

દસમી નવેમ્બર મુંબઈ-હાયકોર્ટમાં બનેલી ઘટના અંગે 'મુંબઈ-મીરર' અને 'ડી.એન. એ.' ડીઝીટલ એડીશનમાં છપાયેલ અહેવાલ વાચકોની જાણ માટે નેટ ઉપરથી ઊતારી અક્ષરશઃ આપીએ છીએ.

- સન્માર્ગ પ્રકાશન

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બાર વર્ષના સાધ્વીને પોપટ પાઠ ભણાવાયો ન હતો.

'12-year-old sadhvi was not tutored'

Parents and trust that org diksha of eight-year-old file affidavit countering observations of court-appointed committee - Hetal vyas

Parents of 12-year-old Sadhvi Preetvashashnji, who took diksha when she was eight, have filed an affidavit refuting the report of a court-appointed committee that met the girl and said she had been tutored and had no knowledge about diksha.

The trust, which organised the diksha ceremony, also filed an affidavit.

"I deny that Bal Sadhvi was tutored or helped in formulating or giving answers as alleged by the committee," says the affidavit filed by Nirup Kothari, a representative of malad-based Shri Jeevatlal Chandrabhan Kothari Jain Sangh.

"I deny that she (sadhvi) has absence of positive volition or absence of thinking about consequences of her decision to take diksha and enter into religious order and to live an austere/ monastic life. She has a strong aptitude towards such austere/monastic life since 4 1/2 years and she is mentally and physically happy and healthy, I say that the Bal Sadhvi is not a neglected or delinquent juvenile or a child without any home or place of residence or she is not without any ostensible means of subsistence, neither is she in need of care and protection," the affidavit states.

The affidavit, which was filed after consulting sadhus of various Jain sects, further says that the committee exceeded its authority and jurisdiction by giving inferences and observations about the lifestyle of the Bal Sadhvi 'without understanding the Jain religious tenets and sainthood in Jain religion'. It says, "Sadhus and sadhvis of Jain religion are highly respected. People professing Jain religion bow to them. They feel grateful by taking their darshan and doing vandan to them."

It also says that the Bal Sadhvi is under the care and protection of her immediate Guru 'Sadhvi Charuvarshashnji', Guru Dadi 'Sadhvi Nrrmalaganashreeji' and Guru Dadi 'Sadhvi Charuvandanashriji'.

PETITIONS SUPPORTING DIKSHA

After the Bombay High Court compared the Jain tradition of child Drksha to Sati, it has been flooded with petitions expressing support for the practice.

Meanwhile, taking a serious note of the applications filed by various Jain trusts across the state, the HC observed that it may not allow any more intervention applications in the case. "The main petition was filed couple of years ago and suddenly we cannot entertain so many interventions," remarked the division bench of Justice F I Rebello and Justice J P Devadhar.

The issue came to light after Mumbai Mirror reported the observations by the HC, which had compared child diksha to sati. Following this, at (east six Jain trusts filed intervention applications in support of child diksha, which has been followed by the community for about 2,500 years.

(મુંબઈ મીરરની નેટ ઉપરથી સાભાર)

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બાળ-સાધ્વી દુન્યવીજીવનથી વિમુખ છે.

'Bal sadhvi averse to worldly life'

Anshika Misra

A report submitted by a court-appointed committee on the practice of child diksha (renunciation) followed by the Jain community has drawn criticism.

The committee appointed by the Bombay High Court, which is hearing the case regarding an eight-year-old girl taking diksha in 2004, had submitted its report in September.

In its report, the committee had stated that the decision taken on behalf of the young girl "cannot be said to be in the best interest of the child since it actually violates her right to childhood, freedom, education, recreation, family life and home."

The Shri Jeevatlal Chandrabhan Kothari Jain Sangh, one of the petitioner's in the case, filed an affidavit on Monday stating that the "Committee exceeded its authority and jurisdiction by giving their inference and observations about the living style of bal sadhvi according to the tenets of Jainism and without understanding the Jain religious tenets and sainthood in Jain religion."

The affidavit states that the girl (name withheld) has taken diksha by her own volition with the consent of her parents.

The bal sadhvi has taken diksha for the salvation of her soul. Bal diksha is sanctified by scriptures and shastras and well established and accepted religious practice protected by the Indian Constitution," it added.

Refuting the committee's observation that during the interaction with the girl her responses seemed tutored, the Sangh has stated that. "Before taking diksha she was tested for her aptitude. She had already learnt the scriptures by heart and showed an aversion to ordinary worldly life. She lives and behaves according to the tenets of Jainism willingly and happily without and force or pressure." The Sangh has also denied that the bal sadhvi is in need of care or protection.

The metter will come up for hearing on november 24.

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