

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

WPS No. 3087 of 2020

1. Gannuram S/o Shri Ramlal Aged About 26 Years Occupation Guest Faculty (Sociology) At Government Rani Suryamukhi Devi College, Churiya, District Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh
2. Gourav Tiwari S/o Shri Santosh Tiwari Aged About 25 Years Occupation Guest Faculty (Chemistry) At Government Rani Suryamukhi Devi College, Churiya, District Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh
3. Venu Verma D/o Shri Nand Kumar Verma Aged About 26 Years Occupation Guest Faculty (Botany) At Government Naveen College, Konta, District Sukma Chhattisgarh
4. Hemsingh Verma S/o Shri Khomuram Veram Aged About 31 Years Occupation Guest Faculty (English) At Government Khemraj Laxmichand Arts And Science College, Baghbahra, District Mahasamund Chhattisgarh
5. Jageshwar Singh Dhruv S/o Shri Devlal Dhruv Aged About 28 Years Occupation Guest Faculty (Zoology) At Government Pt. Devi Prasad Choubey College, Saja, District Bemetara Chhattisgarh
6. Dr. Sneh Kumar Meshram S/o Late Shri Rajendra Meshram Aged About 27 Years Occupation Guest Faculty (Chemistry) At Government Digvijay Swasashi P. G. College, Rajnandgaon, District Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh

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Versus

1. State Of Chhattisgarh Through The Secretary, Department Of Higher Education, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar Nawa Raipur District Raipur Chhattisgarh, District : Raipur, Chhattisgarh
2. Additional Director Directorate Of Higher Education Department, Atal Nagar, Raipur Chhattisgarh, District : Raipur, Chhattisgarh
3. Principal Government Rani Suryamukhi Devi College, Churiya, District Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh, District : Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh
4. Principal Government Naveen College, Konta, District Sukma Chhattisgarh, District : Sukuma, Chhattisgarh
5. Principal Government Khemraj Laxmichand Arts And Science College, Baghbahra, District Mahasamund Chhattisgarh, District : Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh
6. Principal Government Pt. Devi Prasad Choubey College, Saja, District Bemetara Chhattisgarh, District : Bemetara, Chhattisgarh
7. Principal Government Digvijay Swasashi P. G. College, Rajnandgaon, District Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh, District : Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh

---- Respondents

For Petitioners : Mr. Ishan Verma, Advocate

For Respondents/State : Ms. Akanksha Jain, Dy. Govt. Advocate

Hon'ble Shri Justice Goutam Bhaduri**ORDER****11.08.2020**

Heard

1. The grievance of the petitioners in the present writ petition is that the petitioners are working as a Guest Lecturer under the respondent No.3 to 7 in different colleges spread over the State for the academic session 2019-2020. It is stated that the respondents should not be permitted to replace the petitioners by another set of contractual Guest Lecturers.
2. The contention of the petitioners are that the petitioners have undergone the due process of selection for being appointed as a Guest Lecturer and their services are satisfactory and no complaint exist whatsoever, so far as the competency of the petitioners are concerned. It is further the contention of the petitioners is that now that the academic session is going to be over in the month of February, 2020 and the respondents should not be permitted to go on for a fresh recruitment process for filling up of the posts of Guest Lecturers for the subject in which the petitioners were working and were taking classes.
3. Counsel for the petitioners relies upon the judgment of this Court passed in the case of "Manju Gupta & others v. State of Chhattisgarh & others" WPS No. 4406/2016, decided on 27.02.2017, whereby the similarly placed Guest Lecturers under the Director (Industrial Training Institute) have been granted protection from being replaced by another set of Guest Lecturers.
4. The State counsel opposing the petition submits that it is a case where no cause of action has till date arisen, in as much as the petitioners have filed the writ petition only on apprehension and since there is no cause of action, the matter is premature and deserves to be rejected.
5. Having heard the contentions put forth on either side and on perusal of record, what is admitted is that the petitioners were appointed in different colleges. The order of appointment specifically had a clause mentioning that

the appointment so made are till an alternative arrangement is made by way of regular recruitment/contractual/transfer.

6. Further from the records, it also does not appear that the performance of the petitioners, at any point of time, were found to be unsatisfactory. In the case of “Manju Gupta” (supra), this Court in paragraphs No. 8 to 11 has held as under:-

“8. True it is, that the Petitioners' status is that of a Guest Lecturer but that does not mean that they do not have any right. There is always a legitimate expectation of the Petitioners that since the filling up of the posts has not been initiated by way of a regular appointment or by contractual appointments, the Petitioners would be permitted to continue.

9. The undisputed fact is that the Petitioners were given appointment only on undertaking given by them pursuant to an advertisement by the Respondents. In the undertaking which was made to be furnished by the Petitioners, they were made to undertake that their appointment would be till the posts are filled up by regular/contractual appointment. This by itself clearly gives an indication that unless the Respondents fill up the sanctioned vacant posts by either regular recruitment or by way of contractual appointment, the Petitioners would continue as Guest Lecturers. On the practical aspect also the fact that the Petitioners are discharging the duties of Guest Lecturers for last more than 1-2 years, itself is a good ground for permitting the Petitioners to continue on the said posts as Guest Lecturers, simply for the reason of their experience on the said post, as fresh recruitment would mean that persons with no or less experience would be participating in the recruitment process, which also would not be in the interest of the students who are undertaking training in the respective institutions.

10. Taking into consideration the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Piara Singh (supra) and which has been further reiterated in the case of Dr. Chanchal Goyal (supra), this Court has no hesitation in reaching to the conclusion that the advertisement (Annexure P-1) so issued by the Respondents is definitely not in the interest of the students undertaking training at Industrial Training Institute, Ambikapur, and the same would amount to violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India and the same therefore deserves to be and is accordingly quashed. The advertisement would be deemed to be quashed only to the extent of the recruitment against the posts at which the Petitioners are discharging. That is to say, the Respondents would be entitled to fill up the posts which are lying vacant by way of Guest Lecturers where there are no Guest Lecturers available.

11. It is directed that the Respondents would not be entitled for filling up the posts of Guest Lecturer by replacing the Petitioners unless the Respondents come up with a stand that the services of the Petitioners were dis-satisfactory. The quashment of the advertisement issued by the Respondents would also not come in the way of the Respondents for filling up of the sanctioned vacant posts by regular recruitment or by way of contractual appointment for which the Respondents shall be free.”

7. This Court, under the given circumstances, is inclined to accept the same analogy in the case of the petitioners also and accordingly it is ordered that unless there is any complaint received against the performance of the petitioners, the respondents are restrained from going in for any fresh recruitment of a Guest Lecturer for the said subject under the respondent No.3 to 7-college against which the petitioners were engaged.
8. It is however made clear that the protection to the petitioners would be only to the extent of not being replaced by another set of Guest Lecturers unless the services are unsatisfactory which could be determined on the basis of the ACR of the petitioners.
9. With the aforesaid observations, the present writ petition stands disposed off.

Aks

Sd/-
Goutam Bhaduri
Judge