

Preventing student suicides

The rising number of cases must provoke a discussion on how outcomes of education are perceived in India



SHAHANA MUNAZIR

The end of 2018 brought with it some deeply unsettling cases of student suicides. The deaths of 49 students in Navodaya Vidyalaya schools in the last five years, and of three students preparing for the IIT entrance examinations in Kota in a span of four days, brings the issue of youth suicides to the fore again. More youths are taking their lives due to the fear of failing in examinations, constant flak from teachers, bullying from peers, family pressure and a loss of a sense of a decent future. These cases force us to recognise that youth suicides are ubiquitous, and the educational ecosystem must take the blame for this.

Current scenario

The Kota case is not an aberration. There have been frequent news reports of suicides taking place in coaching centres that train students for medical and engineering entrance examinations. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, between 2014 and 2016, 26,476 students committed suicide in India. Of them, 7,462 committed suicide due to failure in various examinations.

The rising number of these cases provokes a serious discussion on the way in which outcomes of education are perceived in India. The instrumental value of education in India is its potential in generating socio-economic and cultural capital through a promise of decent job opportunities in the future. But the education system has not been successful in generating enough job options. For instance, the International Labour Organisation's World Employment and Social Outlook Trends Report of 2018 says that in 2019, the job status of nearly 77% of Indian workers would be vulnerable and that 18.9 million people would be unemployed. With their job future being so bleak, students are put under constant pressure to perform. They have failed to learn to enjoy the process of education. Instead, the constant pressure and stress has generated social antipathy and detachment among them. Sociologist Emile Durkheim had famously hypothesised that suicides are a result of not just psychological or emotional factors but social factors as well. With a loss of community and other social bonds, students in schools, colleges and coaching centres end up taking their lives.

Following the reports of suicides in Navo-

daya Vidyalayas, the National Human Rights Commission sought information from the Ministry of Human Resource Development on whether trained counsellors were present on campus. In the recently concluded winter session of Parliament, the HRD Minister said that an expert committee has been set up to look into the matter. According to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samitis, merely one or two training sessions are included to sensitise the teachers and principals regarding safety and security of the children and to prevent suicidal tendencies. The framework for implementation of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) recognises the role of guidance and counselling services to students. In 2018, the government approved an integrated school education scheme subsuming the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the RMSA, and Teacher Education from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020. However, without



any significant rise in budgetary allocations for education, it is likely that there would be cuts in "non-productive" areas of education such as guidance and counselling.

The way forward

First, stop-gap solutions to setting up expert committees and counsellors in schools have not been able to solve the problem. The deep-rooted causes must be addressed. The government must undertake a comprehensive study on the reasons behind these suicides. Second, the curriculum should be designed in ways that stress the importance of mental exercises and meditation. The Delhi government's initiative on the 'Happiness Curriculum' may be a step in the right direction. Third, with regards to higher education, 12 measures were suggested by the Justice Roopanwal Commission. One of them stressed on making Equal Opportunity Cells with an anti-discrimination officer functional in universities and colleges. Finally, it is high time we seek to reinvent our educational ecosystem in ways that impregnate new meanings, new ideas of living, and renewed possibilities that could transform a life of precarity into a life worth living.

Shahana Munazir is a Delhi-based scholar



Hindu, The, Delhi

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NHRC notice over girl 'delivering' at school

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission sent a notice to the Odisha government on Monday over reports that a 14-year-old girl delivered a baby in a State-run tribal school hostel in Kandhamal, officials said. Reportedly, after the delivery, the girl, along with her newborn, was "driven out" of the hostel. The infant later died at a hospital. Four school officials have been suspended. PTI



ओडिशा को एनएचआरसी ने भेजा नोटिस

नई दिल्ली। ओडिशा के कंधमाल जिले के एक सरकारी आदिवासी आवासीय विद्यालय में 14 साल की नाबालिग लड़की के एक बच्चे को जन्म देने संबंधी खबरों पर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने ओडिशा सरकार को नोटिस जारी कर चार हफ्ते में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट तलब की है। मानवाधिकार आयोग ने बयान जारी कर बताया कि बच्ची के जन्म के बाद छात्रा को नवजात के साथ होस्टल से बाहर खदेड़ दिया गया और उसे मजबूरन एक 'जंगल में शरण लेने पर मजबूर' होना पड़ा। आयोग ने राज्य के मुख्य सचिव को नोटिस जारी कर चार हफ्तों में दोषियों के खिलाफ की गई कार्रवाई एवं नाबालिग लड़की के राहत एवं पुनर्वास संबंधी विस्तृत रिपोर्ट तलब की है।

यूपी की मुठभेड़ों पर बोले चीफ जस्टिस-इस गंभीर मामले पर विस्तार से सुनवाई जरूरी

कोर्ट में अगली सुनवाई
12 फरवरी को होगी

भास्कर न्यूज | नई दिल्ली



उत्तरप्रदेश में हो रही पुलिस मुठभेड़ों पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गहरी चिंता जताई है।

सोमवार को इस मामले से जुड़ी दो याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई करते हुए चीफ जस्टिस रंजन गोगोई ने कहा

अपराधियों को पीड़ित बनाकर पेश किया : रोहतगी

यूपी सरकार की ओर से सीनियर एडवोकेट मुकुल रोहतगी ने कहा सरकार ने मुठभेड़ों पर लगे आरोपों को जांच मानवाधिकार आयोग व सुप्रीम कोर्ट की गाइडलाइंस के अनुसार करवाई है। अपराधियों को पीड़ित बनाकर पेश किया गया है। मुठभेड़ों में मारे गए 48 लोगों में से 30 बहुसंख्यक हैं। सभी मामलों की मजिस्ट्रेट जांच हो चुकी है। सभी आरोप बेबुनियाद मिले हैं।

कि यह मामला बेहद गंभीर है। इस पर विस्तृत सुनवाई जरूरी है। अगली सुनवाई 12 फरवरी को होगी।

उल्लेखनीय है कि पीपुल यूनियन फॉर सिविल लिबर्टीज और क्राइम अगेंस्ट हेट नाम की

दो संस्थाओं ने यूपी में होने वाली पुलिस मुठभेड़ों को लेकर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिकाएं दायर कर रखी हैं। याचिकाकर्ताओं की ओर से वकील प्रशांत भूषण ने कहा कि योगी सरकार के कार्यकाल में हुई

फर्जी मुठभेड़ों में से 17 की जांच मानवाधिकार आयोग कर रहा है। कोर्ट को मानवाधिकार आयोग की रिपोर्ट मांगनी चाहिए। वहीं, क्राइम अगेंस्ट हेट ने बताया कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एक एजेंसी ने हाल ही में यूपी की मुठभेड़ों पर एक रिपोर्ट जारी की है। इसके अनुसार यूपी पुलिस ने पहले लोगों को उठाया और फिर सुनसान जगह ले जाकर मार दिया। मरने वालों के शरीरों पर टार्चर के निशान भी मिले हैं। कोर्ट ने मामले की सुनवाई 12 फरवरी तक के लिए टाल दी।



Headmistress suspended after 15-yr-old gives birth in hostel

**Hrusikesh Mohanty &
Hemanta Pradhan | TNN**

Bhubaneswar/Berhampur:

A Class VIII student of a government-run residential school in Kandhamal district gave birth in her hostel room on Sunday. The 15-year-old alleges she was raped around 8 months ago. Her baby died on Sunday

night. The headmistress and several others involved in the running of the hostel have been suspended. A 23-year-old was also arrested.

Charana Panda, superintendent of the medical college where the survivor and her child were admitted, said, "The baby died a little later after being brought here. The

mother is stable."

The National Human Rights Commission has also taken suo motu cognisance of the matter and issued a notice on Monday to the chief secretary seeking a report in four weeks. The government has been asked to clarify the action taken against the guilty and rehabilitation pro-

vided to the survivor.

The headmistress has been suspended by the Odisha government. Three teachers, who were hostel superintendents over last 6 months, along with auxiliary nursing midwife, matron, cook and helper have also been suspended. All the other 10 teachers of the school were transferred on Monday.



Jaideep Govind next secy general of NHRC

New Delhi: Bureaucrat Jaideep Govind Monday joined the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as its 15th secretary-general, officials said. A 1984-batch IAS officer of the MP cadre, Govind, before joining NHRC, was posted as the special secretary and the financial adviser in the ministries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water and Sanitation, the NHRC said in a statement.



SC to examine plea alleging encounter killings in UP

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine in detail a plea seeking a court-monitored CBI or SIT probe into incidents of alleged police encounters and killings in Uttar Pradesh.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Ashok Bhushan and S K Kaul perused the material on record and said issues raised in the petition by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) required "serious consideration" and fixed the hearing on February 12.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, however, claimed all norms and procedures were followed by the state administration.

Earlier, the apex court had sought response from the state

government on the PIL filed by the NGO, alleging that there were about 1,100 encounters in 2017 in which 49 people were killed and 370 injured.

The NGO, in its plea, referred to news reports quoting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his deputy Keshav Prasad Maurya and ADG (law and order) Anand Kumar justifying encounter killings of criminals in the state. It sought a probe into the encounters by an independent agency -- the Central Bureau of Investigation or a Special Investigation Team comprising police officers of "integrity and who have not served in the state of Uttar Pradesh". Quoting the figure provided by the state to the NHRC, it said 45 persons died between January 1, 2017 till March 31, 2018.

MPOST



Minor delivers baby, NHRC issues notice to Odisha govt

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BHUBANESWAR, 14 JANUARY

The National Human Rights Commission has taken suo moto cognizance of report that a 14-year-old girl student of Class VIII delivered a baby girl in a state-run tribal residential school in Kandhamal district on 12 January and issued notice to the chief secretary seeking a report within four weeks.

The outrage over a horrifying incident peaked today as the new born died at the MKCG Hospital, Berhampur while the minor mother continues to battle for life at the hospital.

The Congress and BJP stepped up the heat on the Naveen Patnaik government saying it is yet another instance of lack of governance and height of insensitivity.

OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik demanded the resignation of tribal welfare minister Ramesh Majhi on moral grounds and a team of the Mahila Congress visited the hospital as well as Kandhamal district. Mahila Congress president S Jena said the parents of the

The outrage over the horrifying incident peaked on Monday as the new born died at the MKCG Hospital, Berhampur while the minor mother continues to battle for life at the hospital

victim girl are distressed as they have not even been able to see their daughter. Union Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan said it is high time that the insensitive, anti-Dalit, anti-tribal BJD government is thrown out.

Grabbing at the opportunity to slam the BJD government, former MP Baijayant Panda said such instances are on the rise in Odisha. In 2015 over 20 cases of teen pregnancies in tribal schools were reported, he alleged.

Women are not safe in Odisha charged expelled former BJD leader Damodar Rout.

Heads at the very top including the tribal welfare minister should roll, not mere staff of the residential school, thun-

dered the opposition leaders while drawing attention to circulars that medical checkups should be held regularly at such schools, the district collector needs to monitor the functioning of such institutions etc.

It may be recalled that the minor girl had conceived and given birth to a baby girl on Saturday night at a government residential school. She was allegedly driven out of the hostel and was hiding in a nearby forest before being rescued.

The district administration has suspended the headmistress and sacked six staff members of the institution. A college student has been arrested on charges of impregnating the girl.

The NHRC today observed that the contents of the news report, if true, amount to gross violation of human rights of the minor girl who, apparently, became the victim of the apathy and gross negligence of the school administration.

The state is responsible for the safety and security of the girl students, residing in the residential schools.



Asian Age, Delhi

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■ 'Issues raised in petition required serious consideration' SC to examine plea on encounters

New Delhi, Jan. 14: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine in detail "on the earliest possible date" a plea seeking a court-monitored CBI or SIT probe into incidents of alleged police encounters and killings in Uttar Pradesh.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi perused the materials on record and said the issues raised in the petition of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) required "serious consideration" and fixed the hearing on February 12.

"Having considered the pleadings brought on record and having heard ... We are of the view that the matter would require an examination by the court on the earliest possi-

UTTAR PRADESH

► Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said all norms and procedures were followed by the state

ble date. We accordingly fix the matter for hearing on February 12, on the top of the board," the bench, which also comprised justices Ashok Bhushan and S.K. Kaul, said.

The top court said it would decide on the next date of hearing the plea of organisation 'Citizens against Hate', represented by lawyer Prashant Bhushan, seeking to be

made a party to the petition filed by the PUCL.

The court will also decide on February 12 whether to seek a report from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the alleged encounter killings in the state.

Mr Bhushan said the rights body was "in seisin of some of the (encounter) cases" and its report be called for the adjudication of the plea by the apex court. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said all norms and procedures were followed by the state administration.

Earlier, the apex court had sought response from the state government on the PIL filed by the NGO,

alleging that there were about 1,100 encounters in 2017 in which 49 people were killed and 370 injured. It, however, had not agreed to the submission of lawyer Sanjay Parikh, appearing for PUCL, that a notice be also issued to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as it had already taken note of alleged statements of chief minister Yogi Adityanath on the encounters in the state.

The NGO, in its plea, has referred to news reports quoting the chief minister, his deputy Keshav Prasad Maurya and ADG Law and Order Anand Kumar, justifying the encounter killings of criminals in the state.

— PTI



Hindustan, Delhi

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छात्रावास में बच्ची का जन्म मामले में नोटिस

नई दिल्ली। ओडिशा के कंधमाल जिले के एक सरकारी आदिवासी आवासीय विद्यालय में 14 साल की नाबालिग लड़की के एक बच्चे को जन्म देने संबंधी खबरों पर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने ओडिशा सरकार को नोटिस जारी किया है। साथ ही चार हफ्ते में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट तलब की है।



Top court to examine petition seeking probe

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday agreed to examine in detail "on the earliest possible date" a plea seeking a court-monitored CBI or SIT probe into incidents of alleged police encounters and killings in Uttar Pradesh.

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"Having considered the pleadings brought on record and having heard... we are of the view that the matter would require an examination by the court on the earliest possible date. We accordingly fix the matter for hearing on February 12, on the top of the board," the bench, which also

comprised justices Ashok Bhushan and SK Kaul, said.

The top court said it would decide on the next date of hearing the plea of organisation 'Citizens against Hate', represented by lawyer Prashant Bhushan, seeking to be made a party to the petition filed by the PUCL. It will also decide on February 12 whether to seek a report from the National Human Rights Commission on the alleged encounter killings.

Bhushan said the rights body was "in seisin of some of the (encounter) cases" and its report be called for the adjudication of the plea by the apex court. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said all norms and procedures were followed by the state administration.

PTI



Hindustan, Delhi

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जयदीप एनएचआरसी के महासचिव बने

नयी दिल्ली। मध्यप्रदेश कैडर के आईएएस अधिकारी जयदीप गोविंद को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग - एनएचआरसी का महासचिव नियुक्त किया गया है। कार्मिक मंत्रालय ने इस संबंध में एक आदेश जारी किया है।



NEWS SERVICES DIVISION
ALL INDIA RADIO

Jaideep Govind appointed Secretary General, NHRC

Jan 14, 2019

Senior IAS officer Jaideep Govind has been appointed the Secretary General of National Human Rights Commission. A release by NHRC today said that prior to joining the Commission, he was posted as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Ministries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water and Sanitation.

He has held various important posts in the Government of India, including the charge of Human Rights Division in the Home Ministry.

Jaideep Govind appointed Secretary General of NHRC

Posted 14 Jan 2019

Senior IAS officer Jaideep Govind was on Monday appointed Secretary General of National Human Rights Commission.

An official statement issued by NHRC said that prior to joining the Commission, he was posted as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser in the ministries of rural development, panchayati raj, drinking water and sanitation.

Govind, a 1984 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh Cadre, is the 15th Secretary General of the Commission.

He has held various important posts in various capacities such as Additional Secretary in Home Ministry and has looked after critical areas of left-wing extremism and police modernization.

He addressed the UN Forum in New York on human trafficking and attended an important meeting on trafficking of women and children in Bangkok. -

Jaideep Govind next secy general of NHRC

Press Trust of India | New Delhi Last Updated at January 14, 2019 20:50 IST

Bureaucrat Jaideep Govind Monday joined the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as its 15th secretary-general, officials said.

A 1984-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, Govind, before joining the NHRC, was posted as the special secretary and the financial adviser in the ministries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water and Sanitation, and the Department of Land Resources, the NHRC said in a statement.

He succeeds Ambuj Sharma as the next secretary-general of the rights panel that has completed 25 years of its existence.

Govind has held various important posts in the Union government, such as the additional secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and looked after critical areas of left-wing extremism, police modernisation and procurement for the Central Armed Police Forces.

Jaideep Govind appointed Secretary General of NHRC

14 JANUARY 2019

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Jaideep Govind next secy general of NHRC

New Delhi, Jan 14 (PTI)

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Jaideep Govind joins as Secretary General, NHRC

Speed Post News Network January 14, 2019

New Delhi : Jaideep Govind, 1984 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh Cadre, joined the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on January 14, 2019, as Secretary General of the Commission. He is the 15th Secretary General of the Commission.

Prior to joining NHRC, he was posted as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Ministries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation, and Department of Land Resources that include flagship schemes such as MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, NRDWP, Swachh Bharat Mission, Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme etc.

He has held various important posts in the Government of India such as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and looked after critical areas of Left Wing Extremism, Police Modernisation and procurement for CAPF etc. Govind has also looked after the Centre-State Division and Human Rights Division in the Home Ministry. He addressed the UN Forum in New York on human trafficking and attended the important meeting on trafficking of women and children in Bangkok, according to an NHRC release.

As Chief Electoral Officer, Madhya Pradesh, Govind won Special Award in 2014 for best CEO in the country for conduct of Lok Sabha Elections and also received Best State Award in 2013, for conduct of Assembly Elections. He also won the Prime Minister's award for Excellence for Civil Servants in 2010 as part of the team for effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act when he was Tribal Commissioner in Madhya Pradesh.

NHRC notice to Odisha government on minor giving birth at school

ANI | New Delhi [India] Last Updated at January 14, 2019 21:35 IST

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice to the Odisha government in a case that pertains to the delivery of a baby girl by a 14-year-old girl, student of Class 8, at the hostel of a state-run tribal residential school in Kandhamal district on January 12.

The NHRC acted after taking suo-motu cognizance of the media report regarding the incident. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks regarding action taken against the guilty and relief/ rehabilitation as well as counseling provided to the victim.

Reportedly, after the delivery, the victim along with her new born baby was driven out of the hostel and was forced to take shelter in a nearby jungle. The girl along with her baby was traced with the help of local police on January 13 and admitted to a hospital.

"The girl belongs to Scheduled Tribe, hence, the Commission would also like to know details of the sections under which FIR has been registered and status of statutory relief as per provisions of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) Rules, 1995," read the notice.

"The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, amount to gross violation of human rights of the minor girl who, apparently, became the victim of the apathy and gross negligence of the school administration," it said.

"The state is responsible for the safety and security of the girl students, residing in the residential schools. It is apparent that the school head-mistress and hostel warden have failed to protect the poor girl while she was in their custody and due to their negligence she has suffered mental agony and social stigma," said NHRC in its notice.

Meanwhile, locals protested against the incident at the Kandhamal. The Superintendent of Police (SP) Prateek Singh, said : "Preliminary inquiry revealed that 7-8 months ago when the victim went to her home, she was raped by a 23-year-old man in her village."

"On the basis of this information police immediately detained the accused. The administration has also taken immediate action against the school staff," he added.

NHRC notice to Odisha after minor rape survivor gives birth in school hostel

A 14-year-old girl student of Class-VIII delivered a baby girl in the toilet of a hostel in Odisha's Kandhamal district, the infant died in a hospital.

Jan 14, 2019

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued a notice to the Odisha chief secretary over a 14-year-old girl student in Kandhamal district delivering a baby girl in a tribal school hostel, seeking a report about the incident and the compensation given to the victim in four weeks. The under-weight new born died on Monday, police said.

The girl, who was allegedly raped by a 22-year-old college student of the same district eight months ago, had delivered a baby girl in the toilet of her school hostel on Sunday morning.

Police officials said the girl got pregnant after she was raped by a 23-year-old youth of her village. The accused Sraban Pradhan has been arrested. However, the new-born died in the MKCG Medical College and Hospital of Berhampur town today.

As the girl belonged to a Scheduled Tribe, the Commission sought to know status of statutory relief given to her as per provisions of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Rules, 1995.

NHRC issues notice to Odisha govt over school girl delivering baby

Odisha Sun Times Bureau January 14, 2019

Bhubaneswar: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) today issued a notice to the Odisha Government over news reports of the delivery of a baby girl by a Class-VIII student of a state-run tribal residential school in Odisha's Kandhamal district.

The Commission, in a statement, said, "It has issued the notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks regarding action taken against the guilty and relief/ rehabilitation as well as counseling provided to the victim girl."

NHRC has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report that a 14-year-old girl delivered a baby girl in a state-run tribal residential school in Kandhamal district on the 12th January, 2019. Reportedly, after the delivery, the victim girl along with her new born baby was driven out of the hostel and she was forced to take shelter in a nearby jungle. The girl along with her new born baby was traced with the help of local police on the 13th January, 2019 and admitted to a hospital, it added.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, amount to gross violation of human rights of the minor girl who, apparently, became the victim of the apathy and gross negligence of the school administration. The state is responsible for the safety and security of the girl students, residing in the residential schools. It is apparent that the school headmistress and hostel warden have failed to protect the poor girl while she was in their custody and due to their negligence she has suffered mental agony and social stigma, the statement added.

As per news report, carried today on the 14th January, 2019, a 3rd year student of the Daringbadi College, has been arrested and two matrons, two cook-cum-attendants, a lady supervisor and an auxiliary nurse midwife of the institute have been disengaged from service for dereliction of duty in connection with this incident. It is also been reported that the government has recommended suspension of the school head-mistress on the same charges, the NHRC said.

Reportedly, Seva Ashram High School at Daringbadi area of the district is run by the SC and ST Development Department of Odisha. The Minister concerned has reportedly stated that the District Collector has been directed to probe the incident and submit a detailed report regarding circumstances under which the girl got pregnant and delivered a baby. The locals also staged a demonstration and blocked the National Highway 59, demanding immediate arrest of the culprits and strict action against school head-mistress and the hostel warden.

Delivery Of Baby By Student In Tribal Residential School: NHRC Issues Notice To Odisha Govt

On Jan 14, 2019

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report that a 14-year-old girl, student of class eight, delivered a baby girl in a state-run tribal residential school in Odisha's Kandhamal district on the 12th January, 2019.

Reportedly, after the delivery, the victim girl along with her new born baby was driven out of the hostel and she was forced to take shelter in a nearby jungle. The girl along with her new born baby was traced with the help of local police on the 13th January, 2019 and admitted to a hospital.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks regarding action taken against the guilty and relief/ rehabilitation as well as counseling provided to the victim girl.

As the girl belongs to Scheduled Tribe, the Commission also has asked details of the sections under which FIR has been registered and status of statutory relief as per provisions of the SC/ST (PoA) Rules, 1995.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, amount to gross violation of human rights of the minor girl who, apparently, became the victim of the apathy and gross negligence of the school administration. The state is responsible for the safety and security of the girl students, residing in the residential schools. It is apparent that the school head-mistress and hostel warden have failed to protect the poor girl while she was in their custody and due to their negligence she has suffered mental agony and social stigma.

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The locals also staged a demonstration and blocked the National Highway 59, demanding immediate arrest of the culprits and strict action against school head-mistress and the hostel warden.

NHRC Seeks Report From Odisha Govt Over Minor Delivering Baby in School Hostel

January 14, 2019

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday asked the Odisha government to submit a report over a minor student delivering a baby in a state-run tribal residential school in Kandhamal district of Odisha.

The commission issued a notice seeking a detailed report in the matter within four weeks regarding action taken against the guilty.

A minor girl delivered a baby girl in the hostel of the residential school in Kandhamal district on January 12. The baby died at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital.

Kandhamal District Welfare Officer (DWO) Charulata Mallick had said that the 14-year-old girl delivered the baby in the school hostel on Saturday night.

“The girl was raped eight months ago at her village. She couldn’t reveal it out of fear and shame. The main accused has been detained,” police had added.

The Kandhamal district administration took action against nine persons in connection with the incident. The school is run by the SC (scheduled caste) and ST (scheduled tribe) development department of Odisha.

Following the incident, two matrons, one auxiliary nurse midwifery of the institute, two cook-cum-attendants, and one warden were dismissed while three women Assistant Superintendents were suspended for dereliction of duty.

The district administration has recommended that the state government initiate action against the headmistress of the residential high school. The SC and ST Development Minister Ramesh Majhi said the Kandhamal Collector has been asked to conduct a probe into the matter.