

# State asks NGOs to run schools in tribal regions to deter dropouts

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Chennai: Tamil Nadu government has invited non-government organisations (NGOs) to open schools in remote and inaccessible tribal villages in the state to check school dropouts and improve the standard of education among tribal children.

There are more than 310 schools — from primary to higher secondary level — in hilly regions. But they have been proved inadequate to take care of the educational needs of tribal children, said officials in the tribal welfare department.

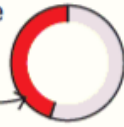
The literacy rate of Tamil Nadu tribals is just 54.34% as against the state's average of 80%. It gives credence to the belief that there are a large number of tribal children who are either dropouts or stay completely away from schools.

Hence, the government has come up with a new scheme to rope in NGOs willing to open schools in remote and inaccessible tribal villages to improve the

## LAGGING BEHIND

7.95 lakh belonging to 36 scheduled tribes live in TN. They account for 1.1% of the state's total population

> Literacy rate among tribal people in TN is **54.34%** while the general literacy rate of 80%



> Govt has invited NGOs to open schools in Salem, Namakkal, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Trichy, Dharmapuri, Vellore,

Coimbatore, The Nilgiris and Erode

> Nearly 30,000 children are enrolled in 312 schools in tribal villages. But **40%** of them exist only on registers, dropouts and irregular children are high



## GRANTS

Primary school | Staff salary ₹1.8L/pa | Expense borne for each student ₹1,572

Middle school | ₹3.6L/pa | ₹1,882

High school | ₹4.6L/pa | ₹2,309

Higher Secondary school | ₹6.7L/pa | ₹2,309

standard of education and the literacy rate.

The objective is to provide 100% free and quality education to all tribal children and make them competitive enough to find their livelihood, according to the

GO passed on August 6.

The department of tribal welfare has identified 19 blocks in the hilly regions of 10 districts to establish schools. The government would extend full financial assistance and welfare aid

to the organisations to run the schools. They include salary for teaching and non-teaching staff and boarding grants and student expenditure assistance as per the norms of the Rights of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009.

The organisations should have a minimum of three years of experience in running educational programmes or community service. District committees headed by respective collectors will scrutinise and shortlist eligible organisations. "So far, three organisations have approached us and expressed willingness to open schools," said the official.

The district level committees and officials of the tribal welfare department would conduct frequent inspections.

Based on the annual evaluation report of the district committee, the grants and aid would be released to the organisation. It will be sanctioned in advance on a quarterly basis, the official said.