

A
⑧

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

SCD-V Section

**REGULTIONS GOVERNING THE CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME OF
PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CHILDREN OF THOSE ENGAGED IN
OCCUPATIONS INVOLVING CLEANING AND PRONE TO HEALTH HAZARDS**

1. Object

The object of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to children whose parents/guardian belongs to one of the following categories, to pursue Pre-matric education:-

- i. Persons who are Manual Scavengers as defined under section 2(I) (g) of Manual Scavengers Act 2013
- ii. Tanners& Flayers;
- iii. Waste pickers and
- iv. Persons engaged in hazardous cleaning as defined in Section 2(I) (d) of Manual Scavengers Act 2013

2. Duration and course of studies:

The scholarships may be given to students enrolled in class I or any subsequent class or pre-matric stage in the case of day scholars, and class III or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in case of hostellers. The scholarship will terminate at the end of class X. The duration of scholarship in an academic year is ten months.

3. Institution of Study

The scholarship will be provided for students studying in institutions, which have been duly recognized by the concerned State Government and Union Territory Administrations.

4. Eligibility:

Scholarship will be admissible to the children/wards of Indian Nationals who, irrespective of their religion belongs to one of the following categories;

- (a) Persons who are Manual Scavengers as defined under section 2(I) (g) of Manual Scavengers Act 2013
- (b) Tanners & Flayers;
- (c) Waste pickers and
- (d) Persons engaged in hazardous cleaning as defined in Section 2(I) (d) of Manual Scavengers Act 2013

Eligible candidates will submit a certificate from District Social Welfare officer, identified officer of Local body, Civic Agency or any such authority as designated by State Government.

5. Coverage, Value of Scholarship and Ad-hoc Grant

I Hostellers

The students as hostellers will be covered from class III to X. The rates of scholarships are as under:-

Class III to X	Rs. 700/- per month for 10 months
----------------	-----------------------------------

II Day Scholars:

The students as day scholars will be covered from Class I to Class X. The rates of scholarships are as under:-

Class I to X	Rs. 225/- per month for 10 months
--------------	-----------------------------------

III Ad-hoc Grant

Adhoc grant of Rs. 750/- per student per annum to all day scholars and Rs. 1000/- per student per annum to hostellers would be admissible.

IV. Additional Provisions for Students amongst Target Groups with Disabilities

- a) Reader Allowance of Rs. 100 per month for blind students in classes III and X.

- b) Transport allowance of Rs. 50 per month for the disabled students not residing in the hostel located within the premises of educational institution.
- c) Special pay of Rs. 100 per month would be admissible to any employee of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopedically handicapped student residing in a hostel managed by the educational institution or by the State Government/Union Territory Administration who may need the assistance of a helper.
- d) Escort allowance of Rs. 50 per month for severely handicapped day scholar students with lower extremity disability.
- e) Allowance of Rs. 100 per month towards extra coaching to mentally retarded and mentally ill students in class III and X.

The provisions proposed in (b) to (d) above also apply to leprosy cured students.

Note 1: The students amongst target groups with disabilities covered under this scheme can, however, also get such additional benefits from other schemes, which are not covered in the above provision.

Note 2: The disability as per the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities), Protection of Right and Full Participation Act, 1955 is defined as blindness, low-vision, leprosy-cured, hearing impairment, locomotor disability, mental retardation and mental illness, which has to be certified by competent medical authority of the State Government/Union Territory Administration.

The scholarship amount will be payable from the date of joining to the date of leaving the school, excluding the period of vacation, which will be about 10 months in a year except in the cases where the students enters or leaves early in the midst of academic year.

6. Administrative Authority

- (A) The scheme will be implemented and administered by the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in accordance with its regulation in force.
- ✓ (B) National SafaiKarmchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) will be coordinating agency between Central Government and States/UTs administration for effective implementation of scheme. NSKFDC will oversee, monitor and provide support;

- (a) To ensure enrolment of the children covered under the scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship to the Children of those engaged in occupations involving cleaning and prone to health hazards including manual scavengers.
- (b) To ensure that bank accounts of all the beneficiaries/parents of beneficiaries are opened and linked to with their Aadhaar number. If any beneficiary does not have Aadhaar number, they should be assisted to apply for Aadhaar Card.
- (c) To provide assistance to enrolled children in filling the scholarship forms and submitting it to the School Authority. NSKFDC should also coordinate with the school to ensure that the applications of students are uploaded in the portal and due verification carried out where the child is unable to apply online. It should also be ensured that enrolled children are attending school regularly and get benefits of this scheme.
- (d) To Coordinate with State Government Agencies for processing, verification and disbursal of scholarship on line.
- (e) To organize special camps and special enrolment drive for motivating parents to send their children to schools regularly and to not let them drop out.

7. Selection

The concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in consultation with NSKFDC will lay down the detailed procedure for selection of students.

8. Authority Responsible for Providing Hostel Accommodation

The concerned State Government and Union Territory Administration will be responsible for providing hostel accommodation to the hostellers. The scheme covers provision for renting of building for such hostellers near the school if hostel facilities are not available in the school itself. Rent reasonability to be certified by competent authority of the State Government. Provisions is also there for appointment of full time paid hostel warden where the number of students are large, otherwise one of school teachers is to be appointed as hostel warden on an honorarium basis by extra remuneration for doing the work of hostel warden.

9. Other Conditions for Award

- I. The students may not be allowed to take up employment or render help to parents in their work during the course of studies.
- II. The award will be discontinued if a student fails to secure annual promotion except in case of unavoidable reasons to be certified by the Head of the Institution in which the student is studying.
- III. In pursuance to the provision of Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act 2016, a student is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar or undergo Aadhaar Authentication. If not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, student is required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment.
- IV. If a student violates school discipline or any other terms and conditions of the scholarships, scholarship may be suspended or even cancelled, subject to the satisfaction of the competent school authority. The State Government/Union Territory Administrations can also directly cancel the award if duly satisfied of the reasons of violation of these regulations governing the scheme.
- V. Migration of students from one institution to another would not normally be allowed during the course of academic year except under exceptional circumstances and in the interest of student's academic career.
- VI. The scholar obtaining benefits under this scheme is not allowed to avail of benefits under any other pre-matric scholarship scheme.
- VII. The students should be regular in attendance for which the yardstick is to be decided by the competent authority of the school.

10. Renewal of Scholarship

The scholarship, once awarded, may be renewed during next academic year also by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration unless the competent authority of the school recommends to the State Government/Union Territory Administration, to discontinue the award with reference to relevant clause of these regulations governing the scheme.

11. Announcement of Scheme

The scheme will be announced by the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration well in time, by giving advertisements in the leading language newspapers local dailies and by using other suitable publicity media.

12. Mode of Applying

State Government/ UT Administration will define the modalities and issue instructions to concerned agencies for identification of target group. State Government will instruct the institutions to provide full support to students in submitting applications for scholarship. The applications along with supporting documents should be called on-line along with hard copy. State Government will also coordinate with NSKFDC for this purpose.

1. All beneficiaries will acquire Aadhaar ID and the same will be seeded to his / her bank account. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment vide notification no.428 dated 16th February 2017 has notified Aadhaar as the identifier under Section 7 of Aadhaar Act 2016 for all Scholarship Schemes. The Notification will speed up the process of Aadhaar seeding with database and bank accounts of all student beneficiaries.
2. All States/UTs availing of benefits of this scheme will migrate to online processing of disbursement of scholarships. The scholarship portal should have the following minimum features:
 - i) Every student should be given Aadhaar based unique ID. Where the beneficiary does not have Aadhaar ID or proof of application for enrolment for Aadhaar, as per the provisions of section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 the individual shall be offered an alternate and viable means of identification to eliminate possibility of duplication and false claims. The details of student beneficiary like, Income certificate, Caste certificate and Aadhaar ID where available should be used for establishing Unique IDs.
 - ii) DBT to the students' account in respect of scholarship.

13. Pattern of Financial Assistance

The Scheme is Centrally Sponsored Scheme and implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which will receive 100% central assistance from Government of India for expenditure under the Scheme, over and above their Committed Liability. The level of Committed Liability of respective State Government / Union Territory administration in a New Finance Commission (FC) cycle annually will be equivalent to the total of the demand on the State as well as the Central Government in the terminal year of the previous Plan period/ Finance Commission (FC) cycle. The committed Liability so computed will be co-terminus with the FC cycle and will be required to be borne by them by making provision in their own budget.

All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, implementing the scheme, will furnish data of beneficiaries and expenditure under the scheme, to NSKFDC. After examining the proposal of States/UTs, NKSFDC being coordinating agency will work out the due central assistance over and above the respective committed liability and refer the same to Department of Social Justice and Empowerment for release. D/o SJE will release the same to States/UTs depending on availability of funds.

14. MODE OF DISBURSAL OF SCHOLARSHIP

In order to ensure timely and correct payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries, State Governments/UT administrations should ensure payment of scholarship through their accounts in banks through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) as prescribed by the Govt. of India. All State Govts/UT Administrations will implement a computerized management system of scholarships, including 'e-payment' system.

15. PROCEDURE FOR CLAIMING AND RELEASE OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (CA)

CA will be released to the States/UTs, for meeting the 100% expenditure under the Scheme over and above their committed liability for making payment in the Bank A/c of the beneficiaries.

16. MONITORING

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implementing the scheme will:

- prepare the data base of the beneficiaries which would be integrated with UIDAI by (a) embedding Aadhaar numbers (UID number) in it, (b) using the UIDAI enabled bank account (UEBA) for crediting the scholarships and (c) using the UIDAI authentication services for beneficiaries identification.
- furnish data of the beneficiaries and the expenditure under the scheme to the Government of India through NSKFDC, regularly in form of the Quarterly Progress Reports. The forms for such reporting would be prescribed separately. Financial assistance given under the scheme shall not be utilized for any other purpose.
- designate Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) at the State and District levels to redress scholarship-related grievances of the students.

➤ NSKFDC shall monitor physical and financial performance of the scheme and ensure the submission of quarterly progress report, DBT monthly data report from the States/UTs.

17. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME

Upto 1% of total B.E. towards Scholarships would be utilized on administrative expenditure, Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Publicity and Awareness Generation etc. The funds would be utilized for this purpose by the Central Govt. or it could release a part of the funds to States/UTs and NSKFDC over and above the Scholarship amount, on the basis of proposals received from them in this regard. However, no new posts would be created under this component.
