

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CWP No.7379 of 2020 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 15.05.2020

(Heard through VC)

Ameliorating India

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JAISHREE THAKUR

Present:- Mr. Naresh Ghai, Advocate
for the petitioner.

JAISHREE THAKUR, J. (ORAL)

This is a petition that has been filed seeking to challenge the order dated 23.03.2020 whereby the respondents have ordered to permanently close Gaurav Ghai Public School, Ludhiana, being run by the petitioner (an NGO) wherein free education is being imparted to students upto 5th class.

Learned counsel for the petitioner would contend that the petitioner is running a school, which has almost 200 students in it and by the impugned order, it has been asked to permanently close the school, which is putting the students at great disadvantage and hardship.

The main grievance of the petitioner is that it has been asked to close the school without taking into consideration that the school is offering free education to almost 200 students and that the petitioner has not been made aware of any order regarding closure of the school during COVID-19 pandemic period except order dated 23.03.2020.

Counsel for the petitioner would further state that a whatsapp message was received on 23.03.2020 from the District Education Officer,

Ludhiana asking it to close the school on account of deliberate disobedience of the government orders, which was immediately replied by a message on 23.03.2020 itself. However, despite the reply to the said whatsapp message, the impugned order has not been withdrawn.

Notice of motion.

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Sahil Sharma, DAG, Punjab accepts notice for the respondents. He already has a copy of the writ petition.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties.

Without going into merits of the case, this Court deems it appropriate to dispose of the writ petition with a direction to the respondents to treat the instant writ petition of the petitioner as a representation and to decide the grievance as raised therein within a period of six weeks, preferably before the schools are reopened by passing a speaking order. Let the order so passed be communicated to the petitioner immediately thereafter.

(JAISHREE THAKUR)
JUDGE

May 15, 2020
Pankaj*

Whether speaking/reasoned Yes/No

Whether reportable Yes/No