

The New Indian Express

Students suffer as government junior colleges fall short of staff

HYDERABAD: Telangana's Government Junior colleges have a severe shortage of lecturers which is affecting the Intermediate students.

While there are a total of 406 government Junior Colleges (GJCs) in the state, more than 1,200 lecturer posts are vacant highlighting the intensity of problem.

According to official statistics, there are about 1,300 government lecturers right now. To address the problem, about 3,700 contract lecturers have been hired.

As of now, about 1.65 lakh students are studying in these government junior colleges. Mostly students from economically backward or lower middle class join these colleges. Lack of sufficient staff has now proved to be bane for these students, who cannot afford private and corporate education.

Meanwhile, educationists said that ideal lecturer-student ratio must be 1:20 in intermediate education.

However, what we have is a ratio of 1:40 in Telangana, even after taking into consideration the number of contract lecturers. Also, there is difference in teaching standards between government and contract lecturers.

An old problem

Shortage of junior lecturers has been a problem that has been hounding the GJCs for long now. It has become worse, with the last recruitment being done in 2012. Meanwhile, the number of students taking admission into the GJCs is rising gradually.

The marked shortage of junior lecturers in science and mathematics is another bad trend.

“Contract lecturers in GJCs are paid about `18,000 per month, that too excluding pay during summer holidays. On the other hand, there is good demand for mathematics, sciences lecturers today. Talented and experienced lecturers in these subjects are paid a minimum of `25,000

and the pay goes over `50,000 in private and corporate colleges. Therefore, good lecturers prefer working in these colleges,” explained P Madhusudhan Reddy, president of Telangana Government Junior Lecturers Association (TGJLA).

Though the state government has announced filling up the junior lecturers posts on many occasions in the past, no concrete step has been taken till now while the first term of the present academic year has already passed.

When contacted, a senior official of Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) said that clarity is yet needed on whether contract lecturers will be regularised or not and once this issue is cleared, process of new recruitments of junior lecturers in GJCs will be taken up.