

C.S DIAS,J.

W.P (C) No.10867 of 2020

Dated this the 3rd day of June, 2020.

REFERENCE ORDER

The heartburn projected by the petitioners is that the 7th and 8th respondent schools, where their children are pursuing their studies, are insisting for payment of additional fees, inter alia, to facilitate virtual class rooms in view of the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is disheartening to learn that a student allegedly took away her life due to lack of access to the internet for attending virtual classes.

2. Right to education is sacrosanct in the Constitution of India and is the mandate under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

3. The petitioners contend that some States and Union Territories have formulated guidelines for the conduct of on-line classes and have ordered that students should not be denied education for want of payment of fees during this pandemic period.

4. In view of the substantial public interest involved in this writ petition, in exercise of the powers of this Court under Section 3 of the Kerala High Court Act, 1958, I adjourn this case for being heard by a Bench of two Judges. Notwithstanding this reference, in view of the adverse situation prevalent in the country due to the Pandemic, I direct the respondents 6 and 7 not to levy any additional fee from the children of the petitioners until further orders. The petitioners are directed to forthwith file the physical copy of this writ petition. On such filing, the Registry shall place the file before the Hon'ble Chief Justice for orders.

Handover/Upload this interim order on the web-site of this Court.

W.P (C) No.10867 of 2020

-3-

3