



ALL INDIA OBC STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (AIOBCSA)

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12 November 2020.

To

Shri.Thalloju Achary,

Hon'ble Member,

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC),

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E),

Government of India.

Sub: Representation of OBC issues related to University of Hyderabad: violations, deviations, concerns, and request for corrective measures – reg.

Ref: (1) Representation to Shri. Bhagwan Lal Sahni ji, Chairperson, National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) on Representation of OBC Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors in Central Universities dated 18 August 2020.

(2) Representation to Shri. Thalloju Achary ji, Member, National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) on Representation of OBCs in Central Universities and a request for organizing public hearing in University of Hyderabad to address various OBC issues dated 5 October 2020.

(3) Representation to Shri. Thalloju Achary ji, Member, National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) on the minimum cut-offs sections of UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016, and injustice to SC, ST, OBC, and PWD students in the PhD and MPhil entrance exams of University of Hyderabad dated 1 November 2020.

Respected Shri. Thalloju Achary ji,

On behalf of All India OBC Students Association (AIOBCSA) we wanted to bring to your kind notice regarding OBC issues at University of Hyderabad

(1) In their reply to our Right To Information (RTI), University Grants Commission (UGC) has replied that there are 2498 Professors, 5011 Associate Professors, and 10830 Assistant Professors posts are being sanctioned to 40 Central Universities across the country as on 01-04-2020. There are only 9 Professors, 38 Associate Professors, and 1327 Assistant Professors under OBC category. Still 304 Professors, 697 Associate Professors, and 905 Assistant Professors are vacant under the OBC Category (Annexure 1). University of Hyderabad is not exceptional in filling OBC positions. The main reason for not filling OBC positions is keeping the “none found suitable” despite having minimum eligibility conditions. Less number of OBC representation at Professor and Associate Professor level will seriously impact the representation of OBC in the administrative positions.



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(2) The University of Hyderabad has constituted OBC Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. S. Prasad on 2 March 2015 and submitted the report in December 2015. Some of the report's recommendations like (a) the review of the Roster Register to know the Actual Short Fall and Backlog reservation points against each category i.e., SC, ST, OBC. (b) Separate Department of Rosters (whatever be the nomenclature) should be created to work independently without any influence (c) OBC representation in the selection committee/board for making recruitment to 10 or more vacancies at any level of posts or services are seriously being sidelined by the University of Hyderabad administration (Annexure 2). There are many deviations and diversions of posts by violating the roster points. The deviations and diversions of the reservation roster are attached to this letter (Annexure 8).

(3) There is a need to review on the spending of OBC grants given under the implementation of OBC reservations as per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in Admissions) Act, 2006. According to the RTI reply from UGC (Annexure 3) and OBC Committee Report, 2015 (Annexure 2), University of Hyderabad has received 154.94 Crores recurring and non-recurring expenditures. In the UGC letter to the University of Hyderabad dated 10 July 2008, the Joint Secretary clearly mentioned that "the Interest accrued on the grant released by UGC for this purpose shall be utilized on this project/scheme only" (Annexure 4). The OBC Committee report or the Utilization certificate of the University of Hyderabad did not mention the interest accrued on the grant. There is a need to seriously review the expenditure of the OBC grants so that, if any deviations then University will rectify the mistake and take necessary action to spend on the recurring expenditure, as the University spent less than the initial outlay (spent 30.98 crore instead of 44.21 crores of initial outlay).

(4) We want to bring to your kind notice regarding gross injustice that is happening to the SC, ST, OBC, and PwD students in the Ph.D. and MPhil admissions of the University of Hyderabad. The injustice to the SC, ST, OBC, and PwD students is happening at two levels, first at the entrance exam level and second at the interview level. The minimum cut-offs of 50 percent for General and EWS and 45 percent for SC, ST, OBC, and PwD students are introduced at the entrance exam, and these cut-offs are required to attend the interviews. The UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) (2nd Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (Annexure 6) clearly states that "provided that for selection of candidates, a weightage of 70 percent to the entrance exam and 30 percent to the performance in the interview/viva-voce shall be given". The University of Hyderabad is trying to create hurdles for SC, ST, OBC, and PwD students by introducing cut-offs along with negative marks in the entrance exams. Many Ph.D. and MPhil courses have negative marks that were not mentioned in the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016 (Annexure 5).



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This is clearly a discriminative practice that is creating hurdles to marginalized, poor, and rural aspirants. The other level of discrimination is happening at the Ph.D. and MPhil interviews. In spite of clearing entrance exams after clearing cut-offs, the admission committee of certain departments like Material Engineering, Philosophy etc. are not filling reserved seats after conducting interviews. They are simply keeping 'not recommended' which is against the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) (2nd Amendment) Regulations, 2018. Nearly 100 out of 328 PhD seats notified in the Prospectus 2020-21 are vacant due to cut-offs and discriminatory practices against the students in certain departments and centers in the University of Hyderabad.

Hence, we request you kindly respond to our following requests

(a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) shall look into the issue related to removing the Cut-offs as they are creating hurdles to marginalized communities like SC, ST, OBC, EWS, and PwD.

(b) The University of Hyderabad shall consider filling all the Ph.D. and MPhil reserved and general seats for the interviews. Keeping 'not recommended' or 'none suitable candidates found' after interviews will not be acceptable. This is also against the UGC Regulations.

(c) The University of Hyderabad shall fill all the Ph.D. and MPhil reserved and general seats, which are notified within one month as per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.PHIL./PH.D Degrees) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (Annexure 7). Section 5.4.1 clearly states that ".....provided further that, if in spite of the above relaxation, the seats allotted for SC/ST/OBC(Non-Creamy layer)/Differently-Abled categories remain unfilled, the concerned Universities shall launch a Special Admission Drive, for that particular category within one month from the date of closure of admissions of General Category. The concerned University will devise its own admission procedure, along with eligibility conditions to ensure that most of the seats under these categories are filled."

(d) As the Admission process will be closed in another two weeks, we request the National Commission of Backward Classes (NCBC) to take necessary actions to do justice to SC, ST, OBC, and PwD candidates.

(e) In this regard, Shri. Arun Ketan, who belongs to OBC category and from Telangana is being rejected for six times for the PhD programme of Materials Engineering in spite of clearing Cut-offs in the entrance examination. Even this year, he has cleared cut-off in the entrance examination and attended interview but he was 'not recommended' for the PhD programme, which is against the UGC Regulations. There are three seats vacant under the OBC category. He has written a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor-2 (Chairperson, Admissions Grievance Committee), Controller of Examinations, and Dean of the School of Engineering Science and Technology, but there is no reply from the administration. This issue seriously needs to be considered as the discrimination based on caste and region (Annexure 9)



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(5) Recently University of Hyderabad granted Institution of Eminence (IoE) status by the Ministry of Education. The reservation system shall be followed in all the teaching and non-teaching positions under the IoE. Indian Institution of Technology (IIT), New Delhi is following the SC, ST, OBC, EWS, and PwD reservations in their recruitment notification under IoE (Annexure 10)

(6) As there is no/less representation of OBCs in the Administrative positions, there is a need for an ample number of OBC representation in various administrative committees. OBC Cell shall be constituted as mentioned by the UGC from the DoPT Letter No. 43011/153/2010 dated 4 January 2013.

(7) The Ph.D. and MPhil admission procedure in the Center for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP) shall be reviewed by the Commission as there is a delay in the announcement of results. The admission requirements, criteria and break-up for the interview as prescribed in the admission prospectus shall be followed for the admission process.

(8) The entire OBC Committee Report 2015 shall be reviewed by the University of Hyderabad by an external body suggested by the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

We are thankful to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) for conducting the public hearing at the University of Hyderabad on various OBC issues. We hope that the University of Hyderabad administration will rectify deviations and diversions if found for the empowerment of OBCs on the campus.

Thanking you sir.

Yours faithfully

Gowd Kiran Kumar,
President,

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