

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

Case No. 76 of 2026

In the matter of :-

Holy Child School, Village Chhohan, P.O. Sahle Chak, Tehsil Kalanaur, Chhohan, Gurdaspur District, Punjab – 143 526.

.....Petitioner

V/s.

Branch Director of Public Instruction (S.E.), Punjab Block E, Vidya Bhawan, 4th Floor Complex, Punjab School Education Board, Sector – 62, S.A.S. Nagar, Punjab.

..... Respondent

Present: Mr. Junais P., Advocate for the petitioner.
 None for the respondent

ORDER

DATED 18.08.2026

Dr. Shahid Akhter, Member, NCMEI

1. This petition has been received on 06.04.2026 by hand through Mr. Junais P, Advocate of the petitioner institution for grant of Minority Status Certificate (in short 'MSC') to Holy Child School, Village Chhohan, P.O. Sahle Chak, Tehsil Kalanaur, Chhohan, Gurdaspur District, Punjab – 143 526.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner filed an affidavit of Sr. Ruphina, President of Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa 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. : HR/2022/0328993 of the petitioner Society as given by the Niti Aayog Portal NGO Darpan, photocopy of application dated 08.12.2025 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 05.08.2025 alongwith list of present members of Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa, notarized copy of recognition order dated 24.07.2023 issued by the Chief Executive & Secretary, CISCE, granting affiliation to the unaided petitioner institution and resolution of the General Body of the Society in favour of Sr. Ruphina, President of Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa 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 2023-24, it is mentioned that out of total 500 students, 114 students were from the Christian minority community, 319 students were from the Sikh minority community and 67 students were Hindu. In the year 2024-25, it is mentioned that out of total 553 students, 129 students were from the Christian minority community, 352 students were from the Sikh minority community and 72 students were Hindu. In the year 2025-26, it is mentioned that out of total 631 students, 150 students were from the Christian minority community, 400 student was from the Sikh minority community and 81 students were Hindu and in the year 2026-27, it is mentioned that out of total 698 students, 168 students were from the Christian minority community, 442

student was from the Sikh minority community and 88 students were Hindu. It is relevant to mention here that during the academic year 2023-24, out of the total 20 teachers, 09 teachers were from the Sikh minority community, 08 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 03 teachers were Hindu. In the academic year 2024-25, out of the total 27 teachers, 11 teachers were from the Sikh minority community, 13 teachers were from the Christian minority community and 03 teachers were Hindu. In the academic year 2025-26, out of the total 27 teachers, 11 teachers were from the Sikh minority community, 12 teachers were from the Christian minority community, and 04 teachers were Hindu and in the academic year 2026-27, out of the total 36 teachers, 17 teachers were from the Sikh minority community, 14 teachers were from the Christian minority community, and 05 teachers were Hindu.

5. It is stated in the petition that on dated 08.12.2025, the petitioner institution has applied to the State Competent Authority for grant of NOC which was received by the State Competent Authority on 12.12.2025 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 17.04.2026, 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 15.04.2026. After service of letter/emails to the physical inspection committee dated 17.04.2026 and reminder dated 27.07.2026, Physical Inspection Committee, vide letter dated 13.07.2026 has sent Physical Inspection Report which was received by post in the Commission's Office on dated 22.07.2026 and by email on 14.07.2026 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 Sr. Ruphina, President of Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa.
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 Punjab as per the census of 2011 is 1.26%.
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 Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa 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. Ruphina, President of Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa.
10. I have perused the Amended Memorandum of Association of the Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa which was registered before the District Registrar of Societies, Haryana on dated 05.08.2025 which is before the filing of NOC applications U/s 10 of the NCMEI Act, 2004 dated 08.12.2025 and petition for grant of MSC on dated 06.04.2026. 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 05.08.2025 for the Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa 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 Holy Child School, Village Chhohan, P.O. Sahle Chak, Tehsil Kalanaur, Chhohan, Gurdaspur District, Punjab – 143 526. run by Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa 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, Holy Child School, Village Chhohan, P.O. Sahle Chak, Tehsil Kalanaur, Chhohan, Gurdaspur District, Punjab – 143 526. 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 **Tuesday, 18th day of August, 2026.**

DR. SHAHID AKHTER
MEMBER

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