

DOCUMENT

Eligibility Criteria's for Supernumerary Seat

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1. Introduction

India is a diverse pluralistic society comprising of people who are multilingual and multicultural across the varied regions and geographies. People differ from each other on a number of parameters, such as in beliefs, ways of life, understanding of social relationships, languages, physical appearances, skills, competencies and many other aspects. Some differences may arise from disability conditions and also from social and economic disadvantages.

Today, India is one of the youngest countries in the world with more than 62% of the population in the working age group (15-59 years) and more than 54% of the total population below 25 years of age. Currently, we are the world's youngest nation with 1205.6 million youth in the age group of 15-24 years and an average of 29 years. Our country has a huge talent pool but millions remain unidentified and consequently unrecognized. However, there is a need for the identification and nurturance of such talents.

With respect to identification, it is important to determine what is to be identified and for what purpose. In the absence of proper criteria, the valuable potential of student is not recognized and therefore appropriate nurturance of their talents is also not undertaken. Since the NEP 2020 also emphasize on drilling and encouraging creativity at school level. Therefore, the need to develop criteria to identify the creative abilities is therefore very critical to promote each student's innate talents. Those with high abilities can be nurtured and educated to become proficient. The aim of the education of high ability learners should be transforming high abilities into proficiency. In our vision, high ability learners should be identified as early as possible and they should be provided with opportunities.

Many gifted students remain unidentified as high achievers as they are laid back and not counted probably due to the poor score in school but can be potentially high achievers. The purpose of creation of 2 supernumerary seats for empowering of gifted and talented students in AICTE approved institutions is to enhance the innate potentials to the fullest of such students who has scored less or didn't appear for the entrance test. The idea is to provide stimulating learning environment to a high potential learner for overall well-being and optimum development.

Many a times, the raw talent is left untouched or not channelized properly and without proper programs and challenges they become underachievers/delinquents. Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligence and subsequent work clearly highlights that an individual can have varied

level of intelligence in different domains. Gifted personalities from our history also tells us that individuals can be gifted in one or more than one domain.

2. Brief background

The existing National Curriculum Framework (2005) does not allude to nurturance of gifted students or participation of high ability students in gifted programs. However, gifted students are found in all communities regardless of their cultural, socio-economic or ethnic background.

2.1 Difference between Giftedness and Bright student

The understanding and interpretation of what constitutes giftedness and talent varies considerably across cultures. Studies have also differentiated between a Gifted and Bright Child. Not all high achievers are gifted and not all gifted students are high achievers. The below mentioned table can help to highlight the difference between a gifted and bright child:

Bright Child	Gifted Child
Is sincere and hardworking in studies	Is curious in studies
Gives quick answers to the questions	Discusses answers in detail beyond the scope of the question
Well read on syllabus	Read beyond syllabus
Scores high on well-practiced task	Careless mistakes in repetitive task
Among the high rankers	Beyond the class group
Enjoys classmates	Prefers peers
Absorbs information and ideas	Proposes new ideas
Responsive and alert in the class	Is keen observer in new learning activities
Is compliant to classroom norms	Speaks his/her own mind
Draws meaning	Draws inferences
Enjoys well-structured sequence of knowledge	Enjoys non-structured and non-routine problems

3. Understanding legacy issues

We must also acknowledge the prominent and legacy issues in gifted and talented education at the onset of this document. These issues include the challenges of disparities in gifted identification and programming for children from underprivileged backgrounds and those with twice-

exceptionality, lack of culturally-relevant identification instruments and programming, and consequences of overly individualistic, needs-oriented approach to gifted education as seen in the Western countries.

Observations by parents and teachers in natural conditions have been predominant in studying and understanding personality of gifted children as well as the challenges they face on school and society. Due to their advanced cognitive abilities such as memory, information processing, use of higher order thinking skills like convergent and divergent thinking, gifted children are sometimes seen to have less developed social skills which lead to difficulties in relating to, and forming satisfying bonds with other children in their peer group, social isolation from same-aged peers, identification with adult or elder peers and frustration in class. The vulnerability of such children is often overseen by teachers in schools with large classroom sizes, because of a stereotypical belief that gifted and talented students are smarter than others and need less taking care of¹. Thus, an equitable identification and nurturing opportunities for gifted children from all backgrounds is the requirement.

4. Why should giftedness be identified and nurtured?

In a situation where formal identification and recognition of talent and its nurturance is limited to only a small fraction of its population, talents remain untapped due to a classroom environment that does not prioritize the need for enriching and talent facilitating, or providing adequate support to nurture strengths. A general assumption or a myth is that academically talented children will be successful no matter what educational environment they are placed in. The notion that creativity, high ability, and talents are extra endowments for a child and that she/he is already “the lucky one” is prevalent in Indian society which expects such students to excel on their own with minimum additional support. Teachers and parents tend to believe that just because a child is creative or talented, she/he must be capable to continue being the best not just in the talent domain but in all aspects of life. Nevertheless, the indigenous talents in rural areas remain mostly unidentified and on the other hand, students displaying intense curiosity, fertile imagination, and a questioning attitude do not find a creative outlet in a society, where examination scores are still a predominant indicator of ability. Therefore, Gifted children need to be identified and nurtured.

5. Methodology of Identifying Gifted Children at State and National levels

Step 1: Sensitization and nomination of talented students

Sensitization of the teachers, parents, school administrators and community who will play significant role in identifying talent/gifted children is critical as nurturing them under guidance and supervision of experts on regular basis is very important. Such student will be nominated/referred/encouraged to apply for the supernumerary seat in AICTE affiliated colleges.

Step 2: Registration Charges and Application fees

- a) For Institutions: Technical Institutions interested in getting 2 supernumerary seats will need to submit application on the centralized portal developed by AICTE. Non-refundable 'Registration Fees' upto Rs. 25000 per year per stream/branch/specialization will be applicable and institutes need to deposit the fees via e-payment along with their registration form. Upon submission of complete registration along with fees, the applications will be processed by a committee of experts appointed by AICTE and only well performing institutions will be allocated the supernumerary seats.
- b) For Students: The nominated / referred students of science stream after successfully passing 10+2 (12th Std) level exam with minimum 50% marks (as per current education pattern or equivalent stream as per NEP 2020 guidelines) will be eligible to submit their application for consideration under supernumerary quota on the centralized portal developed by AICTE. All the information pertaining to the application needs to be submitted online. Non-refundable application fees upto Rs. 2500 will be charged (by AICTE) for processing the application.

Step 3: Primary screening

All the candidates' application will undergo primary screening to check the correctness of the submitted data. Upon primary scrutiny, the subsequent selection process will include criteria/stages and will focus on determining that the candidate is truly gifted and eligible for admission under supernumerary quota. This will include several parameters (eg: winner of renowned national competitions, scholarships holder, first author on publications or patents, startup founder, App developer with large number of downloads, conceptualized innovative projects, etc.) followed by multiple rounds of interviews and selection processes. Student scoring less marks in state /central level entrance exam or haven't appeared for any entrance exam must fulfill at least one of the above mention parameters (Refer section 6) to become eligible to apply for supernumerary seat.

However, any student clearing state or national level entrance exam will get an extra weightage of upto 40%. Students are also required to submit the 3 letters of recommendations clearly stating the he/she is a gifted child and is eligible for the supernumerary seat in AICTE affiliated colleges. Students are also required to submit the 'Statement of Purpose'. Any student qualifying the initial screening will be further eligible for advance screening.

Step 4: Advance screening

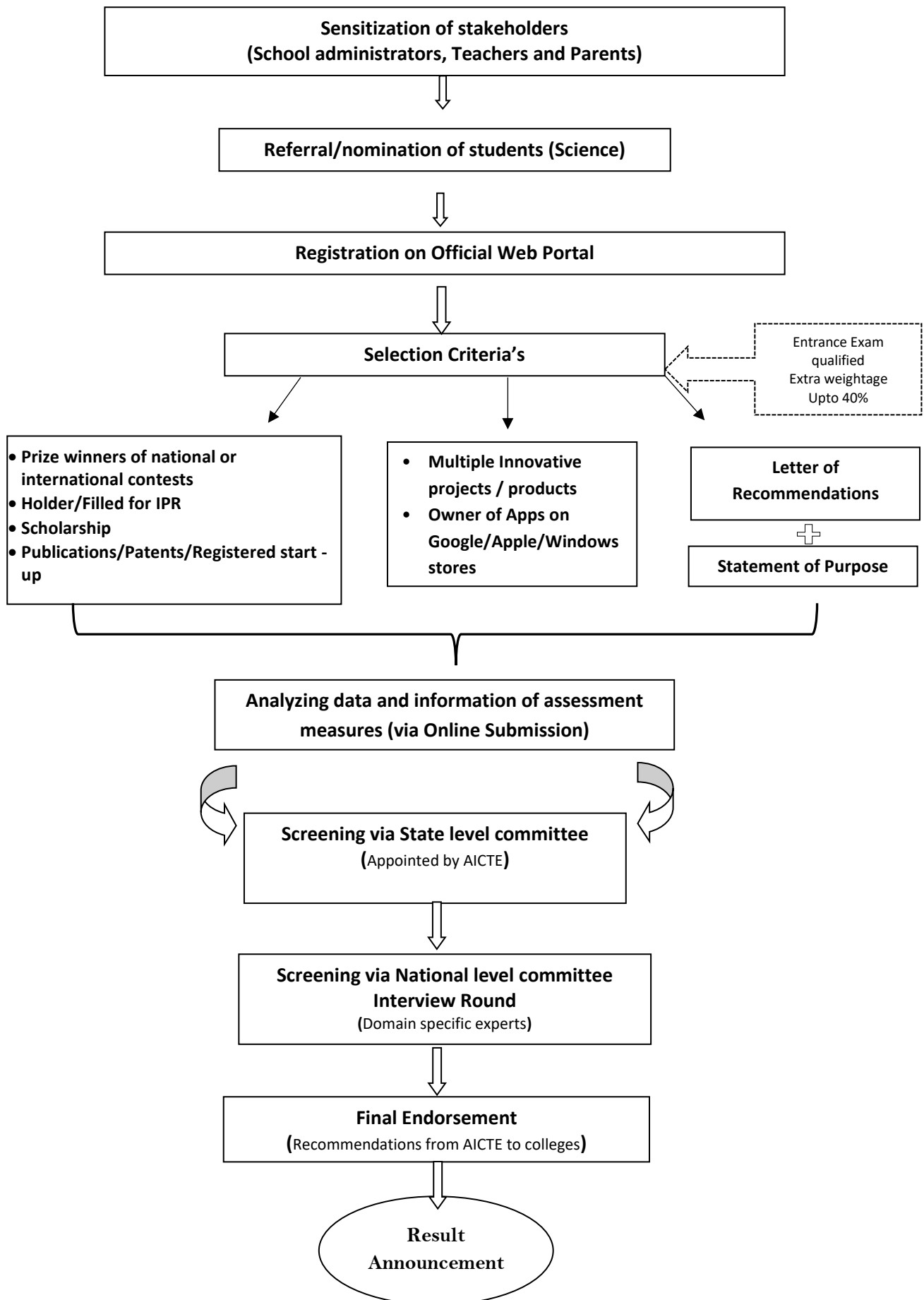
Advance screening will be a 3 stages and candidates passing the primary screening will be only considered for advance screening;

Stage-1: Online State Level Interview: State level expert committee will be appointed by AICTE to further scrutinized the students' application. The committee will interview the candidates online to primarily check the candidates claims and if found suitable will recommend for face-to-face breakfast/lunch/dinner meeting with subject expert nominated by AICTE.

Stage-2: Face-to-Face (online/offline) Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner meeting with subject expert: The candidates selected after Step-1 round will have elaborate 2 hrs meeting over breakfast/lunch/dinner with the Subject-Matter-Expert nominated by AICTE. The subject matter expert is expected to thoroughly analyze the entire academic journey of the candidate along with his/her zeal/passion for the proposed subject to ascertain the giftedness. During this interaction, the subject-matter-expert will majorly focus on the candidate background, approach taken by the student and various innovative projects handled. Later, the subject matter expert is expected to submit a detailed report along with clear recommendations.

Stage-3: Final Selection: The final endorsement will be made by the 'National Level Committee for Selection of Students for Admission under Supernumerary Quota' constituted by AICTE. This national level committee will carefully evaluate the recommendations/comments received from State level committee and the subject matter expert and 'IF REQUIRED' (not in all cases) will again invite candidates for an online interview before making the final recommendations to AICTE. Upon receiving the recommendations form the national level committee, AICTE will announce the list of selected candidates along with the details of assigned institution on its official portal.

Flow Diagram for Identification Process follows



6. Eligibility criterions for the candidate seeking admission for supernumerary seat

1. Candidate must be Indian citizen.
2. Candidates must have successfully passed 10+2 (12th Std) level exam with minimum 50% marks (as per current education pattern or equivalent stream as per NEP 2020 guidelines)
3. An extra edge of upto 40% would be provided in case of students who have qualified the state / central level entrance exam.

6.1 Primary Screening

1. Candidate must be the prize winner of at least one of national/international level competitions organized by government or prestigious non-governmental institutions (Listed in annexure I).

OR

- Student receiving funding from government agencies for pursuing innovative projects (eg: DBT, DST, CSIR, NCERT, Ministry of Education, any Central or State Government agency, DRDO, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search Junior Scholarship, Tribal Mensa Nurturing Programme, DST-INSPIRE, NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Kaveri Gifted Education Center etc. (Notified by AICTE from time to time).

OR

- Student receiving funding from highly reputed global companies/MNCs/NGOs for pursuing innovative projects eg: Google, Lockheed Martin STEM, Bell Labs, Intel, TCS, IBM, Tesla, Microsoft, Infosys, etc. will be considered (Notified by AICTE from time to time).

OR

- Candidate must have High-quality original research article publications in peer reviewed journals (listed under UGC-CARE-II) as the first author.

OR

- Candidate must be the primary holder of a Patent granted by Indian or International patent office

OR

- Candidate must have registered startup as per DPIIT norms and incubated within any recognized Technology Business Incubator.

OR

- Candidate must have conceived and developed Innovative project/ product recognized and reported by prestigious national or vernacular media (Print/TV/Digital).

OR

- Candidate is an owner of Apps on Google/Apple/Windows stores or has launched or in process of launching a technology based innovative product in market (with more than 10,000 downloads).
2. Candidate shall submit minimum three recommendations on a proper letterhead from the appropriate authority clearly stating he/ she is a gifted child and eligible for the supernumerary seat.
 3. The student seeking admission for the supernumerary seat must submit a 'statement of purpose (SOP)'.

6.2 Advance Screening

1. After primary screening, the eligible student will be shortlisted for further advance screening.
2. Initial screening of all the applications will be done at state level committee appointed by AICTE followed by the personal interview via domain specific expert committee.
3. The final endorsement will be made by the national level committee constituted by AICTE after following due process of selection and lastly the selected candidates will be recommended to colleges by AICTE.
4. Result announcement on official web portal.

7. Budgetary Allocations: Rs.30,00,000

Budget Head	Amount (Rs)
Experts honorarium	Rs. 10,00,000
Transportation Head	Rs 5,00,000
Portal development	Rs. 10,00,000
Miscellaneous	Rs. 5,00,000
Total	Rs. 30,00,000

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Annexure I

Sr. No.	Name of the Competition	Organizer
1.	State/National level Hackathons	State or Central Government of India
2.	CSIR Innovation Award for School Children	CSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology
3.	INSPIRE MANAK award	Department of Science and Technology, Government of India
4.	Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards	DST & National Innovation Foundation - India
5.	National Innovation Foundation (NIF)	Department of Science and Technology, Government of India
6.	World Robot Olympiad India	India STEM Foundation
7.	Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY)	Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India
8.	Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme - DHRUV	Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India
9.	Google Science Fair	Google
10.	Atal New India Challenge Atal Innovation	Government of India
11.	Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (IRIS National Science Fair)	Exstemplar Education Linkers Foundation
12.	NASA Rover challenge	NASA
13.	FIRST LEGO League India	India STEM Foundation
14.	Destination Imagination	Destination Imagination
15.	First Tech Challenge	For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)
16.	First Robotics Competition	For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)
18.	Indian Robo Cup Junior	India RoboCup Junior Foundation
19.	National Science Concours	National Science Concours
20.	NSS & NASA Space Settlement Contest	National Space Society

21.	F3.Space Global Web Design Challenge	F3.Space
22.	Imagine Cup	Microsoft
23.	Maker Faire	Make Magazine
24.	International Robotronics Competition (IRC)	IRC League
25.	International level Olympiads	State /Central govt. of India
26.	Any State / Central Government Innovative Start up award	State /Central govt. of India

- AICTE has jurisdiction to further revise the above mentioned list.