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Only 5.3% schools have teachers for all subjects

BENGALURU: Of the 15,141 high schools in Karnataka, including private and government institutions, only 5.3% have teachers for all core subjects. More than 70% of them have just two language teachers, and one each for mathematics and science. Less than half of the schools have at least one social studies teacher, a survey by the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has revealed.

The survey, Teacher demand and supply in secondary schools, attributes the shortage to non-sanctioning of posts, lack of effective teacher deployment and small school size, which affects teacher distribution.

"We don't know the basis of the RMSA study. We have a good number of core subject teachers. In keeping with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) norms, we are planning to recruit more teachers to fill vacancies in secondary schools," said a senior official from the primary and secondary education department.

RMSA, a central government-sponsored scheme, conducted the survey in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh (MP). In MP, less than 2% of the schools have one teacher each to impart social studies, science and mathematics lessons. In 43% of the schools, there are two language teachers; 23% have three language teachers.

A source said the number of sanctioned posts for teachers in state-board secondary schools is 44,630. There is a dearth of core subject teachers, with the vacancies numbering 5,707.

Besides an efficient deployment policy and good planning, the study recommends the state government must ensure demand and supply synchronization, clustering of small schools, strategic planning to meet the demand of teachers in tribal areas and maintenance of a teacher database.

Niranjanaradhya VP, fellow at the centre for child and the law, NLSIU, said: "There is a severe shortage of Hindi teachers in secondary schools. As per the rules, the government upgraded some higher primary schools (till class 7) to class 8; even they lack subject teachers for class 8."