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THE TIMES OF INDIA

200 girls leave boarding school for lack of toilets

B Sridhar,TNN | Aug 22, 2015, 06.11 AM IST



The Kasturba Gandhi Awasiya School has just five toilets for 220 boarders, forcing them to relieve themselves in the nearby fields, where they were regularly harassed by the local boys. (Photo for representation)

JAMSHEDPUR: More than 200 girls have left their studies at a government-run residential school at Ichagarh in Seraikela-Kharswan district, about 50 km from the country's premier steel town, because of insufficient toilets.

The Kasturba Gandhi Awasiya School has just five toilets for 220 boarders, forcing them to relieve themselves in the nearby fields, where they were regularly harassed by the local boys.

Recently, school warden Anita Bari had approached the Ichagarh police with a written complaint and asked them to check the growing incidents of harassment. The police intensified patrolling in the area after the complaint.

"The school has no boundary wall, making it easy for the locals to harass the girls. Sometimes, stones are hurled at the hostel at night," school authorities complained. The school has students up to Class XII.

On receiving complaints from the students, locals and parents had a meeting on Monday and decided to withdraw the pupils from the school which was set up to promote education among girls in rural areas. By Friday, more than 200 boarders returned home and their dormitories locked.

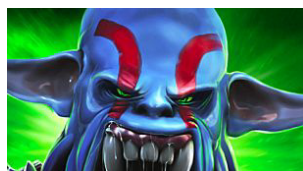
District authorities have constituted a committee to probe the matter. They, however, did not want to link withdrawal of girls to shortage of toilets. "We will get to know the reasons once the investigation report is submitted to us," said district education officer Harishankar, who visited the campus on Thursday.

District education superintendent Suresh Chandra Ghosh added, "Investigating officials have started talking to the warden and the security officials of the school about the issues. We will hold a meeting with top education department officials to plan our course of action."

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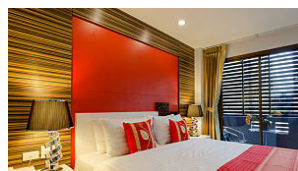
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