

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN SIKKIM (Pre-Primary Education)

Pre-primary education is an integral part of school education system in Sikkim. It was in existence before the merger of Sikkim in Indian Union.

Now-a-days in Sikkim, the Pre-Primary Education is being provided by both the government and private agencies like Human Resource Development Department, Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department and private schools. Impart

Pre-Primary Education managed by the Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department

The Women and Child Division of Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department, Government of Sikkim provides Early Childhood Education through ICDS centres. These centres provide both care and education to pre-school children. However, the education imparted by these centres was not considered as formal education i.e. qualifying for the admission in class I (first grade) in the Government Schools before the RTE Act 2009 came into force.

Pre-Primary Education managed by Private Schools

Another agency which caters the pre-primary education is the private schools. They have play group, Nursery, LKG and UKG at pre-primary level.

Pre-Primary Education managed by the Human Resource Development Department

The Human Resource Development Department is the largest agency catering pre-primary education in the State. The pre-primary education is being provided in the formal school and is direct control of the Human Resource Development Department, Govt. of Sikkim which is a unique feature in the school education system in Sikkim. All the government schools are provided with pre-primary teachers who were called school mothers prior to 2013. The requisite qualification of pre-primary teacher is Class IX passed. There was the system of enrolling children when they attain 5 years of age and they enter into class I at the age of 6 years after passing one year Pre-primary Class. However, after the enactment of RTE Act 2009 in the State in 2010 the State started giving admission to the children in age specific classes.



In 2010, the government posted pre-primary teachers the then School mothers as Panchayat Education Assistants and later on in 2013, 629 pre-primary teachers repatriated as pre-primary teachers posted in schools vide Office Memorandum 395/Dir/HRDD(SE) dated 30/03/2013.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

No:.....395...../Dir/HRDD(SE)

Dated: 20.01.2013

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

In pursuance to the decision of the State Government to re-start Pre Primary Sections in every Government Schools under HRDD w.e.f. 1st April 2013 (academic session 2013), this Office Memorandum is being issued for the information and guidelines to the concerned authorities;

Under the "National policy on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)" a curriculum framework for early childhood education (ECCE), quality standard in ECCE and to curb the dropout rate of children in primary level, the State Government has decided to retain children between the age group of 3 - 4yrs & (+) but not more than 5 years in ICDS and shall be given admission as pre primary level- I, under Women and Child Welfare Division, SJEWD, Government of Sikkim and children attending the age of 5 & above but not more than six years shall be admitted in the pre primary school level-II under HRDD.

Nutrition, communication, psychomotor, basic values and social skills shall be taken care by ICDS in pre primary level-I. Since the Government of India is pleased to extend Mid Day Meal (MDM) program to children of Pre Primary level attached with Government schools, the nutrition portion for the children of pre primary level-II shall be covered by MDM Scheme.

The other development aspect of language, skill, numerical skill, etc shall be dealt by HRDD in pre primary school level -II in order to make the children ready for class -I when he/she attains the age of six years.

The school timing of pre primary schools to be kept as that of other government schools i.e. from 09.15 am to 12.30 pm. Detailed guidelines may be seen at ANNEXURE.

In the year 2010, the State Government vide Office Memorandum No.82/NI.M/HRDD, dated: 30.10.2010, the then 832 Pre Primary Teachers (School Mothers) of Human Resource Development Department were posted as Panchayat Education Assistants in all Panchayat Wards/Nagar Panchayat Wards to impart literacy to the non and neo literate to make Sikkim a 100% literate state by 2015.

The Department of Human Resource Development imparted 10 ten days orientation training to 629 (267 Class XII passed & 362 Class X passed) Panchayat Education Assistants (PEAs) in two phases (1st phase from 17.01.2013 to 27.01.2013 & 2nd phase from 28.01.2013 to 06.02.2013) who are being repatriated as Pre Primary Teachers and posted to various government schools having more than a total 30 numbers of enrolment in each class at primary level i.e from class-I - V.

As such, these PEAs are being repatriated as Pre Primary Teachers in HRDD. Their posting to various schools shall be done through respective Joint Directors of District Head Quarters by separate office orders.

Further, all concerned are to ensure that if the enrollment is below 10 (ten) children at pre-primary level, they are to be relocated and adjusted into the nearby schools, and no need to open or continue pre primary sections in those schools.

In order to fill up the consequential gap created by repatriation of Panchayat Education Assistant as Pre Primary Teachers under HRDD, the State Government has decided to fill up the post of those PEAs by engaging Preraks in East & South District to continue total literacy mission / 'Mukhia Mantri Saksharta Abhiyan' (MMSA) to non and neo literate by 2015. Whereas, in north & west district this program under 'Shakshar Bharat Abhiyan' is already in continuity.

The Preraks having educational qualification of class X passed and above (local) shall be engaged for a period of ten months with honorarium of Rs.3000 per month at Panchayat and Municipal Ward Level (one each) in East and South Districts. They will be selected through screening test by team of Assistant Directors and Assistant Education Officers of the Block Administrative Centers under the supervision of Deputy Director (NLM)/HQ in consultation with respective Gram Panchayat Members/Municipal Councillors. Their appointment will take place with effect from the month of April 2013.

By order

Sd/-

(C.S.RAO)

SECRETARY

Human Resource Development Department

Memo No. 01-10/Dir/HRDD(SE)

Copy for information to:

01. Pr. Secretary to HCM
02. Commissioner-cum-Secretary, SJEDD
03. Secretary, RM&DD
04. Director, Accounts, HRDD
05. Director, School Education, HRDD
06. Additional Director, PME, HRDD
07. Joint Director (East/West/North/South), HRDD
08. Joint Director (IT) for hoisting in HRDD website
09. Sr.PS to HM, HRDD
10. Sr.PS to Chief Secretary
11. File &
12. G.file



Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Sikkim
Directorate of School Education
HRDD



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK

No: 385/Dir/HRDD(SE)

Dated: 09.04.2013.

CORRIGENDUM TO OFFICE MEMORANDUM
NO.395/Dir/HRDD (SE), dated: 30.03.2013.

Substituted by the words "in each school" in place of the words "in each class" occurring in fifth line of paragraph seven in the above office memorandum.

By order

Joint Secretary (Adm)
Human Resource Development Department
Gangtok

Copy to

01. Pr. Secretary to HCM
02. Commissioner-cum-Secretary, SJEWD
03. Secretary, RM & DD
04. Director, Accounts, HRDD
05. Director, School Education, HRDD
06. Additional Director, PME, HRDD
07. Joint Director (East/West/North/South), HRDD
08. Joint Director/Deputy Director (Text Book), HRDD
09. Joint Director (SCERT), HRDD
10. Joint Director (Exam), HRDD
11. Joint Director (IT), HRDD
12. Sr PS to HM, HRDD
13. Sr PS to Chief Secretary
14. File &
15. G file

In 2015, the State government decided to introduce two years of Kindergarten system i.e. LKG and UKG in all government schools vide Notification No. 74/DIR/HRDD/PE dated 24/12/2015.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK-737101

O.O.No. 74/DIR/HRDD/PE

Dated 24/12/2015

NOTIFICATION

Whereas the State Government has felt it expedient to introduce Kindergarten system in all Government Schools in the State from the academic session 2016 for quality improvement in education.

Now, therefore, with the view to achieve the above objective of implementing the Kindergarten system of Education in all the Government Schools in the State as envisaged, the State Government is hereby pleased to notify the following for strict compliance:

1. That initially 31 schools i.e. one school from each Gram Vikas Kendra in the State have been identified to initiate the pilot project.
2. That LKG and UKG shall operate simultaneously in all the other government schools in the same year.
3. Eligible age for admission to LKG would be 3 ½ to 4 years and 4+ years to 5 years in UKG.
4. Children admitted in LKG and UKG Classes shall be familiarized with basic values, social skills, environment awareness, cleanliness, care of self and belongings and development of other soft skills.
5. Introduction to alphabets and numerals shall be in the play way method along with an emphasis on oral skills (listening and speaking skills)
6. That SCERT shall design the curriculum for kindergarten Classes in coordination with NCERT on the basis of which the syllabus shall be prepared. The curriculum of LKG and UKG shall be based on ECCE.

By order

Sd/-

(G.P. Upadhyaya) IAS
Principal Secretary
Human Resource Development Department

Memo No. 74/DIR/HRDD/PE

Dated 24/12/2015

Copy to:-

1. Pr. Secretary to HCM
2. Commissioner cum Secy, SJE&WD
3. Director (SE), HRDD
4. Director (SSA), HRDD
5. Director (Academics/Languages), HRDD
6. Director (Planning/PME), HRDD
7. Additional Director (Accounts), HRDD
8. Joint Director (ICDS) SJE&WD
9. Joint Director (IT), HRDD
10. Joint Director (East, West, North, South), HRDD
11. Sr. PS to Chief Secretary
12. P.S. to HM, HRDD
13. File
14. G.File

Director/Primary Education
Human Resource Development Department

The age of admission in LKG is 4 years and UKG is 5 years. As decided, the State identified 31 schools to initiate the project as pilot for 2016. In 2017, 200 more schools will start LKG/UKG and 100% schools in 2018.

Strengthening of 2 years Kindergarten by way of –

- ✓ Supply of uniform different from other classes of government schools
- ✓ Supply of TLMs (Picture reading books, games material, flash cards, zigzag puzzle and other teaching aids to develop early reading and arithmetical skills, play corners, reading corners, etc.
- ✓ The curriculum of kindergarten has been framed by the State as per NCERT guidelines
- ✓ The kindergarten will use worksheets
- ✓ Two series called “Get Set Go” which has been developed for development of early language skills and early arithmetical skills, writing letters and numbers, fine motor skills, etc.
- ✓ Games and activities have been developed to develop socio-emotional skills
- ✓ Pre-primary teachers of pilot schools have been trained on pedagogical approaches to be adopted in the kindergarten

After its one year of implementation one great accomplishment has been that the many parents have withdrawn their children from private school and sought admission in government schools. This suggests that we are way forward in achieving our end goal that is “Quality in Education”.

BEST PRACTICES

As per the government decision only 31 schools were selected to initiate LKG and UKG on pilot basis and were provided support accordingly. However, many schools of the State other than pilot schools have started the activities to make pre-primary class print-rich by mobilizing resources from the community. They also procured furniture, mattresses, toys, letter and number blocks etc. for these little kids. Many of the schools are far better than pilot schools.









