

PhD via distance mode will not fetch you a college job

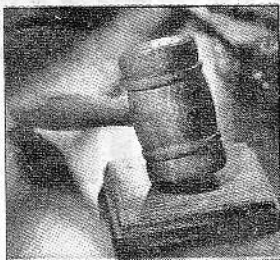
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High Court Upholds Government Rule On Teacher Recruitment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The Madras high court has upheld a state government decision to disqualify candidates who had obtained MPhil and PhD degrees through distance education or an open university system from applying for the post of assistant professor.

A division bench comprising Justice R Banumathi and Justice T S Sivagnanam, concurring with additional government pleader P Sanjay Gandhi and dismissing a PIL filed by former professor I Elangovan, on Monday said: "Based on opinions of academicians to maintain the standards in higher education, if the government has taken a decision, the court cannot interfere. We do not find any infirmities in the



UGC regulations or any other statutory provision, warranting the quashing of the order."

The teachers recruitment board in the state has already started the process to recruit 1,093 assistant professors for various colleges run by the Tamil Nadu government.

While the sale of applications started on June 19, the last date for submission of the application forms was extended to July 26. As per the

selection criteria notified by the board, those who had obtained MPhil and PhD degrees through correspondence or open university mode would not be eligible to apply for the posts.

Assailing the disqualification, Prof Elangovan submitted that degree certificates and mark sheets issued by the universities concerned for their regular and distance education modes are one and same.

"There is no indication in these degree certificates and marksheets that they are in respect of regular course of study or distance education mode," he said.

Also, the Distance Education Council has recognised all degrees awarded by state universities under their statutes. It has granted recogni-

tion to courses offered by University of Madras, Mother Teresa University, Annamalai University, Alagappa University, etc., he said, adding that till September 2009, holders of MPhil were exempted from national-level or state-level eligibility tests as the degrees were in accordance with the UGC (minimum standards and procedure for award of PhD degree) regulation, 2009.

Prof Elangovan said the selection notification had been issued without jurisdiction and was ultra vires of the UGC regulations. He wanted the High Court to quash the notification and direct the authorities to permit candidates holding MPhil and PhD degrees obtained through correspondence mode to participate in the selection process.