

All Bengal State Govt. College Teachers' Association

(Registered Under Societies Registration Act, 1961)
210, B.B.Ganguli Street (Goenka College), Kolkata-700012

Memorandum

Submitted To Education Commission of West Bengal

On behalf of our Association we thank you for inviting us to submit this memorandum.

Regarding Government Colleges of West Bengal

You are aware that Government Colleges were recognised as model colleges. But they are now in a very sorry state and need to be rejuvenated at the earliest. Keeping this in mind we make the following proposals.

1. Now that the Presidency College has been converted into a University, Government should take all measures so that a significant number of Govt. Colleges of West Bengal may compare favourably with the centres of academic excellence in India and abroad.
2. Government should immediately give up the idea of transforming a Government College into a University. But instead all Government Colleges should be brought under the purview of a Meta-University with a common syllabus and curriculum, common vision and mission of quality improvement. And the competent retired teachers from WBES and WBSES should be appropriately engaged in this scheme.
3. In order to retrieve the glory of Govt. Colleges, age -old Government Colleges like Sanskrit College, Hooghly Mohsin College, Krishnagar College, Bethune College, ABN Seal College, Goenka College of Commerce and others should be prioritised in terms of academic and intellectual excellence. These colleges should be provided with adequate infrastructure, which includes full-fledged Principals, sufficient number of teachers in all subjects, modernised library with adequate number of librarians and technical staffs, modernised laboratories with adequate number of laboratory assistants, adequate number of non-teaching staffs of all categories. A G.O. should be issued stating the staff pattern for libraries of Govt. Colleges.
4. All Government Colleges, including the new ones, should also be provided with adequate infrastructural facilities as stated in Sl.No3.
5. Setting up of new Govt. Colleges, introduction of new subjects and P.G. courses and new subjects in Govt. Colleges should be done, only after providing necessary infrastructure and funds.
6. Infrastructure in Govt. Training Colleges and Govt. College of Physical Education is also extremely poor and is far below NCTE norms and must be improved immediately.
7. Physiology and Geology should be immediately introduced in some of the Government Colleges of Kolkata (especially at Bidhannagar College) so that the teachers can get the opportunity to be transferred to A zone. Geology may be renamed as Earth and Environmental Science and should be immediately introduced at Bidhannagar College and Darjeeling Govt. College.
8. Psychology as a subject should be introduced in all zones.
9. Sanskrit college should be reoriented as a Centre for Language and Literature Studies. Honours in languages such as Hindi, French etc. may be offered at Sanskrit College.
10. The staff pattern of Govt. Colleges should be rationalised , creating new posts, where necessary, strictly in accordance with the requirements of the colleges
11. A Central Planning Sector for infrastructure development, class-room and laboratory design should be created. A central instrumentation centre with sophisticated instruments be set up in Govt. Colleges so that the centre may be used by different departments.
12. New teaching posts should be created for Environmental Science in all Government Colleges.
13. New teaching posts should also be created for Computer Science at Government Colleges.
14. The Govt. should provide all facilities, including financial assistance, for higher studies, research and training, to the teachers and librarians of Govt. colleges, in order to enable them to improve their qualifications and to set up proper facilities for research in all Govt. colleges (including modern laboratories, internet facility and access to on line journals, digitized library, etc.).

15. To attract and retain talent in Govt. Colleges all the benefits recommended by the UGC, including CAS be given to Govt. College teachers and the discrimination with the teachers of non-government colleges regarding CAS should be done away with.
16. Presidents and Secretaries of W .B. Board of Secondary Education and W.B. Council of Higher Secondary Examination, Director, SCERT, etc. are to be appointed from the members of WBSES/ WBES as was the earlier practice .
17. Transfer policy should be slightly revised as follows. Tenure in a D zone college should be between three to four years, and in other zones the tenure should be between five and six years. The transfer policy should be implemented in letter and spirit without any discrimination whatsoever. Distance criteria for zone classification should be reconsidered.
18. Treatment meted out to the WBES and WBSES staffs including the administrative ones by the bureaucrats is often uncharitable. It has to be checked.
19. There should be at least one Govt. College and one Govt. school in each district.
20. Some assessed quarters should be year-marked for teachers of Govt. colleges, especially in distant zones.
21. Provision must be made so that the wards of the transferred teachers can be admitted to Govt. schools and colleges in a proper way and time.
22. The grants for libraries and laboratories of Govt. colleges should be sanctioned on a rational basis and in time, i.e. well in advance of the close of the financial year, so as to enable college authorities to make proper utilization of the grants. Provision should also be made to transfer the grants to a specific bank account beyond 31st March for proper utilization.
23. The financial power of Principals to be increased.

Views regarding some points in the Terms of reference.

1. Since education is a continuous process to raise the standard of education elementary education should be of high quality. Lowering the standard of school education will lower the standard of higher education also.
2. For character building of the State's youth the life and struggle of great men in India and abroad and the scientists be taught at the school level. History of science should also be taught.
3. For making science education more attractive demonstration in class room is necessary. Students should be encouraged to perform experiment and prepare models.
4. Private investments in the education sector may be done but commercialisation and privatisation of education should be discouraged. Government should bear the responsibility of providing funds for education.
5. The 'no detention' policy up to class VIII should be withdrawn. Admission of students through lottery and on the basis of age should be discontinued.
6. University Acts needs to be amended to increase teachers' representation in the University bodies (Senate, Executive Committee, etc.)
7. The syllabus should not be diluted to make education enjoyable and tension-free. Environment studies to be introduced at the school level.
8. The Fact Finding Committee regarding Presidency University needs to be reconstituted.

(SAMIR KUMAR MUKHOPADHYAY)

General Secretary