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स्कूल शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग  
शास्त्री भवन

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY  
Dated: 10 January, 2011  
SHASTRI BHAVAN

NEW DELHI-110 115

**D.O. No. 9-21/2010-EE.XI**

Dear Shri Donnelly,

This has reference to your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 addressed to Mr. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development regarding home-schooling as an educational option in India.

2. In India, some parents do opt for home-schooling for their children. Parents who are otherwise dissatisfied with the curriculum and syllabus followed in schools, or feel that the school schedule does not leave their children with any time to pursue other interests follow the home-schooling approach. There is no separate syllabus for home-schooling. Most children use the textbooks prescribed for formal schools. On reaching Class 10 a home-schooler can take the board exam privately by registering with the National Institute of Open Schooling or International General Certificate of Secondary Education. This is done at the child's pace and time, unlike several other countries, including Austria, France, Poland and UK, which have regulatory systems in place to monitor the progress of the child.

4. While the idea of home-schooling may be conceptually sound, in India we are currently working towards universalisation of education – ensuring that each child has a school within accessible reach, both at the elementary and the secondary level. At this stage of our educational development it may not be viable for us to formally opt for a home-schooling system. Such parents who voluntarily opt for such systems may of course continue to do so.

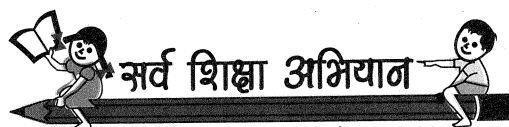
5. However, with a view to understanding more about how home-schoolers learn and cope in life, the National University of Educational Planning and Administration has been requested to undertake a study on the subject, which may guide us in future policy formulation.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

  
(P.K. Tiwari)

Mr. Michael P. Donnelly, Esq.,  
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