



Education

Fund Students, not Schools

At a Glance

Functions

Pre-primary and primary education is the main responsibility of the local bodies—the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Delhi Cantonment Board (DCB). The secondary and higher education is mostly looked after by the Delhi government. Within the Delhi government, three directorates manage the education system: the Directorate of Education for the middle, secondary and senior secondary education; the Directorate of Higher Education for the financial assistance and regulation of higher education; and the Directorate of Training and Technical Education for imparting technical education at the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Findings

- 📖 There are over 5 lac children living in 1,200 slums in the Capital who have no access to schooling. 1,000 new schools are required to meet their demand.
- 📖 As against a target of 230 new schools to be opened and 1.3 lac children to be enrolled during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the MCD opened only 92 schools and enrolled 0.91 lac children.
- 📖 The average teacher-student ratio of 1:45 in MCD seems fine but in some schools, one teacher teaches three to four classes simultaneously, about 200 students from different classes.
- 📖 In a study conducted by the Social Jurist it was found that more than 80% of the children who pass class V from MCD schools do not know how to read or write their names.
- 📖 The Directorate of Education spends more effort on regulating

private aided and unaided schools rather than managing the government schools.

- ☞ The efforts of the Directorate of Education in terms of extra coaching classes, preparation of question banks and monitoring pre-board exams, adopting schools by senior officers reflected itself in the improvement in results from 32% in 1997-98 to 46% in 2001-02 and in Senior Secondary Exam from 63% to 71%.
- ☞ Computer education has been introduced in 396 schools in senior secondary level at an allocation of Rs 23 crore. Steps have been taken to cover 748 remaining schools under this programme. Private agencies have been involved in providing adequate facilities.
- ☞ Indraprastha University is established to spread specialised professional education.

Reforms

- ☞ Provision of education vouchers (equivalent to the per capita expenditure of the government) should be given to poor students to enable them to attend the school of their choice.
- ☞ Poor performing schools should be subcontracted out to the teacher-management group/ NGOs and funds should be linked with performance.
- ☞ Entry regulations should be liberalised for entrepreneurs/ NGOs in setting up of schools.