

**A Report on  
Status of Government and Aided Ashram Schools in  
Maharashtra**



**Sponsored by  
Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra**

**Report prepared by**



**Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai  
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## **Acknowledgement**

I would like to acknowledge the Tribal Development Department for giving us this opportunity to be part of this significant study on “**Status of Government and Aided Ashram Schools in Maharashtra**” which has a large implication in ensuring quality of life in accessing education by the tribal students.

This is our sincere acknowledgment for the contribution of Women and Child Department for coordinating the survey with Deputy CEO, Women and Child welfare, acting as the nodal officer in each district of Maharashtra.

It was a mammoth task to carry out the survey of the Ashram schools all over Maharashtra. The teams were formed as per the directive of Bombay High Court headed by the CDPO in each Taluka. TISS could nominate its representative in some of the teams as per the availability. TISS would like to thank all the colleagues from organisations/ colleges from different parts of Maharashtra representing TISS in the survey.

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**Prof. Bipin Jojo**

## List of the Tables

Table No.	Tables	Page
1	Distribution of type of Ashram School in ATCs	4
2	Year of the establishment of Schools by management	5
3	Type of Ashram School in different levels of education	5
4	Comparative enrollment of STs at different levels of education in Maharashtra	6
5	School wise results of students by type of Ashram School	9
6	Land of Ashram Schools	10
7	Infrastructure in the Schools	10
8	Students attendance by type of Ashram Schools	11
9	Class room area by type of Ashram School	12
10	Class room with black board	12
11	Class room with maps & charts	13
12	Tubes/bulbs & fan in the class room	13
13	Space in hostels as per student	14
14	Provision for the separate bed/bedding for students	15
15	Provision of fans and light	16
16	Provision of cupboard	17
17	Teachers/ staff staying in the campus	18
18	Provision of bathroom for students in the hostel	19
19	Toilets for the students in the hostel	20
20	Provision of drinking water	21
21	Safety wall/compound around the Ashram School by type of Ashram School	23
22	Security guard in the hostel by type of School	24
23	Provision of storage, kitchen, dining hall and sick room	25
24	Gas facility for cooking & vessels in good condition by Type of Ashram School	27
25	Provision of food according to menu by type of Ashram School	27
26	First-aid box available in the Ashram Schools	28
27	Medical check-up for the students by Type of Ashram School	29
28	Total number of deaths in last 5 years by type of School	30
29	Ranking of Schools	31
A1	Number of registered students & present students at the time of visit	40
A2	Staff details by type of Ashram School	41
A3	Drinking water provision by Type of Ashram School	42
A4	Water storage facility by Type of Ashram School	42
A5	Drainage facility by Type of Ashram School	42
A6	Surrounding Cleanliness of School building by Type of Ashram School	42
A6.1	Surrounding Cleanliness of Boys hostel	43
A6.2	Surrounding Cleanliness of Girls hostel by Type of Ashram School	43
A7	Lady hostel warden in girls hostel by Type of Ashram School	43
A8	Whether hostel warden sleeps in girls hostel by Type of Ashram School	43
A9	Kitchen cleanliness by type of ashram School	44
A10	Dining hall cleanliness by type of ashram School	44
A11	Store room cleanliness by type of Ashram School	44
A12	Vegetable supply by type of Ashram School	44
A13	Whether maintain daily register of hostel by type of Ashram School	44
A13.1	Whether MC register of girls is maintained by type of Ashram School	44
A14	Whether sanitary napkins provided for girls by type of Ashram School	45
A15	Availability of play ground by type of Ashram School	45
A16	Any incidence of sexual abuse in Ashram School in last 5 years	46
A17	Top Five & Lowest Five Ashram Schools	46
A18	Ranking of Schools	47-70

## Summary and Recommendations

The provision of *Ashram School* started in 1972 as part of the National Scheme but this scheme has been in operation in Maharashtra since the year 1952. It was initially implemented through voluntary organizations and was later taken over by the state government in the year 1972-73 where the students get boarding and lodging facilities to promote education among the scheduled tribes. The local children attend the school as day scholars. As per the Government of Maharashtra GR of 14<sup>th</sup> August 1972, the aim of the *Ashram School* was envisaged as direct intervention to tackle the socio-economic and geographical inequalities of tribal population by providing educational opportunity to them. Later the Ashram Schools aimed to reduce the absenteeism, wastage and stagnation of education at primary level.

The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the Honourable Bombay High Court by the petitioners Mr. Ravindra Umakant Talpe and others allege that proper arrangements have not been made in respect of basic public utilities which are provided in the Ashram Schools all over Maharashtra. The Honourable Bombay High Court directed the state government to make an assessment of the facilities available in the Ashram Schools for the students by taking assistance of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and other similar organisations. The state of Maharashtra was directed to make teams either from Social Justice Department or Child Welfare Department along with members of the NGOs which are doing work in these areas (refer CRPIL 69 of 2013 heard on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014). As a result GR was issued by the Government of Maharashtra on July 2014 to carry out a survey with the technical assistance of Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The survey tool was designed by the Tribal Development Department with Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The state government assigned Deputy CEO, Women and Child Welfare Department as the Nodal officer in each district and team of officials headed by the CDPO of ICDS in each taluka were formed to carry out the assessment and fill the survey form. The team consisted of the following members:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Child Development Project Officer, ICDS                                | Samiti Head |
| 2. Extension Officer (Education), Panchayat Samiti                        | Member      |
| 3. Head Sevika, Child Development Project                                 | Member      |
| 4. Social Welfare Supervisor, Social Welfare Office (As per availability) | Member      |
| 5. Local NGO Representative/ Govt. Nominated NGO Representatives          |             |
| 6. Tata Institute of Social Sciences Representatives                      | Member      |
| as additional member as per the availability.                             |             |