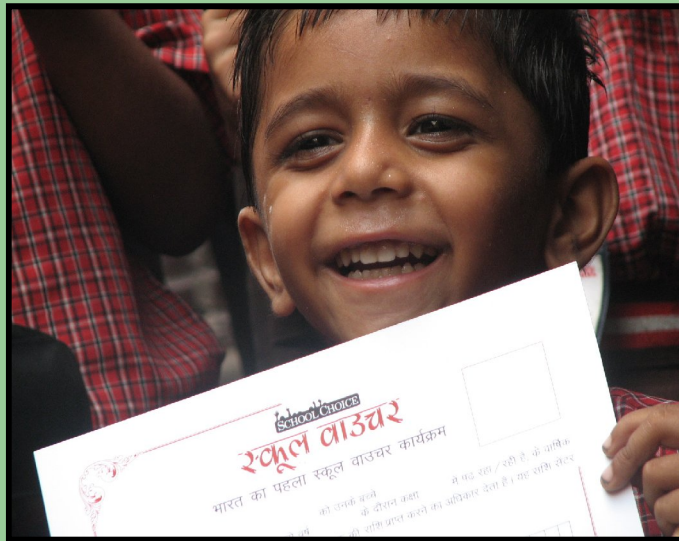


Quality Education for all: *A tool for poverty alleviation*



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SCHOOL CHOICE

www.schoolchoice.in

Need for quality education

Need for:

- Access for all
- Quality education for all

Problems:

- Two-tier system of government and private schools
- No choice for the poor
- No accountability of state schools to poor parents

Current Context: Policy landscape

- *86th Constitutional Amendment*: Free and compulsory education of 6-14 year olds a fundamental right
- *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* launched in 2001
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2009 (RTE Bill 2009) passed. *Notification pending*

RTE Bill 2009: Quality improvements in government schools

- Norms and standard specification
- School Management Committees (SMCs)

Moreover we need...

- **Per-child Funding:** Funding to be allocated on a 'per-child' basis i.e money follows students not teachers!

RTE Bill 2009: 25% reservations in private schools

- Government sponsored students from economically weaker and socially disadvantaged groups
- Costs reimbursed @ per child expenditure incurred by the State or actual fees charged, whichever is less

What happens to the rest of the poor?

Fund Students, Not Schools!

School Voucher is a coupon offered by the government entitling a student to take education in any school of her choice.

Conditional Cash Transfer is an allowance given to poor parents provided they fulfill certain conditions.

Scholarship can include merit or need based scholarships



सत्यमेव जयते



**Government
school**



Existing System



सत्यमेव जयते



**Any school
of Choice**

School Choice System

Voucher Program Countries

Sweden

Chile

Columbia

Holland

USA

UK

New Zealand

Bangladesh

Czech Republic

Cote d' Ivorie

Benefits of Vouchers

- Choice for students
- More equality of opportunity
- Incentives for schools to increase enrolment and retention
- Competition among schools to increase quality

How Much the Cities Spend?

City governments spend Rs. 1000-1700 per child on education in India

Not per year...per MONTH!

Imagine that sum in the hands of the poor parent and the quality of education that her child would receive

Delhi Voucher Project

- India's first voucher project, March 2007
- **Amount awarded:** Rs. 3600 per year
- **Timeline:** Minimum of 3 years
- **Eligibility:** Students in government school in the previous year and willing to go to a fee charging school
- **Respondents:** 120,000 applications from 68 wards
- **Selection:** 408 students (6 per ward) selected through public lottery in each ward with the ward councilor

Findings of Voucher Pilot



Learning Achievements: Voucher students performed better than government school students and at par with private school students who did not receive voucher

Parents' involvement: Greater attention on education at home, meeting teachers and willingness to spend

Parents' perceptions: Happier with academic progress, discipline, infrastructure and teachers

Funds and implementation

Spend all incremental money as vouchers to the most underserved areas or communities

- Targeted vouchers for underserved groups
- All new government schools to be funded through vouchers/ per child allocation
- Establishment of community schools
- Universal vouchers in educationally and economically poor areas

RTE Bill 2009: Closure of Budget Private Schools

Instead..

Graded Recognition System

- Include budget private schools and create realistic standards for all schools
- 3 Standards – A, B and C
- Rely on learning achievements (outputs) rather than only on infrastructure and input criteria



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