

## **Recruitment of 1,000 teachers cleared for municipal schools**

City's municipal schools are often criticized for the poor quality of education mainly due to the inadequate number of teachers. However, things are about to change as the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) has cleared the appointment of new teachers by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC). The education department of the civic body has started the exercise of deputing the teachers at primary schools that have about 2.86 lakhs students.

The sanctioned strength of municipal teachers in south is 9,400. About 2,400 posts had been lying vacant for a long time and the civic body was struggling to fill the gap. Now, recruitment of more 1,000 teachers has been cleared by the DSSSB and 221 teachers have been hired on contractual basis under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, a part of the central government scheme.

The list of newly recruited teachers includes 850 primary teachers for classes one to five and 150 nursery teachers. Additionally, about 931 teachers have been allowed to continue, they were hired on contractual basis in 2010. The move is to ensure smooth functioning of the schools.

Out of the four zones under SDMC — south, west, central and Najafgarh — the central zone will benefit the most with this development as 40% of the total recruitment will be provided to the zone. Out of 579 schools in south Delhi, there are 132 schools in central zone. There were 7,000 teachers in the 579 schools; however, that was not enough keeping in mind the prescribed student-teacher ratio. As per rules, there should be one teacher for a group of 40 students.

A senior official of SDMC's education department said, "The reason for deputing maximum teachers in schools in central zone is the long pending demand from here. Comparing it with the rest of the three zones, most of the schools in central zone were being run with minimum staff. We don't want to compromise with the quality of education, that's why we took the decision."

According to him, ideally there should be one teacher over 40 students but in the central zone the teacher and student ratio was 1:50. The deployment of sufficient staff will help in improving quality of education, monitoring and security in schools, the official said.

According to Yashpal Arya, chairman of SDMC education committee, the process for deputing nursery, regular and contract based teachers has started while the teachers under SSA category will be deputed from next week onwards.

"We have started sending the appointment letters to the teachers and within 8-10 days everything will be finalised," he said.

As far as the contract teachers are concerned, only those who have been working on and before 2010 with SDMC schools will be given the opportunity to continue further, said Arya. “The development has come as a big relief for us as the matter for appointing new teachers was pending with DSSSB, Delhi Government for the last seven years. We were constantly asking them to approve the selection process,” said an SDMC official.