

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

W.P(C)No.38482 of 2022

Dated this the 29th day of November, 2022

O R D E R

The learned Government Pleader - Smt.Parvathy Kottol for respondents 1 to 3 , Sri.P.Sreekumar - learned Standing Counsel for the 4th respondent and Smt.Parvathy Menon - learned Standing Counsel for the 5th respondent, seek time to obtain instructions.

2. *Prima facie*, Ext.P2 appears to put restriction on the liability of students even to walk in the campus after a particular time. There can be justification for this only if compelling reasons are shown.

3. Going by the discussion that this Court had at the Bar today, it appears that one of the reasons for fixing this time frame is that students will find no reason to go outside after 9.30 PM, because the reading rooms and the libraries would have closed by them.

4. However, there can also be situations where students would want to walk out in the nights, for other reasons, as they may deem. This has been restricted through Ext.P2;

and I am certain, therefore, that the competent Authorities must come out with the rationale in imposing the said limitation.

5. When they do so, they will also keep in mind Exts.P4 and P5 Regulations of the University Grants Commission, which mandate that in the guise of protection, rights of the students - especially women - cannot be inhibited, particularly that of movement.

6. I am persuaded to make the afore observations also because, in the modern times, any patriarchy - even in the guise of offering protection based on gender - would have to be frowned upon because girls, as much as boys, are fully capable of taking care of themselves; and if not, it must be the endeavour of the State and the Public Authorities to make them so competent, rather than being locked in.

List on 07.12.2022

Sd/-

**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN,
JUDGE**

ACR