

Training on the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, Guidelines and Government Orders

Introduction

The Government of India have 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 1st of April, 2010. It was enacted under the 86th 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 24th February, 2010 and the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 were developed and released in the Government Gazette on 8.11.2011. Besides, the Government of Tamil Nadu have released twelve orders for the implementation of the Act.

State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has been designated as the nodal agency to organize training on RTE Act by the Government. The Joint Director (Schemes), SCERT has been nominated as the Nodal Officer for clarifying RTE related queries and supervising RTE related Activities. An RTE cell has been created in SCERT with telephone connections (044-28278742, 28211391) open to public to clarify their queries.

Chapter 1.1

Materials Developed for the Implementation of Training on the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, Guidelines and Government Orders:

SCERT developed a training manual incorporating the Central Act, Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011 the Government Orders issued by the Government. Besides, a booklet of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) has been prepared by SCERT and these materials were provided to all the officers of education department, principals of matriculation schools, headmasters and teachers.

Chapter 1.2

Training Programmes organized for the implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011, Guidelines and Government Orders:

The Government have proposed to organize training to all educational stakeholders in order to implement the Act effectively. In this connection, the basis, the orientation programme was organized for Principal Secretaries and Secretaries of all the Departments of Government. The

training on RTE Act, Rules and GOs has been organized for Chief Educational Officers, Additional Chief Educational Officers, Principals of DIETs, District Educational Officers, District Elementary Educational Officers, Inspectors of Matriculation Officers, Assistant Elementary Educational Officers, BRC Supervisors, Block Resource Teacher Educators, Headmasters and teachers. SCERT has organized a series of training programmes to various stakeholders of education department. A brief note of the training programmes is furnished below.

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

Clearly specifying the roles and responsibilities of the officials of education department in implementing the RTE Act, the training programme has been organized for all the block level, district level educational officials on the various provisions of the Act, Rules of Tamil Nadu and Government Orders.

These officials have the 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, to improve the professionalism of these officials, this training programme was organized at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, SCERT on 20th January 2012. The Honorable Minister for School Education inaugurated the programme and released the Training Manual, a Booklet on Frequently Asked Questions and Brochures developed by SCERT on RTE. The respected Additional Chief Secretary, School Education Department, Dr. T.S.Sridhar, I.A.S., received the first copy of these materials. The Additional Chief Secretary, School Education Department highlighted the importance of the 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 of education. 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. The RTE Resource Team under the chairmanship of the Joint Director (Schemes) explained all the Sections of RTE Act through PowerPoint presentation. The queries raised by the participants were answered by the Director, SCERT Thiru. K. Devarajan.

1.2.2 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, organizing special training to them and 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, a ten member group comprising of Headmaster one each from of primary school, a middle school, a high school, higher secondary school and one senior lecturer of DIET and 5 BRTEs from each district was given orientation training in two spells on 10th and 11th January, 2012 at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, SCERT, Chennai- 6. The participants were explained the various sections of the Act.

1.2.3 Resource Person Training to all BRTes of Krishnagiri District

Similar to the training on RTE Act, Rules and G.Os organized to HMs and teachers, it has been planned to organize training to all BRTes of SSA in each district. As a pilot programme, Krishnagiri district was selected in which 145 BRTes were oriented. In continuation of this programme, BRTes of all districts were offered training.

1.2.4 Orientation Training 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. The Act specifies that these children are not to be discriminated in any way in the school and 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, Self-financing schools and Principals of CBSE schools was organized on 1st of February, 2012 at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, SCERT, Chennai – 6.

Tmt. D.Sabitha, I.A.S., Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu interacted with the participants and clarified their doubts. Their queries related to neighbourhood schools admission of 25% children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group, teacher qualification, TET etc., were asked. About 100 Principals attended in the training.

1.2.5 Capacity Building Programme for DIET Faculty Members

As DIETs are concerned with the quality enhancement of all the schools within the district, all 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 3rd & 4th and 6th & 7th February, 2012. The participants were oriented on the RTE Act, Rules and G.Os.

1.2.6 Key Resource Person Training to BRTes

Block Resource Teacher Educators (BRTes) often visit schools within the block and offer suggestions to HMs and teachers on content and methodology. It is hence necessary to orient all

BRTes on the Act, Rules and Guidelines. Hence, 5 BRTes from each district, totaling 150 BRTes were oriented on the Act, Rules and G.Os in two spells on 9th and 10th February, 2012 at the Conference Hall, SIEMAT, SCERT, Chennai – 6. About 150 BRTes attended the training. These BRTes have initiated the training of other teachers along with the trained headmasters.

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

The state level training to the selected Officer Bearers of Teacher Associations, PTA Members, Headmasters of Government Aided Schools and Self-financing Schools of all districts, totaling 1200 members was organized on 16th February, 2012 at the Conference Hall, Image, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai. The training was organized under the chairmanship of the **Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Thiru. N.R.Sivapathi** and in the august presence of Tmt. D.Sabitha, I.A.S., Respected Principal Secretary School Education Department. Thiru. Mohamed Aslam, IAS, State Project Director, SSA and all Directors and Joint Directors of School Education Department attended the training programme.

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 and qualifications, teacher pupil ratio, recognition of schools, in-service training to teachers of self-financing schools, supply of new textbooks etc were asked. These queries were clarified by the Principal Secretary, School Education Department.

1.2.8 District Level Training to AEEOs, BRC Supervisors and BRTes

SCERT offered the training on RTE Act, Rules and G.Os to AEEOs, AAEEOs, BRC Supervisors and BRTes in all districts on 14 & 16 February, 2012.

1.2.9 Training on RTE to all Primary and Upper Primary Teachers by SSA

SSA organized a one-day CRC training in all blocks to all Primary and Upper Primary teachers throughout the State on RTE Act in all CRCs on 18th February, 2012. The trained block level Resource Persons like AEEOs, BRC Supervisors and Teacher Educators acted as Resource Persons for the training.

1.2.10 Training on RTE to the Principals and Correspondents of Matriculation Schools

A one-day training on RTE Act, Rules, G.Os and Guidelines was organized for the Principals and Correspondents of Matriculation Schools in all districts on 3rd March 2012. The trained DIET faculty members offered the training to them. In Chennai district, the training was organized at MCC Hr.Sec.School, Chetpet.

This training programme was organized under the chairmanship of Tmt. D.Sabitha, I.A.S., Respected Principal Secretary School Education Department in which around 280 Principals and Correspondents of Matriculation Schools of Chennai District participated. The questions

relating to admission of children in unaided schools, non-conduct of screening test for the admission of students in schools, reservation of 25% seats for children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group, reimbursement, teacher qualification, teacher pupil ratio were clarified by Dr. M. Palanisamy, Joint Director (Schemes), SCERT.

1.3 Programmes on the Anvil

In order to sensitize the public on the RTE Act in each block in all districts through cultural programmes, 30 volunteers in each block would be selected by SSA. These volunteers would be given orientation training on the RTE Act, Rules, G.Os and Guidelines. It has been planned that they, in turn, would sensitize the public on RTE Act through cultural programmes.