

'Focus now on big schools with infra'

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Bhopal: The state education department is being panned for not implementing the South Korean model, despite officials visiting the country twice — at an expense of over Rs 5 crore.

The condition of government schools has improved little, with officials saying it is a 'work in progress'. It will become clear what changes are needed in the next four months, they said.

"We noticed that instead of having several small schools with little or no facilities, it is better to have one big school with proper labs, sports equipment, infrastructure and transport for children."

"It is more suitable than opening many small schools that do not provide a conducive environment for quality education. It took South Korea around two decades to re-



ach this level of education and we too need some time to implement bigger changes," said principal secretary, school education department, Rashmi Arun Shami.

She added, "Ek Parisar, Ek Shala' (One Campus, One School) scheme that led to the merger of several primary and middle schools was done for the same reason, so that school principals can utilise their resources better, thereby improving the efficiency of schools."

In many schools with 100 pupils, there are only a few teachers who have to teach all the subjects — this is where the quality suffers. We have to change this system and hire subject-teachers," said principal secretary education

The principal secretary further said, there is a dire need of subject experts in schools so that they can provide proper guidance to students. In the present system, teachers are recruited based on the number of students.

"Currently, we only have few teachers in government-run primary and middle schools. In many schools with 100 pupils, there are only three to four teachers who have to teach all the subjects — this is where the quality

suffers. We have to change this system and hire subject-teachers in government schools," she said.

Discussing the short-term programmes to improve the condition of government schools in Madhya Pradesh, the principal secretary said that the state education department is looking at a goal to create over 1,000 'excellence schools' within the next few years.

"Children who are in school now need schemes that can be implemented immediately. So, we are looking to train teachers and ensure that they pay attention to the students, check notebooks properly, take classes regularly. By the next academic year, more such changes will be implemented as part of the short-term plan to provide quality education to students in government schools," added the principal secretary.