

Human Rights Notice To State Over Poor Living Conditions At Panvel Ashramshala

CITY | Vijay V Singh | Jul 28, 2025, 02:34 IST



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Mumbai: Taking serious note of the poor living conditions at a residential tribal school in Panvel where children studied, ate and slept in the same rooms which were bereft of basic furniture and amenities, Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) chairperson Justice A M Badar observed that it amounted to violation of human rights and issued a notice to state govt seeking response.

Justice Badar's observation was based on a report submitted by an MSHRC team, including its member Sanjay Kumar who is retired IPS officer, that visited Shaskiya Madhyamik Ashramshala, which operates from two adjoining structures for accommodating 400 students on a residential basis and 100 non-residential. The team found that only half the number of students were present in school during their June 18 visit, and they were sitting on the classroom floor.

The team, in its report, stated that there were only two toilet blocks for the 135 girls in the ashramshala, forcing some of them to defecate in the open across the road, this "compromising their dignity".

The team also noted that the school is located in an "unsafe, inappropriate, dilapidated, and unhygienic building", which also housed commercial establishments, and there was hardly any security for students as there was no boundary wall. "Surprisingly, there is no designated residential area either for girls and boys in the ashramshala. The same rooms are used for residential purposes (sleeping at night), classrooms, an entertainment room, and dining purposes. No cot or bed was provided...students were given one synthetic blanket each," the report stated, adding that 23 of the 28 sanctioned posts at the ashramshala were filled.

The govt-provided computers were kept in a room with no sitting space, the team found. "It is big drain on govt resources," the report stated.

The principal informed the MSHRC team that despite the limitations, students enroll at the ashramshala due to benefits of direct transfer facilities. He added that recently the amount of direct benefit was substantially reduced, and govt was providing reading material through a centralised procurement scheme.



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