

## State mulls reforms to improve quality of education in schools

- Special Correspondent

*HRD Minister to head expert panel*

The State Government is mulling comprehensive reforms in the school education sector to enhance quality in elementary and secondary education.

As part of efforts to introduce global best practices and experiences in the implementation of education reforms, the government has decided to constitute an expert committee for providing strategic policy advice and guidance in designing and implementing the education reforms.

The committee has been mandated to provide guidance for the development of policy briefs for the reforms that would pave way for the development of the education system in the State.

The panel, to be headed by the Human Resource Development Minister as Chairman, will review the current plan programmes under elementary education and literacy in terms of access, enrolment, retention, dropouts and with particular emphasis on outcomes on quality of education by gender, social and regional classifications.

The committee has representatives from different fields including scholar Chaganti Koteswara Rao, hypnotherapist B.V. Pattabhiram, motivational speaker N.V. Warlu and Shanta Biotechnics managing director K.I. Varaprasada Rao as its members. The Commissioner of School Education would be the member convener of the panel.

The committee had been asked to advise the State government on evolving a detailed perspective plan and strategies with specific medium term monitorable targets in terms of average years of schooling and providing quality elementary education for children in the age group 6 to 14 up to Class VIII as mandated by the RTE Act.

It should suggest improvements in the delivery mechanism for effective implementation of various schemes.

The panel will advise the government on steps to provide educational infrastructure through public private cooperation and involvement of corporate sector/civil society/NGOs in the promotion of elementary education of equitable quality.

It would work with special focus on undertaking teaching and learning initiatives, enhancing academic outcomes, programmes, courses and education partnerships besides recommending strategies for extensive use of IT in all areas of school education management.

The committee should also guide the government on aspects relating to revisiting/reviewing the curriculum and advice on integrating vocational education at secondary school level for aligning with global trends.

It should help the school education department to evolve detailed plans and strategies for universal access, retention and quality of education at primary and upper primary levels. Besides advising about the modalities for accessing high quality resources, the panel had been mandated to develop a sustainable design for continuous professional development and training for teachers.

***Human Resource Development Minister to head the expert committee***

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