

Assessment of Awareness on Female School Teachers Regarding RTE Act.

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Abstract: The right of children to free and compulsory education Act 2009, provides free and compulsory education to every child in the age group of 6 to 14 years as a fundamental right in such a manner as the state may by law determine. The RTE Act 2009 which represents the constitutional legislation envisaged under Article 21A means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards. To make teachers to participate fully, there is need of awareness of the teachers working at Primary levels. The present study is an attempt to find the awareness on Right to Education Act-2009 among the government and non government female schools teachers of Udaipur district, Rajasthan. The information was gathered through a questionnaire constructed for this purpose. The questionnaire consists of 80 questions related to awareness on Right to education act . A survey was conducted among 120 respondents by using the questionnaire. The data collected were analyzed using mean, SD, 't' test. Findings revealed that the government and non government schools teachers of Udaipur district have not significant awareness on Right to education act. The result of the survey showed that the Right to education act awareness must still be more promoted.

Key words: Education, government and non government female schools teachers, Right to Education Act, India.

INTRODUCTION

The importance of education cannot be denied in one's life. It sustains the human values which contribute to the individual and collective well-being. It forms the basis for lifelong learning and inspires confidence to face challenges. It provides the skills to individuals to become more self reliant and aware of right opportunities. It also enhances the ability of individuals to act more responsible and more informed citizens and have a voice in politics and society, which is essential for sustaining democracy. It is essential for eradicating poverty and it allows people to be more productive and playing greater roles in economic life and earning a better living. The education is the key which allows people to move up in the world, seek better jobs, and ultimately succeed in their lives. So education is very important, and none should be deprived of it. A healthy and educated society needs educated people, which ultimately have the potential to form an educated, prosperous and powerful country. In India, it was only in 2002 that education was made a fundamental right in the 86th amendment to the Constitution. On 1st April 2010, our country joined a group of 137 countries in the world, with a historic law making education a fundamental right of every child coming into force.

Making elementary education an entitlement for children in the 6-14 age groups, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 will directly benefit children who do not go to school at present. The very first and the primary challenge to implement any policy or law in our country is awareness. Even after the declaration of education as a fundamental right there are millions of Indian children who are deprived from their right. Right to education awareness means having the awareness about education as a right among the people of India.

According to the 2011 Census, Rajasthan has the 33rd worst literacy rate across India. Across all categories Rajasthan stands below the national averages. Overall the literacy rate for India is 74.04 per cent but for Rajasthan it is 66 per cent. The female literacy rate for Rajasthan is not far behind the national average, which is very good. However, the literacy rate for women in Rajasthan is much lower than the national average of 65.46 per cent at a very low 47.76 per cent. According to the Elementary Education in India State Report Card of 2011-2012, across the state of Rajasthan there are a total of 109,189 schools. Of these 77,833 are government schools and 29,766 are private schools. There are only 1,590 unrecognized schools. Of the government schools, a majority of 72,954 are in rural locations and 19,961 of the private schools are in rural areas as well. Of the five types of schools, primary schools create the largest groups at 49,642. The enrolment and out of school children's status in 2011 in India, Rajasthan and study area Udaipur; 5 percent children in India were out of school, whereas 67% children in the country were in public schools and 26% attending private schools; whereas in Udaipur only 19% children were attending private school and 6% children were not attending school.

This study is very important and significant as this provides an inside into the status of implementation of Right to Education Act. The issues and challenges raised in the study will help all stockholders to become aware of their rights, take an active role in the enforcement of this rights and implement this act more effectively and fruit fully to have a better quality education for the students for whom this Act is meant.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To assess awareness level of Female school teachers with reference to Right to Education related to student
2. To assess awareness level of Female school teachers with reference to Right to Education related to teachers
3. To assess awareness level of Female school teachers with reference to Right to Education related to school

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study, which is designed to investigate, the status of implementation of the Right to Education Act. and its awareness among teachers. The study will be conducted in government and non government schools of Udaipur city, state of Rajasthan. The data will be collected from female school teachers of government and non government schools situated in the municipal limits of Udaipur city. Schools will be selected purposively. Teachers, who are teaching 6-12 years old children will be selected for this study. 120 female teachers will be selected from government and non government schools.

Background information of the respondents

Equal proportion of both the genders was taken into the sample. Out of the total number of respondents 60 teachers (50%) were female and rest 60 teachers (50%) were male. Teachers were asked to indicate their educational qualification and are presented that maximum number of respondents have done post graduation along with B.Ed. (70.42%). In rest of the respondents 10.42% teachers are STC holder while 8.33% respondents have done post graduation. Remaining teachers have done UG with B.Ed. (7.08%), under graduation (2.50%) and PhD (1.25%). It has been observed that majority of teachers (27.92%) have working experience of 11 to 15 years followed by 6 to 10 years (24.58%) and 16 to 20 years (18.75%). Respondents indicated the teaching experience of less than 5 years, and 12.92% teachers have working experience of more than 20 years. Respondents were asked to indicate the subjects which they teach in classes. As per the nature of subjects they were classified in four broad categories as specified in table 4.1.5. It can be seen from the results that 30.83% teachers are teaching general subjects, 19.58% teachers are teaching the subjects related to science stream, 27.08% teachers are teaching commerce subjects and 22.50% teachers are teaching the subjects of arts stream. Further the teachers indicated that in which classes they are teaching and according to results presented a sample maximum number of respondents (Percentage=39.17) are teaching to secondary classes followed by upper primary (Percentage=30) classes. Equal number of respondents (Percentage=15.42) are teaching to primary and senior secondary classes

4.1 Female School Teachers' Awareness for right to Education Act

This section of chapter discusses the awareness of Female school teachers (N=120) with right to education act. The section is divided in following three sub sections.

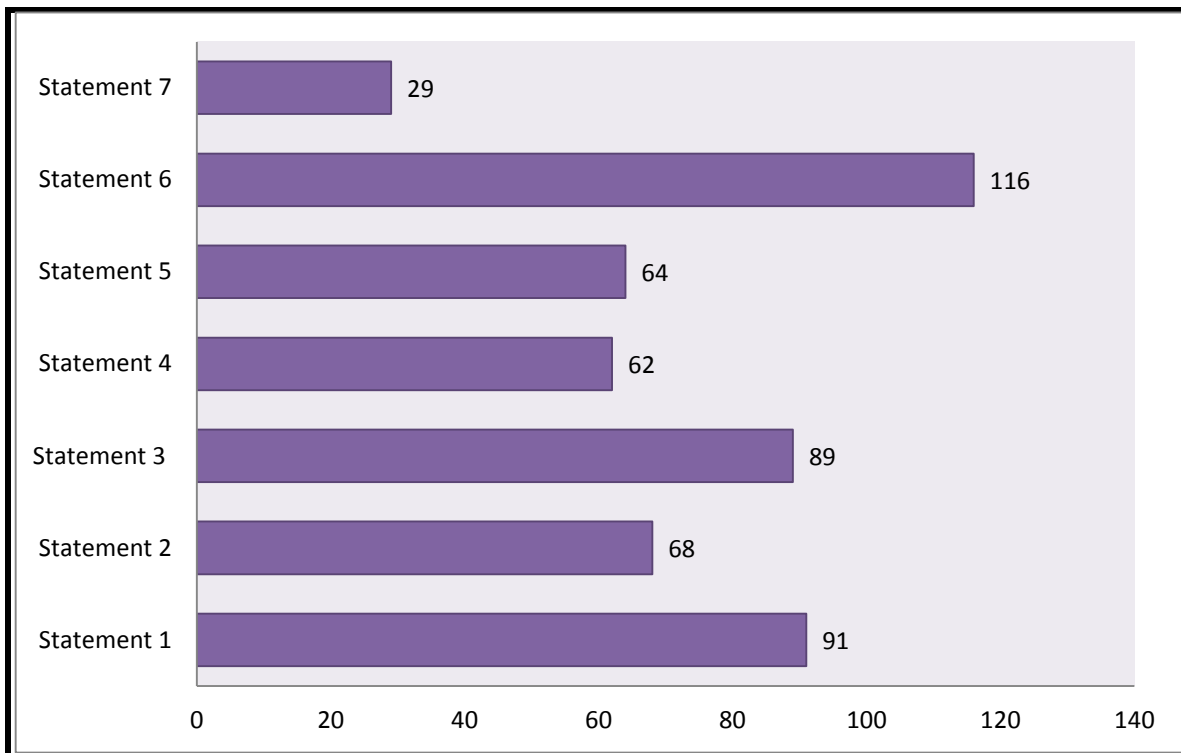
4.6.1 Female Teachers' Awareness about the provisions related to Students

Table 4.6.1 is representing the Female teachers' awareness with the RTE provisions related to students. It can be observed that approximately all the respondents are aware with the provision that Under RTE, children of poor and weaker sections should be given free education (N=116, Percentage=96.7) while majority of respondents indicated correct awareness with the provisions related to distance of primary school from home (N=91, percentage=75.8), and the age group to whom free education is to be given (N=89, percentage=74.2). Approximately 50% of the respondents know that distance of secondary school from home should be within 3 KM (N=68, percentage=56.7), there should be 200 working days for first to fifth class (N=62, Percentage=51.7) and there should be 220 working days for fifth to eight class (N=64, Percentage=53.3). Few female teachers know that Up to 6 months a student is allowed to take admission in academic session after its commencement (N=29, Percentage=24.2).

The overall mean score is 74.14 which project the average awareness of Female teachers with the provisions of RTE act related to students.

Table 4.6.1: Female Teachers' Awareness about the provisions related to Students

S. No.	Statement	Answer	N	Percentage	Score
1	How far should the primary school be located from the residence of a student	1 KM	91	75.8	91
		2 KM	21	17.5	
		5 KM	8	6.7	
2	How far should the secondary school be located from the residence of a student	1 KM	44	36.7	68
		3 KM	68	56.7	
		5 KM	8	6.7	
3	Under RTE, how many years of free education is given to students	1-14 Years	7	5.8	89
		4-16 Years	24	20.0	
		6-14 Years	89	74.2	
4	How many working days are must for first to fifth class	200	62	51.7	62
		220	52	43.3	
		300	6	5.0	
5	How many working days are must for fifth to eight class	220	64	53.3	64
		200	15	12.5	
		240	41	34.2	
6	Under RTE, children of poor and weaker sections should be given free education.	Yes	116	96.7	116
		No	0	0.0	
		No Idea	4	3.3	
7	Up to what date a student is allowed to take admission in academic session after its commencement	6 Months	29	24.2	29
		2 Months	81	67.5	
		4 Months	10	8.3	
Mean Score					74.14
Limits of Mean					74.14 ± 27.64

Chart 4.6.1: Female Teachers' Awareness about the provisions related to Students

4.6.2 Female Teachers' Awareness about the provisions related to Teachers

Table 4.6.2 is summarizing the awareness scores of respondents for teachers' related provisions of RTE act. Results show that maximum number of Female teachers are aware about the provisions that Teachers should not do partiality with students (Score=108), Minimum eligibility is fixed for the teachers teaching in schools (Score=107), there should be one full time principal for 100 students (Score=102) and there should be 4 teachers available to teach 90 to 120 students (Score=96).

More than 50% of teachers indicated their awareness with 43 provisions i.e. on total 30 students there should be one teacher (N=81, Percentage=67.5), on total 60 students there should be two teachers (N=77, Percentage=64.2), teachers should not give private tuitions (N=83, Percentage=69.2) and students should not be used for labor work (N=68, Percentage=56.7).

41.7 percent (N=50) teachers believe that RTE act is helpful in the betterment of society, 40.8% teachers (N=49) are aware that one Social studies teacher should be available to teach per class from sixth to eighth class as well as 34.2% female teachers (N=41) know that In an academic year there should be the minimum 1000 teaching hours for class first to eighth.

It has been observed that awareness level for some of the provisions is very low which includes one Science & maths teachers should be available to teach per class from sixth to eighth class (Score=20), and In a week minimum teaching working hours for a teacher should be 45 (Score=15) and 35:1 should be the teacher student ratio for class sixth to eight (Score=11)

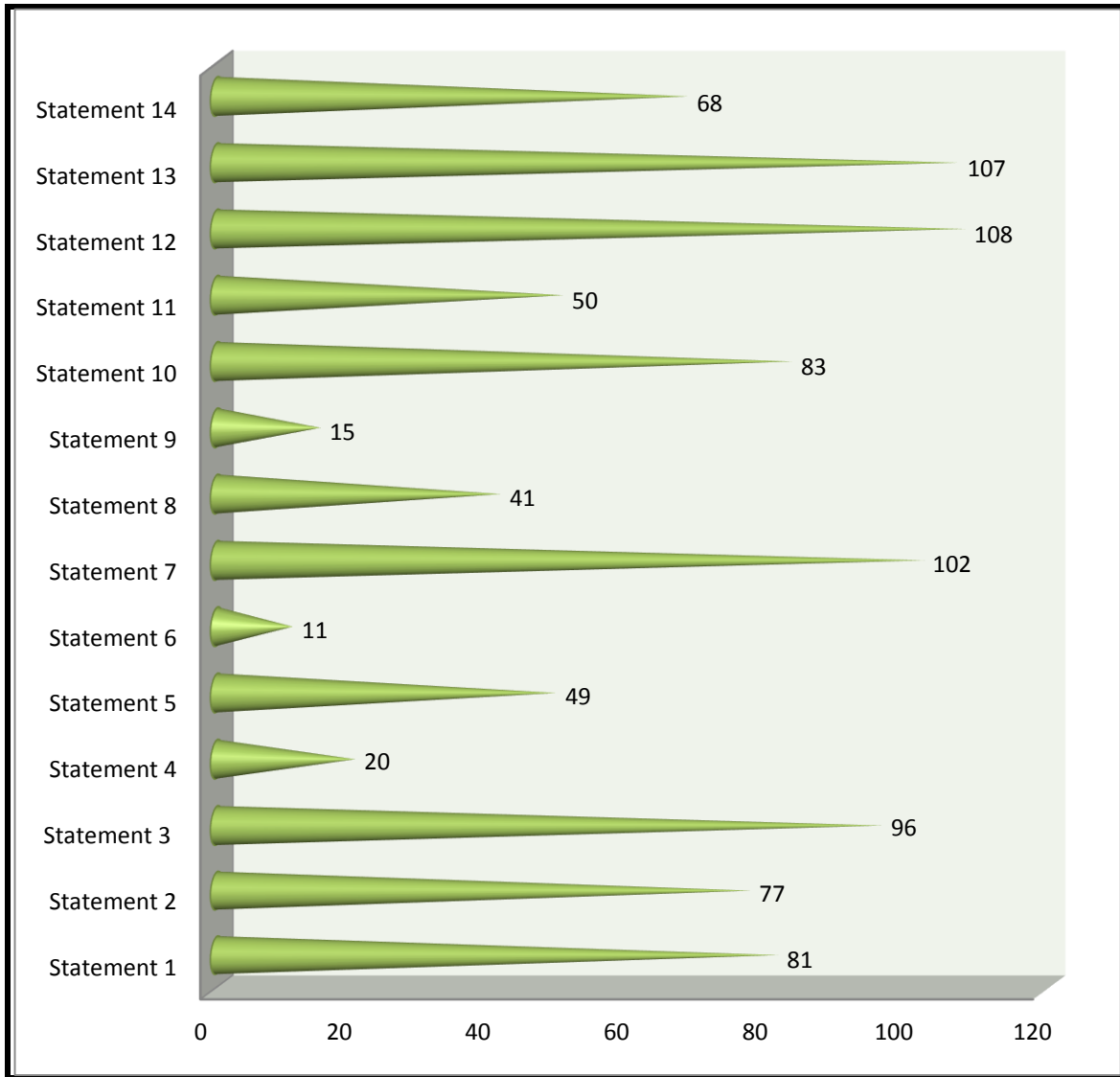
The overall mean score (64.86) indicates the average awareness level of Female respondents with the RTE act provisions related to teachers.

Table 4.6.2: Female Teachers' Awareness about the provisions related to Teachers

S. No.	Statement	Answer	N	Percentage	Score
1	On how many total students there should be one teacher	40	37	30.8	81
		30	81	67.5	
		50	2	1.7	
2	On how many total students there should be two teachers	60	77	64.2	77
		30	4	3.3	
		50	39	32.5	
3	How many teachers should be available to teach 90 to 120 students	Two	5	4.2	96
		Four	96	80.0	
		Six	19	15.8	
4	How many Science & maths teachers should be available to teach per class from sixth to eighth class	One	20	16.7	20
		Two	58	48.3	
		Three	42	35.0	
5	How many Social studies teachers should be available to teach per class from sixth to eighth class	One	49	40.8	49
		Two	46	38.3	
		Three	25	20.8	
6	What should be the teacher student ratio for class sixth to eight	35:1	11	9.2	11
		40:1	35	29.2	
		30:1	74	61.7	
7	There should be one full time principal for 100 students	Yes	102	85.0	102
		No	5	4.2	
		No idea	13	10.8	
8	In an academic year what should be the minimum teaching hours for class first to eighth	1000 Hrs	41	34.2	41
		1200 Hrs	54	45.0	
		1500 Hrs	25	20.8	
9	In a week what should be the minimum teaching working hours for a teacher	45 Hrs	15	12.5	15
		30 Hrs	56	46.7	
		35 Hrs	49	40.8	
10	Do teachers should give private tuitions	Yes	16	13.3	83
		No	83	69.2	
		No idea	21	17.5	
11	RTE act is helpful in the betterment of society	Yes	50	41.7	50
		No	47	39.2	
		No idea	23	19.2	
12	Teachers should do partiality with students	Yes	8	6.7	108
		No	108	90.0	
		No idea	4	3.3	
13	Minimum eligibility is fixed for the teachers teaching in schools	Yes	107	89.2	107
		No	8	6.7	
		No idea	5	4.2	

14	In school students can be used for labor work	Yes	13	10.8	68
		No	68	56.7	
		Little Much	39	32.5	
Mean Score					64.86
Limits of Mean					64.86 ± 34.16

Chart 4.6.2: Female Teachers’ Awareness about the provisions related to Teachers



4.6.3 Female Teachers’ Awareness about the provisions related to School

In a same line Female teachers’ awareness was evaluated for the provisions of RTE act related to school, the results received are presented in table 4.6.3. All the respondents (N=120, Percentage=100) are aware that It is not fine to torture students mentally & physically, library and play ground both should be available in schools, in a school there should be separate kitchen to cook mid day meal and Transfer Certificate should be made available to student to take admission in another school. Approximately all the Female teachers know that Parents teachers meeting should be

organized on regular interval (Score=119), there should be sufficient number of books & magazines in the school library (Score=119), State advisory council should have all the information related to school (Score=118), Birth certificate of student is necessary to take admission in school (Score=118), clean drinking water & electricity should be available in school (Score=116), accreditation certificate required to establish a school (Score=115), and Teaching medium should be in mother tongue (Score=107).

Significant amount of awareness has been observed for the provisions including It is not fine to bound handicapped student to pay fees (N=102, Percentage=85), unrecognized classes cannot be conducted within or outside the school (N=89, Percentage=74.2), for all schools it is mandatory to follow RTE (N=85, Percentage=70.8), Under RTE, 25% seats are reserved for poor students in school (N=81, Percentage=67.5) and In a school there should be store room or head kitchen room along with the office (N=79, Percentage=65.8).

58.3% respondents (N=70) are aware that Separate training should be given to teachers for drop out students, 55% female (N=50) teachers know that State Advisory Committee gives the suggestions & instructions to school related to RTE and 41.7% teachers (N=50) have an idea that 50% females should be there in school management committee. Very few respondents (N=14, Percentage=11.7) indicated there awareness with the provision that only after Completion of Session approval of school can be terminated in case of non compliance of rules by school and 27.5% teachers (N=33) know that for 1-5th classes there is a provision of Mid Day Meal.

In a summary it can be seen that Female teachers carry good awareness with the school related provisions of RTE act, the mean score (93.38) also conclude the same results.

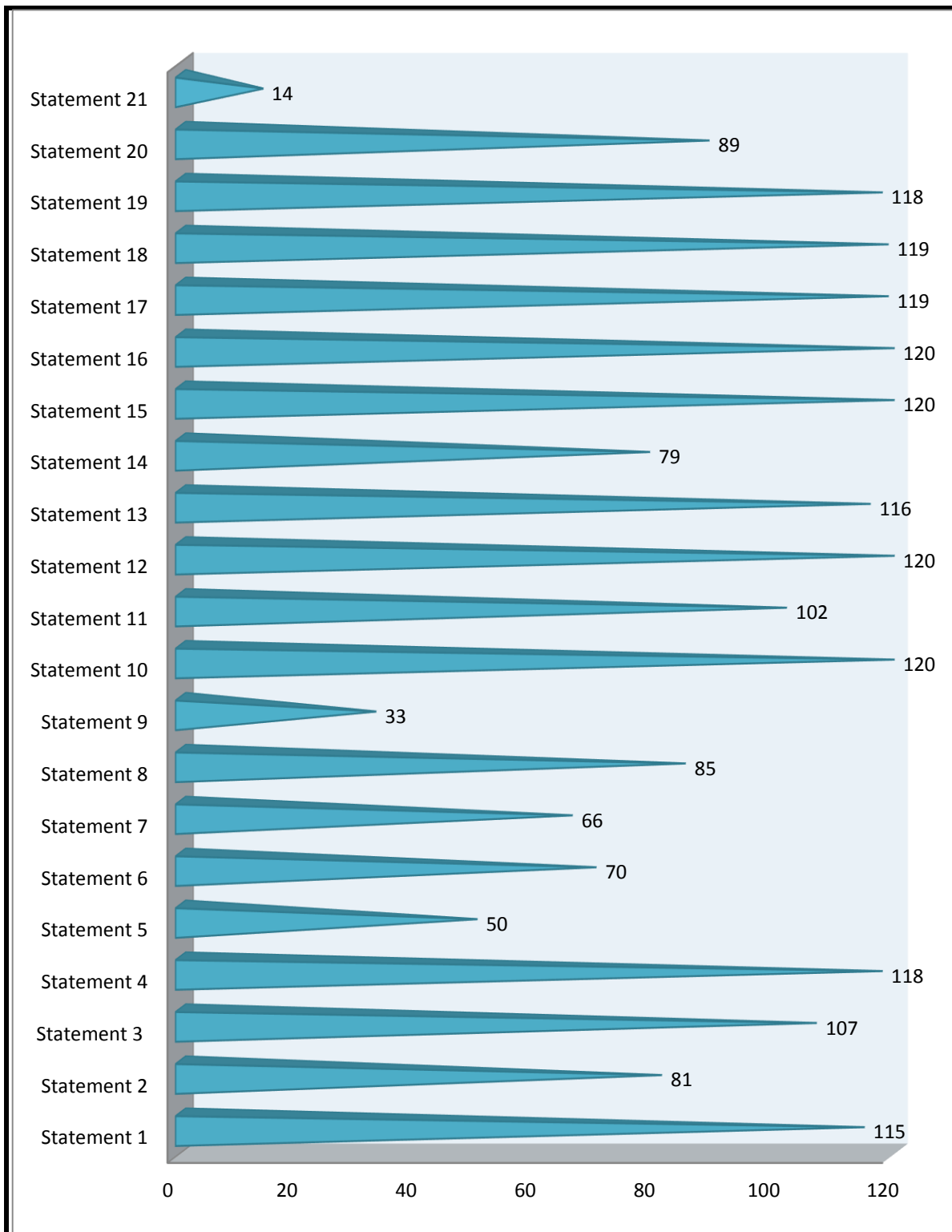
Table 4.6.3: Female Teachers' Awareness about the provisions related to School

S. No.	Statement	Answer	N	Percentage	Score
1	What is required to establish a school	Accreditation Certificate	115	95.8	115
		Appreciation Certificate	5	4.2	
		Nothing	0	0.0	
2	Under RTE, how many seats are reserved for poor students in school	25 Percent	81	67.5	81
		20 Percent	35	29.2	
		35 Percent	4	3.3	
3	Teaching medium should be in mother tongue	Yes	107	89.2	107
		No	9	7.5	
		No Idea	4	3.3	
4	Birth certificate of student is necessary to take admission in school	Yes	118	98.3	118
		No	2	1.7	
		No Idea	0	0.0	

5	How many females should be there in school management committee	60 Percent	25	20.8	50
		50 Percent	50	41.7	
		40 Percent	45	37.5	
6	Separate training should be given to teachers for drop out students	Yes	70	58.3	70
		No	37	30.8	
		No Idea	13	10.8	
7	Who gives the suggestions & instructions to school related to RTE	State Advisory Committee	66	55.0	66
		District Council	46	38.3	
		Court	8	6.7	
8	For what type of schools it is mandatory to follow RTE	Private Schools	22	18.3	85
		Government Schools	13	10.8	
		Both	85	70.8	
9	For which classes there is a provision of Mid Day Meal	1 - 5 Class	33	27.5	33
		1 - 8 Class	84	70.0	
		1 - 10 Class	3	2.5	
10	It is fine to torture students mentally & physically	Yes	0	0.0	120
		No	120	100.0	
		No Idea	0	0.0	
11	It is fine to bound handicapped student to pay fees	Yes	0	0.0	102
		No	102	85.0	
		No Idea	18	15.0	
12	What should be necessarily available in school	Library	0	0.0	120
		Play Ground	0	0.0	
		Both	120	100.0	
13	It should be in school	Clean Drinking Water	4	3.3	116
		Electricity Arrangement	0	0.0	
		Both	116	96.7	
14	In a school there should be store room or head kitchen room along with the office	Yes	79	65.8	79
		No	16	13.3	
		No Idea	25	20.8	
15	In a school there should be separate kitchen to cook mid day meal	Yes	120	100.0	120
		No	0	0.0	
		No Idea	0	0.0	
16	Transfer Certificate should be made available to student to take admission in another school	Yes	120	100.0	120
		No	0	0.0	
		No Idea	0	0.0	
17	Parents teachers meeting should be organized on regular interval	Yes	119	99.2	119
		No	0	0.0	
		No Idea	1	0.8	
18	There should be sufficient number of books & magazines in the school	Yes	119	99.2	119
		No	0	0.0	
		No Idea	1	0.8	

	library				
19	State advisory council should have all the information related to school	Yes	118	98.3	118
		No	0	0.0	
		No Idea	2	1.7	
20	Unrecognized classes can be conducted within or outside the school	Yes	8	6.7	89
		No	89	74.2	
		No Idea	23	19.2	
21	When the approval of school can be terminated in case of non compliance of rules by school	After Completion of Session	74	61.7	14
		Immediately	14	11.7	
		Cannot be done	32	26.7	
Mean Score					93.38
Limits of Mean					93.38 ± 31.76



Chart 4.6.3: Female Teachers' Awareness about the provisions related to School**References cited:**

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