



DECISION

Complaint No. : POS/CH/4346/ROK-72/(Khp)/2022

Name and address of the complainant : Advocate Shakeel Akbar & others,
R/o Village Ghulam Qasim Katohar,
U.C Goondariro, Taluka Kotdiji, District Khairpur.

Name of the Agency Complained against : School Education

Name & Designation of Investigating Officer : AHMED BAKHSH GHUMRO,
Consultant / Incharge, Regional Office Khairpur

Vetted by : Mr. Muhammad Misbah Tunio, Advisor-J

Subject : **COMPLAINT AGAINST NON-AVAILABILITY OF BASIC FACILITIES AT GBPS SHAHNAWAZ KATOHAR, U.C GOONDARIRO.**

COMPLAINT

Advocate Shakeel Akbar and other residents of Village Ghulam Qasim Katohar, U.C. Goondariro, Taluka Kotdiji, District Khairpur filed a complaint through email on 15-08-2022, stating therein that the Government Boys Primary School Shahnawaz Katohar (SEMIS No. 415050179) in their village lacked potable water and electricity. The school's washrooms and sewer disposal system were in poor condition. As a result, the students were studying under unhygienic conditions. The complainants also stated that there was no Naib Qasid or Chowkidar, and only one teacher who was near retirement, was posted at the school, despite an enrollment of more than 100 students from three villages namely Ghulam Qasim Katohar, Kandhra, and Soomra. The complainants requested the intervention of this office.

PROCEEDINGS

02. The complaint was admitted under Section 10 of the Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991 (as amended up to date), by condoning the delay in its filing and subject to submission of the original signed complaint, an affidavit on Form "A" and copies of CNICs.

03. The matter was taken up with the District Education Officer (Primary), Khairpur, and the Executive Engineer, Education Works Division, Khairpur, on 09-09-2022 for comments. The complainants were simultaneously advised to complete the necessary formalities. In response, the Taluka Education Officer (Male) Primary, Kotdiji, reported on 20-07-2023 that he had visited GBPS Shahnawaz Katohar, where a water pump, washrooms, solar panels, building, and electricity were available, and that the school had an enrollment of 100 students. It was also reported that a proposal had been submitted to the District Education Officer (Primary), Khairpur, for the posting of two more teachers at the school.

04. The agency's report was shared with the complainants on 02-08-2023 for a rejoinder. The complainants submitted their rejoinder on 09-07-2024 reiterating their stance from the original complaint.

05. On 25-07-2024, the Executive Engineer, Education Works Division, Khairpur, reported that the subject school had been included in the Provincial M&R Programme for 2024-25, which had already been submitted to higher authorities for approval. He assured that work would commence once funds were received, following the completion of codal formalities.

06. This report from the agency was shared with the complainants on 29-07-2024 for a rejoinder.

07. Awaiting a rejoinder from the complainants, the Investigating Officer visited the school on 21-11-2024, accompanied by M/s Abdul Qadir Shaikh and Nazar Gaho, Executive Engineer and AEN, Education Works Division, Khairpur, respectively. During the visit, villagers, informed the Investigating Officer that the current one-room accommodation of the school had been provided by the NGO Leads Pakistan. They also mentioned that the school served three villages, with an approximate 135 houses in its area. The villagers expressed that if proper accommodation and facilities were provided, the school's enrollment would definitely increase. The Executive Engineer, Education Works Division, Khairpur, undertook to prepare and float a scheme, provided that villagers offered land for the purpose free of cost. Nekmard Ghulam Murtaza alias Dodo Khan Katohar offered a nearby plot of land free of cost for the project.

08. Regarding the posting of teachers, the District Education authorities had already posted two Primary School Teachers (PSTs), namely Mr. Pokar Das (Head Master/Incharge) and Mr. Jameel Ahmed Mallah, who were present at the school during the Investigating Officer's visit on 21-11-2024.

09. Following the visit, the Executive Engineer, Education Works Division, Khairpur, prepared and submitted a scheme costing Rs. 13.102 million for the construction of proper accommodation and other facilities at GBPS Shahnawaz Katohar. The Deputy Commissioner, Khairpur, submitted the scheme to the Secretary, School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi, on 06-12-2024 for consideration.

DECISION

10. In light of the foregoing, the complaint is hereby disposed of. I, in the exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 11 of the Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991 (as amended), hereby direct the Secretary, School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi, to expedite the matter and ensure the early execution and completion of the scheme as per applicable policy of the Govt. of Sindh.
11. The complaint Nos. POS/2909/ROK-91/(Khp)/2023, POS/3683/ROK-107/(Khp)/2023 & POS/3057/ROK-125/(Khp)/2024 filed by the complainants regarding the same matter, are also disposed of on the same grounds.

"Given under my hand and seal of office"

Sd /-
(Muhammad Sohail Rajput)
Sitara-e-Imtiaz. PAS
Ombudsman, Sindh
Karachi, dated 04-02-2025

