GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

Abstract

Chief Secretariat (Education) – Constitution of Committees to establish procedures for monitoring action taken on the complaints of school children - Orders - Issued.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT (EDUCATION)

G.O.Ms. No.76 Puducherry, dt.:08-08-08


ORDER

WHEREAS, Corporal punishment in schools both Government as well as private is deeply ingrained as a tool to discipline children. All forms of Corporal punishment are a fundamental breach of human rights;

AND WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has banned Corporal punishment for children on December 1st, 2000 when it directed the State to ensure that children are not subjected to corporal punishment in schools and they receive education in an environment of freedom and dignity, free from fear;

AND WHEREAS, National Commission For protection of Child Rights, New Delhi has directed the education departments of all States to ensure the following:

(1) All children are to be informed through campaigns and publicity drives that they have a right to speak against corporal punishment and bring it to the notice of the authorities. They must be given confidence to make complaints and not accept punishment as a 'normal' activity of the school.

(2) Every School must have a forum where children can express their views. The school could take help of an NGO for facilitating such an exercise.

(3) A box where children can drop their complaints even if anonymous has to be provided in each school.
(4) A monthly meeting of Parent Teacher Association, Village Education Committee/ School Level Committee has to be conducted to review the complaints and action taken

(5) The Parent Teacher Associations are to be encouraged to act immediately on any complaints made by children without postponement of the issue and wait for a more grave injury to be caused.

(6) The parents and students are to be empowered to speak out against corporal punishment without any fear.

(7) The education department at all levels-block, district and state are to establish procedures for reviewing the responses to the complaints of children and monitoring action taken on the same.

NOW THEREFORE, the Lieutenant Governor, Puducherry is pleased to constitute the committees in the Union Territory of Puducherry, with the following composition and functions, namely

1. School Level Committees

1. Head of Institution - Chairperson
2. President of PTA - Member
3. President of VEC/SLC - Member
4. Senior most Lady Teacher - Member
5. Senior most Male Teacher - Member

The School Level Committee should send the report for every fortnight to the Inspectorate about the complaint received, action taken or NIL report.

2. Inspectorate Level Committees

1. Concerned Inspecting Officer - Chairperson
2. Senior most Head of Institution (Male) - Member
3. Senior most Head of Institution (Female) - Member
4. Two representatives each one from two NGOs - Member

The Inspectorate Level Committee should send the report to the District Level Committee about the reports received from the school level committees and the action taken thereon once in a month.

3. District Level Committees

(a) Puducherry

1. Director of School Education - Chairperson
2. Deputy Director (Ele. Education) - Member
3. State Project Director (SSA) - Member
4. Deputy Director (Admn) - Member
5. One Member nominated by the Chairperson, State Women's Commission - Member
(b) Kanyakumari

1. District Collector - Chairperson
2. The Chief Educational Officer - Member
3. One Member nominated by the Chairperson, State Women's Commission - Member

(c) Madurai

1. Regional Administrator - Chairperson
2. The Chief Educational Officer - Member
3. One representative from NGO - Member

(d) Yercaud

1. Regional Administrator - Chairperson
2. DG PA to DSE - Member
3. One representative from NGO - Member

The District Level Committee will periodically review the action taken by the School/Inspectorate level forums on the complaints received from the children.

The tenure of the Committee shall be for two years from the date of its constitution or till a new committee is notified.

//BY ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR//

(A. BALASUBRAMANIAN)
DEPUTY SECRETARY TO GOVT. (EDUCATION)

To
The Director of Stationery & Printing, Puducherry for publication in the gazette and to send 25 copies of the same to this Secretariat

Copy to:
1. The Chairpersons and members concerned
2. The Secretary to Lieutenant Governor
3. The Private Secretary to Hon’ble Education Minister
4. The Chairperson, National Commission For protection of Child Rights, New Delhi