

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

CRR No. 586 of 2015

1. Rameshwar Kumar Chauhan S/o Shri Mehatter Ram (Guardian) aged about 15 years, Resident of Purnawash Basti, Gopalpur, Police Station Darri, Tahsil Katghora, District Korba, CG

---- Applicant

Versus

1. State of Chhattisgarh through Police Station Darri, District Korba, Chhattisgarh

---- Respondent

For Applicant: Shri Ashutosh Shukla, Advocate

For Respondent/State: Shri Vivek Sharma, GA

Order On Board by Pritinker Diwaker, J

15/01/2016

On mention being made, this case is taken up for being decided finally.

This revision petition has been filed by the applicant against the order dated 3.6.2015 passed by Additional Sessions Judge/Special Judge (Atrocities) Korba in Criminal Appeal No. 31/2015 dismissing the appeal preferred by him against the order dated 15.4.2015 passed by the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Korba in Criminal Case No. 01/2015.

2. As per the case of prosecution, on 7.12.2014 when the prosecutrix aged about 15 years was standing near the house of her maternal aunt, the applicant called her, took inside the room and after bolting the door, committed forcible sexual intercourse with her. On the basis of the report lodged, the case was registered against the applicant under Section 376 IPC. The applicant filed an application before the Principal Magistrate, Juvenile Justice Board, Raigarh under Section 12 of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 (for short the "Act of 2000") for grant of bail which was rejected on 15.4.2015. The order of the Juvenile Justice Board,

on appeal, has come to be confirmed by the order impugned. Hence this revision.

3. Earlier the Probation officer had submitted its report but not being satisfied therewith, this Court on 23.11.2015 directed for submission of the fresh report and in compliance of the said order, the fresh report has been submitted in the office of Advocate General. As per this report, the Probation officer recorded the statements of several persons of village Dhanwar and according to them now the relations between the parties are cordial and the situation is also normal. Report further says that the applicant was in love with the prosecutrix.

4. Counsel for the applicant submits that both the Courts below have erred in law in rejecting the bail application as also the appeal filed by the applicant. He submits that the provisions of Section 12 of the Act of 2000 have been completely ignored by both the Courts below. According to the counsel for the applicant the report of the Probation officer does not indicate anything against the applicant, rather it says that according to villagers the relations between the parties are cordial and the situation is also normal. Report further says that the applicant and the prosecutrix were in love.

4. State counsel however supports the orders impugned passed by the Courts below and submits that the application for release of the applicant on bail and then the appeal preferred subsequently have rightly been dismissed and there is no infirmity or illegality in the same.

5. Heard counsel for the parties and perused the documents on record.

6. Before drawing any conclusion regarding correctness or otherwise of the orders impugned, glance of the relevant provisions such as Section 12 of the Act of 2000 becomes necessitous, which is reproduced as follows:

“Section 12 : Bail of Juvenile. - (1) When any person accused of a bailable or non bailable offence, and apparently a juvenile, is arrested or detained or appears or is brought before a Board,

such person shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or in any other law for the time being in force be released on bail with or without surety [or placed under the supervision of a Probation Officer or under the care of any fit institution or fit person] but he shall not be so released if there appear reasonable grounds for believing that the release is likely to bring him into association with nay known criminal or expose him to moral, physical or psychological danger or that his release would defeat the ends of justice.

(2) When such person having been arrested is not released on bail under sub-section (1) by the officer in charge of the police station, such officer shall cause him to be kept only in an observation home in the prescribed manner until he can be brought before a Board.

(3) When such person is not released on bail under sub-section (1) by the Board it shall, instead of committing him to prison, make an order sending him to an observation home or a place of safety for such period during the pendency of the inquiry regarding him as may be specified in the order.”

A bare reading of section 12 (1) makes it clear that any person accused of a bailable or non bailable offence, and apparently a juvenile, is arrested or detained or appears or is brought before a Board, such person shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or in any other law for the time being in force be released on bail with or without surety. It further says that such person shall not be so released if there appear reasonable grounds for believing that the release is likely to bring him into association with any known or expose him to moral, physical or psychological danger or tht his release would defeat the ends of justice.

7. Similarly, Section 13 of the Act of 2000 reads as under:

“13. *Information to parent, guardian or probation officer.*- Where a juvenile is arrested, the officer incharge of the police station or the special juvenile police unit to which the juvneile is brought shall, as soon as may be after the arrest, inform-

(a) the parent or guardian of the juvenile, if he can be found of such arrest and direct him to be present at the Board befor ewhich the juvenile will appear; and

(b) the probation officer of such arrest to enable him to obtain information regarding the antecedents and family background of the juvenile and other material circumstances likely to be of assistance to the Board for making the inquiry.”

8. In the case in hand the report of the probation officer says that according to villagers the relations between the parties are cordial and the situation is also normal and further that the applicant and the prosecutrix were in love. The report nowhere says that if the applicant is released on bail, he would come into association with any known criminal or it would expose him to moral, physical or psychological danger or would it defeat the ends of justice.

9. Thus considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the report of the Probation Officer, present revision is allowed. Orders impugned are hereby set aside. Applicant is directed to be released on bail on his guardian or parents furnishing a bond in the sum of Rs. 10,000 with one surety for the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned Juvenile Justice Board and also on filing an affidavit by him/her before the said Board to the effect that:

- (i) he shall be responsible for well-being of his son/the applicant,
- (ii) he shall ensure that the applicant continues his studies and does not fall into bad company, and
- (iii) he shall report to the concerned Juvenile Justice Board on **29.3.2016** and thereafter once in two months on the dates fixed by the Board regarding the progress made by his son/the applicant, till the applicant attains/completes the age of 18 years.

10. Revision allowed.

Sd/-
(Pritinker Diwaker)
Judge