

NAGALAND INFORMATION COMMISSION

**Old Secretariat Complex,
Post Box No. 148**

Nagaland, Kohima - 797001.

Tel: 0370-2291041, Fax: 0370-2291774, Website: www.nlsic.gov.in



No. NIC/Complaint-5/2013-14

Dated Kohima, the 16th December, 2013.

Complainant: Dinanath Bhaskar,
19/99-A, Bhim Nagar,
Central Jail Road, P.S. Cantt,
Varanasi – 221002, Uttar Pradesh,
Mobile No. 09415223895

Respondent: (i) Dr. Imotemsu Ao,
Director & First Appellate Authority,
The Global Open University, Nagaland,
Opp. Veterinary Hospital, Pezielietsie Colony,
Nagaland, Kohima.

(ii) Shri. Keluozie Kesiezie,
PIO,
The Global Open University, Nagaland,
Opp. Veterinary Hospital, Pezielietsie Colony,
Nagaland, Kohima.

Public Authority: The Global Open University Nagaland, Kohima.

Date of Hearing: 28.11.2013 at 2:30 PM.

Date of Decision: 16.12.2013.

Present:

1. Dr. Imotemsu Ao, Director & First Appellate Authority, The Global Open University, Nagaland, Opp. Veterinary Hospital, Pezielietsie Colony, Kohima.
2. Shri. Keluozie Kesiezie, PIO, The Global Open University, Nagaland, Opp. Veterinary Hospital, Pezielietsie Colony, Kohima.

The applicant(now the complainant), Dinanath Bhaskar, 19/99-A, Bhim Nagar, Central Jail Road, P.S. Cantt, Varanasi – 221002, Uttar Pradesh, Mobile No. 09415223895 **did not appear.**

FACTS OF THE CASE

An applicant, Dinanath Bhaskar, 19/99-A, Bhim Nagar, Central Jail Road, P.S. Cantt, Varanasi – 221002, Uttar Pradesh had submitted a RTI application dated 19.07.2013 in Hindi addressed to Mr. Kul Pati, The Global Open University Nagaland, alongwith the prescribed fee of Rs. 10/- paid vide IPO No. 19F 041786 dated 19.07.2013 and another Rs. 10/- vide IPO No. 19F 041787, requesting to find out the authenticity of the M. Phil Degree of Smti. Saroj. The applicant had also enclosed a copy of the Statement of Marks secured by Smti.

Saroj, Roll No. MPHIL/6871/LIS/2008D with Sl. No. 119949 for M. Phil with specialisation in Library and Information Science, and M. Phil Certificate of Smti. Saroj, Roll No. MPHIL/6871/LIS/2008D with Sl. No. 110103, to ascertain whether she (Smti. Saroj) has received the M. Phil Degree and whether the photocopy of the enclosed certificate was true.

An authorised signatory of The Global Open University, Nagaland had replied to the applicant, vide letter No. M.Phil/6871/LIS/2008D/VER/7/13/S/BR dated 25.07.2013, wherein the University had enclosed a Proforma/format for verification of educational documents which was required to be filled up by Ms. Saroj and to send the same alongwith the prescribed fee of Rs. 500/- fixed for the purpose in the form of Demand Draft payable to The Global Open University Nagaland.

On being not satisfied with the reply of The Global Open University, Nagaland, the applicant had submitted a complaint dated 01.08.2013 (in Hindi) before the Commission stating that though he had asked for information regarding collecting the copy of the despatch letter with Xerox copy of post order, speed post, receipt, including M. Phil mark sheet and certificate attached, the University had issued a letter alongwith format to be filled up and to pay Rs. 500/- only after which the University would send the information. The applicant further submitted that if the information is available under the RTI on payment of Rs. 10/- throughout the country, then why the University has asked for payment of Rs. 500/-?

OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

The applicant(now the complainant), Dinanath Bhaskar, 19/99-A, Bhim Nagar, Central Jail Road, P.S. Cantt, Varanasi – 221002, Uttar Pradesh, Mobile No. 09415223895 did not appear for the hearing, nor did he inform or submit in writing to the Commission about his absence in the hearing.

During the hearing, it was made known to the Commission that the authorised signatory of The Global Open University, Nagaland who replied to the applicant vide letter No. M.Phil/6871/LIS/2008D/VER/7/13/S/BR dated 25.07.2013 was not the concerned PIO, but the Controller of Examinations of the University, who functions from the Delhi Campus/Office due to lack of proper office space in Dimapur, as the construction of the University campus is yet to be completed. However, it was informed that once the construction of the University campus is completed, the Delhi Campus/Office, where the Controller of Examinations of the University functions will be shifted to Dimapur.

After hearing the statements of the Director & First Appellate Authority, The Global Open University Nagaland, and the PIO of The Global Open University, Nagaland, Kohima, it has come to light that the amount of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) that was asked for by The Global Open University, Nagaland, Kohima from the applicant is a normal fee that is realised from all applicants for verification and authentication of the educational documents that may be applied for. Further, the Director & First Appellate Authority, The Global Open University Nagaland, submitted that the Format/form for verification of educational documents which also mentions the amount of fee for verification charged @ Rs. 500/- per Degree/Mark sheet/Provisional/Migration Certificate payable through Demand Draft is readily available on the website of the University, and any candidate can download and fill up and send it along with the prescribed amount to the University.

The PIO of The Global Open University, Nagaland, Kohima submitted that after sending the format, the applicant did not respond.

To the query/clarification raised by the applicant regarding the payment of Rs. 10/- under the RTI throughout the country, and the Rs. 500/- payable to the University for the verification and authentication of the educational documents, the Commission clarified that the Rs. 10/- is for the payment of application fees which is to be paid at the time of seeking information under the RTI and is not refundable. Whereas, the Rs. 500/- is not the RTI application per se, but an additional cost which may be paid to the University for further obtaining of the documents and may be counted towards the cost of information. The Commission finds the claims of the applicant not tenable.

DECISION

On the above observations and findings, the Commission decided that since the amount of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) asked for by The Global Open University, Nagaland, Kohima from the applicant is the prescribed fee for verification and authentication of the educational documents that is realised from any applicant who wishes to apply for and that the prescribed Format/form for verification of educational documents has already been provided, the applicant(now Complainant), if he so desires, may fill up and submit the prescribed form/format for verification and authentication of the educational documents alongwith the prescribed fee of Rs. 500/- to The Global Open University, Nagaland, Kohima to obtain the desired documents.

The Commission dismissed the claims of the applicant(now Complainant) and decided to declare the Case closed.

Decision pronounced in the presence of all parties concerned.

Copies be given to the parties:-

1. Dr. Imotemsu Ao, Director & First Appellate Authority, The Global Open University, Nagaland, Opp. Veterinary Hospital, Pezielietsie Colony, Kohima.
2. The PIO, The Global Open University, Nagaland, Opp. Veterinary Hospital, Pezielietsie Colony, Kohima.
3. The applicant(now the complainant), Dinanath Bhaskar, 19/99-A, Bhim Nagar, Central Jail Road, P.S. Cantt, Varanasi – 221002, Uttar Pradesh, Mobile No. 09415223895.

Sd/-
KEVININO P. MERU
State Information Commissioner,
Nagaland, Kohima.

Sd/-
BUKCHEM PHOM
State Information Commissioner,
Nagaland, Kohima

Authenticated by:-

(SOYIMNA AIER KOZA)
Secretary