

December 30, 2020

Sh. Manish Sisodia
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister
GNCT of Delhi
Level – 3, A – Wing, Delhi Secretariat
New Delhi – 110002

Subject: Delhi Nursery School Admissions for session 2021-22.

Respected Sir,

We have learned from the newspaper reports that the Delhi Govt. is considering scrapping nursery and KG admissions for the academic year 2021-22. We understand the decision if and when taken, considers the immediate threat from the pandemic as detrimental to the children and to an extent overwhelming.

While no doubt, it will be unwise to expose young children to the pandemic willfully by forcing them to go school and mingle. But sir according to me here are the reasons why cancelling the admission process totally would be inimical to the long-term interest of the very child we seek to protect.

a) This decision affects just the children of Delhi, while admission to NCR continues with all preventive measures in place. By denying the children of Delhi an opportunity to get into a school of their choice, while their friends in Noida and Gurgaon do so, is a denial of equal opportunity to them. Either the Indian Govt. declares 2020 as a zero year or every child gets equal opportunity.

b) Most parents who have two children born consecutively, will bank on the sibling quota to send their children to the same school. The scrapping puts paid to that rightful wish and in case the children get admission in two different schools next year, they will be put to substantial discomfort, financially and emotionally.

c) Many parents who missed the admissions eligibility for their ward by a few days or weeks in the 2020-21 session (this year) and were expecting that their ward will get enrolled in the 2021-22 session (coming year) will miss almost two years of their kids learning during the foundational years.

d) Online is here to stay, pandemic or no pandemic. The Covid pandemic has taught us that the new normal will invariably be hybrid with offline complementing online. No doubt, a child

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needs face to face interaction for its cognitive development, but in the absence of it even screen-based learning is better than nothing being available. The decision to delay admission does just that. It denies the child an opportunity to interact with its peers (electronically though). And it denies such an opportunity to only Delhi children.

e) Hon'ble Sir, If the decision to drop the admission process is because the learned academicians would want to limit online exposure to children at a young age, then too, cancelling the admission process is not the best way to obtain the desired outcome. You would agree, today's children do get exposed to the screen and the digital medium very early and most are adept at its navigation and mastery. So, the threat, if any to their cognitive development can be suitably addressed by creating a viable online- offline hybrid over the next few months as the situation improves. But moving forward with the admission process would signify a closure for the anxious parents and set them up towards a definitive plan. Cancellation will leave them literally hanging.

f) Lastly Sir, you are aware of the level of competition and consequent stress that the nursery admission season entails in this country especially in the metro cities. Your initiatives with Govt. schools in Delhi are a welcome change, but the stress still is paramount. Sudden cancellation of admissions puts the parents in a predicament and if one has more than one child, the burden gets doubled.

We at UniApply (The common application platform) are empowering parents and schools to make more informed and transparent decisions and trying to gauge the sentiments of parents on this important subject. We have launched a parents survey and I will share the results of the survey shortly with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naveen Goyal'.

Naveen Goyal

Chief Executive Officer

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Copy forwarded to:

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