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KLA/CC/2017/5

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The Hon'ble Minister for Education
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Sir:

Kerala Library Association (KLA), the premier State wide organisation of qualified Library and Information Science professionals, has been playing a significant role during the last four and a half decades for the improvement of libraries and enhancement of the professional competence of librarians across the State. As a responsible professional body, KLA has been proactively involving/intervening through representations, discussions and other modes, with the Government and various agencies concerned for the betterment of libraries and information centres in various sectors including Govt. Departments, Universities, Research & Development Establishments, Schools, Colleges, etc. We are extremely proud to state that the Government on their part has always given due recognition to our representations.

We appreciate the efforts of the Govt. of Kerala to strengthen the School library system by establishing three types of libraries viz. Central Library for High School and Higher Secondary students, Class Room Library and Digital library in the hands of teachers with effect from 1st November 2017.

It is a universally accepted fact that the School libraries are to be scientifically organised and managed by professionally qualified library staff to derive the real benefit of quality education. Various Education Commissions and educational planners and professional societies in India like Kerala Library Association had been stressing the need for such a library system. Consequent to the realisation, the Govt. of Kerala had issued Govt. orders

as Special Rules for the Higher Secondary Education Subordinate Service Rules vide G. O. (P) No. 331/2001/G. Edn. dated 09.11.2001. But even after the lapse of more than one and a half decades, no action was taken to accord budgetary provisions, to create the post of School Librarians or to effect the recruitments, in Government and Aided Schools in our State.

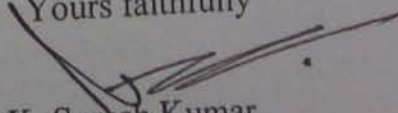
All the major School Educational systems at the National stream such as Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya have mandatory stipulations on the role of quality libraries manned by professionally qualified library staff in their schools. The private schools in our State too follow this practice. The students, the teachers, the school management and the parents are the beneficiaries of such a system.

~~Even though the Report of the Expert Committee on School Libraries under the Chairmanship of V. P Joy, IAS unambiguously stated that "without considering the number of books, number of students or the size of the school, a fully qualified librarian should be appointed in all Higher Secondary Schools from the initial stages and his/her service have to be made available for the whole school."~~ But still the large number of common public, whose wards study in Govt. and Aided Schools and are deprived of the school library service privilege. We have represented many times to the Govt. of Kerala regarding the need for rendering efficient and innovative library services to the academic community in schools by appointing professionally qualified School Librarians in Govt. and Aided Schools in Kerala but no creative steps have been taken so far.

We, therefore, request the Government to take immediate action *for the creation of the post of Librarian and appoint professionally qualified librarians* in all Govt and Aided Higher Secondary and High Schools in Kerala rather than resorting to retrograde steps.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully


Dr. P. K. Suresh Kumar
General Secretary