

# Right to Education, Really?

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When we visit the site of directorate of education (Delhi), we see the following text:

*“Education holds the key to economic growth, social transformation, modernization integration. The National Policy on Education formulated in 1986 and modified in 1992 aims to provide education of a comparable quality up to a given level to all students”*

But seeing the stringent admission process of renowned schools in Delhi, it's slightly hard to believe. Parents are often heard complaining about the expensive forms and prospectus. Some prospectuses cost even more than that of some very reputed universities and management schools. Parents normally apply for almost 30 schools and still there is a good chance that their ward will not get admission anywhere, thanks to the point based system adopted by the schools under the guidelines of Directorate of Education, Delhi. Forms are not available online and the hard copy is put on sale for only 2 to 3 hours every day. This means that parents have to leave their job or any other family engagements and stand in serpentine queues in the hope of getting an admission form for their child.

Since, schools receive applications that are far more than the seats available, they have decided to use the point based system of selection. Parents collect points if they were alumni, live close to the school, have transferable jobs or if one of their kids is already studying in the school. No points, no seat. Children are denied the admission if their parents do not earn a certain level of income. As if this was not enough, there are various quota seats: 25% seats are reserved for students from economically weaker sections under RTE, other seats are reserved under staff/management quotas.

So, the main sufferers are the middle class kids in general category who even after spending thousands on their forms do not have a good chance of getting in schools. Matter to wonder about is if kids don't get admission, then how do their parents explain them the reason: because they're not rich enough or economically weak, or they didn't go to the same school? Doesn't this give them a sense of rejection or do they even understand these reasons? So basically the right to education belongs to those who are being given the reservations or who are rich. What should the left out people do?

They have to get admission in the local schools where they might not get good facilities. So, the central government gives any student the right to education, but it seems the schools in Delhi do not seem to agree.

