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CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.K.PANIGRAHI
BLAPL NO.6015 of 2020

Buni @ Tunirani Pradhan & Anr.Petitioners

Versus

State of OdishaOpp. Party

07 19.03.2021

Heard Mrs. Rajalaxmi Biswal, learned counsel for the petitioner, learned counsel for the State and Mr. D.K. Misra, learned counsel for the informant.

Learned counsel for the petitioner placed the copy of the charge sheet before this Court which is neither legible in open eye nor visible properly because of very tiny font size of the text prepared by the Investigating Officer. This is a regular phenomenon encountered by the prosecution, defence and the Court. Such smallest font size causes wastage of considerable time and energy of the Court while reading the same.

In fact, presenting information in a perceptually degraded fashion is affront to the reader of the text. The font so chosen should have higher readability quotient. Hence, the need for an appropriate font size and line spacing is very important to overcome the problem of disfluency in reading. Small font and irregular line spacing or slightly blurry letters or bad handwriting act as a cue to disfluent reading and causes retarded information processing in the mind. Changing the font size, line spacing etc. costs almost nothing but it will have a great effect on readability quotient of the text we read.

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Learned counsel for the State is directed to bring this matter before the Director General of Police, Odisha and he shall be informed about the said issue of better and legible font size including legible hand writing while preparing the F.I.R., charge sheet, other reports, etc. and the difficulties encountered by the stakeholders.

This is a very serious issue and the Director General of Police, Odisha should inform to all the Police Officers of all Police Stations to follow a uniform pattern of font size of 12 in Times New Roman while preparing the charge sheet, F.I.R. or any reports with line spacing of 1.5 which shall ensure a better visibility and readability. The Director General of Police shall file an affidavit before this Court stating that he has issued instructions to all the police officers of the State regarding the use of such uniform font size and line spacing while preparing the F.I.R. or Final Form or any other reports. The handwritten documents also need to be prepared with better and legible hand writing as far as possible. The said affidavit shall be filed within three weeks from today.

List this matter on 12.04.2021 for filing of affidavit.

Since it is submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that the fate of this bail application in respect of the present petitioner, who is similarly placed with the petitioner, depends upon the result of BLAPL No.5753 of 2020 which has been listed for delivery of judgment on 23.03.2021, list this matter on 24.03.2021.

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A free copy of this order be given to the learned counsel for the State for information and necessary compliance.

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S. K. Panigrahi, J.