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**Karnataka Lokayukta**

(Under Section 7 of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, 1984)

CASE COMPT/UPLOK  
NUMBER : /MYS/3752/2023  
District : Mysore

**BY :****1. Suo Moto**

As per the Order of Honble Upalokayukta, Dated:  
28/06/2023.

**COMPLAINANT/S****AGAINST :****1. Basavaraj**

Deputy Director, Department of Women and Child  
Development, Sthree Shakthi Bhavan,  
Krishnadevaraya Circle, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage,  
Mysuru.

**2. Yogesh**

District Child Protection Officer, Anjanadri Road,  
Vijayanagar 4th Stage, Mysuru.

**3. Sharada Devi**

Superintendent, Girls Bala Mandira, Lalitha  
Mahal Road, Mysuru.

**4. Latha**

Protection Officer, Girls Bala Mandira, Lalitha  
Mahal Road, Mysuru.

**5. Jayanthi**

Protection Officer, Girls Bala Mandira, Lalitha  
Mahal Road, Mysuru.

**6. Gurumurthy**

Superintendent, Boys Bala Mandira, Anjanadri  
Road, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, Mysuru.

**7. Mohan**

Superintendent, Boys Bala Mandira, Anjanadri  
Road, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, Mysuru.

**RESPONDENT/S****Allegation/Grievance****Brief :** Dereliction of duty.

Received From : Suo Moto (Upalok-2 section)

Received On : 28-06-2023

**Complaint stands  
allotted to :**

**DRE-4****Seal and Signature**

ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ಕಾನೂನು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ

ಮೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ

**SCRUTINY AND OPINION**

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ, ಕಛೇರಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-೧.

**KARNATAKA LOKAYUKTA: BENGALURU**

No. *Comp/legall/mys-3752/23*

Date: 28.06.2023

**ORDER**

On Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023, I visited Govt. Girls Home/Balamandira situated on Nanjangudu road by the side of Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru along with Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru District Smt. Kavitha Rajaram; Secretary of District Legal Services Authority Sri B.G. Dinesh; Deputy Registrar of Karnataka Lokayukta Sri Channakeshava Reddy; Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta Sri Suresh Babu and officers of the District Administration including the District Child Development and Protection Officer.

2. On my enquiry with the inmates of the Bala Mandira, they represented to me that food prepared in the Bala Mandira is not palatable and tasty, many a times, worms are found in the rice and vegetables used in preparation of sambhar. It was mentioned to me that the living conditions in

the Bala Mandira will not be the same as we witnessed today. Wheat flour, rice and groceries are not properly cleaned and fresh vegetables are not used for preparation of food. Only on the day of our visit, they have procured quality food grains and vegetables to make it appear that everything is fine in the Bala Mandira.

3. A girl student who was the inmate of the Bala Mandira mentioned to me that, she was recently admitted to the Bala Mandira and she was not allowed to pursue her 10<sup>th</sup> standard inspite of her request to get an admission in the nearby school for continuing her S.S.L.C. Another girl submitted that she was not admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> PUC despite her repeated requests to the authorities. They further alleged that sports equipments/sports goods are not provided to the Bala Mandira and they are not allowed to participate in cultural activities.

4. One of the inmate mentioned to me that the true version of the inmate was not recorded during counseling and her version is distorted and recorded in a manner protection officers desired. They further stated that bed spreads and blankets are not provided to them. They alleged



partial treatment by the protection officers of the hostel warden and they also alleged that the officials incharge of the affairs of the Bala Mandira was in the habit of collecting money from the parents of the inmates when they come to meet their children.

5. They also alleged that the warden of the Bala Mandira, Superintendent and Protection Officers are in the habit of obtaining signatures of the inmates on the blank papers to later convert them into statements of those girls, besides alleging that the protection officers do not permit them to meet their parents and relatives and mal administration, corrupt practices are prevalent in maintenance of the said Bala Mandira and the care takers are not child friendly and they display rude behavior towards the girls housed in the Bala Mandira. They collectively appraised me that they are not treated fairly by the incharge officials of the Bala Mandira and they were meeting out ill treatment to them and their talent is curbed.

6. Under these circumstances, it is desirable to direct the Additional Deputy Commissioner Smt. Kavitha Rajaram and the Chief Executive

Officer of the Zilla Panchayath Smt. Gayathri to make frequent visits to this Girls Bala Mandira to redress their grievances with a humane approach. The District Child Development and Protection Officer Sri Yogesh is directed to examine the truth or otherwise the allegations made by the inmates of the Bala Mandira and to redress their grievances by shifting the misbehaving officials from Bala Mandira and to post child friendly and responsible officials to take care of this Institution. The officials shall ensure availability of books, study materials, sports equipment, bed linen and blankets to the children at the earliest and shall file compliance report in this regard.

7. Thereafter, I visited Government Boys Bala Mandira at about 5.00 p.m, we found that the inmates of the Bala Mandira were collectively playing cricket in the adjacent field situated by the side of the Bala Mandira. I could notice that the children were using hollow cement blocks as wickets. The cricket bats that they were using were very old and they had lost shape and form. On my enquiry, I was told that sport equipment is not provided to them, as such they were



constrained to make use of hollow cement blocks as wickets. Initially, they did not complain about the maintenance of the Bala Mandira and they were hesitant to disclose the ill treatment that they suffered at the hands of the hostel warden/house father. When the officials of the hostel management were sent away, children gained confidence and they described harrowing experiences they encountered at the hands of the guard, Sri Manjunath and house father, Sri Mahadevaswamy. They were caned with a fibre lathi and abusive language was lavishly used against them. They further alleged that the food items, soaps, talcum powder supplied to the children of the Bala Mandira was taken away by the staff and they were only supplied these items after their expiry date.

8. The children also mentioned to me that the locker keys were collected and kept by the warden of the Bala Mandira to steal their personal items such as soaps, tooth brush, pencil and other valuables kept in their cupboards/lockers. I was also told that the clothes donated by the donors would be snatched from them by the officials of

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the Bala Mandira and the clothing material supplied for them at the school to stitch uniform will not be stitched for them. On the other hand the hostel managers would insist them to wear the used uniform only.

9. They further stated that biscuits supplied for the students in the hostel would be taken away by the hostel authorities and a person by name Sri Dhanraj is said to be instigating Sri Mahadevaswamy and Sri Manjunath to perpetrate excesses against children and at his instigation, they used to beat the children in Bala Mandira. One of the inmate complained that his valuables such as watch, cash, clothes were stolen from his personal locker by the guard of the Bala Mandira. They also pleaded for permission to wear colour clothes and requested that they also be taken to Chamundi Stadium for playing football.

10. The living conditions in both Bala Mandiras were deplorable and the authorities who are incharge of management of these two Bala Mandiras shall take immediate remedial measures to rederess the grievances of the inmates and to



mitigate their inconveniences by providing child friendly atmosphere. Inflicting corporal punishment to small children is a disgrace and the hostel authorities shall desist from beating, caning and ill treating children during their stay in Bala Mandiras. They shall develop child friendly attitude and must promote overall growth of the children. They must encourage cultural activities, sports and literary activities in Bala Mandiras and they shall not be deprived of their right to education and decent living. Their talent should not be suppressed.

11. Having regard to the fact that right to primary education is free and fundamental the authorities entrusted with the responsibility of running these two Bala Mandiras shall devote interest in moulding these children into healthy citizens. Under these circumstances the District Child Development and Protection Officer Sri Yogesh is directed to take appropriate action against erring officials who ill treat children in Bala Mandira and persons with good background who has care and concern for children shall be

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posted or deployed in the Bala Mandiras to mitigate their grievances.

12. Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate, Mysuru who periodically visits these Bala Mandira's shall bestow interest in redressing the legitimate grievances of the inmates of these Bala Mandiras.

13. Having considered the plight of the children in these two Bala Mandiras, I exercise the powers conferred on me under Section 7(2) and 9(3)(a) of Karnataka Lokayukta Act to register a suo-motu case against the officials responsible for mismanagement and mal-administration in these two Bala Mandiras and I direct the office to register suo-motu complaint against all the concerned officials.

14. The following officials may be arrayed as respondents in this case to adjudicate the matter effectively and completely.

Sl. No.	Name and Designation of the officers
1.	Sri Basavaraj, Deputy Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Sthree Shakthi Bhavan, Krishnadevaraya Circle, Vijayanagar 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage, Mysuru.

2.	Sri Yogesh, District Child Protection Officer, Anjanadri Road, Vijayanagar 4 <sup>th</sup> Stage, Mysuru.
3.	Smt. Sharada devi Superintendent, Girls BalaMandira, Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysuru.
4.	Smt. Latha, Protection Officer, Girls Balamandira, Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysuru.
5.	Smt. Jayanthi, Protection Officer, Girls Balamandira, Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysuru.
5.	Sri Gurumurthy, Superintendent, Boys BalaMandira, Anjanadri Road, Vijayanagar 4 <sup>th</sup> Stage, Mysuru.
6.	Sri Mohan, Superintendent, Boys BalaMandira, Anjanadri Road, Vijayanagar 4 <sup>th</sup> Stage, Mysuru.


15. Call for comments from the above named respondents and compliance from the District Child Protection Officer Sri Yogesh by the next



date of hearing. Copy of this order be sent to the respondents with a direction to submit their comments within 15 days from the date of receipt of this order. Also forward a copy of this order to Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate, Mysuru; Smt. Gayathri, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Mysuru and Smt. Kavitha Rajaram, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru for their kind notice and needful action in the matter.

16. Send a copy of this order to the Hon'ble Minister for Department of Women and Child Development Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens for kind information and necessary action.

List this matter after two weeks. 19.7.2023

  
(Justice K.N. Phaneendra)  
Upalokayukta,  
Karnataka State.

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complied  
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