

Conference Title: How to improve MCD schools and role of Shiksha Mitra

Convener: Right to Education Task Force (RETF) under Social Jurist

Venue: Meet at Gandhi Peace Foundation Trust

Date & Time: 18th June: 10:00 to 15:00

Asha Delhis attendees: Nandita Negi, Kirti Malini & Uday Gosain

There were many speakers and there was a very good audience ' 100+. Below are the highlights.

To understand the differences and layers in today's school system we need it has to be understood how the schools system evolve:

Kendriya Vidyalaya: As the Govt officials moved all over the country they started The Central Schools, where across the country syllabus moves at the same pace.

Navodaya Vidyalaya

Parthibha Vikas Vidyalaya

MCD Schools

Sarvodaya Vidyalaya (Delhi Govt Schools)

Private Schools

Non Formal Education centres

Each of these were made to provide education to a different class of society as it was felt that the concerns of one particular class were not being met under a common system. This is the bane of the society and so having a Common School System was proposed at the conference.

The child education has 3 aspects. Home, School and Society. Society needs to be aware for his growth. Children come to school with least expectations. Students should feel that school is safe place to learn and his expectations such as getting affection and facilities for learning should be fulfilled. This RETF should bring more vision in order to achieve the task.

From Janaki Rajan: In 2002 MCD was asked to come out with the figures of out of school children in Delhi and how many schools was it going to build. It claimed that it will make only 6 six schools and according to them all children are in schools. The Dept of Education then did a huge survey in Delhi to find out the no of out of school children. It resulted in 1.2 lakh children. MCD was taken to task.

From Director, Dept of Education, MCD, Mrs Indira Yadav: She was here with all the Zonal Heads from MCD and said that she would be noting down problems from people and get them resolved asap. (She did resolve a problem or two in the duration of the meeting). She was all supportive of all the recommendations from every one. She is working on improving schools and has asked for support from everyone present. She has already placed some Head Masters/Mistresses on suspension for inappropriate conduct. One statement from her was that if at all she hears from a teacher that 'the children who come to these schools are good for nothing' she takes the teacher to task ' Keema bana deti hun uss teacher ka.

From Santosh, worker with Social Jurist: He works in the Vasant Kunj area and is from the Mahipalpur village. He has pointed out the problems in the schools in the area. No water, children not attending schools, etc. They have got admitted some 300 children in these schools.

Recommendations made:

Teacher meetings per zone should be held.

NGOs should be given access to school to work with. Such NGO should get I Card in order for smooth operations.

Evening schooling should be started as most of the poor children (from Jhuggis) can't go to school due to family responsibility.

Seamless education system.

Child enters in baalwadi (Kindergarten) and leaves the school with some skill with which he can survive and earn for his life.

Motivation to parents should be concentrated.

Experimentation is needed on some students. Private schools can work together with MCD schools. For instance, like they adopt school for improving teaching methods etc.

MCD school structure should be reorganized.

Implementation of norms of (Kendriya Vidyalaya) central schools in MCD schools.

Teachers training are very much necessary. ISO certification can be applied to MCD schools.

Attitudinal training should be given to teachers.

Teachers training college should be improved and monitored. The training which is given to MCD teachers is not right.

People can adopt MCD School in near by area.

2 people will watch one school. These people will be called Shiksha Mitra. MCD school problems can be effectively solved if small groups of people from society approach them with problems rather than individual.

Disabled children should be able to learn. Facilities should be provided.

MCD syllabus should be such that it finishes in school hours itself.

Parents of children of MCD have no attitude or time towards child's education. So such syllabus won't harass them. MCD school teachers have security. So they don't bother to teach. Removal of this security.

On the other hand teachers should be given some kind of promotions or increments to enjoy their jobs to motivate them ' holiday trips etc.

Basically any thing to motivate them.

More people should be then encouraged to send their children to MCD schools.

Govt employees from sweeper to highest class should send their children to MCD school for 2 years.

The state of the school will be improved as then. There should be clear instructions available outside MCD school stating admission process.

Higher govt. officers should monitor the schools and visit the schools on regular basis.

A booklet is prepared 'A handbook for Shiksha Mitra' on How to Improve Govt. Schools. It is well made. Has how to go about it, a checklist for the school inspector, sample SDM certificate, Delhi High Court's 2004 order on 20% reservation, other orders from Dept of Education, MCD and HC, etc.

Uday left his name (c/o Asha Delhi) for being a Shiksha Mitra at the Masoodpur School

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Notes from me: I saw Santosh at the Public Hearing of the Vasant Kunj malls ' so he is probably an active people. I read an article in Outlook Magazine ' Sudama's Children - that Social Jurist has used the 20% clause and got some children admitted in posh South Delhi Schools ' Vasant Valley, Bhatnagar International and Sriram School. Shiksha Mitra concept has been floated that would enable easy adoption of an MCD School. We need to get connected with Santosh and his team. Social Jurist and in particular Ashok Agrawal is known well to Parivartan as well. Nandita has had a meeting with Mrs Pawan Sharma of Yuva she will have some

inputs to give. This is exactly what Asha Delhi has been thinking of doing and its time to synergise. Lots of things look in place ' some meetings and actions should finalise the course of action and structure. I think we can achieve a lot. Cheers
Uday