

TA-482-2023 (O&M)

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208 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
 AT CHANDIGARH
 TA-482-2023 (O&M)
 Decided on: 09.11.2023

Shivani

...Applicant/Petitioner

Versus

Rohit Kumar

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Mukesh Mehra, Advocate(Legal aid counsel) and
 Mr. Vipul Sachdeva, Advocate
 for the Applicant/petitioner.

Mr. Roopak Bansal, Advocate for the respondent.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

1. Present transfer application, under Section 24 CPC, has been filed by the petitioner-wife, for seeking transfer of the petition, filed by the respondent–husband, under Section 13(1) (i-a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, titled as “Rohit Kumar Vs. Shivani”, presently pending in the Court of Learned Principal Judge, Family Court, Fatehabad, to any Court of competent jurisdiction at District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

2. The present transfer petition has been filed, *inter alia*, on the following grounds:-

- i) Petitioner-wife and respondent-husband got married on 31.07.2022, at Fatehabad, according to the Sikh rites and ceremonies, however, no issue is born from the said wedlock.
- ii) Petitioner-wife has instituted a petition under Section 125 Cr.P.C, which is pending in the Court of Principal Judge,

Family Court, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

- iii) Petitioner-wife is not earning anything, while the respondent-husband is running an optical shop.
- iv) Traveling from Fatehabad to Sri Muktsar Sahib, is a distance of around 170 Kms. (one side), which takes around 4 hours , thus, causing extreme hardships to the petitioner-wife.
- v) Petitioner-wife is staying with her parents at Sri Muktsar Sahib and financially dependent them. Due to lack of convenient transportation options, she is compelled to rely on public transport, resulting in significant hardships.
- iv) Financial condition of the parental home of the petitioner-wife is also not sound, and her parental family lives in a hand to mouth condition.

3. On the other hand, learned counsel for the respondent-husband submits that in case, the petitioner-wife appears in the proceedings at Court at Fatehabad, he is ready to pay expenses for her travel. He also submits that instead of Sri Muktsar Sahib, the petition be transferred at any other third place, so that there are no threat perceptions to the respondent by the family members of the petitioner-wife.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and gone through the material available on record.

5. Since, as on day there is no such substance of truth in the allegations made by the respondent-husband, such submission is not tenable, thus rejected.

6. In the facts and circumstances similar to the present case, in paragraph Nos. 9 & 10 of the judgment rendered in the case of N.C.V.

Aishwarya v. A.S. Saravana Karthik Sha, AIR 2022 SC 4318, Hon'ble the

Apex 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.”

7. Further, Hon’ble the Apex Court in **Rajani Kishor Pradeshi v. Kishor Babulal Pardeshi**, (2005) 12 SCC 237, has 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 ordinary be allowed, taking into consideration their convenience and the Courts should desist from putting female litigants under undue hardships.”*

8. However, to avoid any misuse of the lenient view by the female litigants, Hon’ble the Apex Court in **Anindita Das v. Srijit Das**, (2006) 9 SCC 197, has also cautioned that the Courts should ensure that such leniency given to the female litigants should not be misused. Relevant Paragraph 3 of the aforesaid judgment says as under:

“3. Even otherwise, it must be seen that at one stage this Court was showing leniency to ladies. But since then it has been found that a large number of transfer petitions are filed by women taking advantage of the leniency taken by this Court. On an average at least 10 to 15 transfer petitions are on Board of each Court on each admission day. It is, therefore, clear that leniency of this Court is being misused by the women.”

9. Thus, this Court is of the view that while adjudicating a transfer petition initiated by the wife in the context of a matrimonial dispute, the Court must take into account a comprehensive array of the following factors:-

- (a) Economic condition and earning capacity of the parties, i.e. husband and wife;
- (b) Social standing of the wife and her dependency on her parents;
- (c) Custody of any minor children involved;
- (d) Education of the children, if any;
- (e) Physical well-being of both, i.e. wife and husband;
- (f) Pending litigation(s) between the parties including criminal cases, if any;
- (h) Accessibility of the location from where the wife resides to the court where the case is pending;
- (i) Availability of convenient commuting options

Undoubtedly, only a harmonious consideration of all these vital aspects would ensure a just and equitable decision in such cases.

10. This Court is of the opinion that, for the purpose of deciding the transfer petition, it is not necessary to issue notice to the respondent-husband. Otherwise, both the parties would be burdened with litigation costs and transportation expenses, which shall be taxing for both the sides.

11. Thus, applying the principles of law, laid down by Hon'ble the Apex Court in N.C.V Aishwarya's case (supra), Rajani Kishor's case (supra) and Anindita Das's case (supra), this Court deems it appropriate to allow the present petition, by issuing following directions:

- (i) Petition filed by respondent - husband under Section 13(1) (i-a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, titled as "Rohit Kumar Vs. Shivani", pending in the Court of Learned Principal Judge, Family Court, Fatehabad, is transferred to a Court of competent jurisdiction within Sessions Division Sri Muktsar Sahib.
- (ii) Learned District Judge, Fatehabad, is directed to transfer complete record pertaining to the aforesaid case to learned District Judge, Sri Muktsar Sahib, by directing both the sides to appear before the Court of learned District Judge, Sri Muktsar Sahib, on a particular date to be fixed by him, for further proceedings.
- (iii) On receipt of record of the case, learned District Judge, Sri Muktsar Sahib, will either keep the said case in his own Court or to assign the same to a Court having competent jurisdiction within Sessions Division Sri Muktsar Sahib, to try the same.
- (iv) The concerned Court at Sri Muktsar Sahib, shall diligently strive to amicably resolve the marital discord between the parties by referring the matter to the Mediation and Conciliation Centre.
- (v) After transfer at Sri Muktsar Sahib, the concerned Court will accommodate the parties to the *lis* with at least one date in a calendar month.

12. However, liberty is granted to the respondent-husband to get the present transfer application/petition revived, if so advised, to contest the same, subject to the conditions that:

- (i) Petitioner-wife has concealed any material fact or aspect

while filing the present transfer application/petition, with an intention to mislead this Court for seeking transfer of the case.

OR

- (ii) Respondent-husband is suffering from any substantial physical/mental disability or ailment.

OR

- (iii) Respondent-husband will clear all arrears of maintenance amount, if any, in terms of a petition filed by the petitioner-wife either under Section 125 Cr.P.C. or Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act or Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, or under any other law.

AND

- (iv) Respondent-husband will file an affidavit, giving an undertaking to pay Rs.1,000/- per day, to the petitioner-wife for attending the Court proceedings at Fatehabad, on each and every date of hearing of the case.

AND

- (v) Alongwith the application for revival of the present transfer application/petition, respondent-husband will furnish a demand draft of Rs.25,000/- in favour of petitioner-wife, towards the litigation expenses, i.e. to pursue the case at Fatehabad.

13. Since the present transfer application/petition is being disposed of without issuing notice to the respondent, in order to ensure appearance of the parties before learned District Judge, Sri Muktsar Sahib, as per the direction of learned District Judge, Fatehabad, it is also directed that a copy of this order be sent to the respondent through registered post, besides sending copies of this order to learned District Judges concerned, through

email as well.

Petitioner through her counsel, is also directed to ensure her appearance accordingly.

Petition stands **disposed of** in above terms.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

09.11.2023
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Whether speaking/reasoned: *Yes/No*
Whether Reportable: *Yes/No*