

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL REVISION No.223 of 2023

Arising Out of PS. Case No.-50 Year-2022 Thana- MAHILA PS District- Buxar

SUBHANSU DEV @ SACHIN SINGH, MINOR SON OF ARJUN SINGH
THROUGH HIS FATHER AND NATURAL GUARDIAN S/O ARJUN
SINGH R/O VILLAGE- CHOUGAI, WARD NO. 14, P.S- MURAR, DISTT.-
BUXAR.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. THE STATE OF BIHAR
2. Bablu Singh Son of Late Suresh Singh Father and Natural Guardian of Kriti (Victim), Resident of village - Chougai, P.S. - Murar, Distt. - Buxar

... .. Respondent/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr.Nil Kamal
For the Respondent/s : Mr.Rajendra Nath Jha

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KUMAR SINHA
ORAL ORDER

6 04-09-2023 Heard the parties.

2. The present Cr. Revision application has been filed against judgment and order dated 17.02.2023 passed in Cr. Appeal of Child Case No. 20/2022 by the learned Additional Sessions Judge 1st-cum-Special Judge (SC/ST & Children Court), Buxar in connection with Buxar (Mahila) PS Case No. 50/2022, JJB Case No. 889/2022 for the offence punishable under Sections 376(D) IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act, whereunder the learned court below has refused to release the revisionist/petitioner on bail.

3. Prosecution case as narrated in the FIR by the informant that his daughter aged about 14 years left her house



after quarrel with her mother and during course of search, she was found at Dumraon Railway Station and on query by her father (informant) she disclosed the events of her love story with one Shivam Singh. She further narrates that she used to have sexual liaison with Shivam Singh and when she contacted Shivam Singh on phone, he instructed her to go to his friends, namely, Vicky Singh and Sachin Singh (petitioner) whereupon she went to his friends and then both the friends of Shivam Singh, namely, Vicky Singh and Sachin Singh established sexual relationship with her.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner/revisionist has not committed any offence in the manner alleged and he has been implicated in this case on the basis of village enmity. It has next been submitted that the allegation made in the FIR is full of concoction and fabrication and there is delay of four days in filing of the FIR having no explanation for the same. It has further been submitted that From the statement of the victim recorded under Section 164 CrPC, it is evident that the victim out of her own volition used to visit to her lover, Shiva Singh and his friends, hence, the allegation levelled against the petitioner seems to be fake and fabricated. The findings arrived at by the learned appellate



court for rejection of the bail application are based upon no material, who by impugned judgment arrived at an erroneous conclusion that release of the petitioner from the protective custody will expose him to moral, physical and psychological danger and will also defeat the ends of justice and the juvenile/petitioner may also fall in bad company. It has next been submitted that the learned court below has passed the impugned order mechanically and without application of judicial mind.

5. Learned counsel has placed reliance upon Sections 3 (i) (iv) (v) and (xiv) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') which are quoted hereinbelow:-

(i) Principle of presumption of innocence: Any child shall be presumed to be an innocent of any mala fide or criminal intent up to the age of eighteen years.

(iv) Principle of best interest: All decisions regarding the child shall be based on the primary consideration that they are in the best interest of the child and to help the child to develop full potential.



(v) Principle of family responsibility:- The primary responsibility of care, nurture and protection of the child shall be that of the biological family or adoptive or foster parents, as the case may be.

(xiv) Principle of fresh start: All past records of any child under the Juvenile Justice system should be erased except in special circumstances.

6. Learned counsel, referring to the above mentioned provisions, submits that as per the scheme of the Act, there is presumption of innocence of a child in conflict with law and all decisions regarding the child shall be taken in consonance with the principle of best interest of the child. Learned counsel further submits that the principle of family responsibility and principle of fresh start have also been recognized in the Act.

7. In reference to Section 12 of the Act, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that bail to a child in conflict with law is a rule and denial is an exception.

8. Learned counsel in the aforesaid background, submits that the learned court below has failed to consider the



scheme of the Act and has committed material irregularity in arriving at the conclusion that the petitioner, if released on bail would fall in the same environment.

9. On the other hand, learned counsel for the State submits that from perusal of Section 12 of the Act, it appears that bail is a matter of right to the petitioner and denial is an exception, this Court may consider to pass an appropriate order in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

10. From perusal of the records, it appears that petitioner is in protective custody since 21.08.2022 and he has been declared juvenile on 12.10.2022 by Juvenile Justice Board, Buxar.

11. A Bench of this Court in the judgment reported in **2019 (4) PLJR 833** in the case of **Lalu Kumar @ Lalbabu @ Lallu v. State of Bihar** while interpreting Section 12 of the Act has laid down the principle that the Board while considering the bail of a juvenile is duty bound to follow the principle of ‘best interest’, ‘repatriation’, and ‘restoration’ of child. The gravity and nature of offence are immaterial for consideration of bail of a juvenile. As per Section 12 of the Act of 2015 an application for bail is not decided by reference to classification of offences as bailable or non-bailable under the CrPC.



12. Having regard to the submissions made by the parties and taking into consideration the material on record and the fact that the petitioner is in custody since 21.08.2022 and there was no cogent material before the learned appellate court to come to the conclusion that the release of the petitioner from the protective custody will expose him to moral, physical and psychological danger and will also defeat the ends of justice, this Court is of the considered view that the impugned judgment and order passed by the court below is not sustainable in the eyes of law inasmuch as they are not consistent with the aims and objects of the Act.

13. Accordingly, judgment and order dated 17.02.2023 passed in Cr. Appeal of Child Case No. 20/2022 by the learned Additional Sessions Judge 1st -cum-Special Judge (SC/ST & Children Court), Buxar in connection with Buxar (Mahila) PS Case No. 50/2022, JJB Case No. 889/2022 for the offence punishable under Sections 376(D) IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act is hereby, set aside and the revisionist/petitioner, **SUBHANSU DEV @ SACHIN SINGH** is directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand) with two sureties of the like amount each to the satisfaction of learned Additional Sessions Judge 1st



-cum-Special Judge (SC/ST & Children Court), Buxar in connection with Buxar (Mahila) PS Case No. 50/2022, JJB Case No. 889/2022.

14. With the aforesaid observations and directions, the instant application stands allowed.

(Anil Kumar Sinha, J)

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