

Educational (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 46

DATED 26.1.98.

INDEXED. 7-7

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26.1.98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comg. to the D.P.I. Pres: Rev: Deptt.,
accepting the view taken by the D.P.I.
& the Board of Rev: as regards the
proposal that every boy and girl
seeking admission to a recognised
school should be required to
procure an extract from the
birth register as evidence of his or
her age.

1.98.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Educational (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 137/

From

The Dir. of Pub. Instruction,
Madras.

Order

No. 12925-

Dated 22 November 1897.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Remarking on the proposal made by the Board of Revenue that every boy and girl seeking admission into a recognized school should be required to produce an extract from the birth register as evidence of his or her age.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	444		7-8-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Madras, 22nd November 1897.

No. 12925

From

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc. LL.D.,

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Madras,

The Secretary to Government,
Educational Department.

SIR,

With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O.No 513,
Revenue, dated 1st July 1897 communicated with G.O.No 444, Education
-al dated 7th August 1897, I have the honour to state that I am
not in favour of the proposal made by the Board of Revenue in
paragraph 11 of Resolution No 89, dated 2nd February 1897, that
every boy and girl seeking admission to a recognized school
should be required to produce an extract from the birth register.
The most important of the arguments urged by the Board in favour
of ~~the~~ proposal is that it will develop and improve the registration
of vital statistics. This improvement in the registration of
vital statistics will not, I fear, be so great as the Board seems
to imagine, and will, as will be seen from the following remarks,
be far outweighed by the injury that might be done to the cause
of primary education in the country.

2. In the first place, the total number of boys and girls who
attend school is very small in proportion to the total number of
children born in the country, the number of boys under instruction
on the 31st March 1897 being, according to the last report on
Public Instruction, only 26.7 per cent of the male population of
schoolage and that of girls, 4.3 per cent of the female population
of schoolage. The improvement in the registration of vital

statistics, which might result from the introduction of the rule proposed by the Board would therefore be almost inappreciable; while, on the other hand, the spread of primary education in rural tracts would be seriously affected. Few even among educated parents can be expected to procure the necessary certificates at the time of the birth of their children and to preserve them till their children attain schoolage; while the uneducated masses can hardly furnish correct particulars to the village registrar of births to enable them to identify the entries relating to individual children and to furnish them readily with attested extracts from the birth registers. Further, the majority of parents are so indifferent to the education of their daughters that they would not take the trouble of producing the necessary extract from the birth register. Thus, a very large number of boys and girls would be ineligible for admission to recognized schools and would be denied the benefit of even elementary education, in case the rule proposed by the Board were strictly enforced.

3. Secondly, the proposed rule would improve only the registration of births and would leave that of deaths in its present state; and hence the primary object of improving the registration of vital statistics which is to aid the calculations of District officials as to the progress of a famine or pestilence could not be gained.

4. Thirdly, the production of the necessary extract from the birth register is not such an easy matter as might appear at first. Unless special facilities were given for the grant of such extracts, parents would be put to unnecessary inconvenience, even if these extracts were to be given free of charge. Further, the petty officials who may have charge of the birth registers might be tempted to cause a great deal of annoyance to parents, when they come to see that so much importance is attached to extracts from the birth registers.

5. Fourthly, the certificate of identity is another difficulty in the way of the proposed rule being enforced. This difficulty has been recognized by Government in G.O. No 513 Revenue dated 1st July 1897 already referred to.

6. Lastly, Government itself, in passing orders on the Board's resolution referred to above, has held that it is not possible to insist at present upon the production of attested extracts of birth registers from candidates for the public service born in Municipalities. I am, therefore, unable to approve of a similar condition being enforced in the case of boys and girls, including those in rural parts, who seek admission to schools. I do not think that this country is yet ripe for a measure of this kind, nor can a rule like the one proposed by the Board of Revenue be enforced in this country for many years to come, without causing serious injury to the cause of primary education.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. G. Suman
Director of Public Instruction.

Educational (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 59

444/97

From

The Revenue Department,

Order

No. 141 Misc.
10th-January.

Dated 10th January. 1898.

Received 17 " "

Registered 18 " "

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Accepting the view taken by the Director of Public Instruction and the Board of Revenue, as regards the proposal that every boy & girl seeking admission to a recognised school should be required to procure an extract from the birth register.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	E.C. No 1371/97		
	for 444 ED		7-8-97
	476 Revue		21-9-96
	313M Low		22-2-96
	367 Revue		15-6-97
	bag Pub		18-8-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT No. 5980
Revenue Department.
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Papers to be read in proceedings:--

Read the following Proceedings of
the Board of Rev: Rev: Sett: No: 9836, Mis, d/9th Dec: '97 on
the following papers:--

1. Board's Proceedings No: 7782, d/22nd Sept: '97.
2. Letter from the Director of Public Instruction,
Madras, No: 12925, d/22-11-'97, to the Secy: to Govt: Educational
Dept:

Resolution:--

ORDER
The Board as now constituted concurs with the Di-
rector of Public Instruction in deprecating the proposal that
every boy and girl seeking admission to a recognized school
should be ~~required~~ required to produce an extract from the
birth register.

Order thereon, No: 141 Mis, dated the 10th January 1898.

The Government accepts the view taken by the Di-
rector of Public Instruction and the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To

The Board of Rev: Rev: Sett:
" Local & Municipal Dept:
" Educational Dept: ✓

15/10/98

Papers to be read in proceedings:--

Again G.O., No. 444, dated 7th Aug 1897. ✓
Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Current No. 1371 of 1897, dated 22nd Nov. , from the D.P.O. ✓
" " 69 " 1898, " 10th Jan " the Rev. Secy. a
" " " 189 " " " "

ORDER. 2046826-1. 98.
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G.O. no. 141 Rev. D. 10th.
Jan 1898 will be communicated
to the D.P.O.

25 198.

21/1/98

To The D.P.O. ✓
28/1/98

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read the following Proceedings of

the Board of Rev. Secy: No: 2826, 4/25th Dec: '97 on

the following papers:--

1. Board's Proceedings No: 7782, 4/23rd Sept: '97.
2. Letter from the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, No: 12925, 4/23-11-'97, to the Secy: to Govt: Educational Dept:

Resolution:--

The Board as now constituted concurs with the Director of Public Instruction in deprecating the proposal that every boy and girl seeking admission to a recognized school should be furnished with a birth register.

Order thereon, No: 141, dated the 10th January 1898.

The Government accepts the view taken by the Director of Public Instruction and the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To

The Board of Rev. Secy:
" Local & Municipal Dept:
" Educational Dept: ✓

21/1/98