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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: DISPUR:: GUWAHATI-06
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
NOTIFICATION

Dated Dispur the 31st July, 2019

No. PMA(S) 111/2018/30: Assam with a heterogeneous population, diverse socio-cultural and ethnic dynamics combined with its difficult terrain and geo-spatial diversities faces challenges for smooth development of formal education system. The State in spite of such inherent adversities in the last few years has observed an increase in enrolment of students in schools as well as a sizable reduction in dropout rate at primary level and upper primary levels.

However, reports have mentioned of disparity in level of education among various religious communities – first, literacy rates tend to decline as the age progresses in general; second, gaps in the level of education, that is, genders, religious communities etc. becomes more pronounced as age progresses and is profound among girl students. This is, on one hand, indicative of the palpable progress made in the state in the overall enrolment scenario during the recent past. On the other hand, lower literacy at the working age level has limiting impacts on the overall level of earnings affecting thereby the current level of enrolment of their wards.

1. INTRODUCTION: Government of Assam in its overall focus towards greater human development outcomes in its Budget for Financial year 2018-19 announced "Scholarship scheme for girl students belonging to minority communities". Finance Department has allocated an amount of Rs. 50.00 crore in the State Budget under Secondary Education Department for the financial year 2019-20.

The scholarship is an endeavour by Govt. of Assam to support the academic inclination of girl students belonging to Minority Communities from the State of Assam.

The incentive will be awarded to ONLY unmarried girl students presently pursuing studies in class 10 / 11 / 12 belonging to religious communities of Muslims / Sikhs / Christians / Buddhists / Jain or Zoroastrians (Parsis) i.e. religious minority communities as notified under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

2. OBJECTIVE: The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to academically inclined students & families from minority communities and to encourage them to continue their Higher Education and to stay on in the formal education system. It aims to reduce financial burden of education and support their efforts towards continuing education.

This initiative is a step towards better educational attainment and will help to create a uniform platform for future goals. Empowerment through education, which is one of the objectives of this scheme, has the potential to uplift the socio-economic condition of the minority communities and society at large.

3. SCOPE: The scholarship will be an incentive for pursuing formal studies in a Secondary and Higher Secondary institutions. The scheme will cover Government/ Provincialised Schools/ Schools affiliated to SEBA/ AHSEC/ CBSE/ ISC/ Residential institutions of Secondary and Higher Secondary level under the jurisdiction of the Secondary Education Department and provincialised/ recognised Madrasa Institutions under State Madrasa Education Board.

4. ELIGIBILITY:

The scholarship will provide financial assistance to only:

- i. Resident from/ of the State of Assam.
- ii. Girls Belonging to Minority Communities.
- iii. Unmarried.

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- iv. Studying in class X / XI / XII in the Academic year.
 - v. Government/ Provincialised Schools/ Schools affiliated to SEBA/ AHSEC/ CBSE/ ISC/ Provincialised & Recognised Madrassas/ Residential Schools under the Secondary Education Department, Govt. of Assam.
 - vi. Having Bank Accounts (joint account with the guardian for students below 18 years).
 - vii. No bar regarding the Annual Income of the family/parents.

5. RATES OF SCHOLARSHIP:

- A beneficiary (student) under this scheme for one academic year will be awarded with an "Annual Scholarship".
- The scholarship will be for an amount of:

Pursuing Studies in	Amount (in Rs.)
Class -X	2,000/-
Class -XI &XII	4,000/-

6. APPLICATION PROCESS for Academic Year 2019 –20

- Advertisements in leading Newspapers will be placed to initiate the Scholarship scheme.
- Application Forms as per format at Annexure-I with Institution Seal and Issue Number will be provided by the Head of the Institution to the eligible girl students.
- Eligible Girl Students shall submit the filled up Scholarship Format for the scholarship to the Head of the Institutions.
- Head of the Institutions will hand over the counter foil Receipts to the student as proof of submission.
- **Applications will undergo the following processes :**
 - i. Verification by the Head of the Institution. (School Level).
 - ii. Preparation of a compiled list of eligible students (beneficiaries) with all relevant details including authenticated Bank Accounts details. (School Level).
 - iii. Verification by the Inspector of School and place the authenticated list before the Deputy Commissioner for approval. (District level).
 - iv. Inspector of Schools will submit the list of eligible names approved by the Deputy Commissioner to RMSA, Assam.
 - v. Verification and authentication of the compiled list by RMSA from its DATABASE of students of Government/ Provincialised Schools/ Schools affiliated to SEBA/ AHSEC/ CBSE/ ISC/ Provincialised & Recognised Madrassas/ Residential Schools under the Secondary Education Department, Govt. of Assam.
 - vi. Submission of the authenticated list by RMSA to the Directorate of Secondary Education, Assam, for random verification. (State Level).
 - vii. Directorate of Secondary Education, Assam will forward the compiled list, district wise, to the Secondary Education Department.

Applications submitted after the notified last date of submission will be summarily REJECTED.

7. PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP:

- The Scholarship amount of the beneficiary Students will be directly credited to their Bank Accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

8. CONDITIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP:

- The scholarship shall be awarded for studies in Government/ Provincialised Schools/ Schools affiliated to SEBA/ AHSEC/ CBSE/ ISC/ Provincialised & Recognised Madrassas/ Residential Schools from class X to XII standards.
- Guardians and the Head of the Institution of the applicant shall jointly certify the age and community of the Student.
- The Head of the Institution shall scrutinise and verify each of the applicants and approve or reject the application based on the eligibility criteria.
- The scholarship will not be awarded to more than two (2) girls from the same family.
- If a student is found to have obtained a scholarship by false statement, his/her scholarship will be cancelled forthwith and the amount of the scholarship paid will be recovered.
- All selected beneficiaries (students) need to possess bank account:
 - i. Self-Individual Account Holder in case the beneficiary attains the age of 18 years and above.
 - ii. As Joint Holder with Father/Mother/Guardian (as per school records) in case the age is below 18 years.
- Scholarship once cancelled will not be revived under any circumstances.
- The Government of Assam reserves sole authority to change the rules & regulations of the scheme.
- In case of any dispute, the grievances can be placed to the higher authorities.

9. SCHEME LAUNCH:

- The scheme was announced by the Government and mentioned in the Budget Speech of the State Budget for the Financial Year -2018-19 & 2019-20.
- The scheme shall be launched by the State Government and will ensure release notification prior to launch of the scheme through leading language newspapers, local dailies and other suitable promotional activities.

10. STAKEHOLDERS:

- The scheme is being funded by Secondary Education Department.
- The initiative for this Financial Year (FY 2019-20) will be launched and implemented in the State under the overall guidance of Department for Secondary Education and its field offices.
- Principals / Head of Institutions will be responsible for distribution, collection and verification of scholarship applications for all eligible students under their respective institutions.
- Inspector of Schools of the respective Districts will collect, scrutinise, verify, compile and authenticate the List. Collection and verification of all applications from each and every institution under their jurisdiction will be the responsibility of the Inspector of Schools.

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- Inspector of Schools of the respective Districts will place the authenticated list and obtain the approval of the Deputy Commissioner.
 - The Inspector of Schools will forward the list approved by the Deputy Commissioner to the State Mission Office, RMSA, Assam, Kahilipara.
 - RMSA will be responsible to provide and validate all necessary latest data relating to:
 - i. Girl Students belonging to Minority Communities, currently pursuing studies in Class 10, Class 11 and Class 12 in all affiliated schools of the State.
 - ii. Details of all Schools in the State including School Category, School Dis Code etc.
 - iii. RMSA will Verify and authenticate the compiled list from its DATABASE of students of Government/ Provincialised Schools/ Schools affiliated to SEBA/AHSEC/ CBSE/ ISC/ Provincialised & Recognised Madrassas/ Residential Schools under the Secondary Education Department, Govt. of Assam and assign a **Unique Scheme Beneficiary Code** for each student.
 - Director of Secondary Education, Assam will be responsible for
 - i. Preparing scheme Guidelines.
 - ii. Sensitizing Inspector of schools and Head of the Institution about the Roles and Responsibilities.
 - iii. Sensitization Workshop of Inspector of schools Application Validation steps at school level and at District Level.
 - iv. Random verification of the list and on being satisfied on the authenticity of the List shall endorse only the eligible names to the Department of Secondary education.
 - Banks in the State will be involved to ensure swift and smooth opening of bank accounts for applicants under this scheme.
 - Office of the Deputy Commissioner will ensure Financial Inclusion of all eligible students who do not possess Bank Account. The Deputy Commissioners may issue necessary instructions to all Banks (having core banking facility) under their jurisdiction to create a special drive for opening bank accounts by eligible students.

11. MONITORING & TRANSPARENCY:

- The State will ensure verification of information provided in each and every application form.
- The Directorate of Secondary Education, Assam will maintain all details of:
 - i. Applications Submitted / Approved or Rejected.
 - ii. Students receiving scholarship, indicating school/ institute, location of school/ institute, government or private, class, gender, permanent address and parents' address.
 - iii. Demographics of all applications.
- Government shall place relevant physical and financial details in their official website.
- The scheme will be evaluated at regular intervals by the concerned Department or any other agency designated by the Department.

12. INSTRUCTIONS RELATED TO BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

(To be filled by the students in the application form are as under):

- Students must enter their bank/branch name.

- Thereafter the complete account no. must be entered correctly.
- Students are suggested to get their account number verified by their concerned Bank Branch including Bank account number and IFS Code.
- Bank Account holders must check their 'Know your Customer' (KYC) status from bank and if required the KYC must be done for successful transaction of scholarship amount.
- Bank Account must be operational/ active till the scholarship is disbursed.
- Bank Account must be preferably in any scheduled Bank with core banking facility and proper IFS Code.

Disclaimer: If bank details entered by students are found incorrect or not validated by the student's bank, the scholarship will be cancelled/amount will not be transferred even though the application is approved for scholarship.



(Preetom Saikia, IAS)
 Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. Assam
 Secondary Education Department

Memo No. PMA(S) 111/2018/30- A

Dated Dispur, the 31st July, 2019

Copy for favour of kind information and necessary action to :

1. The Accountant General (A&E), Assam, Beltola, Guwahati-29.
2. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam.
3. S.O. to Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam.
4. The Principal Secretary to the Govt of Assam, Finance Department, Dispur.
5. The Secretary to the Govt of Assam, Welfare of Minorities and Development Department.
6. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt of Assam, Social Welfare Department, Dispur.
7. Mission Director, SSA / RMSA, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
8. Deputy Commissioners(All).....
9. Director of Secondary Education, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19.
10. Director of Higher /Elementary/Madrassa/NF &Adult Education, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
11. The Chairman / Secretary, SEBA/AHSEC, Bamuniamaidam, Guwahati-21
12. The Director of Information and Public Relation, Assam with a request to provide wide publicity of the scheme through Print/Electronic Media.
13. Inspectors of Schools (All).....
14. PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Education.
15. Superintendent, Govt. Press, Bamunimaidam.
16. Guard File.

By order etc..



Joint Secretary to the Govt. Assam
 Secondary Education Department