

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

No. EDN/48/2020/21

Dated Shillong the 26th June 2020

ORDER

Whereas, the spread of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) has been declared as Pandemic by WHO and at present, it is a major threat to life and, therefore, a grave matter of concern for the country as well as the State of Meghalaya, and;

Whereas, the Government of India vide Notification dated 24.03.2020 issued under the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 had directed implementation of nation-wide lockdown for a period of 21 days which was further extended upto 05th June 2020 and people were under strict directions to restrain from going out of their homes, and;

Whereas, due to the above restrictions, the financial resources of the parents of several wards of students are under severe strain and some parents are not in a position to pay the tuition fee of their wards at increased rates or even at existing rates if demanded on quarterly basis in one go, and;

Whereas, despite substantial reduction in restrictions with effect from 05.06.2020, the operation of schools, colleges, Universities and other educational institutions remains prohibited, and;

Whereas, it has been brought to the notice of the undersigned that some Private institutions have increased the fee in the academic session 2020-2021 without taking cognizance of the prevailing situation in view of the announcement of lockdown by the Central Government and despite the enforcement of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the Meghalaya Epidemic Diseases, COVID-19 Regulations, 2020 under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 for prevention and containment of COVID-19 and also without compliance of the mandatory provisions of the Meghalaya School Education Act, Meghalaya Board of School Education, 1973, and;

Whereas, it has further come to the notice that some private institutions have started charging the fees from the students under various new heads in violation of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court as well as the directions of the Directorate of Education, and;

And whereas, the tuition fee and annual fee charged from the students, cover all the expenditure to be incurred on salary, establishment, curricular activities and co-curricular activities;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under the provisions of the Meghalaya School Education Act, Meghalaya Board of School Education, 1973 and the Meghalaya Private Universities (Regulation of Establishment and Maintenance of Standards) Act, 2012, other guidelines issued by the Department in respect of regulation of fee and under other enabling provisions of the above Acts and Rules or any other applicable rules, and further in exercise of the powers, conferred under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee hereby issues directives to all Heads / Managers of the educational institutions of Meghalaya as under:-

1. Status Quo of all fees to be maintained from the last academic session (2019-2020) for the year 2020-2021 in all institutions.
2. No tuition fees should be collected from the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families or those directly impacted by the lockdown which led to the loss of their livelihood in Government, Government Aided, Deficit and Deficit Pattern institutions for the months of March, April and May, 2020.
3. 50% reduction of school/college fees for children from BPL or those who lost their livelihood during the furlough period of lockdown studying in Unaided or purely private institutions for the months of April & May, 2020.
4. No other fees shall be collected except tuition fees in all institutions for the months of March, April and May, 2020 from all students.
5. In cases where Institutions have collected fees in advance the same may be adjusted in the subsequent months.

This Notification shall come into force with immediate effect and until further orders.

Given under my hand and seal today the 26th June, 2020.



(M.S. Rao)

Chief Secretary
Chairman, State Executive Committee,
State Disaster Management Authority
Government of Meghalaya.