

[AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 (XXIV of 2012) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Right to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2018.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act XXIV of 2012.- In the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 (XXIV of 2012), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, after paragraph (d), the following new paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-

“(dd) “dyslexia” means a disorder manifested by a difficulty in learning to read, write, or spell, despite conventional instruction, adequate intelligence, and socio-cultural opportunity;”

3. Insertion to new section 4A, Act XXIV of 2012.- In the said Act, after section 4, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

“4A. Special Provisions for children having dyslexia.- (1) The appropriate Government shall, in the prescribed manner, make special provisions for free and compulsory education of the children having the disorder of dyslexia.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (1), the appropriate Government shall,-

(a) Prescribe procedure for identifying children having the disorder of dyslexia;

(b) Ensure the dyslexia screening test of all the children at the time of their admission in schools;

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- (c) Provide appropriate instructional services to the children identified having the disorder of dyslexia;
- (d) Make necessary arrangements for the training of teachers to get specialty in teaching to dyslexic children;
- (e) Establish institutions for the therapy of the children having the disorder of dyslexia;
- (f) Create awareness in the people about the disorder of dyslexia;
- (g) Conduct training programs for the therapists of dyslexia; and
- (h) Develop and maintain a handbook for use in the schools for guidance of children, parents and teachers about dyslexia."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Right to free and compulsory education is the fundamental right of every child. The Constitution of Pakistan in Article 25A has made this binding on the State to provide free and compulsory education to all children of age five to sixteen years.

2. Dyslexic children cannot understand through normal way of teaching due to their learning disabilities. They are unable to understand words and spelling. Dyslexia children need special mechanism to understand learning. Identification of children with dyslexia, appropriate instructional service to them, institutions for the therapy of such children and awareness programs for public can help dyslexic children to control their learning disabilities. Through this amendment, special mechanism for education of the dyslexic children will be ensured and such children will be able to get meaningful education.

The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

**SENATOR SAMINA SAEED
MEMBER-IN-CHARGE**