

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-14937-2020 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 18.6.2020

Ramandeep Kaur

...Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE RAJIV NARAIN RAINA

Present: Mr. Deepal Aggarwal, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Suveer Sheokhand, Addl. AG Punjab.

RAJIV NARAIN RAINA, J. (Oral)

1. The case is taken up for hearing today through video conference due to pandemic of COVID-19.

2. On 12.6.2020, the following order was passed.

“2. If the statement of allegations in the petition are truthful, there is no reason to disbelieve them and brush them aside. They contain serious matter to be taken cognizance of, where a 22 year old girl desires to pursue further studies while her father (respondent No.6) insists she marry the boy of his choice, who she says is a drug addict. She accuses her father of threat and intimidation forcing her to act against her will.

3. Accordingly, the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur (where the girl resides and Mansa (where the father lives) and the SSPs of the districts are directed to depute a senior and sensitive lady officer in the civil administration in social welfare or any other department including from the police (not below the rank of DSP) to meet up with the petitioner and enquire about her side of the story and also from the father, his version.

4. *Petitioner to supply her contact information either personally or through her present counsel to the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur/Mansa whereupon appropriate action be taken. If truth is found in the statement of the girl then it will be the responsibility of the Administration to protect her life and liberty against the oppressors.*

5. *The Sub-Divisional Magistrate or the officer deputed to look into this matter, to submit a report to the Court on the next date of hearing.*

6. *Meanwhile, a direction is issued to the Police Department not to interfere with the affairs of the petitioner and protect her life and liberty till the matter comes up for re-hearing.*

7. *List on 18.6.2020.*

8. *It may be noted that the Court was informed that the girl currently resides in Sangrur as paying guest at the address given in the petition pursuing education while respondent No.6, her father resides in Mansa. This order will apply to the civil administration of both the districts to render assistance to the Court in resolution of the dispute.*

9. *A copy of this order be given to the learned State counsel for prompt action.”*

3. Today, the State has filed four separate responses i.e. (a) by District Child Protection Officer, Sangrur on the behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur, (b) Deputy Superintendent of Police, Punjab Bureau of Investigation, Crime against Women and Children, Sangrur, (c) Sub Divisional Magistrate, Mansa, (d) Deputy Superintendent Police, Sub-Division, Mansa, District Mansa in compliance of the order.

4. Status report of the DSP, Sub Division Mansa contains the statement of Teja Singh (father of the petitioner) in which it has been recorded that he has no objection if the petitioner continues to pursue her

studies and would not get her married against her wishes.

5. This redresses the substantial grievance of the petitioner. She can now pursue her studies without fear or threat from anyone, much less her parents. She is satisfied with the arrangement and has made a prayer in her statement recorded in one of the four affidavits filed today by the State that in case she needs any further help she can move an appropriate application before the authorities concerned. The Court has no doubt that no such necessity would arise; but in case it does, the respondent/authorities would speedily look into the matter and take such steps as are ameliorative to her condition, safety and distress call.

6. With the observations and directions made above, the petition is disposed of.

(RAJIV NARAIN RAINA)
JUDGE

18.6.2020
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Whether speaking/reasoned	:Yes/No
Whether reportable	:yes/No