

## **New management trying to close school, alleges staff**

NEW DELHI: Insecurity has gripped the teachers and other permanent employees of Sawan Public School, Bhatti Mines Road, after Sitaram Jindal Trust (SJT) took over the management. They have alleged service of contract employees has been terminated and many permanent employees have also been asked to leave. The employees also allege that the operations of the school are being carried out by Radha Soami Satsang and it is planning to close the school.

On Thursday, the teachers said, the management asked a permanent non-teaching employee, who had been working for over 25 years, to resign and vacate the campus within 48 hours. On Saturday, the school placed six employees - five teachers and another from the accounts department - under suspension. According to teachers, they are being harassed because they witnessed the "forced resignation". The authority wants to close the school and "transfer the land to the Satsang", alleges the staff.

The residential school was established in 1974 by SJT, which asked Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan to run it in 1987. However, it was soon taken back. But in 1993, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan again got the charge. Around 50 families now stay at the 22-acre campus.

"On June 23, 2012, we were told by the principal in-charge that the management was transferred to SJT. However, no one from SJT cared to address us. The school is currently run by people who speak to us on behalf of Radha Soami Satsang," said a senior teacher.

The school once housed 450 students. However, only 180 students stay on the campus now. The teachers have moved the Directorate of Education, claiming that "the management hadn't admitted many deserving applicants under various pretexts. They are reducing the number of academic staff".

The director of the school, Kamal Gurbaxani, refuted all allegations and stressed that the school is not closing down. However, Gurbaxani refused to comment on the termination and the suspension.