

Aman Kumari and another

.....Petitioners

Vs.

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMOL RATTAN SINGH

Present: Mr. Sandeep Sharma, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

AMOL RATTAN SINGH, J. (ORAL)

All cases listed today have been taken up for hearing by way of video conferencing because of the situation existing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By this petition, the petitioners seek protection of life and liberty at the hands of respondents no. 4 to 6, upon the petitioners having married each other (as contended) against the wishes of the said respondents, on 23.11.2020.

On a specific query put to learned counsel for the petitioners, it has been stated that neither are the petitioners in any prohibited relationship to each other, nor has any of them been married earlier. He states that he has obtained specific instructions from the petitioners in that regard.

Consequently, since protection of life and liberty is a fundamental right of every citizen under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, without making any comment whatsoever on the validity of the marriage, or otherwise, this petition is disposed of with a direction to respondents no. 2 and 3, to ensure that the lives and liberty of the petitioners are not put to any harm or threat at the hands of the aforesaid respondents, or at their behest.

In support of proof of age, a copy of the Birth Certificate issued by the Registrar, Births & Deaths, Municipal Corporation, Jalandhar, to petitioner no.1, has been annexed with the petition, showing her date of birth to be 23.04.1995, thus making her more than 25 years of age.

However, there is no firm proof of age of petitioner no. 2, other than his Aadhar Card, which is actually not a firm proof of age. Consequently, if he is found to be below marriageable age in terms of the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, this order shall not be construed to be a bar on any proceedings initiated under that Act, offences committed under that Act being cognizable in terms of Section 15 thereof.

Further, it is made clear that if any of the averments made in the petition is found to be incorrect, including with regard to either the petitioners being in any prohibited relationship to each other, or as regards their previous marital status, this order shall not be construed to be a bar on proceedings initiated as per law.

November 26, 2020

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Whether speaking/reasoned

Whether Reportable

(AMOL RATTAN SINGH)**JUDGE**

Yes

No.