

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATE: 2.3.2021

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE B.PUGALENDHI

W.P.No.11888 of 2019

Dr.Sreela.S

... Petitioner

vs.

1. Union of India,
rep. by its Director General of
Health Services,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi 110 011.
2. State of Tamil Nadu,
rep. by its Secretary,
Department of Health & Family Welfare,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai 600 009.
3. Director,
Directorate of Medical Education,
156, Poonamallee High Road,
Kilpauk, Chennai 600 010.
4. Registrar,
Tamil Nadu Dr.MGR Medical University,
Guindy, Chennai-600 025.
5. Dean,
Chengalpattu Govt. Medical College
& Hospital, Chengalpattu.

.. Respondents

Prayer:-

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking issuance of a writ of mandamus directing the 3rd and 5th respondents to return all original certificates of the petitioner that were submitted by her at the time of her admission to MD (Pathology) course on 27.5.2015 at the 5th respondent college.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Arumugam

For R1 : No appearance.

For RR2, 3 & 5 : Mr.E.Manoharan, Special Government Pleader

For R4 : Mr.D.Ravichander, Standing Counsel

ORDER

This writ petition is filed for a mandamus directing respondents 3 and 5 to return the petitioner's original certificates that were submitted by her at the time of admission to MD (Pathology) course during May 2015 at the fifth respondent college.

2. The petitioner, who completed MBBS degree course, intended to pursue a post graduation course in MD (Pathology) conducted by the 5th respondent as a non service candidate. She also got admitted in the year 2015 and at the time of admission, she produced all the original certificates with the respondent. One of the conditions in the said course is that on successful completion of that course, the candidate is liable to serve Government of Tamil Nadu on request for a period of two years or else the candidate is liable to pay Rs.40 lakhs if the candidate failed to serve the Government despite an offer of employment is made. The candidates have also to execute a bond with this condition which is very much incorporated under clause 56(g) of the Prospectus of the Course. The petitioner has also executed such a bond at the time of her admission. The petitioner successfully completed the Post Graduation Course in the month of October 2018, but the State Government has not provided any employment as per the bond, but, at the same time, the third respondent has not returned the original certificates even after the bond period of two years.

3. Mr.E.Manoharan, learned Special Government Pleader took notice for the respondents and filed written instructions provided to him in this regard. He would submit that as per clause 56(g) of the Prospectus, it is made clear that in all these Post Graduation Courses, the Government is spending huge money and therefore, this condition of serving for two years in Government is incorporated in the Prospectus itself and the candidates should also execute a bond to that effect that in case if they fail to serve the Government for a period of two years as agreed, then they have to pay a sum of Rs.40 lakhs in lieu of that bond. He would further submit that this clause has also been challenged and the issue has already been settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and therefore as per the above said

bond executed by the petitioner, the original certificates of the petitioner has been detained.

4. The learned Special Government Pleader would further submit that only depending upon the requirement and vacancy position, the Government is engaging the services of similarly placed candidates and in many such cases, the candidates have opted to continue the Government Service even after expiry of the bond period of 2 years considering the current pandemic situation and the consequent necessity of their services and therefore, the welfare of the public at large also needs to be taken care.

5. This court paid its attention to the rival submissions made and also perused the available records.

6. The petitioner was admitted for the Post Graduation Course in May 2015 and executed the bond. She also completed her Post Graduation Course in October 2018, but, the petitioner was not offered any employment by the State Government till today.

7. The respondents, without offering any employment for more than two years, are not entitled to retain the certificates of the petitioners by referring the bond executed by the petitioner.

8. Clause 56(g) of the Prospectus of the Course itself clearly says that "they shall serve the Government of Tamil Nadu for a period of not less than two years, in the posting issued by Government, "if required". The words "if required" contained in the clause dilutes its strength. The clause further insists for reckoning of such service period from the date of completion of the course by the candidate. Therefore, reckoning of such period cannot be an eternal one and the candidates, after having waited for two long years, cannot be compelled to wait for any more number of years on the ground of their necessity which may arise at any later point of time by losing all their opportunities.

9. A similar issue was also dealt by this court in W.P.No.16829 of 2020 and by following the order passed by a Division Bench in W.A.No.799 of 2019, this court disposed of the Writ Petitions with a direction to the third respondent to return the original certificates considering the representation of the petitioners.

10. In W.A.No.799 of 2019 and batch, the State of Tamil Nadu and another vs. P.S.Sairam and others, the Division Bench of this court decided the issue as under:-

"103. Our conclusions, therefore, are:

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

vii. The candidates who have not been offered appointment within the period of two years would be entitled to release of their certificates accordingly.

104. We have, therefore, no option but to set aside the impugned judgment dated 1.10.2018, but with a direction that in the event the period of two years has passed by after the passing out of the candidates without any offer of employment, then, in that event, they are not bound by the terms of the bonds executed by them and are consequently entitled for return of certificates. It is further clarified that this period will have to be sorted out in respect of all the candidates together with the details of the offer of employment made to them. The State Government shall, accordingly, prepare a list of all such candidates within fifteen days from today and notify it with details, including the date of passing out; the status of the offer of employment or otherwise, as well as the date of expiry of two years, in order to avoid any confusion on this count."

11. In view of the above said order and the fact that the petitioner has not been offered any employment for more than two years, this court allows the writ petition with a direction to the respondents to return the original certificates of the petitioner forthwith on receipt of a copy of this order. No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CO)

04.03.2021

***Corrected Order to be issued**

Sd/-

Sub Assistant Registrar

09.03.2021

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

ssk.

To

1. The Director General of Health Services,
Union of India, Ministry Health and Family Welfare,
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi-110 011.
2. The Secretary,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Department of Health & Family Welfare,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai 600 009.
3. The Director of Medical Education (DME)
Directorate of Medical Education,
156, Poonamallee High Road,
Kilpauk, Chennai 600 010.
- *4. The Dean,
Chengalpattu Govt. Medical College & Hospital,
Chengalpattu.**
5. Registrar,
Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University,
Guindy, Chennai-600 025.

+1cc to Mr. R. Arumugam, Advocate, S.R.No.12644

W.P.No.11888 of 2019

SJ(CO)
CS/04/03/2021
CS/09/03/2021

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