

**Office of the Chairperson
Committee for Fixation & Regulation of Fee of Private
Schools, J&K (FFRC)**

Subject : Complaint against DPS Athwajan, Srinagar .

1. Group of Parents (Complainants)..... Present
2. Chairman DPS Athwajan & others.....(Respondents) ... Present

ORDER

Parents are present. School Management is represented by Mr. Vijay Dhar. The complainants' grievances are as under:

1. That the School has hiked Tuition fee abruptly by 20% in mid-session.
2. Admission Fee in the name of security deposit (refundable) has been charged by the School Management.
3. Annual Fee has also been hiked from Rs.8700 to Rs 14000/ at an average.
4. Annual Charge is being asked to be deposited in one go while the enhancement in the Tuition Fee is also being recovered in one go.
5. Late fee is being charged for any delay in depositing fee even by few days.
6. Despite directions of FFRC Transport Fee is charged at the rate of Rs. 2500/ per month per student instead of Rs 2000/- as provided by the committee.

So far as the contention of parents regarding Tuition Fee is concerned that there is spike of 20% in one go. This contention is not correct. The School Management has submitted its file on 22 March 2021 for fixation, but this committee did not take any decision in this behalf as a result



of which the decision remained pending. Reason for not taking any decision was with respect to certain queries raised by the committee for fixation of the fee of the school. In August 2023 as per the audit report as well as the Income/Expenditure report submitted by the School Management, it was found that hike in the fee is required to be given. Accordingly it was decided to raise Tuition Fee by 5% every year. This practice is particularly being followed by the committee over a period of time. Looking to the guidelines laid down by the court it is not 20% hike in one go. The contention of the parents is that it is burden to pay 20% hiked fee in one go. The school Authority was requested to charge the enhanced Tuition Fee in instalments. School Management refused to do the same.

I find the demand of the parents is genuine as spike of 20% will become a burden on the parents to pay in one go. I therefore direct school management to charge the raised Tuition Fee in two instalments. 10% be charged in the session 2023-24 and 10% in next session i.e. 2024-25.

Second contention of the complainants is that Rs 90,000/- is charged as Admission Fee in the guise of security deposit (Refundable). The receipts issued by the school Management were submitted by complainants to the undersigned in this behalf.

The Committee has already clarified in its orders that no fee except Tuition Fee, Annual Fee and Transport Fee can be charged from the students. The School cannot charge Rs 90000/- as security deposit. It is specifically debarred by the statute. Any person who has paid this amount shall seek refund from the School Management.

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It is fact that Annual Fee has been raised from Rs. 8700 to Rs 14000/- at an average, there is a condition in the order that fee charged for camp will be included in this Annual Fee. However, some clarification in this behalf is needed for which parents have been asked to approach for clarification of the order. ***The enhanced Annual Fee is to be charged in two instalments as directed in the order passed on 14th of August 2023 by FFRC. It is directed that parents be given opportunity to pay the second instalment of Annual Fee at least upto February 2024.***

School is further directed to charge future Annual Fee in two instalments. First instalment in the beginning of new session and another instalment in the month of July every year.

So far as the question of charging of late fee is concerned, the same shall be done in case a parent fails to deposit fee consecutively for three months. ***No late fee must be charged for any delayed payments upto three months.***

So far as charging of higher Transport Fee is concerned, the fee is over and above Rs. 2000 as fixed by this committee. It is true that this forum has fixed an upper limit of Rs 2000 so far as the transport fee is concerned. The matter has been challenged in Hon'ble High Court, in which according to the information available to this forum there is no interim direction passed by the Hon'ble Court in this case. ***The School is directed to explain in a weeks time as why a Transport fee more than Rs 2000/- is being charged from students availing transport facility.***

Other grievance of the complainants was that there is no redressal forum in place as a result of which parents are facing lot of difficulties to approach school authority for redressal of their grievances.

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It is the first Annual Report of the Commission on the
the 1970s. The Commission was set up in 1969 to
that the Commission has now set up a sub-committee
of the Commission. The sub-committee is to be charged
with the task of examining the Commission's work
in two main areas: (a) the Commission's work in
the field of human rights and (b) the Commission's
work in the field of international law.

The Commission has also set up a sub-committee
to examine the Commission's work in the field of
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Direction is issued to the School Management to constitute a grievance redressal committee which shall not include members of school Trust and will submit the details of its members within one week.

The last grievance of the complainants is that the Parents Association formed in the school consists of the persons who are members of the Management. The School management is directed to submit the particulars of the members of its parents Association along with their status, however **parents have a right to constitute a parents Association on their own without seeking any guidance from the School Management. They can undertake this exercise within two weeks and submit names of the office bearers and members of the Association to FFRC.**

It is to remind to all the stakeholders that it is requirement of statute to constitute parents body uninfluenced by the school management.

The forum has advised the parents to approach this committee as and when they are aggrieved by the actions or orders of the School Management.


Justice Sunil Hali

(Former Judge) 11/10/23

Chairperson

Committee for Fixation & Regulation
of Fee of Private Schools J&K (FFRC)

No. FFRC/Comp/2023/Sgr/

3920/23

Dated: 11/10/2023