

To

Date: 05.11.12

Tmt. D. Sabitha IAS.,
Principal Secretary to Government,
School Education Department,
Government of TamilNadu

Dear Madam,

Sub: Request for providing free school text books in Braille format to the visually impaired students studying in Government schools and in Tamilnadu

The policy of the Government of Tamilnadu to provide free text books to the normal school students (sighted), studying in Government schools, is well appreciated. However visually impaired students presently studying in Government schools and the visually impaired students studying in special schools are not being provided with such free school text books in Braille format. In the absence of Braille text books, these disadvantaged students are left in the lurch and therefore their academic performance is badly affected. It has been roughly estimated that there are 2384 visually impaired students who have enrolled in Government schools in Tamilnadu as on date. At present visually impaired school students studying in Government schools in Tamilnadu can be categorized as under;

1. Under SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan) (class 1 to class 8) Around 500 visually impaired students
2. Under IEDSS (class 9 to class 12 Around 1000 visually impaired students
3. Under special schools (class 1 to class 12) Around 884 visually impaired students

The State Government has been taking various laudable welfare initiatives for the visually impaired students. It is estimated that there are 9, 64,063 visually impaired persons in Tamilnadu and out of them only 2384 students are studying in government schools. It is estimated that, as on date, only 10853 visually impaired persons are in the live registers of Employment Exchange, waiting for the jobs after completion of various levels of their education. Keeping in view the very low percentage of educated visually challenged persons and to achieve the goal of education for all, it is high time that the State Government takes up the issue of providing quality education to all visually impaired school going children on war footing by adopting different innovative methods so that more and more parents of visually impaired children will come forward in large numbers to admit their visually impaired children in government schools. Providing free Braille school text books is the first basic motivating step. The State Government has already been providing free text books to lakhs of normal (sighted) school students in Government schools through Tamilnadu Text book Corporation whereas our present request is to supply free Braille Text book to only 2384 visually challenged school students . We therefore, appeal to your good selves to arrange to supply free text books in Braille format by placing an order with the Tamilnadu Text Book Corporation to all the visually impaired school students under three categories mentioned above. This major intervention will enhance the academic performance of the visually impaired school students and place them on equal footing with others.

Thanking you
For Nethrodaya

C. Govindakrishnan
Founder