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KLA/CC/2020/9

08.10.2020

The Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram-1

Sub: Appointment of Professional Librarians in the Higher
Secondary Schools in Kerala - Request reg.

- Ref:
1. GO (P) No. 331/2001/ GEdu dated 09.11.2001
 2. GO (Ms) No. 79/2003/ GEdu dated 28.03.2003
 3. GO (Ms) No. 134/2004/GEdu dated 14.05.2004
 4. Common Judgement dated 05.09.2013 of the Hon'ble High Court in WP (C) No. 29618/2015, 5835/2013, 7385/2013 & 7881/2013
 5. GO (Ms) No. 220/2015/ G Edu dated 17.08.2015
 6. A.C.D. C1/40106/16/ HSE dt. 01.09.2016
 7. Various representations submitted by KLA (No. KLA/LibAppt/HSS/2015 -17)
 8. Representations by Kerala Library Association No. KLA/LibAppt-HSS/2015 - 17/REP 7 dated 9 January 2017 & KLA/CC/2020/4 02.02.2020
 9. Judgement dated 15 January 2020 of the Hon'ble High Court in WA. No. 745 of 2018.

Kerala Library Association (KLA), the premier State wide organisation of qualified Library and Information Science professionals, has been playing a significant role during the last five decades for the improvement of libraries and enhancement of the professional competence of librarians across the State. As a responsible professional body, KLA has been proactively involving/intervening through representations, discussions and other modes, with the Government and various agencies concerned for the betterment of libraries and information centres in various sectors including Govt. Departments, Universities, Research & Development Establishments, Schools, Colleges, etc. We are extremely proud to state that the Government on their part has always given due recognition to our representations.

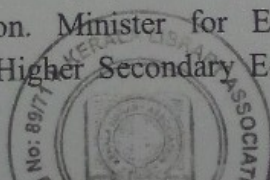


This is in continuation with our previous representations (letter No. KLA/CC/2017/5 dated 05.10.2017 & KLA/CC/2020/4 dated 02.02.2020) regarding the posting of Library professionals in the School libraries in Kerala. It is a universally accepted fact that reading habit has to be inculcated in the minds of children at the most impressionable age and for this purpose School libraries are to be scientifically organised and managed by professionally qualified library staff to derive the real benefit of quality education. Various Education Commissions and educational planners and professional associations in India like Kerala Library Association had been stressing the need for such a library system. All the major School Educational systems at the National stream such as CBSE, ICSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya have mandatory stipulations on the role of quality libraries and professionally qualified library staff in their schools. The private schools in our State too follow this practice. The students, the teachers, the school management and the parents are the beneficiaries of such a system.

Consequent to the realisation, at the time of amalgamation of the higher secondary education in the with school system, the Govt. of Kerala had issued orders as Special Rules for the Higher Secondary Education Subordinate Service Rules vide G. O. (P) No. 331/2001/G. Edn. dated 09.11.2001 prescribing qualifications for the post of librarians in the higher secondary schools.. But even after the lapse of almost two decades, no action was taken to accord budgetary provisions, to create the post of School Librarians or to effect the recruitments, in Government and Aided Schools in our State.

Even though the Report of the Expert Committee on School Libraries under the Chairmanship of V. P. Joy, IAS unambiguously stated that "*without considering the number of books, number of students or the size of the school, a fully qualified librarian should be appointed in all Higher Secondary Schools from the initial stages and his/her service have to be made available for the whole school.*" But still the large number of common public, whose wards study in Govt. and Aided Schools are deprived of the school library service privilege. We have represented many times to the Govt. of Kerala regarding the need for rendering efficient and innovative library services to the academic community in schools by appointing professionally qualified School Librarians who have at least a basic degree in any subject and bachelors or postgraduate degree in Library and Information Science in Govt. and Aided Schools in Kerala.

When the General Education Department vide its order dated 17 – 08 – 2018 (Ref. No. 5) approved the scheme for the creation of posts of Lower Division Clerk, Full Time/Part Time Menial and Librarian Grade IV in the government/aided higher secondary schools and directed the Director, Higher Secondary Education to submit proposals for the same, we had given detailed representation to the Hon. Minister for Education, Secretary, General Education, and Director, Higher Secondary Education, Kerala (Ref. No. 8)



reiterating our demand that Special Rules of 2001 should be strictly adhered to, in the case of appointment of librarians.

The Hon'ble High Court (vide its order cited as Ref. No. 9) has directed the Government to fill the Non-Teaching posts within two months but no action has been taken so far. But it is highly appreciated that the Govt. has recently announced to create 1000 posts in the Higher Secondary Sector.

Hence, 49th Annual General Body Meeting of Kerala Library Association held on 27th Sept. 2020 request the Government to take immediate action *for the creation of the post of Librarian and appoint professionally qualified librarians with at least a basic degree in any subject and bachelors or postgraduate degree in Library and Information Science* in all Govt. and Aided Higher Secondary and High Schools in Kerala. Such qualification was prescribed taking into consideration the fact that the librarians appointed in schools should be capable of meeting the information needs of not only the students but the teachers also and guide them to retrieve information from printed as well as digital world.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully

Dr. P. K. Suresh Kumar
General Secretary



Copy to:

1. Hon'be Minister for Finance, Govt. of Kerala
2. Hon'ble Minister for General Education, Govt. of Kerala
3. The Principal Secretary, General Education Department, Govt. of Kerala
4. The Director, Higher Secondary Education, Directorate of Higher Secondary Education, Housing Board Building, Santhi nagar, Thiruvananthapuram 695001.