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**Pvt schools lay hands on Samachj Kalvi textbooks in advance**

M Ramya, TNN Apr 6, 2011, 12.19am IST

CHENNAI: The government has promised schools in the state that they would get the Samacheer Kalvi textbooks before the start of the new academic year, but private schools have decided not to wait till June. They have found their own means to lay hands on the books.

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Many schools get their teachers to complete Class 10 portions during the summer holidays so students can use the rest of the year to study them and write revision tests. Till last year, the textbooks came from private publishers and schools had no problems getting them in April. This year, schools were worried they wouldn't be able to give their students the advantage of completing the portions in advance. "Thankfully, we have been able to get the soft copy of the Class 10 books from the printers. Matriculation school associations helped us get the books," said the head of a matriculation school in Chennai.

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"Some schools have been able to make photocopies of the Samacheer Kalvi textbooks and classes have started. The books are not available in bookstores, nor has the Tamilnadu Textbook Society started distributing them to schools. They could have been leaked at any time," said Prince Gajendra Babu, general secretary of State Platform for Common School Syllabus, which worked for bringing in Samacheer Kalvi in the state.

Schools have taken printouts of the books and distributed them to their students. Classes have already begun in many schools. Some say books for other classes are just coming in. Last year, Samacheer Kalvi textbooks for Classes 1 and 6 reached schools only by June and in some schools even later.

Private publishers and education service providers too have started developing their own books and teacher training manuals based on the Samacheer Kalvi syllabus put up on the school education department website. Education service provider iDiscoveri's XSeed programme has been revamped to align with the requirements of the common syllabus. "The programme includes detailed curriculum manuals for teachers in each concept, student workbooks, training for teachers on how the concepts ought to be taught, and a Learnometer student assessment programme. The Learnometer helps teachers assess not just the student's knowledge but higher order thinking skills such as application and reasoning, which is a new idea," said iDiscoveri Education partner Anustup Nayak.

While hectic activity is on in private schools, the directorate of teacher education, research and training, responsible for drafting the Samacheer Kalvi syllabus and writing the textbooks, has not been as resourceful in getting copies of the books. An official in the department said, "We wanted to initiate training for government school teachers on the new syllabus. But, the books have still not come back from the publisher and the CDs that have the textbook content cannot be opened without the password."

Government schools have not received copies of the books. The head of one government school said, "A new disparity seems to emerge even from the implementation of Samacheer Kalvi. But there is still time and we are positive about catching up with private schools in the end."

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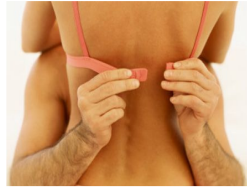
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