

Starting of 119 BC English Residential Schools in the State of Telangana on a single day- 12th June 2017.

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This is the story of an herculean effort, successfully accomplished, to start 119 BC Welfare English Medium Schools @ 1 per Assembly constituency on 12th June 2017, in a matter of less than 120 days; after procuring and ensuring all these infrastructure facilities; recruiting over 1000 temporary staff and giving fresh admissions to 28560 students selected by conducting entrance exams –requiring close monitoring & tremendous co-ordination with district officials, vendors, government departments, parents, press and media. These schools were stabilized within a month of its starting and were functioning well, earning plaudits from parents, press, media and NITI Aayog.

Never before in the history of the country were so many Residential Schools started on a single day! (and that too in such short time)

The start:

The Govt. of Telangana vide G.O Ms.No.3 of Backward Classes Welfare Department, dated: **07-02-2017** issued orders identifying locations for starting new **119 English medium Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Residential Schools (MJPTBCWRS)** for BC students (56 for boys and 63 for girls) run by Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Residential Education Institutions Society (MJPTBCWREIS), @ one per Assembly Constituency, in the 2017-18 academic year. In the first year, V, VI and VII classes with strength of 80 students each, ie 240 students per school, (totaling **28560** new admissions in 119 schools) were to be started.

This was in addition to the 23 MJPTBCWRS already in the state, with a sanctioned strength of 8680 students in classes from V to X. (There were 19 RS for BCs till 2-6-2014, the date of Telangana formation. 3 RS added in 2015-16 and 1 in 2016-17.) This was part of the drive of the government to provide KG to PG education to the students of Telangana.

Steps taken for opening of these 119 Residential Schools (RS)

To get the ball rolling, a Video Conference was taken by Sri Asok Kumar G, Principal Secretary, BC Welfare with the District BC Development Officers, (DBCDOs) on 17-02-2017, where all basic instructions to identify suitable buildings for accommodating these schools were given. Thereafter either video conferences or regular meetings with DBCDOs were conducted every 14 days (the last video conference on 10-6-2017) to monitor the progress of the work on the new schools, which were to be started on 12th June 2017, the starting of the 2017-18 academic year.

I. Human resources:

1. Students: Admission to V, VI and VII classes

a. V Class

Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) conducted common entrance tests for TSWREIS, Telangana Residential Educational Institutions Society (TREIS), Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TTWREIS) and MJPBCW Residential Educational Institutions Society (MJPTBCWREIS) for admissions into V class.

11520 students were to be admitted in V Class in the 142 BC residential schools. (119 new + existing 23 residential schools). Nearly 1 lakh students appeared for the exams.

Based on the results of the exams, 1st counseling for admissions was conducted from 22-5-2017 to 31-5-2017 and the 2nd counseling on 12-6-2017.

b. VI and VII Classes

For admission of **9520 students** into VI and VII classes of newly sanctioned Residential Schools entrance tests were conducted on 16-04-17 by MJPTBCWEIS. Nearly 1 lakh students appeared for the exams.

Based on the results of the exams, 1st counseling for admission was conducted from 27-5-2017 to 2-6-17 and the 2nd counseling on 15-6-17

Wide spread publicity was given in local TV channels about these tests.

2. Teachers: Recruitment of Spl. Officers / Guest Teachers

The recruitment for 4046 teaching and non-teaching posts (2013 in the first year) was entrusted to TSPSC (Telangana State Public Service Commission). Since this regular recruitment by TSPSC took time, schools were started by recruiting temporary teaching and non-teaching staff. Temporary appointments for Special officers @ 1 per school and Teachers @ 6 per

Residential School were done. Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) which was entrusted with this selection, selected 140 Principals, including the reserves, after conducting exams and interview. Nearly 750 temporary guest teachers were selected by conducting exams at district levels in the month of May 2017 by MJPTBCWEIS. Orientation programs for the selected Principals and teachers were conducted on 3rd and 4th June 2017 in Hyderabad.

3. Office staff and personnel for cooking, sanitation and security:

District Collectors were authorized to hire agencies for office staff, cooking, sanitation and security on outsourcing basis.

II. INFRASTRUCTURE:

Availability of appropriate infrastructure for starting residential schools for such large number of students and that too spread over the entire state (@ 1 per constituency) was the biggest concern, initially considered impossible. However, with constant persuasion and fast decision making and effective co-ordination this bottleneck could be overcome.

a. Buildings and toilets

Orders were obtained from Government empowering committees under the District Collectors for taking buildings on rent basis. The area of at-least 20000 sq ft was fixed for buildings plus the attached play grounds etc. Since the requirement was huge and spread over 119 constituencies, Collectors could accommodate 103 Schools in 90 hired buildings (in some huge buildings, 2 or 3 schools were also accommodated) and rest in Govt. buildings. The rentals varied from Rs 3/sq feet to Rs 15/sq feet. Approximately, Rs 45 crores is estimated to be required for paying rents to these buildings in the first year. Many buildings rented belonged to defunct private Engineering and B.Ed Colleges and hence had very high-end facilities like vitrified tiled flooring, lights and fans in the rooms, spacious campus etc. However, since most of these were day colleges, to make them functional as residential schools, in many of these buildings toilets/bathrooms had to be constructed to provide these in the ratio of atleast 1 per 10-15 students. Water supply and electrical lights/fans were also to be provided. Collectors also provided funds from their crucial balance funds to take up these works. District BC Development Officers followed it up and monitored the progress of these works till its completion in the districts.

b. **FURNITURE and other infrastructure like desks, benches, black boards, dining tables etc:**

Office Furniture likes Office Tables, office chairs, Classroom Tables and Chairs, dual desks for students etc were procured from the Jails Department. Orders based on tenders were placed procurement of dual desk, bunker-beds, dining tables, utensils to be used kitchen, gas stoves, black boards etc. the benches and beds were give bright colors to make them attractive to the students. LPG connections were provided to all schools. 43 different types of utensils were procured for cooking and serving. Carpets, Bed sheets, Note Books and Text Books were procured from Government agencies. 517 Black Boards had to be procured and fixed.

Reviews were conducted on a daily basis very morning from 30th May, 2017 to 11th June, 2017 by Principal Secretary, BCWD on the supply position of these materials. Committees were formed to inspect the factories and report on the progress of work and dispatch to the schools.

Office furniture, computers for staff; dual benches (10710 nos), tables, black boards for class rooms; bunker beds (8750 nos), text books, note books, uniforms, cooking utensils (43 items for each school), dining tables (2000 nos), plates and glasses, provision for safe drinking water etc for 28500 students were procured and dispatched to the schools by **11th June 2017**.

c. **Text books, note books, uniforms, shoes etc**

Carpets, Bed sheets, Note Books and Text Books were procured from Government agencies. TS Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd (TSCO) was entrusted the task of supplying the uniform clothes. Distribution of stitched uniforms was started from August 15th,2017 after taking measurements of each students. Stitching was entrusted to groups of BC communities (traditionally engaged in dress making) in the district by the Collectors.

An academic calendar for the year and Color hand-outs covering various activities in the residential schools were printed and distributed to parents on the opening day.

With all these in place, **119 Residential schools were inaugurated by the respective MLAs in their constituencies on 12th June, 2017**

III. INAUGURATION:

DO letters from Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes were sent to all MLAs requesting them to inaugurate the Schools in their respective constituencies. DO letters from the Principal Secretary to Govt., BC Welfare Dept., were sent to all District Collectors requesting them to complete the construction of toilets and repairs in the Government buildings and to co-ordinate the opening of the schools on 12 June itself.

To build up the tempo, 40 seconds duration advertisement on the opening of new residential schools was played from 1st June to 12th June in all TV channels. State wide advertisements announcing the opening of 119 new BC Residential schools were published in all major newspapers on 12th June 2017, the day all Schools were opened in Telangana for the 2017-18 academic year.

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sri K.Chandrasekhara Rao, State-wide inauguration of these MJPBCWRS was done at Saroor Nagar, Rangareddy District in the presence of Sri Mahmud Ali, Dy CM and Revenue Minister, Sri Nayani Narasimha Reddy, Home minister and Sri Joga Ramanna, Hon'ble Minister for BC Welfare and other public representatives on 12th June 2017. In districts, MLAs inaugurated the schools in their constituencies.

Starting these residential schools spread over 119 constituencies of the state; after procuring and ensuring all these infrastructure facilities; recruiting over 1000 temporary staff and giving fresh admissions to 28560 students selected by conducting entrance exams – all in a period of 3-4 months was a very gigantic task requiring close monitoring & tremendous co-ordination with district officials, vendors, government departments, parents, press and media. **The whole process of setting up these 119 Residential schools was completed in just about 4 months (appx 120 days),** with herculean efforts of many viz - Secretary, MJPTBCWREIS and his staff; officers and staff of the BCW Dept ; - all worked as coherent team under the overall guidance and supervision of the Principal Secretary, BCWD! These schools were stabilized within a month of its starting and were functioning well, earning plaudits from parents, press, media and NITI Aayog. Data base of all students have been computerized for future reference.

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All students were provided with uniforms, track suits, shoes and sports kits, bedding materials etc by October 2017. Posts of Regional Co-ordinators (RCs) of Residential Schools were created for 10 erstwhile districts and senior teachers were promoted and appointed as RCs. District wise and state-wide sports and cultural meets of RS students were conducted in the months of October and November 2017.

In addition to these 119 English medium Residential schools, 10 new Residential Junior Colleges, sanctioned last Academic year were also started and made functional in 2017-18.

(Based on the recommendations of a search committee, on 21/5/2018, for accomplishing this gigantic task, Asok Kumar G was given **the 1st Telangana Excellence (Tex) Award** instituted by the Govt of Telangana for "Outstanding work in Public Administration").