

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP No.16837 of 2018

Date of Decision: 12.11.2018

Geetika Gupta

.....Petitioner

Versus

Board of Governors, Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology Patiala
& others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA

Present:- Mr. Kabul Singh, Advocate and
Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Advocate
for the petitioner.

TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA J.(ORAL)

Petitioner is a Ph.D. student who was registered on 24th of July 2014. The precise grievance set forth in the instant petition is that in spite of having completed the research work, she is not being permitted to publish her papers and thereby inordinate delay has taken place with regard to awarding of the Ph.D.degree.

On a previous date of hearing i.e. 28th of September 2018, counsel had placed reliance upon a circular of the respondent-University and as per which the Director has constituted a Grievance Redressal Committee comprising of a Senior Professor as the Chairman, Associate Professor as the Member and Registrar office as the Convener of the Committee.

During the course of hearing today, learned counsel has apprised the Court that the petitioner has approached the Grievance

Redressal Committee with regard to the prayers raised in the instant petition. Learned counsel further submits that the matter was taken up in the proceeding of the Grievance Redressal Committee on 3rd of October 2018. Learned counsel has furnished for perusal of the Court the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee as regards proceedings dated 3rd of October 2018 and the same are reproduce here under for facilitate of ready reference:-

“Minutes of Meeting related to Complaint filed by Geetika Gupta, PhD Scholar Department of Biotechnology, Registration No.901400005, before Grievances Redressal Committee in reference to CWP No.16837 of 2018 in the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh, held in the office of EIED on 3rd Oct., 2018 at 11 AM.

The Following persons were present:

- 1. Prof. R.S. Kaler (Chairman)*
- 2. Prof. R S Siddique (Dean Research and Sponsored Projects).*
- 3. Dr. Vijaya Luxami (Associate Professor)*
- 4. Dr. Mukesh Singh (Associate Professor)*
- 5. Dr. M S Reddy (Supervisor)*
- 6. Dr. Sanjay Saxana (Supervisor)*
- 7. Dr. Manoj Barnwal (Supervisor)*
- 8. Ms. Geetika Gupta (Student)*
- 9. Father of Ms. Geetika Gupta*
- 10. Brother of Ms. Geetika Gupta*

The Conversation started with the email discussion and in due consideration of the Hon'ble High Court's direction to submit the grievances before the Grievances Redressal Committee constituted as per the guidelines of UGC, AICTE, being as Regulatory Authorities of TIET.

The Committee listened to Geetika Gupta and her grievances and resolved the following in consultations with the supervisors.

1. Grievance- Non Checking of Review Paper which is lying pending from October 2015 and is yet to be finalized and published by Dr. M.S. Reddy.

Resolution: It was resolved that Geetika Gupta will send word copy of the review paper along with supportive relevant papers. Dr. M.S. Reddy (Supervisor) agreed to check the paper and communicate the same within the period of twenty (20) days. Geetika will also provide the list of journals in which the paper is to be communicated. She may take help of supervisors in finalizing the list of journals.

2 Grievance: Research paper which is already given to Dr. M.S. Reddy for checking and making corrections for the publication in SCI Journal, pending from November 2017. (Attaching the mail of the same here).

Resolution: It was resolved that the second paper which is a research paper will be resubmitted by Geetika Gupta in word file and the paper will be reviewed by the supervisors within 20 days and the review comments will be passed to Geetika. To make a faster publication, the paper will be sent to the journal with the results obtained till date. After the journal's reviewer comments, the paper can be modified. In this regard, all the supervisors agreed to help her in timely manner. However, it was discussed that the publication is not in the hand of supervisors.

3. Grievance: Nutritional analysis of banana sap, Dr. M.S. Reddy has all the data in his mail because it was done by PBTI Mohali and I prepared the banana sap sample, reviewed and discussed literature regarding analysis with Reddy sir and the authorities at PBTI, Mohali. Kindly arrange to provide these results to me so that I can write another SCI paper for publication.

Resolution: Nutritional analysis of banana sap data which was done by PBTI Mohali has been handed over to Geetika by

Dr. M.S. Reddy in the meeting and she is free to use these data in her research paper.

4. Grievance: I have been working in the DST Project “Utilization of banana stem juice for renewable energy and value added products” since 2016 but from the last more than one year i.e. from July 2017 neither my fellowship has been released nor extension letter was given to me. Inspite of all this, I kept on continuously working in the project on my very own expenses(like extraction of banana stem juice from local market etc.). Further I have completed my two years in a project as JRF and I become eligible for upgradation of my fellowship to S.R.F., but neither I have been given my fellowship since July 2017 nor I have been upgraded to SRF inspite of my sincere and hard working in the project. Therefore, I request you to kindly upgrade my position as SRF and release my fellowship from July 2017.

Resolution: Dr. M S Reddy agreed to continue her JRF fellowship for the second year (upto 15th July, 2018. Since the second year grant has not been received by the PI (Dr. M S Reddy) from DST, she will be paid fellowship only after receipt of the same from DST. In this regard, Ms. Geetika has to write a project report on the work done by her and submit to Dr. M S Reddy within a week time. The experience certificate for the JRF will also be issued to Geetika Gupta.

5. The committee also discussed about the progress of her PhD work especially about completion of the objectives. It was decided that she should explain her progress to all the supervisors regarding completion of objectives. Since she has not presented her six monthly progress to the department, Head, Biotechnology Department is requested to fix the time of presentation by the end of October, 2018 so that the work done by her can be assessed.

6. It was decided that the student has to give the list of SCI journal in preference order, and supervisors will submit to the respective journals from the given list. She may take help of supervisors in finalizing the list of journals.

7. Further, the name of authors was also discussed which is to be kept in the paper. It was decided that Ms. Geetika Gupta will be the first author and the other supervisors will name will be decided by her.

The above stated issues raised by the complainant Ms. Geetika Gupta are hereby resolved accordingly.

*Sd/-3.10.2018
Chairman
Grievances Redressal committee
Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology
Patiala.”*

Learned counsel fairly concedes that matter is moving in a positive direction and the Grievance Redressal Committee is seized of the matter.

In view of the factual premise noticed hereinabove, there would be no justification for issuance of direction by this Court at this stage.

Writ petition is accordingly disposed of with liberty to the petitioner to approach the Court afresh in the eventuality of any decision/order that may be passed and which may be construed as detrimental to the interest of the petitioner.

Disposed of.

(TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA)
JUDGE

November 12, 2018

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Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No