

Deccan Herald

Retired teachers to fill vacant posts

The Delhi government will now allow school principals and school management committees to hire retired teachers on their own to help tackle the shortage of teachers.

The 1,011 government schools currently have vacancies for about 15,000 teachers, which severely affects the teacher-student ratio. The shortage is also a challenge to the government's ambitious 'Chunauti' scheme to improve learning levels.

According to a proposal which has now been cleared by the Directorate of Education (DoE) and sent to the Finance Department, the schools will be asked to recruit retired teachers against vacant posts on a per hour basis.

“The Kendriya Vidyalayas have this system where they can hire teachers for a three-month period. We will also give this flexibility to schools to deal with the problem,” said Atishi Marlena, Advisor (Education) to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio.

“They can hire any teacher retired from either a government or a private school,” she said. The government hopes to implement this policy in a few weeks.

The teachers will be paid between Rs 800 and Rs 1,000 for an hour. The shortage of teachers in government schools is worse in two subjects – English and Science.

The Delhi government's recent baseline assessment of class 6 students showed that 13 per cent could not identify English alphabets and 75 per cent could not read an English story of class 2 level.

School principals have earlier said that filling vacant posts should be the first priority if the government is keen on arresting the dropout rates and improving learning levels.

The Aam Aadmi Party government had created 9,623 posts in March for regular teachers and planned a test to recruit them. The guest teachers could also take the same exam,

with 'weightage' for them in marks.

The proposal on weightage for guest teachers, however, is pending with Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung.

Marlena said that the government cannot now conduct the recruitment test for teachers while the file remained with the LG, because the guest teachers were promised they would be part of it.

"We don't know when the battle with the LG will end but schools need teachers. That is why we have planned to give the hiring powers to schools," Marlena said. it said.