

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (NCMEI)**

Case No. 101 of 2023

In the matter of :-

De Paul School, Hatigarh, Hatigarh P.O., Raibania P.S., Jaleswar Block, Balasore District, Odisha – 756 033.

..... **Petitioner**

V/s

Director, Elementary Education, 5th Floor, HOD Building, Unit – V, Bhubaneswar – 01, Khordha, Odisha – 751 015

..... **Respondent**

Present: Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate for the petitioner
 None for the respondent

ORDER

DATED 15.07.2026

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 14.03.2023 by hand through Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to De Paul School, Hatigarh, Hatigarh P.O., Raibania P.S., Jaleswar Block, Balasore District, Odisha – 756 033.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed an affidavit of Sr. Martha Pradhan, President of The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul Society in support of the averments made in the petition and also to prove that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are members of the Christian minority community and stating therein that the petitioner institution shall not deny admission of eligible candidate of the Christian minority community subject to the eligibility of the students and availability of the accommodation in the petitioner institution.
3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has filed copy of Unique ID No. : OR/2017/0170109 of the petitioner Society as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, photocopy of application dated 05.11.2019 sent to the State Competent Authority alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copies of Certificate of Registration, Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations alongwith list of founding members, Amended Memorandum of Association dated 09.11.2017 alongwith list of present members of The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul Society, notarized copy of recognition order dated 01.10.2022 issued by the District Education Officer- cum - DPC, RTE-SS, Balasore granting affiliation for the period 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2027 to the unaided petitioner institution and resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Sr. Martha Pradhan, President of The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul Society for obtaining MSC from this Commission.
4. As per the information supplied by the petitioner unaided institution with regard to students strength as on Academic Year 2024-25, it is mentioned that out of total 83 students, 40 students were from the Christian minority community and 43 students were Hindu. In the year 2025-26, it is mentioned that out of total 86 students, 40 students were from the Christian minority community and 41 students were Hindu. It is relevant to mention here that during the academic year 2024-25, out of the total 10 teachers, 07 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 03 teachers were Hindu. In the academic year 2025-26, out of the total 09 teachers, 06 teachers were from the Christian minority community, and 03 teachers were Hindu.

5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 05.11.2019, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 08.11.2019 and the said application is still pending before the State Competent Authority. The State Competent Authority has not granted NOC in favour of the petitioner institution till now and also not rejected the said application and not communicated the same to the petitioner. After 90 days from the receipt of the application for grant of NOC, the petitioner has filed this petition for grant of MSC to this Commission straightway as per the provisions of Section 10 and 11(f) of National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (in short 'NCMEI') Act, 2004.
6. After service of registered notice dated 06.04.2023 and 03.11.2023, no reply /response has been received from the respondent. Thereafter in the facts and circumstances of the case, Commission deemed fit and proper that physical inspection report alongwith recommendation may be obtained from the Committee constituted by this Commission for issuance of MSC to the petitioner institution vide order dated 05.12.2023. After service of letter/emails to the physical inspection committee dated 02.01.2024 and reminders dated 28.03.2024, 20.06.2024, 13.09.2024, 22.04.2025 and 25.07.2025, Physical inspection committee failed to send report to the Commission. Hence, the case was proceeded ex-parte against members of the said committee in terms of order dated 22.07.2025. As per census of India report of 2011 Christian minority community in the state of Odisha is 2.77%. As per the information supplied by the petitioner institution in the Academic year 2025-26, out of the total 86 students, 41 students were from the Christian minority community which is 47.67% which is more than the state census of 2011 i.e. 2.77%.
7. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner, perused the pleading of the petition, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Sr. Martha Pradhan, President of The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul Society.
8. Hon'ble Apex Court, various High Courts as well as this Commission in case of Buckley Primary School, Cuttack, Orissa Vs. Government of Orissa (order passed by the Commission in Case No. 1320 of 2009 dated 6.7.2010) have categorically held that the percentage of admission of students from notified minority community in a minority educational institution is not an indicia for determining the minority status of such institution. This Commission has also decided that there must be reasonable strength of students of particular minority community in a minority educational institution. The percentage could be determined based on the actual proportion of specific minority community in the State population as per prevailing census. Population of Christian minority community in the State of Odisha as per the census of 2011 is 2.77%.
9. The petitioner institution has applied for grant of minority status certificate on the ground that the same has been established primarily for the benefit of the members of the Christian minority community and is being administered by The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul Society which is managed and run by the members of the Christian minority community. The aforesaid averments made in the petition find ample corroboration from the documentary evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner institution and the affidavit of Sr. Martha Pradhan, President of The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul.
10. I have perused the Amended Memorandum of Association of the petitioner institution which was registered before the Office of the Registrar of Societies, Odisha on dated 09.11.2017 which is before the filing of NOC applications U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 05.11.2019 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 14.03.2023. So it is clear that the amendment has been done before the application filed before the State Competent Authority U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 and also petition for grant of MSC before this Commission.
11. The Amended Memorandum of Association dated 09.11.2017 for the petitioner society and all the documents produced by the petitioner institution clearly reflects that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are primarily the members of the

Christian minority community. In addition, the said facts also stands proved from the documents and affidavit filed by the petitioner. There is no document on record to rebut the documentary evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner institution.

12. Relying on the said un rebutted evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner, we find and hold that De Paul School, Hatigarh, Hatigarh P.O., Raibania P.S., Jaleswar Block, Balasore District, Odisha – 756 033 run by The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul Society is eligible for grant of minority status on religious basis. The evidence also proves that the said educational institution was established with the main objective of sub-serving the interests of the Christian minority community.
13. Consequently, De Paul School, Hatigarh, Hatigarh P.O., Raibania P.S., Jaleswar Block, Balasore District, Odisha – 756 033 is declared as an unaided minority educational institution covered under Article 30 of the Constitution of India within the meaning of Section 2(g) of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004.
14. A minority status certificate be issued accordingly.
15. In view of the above, the present petition is disposed of in accordance with this order.

Signed, pronounced and published on **Wednesday, 15th Day of JULY, 2026.**

DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER

DSS