

## BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

*9, Bailey Road, Patna*

**File No. BHRC/Comp. 3427/15**

**(Suo Motu Cognizance)**

**Subject: Students' outcry to take away scholarships and give them boats to go to school.**

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5.8.2015

The Telegraph, Patna edition, dated 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 has a front page story "Take away our scholarships, give us a boat to go to school". According to this report 90 students from Machkhian and adjoining villages under Durgesh Block in Kaimur district have to swim everyday to reach their schools. News report further states that the students have said that they do not want scholarships but a boat which could take them to school and get them back. It has quoted a student saying:-

"Narrating their woes, Class VIII student Akhilesh Kumar said: 'I have to leave home at 7 every morning to reach school. I carry my books wrapped in a plastic bag in an earthen pot so they are not damaged.' The classes start at 9 am and continue till 4 pm.

"After crossing the river, the students get into their uniform and keep their soiled clothes in their school bags. Thereafter, they have to walk for about two kilometers (on foot), which takes about 40 minutes, to reach the school. The task is more difficult for the girls as they can change their wet clothes only when they reach school".

If the story is true, it is sad reflection on our systems. The DM of Kaimur district shall be contacted by the Deputy Secretary, BHRC on phone and asked to submit a report by Monday. He shall also be directed to make arrangements of a boat immediately by which the students can be taken to school and brought back to their homes. The report suggests that a boat could be purchased for 1 lakh rupees and the Commission feels that it will not be beyond the financial capacity of the state to arrange an amount of 1 lakh rupees for the purpose.

This order shall also be sent by fax to DM, Kaimur.

Copy of the newspaper report be also sent.

***(Justice Bilal Nazki)***  
***Chairperson***