

Lack of teachers hits primary education, claims report

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JAIPUR: Non-availability of competent teachers has left the state's primary education in doldrums, a national report says.

However, state education minister Bhanwarlal Meghwal assures that the rationalisation of teachers—distributing them equitably in rural and urban areas—will begin by May this year and will improve the things.

"Rationalisation of teachers was stopped because of panchayat elections. Half of the process has been completed by promoting teachers. Now transfers would begin from May," he said.

The Educational Development Index (EDI) ranking, based on access, infrastructure, teachers and outcome, fell by one rank at the primary level, by four ranks at the upper primary level and by two ranks at the composite level

(primary and upper primary) between 2007-08 to 2008-09, a report by national university of educational planning and administration (NEUPA) said.

At the primary level, the state ranks at 23 in the list of 35 states, while at the upper primary level it is marginally better at 22.

"The simple solution would seem to be rationalisation of teachers, as there are too many in urban areas," says eminent educationist Anil Bordia.

The EDI is based on District Information System of Education (DISE) that is based on information collected by the government from schools run by it. Funds for the access and infrastructure components are covered under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), while the state has to make provisions for the teachers and outcomes component. The state gets Rs 1300 cr under SSA of which the state's contribution is Rs 670 cr.

In the 2009-10 budget, the

revenue for primary education was Rs 5246.7 cr. The revised expenditure for 2008-09 was Rs 4435.26 cr while actual expenditure for 2007-08 was Rs 2397.67 cr. So the education department could not spend even half the amount sanctioned.

Rajasthan fared better in the EDI ranking at primary and upper primary levels for Access and Infrastructure, but the rank of the Teacher component declined by three at the primary and by five at the upper primary level.

The rank of Outcomes component fell by three at the primary and by four at the upper primary level.

For the same time period, the rank of Access component improved by five ranks at the primary level as well as the upper primary level. The Infrastructure component too improved by one rank at both levels, according to the report.