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STATE EDITIONS

OXFAM LAUNCHES DRIVE FOR EDU TO EVERY CHILD

Thursday, 19 March 2015 | PNS | BHUBANESWAR | in Bhubaneswar



Even though the State is claiming to have the highest budget allocation for education, more than 37 per cent schools have no toilet, 3,440 elementary schools still have single teachers and the learning outcome of children are poor, said Oxfam India Regional Manager Akshaya Kumar Biswal. This inequality must be addressed, he stressed during the launch of the nationwide 'Haq Banta Hai' campaign recently. The Oxfam India in collaboration with the Odisha RTE forum has launched the campaign to make education a reality for every child by implementing the Right to Education Act in full force.

Though the Right to Education Act is in force since April 2010, data shows that around 92 per cent of the schools in the country do not comply with the norms of the act even today. In Odisha context, there are 52,890 Government schools, of which 12,364 have no toilet for boys and 7,497 have no girl's toilet. Similarly, 1,714 schools have no drinking water facilities while 82 per cent schools have no electricity facilities. As per as the dropout rate at primary grade is concerned, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Kalahandi and Nuapada are in the top.

The campaign will cover around 20 districts in Odisha and it was launched in Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Balangir districts on March 16. A series of programmes, including intensive awareness building, grievance collection and filing and a massive signature campaign demanding implementation of the RTE Act in letter and spirit are lined up for the campaign, said Odisha RTE forum convener Anil Pradhan.

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