

**Centrally Sponsored
Scheme
of
Upgradation of Merit
of
Scheduled Caste
Students**

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I. SCOPE

The SC students, because of their educational deficiencies, are unable to take advantage of the various avenues, which have become available through reservation of seats. Consequently, the quota reserved for them in technical and professional courses like Engineering and Medical, remain under utilized. Some students, who are able to get admission in these courses with relaxed eligibility conditions, often find it difficult to either complete the course or take more than the specified time for completion of the instructional programme. Their inadequate educational preparation also prevents their employment in occupations where entry is on the basis of competitive examinations.

II. Description of the Scheme and its Objectives

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The Scheme of Upgradation of Merit of SC students provides for 100% Central Assistance to States/UTs for arranging remedial and special coaching for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students studying in class IX to XII. While remedial coaching aims at removing deficiencies in school subjects, special coaching is provided with a view to prepare students for competitive examinations for entry into professional courses like Engineering and Medical. The main objective of the scheme is to upgrade the merit of Scheduled Caste students by providing them with facilities for all round development through education in residential/non-residential schools. There will be no bar for any student to avail coaching for both the purposes (viz. Remedial and special).

It is proposed to be done by:

- Removing their educational deficiencies.
- Facilitating their entry into professional courses by upgrading their merit so that they can compete with other students for admission to higher education courses and for senior administrative and technical occupations.
- Generating self-confidence and self reliance in them.

The States will pay adequate attention to maintenance of hostel buildings and other infrastructural facilities.

III Selection of Schools & students

Admission and selection process will be left to the discretion of the concerned State Govts. who will ensure total transparency and fairness both in the identification of coaching institutions and beneficiary students.

Each state may use their own discretion in deciding numbers and location of schools in different districts/towns on the basis of their illiterate population of SCs. The schools selected under the scheme should have the facilities necessary for all round development of the child, enough hostel facilities and should have shown good academic results in the past few years consistently. Good schools particularly in rural areas may be chosen. Kendriya Vidyalayas which have hostel facilities may also be chosen for placement of SC students. Only those schools should be selected by the State Government where students belonging to SC communities will feel at home. The selected schools should also be those that are interested and feel involved in improving the capabilities of the students belonging to SCs to enable them to compete more effectively for admission to professional colleges/institutions or to overcome educational deficiencies. While the State Governments are free to choose any number of schools for implementation of the schemes, the total number of awards allotted to each State per annum should not be exceeded. The schools selected will be intimated to this Ministry by the State Governments.

IV Coverage

Maximum 2050 fresh students will be covered under the scheme annually. The coaching should start at class IX level and continue till a student has completed class XII. This is proposed with a view to making sufficient time available for coaching as well as meaningful interaction between these children and others. Thus a period of four years would be available for intensive training and coaching to a student to make up for his/her educational deficiencies and to enable him/her to compete for entry into collegiate level courses, particularly, in professional disciplines and ultimately for senior and remunerative positions on their own merit. Although entry point under the Scheme would be Class IX, a student may be enrolled in class X/ XI if he/she has shown excellent performance in the previous examination and if he/she had missed entry at class IX level for any reason.

The Scheme would be presently implemented in 19 States/UTs. The States/UTs will have number of awards fixed as given in Annexure. While one batch of student enter class IX, the earlier batch in class XII will be going out, thus keeping the total awards at the same level. For example, if a State has 5 awards, it will work out as under:

Class IX	-	5
Class X	-	5
Class XI	-	5
Class XII	-	5
Total	-	20

IV. A The students already availing the scholarship and studying in class X,XI,XII may continue to get scholarship irrespective of the District in which their institution is located. However, for the purpose of selecting new students from the selection year 2014-15 onwards, the selection of Districts for implementation of the Scheme would be done ,as far as possible, on the following criteria:-

- i) 2-3 districts having highest SC population in the State and
- ii) Identified as Educationally backward Districts (EBD).
- iii) Priority would be given to these EBD which have lower literacy rates.

V. Nature of Coaching

Coaching will be both remedial, with a view to removing deficiencies in school subjects, and special for preparing student for competitive examinations required for entry into professional courses like Engineering and Medicine. The emphasis of remedial coaching would be to remove educational deficiencies from which these students suffer and to promote study habits. It is found that educational deficiencies generally result from inadequate linguistic skills and lack of understanding of basic concepts in Mathematics and Science. It is, therefore, proposed to provide coaching in linguistic skills. Science and Mathematics, coaching for competitive examinations i.e. special coaching will be more specific and organized in relation to the competencies required by professional institutions for passing their entry examinations. Syllabi for special coaching will need to be prepared with the help of Experts. While remedial coaching will continue throughout the stay of students in the selected schools (class IX – XII), intensive coaching for competitive examinations will be provided to them on Sundays, holidays and during summer/winter vacations. Special coaching should be arranged at some centrally placed schools, where students of class XI and XII of the nearby schools participating in the programme can gather on specified days.

Coaching will be done after school hours, teachers providing coaching to students will be paid remuneration. The Principals of the schools would also need to be involved in the programme and take responsibility for ensuring satisfactory implementation. Some honorarium will be provided to them. The State Governments/UTs should furnish a report on the performance of these students while seeking fresh grants.

VI. Selection of Teachers

For remedial coaching, faculty of the schools selected under the scheme would be given preference. Where it is not possible to find suitable teachers for a specific course of study, services of teachers from neighbouring schools will be requisitioned. It should be ensured that not less than 10 to 12 hours a week are devoted by a teacher to the coaching of the students.

For special coaching, apart from school teachers wherever possible and available, faculty of professional, institutions would be invited. For this purpose, professional institutions which may be located near the school where coaching is provided, will be preferred, so as to economise on expenditure on traveling.

VII. Preference to Girls Students and Handicapped Students

Allocated awards may be used by States for boys & girl students in the ratio of 50:50. However, unutilized awards by girls may be used by boys and vice-versa. Target should also be fixed to include at least 3% disabled SC students wherever possible. Besides the amount of scholarship, students with disabilities would also be eligible for the following assistance:

- I. Reader Allowance of Rs.200 per month for blind students in classes IX to XII.
- II. Transport allowance of Rs.100 per month for the disabled students if such a student does not reside in the hostel, which is within the premises of educational institution. Special pay of Rs.200 per month be admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopaedically handicapped students residing in a hostel managed by the educational or by the State Government/Union Territory Admn. who may need the assistance of a helper.
- III. Escort allowance of Rs.100 per month for severely handicapped day scholar students with lower extremity disability.
- IV. Allowance of Rs.200 per month towards extra coaching to mentally retarded and mentally ill students in classes IX to XII.

VIII. Financial Implications

The Scheme provides for 100% central assistance to the States and Union Territories for implementation of the Scheme.

A package grant of **Rs.25,000** per student per year will be given with the following break-up:

(i) Rs.15,000 per student per year as under:

- Boarding & lodging charges @ **Rs 900** per month for 10 months = **Rs.9,000**
(This component would be payable to the students studying in residential schools only)
- Pocket money @ **Rs.300** for 10 months = **Rs.3,000**
- Books and Stationery **Rs.3,000**

(ii) **Rs.10,000** per year per student for honorarium to Principal, Experts and other incidental charges

The package may be revised once in every two years linking it with Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker the month of October of the year preceding the year of revision to be made affective from April.

Besides the above, students with disabilities will be eligible for additional grants as provided for in the Scheme. However, the disabled students would be identified according to the provisions of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

In case a State does not send any proposal, funds earmarked for that State are likely to be lapsed. In order to obviate this, the (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) will have discretion to use a cushion of at least 10% of budget allocation for diverting the funds from one State to another to meet the unforeseen increased demand, out of internal resources of the (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) by way of re-appropriation within the (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)

IX. MODE OF DISBURSAL OF SCHOLARSHIP

In order to ensure timely and correct payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries, State Governments/UT administrations should ensure payment of scholarship through their accounts in banks through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) as prescribed by the Govt. of India. All State Govts/UT Administrations will implement a computerized management system of scholarships, including 'e-payment' system.

X. PROCEDURE FOR CLAIMING AND RELEASE OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (CA)

CA will be released to the States/UTs, for meeting the 100% expenditure under the Scheme. The disbursement would be done in one of the following manner:

States/UTs, would forward the digitised list of beneficiaries, as prescribed by the Central Govt., for claiming the Scholarship amount, to the extent of due Central Assistance. After the Ministry receives such list, duly authenticated by the nominated officer of the respective State/UT, it would directly transfer the Scholarship amount in the Bank A/cs of the payees (beneficiaries and/or the institutions, as the case may be) {The information of such transfer having been made would be forwarded to the States/UTs.} or

disburse the CA to the States/ UTs for making payments in the Bank a/c of the payees (beneficiaries and /or the institutions as the case may be) upto the extent of due CA. The information of such transfer having been made would be forwarded to the States/UTs.

The detailed modalities and the timelines in this regard would be decided in consultation with the States/UTs.

XI. MONITORING

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implementing the scheme will:

- i) prepare the data base of the beneficiaries which would be integrated with UIDAI by (a) embedding Aadhaar numbers (UID numbers) in it, (b) using the UIDAI enabled bank account (UEBA) for crediting the scholarships and (c) using the UIDAI authentication services for beneficiary identification.

- ii) furnish data of the beneficiaries and the expenditure under the scheme to the Government of India, regularly in form of the Quarterly Progress Reports. The forms for such reporting would be prescribed separately. Financial assistance given under the scheme shall not be utilized for any other purpose.
- iii) ensure that an institution-wise list of awardees, with necessary particulars, for award of scholarships is displayed on the web-site of NIC at the District level.
- iv) designate Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) at the State and District levels to redress scholarship-related grievances of the students.

XII. Administration of the Scheme

Up to 6 % of total B.E. towards Scholarship would be utilized on administrative expenditure, Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Publicity and Awareness Generation etc. The funds would be utilized for this purpose by the Central Govt. or it could release a part of the funds (to the extent of 2% of total B.E.) to States/UTs, over and above the Scholarship amount, on the basis of proposals received from them in this regard. However, no new posts would be created under this component.

These funds could inter-alia be utilized for developing a secure, uniform and standard automatic system, National Portal/National Data base and evolving a procedure for collection of applications and processing thereof. For this purpose outsourcing/contractual hiring of people may also be resorted to.

Scheme may be given due publicity by the State Govts.

Monitoring of the Scheme will be done by the State Govt.

Annexure

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Total no. of slots allotted
1.	Andhra Pradesh	187
2.	Assam	58
3.	Bihar	185
4.	Chhattisgarh	71
5.	Gujarat	88
6.	Haryana	41
7.	Himachal Pradesh	18
8.	Jharkhand	88
9.	Karnataka	119
10.	Kerala	25
11.	Madhya Pradesh	248
12.	Punjab	71
13.	Rajasthan	169
14.	Sikkim	13
15.	Tripura	13
16.	Uttarakhand	18
17.	Uttar Pradesh	392
18.	West Bengal	233
19.	Daman & Diu	13
Total		2050