

Mechanism to Regulate Fees and Other Charges in Private Schools in Chandigarh - Draft for Feedback from Parents and School Managements.

In the year 2013, Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court gave following directions while deciding upon CWP No.20545 of 2009 titled Anti-Corruption and Crime Investigation Cell Vs State of Punjab & Others :

“Government to examine the feasibility of establishing such a mechanism and take decision thereupon within a period of 6 months from today. Till that is done and in order to sort out the issue as to whether the hike in fees by the schools is proper or not, we would like to follow the same path as done by the High Court of Delhi, namely, setting up a Committee with the task to go into the accounts of the Schools and find out the reasonableness of increase in fees by the schools. Accordingly, we appoint three committees, one each for the State of Punjab, State of Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh, with the following constitutional Members:

For UT of Chandigarh

- i) Hon'ble Mr. Justice R.S. Mongia (Retd. Chief Justice):
Chairperson.

- ii) One Chartered Accountant to be nominated by the Chairperson of the Committee.
- iii) One Member from the field of Education preferably a retired teacher/officer of eminence to be nominated by the Director of Public School Education Board, UT, Chandigarh.”

As report of above said Committee is still awaited, though 3 years have passed since the directions of the Honourable High Court. UT Administration proposes following holistic framework on the subject matter.

“Of late, there has been a flood of reports about how some schools fleece parents, who have no other option but to bend backwards to meet the demands raised by schools, so that their children are able to study in good schools and are treated well there.

At the outset it needs to be stated that spaces for educational infrastructure are planned & provided in the precincts of the city by the Government so as to ensure that there are enough avenues for city’s children to get education, without having to travel unreasonably long distances every day.

Education having been enshrined as fundamental right in our constitution, lands have generally been allotted by

Administration, at concessional rates in the past with the sentiment that no child be deprived of good education on account of financial constraints on part of parents.

Geographical monopoly of Schools is inherent in the plan of things and understandably under the ethos behind directions of Hon'ble High Court requiring Administration to put in place a mechanism to keep check on monopolistic tendencies of some schools, that are natural to germinate & grow in such an environment if an eye is not kept on it.

In the light of above discussion backed by directions of the Hon'ble High Court, it will be appropriate to have a common formula in place to work out fee to be charged per student by a School, (using duly audited figures). As expenditure involved for junior and senior classes may vary, the exercise may be bifurcated for each school in two broad categories, one for upto 5th Class students and another for 6th onwards classes. This while respecting freedom of schools to set its quality standard, will only ensure that reasonable fee is charged in return for the level of service being rendered. The audited expenditure, for the sake of uniformity, transparency and easy comprehension by all concerned, that will form basis for fixing & revising fee from time

to time, as per table below, will be subject to verification by government appointed Auditors/ Chartered Accountants:

Item	Year	Item Life	Expense	EMI @ 9%
Land				
Building				
Building Extension 1				
Building Extension 2				
Furniture				
Sports Consumables				
Electronics & other equipment				
Services like Electricity Water				
Salaries of Staff				
Total Per Month Expense				
Per Student/Per Month Expense				
Fee @ upto 110% including Profit/ Management Charge				

Apart from this, Schools will not in any manner receive profit from student/parents by way of

- Admission fee
- Re-admission fee
- Supply/Sale of Books, Stationery Items, Uniforms which being commercial activity is in any case specifically barred in the land allotment letter.

- In case, with a view to facilitate timely provision of certain books, a school may wish to prescribe, with the intent of better tutoring, which are not generally stocked by book sellers in the city, schools may arrange direct supply by publishers at a rate that is Maximum Retail Price minus Profit Margin the publisher keeps for Shopkeepers.
- Proprietary Stationery Items should not be prescribed, good quality Stationery of more than one reputed makes being available aplenty in market today.

Any violation in this regard will entail

- Recommendation to CBSE for withdrawal of affiliation
- and treated as violation of Estate Rules and entail penalty and even resumption in case of continued default.

Education Department will put in place a Committee of Officers to monitor the implantation of the policy and attend to complaints if any, in this regard.

Feedback can be sent at email dpi-chd@nic.in