

## Gujarat has not opened any model central college

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Gujarat Global News Network, Ahmedabad Despite grant and aid from the centre, Gujarat has not opened any central college in the last four years. Central Colleges are part of central scheme to provide higher education facility in the districts which have poor enrollment in higher education.

Gujarat has 20 districts where enrollment is below the national average of enrolment in higher education. At present the national average of enrolment in higher education is 12.7. In plain words it means that for every 100 students clearing 12th standard examinations, only 12.7 take up higher studies- college education. Manish Doshi Syndicate member of Gujarat University said that one of the major reasons for students not going for higher education is high fee in private colleges. These model colleges would provide cheaper and better education. He said that Parliamentary Committee which met yesterday in Delhi took a serious view of poor response to the project in some states and suggested that the centre increase its share if need to make the project a reality. Under the project the Central Government shall provide assistance to the extent of one third of the capital cost for establishment of each college, limited to Rs.2.67 crore. For Special Category States, the Central share shall be 50% of the capital cost limited to Rs.4 crore for each college. The land shall be provided free of cost by the State Governments. The balance amount of the capital cost, and the recurring cost of running these new colleges shall be met by the concerned State Governments. The Scheme shall be implemented both through the University Grants commission (which can release funds to the concerned affiliating university for establishment of the college as its constituent college) and also alternatively by way of direct release of funds by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the concerned State Government, which may like to set up the college either as an affiliated or a constituent college. Assuming that the average number of students in a college is 500, the total number of students who would be enrolled in the 374 colleges, shall be about 1.87 lakh. This is a new Scheme meant exclusively for students in educationally backward districts, aspiring for higher education. The Scheme shall help in increasing the GER in educationally backward districts. The Scheme will be publicized among the State Governments immediately for inviting proposals from the States. All the identified 374 higher educationally backward districts in the country where the GER is less than the national GER shall be covered. In his Independence Speech on 15th August 2007, Prime Minister had announced, "We will also ensure that adequate numbers of colleges are set up across the country, especially in districts where enrolment levels are low. We will help States set up colleges in 370 such districts". The XI Five Year Plan document as approved by the National Development Council envisages, among other things, that 370 new Degree Colleges will be established in Districts with low Gross Enrolment Ratio. For news in Hindi see our Hindi daily Chaupal Chronicle