

Hire women, get girls back to school

Chetan Chauhan
New Delhi, November 1

THE GOVERNMENT has found a way out to bring the girl child in to the classroom — recruit more women teachers.

The HRD ministry has suggested in a proposal for the 11th plan that ratio of women teachers should be increased to 75 per cent. It also says states be given financial incentives to carry it out.

“To improve girl enrollment, there is a need to increase recruitment of women teachers to 75 per cent in educationally fragile states,” said the 11th Plan document, to be discussed in a Planning Commission meeting on November 8.

Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been marked as educationally fragile states, while Goa, Kerala, Delhi and Tamil Nadu have almost two to three times higher number of women teachers than male teachers.

Identified as a tool for women empowerment in rural India,

the ministry has proposed that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan should pay for the appointment of the new teachers but not for those hired earlier. Along with improving the ratio of women teachers, the government plans to allocate more money for their training and introduce innovative teaching activities.

The Centre has also proposed Public Private Partnership in institutes like IITs and IIMs to boost their financial resources. The PPP model has also been proposed for other universities.

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DISMAL FIGURES

Female teachers per
100 male teachers

Goa	454
Pondicherry	279
Kerala	273
Tamil Nadu	221
Delhi	221
Uttar Pradesh	40
Rajasthan	38
Madhya Pradesh	36
Jharkhand	26
Bihar	24

HINDUSTAN TIMES
2 NOV. 2007