisation of Secondary Education” and “Girls’ Education & Common School System” to adopt Kendriya Vidyalaya norms in expansion of school system and for investment in schools conforming to Kendriya Vidyalaya norms, it is proposed that the high quality model schools may broadly have infrastructure facilities of the same standard as in a Kendriya Vidyalaya and with stipulations on pupil teacher ratio, ICT usage, holistic educational environment, appropriate curriculum and emphasis on output and outcome. It is, therefore, proposed that 2,500 Model Schools to be established in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) under the management and supervision of State Governments and the 2,500 schools under PPP mode, should basically conform to the norms of Kendriya Vidyalayas, although the funding pattern and management structure will be different.

4.3. 2500 Model schools on Kendriya Vidyalaya template under State Governments

- **Location:** 2500 Model schools will be set up in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs).
- **Land:** Land for these schools will be identified and provided by the State Governments free of cost.
- **Selection of the schools:** State-wise allocation of number of schools will be done by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Thereafter the State Governments are free to establish brand new schools or select existing schools for conversion as Model schools.

- **Medium of instructions:** The medium of instructions is left to the State Governments. However, special emphasis will be given on English teaching & spoken English.
- **Classes:** The schools will have classes from VI to XII, each class having two sections, if the school is in English medium and can have classes from IX to XII if the school is in regional medium.
- **Management:** These schools will be run by State Government societies similar to KVS.
- **Construction:**
 - ✓ Construction of the school buildings will be done by the State societies.
 - ✓ The norms will be provided by KVS/ State PWD.
 - ✓ State Governments will also have the option to get the school building constructed through a private partner as per the norms.
- **Admission:** The seats will be filled up based on the entrance test similar to the one in KVS. Existing State rules for reservation will apply.
- The buildings will be designed as earthquake resilient and will be equipped with fire safety measures
- Use of solar and other renewable energy will be encouraged and buildings will be designed appropriately wherever possible.

4.4. 2500 schools under Public Private Partnership mode

2,500 schools will be set up under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. The exact modalities of the PPP model will be worked out by the Ministry of Human Resource Development separately in consultation with the Planning Commission, the State Governments and other stake holders.

5. Admission

Admission in 2,500 schools under State Governments will be through an admission test conducted by the State societies managing the model schools. Tests will be conducted block wise, i.e., students residing in a particular block will compete for the school in that block. Existing reservations will apply.

6. Role of the State Government in setting up 2,500 Schools in State sector based on KV norms

- These schools will be set up and operated by State Governments, which could be existing State government schools converted into model schools or brand new schools .

- State/UT Governments will have to set up societies similar to KVS for managing the schools once these are transferred to them
- State/UT Governments will provide land for setting up of schools, wherever required.
- Every State will furnish an implementation schedule/ plan in order to implement the project in a time bound manner.
- The minimum land requirement will be fixed as per the KVS/NVS norms, but may be appropriately relaxed in cases of scarcity of land subject to satisfaction of essential norms.
- These schools will be established in educationally backward blocks and priority will be given to schedule V areas. Priority may also be given to Ashram Schools in case of upgradation/conversion of existing schools
- Constructions will be through the State societies that will manage these school and therefore state share towards capital cost will have to be credited to these Societies.
- States can also enter into PPP to get the buildings constructed and maintained for which annuity payment will be arranged by the Central and State Government in equal proportion.
- Appropriate monitoring committees will be set up by the State Government at block, district and state level. The State level monitoring committee will also have members from Central Government.
- Will select and make available temporary sites with the allied facilities to KVS/ Societies so that schools can start functioning at temporary sites.

7. Proposal from the State Government

The proposal from the State Government should contain,

- Educational Backward Blocks, where the schools will be located
- Description of the schools to be converted into model schools along with justification for selecting them.
- An implementation schedule/ plan for acquisition of land in case of brand new schools
- A time bound plan for recruitment of teachers for the schools
- Budget provision in the State budget

8. Funding pattern: 75% of the capital cost will be borne by the Central Government and the balance 25% will be provided by the State Government. During the 11th Five Year Plan period, recurring cost will be provided by the Central Government on 75:25 sharing basis. The sharing pattern during the 12th Plan period will be 50:50 between Centre and State Government. For the special category states the ratio will be 90:10.

9. Cost norms

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has estimated the total non recurring cost for setting up of a school on KV template with classes VI to XII with two sections in each class as Rs. 3.02 crore. The recurring cost per year has been estimated as around Rs. 0.75 crore per annum.

9.2. The estimates are based on present rates of operational and construction cost in use.

9.3 The actual cost norms for setting up Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and State sector schools will be based on CPWD schedules of rates applicable to the particular location and the norms indicated above are only estimates.

10. Release of fund

10.1. The central share for the construction of 2500 schools under State Government will be released to State societies.

10.2. The Central share of operational cost for the model schools on KV template will be released to the State Governments, who will in turn release it to the concerned society.

10.3. 50% of the estimated cost will be released as 1st installment after commitment for matching contribution from State Governments and the remaining fund will be released based on utilization certificate from State Government.

11. Monitoring of the project

11.1. At the central level, monitoring of the project will be through a separate cell to be opened in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan.

11.2 At the state levels, schools to be set up on Kendriya Vidyalaya template will be monitored by the Societies administering these schools.

11.2. State Government will also set up District level and State level monitoring Committees. The District level Committee will have representative from PRIs, Rashtriya Madhyamikh Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Mission and civil society. The State level monitoring Committee will have representative from Central Government besides various Departments of State Government. The Head Master/ Principal of In-charge of Secondary School at School level will present all the documents before the District level monitoring committee/ societies.

11.3. Besides, the monitoring set up for 'SUCCESS' or 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan' will also be used in monitoring of the scheme.

11.4. Monitoring will also be done through Secondary School Management System (SEMIS).

12. Evaluation

There will a continuing evaluation of the working of the schools by State Government agencies through a regular and well-structured system of field visits. Besides, an independent agency may be assigned the task of monitoring of the scheme, including progress of construction for each State.

13. Research

Besides the above in-built monitoring and evaluation mechanism, the Central Government and the State Governments will conduct an independent research on different activities of the project by engaging independent institutes of repute. The findings of these research studies will be communicated to all the concerned authorities for corrective measures and further strengthening of the implementation of the scheme.

14. The scheme provides for 3% of total cost on Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research. This amount should be spent on the above mentioned activities.
