

Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)

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- IEDSS launched from April 2009 replacing earlier IEDC
- Covers disabled children in Classes IX-XII in government, government aided and local body and schools.
- Girls receive special focus to help them gain access to secondary schools and guidance for developing their potential – stipend of Rs 200 pm

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- The School Education Dept is the implementing agency in the States/UTs
- NGOs having experience in the field of education of the disabled in the implementation of the scheme may be involved
- 100% centrally assisted. State Govts are required to make provisions for a scholarship of Rs.600 per disabled child per annum.

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Assistance is admissible for two major components:

- (i) **Student-oriented components**, such as medical and educational assessment, books and stationery, uniforms, transport allowance, reader allowance, stipend for girls, support services, assistive devices, boarding the lodging facility, therapeutic services, teaching learning materials, etc.
- (ii) **Other components** include appointment of special education teachers, allowances for general teachers for teaching such children, teacher training, orientation of school administrators, establishment of resource room, providing barrier free environment, etc.

Issues

- Scheme is under-utilised inspite of being 100% centrally assisted
- States have not furnished progress reports and UCs of funds released earlier under IEDSS and even IEDC
- Delays in release of funds, even after approval by PMEG, is largely due to pending issues of UCs and progress reports
- The scheme continues to be NGO driven in most States, hampering State wide planning, implementation and impact
- Cryptic proposals are often received, showing little understanding of the scheme and the needs of the disabled children

Issues

- Students teacher ratio should be 5:1. States have not achieved this standard.
- Guidance of RCI should be taken in arranging trainings, workshops and orientation programmes for special and general teachers
- Progress about barrier free schools at block and district level has not received from States – time bound guidelines had been sent to the States
- An evaluation is to be conducted by NCERT shortly

Inter Deptt. Coordination

- Coordination Committee be formed at the State level consisting of Deptts of Education, Health and Social Welfare for sharing of resources and expertise for improved enabling environment to the disabled children
- Guidance of the State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities should also be taken