



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
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Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

07 March, 2014

Dear Shri Ramadorai,

I write to you with regard to the issue of Aadhaar numbers being made mandatory for trainees for enrolling into the 'STAR' National Skill Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). It has been brought to my attention that as per the enrolment rules of NSDC, while the trainee can undergo training without an Aadhaar number, he/she must get an Aadhaar number before assessment and certification is completed, to be eligible for obtaining his/her training certificate or monetary awards in this Scheme.

This is both unacceptable and discriminatory. Such a rule mandatorily linking Aadhaar numbers to education and skill development is undesirable as it discards other legal documents like the Voter ID card and Passport – both of which validate citizenship, and is also discriminatory - as it deprives thousands of students who do not have an Aadhaar card, from being enrolled into this programme.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court that has reiterated its ban on the making of Aadhaar mandatory for any services. To quote, the Order has unequivocally directed that, "no person should suffer for not getting the Aadhaar card in spite of the fact that some authority had issued a circular making it mandatory". The linking of Aadhaar numbers to enrolment to the NSDC training programmes, therefore, stands in contravention to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and will not withstand the scrutiny of the court.

In view of the above, I urge you to reconsider and remove the mandatory linkage of the Aadhaar number for trainees under the STAR scheme and other skill development programmes of NSDC – to protect the interest of thousands of students and enable them to benefit from these programmes.

Yours sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri S. Ramadorai

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