

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON REVIEW COMMITTEE OF
DSEAR'73,
ROOM NO. 10, SCERT, VARUN MARG, DEFENCE COLONY
NEW DELHI-110024

F.No.1/CH/RC/2011/38

Dated: 13.09.11

Minutes

A meeting was held in the chamber of Review Committee at 11.00 a.m. on 13-9-11 which was attended by the following officials:

Review Committee :

- a) Ms. Shailaja Chandra, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson, Review Committee
- b) Ms. Abha Joshi, Member Secretary

Invitees from Principals & Others :

- 1) Dr. G. R. Kanwal, Ex-Principal, ASVJ Sr. Secondary School, New Delhi
- 2) Sh. P. C. Bose, Retd. DDE, Delhi Administration
- 3) Sh. I. C. Ahuja, Retd., Principal, Commercial Sr. Secondary School, New Delhi-02
- 4) Dr. Afshan Yasmin, ADE (Act), Dte. of Education

The Chairperson gave an idea to the invitees about the terms and conditions of the Review Committee. She also explained to them that the committee was expected to dwell on all aspects of the running of private schools- aided and unaided. She asked the officials present to throw light on the issues which were most crucial for aided schools and also to give suggestions to deal with problems faced by aided schools so that their deterioration could be stalled and the standard restored to their earlier primacy.

Dr. Kanwal gave a brief history of the aided schools and their gradual downfall due to change in social aspirations of people, change in the attitude of management which was no longer inspired by philanthropy and the step-motherly treatment of the Department. It was accepted that the aided schools were catering to that segment of society which cannot pay fees levied by unaided schools.

The Chairperson explained to them that the Review Committee was of opinion that aided schools be assisted financially as per the existing provisions but it should be in an upfront manner i.e the schools would have to fill up all details of money received, projects undertaken and amount spent. They shall also have to acquire arm's length certificate from a chartered accountant. It was agreed that the government should pay contingent grant on electricity, water etc on actual expenditure or also allow some resources to be raised to pay for the same as donations had dried up.

Mr. Ahuja stressed that it was very difficult for management to collect 5% amount as its share towards salaries and in fact this contribution is raised by the employees themselves. They also argued that the government abolished all fees and pupil fund in aided schools treating them at par with its own schools but it did not give them any funds to conduct the Annual function, publish a magazine or excursions which are an integral part of education. Government provide funds to its own schools to carry out these very functions. Thus children of aided schools are deprived of these. It was agreed that aided schools should be allowed to levy fees and pupil fund from children. They assured that parents would be willing to pay these charges because this was a pittance as compared to fees paid in unaided schools

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The Chairperson agreed with their proposal and was of opinion that aided schools were providing service to the society and drawing analogy with government hospitals which charge a nominal amount for special service, she felt that aided schools should be allowed to levy fee upto a maximum of Rs.150/pm from children of class IX onwards. The amount collected could be used for meeting 5% share of management. Moreover since the government was not allocating them funds to carry out curricular activities, pupil fund should be revived. The schools should even be allowed to levy admission fee from class IX onwards. However, it shall have to be ensured that all expenditures are placed on web-site for all stake- holders to see and all accounts would need to be audited.

The Chairperson sought their opinion on the action to be taken where enrolment was falling and management was no longer willing to run the school. The unanimous opinion was that a threshold enrolment as per post fixation norms be fixed and management be given three years time to improve it failing which if the land is government allotted, it should be returned to the government. If the land is private then too the management be given three years time to improve failing which its land and assets may be taken over by paying compensation at the rate of depreciation as quoted in balance sheet.

Similar unanimity was in the matter of schools which were in taken over state for more than 5 years that section 20 be amended to take over the land and assets of the school if no genuine proposal comes at the expiry of the term to take back the school.

In the end the Chairperson thanked all of them and meeting came to an end.


(ABHA JOSHI)
MEMBER SECRETARY