GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON REVIEW COMMITTEE OF DSEAR'73,
ROOM NO. 10, SCERT, VARUN MARG, DEFENCE COLONY
NEW DELHI-110024

F.No.1/CH/RC/2011/33 Dated: 05.09.11

Minutes

A meeting of the review committee was held in the chamber of the Chairperson at 3.00 P.M. on 05.09.11 and it was attended by the following officials:

Review Committee :

a) Ms. Shailaja Chandra, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson, Review Committee
b) Ms. Abha Joshi, Member Secretary

Invitees from NGOs & Law Firm :

1) Ms. Jayanti Prakash, Programme Officer, "Save the Children"
2) Sh. Prasanta Kumar Dash, State Programme Manager, "Save the Children"
3) Sh. Ambarish Rai, RTE Forum
4) Ms. Mani Gupta, Associate, SARTHAK Advocates & Solicitors
5) Sh. Abhishek Tripathi, SARTHAK Advocates & Solicitors

At the outset the Chairperson welcomed the representatives of NGOs- Save the Children and SARTHAK Advocates & Solicitors. She explained to them the purpose of the committee and its constraints that it cannot suggest any changes in RTE because it was a central act. However she sought their suggestions for changes that might be incorporated in DSEAR.

The representatives informed that they had carried out a survey regarding implementation of RTE. They wanted to explain the shortfalls in its implementation and also the changes that need to be incorporated in DSEAR so that both the Acts got tuned to each other. For this purpose they sought time and date to give power point presentation.

The Chairperson appreciated their efforts and fixed 13-9-11 for power point presentation at 2pm. prior to that she asked them to mail their slides of power point to Review Committee mail ID and to the personal mail ID of Abha Joshi. The representatives accepted the proposal and the meeting ended with vote of thanks to them.

Next meeting was held at 4.00 p.m. with Ms Mani Gupta and Mr. Abhishek representing Sarthak an association of lawyers working for the cause of education.

Contd.....

The Chairperson explained to them the terms of reference of the committee and also its constraints. She then sought in brief their views on the issues. Ms. Mani stressed that DSEAR was poorly worded in the sense that it does not clearly specify the things that are prohibited as a result of which people have been finding the ways to circumvent its provisions. She also stressed that there was need to tune both the Acts.

The suggestions given by them in their mail were briefly discussed. One new idea given by them was that companies registered under section 25 of Companies Act should be allowed to open schools because these are much more transparent and better regulated. According to them the traditional societies or trusts are not financially transparent and often take recourse to shoddy means to cover up financial bungling. On the other hand companies registered under section 25 are strictly regulated because liability of any irregularity lies on Directors of the company.

The Chairperson asked them to prepare a two page note on this issue giving examples and also highlight relative merit and demerits of such a system over the prevailing one. Mr Abhishek further pointed out how due to lack of clear directions many schools have been diverting funds in a surreptitious manner. To prevent this, contour of diversion need to be clearly specified in the Act itself. The Chairperson appreciated their ideas and asked them to prepare a note on what should be included in balance sheet of a school so that the scope of financial mismanagement is minimized.

Ms. Mani Gupta and Mr. Abhishek agreed to prepare both the notes and submit it to the committee within one week.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to them.

(ABHA JOSHI)
MEMBER SECRETARY