

Report on visit of West Bengal Human Rights Commission to Saheb Bagan F.P. School, Doharia Metho Para, North 24 Parganas on 4th April, 2023.

The West Bengal Human Rights Commission consisting of Mr. Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya, Chairperson, Mrs. Justice Madhumati Mitra, Member and Mr. Naparajit Mukherjee, IPS (Retd.), Member visited Saheb Bagan F.P. School, Doharia Metho Para, North 24 Parganas on 4th April, 2023 (without any prior intimation) on a surprise inspection tour.

2. The school is headed by Shri Nitai Chandra Mondal, Teacher-in-Charge and has a total of 08 teachers (male 5 and female 3). Total number of students are 135 and on the day of visit 75 students were present. The school has classes starting from P.P. to Class IV.

3. The school does not have adequate number of class rooms and in total there are 03 rooms. All the classes including the office of Teacher-in-Charge are being held/used in those three rooms. Thus, there is an acute shortage of class rooms which requires immediate attention. The school building is newly constructed. There are separate toilets for students, male and female teachers. Water supply is also adequate since submersible water pump and hand pumps are available. The Municipality supplies uniforms and shoes to the children. It appears that the supply of such items is irregular/inadequate since a number of students were found not wearing uniform. The students are provided iron tablet with the dose of one tablet on a weekly basis. However, no multi vitamin tablets are given or any facility for annual health checkup is provided in the school. Therefore, it is suggested that facilities for providing multi vitamin tablets and annual health checkup be made. Measles / Rubella vaccines have been administered to the students but it was gathered that actually 70% of the students availed of this facility.

Parents teacher meetings are being held on a regular basis and the parents are informed about progress of their children. There is non-availability of common room for teachers which is causing some problems.

4. The cleaning of school as well as toilets is done by workers of Municipality attached to 100 day work scheme. It was found that the overall cleanliness of the school premises was satisfactory.

5. There is a playground available in front of the school building but its maintenance is not at all satisfactory. The Teacher-in-Charge informed that regular sports facilities are not being provided to the students. However, annual sports are being held in an adjoining field.

6. The Commission checked up facilities for mid-day meal. Rice for mid-day meal is being supplied by Municipality. On query, Commission was informed that the quality of rice is satisfactory. It was ascertained that the government provides Rs. 5.45 per student per day which includes fuel for cooking, dal, spices, vegetable, oil etc. The mid-day meal is being prepared by self-help groups attached to the Municipality who are being paid remuneration of Rs.1500/- per month per head by the Municipality. Overall cleanliness of utensils, kitchen were found to be satisfactory. The diet provided by the mid-day meal scheme is as follows as informed by the Teacher-in-Charge :

Monday	Rice, Dal and Sabji
Tuesday	Rice and egg
Wednesday	Kichuri
Thursday	Rice and Soyabean
Friday	Rice, Dal and sabji
Saturday	Rice, Dal and sabji

On an average 80 to 90 students avail of the facilities out of a total of 135 students. The quality of food was found to be satisfactory but the Teacher-in-Charge complained that Rs. 5.45 per student per day was very inadequate since it had to cater to cooking gas, purchase of vegetable, ingredients for cooking (masala) and other miscellaneous items including cleaning of utensils. Therefore, he has suggested that the amount be raised to Rs.10/- per head per day.


7. The West Bengal Human Rights Commission after visiting the school makes following recommendations so that the total functioning of the school may be improved :


- (i) The grant of Rs. 5.45 per student per day under the mid-day meal programme be raised to at least Rs.10/- per student per day;
- (ii) Facilities for providing multi-vitamin tablets on weekly basis as well as facilities for annual health check up of students be arranged;
- (iii) The school should be expanded to provide separate class rooms for each class i.e. three extra class rooms, a separate common room for teachers and office room for Headmaster / Teacher-in-Charge;
- (iv) The playground should be immediately developed to provide playing facilities as well as park facilities to students so that adequate recreation and improvement of health of students could be done through sports and exercise;
- (v) Uniforms, although being provided by Municipality, are not supplied on a regular basis. Therefore, it is suggested that uniforms and shoes as well as books should be supplied to the students on a regular basis.


(vi) Need for a school library cannot be ignored. It will help to increase reading habit of the students. If possible, a small library can be started for the children.

Special Secretary and C.E.O., West Bengal Human Rights Commission is directed to send duly authenticated copies of recommendation to Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. of West Bengal, D.I. of Schools, Primary Education, North 24 Parganas and Teacher-in-Charge of the Saheb Bagan F.P. School, Doharia Metho Para, North 24 Parganas.

Ld. Registrar, WBHRC is directed to upload the report in WBHRC website.


(N. Mukherjee)
Member
11/4/2023


(Justice Jyotirmay Bhattacharya)
Chairman
11.04.2023


(Justice Madhumati Mitra)
Member
11.04.2023