NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS
5th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhl-110001

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

F.No. 30-01/2026NCPCR(Res)

November 9, 2026

Request for Expression of Interest for design and execution of Research Study on Implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 in 5 selected district.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was established as a statutory body under Section 3 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, to protect, promote and defend child rights in the country. NCPCR is mandated for monitoring of implementation of laws relating to children such as Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012; and Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

NCPCR has been entrusted with monitoring the implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, under Section 31 of the Act. In this role, NCPCR conducts awareness and sensitization programme for the effective implementation. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its judgment dated 27.10.2026 in Dinesh Biwaji Ashtikar v. State of Maharashtra & Others (2026 INSC 56), directed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to conduct an audit of the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, in five talukas, one in five corners of the country.

The Commission hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the reputed government funded organisation devoted to the cause of child education, for undertaking above mentioned Research Study in five districts, one in each of five regions as it would amount to better and inclusive research study.

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Eligibility criteria and information/document required to be submitted in the EOI are attached herewith. Eligible organizations may submit their EOI along with technical and financial proposal to Director, NCPCR, 5th Floor, Chanderlok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi-110001 within 10 days of the date publication of this advertisement.

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(Dipita Bhattacharya)

Sr. Consultant, Education, NCPCR

Expression of Interest Document

A. Terms of Reference

Topic: Audit of Implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009

Background

Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 requires private unaided schools and specified-category schools to admit children from economically weaker sections (EWS) and disadvantaged groups to at least 25% of the seats in the entry-level class. These children receive free education up to Class 8, and the State reimburses the schools under Section 12(2) of the Act. To support implementation of this provision, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The NCPCR will now undertake an audit/study of how Section 12(1)(c) is being implemented, covering five geographical regions of the country. The study will examine the admission of children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in private unaided schools and specified-category schools, as defined under Section 2(n)(iii) and (iv) of the Act. Its central aim is to assess whether these schools have filled the 25% of seats reserved for such children.

2. **Objectives**

i. To assess the number of seats reserved, applications received, children allotted seats and children enrolled, and to assess seat utilization, the number of unfilled seats and the reasons for vacant seats.

ii. To assess whether schools and educational authority have provided wider publicity in providing clear and timely information regarding the number of reserved seats, admission schedule, eligibility criteria, application process, lottery results and waitlists for admission under Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 as per the provisions I (1) and II (3 and 4) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

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iii. To assess effective operationalization of centralized online portal as per provision of I (3) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

iv. To assess whether local bodies are conducting GIS mapping of schools and annual identification of eligible children in accordance with as per RTE Rule 9 (2) and provision of I (3) (d) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

v. To assess whether helpdesks are set-up by local authority, schools, and Non-government organizations to facilitate the parents/guardian and taking them through the entire admission process as per the provision of II(1) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

vi. To assess whether the admission process under Section 12(1)(c), including application, document verification, lottery and seat allotment, follows the prescribed timelines and is completed before general category admissions begin as per the provision I (2) and II (2) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

vii. To assess whether schools admit all children who are allotted seats and give them free education, as required by the RTE Act, and to identify and quantify instances of non-compliance relating to:

(a) Collection of capitation fees or other unauthorized fees and charges from parents, in violation of Section 13 of RTE Act.

(b) Discrimination against children in classrooms, school activities or access to school facilities, in violation of Sections 8(c) and 9(c) of RTE Act, RTE Rules 11(1) and provision III (2) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

(c) Non-provision of applicable entitlements, such as free textbooks, uniforms and writing materials, as prescribed RTE Rule 11(2) and provision III (2) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

(d) Denial of admission due to the absence of age proof, in violation of Section 14 of the RTE Act, RTE Rule 13 and provision I(6)(e) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

(e) Denial of admission to children seeking admission during the extended admission period or thereafter, in violation of Section 15 of the RTE Act.

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vi. To assess whether schools comply with Section 16 of the RTE Act by examining the number of children held back or expelled before completing Class 8 during the last three academic years and the reasons recorded for each case.

vii. To assess whether schools receive reimbursement of the prescribed per-child expenditure and examine the time taken to release payments after submission of reimbursement claims as mentioned in Section 12(2) of RTE Act, RTE Rule 12 and provision III(3) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

viii. To assess whether SMCs/PTA have been constituted in accordance with Section 21 of the RTE Act the number of meetings held during the last year and display of minutes of meeting in public domain (RTE Rules 3 (5))

ix. To assess whether the SMCs have prepared a School Development Plan as mentioned in Section 22 of the RTE Act.

x. To assess whether school inspections, School Management Committees (SMCs), Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), and complaint-redressal mechanisms function as prescribed in RTE Rule 3(6)(f), and to identify the violations reported and the corrective or enforcement action taken.

xi. To assess the effectiveness of the grievance redressal mechanism under Section 32 of the RTE Act and provisions I (9) and II(6) of SOP issued by NCPCR by examining the number of complaints received and resolved during the last three years, the average time taken to resolve complaints and parents' awareness of the complaint process.

xii. To assess whether schools comply with RTE norms relating to pupil-teacher ratio (Section 25 of the RTE Act, Rule 22 of RTE), teacher qualifications (RTE Rule 17, 18 and 19)), teacher vacancies (Section 26 of the RTE Act) and teacher training (RTE Rule 21 (2).

xiii. To assess the retention and completion of elementary education of children admitted under Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act with those of other children in the same classes, including their dropout and transfer patterns.

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xiv. To assess whether the RTE Act is implemented in letter and spirit by interviewing students, parents and teachers.

xv. To examine whether school officials and staff have received orientation and training on the Section 12(1)(c) admission process, including required documents, the lottery system and information to be shared with parents, and whether they understand the relevant legal provisions as per the provision of I(7) of SOP issued by NCPCR.

xv. To assess effective implementation of Section 17 of the RTE Act regarding corporal punishment.

xvi. To document the findings with supporting evidence and recommend appropriate corrective measures, specifying the responsible authority, priority level and timeline for implementation.

Note: The objectives listed are suggestive and indicative only. The study is not limited to these objectives. Applicant institutions are encouraged to propose additional or refined objectives, research questions, and methodology, along with their rationale, in the technical proposal. The Commission may, at its discretion, finalise the scope of the study in consultation with the selected institution.

3. Scope of the study

The study will cover five districts, one in each of five regions:

S. No.	State/UT	District/City Proposed Study Area
1	Delhi	New Delhi, South Delhi, North Delhi, West B and West A
2	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
3	Rajasthan	Udaipur
4	Jharkhand	Ranchi
6	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills

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In each district, all private unaided schools and all specified-category schools will be included through full enumeration rather than sampling. The audit will examine the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of RTE Act, 2009 during the academic years 2024-25 to 2026-27.

B. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are academic/research institutions that are

(a) established by an Act of the State Legislature or Parliament, or

(b) fully funded by the State or Central Government.

C. Submission of the research study report

a. Upon completion of the research study, the Principal Investigator would prepare and submit a draft report to the Commission.

b. The cover page of the research project should display the logo of NCPCR.

c. Principal Investigator may be asked by the Commission to make a power point presentation on the report before the Commission. The observations/ suggestions given during the course of presentation and subsequent discussion may be taken into account in finalizing the report.

d. The final report of the project will be submitted by the Principal Investigator after incorporating the comments/ suggestions made by the Commission on the draft report.

The reasons for non-acceptance of the comments/ suggestions, if any, should be properly explained to the Commission. Receipt of five hard bound copies of the project report along with a soft copy in 'Word' and 'Readable PDF' format. Utilization Certificate and head-wise statement of expenditure of the total amount spent together with bills/ receipts/ vouchers in original. Statement of the bank account/ ledger account from beginning to end and refund of the amount credited towards interest.

e. The Principal Investigator/ Institution may be required to send the primary data collected along with the particulars of respondents, if asked by the Commission.

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f. The financial support provided by the Commission shall be duly acknowledged on all documents produced and prominently displayed with a disclaimer as given below:

i. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: 'This study was carried out with the financial support of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, India, and conducted by_____ (name with address), with_____, as the Principal Investigator.'

ii. DISCLAIMER: 'This research study was sponsored under the Research Scheme of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, India. While due care has been exercised to prepare the report using the data from various sources, NCPCR does not confirm the authenticity of data and accuracy of the methodology to prepare the report. NCPCR shall not be held responsible for findings or opinions expressed in the document; this responsibility completely rests with the researcher(s).'

D. Intellectual Property, Data Ownership and Confidentiality

- Unless otherwise agreed in writing, all intellectual property in the research report, tools and datasets generated under a commissioned study shall vest in the Commission.
- The research institution shall not publish, present or share findings externally prior to formal clearance by the Commission.
- Raw data containing personally identifiable information of children shall not be shared with any third party and shall be handled strictly in accordance with the data-protection and confidentiality clauses of the contract.
- The Commission may, at its discretion, permit academic publication of anonymised findings with due acknowledgement, subject to prior written approval.

E. Right to Accept or Reject

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Expressions of Interest / proposals submitted, in whole or in part, at any stage of the process, without assigning any reason and

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without incurring any liability to the applicants. Submission of an EoI does not confer any right on the applicant to be selected or awarded the study.

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ANNEXURE-I

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

I. Format for the Technical Proposal

1. **Information about the organization/institution:** 1 -5 pages including name, address, contact information, category of institution, etc.

   i. Organizational structure (research facilities, personnel, infrastructure and software)

   ii. Name of at least 20 studies/research of similar nature conducted by your organization, for whom, in which year. Submit a synopsis of the 20 studies.

2. **Description of proposed approach/methodology for the study:** This is the main component of the technical part of the research proposal. Please describe in the following sections:

   i. **Introduction/background:** title of the project, genesis of the problem, literature review describing current situation, challenges, gaps and good practices, if any in relation to the scope of the study.

   ii. **Technical approach and methodology**:

   a. Explain your understanding of the objectives of the study;

   b. Describe the proposed design/methodology for different aspects of the scope of work; give reason/s for proposing a particular methodology.

   iii. **Risk assessment and mitigation measures**: Identify the potential risks, difficulties in carrying out the research and the measures to be adopted to manage the potential risks; also identify potential limitations.

   iv. **Proposed organization and staffing for the research**: Indicate the lead person responsible for the research, the different disciplines of the researchers, roles, along with CVs and years of experience in similar research; is proposed staff employee of agency or temporary staff, give details in a table.

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v. **Deliverables and proposed timeline**: Define the end products and give a timeline for the entire scope of work, including review and reporting.

vi. Any other information in support of the proposal which may be helpful in evaluation:

II. **Format for Financial Proposal** (to be submitted in separate closed envelope)

1. Financial Assistance required:

Items/Heads	Estimated Expenditure

Date and Place:

Name and Signature of the PI

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