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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Reserved on : 30.01.2025

Delivered on : 17.04.2025

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA

Crl.O.P.Nos.27676, 27493, 27688 & 28311, of 2024
and
Crl.M.P.No.263 of 2025

Chandru
S.Eswar
Yuvaraj
Eswaran

Petitioner in Crl.O.P.No.27676 of 2024
Petitioner in Crl.O.P.No.27493 of 2024
Petitioner in Crl.O.P.No.27688 of 2024
Petitioner in Crl.O.P.No.28311 of 2024

vs.

1. The Inspector of Police,
G-2, Periamet Police Station,
Chennai District.
(Crime No.228 of 2024).
- 2.The Secretary,
The Secretary to Government,
Higher Education,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St.George, Chennai 600 009.
3. The Principal of Pachaiyappa's College,
Chennai.
4. The Principal of Presidency College,
Chennai.
5. The Secretary to



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Government of Tamil Nadu,
School Education,
Fort St.George,
Chennai.

Respondents in all Crl.O.Ps

(R2-suo mottu impleaded
as per order dated 22.11.2024)

(R3 to R5-suo mottu impleaded
as per order dated 27.11.2024)

Prayer: Criminal Original Petitions filed under Section 483 of BNSS, pleaded to enlarge the petitioners on bail, in connection with the Crime No.228 of 2024, pending investigation on the file of the respondent Police.

For Petitioner in
Crl.O.P.Nos.27676 &
27688 of 2024

: Mr.P.Muthamizhselvakumar

For Petitioner in
Crl.O.P.No.27493 of 2024

: Mr.S.Mohan Raj

For Petitioner in
Crl.O.P.No.28311 of 2024

: Mr.D.Dhanasekar

For R1 in all Crl.O.Ps.

: Mr.Leonard Arul Joseph Selvam
Government Advocate (Crl. Side)

For intervenor

: Mr.R.Thirumoorthy

COMMON ORDER

Though bail was granted to the petitioners on 02.12.2024, these petitions are listed today following the suo motu impleadment of educational authorities and the Principals of two Chennai Colleges, to



explore the preventive measures against student violence and promote social peace and welfare.

2. The petitioners, students of Pachaiyappa's College, and certain students from Presidency College, have been repeatedly involved in altercations during their commute from outlying areas to college. These skirmishes have led to multiple criminal cases, culminating in the brutal assault and eventual death of a Presidency College student named Sundar, allegedly by the petitioners.

3. In the light of the grave circumstances, this Court had directed the appearance of the petitioners' parents and, on its own motion, impleaded the relevant educational authorities and college Principals.

4. Mr. R. Thirumoorthy, appearing for the Student Federation of India, informed the Court that Dr. A.D. Revathy, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Pachaiyappa's College, had previously made recommendations to the Government to curb such incidents. He also indicated that the organization is working towards student unity and



wishes to provide further suggestions. They have filed CrI.M.P.No.263 of 2025 to intervene, arguing that student representation is essential to voice their grievances effectively.

5. Likewise, Mr. Arulmuruganandham, counsel for the NGO viz., Satta Panchayat Iyakkam, which focuses on public interest, submitted that his organization has also made relevant recommendations for preventing student violence.

6. The Additional Director General of Police (SCRB i/c Railways, Chennai), having communicated with the DGP, and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kilpauk, Greater Chennai, submitted a detailed report.

7. These reports reveal that 231 student-related criminal cases were registered in the past decade, out of which, 198 were registered by Greater Chennai Police and 33 were registered by the Government Railway Police. Notably, 58 cases involve Pachaiyappa's College students and 28 involve students from Presidency College.



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8. The worst scenario is that when this court had enquired the parents of the petitioners, they not only pleaded ignorance of the attitude of their children, but, also they contend that aspiring that their children could be the saviour of their family by becoming the first graduate, they had been spending their hard earned money for their education, however, without realizing the sacrifice and noble intention of their parent/guardian, the students indulge into the criminal activities and lose their future itself. In many similar cases, where the students are said to have involved in criminal activities, this court had also occasion to see that they had been brought up by a single parent, mostly by mother, with meagre income or daily wages.

9. Given the immaturity of the students accused in these cases, this Court had granted bail with the condition that they serve in the Trauma Ward of the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, under the supervision of the Resident Medical Officer.

10. Compliance reports show that the petitioners assisted Trauma Ward staff and developed a deeper appreciation for the value



of life. As the saying goes, **“It is good to learn from your mistakes, but better to learn from others”**. This incident should serve as a wake-up call to society.

11. A review of the case materials confirms that group clashes have been primarily occurring between the students of Pachaiyappa’s and Presidency Colleges, although students of other institutions have also been involving in such incidents.

12. Pachaiyappa’s College, South India’s first and the country’s fourth oldest educational institution has a proud legacy. Notable alumni include mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan and former Chief Minister Arignar C.N. Annadurai, who was also a faculty member. The college hosted Mahatma Gandhi’s first speech in Madras. Similarly, Presidency College has produced distinguished alumni like Nobel laureate Sir C.V. Raman and several prominent judges.

13. It is, therefore, disheartening that students of such prestigious institutions have recently been involved in criminal behavior, tarnishing their reputations and jeopardizing their futures.



WEB COPY 14. Criminals are made, not born. No parent wants their child

to become an anti-social element, and dedicated teachers strive to instill ambition and good values. Society too cannot tolerate such behavior. The root cause may lie in a lack of empathy rather than sympathy. Institutions must not ignore these issues merely because they occur outside the campus or involve only a few students.

15. After reviewing all submissions and reports, this Court believes the issue demands urgent intervention by Educational Authorities. As the saying goes, "**as the twig is bent, so grows the tree.**" Immediate measures must be taken at the college level, but long-term solutions require early intervention starting from school with regular parent-teacher interactions to identify and address behavioral issues.

16. Accordingly, this Court recommends the formation of a Special Committee comprising statesmen, scholars, psychoanalysts, and representatives from the Departments of Human Resource Development, Higher Education, School Education, and the Police. This



preventive strategies in the larger interest of the student community.

With these observations, the Criminal Original Petitions stand closed.

17.04.2025.

Index: Yes/No.
Internet: Yes/No.
ssk.

To

1. The Secretary,
The Secretary to Government,
Higher Education,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Fort St.George, Chennai 600 009.
2. The Secretary to
Government of Tamil Nadu,
School Education,
Fort St.George, Chennai.
3. The Principal of Pachaiyappa's College,
Chennai.
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5. The Inspector of Police,
G-2, Periamet Police Station,
Chennai District.
(Crime No.228 of 2024).
6. Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA, J.

ssk.

P.D. ORDER IN
Crl.O.P.Nos.27676, 27493,
27688 & 28311 of 2024

Delivered on
17.4.2025.