Students Islamic Organisation of India

Ref: CS/2021-22/L-1 ***Date: 27th July 2021***

To,
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan,
Minister of Education, Government of India.

Subject: Discrepancies in Ishan Uday Scholarship Fresh Beneficiaries List for 2020-21

The recently published list of beneficiaries under UGC's **Ishan Uday** scholarship scheme for North East students for academic year 2020-21 contains a large number of discrepancies in students and their fathers' names, colleges and their religion, raising serious questions about the veracity of the entire list.

This scheme was started in 2014-15 with a vision to encourage poor meritorious students from North East (NE) region to pursue their interests in higher education. But a lot of students are being deprived of this opportunity because of such scam.

Here are some of the major discrepancies found in the list:

- **Some of the colleges mentioned in the list have an unusually high number of beneficiaries, even though these institutes don't seem to be located in NE region.**

  As many as 271 beneficiaries from Tripura and 374 from Assam hail from a certain 'Victoria Inter College'. Similarly, a college named 'Medak Institute of technology and Pharmacy' has 550 students featuring in the list. Around 533 students belong to a certain 'ST. PAUL college of management and Information Technology'. Other colleges with seemingly dubious beneficiaries include Jnanaseva Industrial Training Institute, CK College Chakla, Raja Shiv CCH College Mahgaon and India Sponsorship Committee LT public Charitable Trust Sanchalit Industrial Training Institute.

  By comparison, the number of beneficiaries in some of the premier institutes in NE, including Guwahati University, Guwahati Medical College, NIT Agartala, Tripura University, MBB College, NIT Silchar and IIT Guwhati, are in the range of 3 to 31. Arunachal Pradesh has only 49 beneficiaries.

- **Names of some of the beneficiaries feature multiple times with slight variations.**

  For example, the name of a certain 'NAGHMA NIGAR' belonging to Victoria Inter College and hailing from Tripura has is featured a whopping 31 times. Students named 'Salma Khatun' and 'Rashkinda Roomi' from the same institute find mention 14 and 12 times, respectively.

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- **Several beneficiaries' names don't match with their religion.**

  Several beneficiaries in the list have seemingly Muslim first names, but Hindu-sounding Father's names and vice-versa. The information in 'Religion' column also doesn't seem to match with the names of beneficiaries.

The scale of these anomalies suggests that it couldn't be the result of any technical glitch or clerical error. These are tell-tale signs of malpractices and systematic abuse of the scholarship scheme. Unless corrective measures are taken immediately, it'll be a setback for the educational progress of NE as deserving candidates will be deprived of the educational assistance they need.

In this view, here are our demands for UGC and the Education Ministry:

- Conduct a thorough and timely investigation of the matter to figure out what caused these discrepancies and if there has been any foul play.
- Take strong action against all the colleges, staff and officials involved in this fiasco. Register criminal offences if any malpractice is found.
- Issue a fresh and clean list of beneficiaries as soon as possible.
- Make the selection process of Ishan Uday more systematic, transparent and merit-based.
- Restrict one Aadhar number and bank account per application.
- All the application forms and supporting documents must be physically verified by nodal officers, as is the practice for other national scholarships.

We hope that you will take these suggestions in a positive manner and take the necessary steps to restore the faith of NE students in the system.

Regards,
Ramees EK
National Secretary, SIO of India

CC: DP Singh, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC)

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