

31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020

To,  
**Shri Narendra Modi ji**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister  
Govt. Of India

**Sub: Request for a Corona virus (COVID-19) Guidance and Resources for Budget Private School Communities**

Dear Sir,

**National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA)** expresses grave concern at the critical situation created by the spread of Corona Virus. We stand by the nation at this critical juncture and are ready to co-operate with the govt. and support the govt. efforts in this regard. We reiterate our earlier offer of the use of school buildings as temporary hospitals. We are ready to do whatever we can to improve the situation. However, this crisis has created a lot of problems for private schools and more than two crores teaching and non-teaching staff working in more than five lakh private schools in the country. We, therefore request you to find a solution in this regard. We may offer some suggestions in this regard as follows.

Budget Private Schools (BPS) serves to economically weaker sections of the society and Assist in meeting the urgent education needs by expanding access to the poorest children. We are happy that Central and State Governments are taking a necessary effort to control the COVID- 19, there were so many press conferences by important ministries announcing relief packages to face the challenges in this critical time. But we feel sad that once again Education is not given any priority in this situation. NISA urge you to immediately take a necessary steps and issue new guidelines and resources for Budget Private Schools.

1. Private schools function as a not for profit entity, they have no reserve funds and are entirely dependent on fees for their income.

2. In the new session negligible fees has been received, that too only by a very few Budget Private Schools.

3. Maximum number of Budget Private schools have not received fees of Feb / March 2020.

4. Schools have to incur expenditure on staff salary, building rent, maintenance of school buildings, labs, electronic and electric equipment, insurance premium, water and electricity bills, other govt taxes etc.

5 The state govts as advised by the Centre have directed schools not to take any action for non-payment of fees with the result that only some schools have received very little fees since the beginning of the new session. Schools need urgent help if they have to survive.

President:  
**Kulbhusan Sharma**

Vice-President, Advocacy:  
**S. Madhusudan**

Vice President, Quality:  
**Tulasi Prasad**

Vice President, Legal:  
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**Therefore, we request you to support us in the following:**

1. All private schools have deposited pledge / security money in the joint name of school and govt / board in some states / Exam Boards. This pledge money is meant to pay staff salaries if the school fails to pay salaries. We request that this pledge money may be released so as to enable schools to pay staff salaries during this crisis and can be replenished by the schools once the situation normalizes. This doesn't involve any expenditure by the govt., but will help the private schools in their cash flows at this difficult time.

2. Schools have been providing free education to 25% students under EWS quota as provided in the RTE Act but a lot of reimbursement amount is still pending to be released to the schools of last few years. You are requested to ensure the reimbursement of these fees so that schools may continue to survive and serve the society. We may point out that this is not a new expenditure nor an additional liability.

3. The govt is spending around five thousand rupees per student per month on children studying in govt schools. This constitutes around 60% of the total number of children going to schools in the country. Govt is providing education allowance to govt employees who have handsome salaries and are being regularly paid even during this crisis. The govt also reimburses the fees of children of minority communities. Other children are also the children of this country and have the right to education. It is therefore requested that the parents of these children may also be given education allowance at least for three months through DBT. We propose that a DBT of Rs. 3000.00 per month should be given to all unaided school children which will not only help schools but almost 1 crore other people who are in allied services like book sellers etc.

Even many schools who are offering online classes will also be benefitted to improve their virtual classes and crores of students will remain productively engaged.

4. We also request to put a complete moratorium for six months on all bills of water, electricity, insurance premium, property tax, ESI, PF etc. since private schools have no reserve funds and very little fee is likely to be received by them in this crisis.

5. School buses cover a distance of not more than 100 kms a day for not more than 220 days per year. In this period of crisis schools cannot replace buses which are about ten-year-old. It is requested that life of school buses may be extended at least by three years in view of the present crisis.

We hope you will provide this relief package to the budget private schools to save them from collapsing completely in these difficult times.

With respectful regards



Dr. Kulbhushan Sharma

President -NISA

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