

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**

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Differently Abled Children

This Ministry has not conducted any survey regarding the number of children with disabilities not completing their education due to their disabilities.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 which came into force w.e.f. 1.04.2010 provides for Free and Compulsory Education to children including children with disabilities. The Government of India has since aligned the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) norms with provisions of RTE Act. SSA ensures that every child with special needs, irrespective of kind, category and degree of disability, is provided meaningful and quality education. SSA has adopted a zero rejection policy which means no child having special needs should be deprived of the Right to Education and taught in an environment, which is best suited to his/her learning needs. SSA provides up to Rs. 3000 per child for inclusion of disabled children as per specific proposal per year. The intervention under SSA includes provision of aids and appliances, teacher training, resource support, removal of architectural barriers etc.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has been implementing Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) Scheme since 2009-10 with a view to enable all the students with disabilities including students with mental/physical disabilities completing eight years of elementary schooling to pursue further four years of secondary schooling (class IX-XII) in an inclusive and enabling environment by making provision for aid and appliances to access learning material, transport facilities etc, special educator and removal of architectural barriers in schools.

Further, the Ministry under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) has been providing grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for projects relating to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including autistic, aimed at enabling persons with disabilities to reach and maintain their optimal, physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric or social functional levels.

Further, National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities implements Aspiration (School Readiness/Early Intervention) scheme to enable children (0-6) years with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities to be ready for school and develop their potential.

National Trust also implements a Health Insurance scheme namely Niramaya under which health insurance coverage of Rs.1.00 lakh is available to the children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities with a nominal premium of Rs. 250/- per annum for family income up to Rs.15000/- and Rs.500/- per annum for others.

National Trust has been organizing Badhte Kadam a pan India Multimedia Awareness Raising Programme since 2009 to raise awareness among parents and persons with disabilities. This programme is conducted across the country in coordination with the State Nodal Agency Centers (SNACs) and Registered Organizations.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Sudarshan Bhagat in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha here today.
