

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH BENCH AT SUKKUR

Const. Petition No.D-84 of 2023

DATE OF HEARING	ORDER WITH SIGNATURE OF JUDGE
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For directions

ORDER

17-09-2025

Mr. Illahi Bux Jamali, Advocate for the petitioner
Mr. Ali Raza Balouch, Additional A.G, along with Ms. Shareen Mustafa, Chairperson, Chief Minister's Inspection, Enquiries and Implementation Team, Government of Sindh; and Mr. Muhammad Ali Sangi, Additional Secretary, School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh

ZULFIQAR ALI SANGI, J. Pursuant to the order dated 06-08-2025 of this Court, the Committee, constituted by the Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh vide Notification No.SO(C-IV)/SGA & CD/4-12/2024 Dated 13th April, 2025 & Notification No. SO(C-IV)/SGA & CD/4-12/2024 Dated 5th May, 2025, submitted compliance report.

2. This court, vide order dated 05-11-2024 had directed to the Chief Secretary of Government of Sindh with regard to assign task of implementation of this Court's Judgment dated 25-01-2024 through **CMIT/Committee**. Hence, *today*, the aforesaid Committee, *in compliance thereof*, submitted compliance report before this Court.

3. The perusal of the compliance report *divulges* that the Secretary, School Education & Literacy Department (SELD) has *indeed* taken certain steps towards implementing the directives, contained in the judgment dated 25-01-2024. *Despite the efforts so far*, a glaring deficiency persists in addressing the multitude of constant problems being faced by the public schools across the province. The condition of schools, *particularly in deprived & rural areas*, demonstrates that far more serious, consistent & result-oriented measures are still required. Needless to mention here that the Education, *being the fundamental right of every child under Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan*, cannot be allowed to remain hostage to administrative inaction or half-hearted compliance.

4. The report reveals that the Secretary (SELD) has undertaken efforts towards the rehabilitation, reconstruction & repair of **19,808 schools**, which were fully or partially damaged during the heavy monsoon floods of 2022. **However**, it is an *undeniable* fact that even

after the lapse of nearly three (03) years, the rehabilitation process remains painfully slow, as the schools affected by the 2022 floods have yet not been restored and as per the report itself, their rehabilitation is projected to require a further four (04) years. The report also outlines **various projects concerning 8,132 schools/units**, which are scheduled for completion within the next four (04) years. This slow-moving pace of work leaves thousands of children deprived of their constitutional right of education. ***In these circumstances***, the Secretary (SELD) is directed to expedite the rehabilitation process under all ongoing projects without any further delay. ***More-so***, in light of the recent monsoon, it is of grave concern that the extent of fresh damage to schools has not been brought on record. ***Therefore***, the Secretary (SELD) shall immediately obtain & submit afresh reports from all Directors & District Education Officers (Primary & Secondary) across the province, detailing the damages caused by the recent monsoon, the missing facilities & the remedial measures taken so far. A comprehensive compliance report, addressing both past & current damages, shall be submitted before this court on the next date of hearing.

5. The report of Secretary (SELD) also *reveals* that *in order to promote Technical Education & Skill Development, enhance school infrastructure, improve the learning environment & introduce modern teaching methodologies for elevating the standard of education in public schools*, the initiative of **establishing Model Schools along with STREAM Labs in 276 schools (two in each Taluka) has been launched**. *Indeed*, such efforts ***deserve appreciation***, as if executed in their true spirit; the **Model Schools** will undoubtedly leave a positive & lasting impact upon the quality education & society at large. ***However***, limiting the creation of Model Schools to only two in each Taluka creates a disparity & amounts to discrimination against the children of other Government Schools within the same District, who remain deprived of equal educational opportunities. *Being a fundamental right*, all children are equally entitled to modern & quality education without geographical or administrative distinction. ***Accordingly***, while acknowledging & appreciating the efforts already taken by the Secretary (SELD), this Court directs that immediate measures be initiated for **establishing Model Schools in each & every Taluka of the Province**. A comprehensive plan in this regard, with workable timelines, shall be prepared & submitted before this Court on next date of hearing. Such expansion of the initiative, if carried forward with commitment, will not

only fulfill the constitutional mandate but will also uplift the future of thousands of children across Sindh.

6. The report also *divulges* that the Secretary (SELD) has initiated the **Student-Teacher Ratio (STR) policy** with the objective of ensuring equitable distribution of teachers across all government schools in the Province. The initiative is appreciable; *however*, the ground reality demonstrates that its implementation has not yielded the desired results. It is a matter of concern that a significant number of teachers avoid postings in remote & far-flung areas, *thereby* creating a serious imbalance in teacher allocation. Although the **STR policy exists**, *despite*, in practice many schools, **particularly those situated in deprived & far-flung areas**, are left without the required number of teachers, **whereas**, urban or easily accessible schools are comparatively better as well as excess staffed. This inequitable situation directly hampers the educational opportunities of children in remote areas, who are thus denied their constitutionally guaranteed right to education. **Accordingly**, *in order to ascertain the true implementation of the STR policy & to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her fundamental right to education due to administrative neglect or teacher absenteeism*, the Secretary (SELD) is directed to submit **an afresh digital/auto-generated report from the concerned software**. Such report shall clearly reflect the actual posting of teachers in each school, matched against the settled ratio of students enrolled, with special emphasis on rural, deprived & far-flung areas of the province. The same shall be submitted before this Court on the next date of hearing.

7. The report further discloses that the **restoration process of 1,500 non-functional schools is still in progress**. It is noted with concern that despite the considerable lapse of time, these schools have not yet been made operational, thereby depriving children of their fundamental right to education. *Hence*, the Secretary (SELD) is directed to ensure that these schools are made functional without any further delay, as the department has already availed sufficient time in this regard. A detailed compliance report, *reflecting the timeline of restoration & actual functionality of each such school*, shall be submitted before this Court on the next date of hearing.

8. **Astonishingly**, the report also divulges that there still exists a severe shortage of **18,162 teaching staff** across the Province. Such deficiency directly undermines the constitutional right of children to receive quality education & reflects a serious lapse on the part of the

State in fulfilling its fundamental responsibility. Hence, the Secretary (SELD) is directed to take immediate & effective measures to fill this shortfall without any further loss of time. The Secretary shall also ensure a transparent mechanism for recruitment & posting of teachers, **particularly in deprived & far-flung areas where this shortage is acute**. A comprehensive compliance/progress report, detailing concrete steps taken in this regard, must also be submitted before this Court on the next date of hearing.

9. The report of the Secretary (SELD), submitted in pursuance of the judgment of this Court dated 25-01-2024, has also disclosed certain future strategies, *inter alia*, ensuring efficient utilization of budgetary allocations at the grass-root level, promotion of skill development, provision of missing facilities, integration of skill-based & vocational training and recruitment of 1,700 subject specialist teachers through SPSC. While these strategies, if implemented in their true spirit, may bring positive transformation in the education sector, it is also the constitutional obligation of the State to ensure timely execution of such measures for safeguarding the fundamental right to education. **Accordingly**, the Secretary concerned is directed to place on record a comprehensive compliance/progress report, demonstrating tangible & serious efforts, on the next date of hearing.

10. **Further**, perusal of the report submitted by the **College Education Department** reveals that no SNE of the Department has been deleted & that education up to the intermediate level is being provided free of cost across the Province. **However**, in the judgment dated 25-01-2024, the Secretary Colleges and Secretary Universities were *specifically* directed to ensure that the education system of Sindh is brought in line with international standards and for that purpose, all degree programs were required to be converted from **two (02) years to four (04) years** by incorporating all relevant subjects. **Surprisingly**, in response, the College Education Department has mentioned in its compliance report that a four (04) years program has only been initiated in **fifty-one (51) selected colleges across six regions of the Province**. This limited & selective implementation reflects a clear lack of seriousness and slow progress on the part of the Department. **Despite the lapse of more than one year & eight (08) months since the passing of the judgment dated 25-01-2024**, the four (04) years degree program has not been implemented in its true letter & spirit. Restricting the program to only fifty-one (51) colleges across the Province is wholly inadequate and falls short of meeting the constitutional guarantee of equal opportunity to

quality education for all students. **Accordingly**, the College Education Department is strictly directed to ensure that the four (04) years degree program is initiated in **every Taluka (where colleges exists) of the Province** without any further delay. In this regard, **the Secretary College Education is hereby directed to appear in person** with a detailed compliance/progress report, reflecting concrete & time-bound steps, before this Court on the next date of hearing.

11. The report of College Education Department further divulges that at present, **only three (03) IT colleges are running BS IT programs, with six (06) additional degree colleges proposed to initiate the same**. It is needless to emphasize that in the present era of information technology, where artificial intelligence & digital skills are rapidly transforming every sphere of life, education in the field of IT has become not only essential but a critical bread-earning segment for the youth of this Province. Denial or delay in providing such opportunities amounts to depriving the children of Sindh of their right to compete in the modern world. **Accordingly**, the Secretary College Education Department is hereby directed to ensure that degree programs in information technology & computer sciences are introduced at least at the *District level* throughout the Province, so that every student, regardless of geographical location, has access to this vital branch of knowledge. *In view of the above*, the Secretary College Education Department shall submit a detailed compliance/progress report on the next date of hearing, clearly indicating time-bound measures for the establishment of IT degree programs in all Districts of Sindh.

12. With regard to the above directions, it is imperative that the Universities & Boards Department as well as the **Vice Chancellors of all Public Sector Universities** of the province Sindh take immediate and serious measures to ensure the provision of modern, up-to-date education for the students of Sindh. The higher education sector carries a pivotal responsibility in equipping the youth of this Province with knowledge and skills compatible with contemporary global standards. **Accordingly**, the Secretaries of the Universities & Boards Department and the Vice Chancellors of all Public Sector Universities in Sindh are hereby directed to submit comprehensive compliance/progress reports before this Court on the next date of hearing, clearly outlining the steps taken & future strategies to fulfill these objectives.

13. With regard to the compliance reports of the remaining departments viz. Universities & Boards Department, Culture, Tourism,

Antiquities & Archives Department, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Finance Department, the CMIT/Committee is hereby directed to ensure strict implementation of the directives, contained in the judgment dated 25-01-2024. The Committee shall pursue the concerned departments in letter & spirit and secure meaningful compliance. A comprehensive progress report, reflecting serious efforts made by the CMIT/Committee, shall be submitted before this Court on the next date of hearing.

14. Another imperative aspect, which cannot be ignored, pertains to the **Iqbal Durrani Committee Report**, as referred to in the judgment dated 25-01-2024. This Report, *being the product of demanding & collective efforts of all concerned stakeholders*, carries immense significance in addressing the long-standing structural deficiencies within the Province. It was for this very reason that *in Paragraph No.83 of the said judgment, the Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, was categorically directed to ensure its implementation within a period of one (01) year.* However, *despite the lapse of one year & eight (08) months*, the directives of this Court have not been complied with *properly. Accordingly*, the Chief Secretary, Government of Sindh, is once again directed to treat the matter with utmost seriousness, giving it priority over routine official business and to submit a comprehensive progress report before this Court on the next date of hearing, clearly demonstrating tangible & result-oriented steps towards the full implementation of the said Report.

To come up on **16.10.2025, to be taken up at 11.00 a.m.**
Let signed copy of this order be provided to the **Additional Registrar of this Court** with directions to ensure the compliance of the order.

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