

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. _____ OF 2022

High Court on its own motion ...Petitioner

Versus

CORAM : PRASANNA B. VARALE &
ANIL S. KILOR, JJ.

DATE : JANUARY 31, 2022.

PER COURT :

1. This Court has come across a news-item on a news portal – MumbaiTak, as reported by Imtiyaz Mujawar on 26.01.2022, under the caption “सातारा : डोळ्यात अंजन घालणारं वास्तव! शिक्षणासाठी मुलींचा जीवघेणा प्रवास, स्वतःच चालवतात होडी”. This news item reflects the adventurous journey of children in general and girl child in particular in a village namely, Khirvandi, Tq. Javali, District Satara. The news item refers to the daily routine of girl children wherein the girl students have to undertake a journey by boat to reach the school. The school starts at 09.00 am. It also refers to a shocking reality that a small boat is being plied by the girl students themselves. This particular village comes under a protected area. The girl students are supposed to take up the journey

in a boat to cross from one end of Koyna Dam to other end firstly and thereafter, from the other end nearly 4 kms journey through dense forest. The news item states that this area is inhabited by wild animals including bear, tiger etc.

2. The news item further states that though certain school in the State were closed due to pandemic situation, the students of Khirvandi village are attending the school by taking this daily routine.

3. We are short of words to express the suffering and plight of students in general and girls in particular.

4. Considering the situation reflected in the news item, we state that on one hand the adversities being faced by the girl children, and on the other hand, there is courage, will and strong determination of these students to pursue academic career. We can further state that the laudable object of the moto 'बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ' can be achieved only by providing a safe passage and a friendly atmosphere and environment for the girl children by the State. Needless to state that

the State Government can take all measures to provide necessary assistance to the children of Khirvandi village of Javali Tq of District Satara.

5. While appreciating the courage and will of the children and particularly the girl children, we are reminded of the words of poem "आम्ही सावित्रीच्या लेकी"

"पंखात आता आमच्याही बळ
सिध्द करण्याची आहे तळमळ
नका करू आता कोणीही रेकी
आम्ही सावित्रीच्या लेकी"

6. By taking cognizance of above news-item, we direct the Registry to place the matter for further orders / directions before the appropriate bench as per roster assignment.

(ANIL S. KILOR, J.)

(PRASANNA B. VARALE, J.)