

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

CASE NO. 113 OF 2025

In the matter of:

**Sacred Heart Senior Secondary School, VPO, Pattikalayana, Panipat
Dt., Haryana – 132102.**

... Petitioner

Versus

**Principal Secretary, School Education Department for
Schools/Primary Schools, Room No. 37, 7th Floor, Haryana Civil
Secretariat, Sector - 1, Chandigarh.**

... Respondent

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

ORDER

Date: 05.08.2026

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 02.09.2025 by hand through Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to Sacred Heart Senior Secondary School, VPO, Pattikalayana, Panipat Dt., Haryana – 132102.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed an affidavit of Lucy Emmanuel Punnamukalayil, President of Institute of Sisters of Charity and authorized representative of petitioner institution 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. : DL/2017/0155179 of the petitioner Society as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, photocopy of application dated 24.05.2025 sent to the State Competent Authority alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copies of Certificate of Registration, Memorandum of Association alongwith list of founding members, Amended Memorandum of Association alongwith list of present members of Institute of Sisters of Charity, notarized copy of recognition order dated 09.12.2020 issued by the Superintendent P.S. for Director Secondary Education Haryana, Panchkula granting affiliation to the unaided petitioner institution and original resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Lucy Emmanuel Punnamukalayil, President of Institute of Sisters of Charity for obtaining MSC from this Commission.

4. As per the information supplied in the physical Inspection Report unaided institution with regard to students' strength, it is mentioned that during the academic year 2023-24, out of the total 364 students, 07 students were from the Christian minority community and 357 students were Hindu. During the academic year 2024-25, out of the total 424 students, 09 students were from the Christian minority community, 02 students were from the Sikh minority community, 03 students were

from the Jain minority community and 410 students were Hindu and during the academic year 2025-26, out of the total 525 student, 14 students were from the Christian minority community, 02 students were from the Sikh minority community, 02 students were from the Jain minority community and 509 students were Hindu. It is relevant to mention here that during the academic year 2023-24, out of 16 teachers, 03 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 13 teachers were Hindu. During the academic year 2024-25, out of 21 teachers, 03 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 18 teachers were Hindu and during the academic year 2025-26, out of 27 teachers, 03 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 24 teachers were Hindu.

5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 24.05.2025, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 27.05.2025 and the same 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 application 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 / email dated 25.09.2025, no reply/response has 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 20.11.2025. After service of letter/emails to the physical inspection committee dated 25.11.2025 and reminder dated 20.02.2026, Physical Inspection Committee, has sent letter dated 09.02.2026, which was received by post in the Commission's Office on dated 12.02.2026 which was duly signed by members of the physical Inspection Committee wherein they have not recommended to grant minority status certificate to the petitioner institution. As per census report of 2011 percentage of Christian minority community in the state of Haryana is 0.20%. As per information supplied by physical Inspection Report that in the year 2025-26, out of the total 525 students, 14 students were from the Christian minority community, which is 2.66%, which is more than the state census of 2011 i.e. 0.20%.

7. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner, perused the pleadings, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Lucy Emmanuel Punnamukalayil, President of Institute of Sisters of Charity and authorized representative of petitioner institution.

8. 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 Institute of Sisters of Charity 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 Lucy Emmanuel Punnamukalayil, President of Institute of Sisters of Charity and authorized representative of petitioner institution.

9. 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 this Commission in Case No. 1320 of 2009 dated 06.07.2010) 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 Haryana as per the census of 2011 was 0.20%.

10. I have perused the Amended Memorandum of Association of the petitioner institution, which was registered before the Registrar (Firms & Societies) District South East, Delhi on dated 22.03.2019 which is before the filing of NOC application

U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 24.05.2025 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 02.09.2025. 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 on dated 22.03.2019 of the said Society and all the documents produced by the petitioner institution clearly reflect that the beneficiaries of the petitioner institution are primarily the members of the Christian minority community. In addition, the said fact 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 before this Commission.

12. Relying on the said un rebutted evidence produced on behalf of the petitioner, we find and hold that Sacred Heart Senior Secondary School, VPO, Pattikalayana, Panipat Dt., Haryana – 132102 run by Institute of Sisters of Charity 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 subserving the interests of the Christian minority community.

13. Consequently, Sacred Heart Senior Secondary School, VPO, Pattikalayana, Panipat Dt., Haryana – 132102 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, 05th day of August, 2026.**

DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER

DSS