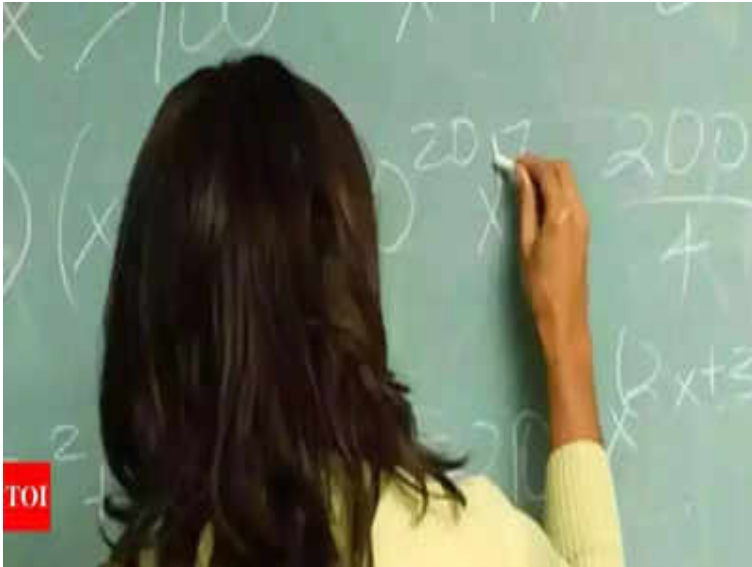


# Teachers cry foul over reservation survey assignment

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PUNE: Government and ZP schoolteachers in Maharashtra are set to begin the Maratha redevelopment survey among villagers in their respective districts from January 23 as per orders from ZP officials. But teachers are agitated over the assignment, and said that going from door-to-door to document records and then teaching in classrooms will hamper their school routine.

Teachers were trained on how to conduct the survey. Every teacher will have to survey at least 100 households from January 23-31. The survey aims to assess social, economic and educational backwardness of the Maratha community.

Dnyaneshwar Mhatre, a teacher, said, "We should not be engaged in such work. The state government should assign the task to its

own departments. We will also be submitting a request letter saying the same to the authorities."

Over 2,000 ZP teachers and 1,500 municipal corporation teachers will be deployed.

Navnath Rajbhor, a teacher from Indapur, said, "We have unit test exams coming up and this survey will be highly time-consuming. Students will suffer if exam preparations are not done in time. We have asked for an exemption."

An estimated 2.5 crore families will be surveyed and renowned institutions like the Gokhale Institute of Politics

and Economics (GIPE) in Pune and the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, will assist.

A senior education officer said, "The tehsildar and officials concerned have to report work done daily during the survey period."

Ajit Ranade, vice-chancellor of GIPE, said that over 1.25 lakh enumerators in total, including teachers, gram sevaks, and anganwadi workers will be engaged in the survey. "Training for enumerators was held last week in 36 districts, 27 municipalities, and seven cantonment areas," he said.