

## **The reopening of the Academic Session for Students of Classes PP to III to be delayed by a week – A Feedback Analysis**

### **Background**

Taking into account that the beginning of the academic year is used by schools to prepare plans and programmes for the year; that the first week of the academic year has been dedicated as 'Value Orientation Week' by all the schools which is perceived to be not very relevant and effective for the students of classes PP – III; and that most schools in the north experienced severe cold which lead to significant number of students suffering from Chilblain, His Excellency Hon'ble Sherig Lyonpo instructed the School Planning and Coordination Division to study the feasibility to delay the academic session for the students of classes PP to III by a week.

### **Methodology**

Accordingly an email was sent to all the Chief DEOs and TEOs of 20 Dzongkhags / 4 Thromdeys to inform schools to submit their open feedback on the subject. The feedback that the SPCD collected within a week or so was analyzed. The DEOs and principals were also consulted during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan consultative meeting.

### **Respondents:**

36 schools and one Dzongkhag (Chief DEO) responded / participated to the feedback.

### **Findings**

1. All the respondents are supportive of this move in delaying the academic session for students of classes PP to III by a week.
2. Following are some of the advantages expressed by schools:
  - a. The teachers of PP-III will have enough time to plan.
  - b. Children can avoid harsh climatic condition. Younger children are more prone to chilblain. Schools do not have infrastructure and facilities to keep children warm.
  - c. Schools can settle well and plan properly to welcome young children to school especially class PP children coming to school for the first time.
  - d. VOW is not very effective to young children
  - e. The coverage of syllabus in lower primary is less compared to those of higher classes. A delay by a week is acceptable and will not bring any adverse impact.
  - f. Younger children are more of a disturbance to the seniors during the VOW session.
  - g. Teachers can concentrate more to seniors students for quality VOW programme
3. During the face to face consultation meeting for the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan with the DEOs and Principals, it was found out that some schools were already making similar arrangements.
4. Few schools also have following disadvantages to share although they supported to the idea:
  - a. Children of classes PP to III may miss on VOW knowledge and skills
  - b. Children will miss Gyelsay's birth anniversary celebration

- c. There will be delay in settling the start of academic session as new students need time to acknowledge the system

**Conclusion**

All schools that responded to the feedback are supportive of the move to delay the start of the academic session by a week or more.