

*The National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) is the unified voice of budget private schools (BPS) in India, that aim at improving access to affordable and quality education for the economically weaker.*

### editor's pick: DATA ON SCHOOLS BEING CLOSED DUE TO RTE

We compiled an estimate of the number of schools facing closure/threat of closure due to non-compliance with RTE norms. Credible data for Punjab and Haryana where litigation is underway, and data from media reports for Andhra Pradesh (AP), Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu (TN) and Uttar Pradesh (UP) is available.

Figures say:

1. Punjab: 931 closed, 219 face threat (10% of total 9301 private unrecognized schools, with almost 230,000 students in 1150 schools)
2. Haryana: HC stayed closure of 1372 protecting interest of 275,000 students
3. 559 closed in AP (529) and TN (30) displacing around 110000 children
4. 6116 schools face threat of closure/ have

been served notice in Delhi (2200), TN (3000), AP, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and UP (150-300 each).

5. At an average of 200 per school, the total number of students who face threat of displacement can be estimated at 12,00,000. in 9200 schools in 8 states. All India figures will be higher.

Critical questions to ask are:

*Have the various state governments provided the impacted students any alternate education opportunities?*

*And that RTE was meant to provide education for all, then why is it causing the reverse; why is it denying education for 12 lakh children who are in a school of their choice?*

### featured story: NBER Working Paper

A recent study titled *The Aggregate Effect of School Choice: Evidence from a School Choice Experiment in India* has provided experimental evidence on the impact of a school choice programme in Andhra Pradesh. It featured a unique two-stage lottery-based allocation of school vouchers that created both a student-level and a market-level experiment. It was found that private school teachers have lower level of formal education and training than public-school teachers, and are paid much lower salaries. On the other hand, private schools have a longer school day, a longer school year, smaller class sizes, lower

teacher absence, higher teacher activity and better school hygiene.

Over the four-year study, it was found that the mean cost per student in private schools is less than a third of the cost in public (government) schools. It was also found that private schools deliver (slightly) better learning than the public schools.

Full report is available at:

<http://www.povertyactionlab.org/publication/aggregate-effect-school-choice-evidence-two-stage-experiment-india>



### EVENTS

Talk | November 20, 2013, New Delhi  
**Delivering Education: How the rise of private schooling changes everything?**  
World Bank's Jishnu Das explores educational markets in low-income countries and analyses their role and contribution in policy change and making education effective

Conference | December 20, 2013, New Delhi  
**School Choice National Conference**  
School Choice Campaign, a policy reform initiative of CCS, organizes its 5th annual SCNC to identify critical issues in education sector, review existing programmes, explore strategies to face challenges and ideate on ingenious solutions to ensure quality education to all children in India

To register, drop an email to [nisa@ccs.in](mailto:nisa@ccs.in) or click on the buttons below:

Jishnu Das Talk

SCNC

### ask your lawyer: LEGAL BOUNDARIES

Q. Does RTE provide free education to all children? (Parent, Seelampur, Delhi)

A. RTE Act does not provide free education to all children. According to section 9 (a), every local authority shall provide free and compulsory elementary education to every child, except where a child is admitted by his or her parents or guardians in a private unaided school in the general category.

Q. What grounds for required for acquiring government recognition for private schools? (School Owner, Haryana)

A. The conditions of granting recognition to private schools vary from state to state. The RTE Matrix for State Rules is available at <http://righttoeducation.in/rte-matrix> (by the

Right to Education Platform). For further information, please refer to your state's Primary Education Act and the RTE rules.

Q. Do the norms/standards of a school apply only to private schools? (Parent, Jharkhand)

A. No, all schools must adhere to the norms. As per section 19 (1) of the Act, no school shall be established (by the government), or recognized (private), if it does not fulfill the prescribed norms and standards. National and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR and SCPCR) are the government bodies which are responsible to ensure that government schools also adhere to RTE norms and standards.

*Legal Boundaries is an answer to all your law-related queries on RTE and budget private schools, whether you are a school administrator, owner or parent.*



*Centre for Civil Society offers free legal advice and consult on RTE. We consult with Prashant Narang, legal expert and advocate from iJustice.*

*Write to [prashant@ijustice.in](mailto:prashant@ijustice.in) with your query. Be as brief, clear and specific as possible, and put the subject line as: 'Legal Boundaries - NISA Query'.*

Have a legal question on RTE?  
Get free advice and consult!



180+ delegates at the NISA SLS 2013 were asked a few questions (answers in parantheses): (a) how many people run or work for budget private schools? (80%); (b) how many believe that budget private schools can deliver quality education? (90%); and (c) how many believe that quality means where the child learns? (100%). More at [www.nisaindia.org/sls2013](http://www.nisaindia.org/sls2013). Then, we discussed the factors that go into running great budget private schools across the world? We spoke to a few policy experts and practitioners. Here's what they say:

*"Only two things will make a difference in the education sector in the near future – (a) the right technology and (b) the right analytics. The use of data to develop optimum solutions for learning enhancement would be the thing of the future.*

*The teacher in the near future would acquire the role of an enabler, and each child will have its own pathway and pace of learning."*

*"The traditional style of teaching and learning through textbooks and classrooms has to be challenged. We have to think out of the box, use practical examples and impart conceptual learning that is readily useful.*

*It would be of no use to bring up an educated generation that is not able to demonstrate and apply all the theoretical gyaan it has to solve practical problems that we come across on a day to day basis."*

*"The education practice should be brought down to fundamentals of the common things that happen in a classroom or any learning environment. It is a process that essentially consists of a 5As—aim, act, analyze, apply and assess—which should keep going on at any given point of time.*

*Within this process, we should aim at moving from a viewpoint of good (and bad) teachers to good teaching."*



Siddharth Ajith  
Gray Matters Capital



Ashok Thakur  
Muni International School



Shiladitya Ghosh  
iDiscoveri

## nisa at work: GROUND REALITIES OF RTE IN KARNATAKA

*Shashi Kumar D, Secretary of Karnataka Private Schools Joint Action Committee (KAPJAC) shares issues of admissions under 25% reservation quota of RTE in the state:*

1. The process of receiving applications at the school level doesn't have a closing date; which means increased confusion for parents and managerial burden for schools. Many parents apply for more than five schools, leading to allotment of multiple seats to a single child.

2. Few elite schools are in high demand and are flooded with applications, while others get lesser applications, and many government-aided schools got none. Thus, seats get filled very quickly, with many schools giving away admissions. Some schools neglect the Act or take shelter in the skin of minority schools.

3. Many parents produce fake certificates. The management's plea to mandate a BPL Card as selection criteria got no attention by the Minister and Education Department. Courts observed that 70+% parents announced their incomes to be within INR 11,000 a month (many reported no income!). Genuine parents who can't get their children seats protest and say, that one could easily get fake certificates by bribing Tehsildars for INR 500-2000. KAPJAC submitted 15+ samples of such certificates to the Commissioner.

### Recommendations:

1. Firstly, the governments must work closely with private school management associations to ensure that needy and deserving get an education of choice within the mandates of RTE. They should together look into genuine grievances, and minimize harmful publicity and harassment by un/semi-informed NGOs, who often trespass school boundaries and threaten school management and teachers.

2. Secondly, governments should own failure of imparting quality education through public (government) schooling system. They should look into matters which keep learning from happening in classrooms. They should ensure that teachers stay in schools more and spend less time in data entry, school dropout and census surveys, Polio programmes, election duties and other such activities.

3. Thirdly, governments should ensure that private schools are reimbursed in time. The systems of calculating cost per child and reimbursements should be rational and fair.

The new Karnataka Government hasn't entertained a single request for a meeting with the private school associations, despite repeated attempts and several representations.

Write to Shashi at [braincenter73@gmail.com](mailto:braincenter73@gmail.com)

## RTE NEWS

Times of India | November 14, 2013

**Children run to seek RTE for the underprivileged**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/Children-run-to-see-RTE-for-underprivileged/articleshow/25770831.cms>

Times of India | November 13, 2013

**Implementing RTE will stop trafficking**

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-11-13/ranchi/44028343\\_1\\_trafficking-victims-rte-act-hrd-department](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-11-13/ranchi/44028343_1_trafficking-victims-rte-act-hrd-department)

Forbes India | November 7, 2013

**Impact of the RTE shutdown of schools**

<http://forbesindia.com/blog/accidental-investor/impact-of-the-rte-shutdown-of-schools/>

LiveMint | October 22, 2013

**The conclusive case for school choice**

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/LI8HU3WD2LsgNO8IPVyhgK/The-conclusive-case-for-school-choice.html>

DNA | October 21, 2013

**RTE: Pvt schools yet to be reimbursed**

<http://www.dnaindia.com/academy/report-rte-private-schools-yet-to-be-reimbursed-1906590>

Courtesy: Right to Education Platform

**RightToEducation.in**



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