

Odisha: NCERT adopts schools to improve learning abilities of students



The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has adopted all 120 schools in Chilika block in Khurda district to help them improving their learning outcomes of the children. Teachers from the Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar a constituent institute of the NCERT would visit the schools for the intervention, training and community mobilisation for creating a better learning environment in these schools.

"We are focusing on everything in these schools starting from empowering teachers, creating a better learning environment developing teaching, learning materials by providing training and onsite support. The NCERT has taken the initiative to adopt schools to show how focused and converging efforts to address gaps and shortcomings and onsite support, teachers' empowerment, community awareness and its involvement would bring up appreciable changes in enhancing the learning abilities of the students and creating a conducive environment for their holistic growth," P C Agrawal, principal of the RIE, Bhubaneswar.

Before adopting the schools the RIE, Bhubaneswar had conducted a baseline study about the present status of the students and the school, which showed very poor results, sources said.

"The study was conducted to assess the ground situation and to take up various interventions and plans. The learning standards of children in most of the government schools were found to be poor while there were several other challenges like shortage of staff, infrastructure problem, demotivated teachers and lack of administrative and academic support," said Agrawal.

He said, Chilika block being very disaster prone most of the schools were badly affected in cyclone Fani and there was large scale absenteeism among students as a large number of them belonged to economically weaker sections.

"Apart from conducting trainings for teachers, educators from the RIE are also conducting regular meetings with different stake holders for community awareness and involving them in various activities of the school," he pointed out adding "Our aim is to make these 120 schools as model schools and would replicate the same in other blocks of the state."

Sources said, all six RIEs of the country have adopted nearby schools as the NCERT is planning to include in the National Curriculum Framework and the experience from this will help in preparing syllabi for schools in the future.