

Proposals invited for spl centres at madrassas

Funded By Ministry, The Centres Will Impart General Education To Out-Of-School Children

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New Delhi: Students enrolled in Delhi madrassas are being counted among those "out of school". The UEE (Universal Elementary Education) mission, in charge of implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Delhi, has sought proposals from "madrassas/maqtabas registered societies or trusts" for special training centres. These special centres are run for "out-of-school children" aged between six and 14 years, including those enrolled in madrassas and maqtabas.

The UEE mission issued a circular on November 5 on behalf of the Department of Education, Delhi government. It says the centres will

be funded by SSA, which in turn, is supported by the HRD ministry. The last date for submission of the proposals is November 20.

"In other states such as UP and Bihar, madrassas are administered by State Madrassa Boards, and those are considered on a par with the regular system and boards. Delhi doesn't have such a board and all madrassas are unrecognized except the one at Fatehpuri Masjid, which is also run by the Waqf board. For this reason, we couldn't extend the benefit of SSA to these institutions," says a senior official in UEE mission. The special centre, he says, is a means to encourage them to include general education in their system, by treating them, in a way, like NGOs.

"All the proposals received by due date will be screened on the basis of the credibility, capability and experience of the madrassas/ maqtabas in

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the field as well as submission of relevant documents," says the circular.

The proposals will be screened by an executive committee and governing body of SSA, Delhi, for approval

but the joint decision of secretary (education) and chairperson, EC-SSA will be final. "Selected madrassas/maqtabas will be informed individually"

The proposals have to be supported by a number of documents, including a certified balancesheet or audit report of the last three years, a report on the educational projects completed so far, a clear indication of the plan for out-of-school children and information on how the madrassas/ maqtabas will implement the intervention.

The UEE mission has also arranged a "special admission drive" from November 7 to December 15 to bring "out-of-school" CWSN (children with special needs) "to schools

nearer to their residence". The mission conducted a monthlong survey from June 20 and found 11,348 out-of-school CWSN.

During the drive, says the circular, the resource teachers will motivate the parents/guardians of the CWSN identified by them, and get their wards admitted in age-appropriate class in the nearby DoE, MCD, NDMC or DCB school. The resource teachers will then submit information like name of the school, school ID, class, etc through an online module. Heads of schools, members of Vidyalaya Kalyan Samitis, resident welfare associations and community leaders will be roped in to ensure that all the out-of-school CWSN are admitted.