

Sajag Society

Activity Report of South Delhi

for academic year 2011 –12

- (1) **R.T.I. applications on latest admission processes:** - The Right of Children to Free & Compulsory Education Act 2009 has been enforced since 1st of April 2010 in India. It has brought some changes in admission processes under E.W.S. quota as well. The Directorate of Education, Govt. of Delhi was supposed to frame Rules and procedures before the admissions process taken place in this regard but there was an unnecessary delay from their side. So, **Sajag Society** had filed **6 R.T.I. applications** with the **Act Branch** of the **Directorate of Education** (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) and **12 application with DDEs of South-West A & B districts** during September - November 2010 to get information on modified admission processed. It was also to pressurize them to speed up their processes in that regard. In the response to Sajag's applications, the P.I.O. of Act Branch of the Directorate of education had not provided us complete information. Aggrieved by the P.I.O., Sajag lodged first appeals. The first Appellate Authority considered our points and the P.I.O. was found guilty. So, the first Appellate Authority ordered the P.I.O. to provide us complete information at earliest. Thus we got the desired information.

- (2) **Consideration of B.P.L./ AAY Ration Cards as Proof of Income:** - The Department of Food & Supply, Govt. of NCT of Delhi provided Below Poverty Line (B.P.L.) and Antyodaya (AAY) Ration Cards to the poorest to the poor residents of its jurisdiction. Govt. provides food grains on subsidized rates to B.P.L/ AAY cards holders. It is obvious that **B.P.L/ AAY** cardholders come under Economically Weaker Section (E.W.S.). But private schools were not considering those ration cards as a proof of income for granting admission under E.W.S. quota.

Sajag Society has been raising that issue for last couple of years and had filed some R.T.I. applications in that regard. Moving forward, Sajag had filed **2 fresh R.T.I. applications** on dated **12th November 2010** with the P.I.O. of the **Act Branch** of the Directorate of Education (responsible for framing orders/ rules/ circulars etc.) specifically for the above said purpose. It was to create some pressure on them to address the issue in their latest orders. As a result, the Directorate of Education, Govt. of Delhi has incorporated a special **clause 6 – (a)** in its latest order issued on dated 07th January 2011, for admissions under E.W.S. quota which clearly says that B.P.L/ AAY Ration cards should be considered as Proof of Income. It is great relief for the needy parents.

- (3) **Awareness building campaign on admission process:** - The Right of Children to free and compulsory education Act, 2009, has brought many changes in admission process under E.W.S. quota. Earlier, there were only 10% seats reserved for weaker sections in only those private schools situated on Govt. lands but R.T.E. Act has increased it to 25% in all recognized private schools. Parents were generally unaware on those provisions. It was essential to create awareness among parents and masses on such provisions of the R.T.E. Act.

So, the **Sajag Society** initiated an awareness building campaign in that regard, under which a team of activists and volunteers of Sajag, visited door-to-door, distributed pamphlets, talked one to one with parents and hosted street corner meetings. Some of the main topics covered under the campaign were – what was the E.W.S. quota, eligibility criteria for applicants, income limit, process of getting Birth/ Income certificates from Govt. departments and how to approach private schools for admission.

As decided in the planning meetings of the project, the **Sajag Society** has expended its work areas for the last academic session 2011 -12. The team of Sajag had covered its existing areas (from South-West A & B districts) as well many new areas from the **South district** of Delhi under the campaign. Some of areas covered were - **Dr. Ambedkar Camp, Subhash Camp, Mini Camp, Shaheed Camp, Sanjay Gandhi Camp (near Dakshinpuri), Chhattarpur Pahari, Bhanwar Singh Camp (Vasant Vihar), Israil Camp (Rangpuri Pahari), Inder Camp (Rangpuri Pahari), J.J. Bandhu Camp (B-5/6, Vasant Kunj), Pappan Kalan, J.J. Slum (Sector-4, Dwarka), J.J. Slum (Sector-1, Dwarka)** etc. The team was made **26 visits** (some times twice/ thrice in some areas as and when needed) for information dissemination during the months of September to December 2010. As a result a large number of parents came forward to seek admissions for their wards under the E.W.S. quota.



- (4) **Parents meetings:** - **Sajag Society** had disseminated information on E.W.S. quota through the awareness campaign, which was provided initial information to community parents. It was generated further curiosity among parents for more information on the processes. Some of them called us in that regard, so the **Sajag Society** had organized **23 parents meetings** between November 10 to January 11 in different slums (as mentioned above) in South and South–West (A & B) districts of Delhi. Parents were provided ample information such as –documents required for admission, attestation of papers by Gazetted officers (copies of address proofs/ 5 or 3 years old proof, immunization cards, affidavits etc.) how to apply for income/ birth certificates, local S.D.M. offices and dates of distribution/ submission of admission forms etc. We had also addressed their queries in that regard. Apart from provided above information, it was decided to assist parents in filing applications with respective authorities/ schools.



- (5) **Assistance in getting Income, birth certificates from Govt. Dept.:** - Sajag Society had assisted parents from starting to completion of admission process. Apart from above mentioned activities, the society had helped a many community parents from new areas in attestation (of photocopies of residence proofs/ immunization cards, 3 + years old proofs), filling up forms, preparation of affidavits and filing of those applications. It was to boost their confidence and to enhance their understanding on processes of getting those documents as well as to save them from touters.
- (6) **Admissions in Private Schools:** - As a result of Sajag's above mentioned activities, a large number community parents came forward to demand admission for their wards which was created ample pressures on authorities of private schools. So, many private schools had been forced to fulfill the E.W.S. quota as per Govt. provisions. **Sajag Society** had monitored admission process under the quota of many schools of South, South-West "A" and South-West "B"

districts of Delhi. Many schools given admissions through draw of lots as per the Govt. provisions. In all total, 150 + children enrolled through our endeavors in the academic year 2011- 12 from Sajag's efforts.

- (7) **Admissions in Govt. Schools:** - There are a large number of migrant workers residing in the work areas of **Sajag Society**. Many of those workers don't have any proof of residence, so their wards couldn't be admitted under E.W.S. quota in private schools. Therefore, Sajag motivated and guided such parents to enroll their wards in near by M.C.D./ Govt. schools. As a result of Sajag's initiative **66 children** enrolled in M.C.D./ Govt. schools in current year in 2011 till now. Those children were prone to engaged in child labour, so Sajag's efforts saved them from being child labourer.
- (8) **R.T.I. on financial assistance to E.W.S. children:** - The Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi provides reimbursements for stationery and books (as per their norms) to children enrolled under E.W.S. quota in private schools. Many schools were not complying the scheme. After getting complaints from parents, **Sajag Society** had filed an R.T.I. application with P.I.O. (Deputy Director of Education, South West –A) in the last year (in 2010), which was created some pressure on authorities and school managements. As a result many schools from the south –west “A” district were started complying the scheme. But the Ryan International School, C- 8, Vasant Kunj didn't complied that scheme till February 2011. So, **Sajag Society** had filed a R.T.I. application on **14th March 2011**, with DDE S/w –A, especially against that school. In its reply, the P.I.O. said that the Govt. would have sanctioned Rs. 99577/- in that head for that school. After got that information, parents started demanding that from the school. Finally, the Ryan school forced to reimbursement them. Approx. 100 children studying in the Ryan school had benefited from that R.T.I application.
- (9) **Campaign against D.P.S. Shiksha Kendra:** - The Delhi Public School, C-5, Vasant Kunj is one of the private schools, which are situated on Govt. lands, and it has an obligation to give admissions to children belonging to economically weaker sections since its inception. Earlier, many schools didn't give admissions to deserving children and some of the schools started separate classes in after noon without taken care of Govt. provisions.



D.P.S., Vasant Kunj had also started separate classes under banner of “**D.P.S. Shiksha Kendra**” for girls of economically weaker sections. In between, **Sajag Society** has started its movement for fulfillment of the E.W.S. quota as per legal provisions. As a result the school was forced to comply legal provisions and to take admissions under E.W.S. quota in mainstream since 2008. Since then, the school has stopped taking fresh admission in the **D.P.S. Shiksha Kendra**. On the other side, first batch of 23 girls appeared in final examinations of class 8th and passed in this year (2011) but all girls (of VIII) were informed just before final exams that the school would not going to conduct classes for –9th standard. It was a great shock for the children and parents as well. After that, some parents approached Sajag to guide them thus Sajag came in the picture.



After that a series of activities had been commenced to build common understanding among community parents on the issues, its causes & effects, common demands and future course of actions to deal with the problem. In all total 10 community meetings held in that regard. As a result, 40+ complaints had been filed with the concerned DDE from 30th March to 20th April 11. Parents demanded transfer of their daughter to the mainstream morning shift from the Shiksha Kendra but there were no relief for their problems. So, finely the Society had filed a writ petition with the High Court of Delhi in that regard but unfortunately the court had quashed our petition on 20th May 2011 on the basis of an existing judgment in another case. It was a great set back for all of us. So, finely the girls had no other option than to take admissions in near by Govt. School in class –IX.

- (10) **Meeting with Mrs. Sheila Dikshit:** - A delegation of 15 members from Sajag Society (comprising children, parents and activists) met with Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, the Chief Minister of Govt. of NCT of Delhi at her official resident on 2nd May 2011 seeking her intervention on immoral act of D.P.S., Vasant Kunj. Mrs. Dikshit cordially met with girls and listened their problems.



After that she immediately called up to the Principal Secretary of Education and ordered him to inquire in the matter and to take suitable actions at earliest. But it could not change misfortune of poor girls.

- (11) **Skill development Training for Adolescents youth:** - Moving forward in its endeavors of developing skills of marginalized groups, **Sajag Society** had facilitated **13 adolescents youths** from Israil Camp (Vasant Kunj) in getting solar panel and equipments assembling & repairing trainings.



It was **3 weeks** long (13th to 30th June 11) full day training workshop conducted in the summer vacations by the **All India Women Conference**, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi. Participants have been provided certificates and tool kits after completion of the training. The training has provided sufficient knowledge on the topic and trainees might make their careers in that field in coming years.



(12) Formation of E.W.S. Parents Association: - There is a popular proverb that “No one is stronger than all of us”. It emphasizes the importance of unity. It’s a universal truth and applies in every aspect of our life. As far as admissions under E.W.S. quota are concern, many private schools resist in giving

admissions to deserving children and unnecessarily harass their parents. On the other side when parents approach such schools collectively, the chances of harassments are reduced dramatically. So, it has realized to form an association of parents in order to dealt with connivance of private schools. Sajag Society has formed an association of parents –“**E.W.S. Parents Association**” on dated 05th March 2011 at Rangpuri pahari with initial membership of 30 parents.

(13) Solved a case of misbehave with Mrs. Babli by a teacher: -

Ambia Khatun, a 10 year old girl from Kapashera, studies class 4th in a nearby M.C.D. School. One of the teachers of school used to ask fee from her time to time. On 06th May 2011, Mrs. Babli Khatun, mother of Ambia, met with the teacher and asked the reasons behind the frequent demands of fee. Instead of giving proper reply, the teacher started misbehaving her and used abusive languages on her. The lady was very disappointed and approached Sajag Society for help. Ms. Parwati Barthwal immediately visited the school to meet with the teacher. Ms. Parwati asked her about Govt. provision and warned her to lodge complaint with higher authorities. Thereafter the teacher realized her fault and started weeping before both of them. After that Ms. Parwati along with Mrs. Babli met with the headmistress of the school to bring the case to her notice. The teacher realized implications of the matter, so she started apologizing for her mistake. Thus the teacher got lessons.

(14) Monthly meetings of Self Help Groups: - Sajag Society has formed Lakshya Self Help Group of mothers of private school going (under e.w.s. quota) children. There ware 14 members in the group and each of them makes monthly saving of Rs. 100/ only. In all total, 14 meetings held between July 2010 & June 2011. The group has opened its accounts in the Corporation Bank, Mahipalpur. Total savings of the group has been reached to approx. **28,000/- till August 2011.** The saved amount would be used to meet out educational needs in troublesome situations.

