

Pradeep S. Mehta



Secretary General, CUTS International
Cell: +91.9829013131
psm@cuts.org
www.pradeepsmehta.com

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India
Ph: +91.141.2282821
Fx: +91.141.2282485
www.cuts-international.org

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Smt. Smriti Irani
Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Room No. 3131, C-Wing, Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi 110 001

Dear Smt. Irani,

Need for Child Awareness Education Policy

Greetings!

Every other day, we hear of one or other agency demanding special awareness education programmes for school children. In view of the burden that the school children face today, it would make more sense to have a composite life/value education programme which can take on board all types of demands and this aim at a reasonably successful delivery. For this purpose, the Ministry could consider adopting a Child Awareness Education Policy which can guide all other agencies to bear that it in mind.

Let me elaborate my point. Demands are being made on school children by agencies dealing with environment, health, consumer issues, sex, financial services, road safety (**CBSE may have road safety in curriculum from next session-** a news clip from DNA of 3rd November 2014 is enclosed) etc., and quite naturally each to create a niche for their own subjects. It thus does not serve the purpose it is intended to do because of the competing demands on the child not only to do their curriculum studies but also intake important lessons on preservation of the environment, better consumer awareness, road safety, health and sex knowledge, and the latest is on financial services.

More importantly, the subject on moral science is no longer a part of the curriculum of school children. During my days it was compulsory and helped me distinguish between right and wrong.

A better way is for the MHRD to develop a Policy, following which a packaged programme on creating awareness among school children be developed and used. It should be done in vernacular languages as well. Simultaneously, teachers will have to be trained to impart such packages in an innovative manner.

Looking forward to your valued response, I remain,

with warm regards

Yours sincerely,

Pradeep S Mehta