

Candidates age Limit is increased for MPSC exams

Pune: The state government's move to raise the age limit for the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) exam from 33 to 38 years has failed to cut ice with civil services aspirants and educationists.

Increasing the age limit will delay career choices if a candidate fails to clear the MPSC exam, they said while demanding the commission should take steps to avoid any delay in holding the exam and announcing the results.

Deepshikha Shirsat, an MPSC exam aspirant, said, "Increasing the age limit is a secondary issue. The MPSC should rather concentrate on streamlining the examination. The commission has not published advertisement for the post of police sub inspector for the past two years."

Considering the difficulty level of the examination and the number of levels that each candidate has to clear, it takes about two to three years for several aspirants to crack the exam. For those who fail to clear the exam in first attempt, the increase in age limit will prove beneficial. Educationists, however, said the move will help rural students more than their urban counterparts.

Sanjay Kulkarni, who runs a tutorial for preparation of MPSC examinations, said, "The move will benefit women, especially from the rural parts of the state, who are married off at an early age. However, the same formula may not work for the urban candidates as many of them make their career choices by the age of 25."

Mohammed Azhar, another aspirant, said, "The MPSC needs to streamline its exam-holding pattern. Though the commission announces the timetable before the start of the year, it is not always followed. As a result, preparations for the exam are affected."

Candidates also alleged that many a times the MPSC conducts examination for government posts and then cancels the appointments without notice. Sumit Patil, an aspirant, said, "The MPSC has failed to follow the timetable to conduct examination to fill up PSI posts." The age limit for attempting the examination for PSI post has also been increased from 28 to 33 years.

Sukhdev Jadhav, supervisor at a MPSC coaching institute, said, "The increase in the age limit will give the students some more time to clear

the exam. However, the students should consider alternative careers in case they fail the exam."

Officials at the MPSC commission said the exams are conducted as per the requirement sent to us by the state government. "If there is cancellation in appointment of posts by a department, we need to act on it. Besides, the schedule announced at the beginning of the year states that it is tentative and may change," they said.