

School Punishment for Being Late Lands Four Female Students in Hospital



Four female students from a government school in Arcot, Vellore district, were hospitalized after allegedly being compelled to perform 200 sit-ups as punishment for arriving late to class. The incident, which occurred last Thursday, has raised serious questions regarding disciplinary practices within educational institutions and the welfare of students. The students were admitted to the government hospital in Arcot following the severe physical exertion.

The students, identified as ninth-grade pupils, were reportedly late for their morning prayers. In response, a male physical education teacher allegedly ordered them to perform the strenuous exercise. Following the punishment, the girls began experiencing severe muscle pain and discomfort, prompting their families to seek medical attention. The incident quickly drew the attention of local authorities and educational officials.

Upon learning of the situation, Vellore Collector S.A. Raman promptly initiated an inquiry into the matter. He has instructed the Chief Educational Officer (CEO) to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a comprehensive report on the circumstances leading to the students' hospitalization. "We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students," Collector Raman stated. "Any disciplinary action must be appropriate and should never endanger a student's health." The inquiry will examine whether the teacher's actions were in line with school policies and established guidelines for student discipline.

Such incidents underscore the ongoing debate about appropriate disciplinary measures in schools. While maintaining order and punctuality is essential for a productive learning environment, educators are generally expected to employ methods that are both effective and

do not risk the physical or psychological health of students. The use of excessive physical punishment has been widely discouraged by educational bodies and child welfare organizations globally.

The outcome of the ongoing investigation will likely determine the course of action regarding the involved teacher and may lead to a review of disciplinary protocols within schools across the district. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the need for schools to balance the enforcement of rules with a primary focus on student welfare and the cultivation of a safe learning atmosphere.