

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

Case No. 95 of 2025

In the matter of :-

**Mar Gregorios Memorial School, Near Chanakyapuri, New Sama
Road, Vadodara, Gujarat-390024.**

..... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1. Deputy Director, Directors of Schools, Old Sachivalaya Block 9/1
Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
- 2. Director of School, Directorate of School, 2nd Floor, Vidya
Samiksha Kendra (VSK), Opp. Punitvan, Sector-19, Gandhinagar,
Gujarat-382021.**

..... Respondent

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

ORDER

DATED 12.08.2026

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 13.06.2025 by hand through Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to Mar Gregorios Memorial School, Near Chanakyapuri, New Sama Road, Vadodara, Gujarat -390024.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed an affidavit of Mr. Anish Chacko, Secretary of Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church, Baroda 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 notarized copy of Unique ID No. : GJ/2018/0208776 of the petitioner Society as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, photocopy of application dated 06.03.2025 sent to the State Competent Authority alongwith postal receipt and its tracking report, notarized copies of Certificate of Registration in Gujarati language alongwith its English translation, Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations alongwith list of founding members, Amended Memorandum of Association in Gujarati language alongwith its English translation dated 16.08.2024 and list of present members of the Mar Gregorios Orthodox

Syrian Church, Baroda Society, notarized copy of recognition order in Gujarati language alongwith its English translation duly notarized by notary public order dated 02.09.1997 issued by the Higher Education Commissioner's Office, Gandhinagar granting permission to the unaided petitioner institution and original resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Mr. Anish Chacko, Secretary of Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church, Baroda 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 2022-23, it is mentioned that out of total 1418 students, 122 students were from the Muslim minority community, 173 students were from the Christian minority community, 55 students were from the Sikh minority community and 1068 students were Hindu. In the year 2023-24, it is mentioned that out of total 1434 students, 136 students were from the Muslim minority community, 171 students were from the Christian minority community, 51 students were from the Sikh minority community and 1076 students were Hindu. In the year 2024-25, It is mentioned that out of total 1431 students, 141 students were from the Muslim minority community, 163 students were from the Christian minority community, 52 students were from Sikh minority community and 1075 students were Hindu. It is relevant to mention here that during the academic year 2022-23, out of the total 40 teachers, 01 teacher was from the Muslim minority community, 18 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 06 teachers were Hindu. In the academic year 2023-24, out of the total 43 teachers, 01 teacher was from the Muslim minority community, 15 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 27 were Hindu. In the academic year 2024-25, out of the total 43 teachers, 01 teacher was from the Muslim minority community, 16 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 26 teachers were Hindu.
5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 06.03.2025, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 11.03.2025 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 / email dated 29.07.2025, 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 29.09.2025. After service of letter/emails to the physical inspection committee dated 09.10.2025 and reminders dated 12.12.2025 and 02.03.2026, Physical Inspection Committee, vide letter 21.02.2026 has sent Physical Inspection Report which was received by post in the Commission's Office on dated 05.03.2026. A further copy of said Physical Inspection Report was also received by post in the Commission's Office on dated 16.04.2026 which was duly signed by all the members of the physical Inspection Committee wherein they have recommended to grant minority status certificate to the petitioner institution.

7. Heard the Learned Counsel for the petitioner, perused the pleading of the petition, the documents filed by the petitioner and affidavit of Mr. Anish Chacko, Secretary of Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church, Baroda 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 Gujarat as per the census of 2011 is 0.52%.
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 Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church, Baroda 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 Mr. Anish Chacko, Secretary of Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church, Baroda Society.
10. I have perused the Amended Memorandum of Association of the Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church which was registered before the Public Trust Registration Office, Vadodara, on dated 16.08.2024 which is before the filing of NOC applications U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 06.03.2025 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 13.06.2025. 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 dated 16.08.2024 Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church PPand 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 Mar Gregorios Memorial School, Near Chanakyapuri, New Sama Road, Vadodara, Gujarat- 390024 run by Mar Gregorios Orthodox Syrian Church, Baroda 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, Mar Gregorios Memorial School, Near Chanakyapuri, New Sama Road, Vadodara, Gujarat- 390024 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, 12th Day of August, 2026.**

DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER

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