

73,000 children who failed in schools out of system

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NEW DELHI, APRIL 17

OF 1,55,736 children in classes IX-XII in Delhi government schools who failed in the 2017-2018 session, 73,583 were not admitted to any institution operating under the Education Department and are unaccounted for.

Across these classes, the number of students who failed was the highest in Class IX (73,561).

As per an affidavit submitted by the Education Department in the High Court, of the 1.55 lakh children who failed in the various classes, only 52,582 had been re-admitted to regular government schools.

A circular issued by the department in August 2018 issued guidelines to heads of various government schools in dealing with the matter of re-admitting children who failed in classes IX-XII.

It states that a student who fails once should be re-admitted to the school if they "insist" on it, but only after they have been told to consider other options like CBSE's Patrachar Vidyalaya or National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) centres, which the state government runs in collaboration with the NIOS.

However, in cases of students who fail in two consecutive years, the circular states that, "he/she will invariably be counselled about choosing other available options like the Patrachar Vidyalaya, the NIOS, etc and will not be re-admitted as a regular student".

Of the children who failed in 2017-2018, less than a third were re-admitted to their

MANY UNACCOUNTED FOR

CHILDREN WHO FAILED IN 2017-2018

Class IX	73,561
Class X	42,503
Class XI	28,806
Class XII	10,566
Total	1,55,736

KIDS NOT RE-ADMITTED TO SAME SCHOOL

Class IX	38,027
Class X	38,691
Class XI	16,513
Class XII	9,623
Total	1,02,854

STUDENTS WHO were admitted to other govt schools or alternate modes of education under DoE

52,582 in regular government schools

11,226 in Patrachar Vidyalayas

18,345 in NIOS Centres

73,583

Number of students not re-admitted/accounted for

schools. While 11,226 were admitted to Patrachar Vidyalayas, 18,345 were admitted to NIOS centres.

Education experts have been critical of this movement of children away from regular schooling into distance learning modes.

"This policy of not re-admitting students and encouraging them to enter these alternative institutes does not help them academically, and pushes them out of the formal education system. Once children are admitted to NIOS, the chances of them getting a chance to pursue studies after Class X becomes limited and the only avenue that remains for them is vocational courses," said Anita Rampal, former professor of elementary and social education at Delhi University.

However, even more striking is that 47.25% of the children who failed in 2017-2018 are unaccounted for, and not admitted to any of these institutions.

The affidavit stated that the "department is very much con-

cerned about those failed students who could not take admission in any of the above said three institutions running under the respondent (education department)".

The department is now taking measures such as sending letters to addresses of the children and instructing the cluster resource centre coordinators to identify such students and facilitate admissions.

For many children, being refused re-admission is a demoralising experience.

Take, for instance, a 15-year-old who failed Class IX twice and was refused re-admission to his school in Kidwai Nagar this year.

"We haven't admitted him to an open school — it doesn't have the *manyata* (recognition) of a regular school. He wasn't even able to cope with regular school, how will his studies improve in an open school where no one will watch over and help him? We want him to continue in regular school till Class XII," said his mother.

Publication	The Statesman
Language/Frequency	English/Daily
Tonality	Neutral
Page No	03
Date	18 th April 2019

The Statesman

5 social science chapters dropped from CBSE class 10 syllabus

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NEW DELHI, 17 APRIL

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to drop five social science chapters, including 'Challenges to Democracy' and 'Political Struggles and Movements', from class 10 syllabus from this academic session, according to the new curriculum.

The dropped chapters, including three on political studies and two on environment, will only be part of internal assessment but not the final board exam.

The three chapters on political studies are: 'Challenges to Democracy' about problems facing the governance system as well as political reforms, 'Democracy and Diversity' on the politics of social divisions, 'Political

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Struggles and Movements' dwells on popular struggles in Nepal and Bolivia, among others. The other two are 'Forest and Wildlife' about biodiversity, vanishing forests, Asiatic Cheetah and other endangered animals and 'Water Resources' which includes lessons on water conservation.

"The chapter will be assessed in the periodic tests, but will not be evaluated in the board examination," the brief attached with the syllabus sent to schools read.

The board had last month issued a circular to schools, saying it wanted to align its assessment patterns with

the future needs as the Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2021. "Countrywide consultations were held with CBSE stakeholders, including teachers, students, heads of institutions and experts in the field to suggest ways to strengthen the assessment and evaluation practices of the board," the circular read.

"It was agreed upon that the school-based or internal assessment needs to be strengthened by incorporating more diverse strategies," it added.

Publication	Millennium Post
Language/Frequency	English/Daily
Tonality	Neutral
Page No	07
Date	18 th April 2019

CBSE: 5 social science chapters dropped from class 10 syllabus

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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The dropped chapters, including three on political studies and two on environment, will only be part of internal assessment, but not the final board exam.

The chapters are -- Challenges to Democracy, Democracy and Diversity, Political Struggles and Movements, Forest and Wildlife and Water Resources.

"The chapter will be assessed in the periodic tests, but will not be evaluated in the board examination," the brief attached with the syllabus sent to schools read.

The board had last month issued a circular to schools, saying it wanted to align its assessment patterns with future needs as the Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2021.

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