NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASSOCIATION

(REGD. IN DELHI UNDER SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT 1860 REGISTRATION NO. DISTRICT-SHAHDARA/SOCIETY/1561/2020)

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Area of Operation- All INDIA

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To,
The Hon'ble Commissioner,
Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti,
Headquarters, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Subject: Request for Review of the Existing Agency-Based Maintenance & Repair (M&R) System and Restoration of the Earlier School-Level Arrangement or, Alternatively, Introduction of a Decentralised Hybrid Maintenance Model in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas Across the Country.

Respected Sir,
The Navodaya Vidyalaya Employees Welfare Association (NVEWA) wishes to draw your kind attention to the operational difficulties being experienced by several Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country under the present agency-based system for Maintenance & Repair (M&R) works.
The agency-based arrangement was introduced with the objective of ensuring systematic, efficient and quality maintenance of school infrastructure. However, feedback and representations received from various Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas indicate that the implementation of the present system has not yielded the desired results in several cases. It has been reported that essential maintenance and repair works in many Vidyalayas remain pending for considerable periods, have not commenced despite submission of requirements, or are progressing at a pace slower than required. Delays in attending to even minor maintenance issues are creating avoidable difficulties for school administrations and affecting the upkeep of essential residential facilities.
Considering that approximately one year has elapsed since the implementation of the agency-based arrangement, NVEWA believes that a comprehensive review of its effectiveness and operational outcomes is necessary.

1. MAJOR CONCERNS REGARDING THE EXISTING AGENCY-BASED SYSTEM

a. Delay in Commencement and Completion of Works: Despite timely submission of requirements by schools, several maintenance works remain pending for months. In some cases, proposed works are not initiated even as the financial year approaches its conclusion.

b. Delayed Response and Accountability: Schools face difficulties in obtaining timely responses and necessary action from the concerned agencies. Inadequate coordination, monitoring and clearly defined accountability further affect execution.

c. Dependence on External Agencies for Routine Repairs: Even minor and day-to-day requirements involving plumbing, electrical fittings, fans, doors, windows, toilets, bathrooms, water supply and other essential facilities require intervention through external agencies, resulting in avoidable procedural delays.

d. Impact on Students' Residential Facilities: Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are fully residential institutions requiring uninterrupted water supply, electricity, sanitation, safe accommodation and other essential facilities. Delayed repairs may adversely affect students' health, safety, comfort and overall residential environment.

e. Operational Difficulties for School Administration: The Principal and school administration are best positioned to identify, assess and prioritise the immediate maintenance requirements of their respective institutions. However, the present arrangement often limits their ability to resolve even minor issues promptly.

f. Monitoring and Quality Assurance: An effective mechanism is required to ensure the quality of materials, workmanship, adherence to specifications, completion timelines and actual execution of approved works.

g. Utilisation of Allocated Funds: Delays in execution may affect the timely and optimum utilisation of the budget allocated for M&R activities, despite the availability of identified requirements.

h. Geographical and Logistical Constraints: Several JNVs are situated in remote, hilly, tribal, rocky and geographically difficult locations where the availability of external agencies, skilled manpower and construction materials is limited. Such conditions make an exclusively agency-dependent mechanism particularly challenging.

2. ADVANTAGES OF THE EARLIER SCHOOL-LEVEL ARRANGEMENT

Prior to the introduction of the agency-based system, Principals were empowered to undertake maintenance and repair works at the Vidyalaya level within prescribed financial limits and in accordance with NVS rules and procedures.
Under that arrangement, the Principal, through the School Management Committee and other prescribed mechanisms, could identify priorities and execute essential works according to the actual requirements of the institution.
The earlier arrangement provided several practical advantages:

- Immediate attention to routine and urgent maintenance requirements.
- Greater flexibility in undertaking minor repair works.
- Better utilisation of locally available resources and service providers.
- Direct supervision and monitoring by the Principal and school administration.
- Better coordination between actual requirements and execution of works.
- Reduced procedural delays and improved responsiveness.
- Greater scope for timely maintenance of student residential facilities.

The Principal is directly responsible for the overall administration, infrastructure, safety and welfare of students. Therefore, appropriate financial and administrative powers at the school level are essential for effective discharge of these responsibilities.

3. NEED FOR A FLEXIBLE AND SCHOOL-SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE POLICY

It is important to recognise that all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas do not have identical infrastructure, construction patterns, geographical conditions or maintenance requirements.
Some Vidyalayas are based on CBRI designs, whereas others follow CPWD-based designs. A considerable number of institutions are 20–30 years old or even older and require different levels of maintenance and renovation.
Furthermore:

- Some Vidyalayas face persistent water scarcity and water supply problems.
- Some are located in hilly, rocky, remote and geographically difficult areas.
- Several campuses require land levelling, drainage improvement and other site-specific interventions.
- Availability of technical personnel and external agencies varies considerably across regions.
- The age and condition of buildings and infrastructure differ from one institution to another.

Therefore, a uniform agency-dependent maintenance mechanism may not be equally effective or suitable for every Vidyalaya. A decentralised, flexible and need-based approach is essential to ensure that maintenance requirements are addressed according to actual institutional conditions.

4. ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL: INTRODUCTION OF A HYBRID MAINTENANCE & REPAIR MODEL

Without prejudice to its primary request for restoration of the earlier school-level arrangement, NVEWA also proposes an alternative Hybrid Model if the Samiti considers it appropriate to continue with the agency-based system for major maintenance works.

Under this model, maintenance activities would be divided into three clearly defined categories:

A. DAY-TO-DAY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

(Execution at the Vidyalaya level under the financial and administrative control of the Principal)

Plumbing and Water Supply

- Replacement of taps, valves, float valves, elbows, couplings and other fittings.
- Repair of minor leakage and blockages in pipelines.
- Maintenance of internal water supply systems.
- Cleaning of overhead tanks, sumps and water storage facilities.

Sanitation and Sewerage

- Repair and replacement of toilet seats, urinals, flush systems, washbasins and taps.
- Rectification of bathroom and toilet seepage.
- Removal of blockages in sewer lines and chambers.
- Repair of damaged floor tiles and sanitary fittings.

Civil Maintenance

- Minor plaster repairs and treatment of wall cracks.
- Repair of drains, pathways, ramps and other small civil structures.
- Rectification of limited roof leakage.
- Minor repairs to buildings and campus infrastructure.

Electrical Maintenance

- Replacement of switches, sockets, MCBs, fuses and electrical fittings.
- Replacement of bulbs, LED lights, tube lights and streetlights.
- Minor wiring repairs and routine maintenance of electrical installations through qualified personnel.

Carpentry and Metal Works

- Repair of doors, windows, hinges, handles, latches and fittings.
- Minor furniture repairs.
- Repair of railings, guard bars and other metal fittings.
- Minor welding and fabrication works.

B. EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

(Immediate execution through delegated emergency financial powers of the Principal)

Emergency works directly affecting student safety, health, essential services and the normal functioning of the institution should be undertaken immediately at the Vidyalaya level.

Illustrative cases include:

- Sudden breakdown of generators.
- Failure of water supply motors and submersible pumps.
- Bursting of the main water supply pipeline.
- Damage to underground electrical cables.
- Breakdown of electrical panels and distribution boards.
- Complete disruption of water supply, sanitation or electricity in hostels.
- Damage caused by storms, heavy rainfall and other natural events.
- Urgent repairs required to eliminate hazards affecting students and staff.

In a fully residential institution, it is neither practical nor desirable to wait for external agency approvals, procurement arrangements or the availability of technical personnel before addressing these emergencies.

Therefore, Principals should be empowered to undertake these works immediately within a separately prescribed emergency financial ceiling, subject to proper documentation, technical certification wherever required and post-facto reporting or approval as per NVS norms.

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C. SPECIALISED AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

(Execution through NBCC or other selected competent agencies under prescribed tender procedures)
Major, high-value, structural and technically specialised works should be undertaken through NBCC or other technically competent agencies selected through transparent tendering procedures.
These may include:

- Comprehensive painting and renovation of buildings.
- Major renovation of overhead tanks, sumps and water storage structures.
- Major repairs of boundary walls, gates and structural components.
- Large-scale interlocking, road construction and campus development.
- Renovation and Annual Maintenance Contracts of CCTV systems.
- Major maintenance of RO plants, water coolers and water purification systems.
- Comprehensive renovation of toilets and bathrooms.
- Structural repairs of hostels, academic buildings and staff quarters.
- Major maintenance of kitchen machinery, including chapati-making machines and potato peelers.
- Large-scale furniture replacement.
- Replacement of main water supply pipelines, underground electrical cables and sewer networks.
- Reconstruction of septic tanks, sewer chambers and drainage systems.
- Major land development, water drainage and campus levelling works.

Such works require specialised technical expertise, detailed estimates, quality supervision and professional execution. Hence, agency-based implementation would be appropriate for this category.

5. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF NVEWA

1. Restoration of the Earlier School-Level M&R Arrangement: The earlier system of undertaking routine and minor Maintenance & Repair works at the school level may kindly be restored across all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, with appropriate financial powers to Principals.

2. Alternatively, Introduction of the Hybrid Model: If the Samiti considers continuation of the agency-based system necessary, a decentralised Hybrid Model may be introduced, wherein day-to-day and emergency maintenance works are executed at the Vidyalaya level and major specialised works are assigned to professional agencies.

3. Reinstatement of Financial Powers of Principals: Principals may be provided with adequate financial and administrative powers within clearly defined limits and in accordance with applicable NVS financial rules.

4. Separate Emergency Maintenance Fund: A separate provision for emergency repairs may be made available to every Vidyalaya to ensure immediate resolution of issues relating to water supply, electricity, sanitation, generators and student safety.

5. Adequate and Need-Based Budgetary Allocation: Annual M&R allocations should take into account the age, geographical location, infrastructure condition, student strength and actual maintenance requirements of each Vidyalaya.

6. Review of the Existing Agency-Based System: A comprehensive school-wise assessment may be undertaken to examine agency performance, pending works, delays, quality of execution and utilisation of allocated funds. Accountability should be fixed wherever deficiencies are established.

7. Priority Clearance of Pending Works: A special drive may be initiated to identify and complete all essential pending M&R works across the country within a prescribed timeframe.

8. Empowerment of School-Level Committees: The committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Principal may be given appropriate responsibilities for identification, prioritisation, supervision and quality monitoring of maintenance works.

9. Simplification of Approval Procedures: A transparent and time-bound mechanism should be introduced for approval, procurement and execution of routine maintenance works to prevent prolonged delays.

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10. Periodic Monitoring and Review: A regular review mechanism may be established at the Regional Office and Headquarters levels to assess the effectiveness of the maintenance system and address grievances reported by individual Vidyalayas.

6. CONCLUDING SUBMISSION

The fundamental objective of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti is to provide quality education along with a safe, hygienic and conducive residential environment to talented students, particularly those belonging to rural backgrounds.
Being fully residential institutions, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas require continuous and immediate attention to infrastructure and essential services. Timely maintenance is not merely an administrative requirement but an integral component of student welfare, institutional efficiency and the smooth functioning of the Vidyalaya system.
NVEWA appreciates the Samiti's efforts towards improving infrastructure management and ensuring quality maintenance across its institutions. However, administrative centralisation should not inadvertently create operational difficulties at the school level, particularly in matters requiring immediate attention.

The Association firmly believes that the responsibility of the Principal for the overall functioning of the institution must be accompanied by adequate financial and administrative authority to address its genuine requirements.

Accordingly, NVEWA earnestly requests the competent authority to:

- First and foremost, consider restoring the earlier school-level M&R arrangement with prescribed financial safeguards and accountability; or
- Alternatively, introduce the proposed Hybrid Maintenance Model, retaining agency-based execution only for major and specialised works while empowering Principals to undertake routine and emergency repairs.

Either of these approaches would ensure greater administrative efficiency, timely utilization of funds, transparency, accountability and, above all, better living and learning conditions for the students.
We sincerely hope that this representation will receive favourable consideration and that appropriate directions will be issued in the larger interest of students, employees and the effective functioning of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,





(Yogendra Sharma) (Rahul Singh)

President **General Secretary**

Navodaya Vidyalaya Employees Welfare Association (NVEWA)

Copy To-

1. Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. All Deputy Commissioner , Navodaya Vidyalaya Samitiall Regional office

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