

CONCEPT NOTE

SCHOOL ON WHEELS / SIGNAL SCHOOL BUS PROJECT

[1] Introduction

Article 21A provides that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

The National Legal Services Authority has framed a Scheme, viz. 'NALSA (Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and Their Protection) Scheme, 2015, the objects of which are to outline the basic rights and benefits that should be afforded to children, to ensure legal representation to the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law at all levels. Moreover, sub-clause (I) of Clause 10.6 stipulates that each SLSA shall organize intensive legal awareness campaigns at all levels about children's right to education as well as fundamental duties of parents to send their children to schools.

Moreover, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in *Salil Bali vs Union of India & Anr*, on 17 July, 2013, observed that – *"It cannot be questioned that children are amongst the most vulnerable sections in any society. They represent almost one-third of the world's population, and unless they are provided with proper opportunities, the opportunity of making them grow into responsible citizens of tomorrow will slip out of the hands of the present generation."*

Further, the Hon'ble Apex Court, in *Suo Moto Writ © No. 06 of 2021*, has taken a note about the conditions of Child in Street Situation and has, time to time issued several directions to the State and Central Governments and other bodies.

[2] Initiative by GSLSA

In view of the observations made by the Hon'ble Apex Court in the aforementioned Suo Moto Writ, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has taken an initiative and as a pilot project, proposed to start 'School on Wheel'.

Soon as it comes to the knowledge of Hon'ble the Patron-in-Chief, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, His Lordship has taken prompt decision that Gujarat State Legal Services Authority to join the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in the said project, to fulfill the object of 'NALSA Child Friendly Legal Services to Children and Their Protection) Scheme, 2015' in its letter & spirit. One of the objects behind joining this project is to provide various information/literature on children rights, spread awareness amongst the Children about their Rights.

Hon'ble the Patron-in-Chief, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble the Executive Chairman, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority have convened meetings with the officials from the State Government, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Municipal School Board to make the project effective and successful.

[3] 'SIGNAL SCHOOL BUS' – 'FLAG OFF'

An event of launching of “*Signal School Bus*” was organized by the Government of Gujarat, Gujarat State Legal Services Authority, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation & Municipal School Board, on 6th March, 2022 at Gujarat High Court Auditorium, Sola, Ahmedabad. On this day, total 10 Signal School Buses were flag-off with the auspicious hands of Hon’ble Chief Minister Mr. Bhupendrabhai Patel, in the august presence of Hon’ble Mr. Justice M.R.Shah, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon’ble Ms. Justice Bela M. Trivedi, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon’ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, Hon’ble Mr. Justice R.M.Chhaya, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, (the then Executive Chairman, GSLSA), Mr.Rajendra Trivedi, Hon’ble Minister of Law & Justice, Gujarat State, Mr.Jitubhai Vaghani, Hon’ble Education Minister, Gujarat State, Mr.Kiritkumar Parmar, Mayor, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Hon’ble Judges of High Court of Gujarat and other dignitaries.

[4] About Signal School Project

- ✓ This scheme is prepared for street children.
- ✓ Initially, 10 Buses of Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Services (AMTS) have been converted in to School Bus, with various amenities like LED TV, Wifi, Uniform, Shoes, Books, Board, Drinking Water, etc. thereafter two more buses were added in addition to 10 buses.
- ✓ The Municipal School Board has spared services of 02 teachers for each bus.
- ✓ This Bus will go to the specific spot/Cross Roads where children are found begging. Hence, rather children to go to school, in this Scheme, the School came to the Children to give them education for betterment of society. At present, 10 spots/cross roads have been identified for the project.
- ✓ This scheme is connected with the Mid-day Meal Scheme and accordingly, the children under this Scheme of Signal School will be provided lunch along with education.
- ✓ The object behind this scheme is to see that no children can deprive of education.

[5] Surprise Visit of Signal School Bus

In order to ensure that the quality of education does not compromised at all, the Hon'ble Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA and Hon'ble Executive Chairman, GSLSA, takes periodic & surprise visits of the Signal School Buses located at different areas of Ahmedabad City. Both Lordships, during the visit found that the children were enjoying the learning with fun and they were impressed with the techniques of teaching adopted by teachers who were qualified to impart multi-grading teaching.

[6] Enrollment of new students – Shala Praveshotsav

On 25.06.2022, in the gracious presence of Hon'ble the Chief Minister, State of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aravind Kumar, the Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat, in all 101 children were enrolled for fresh academic year in Signal School Project. Besides, 138 school children who underwent the 03 months capsule course in Signal School Project were given admission in nearest Municipal School on the said occasion of Shala Praveshotsav. The said function was also attended by Mayor of Ahmedabad City, Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad City, Member Secretary, GSLSA, Chairman of State Committee, Leaders of Ruling Party and Members of School board and proud parents with their children who were to be enrolled in the project remained present. The School Uniforms, Stationary and other relevant items were distributed amongst the children of Signal School Bus as well as 138 new children were enrolled for Signal School.

[7] EPILOGUE

The project was started in March, 2021 which later on highly appreciated. The Gujarat State Legal Services Authority in association with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Municipal School Board organized many extraordinary activities during the academic and non-academic period in order to motivate the children. The students are also provided the knowledge of music, drawing and some extra-ordinary curriculum activities. The mid-day meal also provided to the children of signal school after completing clinical lectures.

The same on 10th February, 2024 in the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA and Hon'ble Executive Chairman, GSLSA by inviting the proud parents of children also. Proposes in the same schools, it is proposed that the children be encouraged to pursue the better living by

following the values some associations of child psychologists / activists are indeed required by forming cluster of signal school run in various parts of the city. The prominent expert in this field is proposed to come to the city of Ahmedabad during last week of January, 2024 and her profound knowledge of inviting her to take session at the school. The participating children also be provided refreshment and child utility hamper comprising activity / story / picture books. The Administrative Officer from Municipal School Board and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation be directed to make out necessary arrangements to form 04 clusters 03 signal school buses in one cluster to arrange lecture and said exercise to be done from 31st January to 3rd February of 2024.

As stated above, the periodic visits are made by Hon'ble Patron-in-Chief, GSLSA and Hon'ble Executive Chairman, GSLSA for inspection and give their inputs/suggestions for betterment of children. One of the key suggestions are to organize 'Sports Day' to expand the limits of the children in sports education as well as to organize routine health check-ups of the children.

The students are provided the utility items like,

Because of constant and well-planned efforts the number of school buses are increased from 10 to 12 and the students are undergoing the bridge course.
