

To

The Principal,
College
Address

SUB : Regarding the Constitution of a Student's Union in College.

Respected Sir,

We the ___ Semester students of Nehru _____ (College) are writing this to express and get redressed the alarm we feel with regard to our College experience.

It is with utmost pain that we are bringing to your attention the fact that a Students' Union is not yet functioning in this College. College Unions and elections to the same have been declared to be mandatory for all colleges in India by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide the order¹ dated 22nd September 2006 enforcing the recommendations of the Lyngdoh Committee, constituted by the Hon'ble Court. This right of the students has been reiterated by the UGC in Guidelines for Student Entitlement². Clauses 6 and 7 of the Guidelines read as follows :

6. As democratic citizens, The students are entitled to freedom of thought and expression within and outside their institution. The college/university must allow space for free exchange of ideas and public debate so as to foster a culture of critical reasoning and questioning. College/university authorities must not impose unreasonable, partisan or arbitrary restrictions on organizing seminars, lecture and debates that do not otherwise violate any law.

7. The students are entitled to forming associations and unions, directly electing their representatives to Students Unions and having their representatives on the college/university decision making bodies including internal quality assessment, grievance committees, Gender Sensitization Committees against Sexual Harassment and the Academic/Executive council. University/colleges shall evolve mechanisms for adequate consultations with students' representatives before taking any major decision affecting the students.

Regarding the operation of these guidelines, it has been declared that :

¹ (2006)8 SCC 304

² http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/4336926_StudentsEntitlementGuidelines.pdf

“These guidelines apply to all the colleges and universities in the country (this expression includes every institutions of higher education even if it is not called college/university) without any exception.”

And that

“Any serious or persistent violation of these Guidelines can be brought to the notice of the University Grants Commission and can be the basis of punitive action against the offender.”

We are of the view that a student union is mandatory in our College in order to uphold the democratic rights of the students and to conduct the activities of the college in a smooth and constructive manner. We feel that the Union will empower the students and aid the staff of the college

- (a) to train the students of the college in the duties, responsibilities and rights of citizenship,
- (b) to promote opportunities for the development of character, leadership, efficiency, knowledge and spirit of service among students,
- (c) to organise debates, seminars, industrial visits, work squads, touring parties and such other functions,
- (d) to encourage sports, arts and other cultural, educational, social or recreational activities that are incidental and conducive to the above objects.
- (e) To help the students enjoy their democratic rights and empower them by creating spaces for debate and discourse regarding the administration of the College.
- (f) to ensure student participation in the administration of the College
- (g) to aid the faculty in dissemination of knowledge in a constructive and student-friendly manner
- (h) to promote advanced research in Engineering and provide appropriate inputs for creating an active scholastic environment by engaging the academic community, engineers and other stakeholders.

In light of the above mentioned circumstances and on authority of the above cited decisions and rules, we humbly request you to take necessary steps to form a Students Union expediently in our College.

A draft constitution has also been attached to this petition based on which the elections to the Executive Committee³ of the Students Union may be conducted. The constitution shall come into force once it is ratified by the elected Executive Committee of the proposed College Union.

Yours Respectfully,

The undersigned.

³ Article 6 of the Draft Constitution.

