COUNCIL OF BOARDS OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN INDIA (COBSE)

Entries Invited
on

"BEST PRACTICES TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION"

Contest being organized by COBSE in collaboration with Maharashtra Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education to celebrate its Golden Jubilee

Board Level and National Level Awards for Best Entries on Best Practices

The *Rashriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* (RMSA) launched in 2009 envisages to make quality secondary education available, accessible and affordable to all children in the age group of 14-18 years. Several programmes and activities are going on in different parts of India under the RMSA Project.

Contest on Best Practices: Institutions like School Boards and State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs), State Department/Section looking after RMSA, NGOs as well as persons at their individual level are trying out innovative practices to improve the quality of learning in secondary schools under the RMSA Project or outside of it. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Maharashtra Board and in the context of COBSE's Annual Conference it has been decided to hold a **Contest on Best Practices** in collaboration with the Maharashtra Board with **the objectives of**

i) compiling best practices to upgrade the quality of secondary education and disseminating them to various stakeholders

ii) giving State / Board level and National level recognition to the best entries, and

iii) promoting the use of out-of-the-box thinking and innovative methods in resolving local-specific challenges

Best Practice means what works effectively in a particular situation or environment to address a pressing issue or challenge. Best Practice may sometimes reveal frugal and home spun solutions involving at times the use of lateral thinking or *jugaad* innovation. In order to make it a research-based or scientifically-based practice, evidence in the form of data and outcome are an essential part. Where scientific evidence is absent or inadequate, professional wisdom needs to be duly recognized. However, it is important to avoid as far as possible personal biases and preferences. It is also agreed generally that what works in a particular situation may or may not work and yield the same results across variety of ground situations obtaining in a country of India's size and diversity. But again the potential for replicability of a practice should be considered a huge plus point for the selection of an entry for an award.

Examples of Best Practices:

i) Use of CCTV to check use of unfair means in exam

ii) Innovative use of limited land area in a secondary school

iii) Innovative use of limited resources in a secondary school to improve the quality of learning

iv) Introduction of computer-based testing

Criteria for the Selection of Entries for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Positions

i) Genuineness and Relevance of Issue / Problem to the Quality of Learning /Secondary Education (5 Marks)

ii) Innovativeness and Uniqueness of the Best Practice (5 Marks)

iii) Usefulness / Effectiveness of the Best Practice in realizing the desired Outcome / Impact as an evidence (5 Marks)

iv) Potential for Replicability / Adaptability of the Best Practice (5 Marks)

Total Marks: 20

Who can participate:

i) Any educational institution / organization working in the area of affiliated secondary schools such as Board of School Education, SCERT, Training College and School (In case of collaboration with NGOs or corporate houses, the entry will be submitted to the Board by the concerned school, not by the NGO or the corporate house. In case of individual teachers / scholars the entry will be submitted to the concerned State Board through a school / institution.)

ii) Any educational functionary / school teacher working at the secondary school level

Two levels of selection of entries for awards

State Board Level

State Boards of School Education which are members of COBSE will be requested to invite entries from institutions including the Board itself, SCERTs, educationists, schools and teachers in the given format. These entries will be examined by a Committee set up by the Chairperson of the member-Board for the purpose and three best entries will be selected from the area of their jurisdiction for

a) Board-level Awards, and

b) Board-level entries for competing at the National Level.

Board-level Awards will be **Rs 10,000/-** for the 1st Position, **Rs 7,000/-** for the 2nd Position and **Rs 5,000/-** for the 3rd Position.

National/ COBSE Level

At the National Level a Committee set up jointly by COBSE and Maharashtra Board will select three entries for

a) National-level Awards, and

b) Giving their presentations by invitation before the delegates attending the 44th Annual Conference to be held at Pune towards the end of 2015.

There may be scope for other outstanding entries as well to make their presentations in the Annual Conference. The National-level Awards will be **Rs 20,000/-** for the 1st Position, **Rs 15,000/-** for the 2nd Position and **Rs 10,000/-** for the 3rd Position. In addition, the Award Winners at the Board level and National level shall be given **Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition by COBSE.**

Areas on which entries on Best Practices are invited:

i) Management and Conduct of Public Examination including its Reliability, any Examination Reform or the Use of Technology to maintain students' record related to the Board Examination or Measures to control and prevent malpractices during examinations

ii) Assessment of Students in the Co-scholastic / Co-curricular Area under the CCE System

iii) Integration of Vocational Skills with the Secondary Education Curriculum

iv) Life Skills Development

v) Value Inculcation

vi) Involvement of Corporate and Industrial Houses, National / International Agencies / Organizations to Upgrade Infrastructure

vii) Innovative Practice to upgrade Quality of Infrastructure including Toilets and Drinking Water facility

viii) Community Participation to address issues like the dearth of Qualified Teachers

ix) Use of IT / Digital Technology to Upgrade the Quality of Learning

x) Any Other Area related to Secondary Education

Format in which entries in written form are to be submitted:

i) A small paragraph on the profile of the Institution / School or about the person submitting the entry

ii) State the Issue / Problem / Challenge

iii) Define the Objective / Goal

iv) Describe Best Practice including Methodology / Activities to address the issue / problem / challenge

v) Describe Participation of persons & institutions in decision-making, planning, and carrying out activities to complete the task

vi) Demonstrate desired Outcome / Result / Impact Evaluation as an evidence of best practice

vii) Financial Implications, if any to carry out Best Practice

viii) The entry should be in the written form comprising about three (3) typed pages (1000 words) with Name / Institution and Address (including e-mail, mobile)

TIME SCALE

ACTIVITY	DATES / TIMELINE
`Letters Inviting Entries' to Boards from COBSE	Third week of February 2015
`Letters Inviting Entries' to Institutions, NGOs etc. from Boards	First week of March 2015
Last Date for receiving entries by Boards	First week of June 2015
Selection of 3 entries at the Board level	First week of July 2015
Date for receiving entries by COBSE	First week of August 2015
Selection of 3 entries at the National Level	Last week of August 2015
Publication of a Booklet on Best Practices containing award winning entries by COBSE	Last week of September 2015