

(2021) 07 CHH CK 0013
In the Chhattisgarh High Court
Case No : Writ Petition (S) No. 3162 Of 2021

Gurjeet Kaur Bhatia

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Chhattisgarh Through Its Secretary Higher
Education Department

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 05-07-2021

Acts Referred:

Constitution Of India, 1950 — Article 21

Citation : (2021) 07 CHH CK 0013

Hon'ble Judges : P. Sam Koshy, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Ishan Verma, Sunita Jain

Final Decision : Disposed Of

Judgement

1. The grievance of the petitioners in the present writ petition is that since the petitioners were working as a Guest Lecturer under the respondent

No.3 for the academic session 2020-21 the respondents should not be permitted to replace the petitioners by another set of contractual Guest

Lecturers.

2. The contention of the petitioners is that the petitioners have undergone a due process of selection for being appointed as a Guest Lecturer and that

the services of the petitioners also was satisfactory as there is no complaint whatsoever, so far as the competency of the petitioners are concerned. It

is further the contention of the petitioners that now that the academic session is over, the respondents should not be permitted to go in for a fresh

recruitment process for filling up of the posts of Guest Lecturers under the respondent No.3 for the subject in which the petitioners were taking

classes.

3. Counsel for the petitioners relies upon the judgment of this Court passed in the case of *Manju Gupta & others v. State of Chhattisgarh &*

others WPS No. 4406/2016, decided on 27.02.2017, whereby the similarly placed Guest Lecturers under the Director (Industrial Training Institute)

have been granted protection from being replaced by another set of Guest Lecturers.

4. The State counsel opposing the petition submits that it is a case where no cause of action has till date arisen, in as much as the petitioners have filed

the writ petition only on apprehension and since there is no cause of action, the matter is premature and deserves to be rejected.

5. Having heard the contentions put forth on either side and on perusal of record, what is admitted is that the petitioners were appointed vide

Annexure P/4 & P/5 respectively. The order of appointment specifically had a clause mentioning that the appointment so made are till an alternative

arrangement is made by way of regular recruitment/contractual/transfer.

6. Further from the records, it also does not appear that the performance of the petitioners, at any point of time, was found to be unsatisfactory. In the

case of *Manju Gupta* (supra), this Court in paragraphs No. 8 to 11 has held as under:-

“8. True it is, that the Petitioners' status is that of a Guest Lecturer but that does not mean that they do not have any right. There is always a

legitimate expectation of the Petitioners that since the filling up of the posts has not been initiated by way of a regular appointment or by contractual

appointments, the Petitioners would be permitted to continue.

9. The undisputed fact is that the Petitioners were given appointment only on undertaking given by them pursuant to an advertisement by the

Respondents. In the undertaking which was made to be furnished by the Petitioners, they were made to undertake that their appointment would be till

the posts are filled up by regular/contractual appointment. This by itself clearly gives an indication that unless the Respondents fill up the sanctioned

vacant posts by either regular recruitment or by way of contractual appointment, the Petitioners would continue as Guest Lecturers. On the practical

aspect also the fact that the Petitioners are discharging the duties of Guest Lecturers for last more than 1-2 years, itself is a good ground for

permitting the Petitioners to continue on the said posts as Guest Lecturers,

simply for the reason of their experience on the said post, as fresh recruitment would mean that persons with no or less experience would be participating in the recruitment process, which also would not be in the interest of the students who are undertaking training in the respective institutions.

10. Taking into consideration the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Piara Singh (supra) and which has been further reiterated in the case of

Dr. Chanchal Goyal (supra), this Court has no hesitation in reaching to the conclusion that the advertisement (Annexure P-1) so issued by the

Respondents is definitely not in the interest of the students undertaking training at Industrial Training Institute, Ambikapur, and the same would amount

to violation of Article 21 of the Constitution of India and the same therefore deserves to be and is accordingly quashed. The advertisement would be

deemed to be quashed only to the extent of the recruitment against the posts at which the Petitioners are discharging. That is to say, the Respondents

would be entitled to fill up the posts which are lying vacant by way of Guest Lecturers where there are no Guest Lecturers available.

11. It is directed that the Respondents would not be entitled for filling up the posts of Guest Lecturer by replacing the Petitioners unless the

Respondents come up with a stand that the services of the Petitioners were dissatisfactory. The quashing of the advertisement issued by the

Respondents would also not come in the way of the Respondents for filling up of the sanctioned vacant posts by regular recruitment or by way of

contractual appointment for which the Respondents shall be free.â??

7. This Court, under the given circumstances, is inclined to accept the same analogy in the case of the petitioners also and accordingly it is ordered

that unless there is any complaint received against the performance of the petitioners, the respondents are restrained from going in for any fresh

recruitment of a Guest Lecturer for the said subject under the respondent No.3-college against which the petitioners were engaged.

8. It is however made clear that the protection to the petitioners would be only to the extent of not being replaced by another set of Guest Lecturers.

This would not preclude the State Government from going in for filling up of the post by way of a regular appointment or by way of engaging

contractual teachers under the rules for contractual employment.

9. So far as the claim of remuneration as per the guidelines of the UGC is concerned, it would be open for the petitioners to make a suitable

representation before the respondent No.1 in this regard, who in turn would take a policy decision, so far as the remuneration part payable to the

Guest Lecturers, keeping in view of the guidelines, that have been laid down by the UGC.

10. With the aforesaid observations, the present writ petition stands disposed off.