

Press Release

In response to the order dated 18.12.2013 pertaining to admissions in nursery schools, representations have been received from stakeholders. Representatives from different organizations also met the Lt. Governor and the Director of Education. Taking into account all views on the matter, particularly keeping in view the interests of the young children taking admission at the pre-nursery level, the following changes have been made.

It has been decided to enhance the outer limit of 6 kms. kept for the neighbourhood criteria to 8 kms. While 6 kms. limit would satisfy the bulk of the requirement, some parents had raised concerns on narrowly missing the criteria because they had identified a specific school/schools. Any further increase would vitiate the concept of neighbourhood schools, and increase the travel time for small children considerably. Suggestions to have slabs in the neighbourhood criteria have not been accepted because there are limited seats for admission. Slabs with more weightage for shorter areas would deny most children from admission.

Staff from schools has been concerned whether the staff quota would be applicable to grandchildren as well as children. It is clarified that in the case of grandchildren also, the staff/employees quota shall apply.

There is an impression that 5% quota for girls in co-ed schools would limit the admission of girls to only 5 percent of the available seats. This is incorrect. The 5% quota is a reservation to encourage education to the girl child and to ensure that where there are limited seats the girls are not deprived in favour of the male child. Girl children would be entitled to the normal admission process for open seats the same as boys in a transparent manner.

Another wrong impression is that there is no separate weightage to **“children with special needs”**. Under the Right to Education Act this category has already been included in the 25% that is for EWS and Disadvantaged Group Category. In fact as per the RTE Act the 25% includes children from families with annual income less than Rs. one lakh, children from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs (non-creamy layers), orphans and children with special needs and suffering from disabilities.

There is no review of the management quota. There is possibility of misuse of this quota and this cannot be accepted in a society that seeks to provide equal opportunity in education for all that includes the poorest of the poor and the weakest of the weak. The intent is to ensure to the maximum extent possible that admission for children would be in a transparent and fair manner.