

Reclamation Schools for DNT Community by Tamil Nadu

Introduction

The people belonging to the de-notified communities, particularly the Piramalai Kallars, severely lag behind on the educational front and their literacy rate is low. For the educational upliftment of the de-notified communities, particularly the Piramalai Kallar community, 213 primary schools, 22 middle schools, 22 high schools and 38 higher secondary schools totaling 295 Kallar reclamation schools are functioning under the control of Most Backward Classes and De-notified Communities Welfare Department, Tamil Nadu.

Intervention

Upgradation of schools, construction of additional classrooms, laboratories and toilet blocks for girl students, supply of laboratory equipment, provision of electricity, drinking water facilities etc. are the various steps taken by the government in this direction. A total of 24,480 students are studying in these schools. Students of Kallar reclamation schools are given special cash incentive, footwear, laptop, school bag, geometry box, crayons and atlas by the School Education Department, as provided to the students studying in government/government- aided schools.

In the next financial year(2020-21), as many as 213 KR schools will get modern benches with attached chairs to accommodate two students each. These will be procured at the cost of Rs 4.12 crores. The government has also decided to improve the laboratory facilities in 10 KR higher secondary schools at the cost of Rs. 67.5 lakhs. According to officials of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department that runs Kallar reclamation schools, “There are 38 higher secondary schools run by Kallar Reclamation Board. Among them, 23 schools would get smart classrooms to be set-up by ELCOT at the cost of Rs 1.05 crore”. The government has also been conducting special communication and spoken English classes for nearly 3,500 students from higher secondary classes.

Impact

For the past three financial years, Kallar reclamation schools have been securing pass percentages of above 90 per cent in Class 12 Public Examinations (92.8 per cent in 2016-17, 92 per cent in 2017-18 and 96.8 per cent in 2018-19).

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu, (2020), Policy Note of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department