

**CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
2, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PREET VIHAR, DELHI**

CBSE/ACAD/2009/

06/11/2009

Circular No. 48

**All the Heads of CBSE
Affiliated Independent Schools**

Subject : Discrimination against Children Living with HIV.

Dear Principal,

The Central Board of Secondary Education as part of its Adolescence Education Programme for the last few years has been addressing the adolescent needs and concerns. The Adolescence Education Programme helps to create adolescents as agents of change in society as young people are a resource to be nurtured, trained and developed into productive citizens and leaders of tomorrow. The CBSE firmly believes that children have the right to a safe and supportive environment, to accurate and age-appropriate information, to guidance in skills building and empowerment, to positive role models and friendly health services and counseling.

The objectives of the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) are :

- To develop value enhanced Life-Skills for coping and managing concerns of Adolescence through Co-Curricular activities (CCA).
- To provide accurate knowledge to students about process of growing up, HIV/AIDS and Substance-Abuse.
- To develop healthy attitudes and responsible behaviour towards process of growing up, HIV/AIDS and Substance – Abuse.
- To enable them to deal with gender stereotypes and prejudices.

The CBSE so far has conducted Adolescence Education Programmes in 5500 independent unaided schools affiliated to the Board.

There have been recent incidents reported in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and elsewhere in India which have put the spotlight on educational setting and prejudices people harbour against HIV positive persons, especially children. In these incidents, when school authorities or NGOs made an effort to assimilate HIV infected or affected children into regular schools, parents objected and even withdrew their children from the schools on the grounds that HIV positive children would infect their children. Such instances violate the Constitutional Rights of Children. Children infected with HIV should be treated as other children are and have an equal right to be admitted in all schools affiliated to the CBSE.

Schools are advised to conduct parental advocacy workshops regarding issues of adolescence, to sensitize parents and create awareness regarding the need for Empathy and sensitive handling of people living with HIV to ensure that HIV positive people especially children are not stigmatized or victimized due to their infection.

While counseling parents and other stakeholders, a talk may be included about stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV; and the need to avoid such behavior. Parents and other stakeholders should be counseled by trained professionals, doctors or psychologists to address the many myths and misconceptions about HIV positive people. Care should be taken to protect the identity and confidentiality of students studying in their schools in case they or their parents suffer from HIV AIDS.

Number of NGOs working on Child Rights have jointly compiled Citizens Report which is based on first person interaction with the concerned stakeholders at the state, district and village level. The Report analyses the perception of different stakeholders and response to the issue and comes up with certain recommendations.

Children living with HIV/AIDS have as much a right to study in schools as other children and they should be treated with the same love and kindness as other students are.

This may be ensured by all schools affiliated to CBSE in the larger context of Human Rights and Child Protection. In case of the need for more information on inclusion of HIV positive children in schools, the NAZ Foundation (India) Trust may be contacted at www.nazindia.org

All Heads of schools are advised to ensure equal rights to education to children living with HIV and also ensure that they are not discriminated against in the school on account of their condition.

Yours sincerely



(VINEET JOSHI)
CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY

Copy with a request to respective Heads of Directorates/KVS/NVS/CTSA as indicated below to also disseminate the information to all concerned schools under their jurisdiction:

1. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18-Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110 016.
2. The Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, A-28, Kailash Colony, New Delhi.
3. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110 054.

4. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh-160 017.
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim – 737 101.
6. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar- 791 111
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of A&N Islands, Port Blair-744 101.
8. The Director, Central Tibetan School Administration, ESS ESS Plaza, Community Centre, Sector 3, Rohini, Delhi-110 085.
9. All the Regional Officers of CBSE with the direction to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions.
10. The Education Officers/AEOs of the Academic Branch, CBSE.
11. The Joint Secretary (IT) with the request to host this circular on the CBSE website.
12. The Library and Information Officer, CBSE
13. EO to Chairman, CBSE
14. PA to All HODs, CBSE



CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY