-------------/ISL/NCF/2023 3rd May, 2023

To

**Shri Sanjay Kumar,**

**Secretary,**

**Ministry of Education,**

**Department of School Education & Literacy,**

**124-C, Shastri Bhavan,**

**New Delhi.**

**Email ID:** **secy.sel@nic.in**

**Subject: National Curriculum Framework for school education 2023 includes to Indian Sign Language- regarding**

Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of the ------------------(Your organisation) to express our support for the inclusion of Indian Sign Language (ISL) in the National Curricular Framework (NCF) 2023. As you aware, the National Education Policy 2020 and Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 have recommended the inclusion of ISL in the education system to ensure the inclusion and accessibility of education for the deaf and hard of hearing community.

It has come to our notice that in the NCF 2023 draft, the term Inclusion is mentioned 41 times, Disability is mentioned 22 times, Braille is mentioned 3 times but there is no mention of Indian Sign Language (ISL).

As you might be aware that less than 5 % deaf children have access to quality school education, since most teachers do not know sign language. Owing to this, deaf community has faced severe language and education deprivation in schools, leading to limited higher education and career options. The NAD strongly believes that ISL is not just a language but an integral part of the cultural identity of the deaf community in India. It is the primary mode of communication for more than 6 million deaf people in India and is an essential tool for their social, emotional, and cognitive development. The inclusion of ISL in the NCF 2023 will provide a level playing field for deaf students to access education on equal terms with their hearing peers.

National Education Policy 2020 and Rights for Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, and will ensure the inclusion and accessibility of education for the deaf community. It is a humble request that deaf students are not left behind in any way. **Please find attached recommendation to include to the Indian Sign language in the National Curriculum Frameworks 2023.**

We urge you to consider our recommendations and take immediate action to include ISL in the NCF 2023. We believe that this will be a crucial step towards achieving inclusive and equitable education for all students in India.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you towards a more inclusive education system in India.

Yours Sincerely,

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General Secretary

Copy to Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Director, National Council of Educational Research & Training, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110 016.

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