

The Times of India 29.05.2013

## Number of students goes down in Nashik Municipal Corporation schools

NASHIK: In the past five years, the number of students in the Marathi-medium schools run by the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has declined significantly. Officials say the parents prefer to send their wards to private English medium schools.

At the end of the last academic year, the total student strength of the 129 schools operated by the civic body was 38,505. In 2008, there were 42,754 students in 125 such schools.

NMC education department official, N E Pathan, said, "Many English medium schools have come up in the past few years and parents tend to send their wards to these schools. Thus, the number of students in our schools has gone down."

Armed with a slew of awareness programmes to attract students to the corporation schools, the NMC's education department is expecting an increase in the number of students this year. Such programmes are typically organised before the academic year commences. Attractive posters and banners are in place already.

The NMC is also trying to increase the number of corporation

schools by at least three this year. In 2008-09, there were 125 NMC schools, in September 2011-12 that number stood at 128, while 2012-13 saw a total of 129 schools. If increased, the number will go up to 132.

Pathan confirmed that more NMC schools will be operative this year. "At least three NMC schools should be coming up this academic year. A survey is going on to identify locations with a need for schools."