No.EDN-HE(10)F(10)01/2024
Directorate of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1
Tel:0177-2656622, E.mail:nsphpsml@gmail.com, Fax:2812882
Dated Shimla-1 the Sept., 2025

To

The Vice Chancellor/ Registrar/ Principal,
Govt. and Pvt. Universities / Colleges / other Educational Institutions, **within and Outside of Himachal Pradesh,**
(Where Bonafide Himachali Students are studying and claiming scholarships under Centrally Sponsored Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students.
All the Deputy Directors of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh

All the Principals Govt. Sr. Sec. Schools in,
Himachal Pradesh

Subject:- Information required for Need Assessment on Mentorship for students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs.)

Madam/Sir,

It is brought to your kind notice that the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, vide their letter No. K-17017/10/2025-SCD-V dated 17th September, 2025 (copy attached) has requested to circulate the assessment questionnaires to the institution and handhold SC students availing benefits under the Post Matric scholarship scheme for SC students to submit their responses through the link given below:-

https://forms.gle/6fvG7TLDZAEJQveP9

All Heads of Higher Education Institutions where Bonafide Himchali students are studying and seeking scholarships under Centrally Sponsored Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students are requested to ensure the participation of students in the **Survey** and submit their responses on or before 30th September 2025 positively.

(Dr. Amarjeet K. Sharma),
Director of Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh

शिक्षा निदेशालय उच्चतर हि0प्र0
20 SEP 2025
शिमला–1

Endst. No. Even Dated Shimla-1 the Sep., 2025
Copy for information and necessary action is forwarded to:-
1. The Technical Officer, IT Cell of Higher Education with the directions to upload the letter on the Departmental website.

Director Higher Education,
Himachal Pradesh

File. No. K-11017/10/2025-SCD-V
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(Department of Social Justice and Empowerment)
(SCD-V)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 17th September 2025

To

Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/Additional Secretary/ Commissioner/Director/In-charges Social Welfare Department/SC/OBC Welfare Department of All States and UTs

Subject: Information required for Need Assessment on Mentorship for students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs.)

The vision of Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) is to build an inclusive society where in members of target groups can lead productive safe and dignified lives with adequate support for their growth and development. The aims is to support and empower its target group through programs of educational, economy and social development, and rehabilitation wherever necessary. The mandate of DoSJE is empowerment of the socially educational and economically marginalized section of society.

2. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) implementing various scholarship schemes for SCs viz Pre & Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, Top Class scholarship , SHREYAS etc. The support of the state/UTs government is critical for successful implementation of the schemes.

3. Currently, NITI Aayog has initiated the development of a Mentorship Framework for students from vulnerable sections across schools, higher, and vocational education, which may be suitably adapted by Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) as per their specific needs. In this context, NITI Aayog is conducting a Need Assessment on Mentorship for students in HEIs. For this purpose, a structured questionnaire has been designed to collect primary data from students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) studying in HEIs.

4. In this regard, the States/UTS are requested to circulate the enclosed need assessment questionnaires (**Annexure-I**) to the Institution and handhold SC students availing benefits under the Post-matric scholarship scheme for SC students to submit

their responses through the provided link: https://forms.gle/6fvG7TLDZAEJQveP9 on c
before **30th September 2025.**

Yours faithfully,

17/09/202

(Amresh Bahadur Pal)
Director

Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. Sh. Mahesh Kumar Meena, Director, SCD-I & III with a request to circulate the need assessment questionnaires to the Institutions covered under the Top class/SHREYAS Schemes.
2. Sh. Rajesh Kumar Makkar, Director, BC Division with a request to circulate the need assessment questionnaires to the Institutions covering beneficiaries pertaining to BC Division.

Copy also to:

1. PPS to Secretary, SJE
2. PPS to Joint Secretary,BC Division, SJE

Annexure –

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NEED ASSESSMENT OF THE STUDENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Consent

NITI Aayog is doing a survey to assess the need for a mentorship framework for students in Higher Education in India. For this purpose, we have randomly selected students from different educational institutions across India, and you are one of these selected candidates.

We would like to ask you some questions about your life in Higher Education. This form will take about 15 minutes. You can choose not to answer a question at any time. The information you share with us will be kept fully confidential. Will you answer our questions?

Respondent Details

- Age
- Gender
- Hometown Location: *Rural/ Urban/ Semi-urban*
- Are you a Person with Disabilities (PwDs)
- Community: *SC/ ST/ OBC/ General*
- Are you a first-generation learner?
- Level of study: *Undergraduate/Postgraduate/ M.Phil/Ph.D/Other*
- Institution Type: *Govt/ private/ aided*
- Institution Category: *Central University/ State University/College/ Deemed University/ Autonomous Institution/ Institute of National Importance*

Personal Experiences

How would you describe the attitude of general category students towards you?

(Note: This question is applicable for students who belong to ST or SC or OBC community only)

Rating Scale (Likert 1-5) 1 – Strongly Disagree/ 2 – Disagree/ 3 – Neutral/ 4 – Agree/ 5 – Strongly Agree

- General category students treat me with respect in academic and social settings?
- I feel included in group activities, discussions, and projects with general category students.
- I feel that general category students value my opinions and contributions equally.

- I feel comfortable expressing my identity (caste/community) around genera category students.
- I have experienced insensitive comments, stereotypes, or bias from general category students.
- General category students show willingness to collaborate and share academic resources with me.
- How would you describe the attitude of faculty members towards you? *Unfavourable/ Less favourable/ Neutral/ Sometimes unfair or biased/ often unfair or discriminatory/ not sure*
- How would you describe the treatment by the selection board of the placement cell towards you?: *Very fair and unbiased/ generally fair, occasional bias/ Neutral/ Sometimes unfair or biased/ often unfair or discriminatory/ not sure*

ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

- Are you aware about the opportunities available after completing higher studies?
- If 'Yes', what is your source for your awareness about the opportunities in studies?: *Family Members/ Friends/ Teacher/Professor/ Social Media/ Other*
- Are you aware about the performance level needed to get admission for higher studies?
- Are you pursuing the course of your choice?
- If 'No', what would help build your capacity to choose the subject/course of your choice?
- Are you aware about the future prospects of the course/degree you are pursuing?
- From where did you come to know about the future prospects of the course/degree you are pursuing?: *Family Members/ Friends/ Teacher/Professor/ Social Media/ Other*
- What is your career Aspiration?: *Doctor/ Engineer/ Lawyer/ Professional Social Worker/ Civil Services/ Govt. Job/ Private Job/ Own Business/ CA/ Researcher/ Consultant/ Professor/ Successful Farmer/ Other*
- Are you aware about the performance level needed to get a job of your choice?
- Did your aspiration and career plan changed during the course of study?
- If 'Changed', what factors influenced the change in your aspiration & career plans?: *Family expectation or pressure/ Advice/guidance from teacher/ Advice from Mentor/ Financial Constraints/ Career Counselling/ Perception of Job market/ Lack of academic guidance/ Influence of friends/ Exposure to new subjects/fields during studies/ Limited job opportunities in original aspiration/ Better career prospects elsewhere/ Experiences of discrimination or exclusion/ Industry exposure/ Low performance/ Other*
- How would you rate your overall performance?: *1 – Excellent/ 2 – Good/ 3 – Average/ 4 – Poor/ 5 - Very Poor*
- How would you rate your performance as compared to General category students?: *1 – Excellent/ 2 – Good/ 3 – Average/ 4 – Poor/ 5 - Very Poor*

NEED FOR MENTORSHIP

- Do you face challenges in adjusting to academic life at your institution?
- If 'Yes' what kind of challenges have you experienced? (Select all that apply) *Academic guidance (subject difficulty, lack of study support)/ Lack of mentorship Financial or resource constraints/ Communication barriers/ Limited exposure to research opportunities/ Limited career counselling and guidance/ Discrimination/social exclusion/ Other*
- What qualities would you prefer in a mentor? (Rank 1, 2 or 3): *Belonging to the same community/ Experienced in academic/research field/ Industry professional with career insights/ Empathetic and approachable personality/ Alumni of the same institution*
- How would you prefer the mentorship programme to be structured?: *One to one mentorship (individual mentor-mentee)/ Group mentorship (one mentor to several students)/ Peer to peer mentorship/ Combination of the above*
- What mode of mentorship would you find most effective?: *In person/ online/ hybrid*
- How frequently would you like mentorship sessions?: *Weekly/ monthly/ as per need*
- What additional support should accompany a mentorship programme?: *Workshops/ Seminars/ Networking with Alumi/ All of the above/ None*
- Would you be willing to participate in such a mentorship programme