

Right to Education Act

INTRODUCTION:

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE), which was passed by the Indian parliament on 4 August 2009, describes the modalities of the provision of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. India became one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child when the act came into force on 1 April 2010.

The landmark passing of the Act marks a historic moment for the children of India. Few countries in the world have such a national provision.



OVERVIEW:

1. Every child from 6 to 14 years of age has a right to free and compulsory education in a neighborhood school till completion of elementary education.
2. Private schools must take in a quarter of their class strength from 'weaker sections and disadvantaged groups', partly sponsored by the government.
3. All schools except private unaided schools are to be managed by School Management Committees with 75 per cent parents and guardians as members.
4. All schools except government schools are required to be recognized by meeting specified norms and standards within 3 years to avoid closure.



HIGHLIGHTS:

- The RTE Act is the first legislation in the world that puts the responsibility of ensuring enrollment, attendance and completion on the Government. It is the parents' responsibility to send the children to schools in the U.S. and other countries.
- The Act provides that no child shall be held back, expelled, or required to pass a board examination until the completion of elementary education.
- There is also a provision for special training of school drop-outs to bring them up to par with students of the same age.
- The RTE act requires surveys that will monitor all neighborhoods, identify children requiring education, and set up facilities for providing it.
- The Right to Education of persons with disabilities until 18 years of age has also been made a fundamental right.
- A number of other provisions regarding improvement of school infrastructure, teacher-student ratio and faculty are made in the Act. Two trained teachers will be provided for every sixty students at the primary level.
- Teachers are required to attend school regularly and punctually, complete curriculum instruction, assess learning abilities and hold regular parent-teacher meetings.
- The Act excludes children under 6 years of age which is one of the major causes for its criticism.

For further information, visit: <http://education.nic.in/Elementary/elementaryRTE.asp>