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### DFID Lauds PMS Plan

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The Department for International Development (DFID), U.K. Team has been happy with the implementation of Pre-Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme in Odisha. DFID is providing technical and financial assistance to Government of Odisha for implementing centrally sponsored PMS Scheme. It is providing financial support by giving a top up amount to the SC and ST girls of IXth and Xth class.



Country Head of DFID India, Sam Sharpe along with the other members including Nick Ford, Head of Procurement and Commercial Department, Les Campbell, Director, Value for Money, Roli Asthana, Deputy Head, DFID, Archana Shukla, Head of Procurement and Commercial Department, DFID, Supriya Pattnaik, State Head DFID visited the state.

And the DFID Team congratulated the Technical Team on their efforts and said that they were hopeful that this tempo of implementation of the scheme at the ground level would help in fulfilling the overall objectives of the programme

A Consortium led by IPE Global is supporting DFID and the State Government in the implementation of the PMS Scheme across 30 districts of the state.

The Technical Team is supporting the State Government to set up systems and processes and set accountabilities for direct cash transfer of the scholarship amount in the bank accounts of IXth and Xth class students.

The mammoth task requires constant follow ups at the school level for application forms, at banks for opening of bank accounts of students and at Tehsil offices for issuance of caste certificates. The efforts resulted in the registration of 4.07 lakh students across Odisha in the first year of implementation itself (2013-2014).

This is the second year and already the process of registering the new admissions under the scheme is almost complete and the preparations are going on for the disbursement of first leg of scholarship.



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Logo: IPE GLOBAL, OCIP, Government of Odisha, UNICEF





The DFID Team during their visit interacted with the students, teachers, Head Masters of a girls' high school in Khurda district to get an understanding of their perspective with regard to the scholarship scheme, how it has affected the life of students and is it proving beneficial to them. The other purpose of the visits was to get first hand information on the implementation of the scheme in the field.

The students and school functionaries were received warmly and the members interacted with the beneficiaries and were very impressed with the status of registration of students, scholarship disbursement in the previous year and awareness amongst the students with regard to the scheme.

Sam Sharpe along with the other members of the Team appreciated the work of Technical Team for the implementation of the scheme. The DFID Team also acknowledged the efforts of the field functionaries to create awareness amongst the students about useful expenditure and the usage of scholarship money.

The Team after their visit said that they were confident that the scheme would definitely have an impact on the transition rate of Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) students from grade eight to grade nine and grade nine to ten, attendance rates of SC and ST students in grade IX and X, graduation rates of SC and ST students to higher secondary education (i.e. from grade X to XI).

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