Place:Bangalore

Date-17th March 2015

From

Nishath Kirmani Ali

3/A1 Berlie Street Cross,

Shantinagar,

Bangalore 560025

To

The Central Board of Secondary Education.

India.

Sub: **Requisition of Right Exam Accommodations for Students with Autism.**

Students with Autism are educationally Abused & forced to follow the accommodations that were designed for Dyslexic students.

Ref: http://www.ncaindia.org/albert\_einsteins\_quote

Albert Einstein’s quote about Education: “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that its stupid”

Dear Sir / Madam,

I’m …Nishath Kirmani Ali…………….. , parent of child with Autism. Autism is a neurological developmental disorder that mainly affects a child’s speech & social skills. 30-40% of the children with Autism are found to have ABOVE average IQ. Students with Autism are educationally Abused & forced to follow the accommodations that were designed for Dyslexic students, who have reading and writing difficulties. When their needs are totally different, their accommodations should not be matched.

When visually challenged children are eligible for Braille question papers, my child with significant speech delay caused by Autism should please be tested through the following methods:

1. NON-descriptive type of question papers should be used to test the academic skills (such as a combination of MCQ/ match the following / fill up the blanks from given choices / map location, labeling the diagram, and other objective type questions).

2. As about 30% of students with Autism are found to have any form of epilepsy (seizures, which are related to their stress level), to reduce their stress level, the content of Math question paper should be reduced to 70% & the question paper should be more visual. Due to their language delay, lengthy word problems should be broken down to simple sentences.

3. An ADULT prompter, anyone who knows the child (such as a teacher, sub teacher, counselor or special educator) should be present during testing to read the questions, motivate & reinforce the student, instead of a junior scribe student.

4. They should be given an extra hour, little breaks in-between and should be allowed to use calculator.

We, parents of children with Autism from India have been fighting for our children’s right exam accommodations for the past 4 years through various activities in different states of India. A few of our national level representatives have met / contacted different state & central level ministers and their secretaries since 2012, held satyagraha dharnas, and have held media conferences with no success so far. Our representative has still been making daily phone calls to the existing ministry etc, without any positive response yet.

A WRIT Petition was also filed by Amrutha Ramanujam (Autism consultant, Parent Advocate & Vice president of Autism Society of India, Petition # WP 5710 / 2014) in February 2014 at Hyderabad High Court for the very same cause, representing ALL students in India with Autism.

Due to the absence of the above mentioned accommodations, though my child is capable academically, my chid’s education has become a nightmare & each day is a challenge. I can’t imagine what will happen to my child’s future without education. Being sensitive parents, we are unable to see our already differently abled child being abused educationally by the Education boards on a day to day basis, by forcing them to follow the set of accommodations that were designed & set up for students with Dyslexia, whose needs are totally different. (For more details, please refer [www.ncaindia.org](http://www.ncaindia.org)).

Hence I request you to kindly approve of the above listed suitable accommodations at the earliest, provide the justice they all deserve & give a meaning to our children’s future.

If you have any further questions, you may please contact me anytime.

Thanking you!

Yours sincerely,

Signature:

Name- Nishath Kirmani Ali