



GST

Opportunities and Challenges

वस्तु एवं सेवा कर संभावनाएँ एवं चुनौतियाँ



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Implications of GST on Pre to Higher Education

Dr. Veena Thawre Chourase

ABSTRACT

“Education” is not defined in the CGST Act but as per Apex Court decision in “Loka Shikshana Trust v/s CIT”, education is the process of training and developing knowledge, skill, and character of students by normal schooling. Education is one of the major sectors for any economy. In India, Education is provided with both by the public as well as private sector. Educational institution pre up to higher secondary and the most important thing is that educational services and services related to the education are covered under the GST exempt list. The fundamental education or the K-12 education segment will pick up from the GST strategy as it is authoritatively barred from the tax regime in the present situation. It is gradually becoming evident that basic education or the K-12 education sector will gain from the GST policy as it is definitively excluded from the tax category in the current scenario. Secondly, all Governmental activities/services/initiatives for educational purposes will also receive tax relief. This implies: higher education in the private sector will become more expensive competition for admissions in government schools/colleges/institutions will increase there will be a 3 to 5% of tax hike on the cost of services that will eventually affect the users, that is, common people. The benefits of this will hopefully be passed on to the students. However, some of the programmes will attract taxes under GST. However, right now, it is always safe to put a plan in place to meet the short, medium and long-term education expenses. For the long term, it would be a good idea to identify a few career options, improve the quality of education in the country, as well as ensure proximity and, hence, access. Moreover, seamless credit on input tax should be implemented across the supply chain, in order to bring down the total cost of education upon India’s journey into the GST era.