



D.O.No.6-13/2010-RGSEAG

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15th September, 2011

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a new Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), popularly known as **Sabla**, to empower adolescent girls in the 11-18 age group. The implementation of the Scheme commenced in 2010-11 in 200 districts across the country. The Scheme has nutrition and non-nutrition components and the detailed modalities of implementation have already been conveyed to the State Governments/ UT Administrations.

2. We are writing to you jointly in order to emphasise the significance of the **Sabla** scheme in mainstreaming out-of-school girls into the formal education system. You are aware that Article 21-A which provides for elementary education as a fundamental right, and its consequential legislation, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act have become operative in the country. The RTE Act casts an obligation on the Government to provide free and compulsory education for every child in the 6-14 age group. Thus, we have a shared responsibility towards adolescent girls working as child labour/ domestic help, trafficked children, daughters of sex workers, girls migrating with their families, girls in protective institutions, displaced girls affected by natural disasters, girls in disturbed and conflict areas, as also girls affected by HIV/AIDS.

3. This responsibility can be discharged only by close cooperation between the Departments of Education and Women & Child Development. The Sabla scheme provides for constitution of *Kishori Samooh* and the involvement of NGOs and CBOs in

organising life skills education with a strong focus on gender equality and affirmative action. The platform of *Kishori Samooh* may be used to facilitate out of school adolescent girls to (a) be admitted in a neighbourhood school (b) participate in 'Special Training' organised under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to enable the girls to cope academically and emotionally with the requirements of mainstream education, and (c) be re-inducted into an age-appropriate class in school after completion of 'Special Training'. The formation of strong *Kishori Samooh* would clearly facilitate their participation in Special Training and re-induction into age appropriate class in mainstream schools.

4. In this connection, we would also like to inform you that there are two distinct gender components under SSA, namely Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and National Programme for Girls' Education at Elementary Level (NPEGEL). In addition the Department of Education is also implementing the Girls' Hostel scheme for older girls at the secondary stage of education. These programmes are implemented in educationally backward blocks in the country. Several of these blocks are in the 200 districts where Sabla is being implemented. A statement indicating the common districts is attached for you ready reference. Convergence of *Sabla* activities such as, education nutrition, in the areas of health and life skills, with KGBVs, NPEGEL and Girls' Hostels would contribute significantly to building self-esteem and confidence among these girls.

5. We would also like to flag the issue of children in protective homes run by the Department of Women and Child Development. These children also have a fundamental right to free and compulsory education as per the provisions of the RTE Act. Several States have reasonably good arrangements for their education from classes I-VIII within the premises of the protective home, and effective convergence already exists between our two Departments. However, the situation is uneven, and all institutions do not offer adequate facilities. We would like to emphasise the importance of ensuring that children in protective homes are included in the education system. Wherever State Governments are providing support for textbooks, uniforms for children in protective homes, they may continue to do so. Where provision for these child entitlements are not made in the State budgets the State Department of Women and Child Development may take initiative to ensure that such provision is made. It is also possible that the child entitlements may be provided for in the SSA, Annual Work Plan and Budgets.

6. Keeping in view the above, we request you to kindly take the following steps:

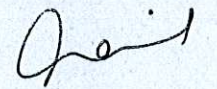
- Inform all personnel of the Departments of Education and Women & Child Development about the Sabla Scheme, as also the provisions of the RTE Act and the gender specific components of the SSA programme, so that there is complete understanding about the detailed components.
- Work out an activity plan for constitution of *Kishori Samooh* under the Sabla scheme, and ensure that girls who are out of school are admitted to school, participate in Special Training, as required, and are re-inducted into age appropriate class after completion of Special Training. Also ensure that the adolescent girls are provided adequate hand-holding support even after re-induction in age appropriate class, to stay on in the education system without dropping out.
- Identify areas where training in nutrition and health education and life skills education can be imparted in KGBVs, NPEGEL, etc. Also ensure sharing of school spaces for conducting activities under the *Sabla* programme, in case appropriate space is not available in Anganwadi Centres.

7. We hope that this joint communication to you will enable you to initiate further action. We look forward to an early response indicating the steps you propose to take.

Yours Sincerely,


(D.K. Sikri)

Yours Sincerely,


(Anshu Vaish)

To :

All State Secretaries (WCD and Education Departments)

(by name)

Common Districts for implementation of SABLA and KGBVs / NPEGEL

State Name	No. of Districts	District Name
Andhra Pradesh	5	Adliabad, Anantpur, Chittoor, Mahbubnagar, Visakhapatnam ,
Arunachal Pradesh	3	Lohit, West Kameng, West Siang,
Assam	3	Darang, Karbi Anglong, Dibrugarh,
Bihar	13	Aurangabad, Banka, Buxar, Gaya, Katihar, Kishanganj, Munger, Patna, Pashchim Chamaparan, Saharsa, Sitamarhi, Vaishali
Chhatisgarh	4	Bastar, Surguja, Raipur, Raigarh,
D& N Haveli	1	D&N Haveli
Gujarat	8	Ahmedabad, Banas Kantha, Dohad, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kachchh, Narmada, Panchmahal
Haryana	2	Hisar, Kaithal,
Himachal Pradesh	1	Chamba
J&K	4	Anantnag, Kupwara, Kathua, Leh (Ladakh)
Jharkhand	7	Giridih, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Pashchimi Singhbhum, Ranchi, Sahibganj,
Karnataka	5	Bijapur, Bellary, Dharward, Gulbarga, Kolar.
Madhya Pradesh	14	Balaghat, Bhopal, Betul, Damoh, Indore, Jabalpur, Jhbuva, Neemuch, Rajgarh, Rewa, Sagar, Sheopur, Sidhi, Tikamgarh
Maharashtra	4	Bid, Gadchiroli, Nanded, Nashik,
Mizoram	1	Lunglei
Orissa	6	Bargarh, Gajapati, Korapur, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh,
Rajasthan	10	Barmer, Bhilwara, Banswara, Bikaner, Dungarpur, Ganganagar, Jhalwar, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Udaipur
Tamilnadu	3	Cuddalore, Salem, Tiruvannamali
Tripura	1	Dhalai
Uttar Pradesh	21	Agra, Bulandshahar, Bijnor, Bahraich, Banda, Chirakoot, Chandauli, Deoria, Farrukhabad, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Maharajganj, Mahoba, Pilibhit, Mirzapur, Raibareli Shrawasti, Sitapur, Saharanpur, Sonbhadra
Uttaranchal	2	Hardwar, Uttarkashi,
West Bengal	4	Jalpaiguri, Kuch Bihar, Maldah, Purilia ,
Total Districts	122	