



# Right to Education Act

Workshop on FICCI ARISE Model Self- Financed  
Independent Schools Code  
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FICCI ALLIANCE FOR  
RE-IMAGINING SCHOOL EDUCATION

## **Spirit and intention of legislature is indeed laudable**

- Provides fundamental right to all children aged 6 – 14 years to attend school
- Lays down various input based norms such as student : teacher ratios and infrastructure requirements
- Lays down governance criteria and formation of school management committees

## Critical Review

- Lacks practicality and several provisions quite removed from ground reality
  - ✓ Setting up schools every 5km – *without students and faculty*
  - ✓ Purely input based norms - *Does not focus on learning outcomes that really matter*
  - ✓ Shifts responsibility from state to independent schools – *making government schools more redundant and inefficient*
  - ✓ No detention Policy – *since amended*

## Impact assessment of RTE act 2010 – 2017

- ✓ No considerable increase in overall enrolments
- ✓ State budgets getting loaded with:
  - Setting up new schools (primary every 1KM; upper primary every 3KM; and secondary every 5KM)
  - Additionally compensating private un-aided schools
- ✓ Shifting enrolments from state schools to private schools
- ✓ Making government schools even more complacent as demanding parents shifting to independent schools
- ✓ Wasting tax payer's money – state infrastructure becoming redundant
- ✓ No noticeable improvement in learning outcomes
- ✓ Breeding malpractices and corruption – *Fake EWS certificates, inspector raj etc.*
- ✓ Leading to litigation
- ✓ Closure of several schools
- ✓ Government schools not in compliance but yet no check

## Compensation Formula Flawed

- ✓ Does not take into account all costs incurred by state
- ✓ Lacks transparency
  - ‘Concessional land’ in section 12( c) is for aided school or kendriya vidyalays and not unaided as the later are not given land on concessional basis.
- ✓ Fails to recognize different cost structures of different genres of schools
- ✓ Kills financial viability of independent unaided school by shaving off 25% of their revenue and not allowing them to increase fee
  - As against INR 7000 to INR 12000, govt is reimbursing INR 1600 on the premise that school is spending this amount on Govt school students.
- ✓ No clarity around compensation for ancillaries such as books, uniforms, activities etc.
  - Due to certain legislations/orders in regards to EWS, there is additional burden on schools (books, uniform and mid day meals etc.)

## Recommendations for practical and impactful implementation to achieve the objectives in letter and spirit

- ✓ Consolidate Schools: Upgrade select schools as model schools and provide transportation facility within 15-20 Km radius
- ✓ Focus on improving quality of learning outcomes in state schools
  - De-politicize teacher recruitment
  - Enhance faculty training and development programs
  - Lay down a faculty appraisal and accountability framework and link rewards and increments with performance
  - Lay down a school evaluation framework and
  - link grants with the performance of the school

## **Recommendations for practical and impactful implementation to achieve the objectives in letter and spirit**

- ✓ Project Hum Saarthi - Pair state schools with well functioning private schools - shall make a much larger impact and achieve goals
- ✓ PPP: Roll out practical and viable PPP models and invite well performing independent schools and NGO's to operate government schools
- ✓ Introduce Voucher System: Empower parents and students with right of choice and create competition among schools to fend for admissions

## **Recommendations for practical and impactful implementation to achieve the objectives in letter and spirit**

- ✓ Rating Framework: Mandate a rating framework for all schools on a 3 - 5 year cycle
  
- ✓ 12 (1) C: Only in case no seat is available in neighborhood state school should a student be referred to independent school
  
- ✓ Adequate Compensation: Compensation to independent schools should be commensurate to their costs:
  - 85% of regular fee that they charge
  - Reimbursements for books, stationery, uniform etc at actuals



FICCI Alliance for Re-Imagining School Education is a collegium of stakeholders who represent different facets of School Education.

Members include several high quality and reputed independent schools from across the country, eminent educators, foundations, civil society representatives, think tanks and technical experts.

Fundamental vision of FICCI ARISE is to become a catalyst in government and private efforts for raising the quality of learning outcomes across schools and to ensure that no child is left behind.

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