

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

203

**TA-1052-2021 (O&M)
Date of decision: 19.09.2022**

Neelkamal Kaur

...Petitioner

Versus

Harbans Singh

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present:- Mr. Sherry K. Singla, Advocate
for the petitioner.

None for the respondent.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J. (Oral)

While issuing notice of motion on 28.10.2021, the following
order was passed:

“Petitioner is the wife of the respondent. She has filed the present petition under Section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure seeking transfer of the petition under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 filed by the respondent, which is pending before the Court of Principal Judge Family Court, Sangrur to the Court of competent jurisdiction at Ludhiana.

The marriage of the petitioner with the respondent was solemnized on 31.01.2018 at Ludhiana. One male child was born to them. Who is aged about 3 years.

It is case the petitioner that ever since the marriage of the petitioner, she was repeatedly harassed by the respondent and his family members on account of demand of dowry. The petitioner was left by the respondent at Ludhiana on 16.02.2018 and since then she is residing with her parents. All the dowry articles have been retained by the respondent.

It is stated that in order to harass the petitioner, the respondent-husband has filed the petition under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, which is pending before the Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Sangrur. With a view to settle the dispute the petitioner appeared before the Mediation and Conciliation Center at District Court Sangrur. However the matter could not be settled because of the adamant attitude of the respondent.

The petitioner is working as a teacher at Government Senior Secondary School, Kasabad, Ludhiana and she is residing in Ludhiana alongwith her minor son. It is difficult for the petitioner to travel from Ludhiana to Sangrur to attend the Court proceedings as the distance is more than 90 kms.

Notice of motion for 02.02.2022.

Till the next date hearing proceedings in the case under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 filed by the respondent, pending before the Court of Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Sangrur, shall remain stayed.”

Learned counsel has relied upon the judgments ***Sumita Singh Vs. Kumar Sanjay, 2002 SC 396*** and ***Rajani Kishor Pardeshi Vs. Kishor Babulal Pardeshi, 2005(12) SCC 237***, wherein the Hon’ble Supreme Court observed that “*while deciding the transfer application, the Courts are required to give more weightage and consideration to the convenience of the female litigants and transfer of legal proceedings from one Court to another should ordinarily be allowed, taking into consideration their convenience and the Courts should desist from putting female litigants under undue hardships.*”

Learned counsel for the petitioner has further relied upon ***2022 Live Law (SC) 627 N.C.V. Aishwarya vs. A.S. Saravana Karthik Sha,***

wherein Hon'ble Supreme Court has held as under:

“9. The cardinal principle for exercise of power under Section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure is that the ends of justice should demand the transfer of the suit, appeal or other proceeding. In matrimonial matters, wherever Courts are called upon to consider the plea of transfer, the Courts have to take into consideration the economic soundness of both the parties, the social strata of the spouses and their behavioural pattern, their standard of life prior to the marriage and subsequent thereto and the circumstances of both the parties in eking out their livelihood and under whose protective umbrella they are seeking their sustenance to life. Given the prevailing socioeconomic paradigm in the Indian society, generally, it is the wife's convenience which must be looked at while considering transfer.

10. Further, when two or more proceedings are pending in different Courts between the same parties which raise common question of fact and law, and when the decisions in the cases are interdependent, it is desirable that they should be tried together by the same Judge so as to avoid multiplicity in trial of the same issues and conflict of decisions.”

As per office report, the respondent is served, however, there is no representation on his behalf.

It is well settled that while considering the transfer of a matrimonial dispute/case at the instance of the wife, the Court is to consider family condition of the wife, custody of the minor child, economic condition of the wife, her physical health and earning capacity of the husband and most important, convenience of the wife i.e. she cannot travel alone without assistance of a male member of her family, connectivity of the place to and

fro from her place of residence as well as bearing of the litigation charges and travelling expenses.

After hearing the counsel for the petitioner, considering the fact that if the aforesaid petition is not transferred, the petitioner-wife will have to bear the litigation expenses and transportation expenses and also in view of the ratio of law laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Sumita Singh's** case (supra), **Rajani Kishor Pardeshi's** case (supra) and **N.C.V. Aishwarya's** case (supra), this Court deems it appropriate to allow the present petition, with the following directions:-

- (i) *The petition filed under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, pending before the Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Sangrur will be transferred to the competent Court of jurisdiction at Ludhiana.*
- (ii) *The District Judge, Ludhiana will assign the said petition to the competent Court of jurisdiction.*
- (iii) *The Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Sangrur is directed to transfer all the record pertaining to the aforesaid case to District Judge, Ludhiana.*
- (iv) *The parties are directed to appear before the trial Court at Ludhiana within a period of 01 month from today.*
- (v) *The Courts concerned, where the cases are pending between the parties, will accommodate them with one date in a calendar month.*

However, liberty is granted to the respondent-husband to revive this petition, if he intends to contest the same, provided that:-

- (i) *The respondent will clear all the arrears of maintenance amount, if any, in terms of the petition filed by the petitioner either under Section 125 Cr.P.C. or Section 12 of the*

Domestic Violence Act or Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act.

- (ii) *The respondent will file an affidavit giving undertaking to pay Rs.1,000/- per day, to the petitioner for attending the Court proceedings at Sangrur, on each and every date of hearing.*
- (iii) *The respondent will bring a demand draft of Rs.25,000/- towards the litigation expenses of the petitioner to pursue the case at Sangrur, in case the respondent opts to contest this petition.*

19.09.2022

Waseem Ansari

**(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No