

To

The Principal Director
Defence Estates
Central/Southern/Western Command
Lucknow/Pune/Chandigarh

Subject: Non-Formal education for the working children or children of migrant labour in Cantonments

It is noticed that a number of children in the age group of 6-14 years in the slums or belonging to migrating labour/ Construction workers in the Cantonments do not enroll in the regular schools. Same is the state for the working children, children from nomadic communities and the child domestic workers. Under Section 3 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, “every child of six to fourteen years shall have a right to free and compulsory education in a neighborhood school till completion of elementary education”. Under Section 9 (e) of the Act, it is incumbent on every local authority to “ensure and *monitor* admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child residing within its jurisdiction”. As per the 86th amendment of the Constitution of India all children in the age group of 6-14 must be provided free and compulsory access to the primary education.

2. There is a noticeable lack of efforts being made for educating working children or children of migrant/nomadic tribes. Even though some efforts are being made, more targeted efforts are needed. An uneducapmigrant labour access to education, it is proposed to undertake a pilot project in the selected Cantonment Boards before considering its introduction in all the Cantonment Boards. The following ten Cantonment Boards will undertake this project:

- a. Cantonment Board, Jabalpur
- b. Cantonment Board, Allahabad
- c. Cantonment Board, Ambala
- d. Cantonment Board, Delhi
- e. Cantonment Board, Ahmedabad
- f. Cantonment Board, Mhow
- g. Cantonment Board, Kanpur
- h. Cantonment Board, Ahmednagar
- i. Cantonment Board, Varanasi
- j. Cantonment Board, Secunderabad

3. These Boards will initiate following steps to provide free and compulsory primary education to such children who are unable to attend regular schools:

- a. Carry out a survey of such children in their respective area. While carrying out this survey, survey of children not going to school *in slum areas* should also be carried

- out. It is possible that in some Cantonments their number may not be many.
- b. Once survey is complete, arrangements be made to identify a suitable place for providing education to such children. If required, a suitable place could be hired for this purpose near the location of work of children's parents or in slum area itself.
 - c. s some of the children themselves may be working children, the timing of school If the identified place is at a distance, to-and-fro safe transport arrangements are to be made.
 - d. Ahas to be planned (may be evening) after giving sufficient thought.
 - e. Arrangements should also be made to provide these children two sets of uniform and also washing of these uniforms.
 - f. These children should be provided necessary books and stationary. Arrangements can also be made for safe keeping of these books after the studies and children can go home without the books if circumstances are such.
 - g. Arrangements should also be made for midday meals for these children. Special care be taken to ensure that the meals provided to these children are of good quality and hygienically prepared.
 - h. If necessary, cash incentive of around Rs. 10/per day can be provided to each child to encourage attendance in such schools.
 - i. Teachers should be appointed on contract basis for these schools and the performance of teachers should be regularly monitored.

Boards are free to adopt such other measures as they think appropriate considering local circumstances.

1. As these children are likely to migrate from one place to another, short duration course-modules of 3 months can be designed for them. Such modules may include at least one regional language, written and spoken English and basic mathematics. Sufficient amusement programs or recreation facilities may also be developed. After completion of the module, certificates should be provided to these students to enable them to continue their education at a different/same place. For children of 10-11 year of age bridge courses of 3 months duration can be planned so that they can join regular schools in the appropriate class if they so desire.
2. While carrying out the survey please ensure to include all the children of migrant workers whether these workers are working on the Cantonment Board projects, MAP projects or even private projects. If the working children or the children of construction workers from outside the limits of Cantonment Boards are also interested in joining these schools they should also be encouraged to do so and the Board may meet their expenditure. Such meeting of expenditure for education purposes, even though it may not be much, is permitted under Section 65 of the Cantonments Act, 2006.
3. Principal Directors will be required to monitor this project personally. The first progress report in this respect should reach this HQ within one month. A collection of case studies on out-of-school children has been uploaded in cbdata titled as: "Out of School Children".
4. This issues with the approval of DG.

Sd/-

(Sundari Subramaniam Pujari)
Senior Addl DG
for Director General, Defence Estates

Copy to:-

1. Director, NIDEM
2. President Cantonment Board, Jabalpur
3. President Cantonment Board, Allahabad
4. President Cantonment Board, Ambala
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11. President Cantonment Board, Secunderabad