



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 26TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE H.T. NARENDRA PRASAD

WRIT PETITION NO. 17094 OF 2023 (S-RES)

BETWEEN:

_SRI H MANJUNATH
S/O SANNA HANUMANTHAPPA
AGED ABOUT 60 YEARS
R/AT CHANNAMUMBAPURA VILLAGE
ABBALAGERE POST, SAVALANGA ROAD
SHIVAMOGGA TALUK & DISTRICT-577204

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. SRIKANTH M P., ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
M S BUILDING, DR AMBEDKAR VEEDHI
BANGALORE 560001.

2. UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE
AND HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES
SHIVAMOGGA-577205
REP. BY ITS VICE CHANCELLOR

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. SPOORTHY HEGDE N, HCGP. FOR R1:
SRI THYAGARAJA S, ADVOCATE FOR R2)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226
AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO
QUASH THE ENDORSEMENT DATED: 19.05.2023 BEARING NO.
EP 274 SLB 2022 ISSUED BY THE R1 VIDE ANNEXURE-AB AND
ETC.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING
IN 'B' GROUP, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS
UNDER:





CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE H.T. NARENDRA PRASAD

ORAL ORDER

1. In this writ petition, the petitioner has called in question the impugned endorsement dated 19.05.2023 vide Annexure-AB, whereby respondent No.1 denied the declaration of equivalence of the Bridge Course conducted by the Karnataka State Open University as equivalent to SSLC Examination conducted in SSLC Board.

2. The case of the petitioner is that he was working as a Group 'D' employee in respondent-University and retired from the service on 31.08.2023. When he was in service, the petitioner's name was placed in the seniority list for the post of Attender. Since he had completed 10th standard through Bridge Course, his case was not considered for equivalence in SSLC. Therefore, he approached this Court by filing W.P.No.10333/2020. This Court, by order dated 14.09.2022 held in paragraph Nos.5 and 6 as follows:

"5. Accordingly, the Endorsement dated 06.05.2020 (Annexure-Z) is set aside while clarifying that any decision on the substantive representation



of the petitioner regarding promotion can be taken once the aspect of equivalence is decided by the State Government. The orders relied on by the learned counsel for the petitioner of the Co-ordinate Bench where orders passed while considering the case of students which is not the case in the present factual matrix and hence such judgments are not applicable. The State Government is still to take a decision and it would be not be appropriate for the Court to pass any orders exercising equitable jurisdiction unless State Government takes a decision in that matter.

6. Needless to state upon decision of equivalence taken by the State as directed herein, petitioner's claim for any rights would date back to the date of legal entitlement. The decision of equivalence is directed to be taken within three [3] months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of the order."

3. Pursuant to directions of this Court in the above order, respondent No.1 issued impugned endorsement vide Annexure-AB. Being aggrieved by the same, the petitioner is before this Court.

4. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that in similar circumstances, this Court in W.P.No.50268/2014 and connected matters disposed of on



04.01.2017 and in W.P.Nos.204770-204774/2014 and connected matter disposed of on 15.12.2014 has held that a degree obtained through the Bridge Course is to be treated as equivalent to PUC. In the present case, the impugned endorsement has been issued without considering all these aspects and without application of mind. Hence, he sought for allowing the writ petition.

5. I have perused the impugned endorsement vide Annexure-AB. The same is issued without assigning any proper reasons. There is no application of mind while issuing the impugned endorsement dated 19.05.2023 vide Annexure-AB.

6. Therefore, the matter requires to be remitted back to the respondent No.1 for reconsideration of the case of the petitioner keeping in view of the directions issued by this Court in W.P.No.10333/2020.

7. Accordingly, following order is passed:

ORDER

a) The writ petition is ***allowed***.



- b) The impugned endorsement dated 19.05.2023 vide Annexure-AB is hereby quashed.
- c) Respondent No.1 is directed to reconsider the case of the petitioner keeping in view of the orders passed by this Court in W.P.No.10333/2020 and in W.P.No.50268/2014 and connected matters disposed of on 04.01.2017, within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order.

Sd/-
(H.T. NARENDRA PRASAD)
JUDGE