

# VERDICTUM.IN

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM  
PRESENT  
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

Tuesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022 / 29th Agrahayana, 1944  
WP(C) NO. 38482 OF 2022(I)

## PETITIONERS:

1. FIONA JOSEPH, AGED 21 YEARS , D/O MANOJ SEBASTIAN, EZHUTHUPURAKKAL HOUSE, KUNTHALAMPARA, KURISHUPALLI, KATTAPPANA, IDUKKI-685 508

AND 4 OTHERS

## RESPONDENTS:

1. THE STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695 001

AND 4 OTHERS

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to direct the 3rd respondent to permit the petitioners to access the reading room/study hall/library attached to the Medical College campus and Fitness Centre without any time restrictions, in the interest of justice, equity and good conscience.

This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this court's order dated 07-12-2022 and upon hearing the arguments of M/s.V.HARISH, RAJAN VISHNURAJ, Advocates for the petitioners, GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R1 to R3, SRI.P.SREEKUMAR, STANDING COUNSEL for R4 and of SMT.PARVATHY MENON, STANDING COUNSEL for R5, the court passed the following:

**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.**

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**W.P.(C)Nos.38482/2022, 39704/2022  
& 39519/2022**

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**Dated this the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**

**ORDER**

As far as the Medical Colleges in Kerala are concerned, Government have now, pending this lis and stated to advert to the earlier interim orders, come out with a new Government Order, bearing number G.O.(Rt)No.2887/2022/H&FWD dated 06.12.2020, which relaxes the timings of the students hostels substantially.

2. As per this order, even though the gates of the hostels - both for boys and girls - are to close by 9.30 p.m, it gives sufficient leeway to the students to enter it after that time - subject to certain bare minimum conditions - except for the first year students, who are yet not used to the new environment.

3. Smt.Parvathy Menon - learned Standing Counsel for the Kerala Women's Commission, submitted that her client also supports the afore Government Order, since it does not brook

of any gender discrimination and makes certain rules applicable to all hostels to maintain discipline.

4. *Prima facie*, I find this order to be a welcome step forward; and am hence of the view that it should be implemented forthwith, subject to evaluation, whether further modifications to it is requisite, to be made by this Court in due course.

Therefore, I direct all Principals and other concerned Authorities of the Medical Colleges to act in terms of the afore Government Order with immediate effect.

List on 22.12.2022 for further consideration.

H/o.

**Sd/-  
DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN  
JUDGE**

anm