

For immediate release
Provide untied grant to every school
End Inequity: RENEW Education for 26 Crore Children of India!

November 11, 2021

India faces an **education emergency** like none other since independence. A significant proportion of children have not been regularly benefiting from any form of structured learning opportunities for the last one and a half years. During this period, the majority of them will not only not have progressed in their learning, but they are likely to forgotten skills and knowledge that they had learned, due to lack of practice, mentorship and guidance from teachers. The deep inequality in the Indian education system has increased.

The nature of the emergency requires additional spending over several years, especially in government schools to take in the large numbers of private school students as well as the nutritional, health and pedagogical measures. In many countries, despite fiscal stresses, efforts have been made to increase budgetary allocations, or at the very least to protect these allocations. Further, in several countries, there have been explicit efforts to concentrate efforts to reduce historical disparities and to bridge the educational inequalities created by the pandemic (for instance, through explicit targeting of resources for particular groups of children, or particular geographic areas).

It is a disturbing trend that, in India, budgetary resources have been cut at the Central level and in several states. This must be reversed and allocations must be increased. This is an indicator of the seriousness of the education recovery effort and should be monitored.

On the occasion of National Education Day, we demand that governments immediately provide for additional expenditure, and prioritize expenditures that benefit the disadvantaged students, for re-engaging children with education. The bulk of the enhanced allocations should reach the schools to support enhanced learning. Additional financial allocations must also be allowed to be spent easily, together with appropriate controls and oversight, through untied school grants. Additional expenditure should broadly focus on the following items

1. Sanitation, repair and health measures in school
2. Enhanced nutrition
3. Communication materials for parents and teachers
4. Instructional plans, additional learning materials (graded readers, puzzles, games etc) for restructured curriculum, assessment resources
5. Teacher support – resource materials, training together with coaching/mentorship
6. Additional teaching resources – teacher aides, retired teachers etc

– **National Coalition on the Education Emergency** (a group of individuals, organizations and networks across the country which have come together to ‘resume and renew’ school education. The NCEE working groups produce research studies, curricular resources, guidelines for school opening to support governments, teachers, parents and communities to address the **Education Emergency**).

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