

AS
[TO BE 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, 2022.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 4, Act XXIV of 2012. -In the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 (XXIV of 2012), the existing section 4 shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of section 4, and thereafter, in section 4 amended as aforesaid, the following new sub-sections shall be added, namely:-

"(2) Without prejudice to the rights conferred on disadvantaged children under other provisions of this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appropriate Government shall, either from its own resources or in collaboration with other bodies, arrange venues and other ancillary facilities for free and compulsory education to the disadvantaged children, in non-formal way, in each Union Council of the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) The Appropriate Government shall prescribe the timing of classes and other ancillary matters in such manner that maximum number of the disadvantaged children shall get benefit from it.

(4) No disadvantaged child, who is otherwise entitled under this section, shall be discriminated or deprived from free and compulsory education on any technical ground whatsoever."

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

Right of every child to free and compulsory education is the fundamental right enshrined in Article 25A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The State is under obligation to protect and ensure the right of every child to free and compulsory education.

Unfortunately there are many disadvantaged children in the Islamabad Capital Territory who cannot avail education in the formal way due to their weak socio-economic conditions. These children remain deprived from the constitutionally guaranteed right.

In order to ensure free and compulsory education to the disadvantaged children, it is necessary that special arrangement be made for them to get education. Through this Bill, along with the existing mechanism, an informal way to educate the disadvantaged children is suggested for which the government may collaborate with non-governmental organizations, corporate bodies, international organizations and individuals. The Bill seeks to provide maximum flexibility to the disadvantaged children in getting education, so that their constitutionally guaranteed right is protected and upheld.

The Bill has been designed to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

SENATOR FAWZIA ARSHAD
Member-in-Charge