



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (St.) NO. 18916 OF 2025

The Registrar (Judicial) High Court, Bench at Aurangabad
Versus
The State of Maharashtra and others

.....
Mr. Satyajeet S. Bora, advocate for the petitioner (amicus curiae)
Mr. A.R. Kale, A.P.P. for the respondents.
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**CORAM : SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI AND
SANJAY A. DESHMUKH, JJ.
DATED : 25th JUNE, 2025**

PER COURT :-

1. We have come across the newspaper report in Daily Newspaper "Divya Marathi", which is under the heading of "शहरात नाही अनुरक्षणगृह, १८ वर्षांनंतर पाठवले जाते इतर जिल्ह्यात. तारुण्यात 'त्या' मुली पुन्हा अनाथ" It has been reported that when the orphan girls, who were kept in observation homes, after declaring them as "child in need of care and protection" by the Child Welfare Committee (for short "CWC"), attain majority then it is stated that these girls are sent to Mumbai or Nashik in the shelter homes as there is no facility for such girls after 18 years of age in Aurangabad. This is also after if there is vacancy in such shelter homes at Mumbai or Nashik. Of course, in view of Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, the CWC will have jurisdiction to decide whether a child is in need of care and

protection, only if it is a child i.e. below 18 years of age, then the question arises as to what should be done with the girls after they attain majority. We are aware about the fact that the education facility is made available in observation homes but then if the education is to be given, which is in fact a right of every citizen even to get education after attaining majority, then whether shifting of the girl from the place where she grew till the 18 years of age, is in the interest of girl, is required to be considered. The mental process that such girl undergoes is also required to be considered and *prima facie* we observe that such girl, being a citizen, it would then be the responsibility of the State Government to make such a facility available. The report also states that each year 20 girls who attain majority are sent in other districts. It is reported that there are three observation homes for girls in the city wherein there are 300 girls kept, which includes girls from poor family, orphan or single parents or disabled or children of convicts. However, after attaining majority, such girls then are transferred to other districts. The newspaper gives an interview of a girl, who has recently attained majority and process of sending her to the other district has been started. She has completed her education of 12th standard in a good college in the city and she wants to be an engineer. There would be such more girls in this city as well as in other districts also and therefore, we are taking suo moto cognizance of this problem on the basis of this

newspaper clipping.

2. We appoint learned advocate Mr. Satyajeet Bora, as an amicus curiae, who would prepare a detailed petition by taking basic data from various departments as well as from the CWC. The said petition be filed on or before 11.07.2025.

3. Learned A.P.P. submits that he has information that there is a shelter home by name 'Savitribai Phule Shaskiya Mahila Rajyagruh, Nutan Colony, Kranti Chowk Police Station Road, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad)'. But he is unable to state the capacity which is permissible and other conditions under which the girls can be kept in the said shelter home.

4. We also direct various Government departments, like the Women and Child Development Department, CWC etc. to make the data available for the amicus curiae.

5. The Registrar (Judicial) of this court to register this suo moto Public Interest Litigation on the basis of this order.

(SANJAY A. DESHMUKH, J.) (SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI, J.)

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