

Shiksha Bacho Abhiyan – Save Education Campaign

Shiksha | Suraksha | Samman

10 AM-2 PM | Saturday | 7 APRIL 2018

Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi

15 March 2018

Dear friends,

Our public education system has irretrievably broken down and is not producing the desired results. India ranked seventy-second out of 73 countries in the PISA (Program for International Students Assessment) ranking of 2010 by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development). The Annual Status of Education Report (rural) 2016 released on 18 January 2017 has shown pathetic learning quality with only 25 per cent of children in grade III being able to read a grade II level text. Around 10 lakh out of 60 lakh teaching positions are vacant. According to a World Bank study, teacher absenteeism on any given day is as high as 25 per cent. Of the teachers who do come to work, a large proportion of them lack the motivation and skills to perform well. The victims are our children.

India has been growing and with increased purchasing power, the aspirations of people have risen. Parents want the best for their children and even poor parents, whose only hope to change their lives is through providing their children with good education, are choosing non-government schools.

While the state of education calls for urgent reform, government seems to be working only for appeasement and quick fix. It's high time for all of us as a stakeholder to unite and gather in New Delhi, to call on the hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and voice our concerns regarding the never ending problems of education sector. To this end, a mass gathering by all stakeholders is being organised on Saturday, 7 April 2018 to demand for reform in education.

We will be presenting the **Charter of Demands** to the **Prime Minister**, and would ask for representation for consultations on the policy-making decisions in the field of education.

The main demands of the charter will be:

1. Each parent to be empowered with Rs 2,500/- per child per month to meet the schooling expenses of their children.
2. Safety and security of all students, teachers, management and school premise to be ensured.
3. Amendments to RTE Act 2009 for learning outcome based school recognition system instead of mere infrastructure based norms which has led to thousands of schools to close down.

We request all stakeholders to come together in huge numbers on 7 April 2018 to make the Shiksha Bachao Abhiyan (Save Education Campaign) a grand success.

For the Right to Education of Choice in India,

Kulbhushan Sharma

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