

THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH BENCH AT SUKKUR

C. P. No. D – 913 of 2026

[Mst. Zainab v. Province of Sindh and others]

Before:
Justice Arbab Ali Hakro
Justice Muhammad Osman Ali Hadi

Petitioner by : Mr. Babar Khan Sahito, Advocate

Respondents by : Mr. Ghulam Abbas Kubar, Assistant Advocate
General Sindh

Date of Hearing : **09.09.2026**

Date of Decision : **09.09.2026**

ORDER

ARBAB ALI HAKRO, J. – The petitioner, being a person with disability, has filed the instant Constitutional Petition seeking a direction to the respondents to consider her case for appointment against the quota reserved for persons with disabilities and to appoint her to any suitable post according to her qualification and eligibility.

2. The petitioner has pleaded that she is a person with a physical disability (polio) to the extent of 60%, as stated in the petition, and possesses a disability certificate issued by the competent authority showing a disability of 70%. She claims to be a permanent resident of District Sukkur and states that she approached the concerned authorities for her appointment against the disability quota. It is further stated that she submitted an application seeking appointment to a suitable post under the disability quota. The said application is on record. The petitioner has therefore invoked the constitutional jurisdiction of this Court seeking appointment against the quota reserved for persons with disabilities.

3. Learned AAG Sindh, while referring to the comments submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, Sukkur, submits that recruitment against vacancies, including the quota reserved for persons with disabilities/differently-abled persons, is regulated by the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Act, 2018, the applicable rules, and the prescribed recruitment procedure. It is further submitted that recruitment against the 5% quota has been undertaken in District Sukkur from time to time, and that a substantial number of persons with disabilities have already been appointed through the District Recruitment/Selection Committee. It is stated that, in the recruitment process conducted in January 2026, more than 1000 applicants appeared for interviews and 20 persons were appointed, whereas a total of about 100 differently-abled persons/persons with disabilities have been appointed against the 5% quota in various departments in the relevant recruitment processes. Learned AAG further submits that the petitioner failed to appear in any walk-in interview/recruitment process and, therefore, cannot claim appointment merely on the basis of her disability or by submitting an application to the authorities.

4. We have heard the learned counsel for the petitioner as well as the learned AAG Sindh and have perused the material on record.

5. A perusal of the petition reveals that the petitioner seeks appointment under the 5% quota reserved for persons with disabilities. The statutory scheme provides for reservation for persons with disabilities in Government employment. However, such reservation does not, by itself, confer an automatic or indefeasible right of appointment upon every person within that category.

6. The foremost requirement for appointment to a government or public post is compliance with the prescribed legal and codal formalities and participation in a recruitment process initiated by public advertisement or notice, followed, where prescribed, by scrutiny of documents, a test, an interview, and determination of merit. A person holding the requisite disability certificate is entitled to the benefit of the reserved quota in accordance with law, but such entitlement does not exempt her from the mandatory recruitment procedure.

7. In the present case, the petitioner has placed on record her application to the respondent's seeking appointment under the disability quota. However, the mere submission of an application does not establish

that she participated in any lawful recruitment process, or that she was selected or otherwise found eligible for appointment to any particular vacant post. Conversely, the respondents have categorically stated that the petitioner did not appear for any walk-in interview or recruitment process. Thus, no material is before us to establish that the petitioner participated in a lawful recruitment process and was thereafter denied appointment despite being eligible and having secured merit.

8. The constitutional and statutory protections available to persons with disabilities are intended to ensure their effective participation in public employment and cannot be defeated by administrative inaction. At the same time, the right arising from a reserved quota is to be actualized through a fair, transparent and lawful recruitment process for posts actually available for appointment. Employment of persons with disabilities is a right, not a matter of charity; however, the exercise of that right must take place within the framework of the prescribed recruitment process.

9. The respondents have placed on record that recruitment under the 5% disability quota has been undertaken in District Sukkur on various occasions, and that appointments have been made through the District Recruitment/ Selection Committee. It is also their stated position that the petitioner did not participate in the relevant recruitment process. In these circumstances, no direction can be issued for the direct appointment of the petitioner to any post merely on the basis of her disability certificate, qualification or the application she submitted.

10. Consequently, the petitioner, having failed to participate in the prescribed recruitment process, is not entitled to the relief of direct appointment sought. However, she shall remain at liberty to participate in any future recruitment process for posts reserved for persons with disabilities in accordance with law.

11. Needless to say, whenever recruitment against the 5% disability quota is initiated in District Sukkur, the competent authority shall undertake it through a fair, transparent and lawful process, in accordance with the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018, applicable rules,

Government policy and all prescribed legal and codal formalities. The petitioner, if otherwise qualified and eligible, shall be entitled to apply pursuant to the relevant advertisement/notice, and her candidature shall be considered strictly in accordance with the prescribed procedure, including any test, interview and merit criteria.

12. It is further clarified that mere entitlement to consideration under the disability quota does not create a vested right to appointment. Any appointment shall remain subject to the availability of the post, prescribed qualifications and eligibility, participation in the recruitment process, merit, and fulfilment of all mandatory legal and codal requirements. No discrimination shall be made against the petitioner merely on account of her disability.

13. In view of the above, the instant Constitutional Petition is **disposed of** on the above terms. A copy of this order may be communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Sukkur, for information and compliance with the directions contained herein.

J U D G E

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Abdul Basit