

## Compliance with the RTE 2009 Guidelines in the Basic Infrastructure of Primary Schools in Aizawl

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### Abstract

Efforts to strengthen the elementary education system in India had marginally progressed after the Mid-Day Meal scheme was introduced in 1995, because the regular attendance, the enrolment and primary school learning of at least 12 crore Indian children, had drastically improved. The implementation of Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan in 2001, increased school enrolment and decreased the percentage of out-of-school children. The 86th Constitutional Amendment gave us the Right to Education Act 2009, which finally made free and compulsory education, a fundamental right of all children from age 6 and 14 years, in a neighborhood school. Later, with PM-Poshan and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, more equitable and quality elementary education is expected by citizens. The researcher studied the infrastructure of ten government primary schools in faraway Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram; in order to understand the extent of RTE implementation in government primary schools. This study focuses on primary observational and survey data collected in October 2022. Although many urban schools had good infrastructure, the results of this qualitative research showed that there were insufficient separate toilets for girls and boys, little access to playgrounds, inadequate computers for teaching-learning purposes (computer-aided instruction) and for official administration, besides inadequate library rooms and library books.

*Keywords: Primary schools, Right to Education Act 2009, Infrastructure, Compliance*

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### Introduction

The Right to Education Forum, which is a civil society organisation of educational NGOs, has shown that schools do not have even the basic infrastructure facilities, although more than 13 years have passed since implementing the Right to Education Act 2009. At least 10 percent of schools do not provide potable drinking water facilities to children, while nearly 40 percent lack a functional common toilet and 40 percent lack separate toilets for girl children. At least sixty





Mizoram state is located in North East India, and it is surrounded by Myanmar (Burma) to the south-east, Bangladesh to the west; and by the three Indian states of Assam, Manipur and Tripura. Its capital Aizawl, is in the north-central part of Mizoram.

Mizoram is a land of vertical hills, that form in north to south ridges. Mizoram (“Land of the Mizos”) was earlier called the Lushai Hills District of Assam before being named the Mizo Hills District in 1954. In 1987 it achieved statehood. The Christian missionaries provided institutionalized education in Mizoram by establishing the first schools in the 1990s. By 2005, Mizoram had many 2,000 primary, middle, and secondary schools, and developed one of the highest rate of literacy in Indian states.

### **Operational Definitions**

- a. **Government Primary schools:** Elementary School (Classes 1 to 8) wholly managed by the local or state government, for children who are 6-14 years old.
- b. **Right to Education 2009:** The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education, w.e.f. 1st April, 2010 in India. A Government of India legislation, under Article 21-A, that every child from the age of 6-14 years, has rights to full-time compulsory and free primary education in a neighborhood school.
- c. **School infrastructure:** Facilities like school buildings, ventilation, boundary walls, seating arrangements, gender-separate toilets, playgrounds, libraries, laboratories, ramps, etc.
- d. **RTE compliance:** Implementing the provisions of Right to Education Act, 2009 for equitable and quality primary education provisions, by school managements.

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To seek approvals and permissions from the Directors and Deputy Directors of the Directorate of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), of Aizawl, capital of Mizoram.
2. To collect data from Principals of the 10 Primary Schools, in Aizawl
3. To study the compliance of the 10 Primary Schools in Aizawl; with the RTE 2009 Guidelines for School Infrastructure.
4. To present findings and conclusions of the data collected of Infrastructure from the 10 Primary Schools in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram.



### **Hypothesis of the Study**

There is no significant compliance status in the implementation of the Right to Education 2009 in the government primary schools of Aizawl, Mizoram.

### **Delimitation of the Study**

The study is delimited to Aizawl, capital of Mizoram.

### **Research Method**

Ethnographic research method

### **Tools/ Techniques of data collection**

1. Questionnaire for Headmasters/Headmistresses about the implementation of the Right to Education 2009 in Aizawl primary schools.
2. Participant Observation Schedule
3. Still photography

### **Sample of the Research Project**

Purposive Convenience Sample: The Principals of 10 schools in Aizawl and the school infrastructure.




### **Schedule of visits to ten schools in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram.**

1. Meeting the Director of School Education in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram: 19th October 2022
2. Meeting the Deputy Director of School Education in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram: 20th October 2022



3. School visits in Aizawl, the capital of the North East state of Mizoram: 20th October 2022 to 28th October 2022



Infrastructural description of 10 Primary Schools of Aizawl, MIZORAM, NE India.		
	RTE 2009 Description of the ten Primary Schools	On-site primary data
1	<p><b>Government S. TEJ SINGH Middle School (KEIFANG M/S-II), Zemabawk, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796261. UDISE: 15030401006</b></p> <p>This urban co-educational non-residential MIZO school was established by the government in 1992 and is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is MIZO. Students wear white and grey uniforms.</p> <p>The four classrooms have large windows for ventilation, strong walls, painted white, and sufficient seating arrangement. Separate rooms for the Headmaster and Teachers. The drinking water from hand pumps is stored in large drums. The functional 2 boy’s toilets and 2 girl’s toilets are clean with strong doors. The school has no playground. The library has 250 books. The school has one computer for assessment and official documentation purposes. The school lacks a computer-aided learning lab. The kitchen has gas cylinders and stored grain sacks. Midday meal consisting of rice, dal lentils and leafy vegetables, is cooked and served in the premises around noon time daily.</p>	  



<p>2</p>	<p><b>Government Nepali Primary School, Bawngkawn, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796014 UDISE: 15030900105</b></p> <p>This urban co-educational non-residential NEPALI school was established by the government in 1952 and is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is NEPALI. The school has classes from 1 to 4. The students do not wear uniforms.</p> <p>The school was functioning from a building which was a family residence before. This school is approachable by an all-weather road. One office/staffroom for the Headmistress and four teachers, and a cupboard with 30 library books. The 4 classrooms are in poor condition, with unpainted walls and basic seats. The school has a partial boundary wall. Drinking Water is stored in one large drum. One functional boy's toilet is outside the building and the girl's toilet inside the school. One toilet is used as a storeroom. The playground has a slide and swings. No computers for teaching and learning purposes. The kitchen has one gas cylinder, stored grain sacks and vessels. The midday meal (rice and dal-lentils) is cooked and served by the teachers daily around 12 noon.</p>	 <p>Aizawl, Mizoram, India          V-125, Blakin Must, behind Greenwood Hospital, opposite Main Bengali Church, Bawngkawn, Aizawl, Mizoram 796014, India          Lat 23.755276°          Long 92.731288°          28/10/22 10:01 AM GMT +05:30</p>  <p>Aizawl, Mizoram, India          QP3J+XGW, Bawngkawn, Aizawl, Mizoram 796014, India          Lat 23.755057°          Long 92.73122°          28/10/22 10:33 AM GMT +05:30</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
<p>3</p>	<p><b>Government Bawngkawn Middle School-2, Bawngkawn, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796014 UDISE: 15030900107</b></p> <p>This urban co-educational non-residential school was established by the government in 1994 and is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is MIZO. The school has classes from 5 to 8. Students wear red shirt uniforms.</p> <p>The 4 classrooms are in good condition, with sufficient ventilation. The school has a separate Headmaster's room, with display boards and storage cupboards and a large staffroom.</p> <p>The school has a pucca boundary wall. Drinking Water is stored in three large drums. The separate boys and girl's toilets are functional. The school playground is small. The school library has 30 books. The computer room has two computers and a printer for instructional purposes. The kitchen has one gas cylinder, stored grain sacks and vessels and storage shelves. The midday meal is cooked and served in the school premises around 12 noon everyday. It consists of boiled rice, dal lentils and leafy vegetables. The midday menu is displayed on the kitchen wall.</p>	  <p>Aizawl, Mizoram, India          QP3H+J6S, Bawngkawn, Aizawl, Mizoram 796012, India          Lat 23.713952°          Long 92.727866°          26/10/22 11:01 AM GMT +06:30</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="10">GOVT. BAWNGKAWN MIDDLE SCHOOL II STAFF</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Sr</th> <th>Names</th> <th>Designation</th> <th>Qualification</th> <th>Year of Birth</th> <th>Year of Joining</th> <th>Year of Retirement</th> <th>Remarks</th> <th>Year of Retirement</th> <th>Remarks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>V. Lalsandhara</td> <td>Headmaster</td> <td>M.A. B. Ed.</td> <td>18.1.1964</td> <td>1.9.2003</td> <td>1.9.2019</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>P. K. Venghama</td> <td>Teacher</td> <td>B.A. D.T. 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<p>4</p>	<p><b>Government Chanmari Middle School, Chanmari, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796007</b>  <b>UDISE: 15030600101</b></p> <p>This urban co-educational non-residential school was established by the government in 1961 and is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is ENGLISH. The school consists of Grades from 5 to 8. Students wear blue uniforms.</p> <p>The 4 classrooms are in good condition, painted white, with sufficient ventilation and seating arrangement. The school has a separate Headmaster’s room, with display boards and storage cupboards and a large staffroom.</p> <p>The school has an incomplete boundary wall. The school has electricity. Drinking Water is from drawn by hand pumps. The separate boys and girl’s toilets are functional. The school has a very large playground, basketball stadium and football ground. The school library has 40 books. The school does not have computers for instructional purposes The school does not have a computer aided learning laboratory. The midday meal is cooked in the kitchen and served at noon everyday. It consists of boiled rice, dal lentils and leafy vegetables. The menu is displayed on the kitchen wall.</p>	 
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Government Bawngkawn Primary School-1, Chanmari, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796007</b>  <b>UDISE: 15030600201</b></p> <p>This urban co-educational school was established in 1961. It is non-residential, run by the government and is managed by the Department of Education. The Medium of Instruction is ENGLISH. Students wear white and blue uniforms.</p> <p>The school has classes 5 to 8. The four classrooms are in good condition, with brightly painted walls, sufficient ventilation and seating arrangement. Separate rooms for the Headmaster office, and a large staffroom, which has one official computer, display boards and cupboards. The school has a partial boundary wall. Hand-pumped drinking water is stored in the rooftop tank. The separate functional boy’s toilet, girl’s toilet and staff toilet are clean.</p> <p>The library has 40 books. The school does not have computers for teaching or computer aided learning.</p> <p>The large kitchen has two gas cylinders, stored grain and lentils for the midday meal which is cooked and served at noon everyday.</p>	  
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Government Chaltlang Middle School, Chaltlang, Electric Block, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796012</b>  <b>UDISE: 15030100201</b></p> <p>This urban co-educational non-residential school was established by the government in 1960 and is administered</p>	




	<p>by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is ENGLISH. The school has classes 5 to 8. Students wear orange and dark green uniforms.</p> <p>The four classrooms are in good condition, with brightly painted strong walls, good ventilation and seating arrangement. There are separate rooms for the Headmaster office which has cupboards, a computer workstation. The large staffroom has one official computer, display boards and cupboards. The school has a boundary wall. Drinking water is stored in large drums. The school has 2 functional boy’s toilets and 2 functional girl’s toilets, outside the school building. The library has 20 books. The school has a computer aided learning lab.</p> <p>The large open area is used as the playground.</p> <p>The brightly painted, clean, very large kitchen has two gas cylinders, stored grain and lentils for the midday meal which is cooked and served in the school premises at noon everyday. It consists of boiled rice, dal lentils and leafy vegetables. Students are nicely benched in the large kitchen for the midday meal.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Government Chanmari West Middle School, Chanmari West, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796007 UDISE: 15030600201</b></p> <p>Established in 1985, this urban co-educational non-residential school is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is ENGLISH, and it has classes 5 to 8. The four classrooms have brightly painted strong walls, good ventilation and seating arrangement. The school building is strong, brightly painted with good ventilation, large doors and displayed learning material. Students wear white and blue uniforms. The staff room is very large and airy. Each teacher has a separate table.</p> <p>The school has a very strong boundary wall. The drinking water hand pump is functional. Boys’ toilet and two girls’ toilets are functional. Large open area is used as a playground. Library has 500 books. Disabled children need a ramp to access classrooms. No computers for instructional purposes, nor a computer-aided learning lab. The brightly painted kitchen is clean, very large, has one gas cylinder, and stores grain and lentils for the cooked midday meal of boiled rice, dal lentils and leafy vegetables is served at noon everyday. The children are provided seating arrangements for the midday meal.</p>	





<p>8</p>	<p><b>Government Endala M.S., Ramhlun North, Electric Block, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796012 UDISE: 15030100301</b></p> <p>Established in 1983, this urban co-educational non-residential school is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is MIZO, and it has classes 5 to 8. The four classrooms are in good condition, with brightly painted strong walls, good ventilation and seating arrangement. The strong building has white walls and good ventilation and large doors. Students wear a white shirt with blue pants/skirt and blue tie. Headmaster has a separate office. The school has a pucca boundary wall. Drinking Water from hand pumps is stored in large drums, with well-maintained water filters. Both the functional boys toilets and the functional girls toilets are outside the building. The large open area is used for a playground.</p> <p>The school library has 20 books. The school requires to provide a ramp for disabled children to access classrooms. One functional computer for teaching-learning. The school has a computer aided learning lab. The kitchen is dull, clean, very large, with two gas cylinders, for the midday meal which is served at noon every day. It consists of boiled rice, dal lentils and leafy vegetables.</p>	  
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Government B. M. Middle School, Ramhlun, Vengthar, Electric Block, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796012 UDISE: 15030100401</b></p> <p>This urban co-educational non-residential government school is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is MIZO, and it has classes 5 to 8. Grades from 5 to 8. The old wooden school building has tin corrugated sheets for the roof, a pucca boundary wall, with brightly painted walls and good ventilation, large doors and displayed learning material. Four classrooms have good seating arrangements. The Headmaster office which has cupboards and a computer work station, and staffroom are separate. Classrooms are painted white. The co-educational school admits children who wear a white shirt with blue pants/skirt and a blue tie. Mizo is the medium of instruction in this school. Drinking Water Is stored in a tank. The 3 boys toilets and 3 girls toilets are functional. The girls toilet has a sanitary pad dispensing machine.</p> <p>The school does not have a playground. Library has 30 books for reading. The school has only one functional computer for instructional purposes, and a computer aided learning lab. The kitchen garden grows herbs and medicinal plants. The kitchen is dull, clean, very large, one gas cylinder, and stored grain and lentils for the midday meal. The school has no separate playground.</p>	  



<b>10</b>	<p><b>Government Middle School, Ramhlun South, Electric Block, AIZAWL, Mizoram: 796012 UDISE: 15030100701</b></p> <p>Established in 1992, this urban co-educational non-residential government school is administered by the Department of Education. Medium of Instruction is ENGLISH. IT has classes 5 to 8. A strong metal and concrete periphery wall. Students wear yellow shirts with blue pants/skirts. The four classrooms for instructional purposes are in good condition. The Headmaster office is separate from the staffroom, which has a sanitary pad dispensing machine. No Boundary Wall. Drinking Water Is stored in a tank. The functional boys toilet. and the girls' toilet is inside the building. The library has 30 books. The school has 2 functional computers and a functional printer for instructional purposes. School has a computer-aided learning laboratory. The kitchen is dull, clean, very large, has three gas cylinders, stored grain and lentils for the midday meal which is served in the school premises at noon everyday. The children are provided seating arrangements for the midday meal. The large open area is used as the playground.</p>	
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Comparison of Basic Infrastructure of Schools visited in MIZORAM											
Criteria for School Infrastructure		School Number as given in the description paragraphs above									
		School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6	School 7	School 8	School 9	School 10
1	Year of Establishment of the School	1992	1952	1994	1961	1961	1960	1985	1983	1983	1992
2	Village / Ward	Keifang	Bawng kawm	Bawngkawm	Chanmari	Chanmari	Chattliang	Chanmari West	Ramhlun North	Ramhlun Vengthar	Ramhlun South
3	Electricity functional	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Boundary Wall	No	Partial	Yes	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial	Broken	No
5	Drinking Water	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Ramps for Disabled Students	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Functional Toilets for Boys : Girls	2 : 2	1 : 1	1 : 1	1 : 1	1 : 1	1 : 1	1 : 2	2 : 2	3 : 3	1 : 1
8	Classrooms	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
9	Medium of Instruction	Mizo	Nepali	Mizo	English	English	English	English	Mizo	Mizo	English
10	Classes from	5 to 8	1 to 4	5 to 8	5 to 8	5 to 8	5 to 8	5 to 8	5 to 8	5 to 8	5 to 8



Comparison of Basic Infrastructure of Schools visited in MIZORAM											
Criteria for School Infrastructure		School Number as given in the description paragraphs above									
		School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6	School 7	School 8	School 9	School 10
11	Male Teachers	7	1	5	5	5	6	2	4	7	4
12	Female Teachers	2	3	8	3	3	6	7	7	4	7
13	Trained Teachers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	Textbooks - Workbooks	Yes	Few	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	Computers (Teaching-Learning)	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
16	Library is provided	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
17	Books in Library	250	Nil	30	40	40	20	500	20	30	30
18	Playground	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No

### The Findings from the analyzed data

1. The overall infrastructure of the primary schools in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, was significantly compliant with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act; although secured pucca boundary walls must be constructed.
2. Access to primary schools within 1 km of the students' residences, in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, was compliant with the guidelines of the RTE 2009 Act.
3. Access to potable drinking water in primary schools in Aizawl, was significantly compliant with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
4. The provision of sufficient and separate and secured toilets for girls and boys, in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be improved, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
5. The provision of adequate classrooms for the four grades/classes in the primary schools in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, was significantly compliant with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
6. The provision of ramps for disabled students in the primary schools in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, was compliant with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.



7. Access to playgrounds in primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be improved, in compliance with recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
8. The provision of trained teachers (both male teachers and female teachers), in the primary schools in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, was compliant with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
9. The provision of hot and nutritious Mid-Day Meals served in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, was significantly compliant with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
10. The provision of textbooks and workbooks in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, was compliant with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
11. The provision of school uniforms in the NEPALI primary schools of Aizawl, must be improved, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
12. The provision of computers for teaching-learning purposes (computer-aided instruction) in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be increased, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
13. The provision of computers for official administrative purposes in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be increased, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
14. Libraries and adequate library books, in the primary schools of Aizawl, must be increased, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.

### **Conclusions and Results (with indication of scope for future research work)**

1. The provision of sufficient and separate and secured toilets for girls and boys, in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be improved, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
2. The access to playgrounds in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be improved, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
3. The provision of school uniforms in the NEPALI primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be improved, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.



4. The provision of computers for teaching-learning purposes (computer-aided instruction) in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be increased, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
5. The provision of computers for official administrative purposes in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be increased, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.
6. The provision of a library and adequate library books, in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, must be increased, in compliance with the recommendations of the RTE 2009 Act.

### **Recommendations for improving educational infrastructure in Aizawl, Mizoram**

1. Specific steps may be taken to provide sufficient and separate and secured toilets for girls and boys, in the primary schools of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram
2. Urgent provision of playgrounds in the primary schools of Aizawl, for the all-round development of children and adolescents.
3. Government must provide school uniform in NEPALI primary schools of Aizawl.
4. The government provides functional computers for teaching-learning purposes (computer-aided instruction) in the primary schools of Aizawl.
5. The government provides functional computers for official administrative purposes in the primary schools of Aizawl.
6. The government must provide a library and supply of free textbooks, workbooks and library books, in primary schools of Aizawl.
7. Parents in remote hilly habitations must be made more aware about compulsory primary education, so that they realize the importance of educating their children. This awareness will eventually ensure compulsory admissions.
8. The Central Government should provide adequate funds to the State Government for establishing schools in the neighborhood.



## Limitations of the Study

The sample being purposive, due to the wide spread distribution of primary schools, in the cold hilly terrain of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, made it very difficult for the researcher to access the primary schools.

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