

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA

Aditya Kumar Yadav
vs.
The State of Bihar and Others

CWJC No. 10739 of 2021

21 August 2025

(Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajeev Ranjan Prasad)

Issue for Consideration

Whether petitioner challenging his result “Not Qualified” in the STET 2019 exam is correct or not?

Headnotes

School Laws—Examination—application of the normalization procedure—a specific clause in the advertisement that there will be no negative marking, the Board has indulged in negative marking of the answer-sheets—petitioner sought benefit of grace marks for wrong questions—Board has not done any negative marking and petitioner secured less than the qualifying marks because of the application of the normalization procedure.

Held: Court in CWJC No. 12582 of 2021 held that awarding grace marks is a policy decision of the Board, not enforceable by writ unless there's a legal right—matter left to competent Authority of the Board to take appropriate view in future—writ application disposed of with observations and directions.

(Paras 3, 7 to 11)

Case Law Cited

Shambhu Sharan Mandal vs. the State of Bihar & Ors., CWJC No. 12582 of 2021—
Relied Upon.

List of Acts

School Laws.

List of Keywords

application of the normalization procedure; grace marks; result; negative marking; pro-rata evaluation.

Case Arising From

From result of STET 2019 Examination.

Appearances for Parties

For the Petitioner: Ms. Ritika Rani, Advocate.

For the State: Mr. Madanjeet Kumar, GP-20.

For the B.S.E.B.: Mr. Ajay Behari Sinha, Sr. Advocate; Mr. Upendra Kumar Singh, Advocate.

Headnotes Prepared by Reporter: Abhas Chandra, Advocate

Judgment/Order of the Hon'ble Patna High Court

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.10739 of 2021

=====

Aditya Kumar Yadav Son of Bhogendra Mahatman, Resident of Village-
Piprahi, P.S.-Laukaha, P.O.-Chatarbhuji, District-Madhubani.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar through the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, Patna.
2. The State of Bihar through the Principal Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Bihar, Patna.
3. The Director, Secondary Education, Education Department, Government of Bihar, Patna
4. The Bihar School Examination Board, Patna through its Secretary.
5. The Chairman, Bihar School Examination Board, Patna.

... .. Respondent/s

=====

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s	:	Ms.Ritika Rani, Advocate
For the State	:	Mr. Madanjeet Kumar, GP-20
For the B.S.E.B.	:	Mr. Ajay Behari Sinha, Sr. Advocate
		Mr. Upendra Kumar Singh, Advocate

=====

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJEEV RANJAN PRASAD
ORAL ORDER

5 25-08-2023 Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned senior counsel for the Bihar School Examination Board (hereinafter referred to as ‘Board’).

2. Petitioner in the present case has moved this Court for the following reliefs:-

“A. For quashing the result of the petitioner of Secondary/Senior Secondary Teacher Eligibility Test, 2019 herein after referred as STET examination against advertisement no. PR/373/2019 held on 15.09.2020, which was uploaded on the website of the Bihar School Examination Board on 12.03.2021 as contained in



Annexure 5 by which petitioners has been declared “Not Qualified” even after scoring 44.81% which is equivalent to 45% as per the principle of rounding off meaning thereby petitioner has obtained the minimum cut off percentage required in order to be declared successful in the category of BC i.e., 45%.

B. For commanding the Bihar School Examination Board hereinafter referred as BSEB to publish the result of the petitioner like other successful candidates in the examination of STET against advertisement no. PR/373/2019 in the subject of Social Science as per principle of rounding off as the petitioner have scored less than 0.50 of the minimum qualifying marks as per the principle of rounding off in the subject of Social Science.

C. Also for commanding the respondents to revise and publish the result of the petitioner in the subject Social Science of STET Examination, 2019 against the advertisement no. PR/373/2019 as contained in **Annexure 1** after awarding 3 marks to the petitioner mainly on the reason three wrong question was framed by the Board of STET and also award marks against the questions under which the petitioner has been awarded negative mark in the subject of Social Science against the STET examination held on 15.09.2020.

D. For commanding the respondents to award three marks against three wrong questions no. 42, 48 and 50 framed by the Board in the subject of Social Science under Pedagogy and Skills held on 15.09.2020 Shift I in the examination of STET



against the advertisement no. PR/373/2019.

E. Also for commanding the respondents to reduce the qualifying marks by three marks considering three wrong questions framed by the Board in the subject of Social Science held on 15.09.2020 in the examination of STET against the advertisement no. PR/373/2019.

F. To hold and declare awarding negative marks in the STET, 2019 examination as per Clause 5 of the advertisement no. 373/2019 as contained in Annexure 1 is void, illegal and arbitrary mainly on the reason the advertisement does not indicate awarding negative marks.

G. Also for declaring the petitioner as successful candidate in STET examination against the advertisement no. PR/373/2019 held on 15.09.2020 in the subject of Social Science after deducting negative marks given to the petitioner.

H. Also for necessary relief order/direction for which the petitioner is entitled in the eye of law as well as on facts of the case.

3. Ms. Ritika Rani, leaned counsel for the petitioner initially made a submission that despite there being a specific clause in the advertisement that there will be no negative marking, the Board has indulged in negative marking of the answer-sheets, however, this contention was immediately contested by Mr. Ajay Behari Sinha, learned senior counsel representing the Board. Learned senior counsel submits that the Board has not done any negative marking and in fact the



petitioner secured less than the qualifying marks because of the application of the normalization procedure.

4. Referring to paragraph '15' of the counter affidavit, learned senior counsel submits that the petitioner claims to have obtained 88 marks out of total 150 but after normalization procedure was applied he got less than 45 in the backward class category, hence, stood disqualified.

5. This Court finds that in CWJC No.12582 of 2021 (Shambhu Sharan Mandal Vs. the State of Bihar & Ors.), this Court has considered identical matter and has taken the following views:-

“Having heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned senior counsel for the Board as also on perusal of the records, this Court finds that the respondent- Board has taken a categorical stand that the petitioner has obtained less than 45%marks, therefore, he has not been declared qualified. The grievance of the petitioner with reference to the grace marks allowed in some of the examinations would not be a ground for him to take a plea that this Court may issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to continue with such policy of awarding grace marks.

In the opinion of this Court, it is in the domain of the Institution/ Board only to take such policy decisions depending upon the circumstances which in their opinion demand such decision. So far as



this Court is concerned, since the petitioner has failed to demonstrate that he has any legal right under which the respondent may be forced to award a grace mark, this Court would refrain from issuing a Writ of Mandamus.”

6. The reasoning and rationale provided by this Court in its order passed in CWJC No.12582 of 2021 would equally apply in the facts of the present case.

7. Before this Court parts with this order, it is worth mentioning that in course of her submissions, learned counsel for the petitioner has placed before this Court a copy of the judgment dated 31.08.2015 passed by Hon’ble Division Bench of this Court in LPA No.1287 of 2015 arising out of CWJC No.21945 of 2014 and other analogous matters. Learned counsel submits that on a reading of the Hon’ble Division Bench judgment it would appear that in the facts of the said case where the Board was awarding one mark for each incorrect question based on expert suggestion, the learned Single Judge of this Court had taken a view that the Board should evaluate the answer-sheets of the candidates by deleting questions wrongly framed. This view of the learned Single Judge has been accepted by the Hon’ble Division Bench. It is submitted that despite there being a judgment of this Court taking a view that the Board should take evaluation of the answer-sheets of candidates by



deleting questions wrongly framed, the Board is not following the said judgment, instead a different method is being adopted and that is giving rise to not only dissatisfaction among the candidates but is also resulting in number of litigations before this Court.

8. Learned counsel though admits that in the said writ application even though the Hon'ble Division Bench has taken note of the earlier practice of the Board to delete such questions and reevaluate the answer-sheets on the basis of remaining questions on pro-rata basis, the Court had not gone into the legality or validity of the said procedure, may be for the reason that the same was not an issue before the Court, however, it is submitted that the only bonafide approach on the part of the Board would have been to apply the said judgment in all the examinations where it is found that certain wrong multiple choice questions were wrongly framed.

9. This Court finds force in the submission of learned counsel for the petitioner that in order to avoid the litigations, it would have been in the fitness of the things if the Board would have proceeded in consonance with the views expressed by the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in LPA No.1287 of 2015. Even learned senior counsel for the Board does not find any



reason to justify the departure on the part of the Board in not following the judgment of the Hon’ble Division Bench.

10. Let this matter be placed before the competent authority of the Board to take an appropriate view in terms of the Hon’ble Division Bench judgment of this Court in future.

11. This writ application stands disposed of with the aforementioned observations and directions.

(Rajeev Ranjan Prasad, J)

Arvind/-
AFR

U			
---	--	--	--

