

**Training on the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 Rules and Related G.O.s**

The Government of India enacted the 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' for providing free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. The Act came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2010. It was enacted under the 86<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment which brought about an insertion of an Article 21-A which states that, "State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years, in such manner, as the State may, by law, determine". The Government of Tamil Nadu republished the Act in the Government Gazette on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 and the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 were released on 8.11.2011. Besides, the Government of Tamil Nadu have released twelve G.Os for the implementation of the Act.

The Government have proposed to disseminate the Act, Rules and G.Os to various Stakeholders in order to implement the Act effectively. Hence, DTERT has been designated as the nodal agency to organize training on RTE. Dr. M. Palanisamy, Joint Director (Schemes) has been nominated as the Nodal Officer for the RTE related Activities. An RTE cell has been created in DTERT with a telephone connection (044-28278742) open to public to clarify their queries. DTERT developed a training manual incorporating the Central Act, Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 and 12 G.Os, a booklet of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Brochures. Besides, guidelines for the implementation of the Act were prepared. These materials were provided to each and every participant in the training programme.

The Act outlines various duties and responsibilities of the appropriate Government, Local Bodies, schools and parents. DTERT has organized a series of training programmes to various stakeholders of education department. A brief note of the training programmes so far organized is furnished below.

**Training on the Right of Children  
to Free and Compulsory  
Education Act, 2009, Rules and  
Related G.Os**

*Directorate of Teacher Education, Research  
and Training, Chennai -6*

**1. Orientation Training to all CEOs, Additional CEOs (SSA), DIET Principals, DEOs, DEEOs and IMS.**

The RTE Act mandates the role performance of administrative stakeholders for the implementation of RTE Act. Hence, it is necessary to orient all the District Level Supervisory Officials on the various provisions of the Act, Rules and G.Os. These officials have responsibility of ensuring universal enrolment, establishment of new schools and its recognition, admission of children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged groups in self-financing schools. Hence, this programme was organized for the district level officials at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, DTERT on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The Honorable Minister for School Education Thiru. Agri Krishnamoorthy inaugurated the programme and released the Training Manual, a Booklet on Frequently Asked Questions and Brochures developed by DTERT on RTE. The respected Additional Chief Secretary, School Education Department, Thiru. Sridhar, I.A.S., highlighted the importance of implementation of the Act and interventions specified in the Act for quality enhancement. The State Project Director Thiru. Mohamed Aslam, I.A.S., explained the various provisions stipulated in the Act for enhancing quality. All the Directors and Joint Directors of Schools Education Department have participated in the programme. About 215 administrators of Education Department across the State participated in the training.

Dr.M.Palanisamy, Joint Director (Schemes), DTERT explained all the Sections of RTE Act through PowerPoint presentation. The queries raised by the participants were answered by Director, DTERT, Director of School Education and Director of Elementary Education.





## 2. Key Resource Person Training to HMs and DIET Faculty

The HMs of all Government and Unaided Schools have the responsibility of enrolment of children of the age 6 to 14 years, admission of never enrolled and drop outs in age appropriate classes and organizing special training to them, sustaining quality of transaction in schools. The HMs from Primary Schools to Higher Secondary Schools have the responsibility of implementing the RTE Act. They need to establish school management committee in each school and prepare annual school development plan. Hence, Headmaster one each from of primary school, a middle school, a high school, higher secondary school and one senior lecturer of DIET from each district and 5 BRTEs from each district were given orientation training in two spells on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, DTERT, Chennai– 6.

Dr.M.Palanisamy, Joint Director (Schemes) explained the various sections of the Act to the participants through PowerPoint presentation. The participants were divided into 8 groups and they were involved in group work and presentation. A flashcard activity by which, each participant was given a question on RTE Act at random, was conducted. The participants presented the answers for the questions posed to them. Their answers were reinforced by the RTE Core Team. About 160 participants across the State participated in the training.

## 3. Resource Person Training to all BRTEs of Krishnagiri District

The RTE Act, Rules and G.Os need to be oriented to all HMs and teachers in all schools of all the Districts. Hence there is a need to prepare all BRTEs at the block level to

increase the contingent of Resource Persons. It has been planned to conduct RP training to all BRTes of all districts. As a pilot programme, Krishnagiri district was selected in which all BRTes were oriented on RTE through PowerPoint presentation, Group Discussion and Flashcard Activity. About 145 BRTes attended the training. Thiru.K.Devarajan, Director, DTERT sensitized the participants with the historical background of the RTE Act. He further highlighted the importance of Educational Volunteers Programme through which community awareness on RTE is to be created. Dr.M. Palanisamy and Dr.S.Kannappan, Joint Director oriented the participants on Teacher Eligibility Test), and its significance for quality enhancement of School Education.

**4. Orientation Meeting for the selected Principals and HMs of Matriculation, Anglo-Indian, Aided, Self-financing and CBSE Schools.**

RTE Act and Rules mandate the recognition of all schools based on certain specified norms and standards given in Form-I. Further, no school should be allowed to run without getting recognition by competent authority. Such schools contravening the rule are liable to pay fine. The unaided schools have to enroll 25% of their seats in L.K.G. or Pre-School or I Std for the children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group residing within the neighbourhood. These children are not to be discriminated in any way in the school. The schools should not collect any capitation fee from children and conduct any screening test either for children or parents or guardians.

In order to discuss the field level issues anticipated in the implementation of the RTE Act and to evolve solutions to them, the training to the selected Principals and HMs of Matriculation, Anglo-Indian, Aided and Self-financing was organized on 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2012 at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, DTERT, Chennai – 6.

Tmt. D.Sabitha, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu interacted with the participants and clarified their queries related to neighbourhood school norms, admission of 25% children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group, teacher qualification, TET etc., About 80 Principals attended the training.

The participants were oriented on the Sections of the Act, Rules and G.Os through PowerPoint presentation. Besides many activities were conducted which conclude group discussion, question forum and flashcard activity.



## 5. Capacity Building Programme for DIET Faculty Members

In order to train the district level Resource Persons to organize RTE Training to all HMs and teachers of all districts, all DIET faculty members were oriented on the aspects of RTE Act, Rules and G.Os. As DIETs are concerned with the quality enhancement of all the schools within the districts, DIET faculty members should have a thorough knowledge on the Central Act, Rules and G.Os. The training for all the DIET faculty was organized at the Kongu Engineering College, Perundurai, Erode District in two spells on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2012.

Thiru. K.Devarajan, Director, DTERT presented a historic background of the Act and explained the community mobilization for the sensitization of the Act through block level volunteers. Dr.M.Palanisamy, Joint Director (Schemes) explained the Sections of the Act, Rules and G.Os to the participants through PowerPoint presentation. Dr.S.Kannappan, Joint Director (Admin.,) explained the concepts like teacher qualification and their responsibilities etc.,

The participants were involved in group discussion and flash card activity. The participants were administered a test at the end of the programme to assess the impact of the training. It was found that most of the participants secured more than 80% in the test. About 20% of faculty members secured 100% in the test.





## 6. Key Resource Person Training to BRTES

At the block level, there should be adequate number of resource persons to train the HMs, teachers on the RTE Act, Rules and G.Os. Block Resource Teacher Educators (BRTES) often visit schools within the block and offer suggestions to teachers. They have the responsibility of sustaining quality of elementary education along with DIET faculty members. Hence, 5 BRTES from each district were oriented on the Act, Rules and G.Os in two spells on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, DTERT, Chennai – 6. About 150 BRTES attended the training.

The participants were oriented on the Act, Rules and G.Os through PowerPoint presentation, group discussion and question forum activity. The participants were administered a test at the end of the training to assess their level of understanding of the content of the training. Almost all participants secured about 90% in the tests. The participants were given the training manual, a booklet of FAQ and Brochures.

#### **7. Training on RTE Act to Office Bearers of Teacher Associations, PTA Members and Principals of Self-financing Schools.**

The Government of Tamil Nadu planned to orient the selected office bearers of teacher association, PTA members, Presidents of (School Management Committee) and Principals of Self-financing Schools on RTE Act from all districts. The state level training was organized for them on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 at the Conference Hall, Image, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai. The programme was jointly organized by SSA and DTERT. About 1200 participants across the State participated in the training. **Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Thiru. N.R.Sivapathi**, highlighted the role of the State Government on the implementation of the various provisions of the RTE Act like free uniforms and free learning kit to students, teacher recruitment, free learning kit etc. Hon'ble Minister for School Education released the Guidelines for the implementation of the RTE Act prepared by DTERT.

Tmt. D.Sabitha, IAS, Principal Secretary, School Education Department highlighted the initiatives taken by the Government in implementing the provisions of the Act, quality initiatives like CCE, Trimester Pattern to reduce the burden of students and enhance joyful, stress free learning.

Thiru. Mohamed Aslam, IAS, State Project Director, SSA explained the quality initiatives taken by SSA for improving the quality of elementary education. He further explained the need for intensifying the academic supervision in a friendly environment to bring about attitudinal change in the minds of teachers to enhance the quality of education. The Directors of School Education, Elementary Education, Matriculation Schools, Additional SPD-RMSA, and the Director of Government Examinations, Spoke on the need of implementing the RTE Act.

Dr.M. Palanisamy, Joint Director (Schemes) explained the various aspects of the Act, Rules and G.Os through PowerPoint presentation.

The participants were given an opportunity to interact with the officials on the RTE Act. The questions related to the admission of 25% children belonging weaker section and disadvantaged group in self financing schools, reimbursement of school fees, constitution of SMC and its functions, teacher recruitment, teacher pupil ratio, recognition, in service training

to teachers of self-financing schools, supply of new textbooks etc were asked. The Principal Secretary, School Education Department clarified their queries patiently.

Dr.S.Kannappan, Joint Director (Schemes) proposed the vote of thanks.

The Participants were given training manual, a booklet of FAQ and Brochures.







#### 8. Training to AEEOs, BRC Supervisors and BRTEs at District Level

DTERT has planned to offer the training on RTE Act, Rules and G.Os to AEEOs, BRC Supervisors and BRTEs who are the block level academic and administrative supervisory stakeholders. The training was organized in all districts. The trained resource persons acted as resource persons for the training. The participants were oriented on the Act, Rules and G.Os through PowerPoint presentation, Group Discussion and Flashcard activity. The participants were given the training materials, viz. manual, FAQ booklet and Brochures.





#### **9. Training to all Primary and Upper Primary Teachers by SSA**

SSA organized a one-day CRC training to all Primary and Upper Primary teachers throughout the State on RTE Act in all CRCs on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2012. The trained district level RPs acted as Resource Persons for the training.

#### **10. Training on RTE to Principals and Correspondents of Matriculation Schools**

A one-day training on RTE Act, Rules and G.Os was organized for the Principals and Correspondents Matriculation Schools in all districts on 3.3.2012. The trained DIET faculty members, HMs and BRTes acted as RPs for the training. In Chennai, the training was organized at MCC Hr.Sec.School, Chetpet. The Director of Matriculation Schools, Tmt. Senthamilselvi and Inspector of Matriculation Schools, Chennai organized the training and the Principal, DIET, Chennai extended the resource support to conduct the training. Around 280 Principals and Correspondents of Matriculation Schools of Chennai district attended the training organized in Chennai. Tmt. D.Sabitha, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, School Education Department interacted with the Principals and Correspondents. The questions relating to admission of children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in 25% seats reserved in unaided schools, class of entry in school admission of children in age appropriate

classes, special training, admission norms in schools and reimbursement etc. The Principal Secretary clarified the queries of the participants patiently.

The participants were explained on the various Sections of the Act, Rules and G.Os through PowerPoint presentation by Dr.M.Palanisamy, Joint Director (Schemes). The participants were divided into 5 groups. They were involved in group discussion. A Flashcard activity was conducted for the participants by which each participant answered a question given at random.

The Principals appreciated the efforts of the Directorate of Matriculation Schools and the Directorate of Teacher Education and Training in orientating all the Principals and Correspondents on the RTE Act. They assured the Government that they would implement the Act in right spirit.