



सत्यमेव जयते

अरुण कुमार रथ  
सचिव

ARUN KUMAR RATH  
SECRETARY

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मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय  
स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग  
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Government of India  
Ministry of Human Resource Development  
Department of School Education & Literacy  
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December 17, 2007

Dear

There have been reports in the media of instances of corporal punishment in schools recently. This is a disturbing phenomenon. Hon'ble Members of Parliament have also expressed their concern in the Houses about such incidents.

2. As you are aware, National Policy on Education 1986, as modified in 1992, has explicitly mentioned that any form of corporal punishment should be firmly excluded from the school system. Corporal punishment also goes against the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly. Article 28 of the UN Convention strongly advocates that "State parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school disciplines is administered in a manner consistent with child's human dignity and in conformity with the present convention".

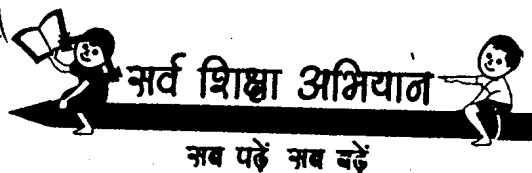
3. Affiliation Bye-laws of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) inter-alia empowers a School Managing Committee to place an employee under suspension if 'he/she is charged with cruelty with any student or any employee of the school'. The Board has also issued a circular to its affiliated schools not to resort to physical punishment to students.

4. While teachers sometimes believe that punishment is one of the essential means of controlling students' errant behaviour, there is little doubt that corporal punishment severely affects the human dignity of the child, thereby reducing his/her self esteem and self confidence. The desire to escape punishment may lead to school dropout and/or other personality problems.

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5. May I request you to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools under the jurisdiction of your State Government in the spirit of National Policy on Education? If necessary, the relevant School Education Act or Rules may be amended. The provisions of CBSE Affiliation Bye-laws in this respect may also be treated as a model for this purpose. I shall be thankful if you could take necessary action in the matter and intimate us of the same, so that the pernicious practice affecting physical and mental health of children can be nipped in the bud.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Arun Kumar Rath*  
18/11/07  
(Arun Kumar Rath)

**Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs**  
**[As per list attached]**

Copy to:

- i) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, 103, Jeevandeep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi with reference to D.O. No.NCPCR/Edu.1.07/40 dated 9.8 2007.
- ii) Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18, Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110 016.
- iii) Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, 28, Kailash Colony, New Delhi – 110 048.
- iv) Director, Central Tibetan Schools Administration, Sector-3, Rohini, New Delhi – 110 085.
- v) Joint Secretary (EE.II), Department of School Education & Literacy
- vi) Joint Secretary (EE.I), Department of School Education & Literacy