

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

09 DEC 2019 2:22PM by PIB Delhi

**Primary Education of Tribal Children**

Section 29 (2) (f) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 states that “medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in child’s mother tongue”. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 emphasizes the importance of imparting primary education in the mother tongue of the child. Since education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, States have the liberty to decide the medium of instruction in schools. The NCF clearly states that the Three-Language Formula is an attempt to address the challenges and opportunities of the linguistic situation in India. As per the “Three Language Formula” the first language to be studied must be the mother tongue or the regional language.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs extends support to State Governments / UTs for mother tongue-based education and development of bilingual Primers for enhancement of learning achievement level amongst the Scheduled Tribe Students. So far 82 language primers have been developed by various State Governments as detailed below:

State	Primers Details	Language / tribe covered
Tripura	14 Primers	Kokborak, halam, Mog, Garo, Kuki, Mizo
Odisha	5 Primers	Juang, Kisan, Koya, Oram, Saora
Maharashtra	11 Primers	Gondi, Halbi, Kokni, Kolami, Korku, Madiya, Mavchi, Pardhi, Pawari, Thakri
Madhya Pradesh	15 Primers	Halbi, Kudhukh, Bhili, Gondi, Korku,
Kerala	6 Primers	Kattunaikan, Paniyan
Chhattisgarh	5 Primers	Kukudu, Praja, Halbi, Bharia
Jharkhand	5 Primers	Kukudu, Khadia, Khorat
Telangana	5 Primers	Gondi, Koya, Kolami, Kondh, Banjara

West Bengal	16 Primers	Olchiki, Kuduk
-------------	------------	----------------

As reflected in [U-DISE: Flash Statistics 2016-17](#), details of the student enrolment and student retention ratios of boys and girls by social category at Primary and Secondary level school are as under:

### Enrolment

Social Category	Primary			Secondary		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
General	16168128	14426317	30594445	5565226	5017546	10582772
SC	12530869	11782642	24313511	3759773	3454067	7213840
ST	6762313	6318480	13080793	1683257	1593313	3276570
OBC	28783449	27035694	55819143	9372215	8378457	17750672

### Dropout

Social Category	Primary			Secondary		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
General	4.48	4.96	4.71	15.14	16.27	15.68
SC	8.30	7.86	8.09	23.06	21.99	22.55
ST	8.57	8.51	8.54	27.41	26.51	26.97

OBC	6.10	5.79	5.95	20.28	19.77	20.04
-----	------	------	------	-------	-------	-------

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been issuing advisories to engage local teachers to overcome shortages and to enhance the teacher student responsiveness and employment opportunities. Further, funds are also provided to the State Governments for the purpose under various schemes of the Ministry based on the proposal received from them.

This information was given by Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NB/SK/jk/Tribal Affairs-LS-3/09-12-2019**