

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
(PRIVATE SCHOOL BRANCH)
OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI-110054**

No. F.DE.15 (7/0)/PSB/2022/ 4350-4354

Dated: 07/06/22

Order

WHEREAS, **Pragati Public School, Sector-13, Ph-II, Dwarka, New Delhi (School Id: 1821193)**, (hereinafter referred to as "**the School**"), run by the Pragati Educational and Welfare Society (hereinafter referred to as "**Society**"), is a private unaided School recognized by the Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "**DoE**"), under the provisions of Delhi School Education Act & Rules, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as "**DSEAR, 1973**"). The School is statutorily bound to comply with the provisions of the DSEAR, 1973 and RTE Act, 2009, as well as the directions/guidelines issued by the DoE from time to time.

AND WHEREAS, every School is required to file a full statement of fees every year before the ensuing academic session under section 17(3) of the DSEA, 1973 to the DoE. Such full statement of fee is required to indicate estimated income of the School to be derived from the fees and estimated operational expenses to be incurred during the ensuing year towards salaries and allowances payable to employees etc in terms of Rule 177(1) of the DSER, 1973.

AND WHEREAS, as per Section 18(5) read with Sections 17(3), 24 (1) and Rule 180 (3) of the above DSEAR, 1973, responsibility has been conferred upon to the DoE to examine the audited financial statements, books of accounts and other records maintained by the School at least once in each financial year. Sections 18(5) and 24(1) and Rule 180 (3) of DSEAR, 1973 have been reproduced as under:

Section 18(5): *'the managing committee of every recognised private School shall file every year with the Director such duly audited financial and other returns as may be prescribed, and every such return shall be audited by such authority as may be prescribed'*

Section 24(1): *'every recognised School shall be inspected at least once in each financial year in such manner as may be prescribed'*

Rule 180 (3): *'the account and other records maintained by an unaided private School shall be subject to examination by the auditors and inspecting officers authorised by the Director in this behalf and also by officers authorised by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.'*

AND WHEREAS, besides the above, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the judgment dated 27.04.2004 held in Civil Appeal No. 2699 of 2001 titled Modern School Vs. Union of India and others has conclusively decided that under Sections 17(3), 18(4) read along with Rules 172, 173, 175 and 177, the DoE has the authority to regulate the fee and other charges, with the objectives of preventing profiteering and commercialization of education.

AND WHEREAS, it was also directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, that the DoE in the aforesaid matter titled Modern School Vs. Union of India and Others in paras 27 and 28 in case of private unaided recognized Schools situated on the land allotted by DDA at concessional rates that:



"27 (c) It shall be the duty of the Director of Education to ascertain whether terms of allotment of land by the Government to the Schools have been complied with...

28. We are directing the Director of Education to look into the letters of allotment issued by the Government and ascertain whether they (terms and conditions of land allotment) have been complied with by the Schools.....

.....If in a given case, Director finds non-compliance of above terms, the Director shall take appropriate steps in this regard."

AND WHEREAS, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its judgement dated 19.01.2016 in the Writ Petition No. 4109/2013 in the matter of Justice for All vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Others, has reiterated the aforesaid directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and has directed the DoE to ensure compliance of terms, if any, in the letter of allotment regarding the increase of the fee by private unaided recognized Schools to whom land has been allotted by the DDA/ land owning agencies.

AND WHEREAS, accordingly, the DoE vide order No. F.DE.15 (40)/PSB/2019/2698-2707 dated 27.03.2019, directed to all the private unaided recognized Schools, running on the land allotted by the DDA/other land owning agencies on concessional rates or otherwise, with the condition to seek prior approval of DoE for increase in fee, to submit their proposals, if any, for prior sanction, for increase in fee for the session 2018-19 and 2019-20.

AND WHEREAS, in pursuance to order dated 27.03.2019 of the DoE, the School submitted its proposal for enhancement of fee for the academic session 2019-20. Accordingly, this Order dispenses the proposal for enhancement of fee submitted by the School for the academic session **2019-20**.

AND WHEREAS, in order to examine the proposals submitted by the Schools for fee increase for justifiability or not, the DoE has deployed teams of Chartered Accountants at HQ level who has evaluated the fee increase proposals of the School carefully in accordance with the provisions of the DSEAR, 1973, and other Orders/ Circulars issued from time to time by the DoE for fee regulation.

AND WHEREAS, in the process of examination of fee hike proposal filed by the aforesaid School for the academic session 2019-20, necessary records and explanations were also called from the School through email. Further, the School was also provided an opportunity to be heard on 02.12.2019 to present its justifications/ clarifications on fee increase proposal including audited financial statements. Based on discussions, the School was further asked to submit necessary documents and clarification on various issues. During the aforesaid hearing compliances against order no. F.DE.15(143) PSB/2019/1872-1876 dated 22.02.2019 issued for academic session 2017-18 were also discussed and school submissions were taken on record.

AND WHEREAS, the response of the School along with documents uploaded on the web portal for fee increase, and subsequent documents submitted by the School, were evaluated by the team of Chartered Accountants; the key observations noted are as under:

A. Financial observations

1. Clause 2 of Public Notice dated 04.05.1997 states *"it is the responsibility of the society who has established the school to raise such funds from their own sources or donations from the other associations because the immovable property of the school becomes the sole property of the society"*. Additionally, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its judgement dated 30.12.2.1998 in the



case of Delhi Abibhavak Mahasangh concluded that *"The tuition fee cannot be fixed to recover capital expenditure to be incurred on the properties of the society."*

Also, clause (vii) (c) of Order No. F.DE/15/Act/2K/243/ KKK/883-1982 dated 10.02 2005 issued by this Directorate states *"Capital expenditure cannot constitute a component of the financial fee structure. Salaries and allowances are revenue expenses incurred during the current year and therefore, have to come out of the fee of the current year while capital expenditure/investments have to come from savings."* The same was also upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Modern School Vs Union of India & Ors

Further, Rule 177 of DSER, 1973 states *"Income derived by an unaided recognised school by way of fees shall be utilised in the first instance, for meeting the pay, allowances and other benefits admissible to the employees of the school. Provided that, savings, if any, from the fees collected by such school may be utilised by its management committee for meeting capital or contingent expenditure of the school, or for one or more of the following educational purposes, namely award of scholarships to students, establishment of any other recognised school, or assisting any other school or educational institution, not being a college, under the management of the same society or trust by which the first mentioned school is run"*.

Further, the aforesaid savings shall be arrived at after providing for the following, namely:

- a) Pension, gratuity and other specified retirement and other benefits admissible to the employees of the school;
- b) The needed expansion of the school or any expenditure of a developmental nature;
- c) The expansion of the school building or for the expansion or construction of any building or establishment of hostel or expansion of hostel accommodation;
- d) Co-curricular activities of the students;
- e) Reasonable reserve fund, not being less than ten percent, of such savings.

Further, Clause 7.24 of Duggal committee states that *"Simultaneously, it is also to be ensured that the Schools, do not discharge any of the functions, which rightly in the domain of the Society out of the fees or other charges collected from the students; or where the parents are made to bear, even in part, the financial burden for the creation of facilities including building, on a land which had been given to the Society at concessional rates for carrying out a "philanthropic" activity. One only wonders what then the contribution of the Society that professes to run the School!"*

Accordingly, based on the abovementioned provisions and pronouncement of court's judgement, the cost relating to land and construction of the school building has to be met by the society, being the property of the society and school funds i.e. fee collected from students is not to be utilised for the same.

The Directorate in its order no. F.DE.15(143) PSB/2019/1872-11876 dated 22.02.2019 issued for academic session 2017-18, directed to the School to recover INR 2,69,25,946 from the society for purchase of a land and addition made to the building during the FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 which was not in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions. However, this amount is still pending for recovery.



Therefore, the total amount of INR 2,69,25,946 has been considered as fund available with the School and has been included while deriving the fund position of the School. The School is hereby again directed to recover this amount from the Society within 30 days from the date of issue of this order.

Further, the School has proposed capital expenditure of INR 60,00,000 towards construction of building which has not been considered in the total budgeted expenditure of the School for FY 2019-20.

2. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, in its Judgment dated 30.10.1998 in case of Delhi Abibhavak Mahasangh held that "*Tuition Fee cannot be fixed to recover capital expenditure to be incurred on the properties of the Society*". Also, clause (vii) of order No. F.DE/15/Act/2k/243/KKK/883-1982 dated 10.02.2005 issued by this Directorate states "*Capital Expenditure cannot constitute a component of financial fee structure*".

Also, clause (vii) (c) of Order No. F.DE/15/Act/2K/243/ KKK/883-1982 dated 10.02 2005 issued by this Directorate states "*Capital expenditure cannot constitute a component of the financial fee structure. Salaries and allowances are revenue expenses incurred during the current year and therefore, have to come out of the fee of the current year while capital expenditure/investments have to come from savings.*" The same was also upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Modern School Vs Union of India & Ors

Further, Rule 177 of DSER, 1973 states "*Income derived by an unaided recognised school by way of fees shall be utilised in the first instance, for meeting the pay, allowances and other benefits admissible to the employees of the school. Provided that, savings, if any, from the fees collected by such school may be utilised by its management committee for meeting capital or contingent expenditure of the school, or for one or more of the following educational purposes, namely award of scholarships to students, establishment of any other recognised school, or assisting any other school or educational institution, not being a college, under the management of the same society or trust by which the first mentioned school is run*".

Further, the aforesaid savings shall be arrived at after providing for the following, namely:

1. Pension, gratuity and other specified retirement and other benefits admissible to the employees of the school;
2. The needed expansion of the school or any expenditure of a developmental nature;
3. The expansion of the school building or for the expansion or construction of any building or establishment of hostel or expansion of hostel accommodation;
4. Co-curricular activities of the students;
5. Reasonable reserve fund, not being less than ten percent, of such savings.

The Directorate in its order no. F.DE.15(143) PSB/2019/1872-11876 dated 22.02.2019 issued for academic session 2017-18, directed to the School to recover INR 15,95,198 from the Society towards purchased of vehicle. The vehicle was purchased by taking loan from the financial institution and school funds was used for repayment of loan and interest cost thereon. The school had purchased the above vehicles without complying with Rule 177 of DSER, 1973. This amount is still pending for recovery.



On the review of the audited financial statement from FY 2016-17 to 2018-19, it has been noted that the School has further purchased vehicles by taking loan and has utilised school funds to make repayments for loans (down payment plus principal plus interest cost). These vehicles have been purchased without complying with the requirement of Rule 177 of DSER,1973. Details of such payments are provided below.

| Particulars | FY 2017-18 (Amount in INR) | FY 2018-19 (Amount in INR) |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Opening balance of Loan (1) | 50,69,734.00 | 31,15,713.00 |
| Add: Loan taken during the year (2) | 7,50,000.00 | 70,07,552.00 |
| Closing balance of Loan (3) | 31,15,713.00 | 77,06,803.00 |
| Repayment of loan (4=1+2-3) | 27,04,021.00 | 24,16,462.00 |
| Add: Finance cost incurred (5) | 4,48,206.00 | 4,17,561.00 |
| School funds utilised for repayment of loan (A)=(4+5) | 31,52,227.00 | 28,34,023.00 |
| Cost of Vehicle purchased (1) | 9,23,960.00 | 79,44,854.00 |
| Less: Loan taken (2) | 7,50,000.00 | 70,07,552.00 |
| Down payment for purchase of vehicle (B)= (1-2) | 1,73,960.00 | 9,37,302.00 |
| Total School fund utilised for purchase of vehicle (C)= (A+B) | 33,26,187.00 | 37,71,325.00 |

Therefore, the total amount of INR 86,92,710 (INR 33,26,187 plus INR 37,71,325 plus INR 15,95,198) which has been paid out of the school funds has been considered while deriving the fund position of the School. The School is again directed to the recover this amount from the society within 30 days from the date of issue of this order.

3. Clause 14 of Order No. F.DE. /15 (56)/ Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009 states “*Development fee, not exceeding 15% of the total annual tuition fee may be charged for supplementing the resources for purchase, upgradation and replacement of furniture, fixtures and equipment.*” *Development fee, if required to be charged shall be treated as capital receipt and shall be collected only if the school is maintaining depreciation reserve fund, equivalent to the depreciation charged in the revenue accounts and the collections under this head along with income generated from the investment made out of this fund, will be kept separately maintained development fund account”.*

On review of audited financial statements, it has been noted that the school has treated the development fee of INR 67,91,438 and INR 75,86,186 as revenue receipt in FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18 respectively. However, during FY 2018-19 the school has treated development fee as capital receipt. Therefore, the school is directed to treat the development fund as capital receipts and utilized the same for purchase, upgrade and replacement of furniture fixtures and equipment. The school is further directed to pass the necessary accounting entries and determine the correct closing balance of the development funds and general funds.

4. Accounting Standard 15 - ‘Employee Benefits’ issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India states “*Accounting for defined benefit plans is complex because actuarial assumptions are required to measure the obligation and the expense and there is a possibility of actuarial gains and losses.*”

Further, the Accounting Standard defines Plan Assets (the form of investments to be made against liability towards retirement benefits) as:

1. Assets held by a long-term employee benefit fund; and
2. Qualifying insurance policies.

Further, Para 57 of AS-15 states that *"An enterprise should determine the present value of defined benefit obligations and the fair value of any plan assets with sufficient regularity that the amounts recognised in the financial statements do not differ materially from the amounts that would be determined at the balance sheet date."*

Further, Para 60 of Guidance Note on Accounting by Schools (2005) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India states *"A defined benefit scheme is a scheme under which amounts to be paid as retirement benefits are determined usually by reference to employee's earnings and/or years of service"*.

An appropriate charge to the income and expenditure account for a year should be made through a provision for the accruing liability. The accruing liability should be calculated according to actuarial valuation. However, if a school employs only a few persons, say less than twenty, it may calculate the accrued liability by reference to any other rational method. The ensuing amount of provision for liability should then be invested in *"plan assets"* as per AS-15 issued by ICAI.

On the review of the documents submitted by the school, it has been noted the school has got actuarial valuation of its retirement benefit. As per the actuarial valuation reports the total liability for gratuity was INR 1,25,84,844 and for leave encashment was INR 8,65,820 as on 31.03.2019. The school has reported equivalent provisions in its audited financial statements of FY 2018-19 in accordance with the actuarial valuation report. However, the school has not made any investment in Plan Assets as defined in Accounting Standard-15 in this regard. Since, the school has not invested anything in the 'Plan Assets'. Therefore, this liability of INR 1,25,84,844 has not been considered while deriving the fund position of the school.

The school is hereby directed to invest an amount equivalent to the amount determined in the actuarial valuation report in plan assets as per requirement of AS-15 within 30 days from the date of issue this order.

5. Clause 3 of the public notice dated 04.05.1997 published in the Times of India states *"No security/ deposit/ caution money be taken from the students at the time of admission and if at all it is considered necessary it should be taken once and at the nominal rate of INR 500 per student in any case and it should be returned to the students at the time of leaving the school along with the interest at the bank rate."*

Further, Clause 18 of Order no F.DE/15(56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009 states *"No caution money/security deposit of more than five hundred rupees per student shall be charged. The caution money thus collected shall be kept deposited in a scheduled bank in the name of the concerned school and shall be returned to the student at the time of his/her leaving the school along with the bank interest thereon irrespective of whether or not he/she requests for refund."*

On review of the financial statements, it has been noted that the school has been collecting caution money from the students. However, only principal amount is being refunded to the students at

the time of his/ her leaving from the school which is not in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions. The school should refund the caution money to the student along with the interest earned on the same not only the amount actually collected from them. Therefore, the school is directed to ensure compliance with the above-mentioned provisions with respect to collection and refund of caution money. Further, the amount refundable of INR 13,75,250 as on 31.03.2019 as reported in the audited financial statements has been considered while deriving the fund position of the school.

Further, Clause 18 of Order No. F.DE. /15 (56) /Act /2009 / 778 dated 11.02.2009, no Caution money/security deposit of more than INR 500 per student shall be charged. Review of the audited financial statement of the school of FY 2017-18 revealed that the school has reported security deposit (transport) of INR 36,75,546 as on 31.03.2019. From review of the fee structure, it has also been noted that the school has been collecting security deposit @ INR 2,000 from the user of the transport facility which is not in accordance with the clause 18 of the order dated 11.2.2009. Neither the any provision of the DSEAR, 1973 nor any circular/ order of the DoE permits the school to collect any security deposit from the students other than specified under clause 18 of the Order dated 11.02.2009. Therefore, the school is directed to refund this amount to students immediately and submit the status of compliance within 30 days from the date of issue of this order. Accordingly, this amount has been included while deriving the fund position of the School.

B. Other observations

1. Rule 176 - 'Collections for specific purposes to be spent for that purpose' of the DSER, 1973 states *"Income derived from collections for specific purposes shall be spent only for such purpose."*

Para no. 22 of Order No. F.DE./15(56)/ Act/2009/778 dated 11 Feb 2009 states *"Earmarked levies will be calculated and collected on 'no-profit no loss' basis and spent only for the purpose for which they are being charged."*

Sub-rule 3 of Rule 177 of DSER, 1973 states *"Funds collected for specific purposes, like sports, co-curricular activities, subscriptions for excursions or subscriptions for magazines, and annual charges, by whatever name called, shall be spent solely for the exclusive benefit of the students of the concerned school and shall not be included in the savings referred to in sub-rule (2)."* Further, Sub-rule 4 of the said rule states *"The collections referred to in sub-rule (3) shall be administered in the same manner as the monies standing to the credit of the Pupils Fund as administered."*

Also, earmarked levies collected from students are a form of restricted funds, which, according to Guidance Note on Accounting by Schools issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, are required to be credited to a separate fund account when the amount is received and reflected separately in the Balance Sheet.

Further, the aforementioned Guidance Note lays down the concept of fund-based accounting for restricted funds, whereby upon incurrance of expenditure, the same is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account ('Restricted Funds' column) and a corresponding amount is transferred from the concerned restricted fund account to the credit of the Income and Expenditure Account ('Restricted Funds' column).



Further, as per the Duggal Committee report, there are only four categories of fee that can be charged by a school. The first category of fee comprises of "registration fee and all One Time Charges" which is levied at the time of admission such as Admission and Caution Money. The second category of fee comprise of "Tuition Fee" which is to be fixed to cover the standard cost of the establishment and also to cover expenditure of revenue nature for the improvement of curricular facilities like Library, Laboratories, etc., and Science and Computer fee up to class X and examination fee. The third category of the fee should consist of "Annual Charges" to cover all expenditure not included in the second category and the fourth category should consist of all "Earmarked Levies" for the services rendered by the school and to be recovered only from the 'User' students. These charges are Transport Fee, Swimming Pool Charges, Horse Riding, Tennis, Midday Meals etc.

On review of the audited financial statements, it has been noted that the School has not maintained separate fund accounts for its earmarked levies and the school has been generating surplus from earmarked levy, which has been utilised for meeting other expenses of the school. The School has not provided any further details of its earmarked levies therefore, the School is directed to provide complete details of its earmarked levies charged from the Students and the School should charge these levies on 'no profit no loss basis'.

The act of the school of charging unwarranted fee or any other amount/fee under head other than the prescribed head of fee and accumulation of surplus fund thereof tantamount to profiteering and commercialization of education as well as charging of capitation fee in other form. Further, the school is also directed to determine its fee structure in accordance with provisions of DSEAR, 1973.

2. Para 99 of Guidance Note on Accounting by Schools (2005) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India states "*Where the fund is meant for meeting capital expenditure, upon incurrence of the expenditure, the relevant asset account is debited which is depreciated as per the recommendations contained in this Guidance Note. Thereafter, the concerned restricted fund account is treated as deferred income, to the extent of the cost of the asset, and is transferred to the credit of the income and expenditure account in proportion to the depreciation charged every year.*" Further, Para 102 of the aforementioned Guidance Note states "*In respect of funds, schools should disclose the following in the schedules/notes to accounts:*

- (a) *In respect of each major fund, opening balance, additions during the period, deductions/utilisation during the period and balance at the end;*
- (b) *Assets, such as investments, and liabilities belonging to each fund separately;*
- (c) *Restrictions, if any, on the utilisation of each fund balance;*
- (d) *Restrictions, if any, on the utilisation of specific assets."*

On review of audited financial statements for the FY 2018-19, it was noted that the school has transferred an amount equivalent to the purchase cost of assets from development fund to General Reserve, instead of the accounting treatment as indicated in the guidance note cited above resulting over statement of General Reserve with the notional amount. Hence the school is directed to pass necessary rectification in general reserve account and create development fund utilisation amount in accordance with Guidance Note -21 issued by ICAI.



3. The Directorate in its Order No. F.DE-15/ACT-I/WPC-4109/Part/13/7905-7913 dated 16.04.2016 *“The Director hereby specify that the format of return and documents to be submitted by schools under rule 180 read with Appendix-II of the Delhi School Education Rules, 1973 shall be as per format specified by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, established under Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949) in Guidance Note on Accounting by Schools (2005) or as amended from time to time by this Institute.”*

Further, Para 58(i) of the Guidance Note states “A school should charge depreciation according to the written down value method at rates recommended in Appendix I to the Guidance Note.”

From review of the financial statements for the FY 2018-19, it has been noted that the depreciation on fixed assets have been provided on written down value method at the rates prescribed in the Income Tax Rules, 1962 which is not in accordance with the provisions of the Guidance Notes issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Therefore, the school is directed to apply the provisions outlined in the Guidance note mentioned above. This being the procedural finding no financial impact has been given while deriving the fund position of the school.

4. The school is not complying with the DOE Order No.F.DE.15/Act-I/08155/2013/5506-5518 dated 04.06.2012 as well as condition specified in the land allotment letter which require to provide 25% reservation for children belonging to EWS category. Since, the school is not complying with the aforesaid order, the concerned DDE are required to look into the matter. The admission allowed under EWS/ Free ship during the FY 2017-18 and FY 2018-19 are as under:

| Particulars | FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 | FY 2018-19 |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Students | 1780 | 1780 | 1931 |
| EWS Students | 212 | 245 | 295 |
| % of EWS students | 11.91% | 13.76% | 15.28% |

5. Clause 103 on Related Party Disclosure, contained in Guidance Note 21 on ‘Accounting by Schools’, issued by the ICAI, there is a requirement that keeping in the view the involvement of public funds, schools are required to disclose the transactions made in respect of related parties.

From review of the audited financial statements of 2018-19, it has been noted that the School has not made any disclosure relating to related party transactions in its audited financial statements. In the absence of such details, the purpose and genuineness of transactions entered into between the related parties cannot be determined. Therefore, the School is hereby directed to include such details in audited financial statements of the subsequent year.

6. Appendix II to Rule 180(1) of DSER, 1973, the school is required to submit final accounts i.e., receipts and payment account, income and expenditure account and balance sheet of the preceding year duly audited by a Chartered Accountant by 31st July.

On account of number of complaints received by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) regarding signatures of Chartered Accountants (CAs) are being forged by non-CAs and corresponding findings by ICAI that financial documents/certificates attested by third person misrepresenting themselves as Chartered Accountants (CA) are misleading the Authorities and Stakeholders, ICAI, at its 379th Council Meeting, made generation of Unique Document

Identification Number (UDIN) mandatory for every signature of Full time Practicing Chartered Accountants in phased manner for the following services:

- All Certificates with effect from 1 Feb 2019
- GST and Income Tax Audit with effect from 1 Apr 2019
- All Audit and Assurance Functions with effect from 1 Jul 2019

Therefore, generation of UDIN has been made mandatory for all audit and assurance functions like documents and reports certified/ issued by practicing Chartered Accountants from 1 July 2019. The UDIN System has been developed by ICAI to facilitate its members for verification and certification of the documents and for securing documents and authenticity thereof by Regulators.

Further, ICAI issued an announcement on 4 June 2019 for the attention of its Members with the requirement of mentioning UDIN while signing the Audit Reports effective from 1 Jul 2019, which stated *“With a view to bring uniformity in the manner of signing audit reports by the members of ICAI, it has been decided to require the members of ICAI to also mention the UDIN immediately after the ICAI’s membership number while signing audit reports. This requirement will be in addition to other requirements relating to the auditor’s signature prescribed in the relevant law or regulation and the Standards on Auditing.”*

Standard on Auditing (SA) 700 (Revised) – ‘Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements’ notified by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India include formats for issuing audit opinions on the financial statements by practicing Chartered Accountants.

Also, para 47 of SA 700 states *“The auditor’s report shall be dated no earlier than the date on which the auditor has obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base the auditor’s opinion on the financial statements, including evidence that:*

- All the statements that comprise the financial statements, including the related notes, have been prepared; and*
- Those with the recognized authority have asserted that they have taken responsibility for those financial statements.”*

The financial statements for FY 2018-2019 submitted by the School along with Audit Report signed by Chartered Accountant did not cite UDIN, as mandated by ICAI. Further, the Chartered Accountant failed to mention the date of signing on the audit report, balance sheet and income and expenditure account. However, notes to accounts enclosed with the financial statements were signed on 15.07.2019. Further, the audit report issued by the auditor is not in accordance with the format prescribed under SA 700 since it fails to draw reference to applicable accounting standards or Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and does not give opinion on the true and fair view of state of affairs of the school, surplus/deficit during the year and cashflows during the year. Therefore, authenticity of the audit and that of the financial statements for FY 2018-2019 submitted by the School could not be verified.

While the School has not complied with the statutory requirement of submission of audited final accounts and has submitted unauthentic final accounts, these financial statements for FY 2018-2019 have been taken on record by the Directorate and the same have been considered for evaluation of the fee increase proposal of the School for the academic session 2019-20 assuming the same as unauthentic financial statements.



The School is directed to confirm from the auditor whether UDIN was generated in respect of the audit opinion issued by the auditor on the financial statements of the School for FY 2018-2019. If it was generated, the same should be mentioned by the School in its compliance report. In case, UDIN was not generated by the auditor, the School is directed to seek explanation from the auditor for not complying with the requirements notified by ICAI and get the said audit report and financial statements verified from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for its authenticity and validity.

The School is further directed to ensure that the audit opinions issued on its future final accounts by practicing Chartered Accountant comply with the requirements enunciated by their regulatory body i.e. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India including compliance with SA 700 and generation of UDIN.

After detailed examination of all the material on record and considering the clarification submitted by the School, it was finally evaluated/ concluded that:

- i. The total funds available for the FY 2019-20 amounting to **INR 12,91,95,301** out of which cash outflow in the FY 2019-20 is estimated to be **INR 11,35,47,414**. This results in net balance of Surplus amounting to **INR 1,56,47,887** for FY 2019-20 after all payments. The details are as follows:

| Particulars | Amount (in INR) |
|--|---------------------|
| Cash and Bank balances as on 31.03.19 as per Audited Financial Statements of FY 2018-19 | 20,16,776 |
| Investments as on 31.03.19 as per Audited Financial Statements of FY 2018-19 | 1,07,08,346 |
| Liquid Fund as on 31.03.2019 | 1,27,25,122 |
| Add: Amount recoverable from society for additions to the building (refer financial observation no.1) | 2,69,25,946 |
| Add: Amount recoverable from Society for repayment of loan taken for purchase of vehicles (refer financial observation no.2) | 86,92,710 |
| Add: Fees for FY 2018-19 as per Audited Financial Statements (refer note no.1 below) | 8,27,52,495 |
| Add: Other income for FY 2018-19 as per Audited Financial Statements (refer note no.1 below) | 16,64,037 |
| Total Available Funds for FY 2019-20 | 13,27,60,310 |
| Less: FDR with joint name of DDE and Manager of the Pragati Public School as on 31.03.2019 | 4,37,993 |
| Less: FDR with joint name of Secretary CBSE and Manager of the Pragati Public School as on 31.03.2019 | 2,34,076 |
| Less: Caution Money as on 31.03.2019 (refer financial observation no.5) | 13,75,250 |
| Less: Development Balance as on 31.03.2019 | 15,17,690 |
| Less: Staff retirement benefits- Gratuity (refer financial observation no.4) | - |
| Less: Depreciation reserve fund (refer note no.2 below) | - |
| Net Available Funds for FY 2019-20 | 12,91,95,301 |
| Less: Budgeted expenses of the FY 2019-20 has been considered after making adjustment (Refer Note no.3 below) | 9,43,16,553 |
| Less: Arrears of salary on account of implementation of 7th CPC (refer note no.4 below) | 1,92,30,861 |
| Estimated Surplus | 1,56,47,887 |

Note 1: Fee and income as per audited financial statements of FY 2018-19 has been considered assuming that amount accrued in FY 2018-19 will be the least amount accrue in FY 2019-20.

Note 2: As per the Duggal Committee report, there are four categories of fees that can be charged by a private unaided School. The first category of fee comprised of "Registration fee and all one Time Charges" levied at the time of admissions such as admission and caution money. The second category of fee comprises 'Tuition Fee' which is to be fixed to cover the standard cost of the establishment and to cover the expenditure of revenue nature for the improvement of curricular facilities like library, laboratories, science, and computer fee up to class X and examination fee. The third category of the fee should consist of 'Annual Charges' to cover all expenditure not included in the second category and the fourth category consist of all 'Earmarked Levies' for the services rendered by the school and be recovered only from the 'User' students. These charges are transport fee, swimming pool charges, Horse riding, tennis, midday meals etc. This recommendation has been considered by the Directorate while issuing order No. DE.15/Act/Duggal.com/203/99/23033-23980 dated 15.12.1999 and order No. F.DE./15(56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009.

The purpose of each head of the fee has been defined and it is nowhere defined the usage of development fee or any other head of fee for investments against depreciation reserve fund.

Further, Clause 7 of order No. DE.15/Act/Duggal.com/203/99/23033-23980 dated 15.12.1999 and clause 14 of the order no F.DE./15(56)/Act/2009/778 dated 11.02.2009, "development fee, not exceeding 15% of the total annual tuition fee may be charged for supplementing the resources for purchase, upgradation and replacement of furniture, fixture and equipment. Development fee, if required to be charged, shall be treated as capital receipt and shall be collected only if the school is maintaining a Depreciation Reserve Fund, equivalent to the depreciation charged in the revenue accounts and the collection under this head along with and income generated from the investment made out of this fund will be kept in a separately maintained Development Fund Account". Thus, the above direction provides for:

- Not to charge development fee for more than 15% of tuition fee.
- Development fee will be used for purchase, upgradation and replacement of furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
- Development fee will be treated as capital receipts.
- Depreciation reserve fund is to be maintained.

Thus, the creation of the depreciation reserve fund is a pre-condition for charging of development fee, as per above provisions and the decision of Hon'ble Supreme court in the case of Modern School Vs Union of India & Ors.: 2004(5) SCC 583. Even the Clause 7 of the above direction does not require to maintain any investments against depreciation reserve fund. Also, as per para 99 of Guidance Note-21 'Accounting by School' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India states "Where the fund is meant for meeting capital expenditure, upon incurrance of the expenditure, the relevant asset account is debited which is depreciated as per the recommendations contained in this Guidance Note. Thereafter, the concerned restricted fund account is treated as deferred income, to the extent of the cost of the asset, and is transferred to the credit of the income and expenditure account in proportion to the depreciation charged every year."

Accordingly, the depreciation reserve (that is to be created equivalent to the depreciation charged in the revenue account) is mere of an accounting head for the appropriate accounting treatment



of depreciation in the books of account of the school in accordance with Guidance Note -21 issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Thus, there is no financial impact of depreciation reserve on the fund position of the School. Accordingly, the depreciation reserve fund of INR 28,62,217 as reported by the School in the audited financial statements for the FY 2018-19 has not been considered while deriving the fund position of the School.

Note 3: All budgeted expenditure for the FY 2019-20 has been considered except the capital expenditure of INR 60,00,000 for construction in existing building has been disallowed (refer financial observation no.2).

Note 4: The Directorate vide order No. DE.15 (318)/PDB/2016/18117, dated 25.08.2017, the Managing Committee of all the private unaided recognized Schools were directed to implement the Central Civil Revised Pay Rules 2016 in respect of the regular employees of the corresponding status in their Schools with effect from 01.01.2016 as adopted by the Government of NCT of Delhi vide its circulars No. 30-3(17)/(12)/VII Pay Comm./Coord./2016/110006-11016 dated 19.08.2016 and No. 30-3(17)/(12)/VII Pay Comm./Coord./2016/12659-12689 dated 14.10.2016. Further, vide order No. F.DE.15/ (318)/PSB/2019/11925-30 dated 09.10.2019, the managing committee of all Private Unaided Schools once again directed to implement the recommendation of 7th CPC with effect 01.01.2016 within 15 days from the date of issue of aforesaid order.

Further, section 10 of DSEA states "*the scales of pay and allowances, medical facilities, mention, gratuity, provident fund and other prescribed benefits of the employees of recognized private school shall not be less than those of the employees of the corresponding status in school run by the appropriate authority*". Therefore, employees of all the private unaided recognized Schools are entitled to get the revised pay commission. This legal position has been settled by the Hon'ble High Court long back at the in the matter of WPC 160/2017; titled as Lata Rana Versus DAV Public School & Ors vide order dated 06.09.2018 for implementation of sixth pay commission recommendations.

The amount proposed by the school towards the impact of salary arrear from April' 2018 to March'2020 has been considered in the total budgeted expenditure of the school and salary arrears from January 2016 to 31 March 2018 of INR 1,92,30,861 as per previous year order, which is still pending has also been considered in the total expenditure of the school. The school is hereby directed to implement the recommendations of 7th CPC in full within 30 days from the date of issue of this order. A strict action against the School would be initiated u/s 24(3) of DSEA, 1973 for non-compliance with the direction cited above.

- ii. In view of the above examination, it is evident that the school has sufficient funds to carry on the operation of the school for the academic session 2019-20 on the existing fees structure. In this regard, the Directorate of Education has already issued directions to the schools vide order dated 16.04.2010 that,

"All Schools must, first of all, explore and exhaust the possibility of utilising the existing funds/ reserves to meet any shortfall in payment of salary and allowances, as a consequence of increase in the salary and allowance of the employees. A part of the reserve fund which has not been utilised for years together may also be used to meet the shortfall before proposing a fee increase."



AND WHEREAS, in the light of above evaluation which is based on the provisions of DSEA, 1973, DSER, 1973, guidelines, orders and circulars issued from time to time by this Directorate, it was recommended by the team of Chartered Accountants that along with certain financial and other discrepancies, that the sufficient funds are available with the school to carry out its operations for the academic session 2019-20 therefore, the fee increase proposal of the school may be rejected.

AND WHEREAS, it is also noticed that the School has incurred INR 2,69,25,946 for purchasing land and additions to building out of the school fund which is in contravention of clause 2 of public notice dated 04-05-1997 read with Rule 177 of DESR 1973. Further, the school has utilized school fund amounting to INR 86,92,710 for repayment of vehicle loan and interest there on, which is not in accordance with Rule 177 of DSEA & R, 1973. Therefore, the school is directed to recover INR 3,56,18,656 from the Society. The amount of above receipt along with copy of bank statement showing the receipt of above-mentioned amount should be submitted with DoE, in compliance of the same, within thirty days from the date of issuance of this order. Non-compliance of this shall be taken up as per DSEA&R, 1973.

AND WHEREAS, recommendation of the team of Chartered Accountants along with relevant materials were put before the Director (Education) for consideration and who after considering all the material on the record, and after considering the provisions of sections 17 (3), 18(5), 24(1) of the DSEA, 1973 read with rules 172, 173, 175 and 177 of the DSER, 1973 has found that the funds are available with the School for meeting its financial implication for the academic session 2019-20. Therefore, Director (Education) has rejected the proposal submitted by the school to increase the fee for the academic session 2019-20.

AND WHEREAS, the School is directed, henceforth to take necessary corrective steps on the financial and other observations noted during the above evaluation process and submit the compliance report within 30 days from the date of this order to the D.D.E (PSB).

Accordingly, it is hereby conveyed that the proposal of fee increase for the academic session of FY 2019-20 of **Pragati Public School, Sector-13, Ph-II, Dwarka, New Delhi (School Id: 1821193)** has been rejected by the Director (Education).

Further, the management of said School is hereby directed under section 24(3) of DSEAR 1973 to comply with the following directions:

1. Not to increase any fee/charges during FY 2019-20. In case, the School has already charged increased fee during FY 2019-20, the School should make necessary adjustments from future fee/refund the amount of excess fee collected, if any, as per the convenience of the parents.
2. To ensure payment of salary is made in accordance with the provision of section 10(1) of the DSEA, 1973. Further, the scarcity of funds cannot be the reason for non-payment of salary and other benefits admissible to the teachers/ staffs in accordance with section 10(1) of the DSEA, 1973. Therefore, the Society running the School must ensure payment to teachers/ staffs accordingly.
3. To utilize the fee collected from students in accordance with the provisions of Rule 177 of the DSER, 1973 and orders and directions issued by this Directorate from time to time.

Non-compliance of this order or any direction herein shall be viewed seriously and will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of section 24(4) of Delhi School Education Act, 1973 and Delhi School Education Rules, 1973.

This is issued with the prior approval of the Competent Authority.



(Yogesh Pal Singh)
Dy. Director of Education
(Private School Branch)
Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi

To:

The Manager/ HoS
Pragati Public School (School Id: 1821193),
Sector-13, Ph-II, Dwarka,
New Delhi.
No. F.DE.15(710)/PSB/2022/4350-4354

Dated: 07/06/22

Copy to:

1. P.S. to Secretary (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
2. P.S. to Director (Education), Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi.
3. DDE (South West-B) to ensure the compliance of the above order by the School Management.
4. In-charge (I.T Cell) with the request to upload on the website of this Directorate.
5. Guard file.



(Yogesh Pal Singh)
Dy. Director of Education
(Private School Branch)
Directorate of Education, GNCT of Delhi