



11% Students Managed to Clear CTET 2013

About 11% candidates out of a total of 9.20 lakh have cleared the Central Teacher Eligibility Test '2013 (CTET '2013). The Results were announced on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. Less than 1% of examinees had managed to crack CTET '2012. For the first time, the pass rate of CTET, which is held by the Central Board of Secondary Exam (CBSE), has surpassed 10%. There was rising worry among educationists about the standard of Bachelor of Education in India after CTET '2012 Results were declared.

Central Teacher Eligibility Test is an obligatory examination for candidates who aspire to be school teachers. It was launched in 2011 by the ministry of Human Resource Development in order to enhance the quality of education imparted in schools after the Right to Education Act was passed. CTET certification is compulsory to gain employment as a teacher in Classes I to VIII in any school run by the central government.

Teachers for CBSE-affiliated schools can be recruited on the basis of CTET or the specific tests conducted by individual

states. The Delhi government is expected to adopt CTET in order to recruit faculty for government-run as well as aided schools. It is mandatory for all CTET applicants to be B Ed graduates. There were 9.40 lakh registrations for the test which was held in November, 2012. Around 7.96 lakh candidates actually wrote the test, out of which a mere 4,849 cleared Papers I, II or both. Candidates aspiring to teach Classes I to V need to mandatory clear Paper I, while clearing Paper II is compulsory for those aspiring to teach Classes VI to VIII. Candidates aspiring to get certified for Classes I to VIII are required to clear both these the papers consist of objective-type questions which assess the aspirants' knowledge in Mathematics, English and Environmental Science. The pass rate of CTET' 2011 was around 9%. The figure dipped to about 7% in the following test which was held on January, 2012.

“Teachers who inspire know that teaching is like cultivating a garden....

Those who would have nothing to do with thorns must never attempt to gather flowers...

It is the supreme art of the TEACHER to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.

Albert Einstein

A teacher takes
a Hand, opens
a Mind and
touches a Heart

A teacher is a person who never says
anything once

CBSE to start grading schools

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will soon introduce a grading system for all affiliated schools, board chairman Vineet Joshi said on Wednesday. The board took a decision in this regard on September 4 but the exact date for the rollout of the programme is yet to be decided, Joshi told TOI. "At present, parents and students remain confused while selecting a school as there is no existing mechanism that gives a thorough idea about the quality of education one can expect from each school. Our plan is to grade all affiliated schools based on a number of parameters and the grade given to each school would be made available to public for reference," he said. All CBSE schools will be graded with respect to their standard in seven important domains or categories, including academics and infrastructure. The schools are expected to score a minimum 15% in each of the categories they are assessed on. Also, the total score of the school shouldn't be below 75%. If any school fails to meet the criteria, it will be given a chance for improvement. But in case it fails to enhance its quality even after it is given three years extension, CBSE would cancel its registration.



Govt plans to rein in crèches, playschools

New Delhi: The government plans to bring in a regulatory framework to rein in playschools, crèches and day care centers charging exorbitant fees without providing standardized curriculum and learning aids. The policy, which includes implementation and monitoring of early childcare and education for children below six years, is likely to be discussed in the Union Cabinet on Thursday. The women and child development (WCD) ministry has mooted the national policy for early childhood care and education (ECCE) that is targeted at 158.7 million children below 6 years. So far, 75.7 million children or around 48% of children in the country are reported to be covered under the WCD ministry's supplementary food programme — Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. The policy recognizes that the government's minimalistic approach has aided the mushrooming of nonformal private schools across the country. It envisages setting up a national council to establish guidelines for standardization of literature and reading material, learning aids, ensure qualified teachers are appointed and prescribe penal provisions for noncompliance. All institutions of informal education will be required to be registered. The council will provide a much-needed grievance redressal forum. According to ministry officials, there is little or no check on informal schooling and complaints by parents and NGOs remain unaddressed. Studies have shown that crèches and day care centers are turning into a lucrative business in the absence of enforceable norms.

"It takes a special person to light that fire, to raise our children's expectations for themselves and never give up on them, no matter how challenging it might be. All of us are here because, at some point, somebody did that for us."

Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

In the hands of a gifted teacher
a classroom is a magical place
In the hands of a gifted teacher
There's a smile on each child's face
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
Creative Energy is Everywhere
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
There's a Catalyst who Genuinely Cares
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
Desire and Wonder is Awakened
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
The Educational Agenda is Shaken
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
Self-Management Skills are Modeled
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
The Best of Reality is Bottled
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
Gifts and Talents are Refined
In the Hands of a Gifted Teacher
The Willled Future is Designed

Schools not fulfilling RTE norms given two months to upgrade

WARNING those who don't meet the conditions even then may have to face derecognition, pay fine

MUMBAI: With over 90% of city schools still to meet infrastructure norms required under the Right to Education Act (2009), the blacklisted schools have been given a second chance. The school education department has given the institutions two months to comply with these norms or else face de-recognition.

As per the RTE act, schools were supposed to comply with ten infrastructure norms stipulated in the act by August 31, 2013. However, considering that 1,600 schools out of 1,703 in the city have not fulfilled the norms, the department give them some extra time. "Majority of the schools have not fulfilled these norms. It would be impractical to derecognize them all. Hence the extension has been given," said Mahavir Mane, state director of primary education.

Hindustan Times had reported on July 20 that only 103 schools in the city had fulfilled the norms. Majority of the schools have missed out on implementing two to three norms like kitchen sheds, ramps, and pupil-teacher ratio, which schools say are difficult to follow practically.

Mane added that individual schools will be given time depending on which infra-structure they need to build.

Though relieved, some schools fear the time given might not be sufficient.

Even schools that have been pulled up for not having big classrooms will not be able to meet this deadline. The RTE requires classrooms to be at least 400 square feet, but most city schools have only 300 to 350 square feet. "The BMC is not giving permission to expand the classrooms. Most of the classrooms are built according to the rules before RTE," said Prashant Redij, vice president of the association of private schools.

Schools that do not upgrade their infra-structure in the time given will have to pay a fine upto Rs 10,000 per day and could lose their recognition.

Moral stories

Temper control

Once upon a time there was a little boy who was talented, creative, handsome, and extremely bright. The kind of person everyone would normally have wanted on their team or project. But he was also self-centred and had a very bad temper. When he got angry, he usually said, and often did, some very hurtful things. In fact, he seemed to have little regard for those around him. So, naturally, he had few. "But," he told himself, "that just shows how stupid most people are!"

As he grew, his parents became concerned about this personality flaw, and pondered long and hard about what they should do. Finally, the father had an idea. And he struck a bargain with his son. He gave him a bag of nails, and a BIG hammer. "Whenever you lose your temper," he told the boy, "I want you to really let it out. Just take a nail and drive it into the oak boards of that old fence out back. Hit that nail as hard as you can!"

Of course, those weathered oak boards in that old fence were almost as tough as iron, and the hammer was mighty heavy, so it wasn't nearly as easy as it first sounded. Nevertheless, by the end of the first day, the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence (*That was one angry young man!*). Gradually, over a period of weeks, the number dwindled down. Holding his temper proved to be easier than driving nails into the fence! Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He felt mighty proud as he told his parents about that accomplishment.

"As a sign of your success," his father responded, "you get to PULL OUT one nail. In fact, you can do that each day that you don't lose your temper even once."

Well, many weeks passed. Finally one day the young boy was able to report proudly that all the nails were gone.

At that point, the father asked his son to walk out back with him and take one better look at the fence. "You have done well, my son," he said. "But I want you to notice the holes that are left. No matter what happens from now on, this fence will never be the same. Saying or doing hurtful things in anger produces the same kind of result. There will always be a scar. It won't matter how many times you say you're sorry, or how many years pass, the scar will still be there. And a verbal wound is as bad as a physical one. People are much more valuable than an old fence. They make us smile. They help us succeed. Some will even become friends who share our joys, and support us through bad times. And, if they trust us, they will also open their hearts to us. That means we need to treat everyone with love and respect. We need to prevent as many of those scars as we can."

Editorial

For the first time the pass rate of CTET exam has reached double digit! That is very surprising considering the huge network of schools in our country and the millions of teachers teaching therein. It seems, that the government has really taken up the once left over department of school education on high priority and has tightened its belt to streamline the school education system.

The Right to Education law is like the constitution for the schools, the government has taken up the daunting task of ensuring that only trained teachers, that too certified by CBSE through CTET shall be the teachers in such schools.

The CBSE has also taken up the activism through grading the schools; making website compulsory for every school; framing rules for inter school games and competitions; tightening up the franchisor from restraining it from collecting revenue from the franchisee schools in the name of sharing the logo, name and motto; making yearly training compulsory for Principal and teachers.

As if all this was not enough, the government is now planning to regulate the Pre-school division. Today, where majority of the sectors are running with the time and moving towards privatisation and decentralisation, it leaves one wondering whether the government has hit the reverse gear in the education sector.



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