



**All India Primary Teachers' Federation**

## **PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN SCHOOL EDUCATION - PRESENT STATUS**

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### **Setting-up Model Schools**

The Government of India has planned to set up 6,000 model schools in the country. Of these, 2,500 model schools are being set up under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The Government is visualising that the enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009 would entail an increase in the demand of education facilities at the school level. To meet this increased demand for education facilities, the Government is moving forward to set up 2500 mode schools under PPP.

Sh. Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development categorically stated that the major responsibility for universalization lies with the state. Universalizing access and retention, bridging gender and social category gaps in enrolment education are the primary focus of government's interventions through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan – the flagship programme of the Government of India to achieve quality education for all. The provision relating to the private schools does not mean that the Central and State government are absolved of their primary responsibilities of providing infrastructure facilities.

Presently children who do not have an access to elementary education are from disadvantaged sections of society. They are living mostly in remote and relatively inaccessible areas. They are served poorly by education and medical facilities. The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India advertised in March 2012 for inviting entrepreneurs to submit proposal for setting-up schools in blocks which are not educationally backward. This means that children belonging to disadvantaged sections of society living in remote/inaccessible areas would not be benefited by these schools. Further these schools in non-backward blocks will be out of reach of poor children due to their prohibitive tuition fee and other allied expenses because their poverty.

Entrepreneurs are coming forward to open schools under the scheme PPP to earn profit out of this venture. The Government is thus opening school education to

commercialization. Education as an enterprise, as the Supreme Court – the highest court in India - has time and again pointed out, cannot be commercial in nature. It is in the interest of society that institutions imparting education are transparent and open in their dealings and in their practices. It is generally observed that all private institutions manipulate their accounts to depict that they are not earning profit. Actually these institutions are minting money. In the light of this, the AIPTF is fighting with the Government of India that PPP is commercializing education and it should be scrapped.

### **RTE, 2009 and Admission of 25% Children from Economically Weaker Section into private unaided schools**

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009 makes a provision that each unaided schools would admit 25% of children belonging to economically weaker sections of society and the school fee for the children will be paid by concerned state Government. The private schools had approached the Supreme Court against this provision of RTE, 2009. The Supreme Court has recently decided each unaided school will have to admit 25% students from economically weaker sections of society in preschool/ Class-I every year. The Supreme Court decided that this will be applicable from the academic session 2012-13. Many schools are still grumbling against this judgment of the Supreme Court. In some states these private unaided schools have not admitted student this year on the plea that they have already made the admission. Some other schools are devising other tactics for not admitting these poor children. They are also mentioning that admission of these children adversely affect their result. They are mentioning that these children do have adequate food and conducive learning conditions at home. A high percentage of these children are malnourished. How can a malnourished child proceed with his education in a private school? Some primary schools are highlighting that just by sending 25% poor kids to private schools does not necessary mean that they are set to achieve success.

Sh. Kapil Sibal statement reflects that government is not absolving its responsibility of providing quality elementary education to all. But the fact is otherwise. The Government is not paying attention to augment teaching workforce and infrastructure facilities in government elementary schools. For instance, that there are three teachers on an average against five classes in a primary school. Besides separate toilet for girls are not there in 50% of primary schools. Recent research studies world wide has revealed that the age of puberty has declined from 12/13 years to 10 years. When a girl student attains puberty in a government primary

school, how can she attend a school where there is no separate toilet for girls? She has no option but to leave school. The government is therefore not bothering to improve learning conditions in schools. On the contrary, it has floated the scheme – PPP to enable entrepreneurs to earn profit by opening schools.

AIPTF has pleaded with the Government of India to scrap the scheme of PPP because it is not in the interest of the society particularly economically weaker sections. The scheme is only helping the rich to become richer. The scheme would further widen the gap between the haves and have not. Government schools ailing from abysmally poor infrastructure facilities and teaching workforce will be schools of the poor and all private schools for the rich. The government is not bothering for the request/demands of the All India Primary Teachers' Federation in this regard.

The AIPTF has, therefore decided to picket the Parliament in the monsoon session to draw the attention of the Government of India about this anti poor policy – PPP. This step has been approved by the Executive Committee of the AIPTF. The AIPTF is quite hopeful of achieving success as it achieved in the case of RTE, 2009. The AIPTF through its direct approach of picketing the Parliament in 2007 forced the Government of India to withdraw the clause of School Based Cadre and slash the powers of the School Management Committee. It is because of the constant pressure and mobilization with political support of Members of Parliament, it has witnessed the enactment of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009.