

राजर्षी भट्टाचार्य

Rajarshi Bhattacharya

सचिव

Secretary

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सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग
नई दिल्ली - 110 001

Government of India

Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy.

124 'C' Wing, Shastri Bhawan

New Delhi - 110 001

August 22, 2014

Dear Secretary,

I write to draw your attention to the important issue of convergence between your Department and the State/UT Health Department for monitoring of the health of school going children. As you are aware that under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) focuses on the screening of children from birth to 18 years for birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays and disabilities.

2. The other important intervention under the NHM is the Weekly Iron Folic acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme to address the high prevalence of anemia amongst adolescence population especially girls, through provision of weekly iron folic acid (IFA) tablets.

3. As per the data made available by the States/UTs in their Annual Work-Plan and Budget 2014-15 under the Mid Day Meal scheme, it is observed that coverage under both the RBSK and WIFS is low against the enrolment figures of children in school. It is therefore requested to kindly refocus on and regularly review the following, so as to improve the school health coverage:-

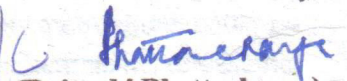
- Ensure designation of a nodal officer for school health including RBSK, WIFS coverage in the Department of School Education in the State. The designated officer must liaise regularly with the State Health Department for issuance of joint instructions, annual plan for coverage of all govt. schools in the State and to monitor the same /provide solutions to bottlenecks.
- Timely preparation and monitoring of the micro-plans for school health checkups of children, periodicity of health checkups and regular follow up of the referrals district wise/block wise.
- Work-out a convenient modality in coordination with the State Health Department for collection and safe storage of the monthly IFA tablet supplies and recording of the data regarding the consumption of the IFA tablet at the school level.
- Co-ordinate with the SSA, RMSA, MDM programmes of the State/UT Department of School Education (both Elementary and Secondary Education) of the State Govt. and the State Health Department regarding maintenance of school health cards of children, doctors visits and logistical arrangements as required.

4. I would like to reiterate the need for convergence as requested vide our earlier communication (copy enclosed). Efforts should be made to establish institutional mechanisms for effective convergence.

5. I look forward to your cooperation and further suggestions in respect of the issues highlighted.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Rajarshi Bhattacharya)

Encl: As above.