

BEFORE THE FILM CERTIFICATION APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

16th June, 2018

Appeal No. 9/2018

**Present: CHIEF JUSTICE (RETD.) MANMOHAN SARIN, CHAIRPERSON,
FCAT**

MS. Shazia Ilmi, MEMBER, FCAT

**FOR THE APPELLANT: Mr. KV Govardhan, Advocate
Mr. Karthik Chandra, Producer and Actor**

FOR THE RESPONDENT: Mr. Atul Gautam ARO (CBFC, New Delhi)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mr. Karthik Chandra B.R APPELLANT

VERSUS

**CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM RESPONDENT
CERTIFICATION(CBFC)**

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 5C OF THE CINEMATOGRAPH ACT, 1952 (37 OF 1952)
AGAINST THE DECISION OF CENTRAL BOARD OF FILM CERTIFICATION (CBFC)
DATED 07.05.2018 IN RESPECT OF THE FILM "RAVI HISTORY".

ORDER

1. The Appellant is aggrieved by the order bearing no. IA021204201800420 dated 07.05.2018 hereinafter referred to as the impugned order passed by the Regional Officer CBFC, conveying the grant of unrestricted public exhibition with an endorsement of parental caution for any child below 12 years being allowed to see the film. The aforesaid certification has been granted with the following excisions:-

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Sr. No.	Insertions/ Excisions/ Modification	Location	Description of Excisions/ Modification	Guidelines
1	Excisions	01:48:40:00 to 01:50:00:00	The visuals of group song with alcohol (beer bottle) at 1 hr 48 mins 40 secs to 1 hr 50 mins 00 secs should be deleted.	2 (v)
2	Excisions	01:25:40:00 to 01:25:49:00	The visuals of alcohol consumption scene at 1 hr 25 mins 40 secs to 1 hr 25 mins 49 secs should be deleted.	2 (v)
3	Excisions	02:01:44:00 to 02:01:56:00	The visuals of blood on the body of the Hero at 2 hrs 1 min 44 secs to 2 hr 1 min 56 secs should be deleted.	2 (iv)

2. The Appellant is aggrieved by the impugned order directing these excisions on the ground of the scenes being in violation of guideline 2 (v), prescribing that scenes which have the effect of justifying or glorifying drinking be not shown.
3. The movie was screened on 14th June, 2018. We have heard the Appellant Mr. Karthik Chandra and Advocate Mr. K V Govardhan in support of the Appeal. Mr. Atul ARO (CBFC, New Delhi) has also been heard in opposition.
4. The Appellant submitted that the story focuses on 'Ravi' a student, who in college days along with his friends, was indulging in betting and gambling. Upon his parents coming to know of his betting and gambling habits, his mother fell sick and under parental and family pressure, he gave up betting, gambling and drinking habit. He reforms himself and becomes an earnest Engineering student concentrating on his studies.

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5. During his stint at the campus, he gets a chance to act in a short film, which turns out to be a great success. Resultantly, he gets an attractive offer to act in a film based on an underworld don, which role is played by him. His parents do not approve and support his film career. His old time girlfriend also deserts him.

In the movie, he as a gangster and Don, after numerous crimes, is shot dead by Anitha, who professes to be friendly with him.

6. The above narrative provides the requisite background to support the visuals shown of drinking and the group song. The Appellant submitted that in the first two scene objected to by the CBFC, do not justify or glorify drinking. In a group song, the characters are telling the hero about how they became gangsters. The characters shown are rowdies in a close environment and not shown as drinking in public place. The lyrics of the scene also do not glorify or justify drinking.

7. By way of illustration, similar scenes of drinking have been shown in movies. The following are cited as examples:

- a) Kannada movie "HEBBULI", Song "Yennenu soda".
- b) Kannada movie "TARAK", Song "Kudi Maga".
- c) Kannada movie "MUGULU NAGE", Song "Hodi Ombath".
- d) Hindi Movie "SONU KE TITU KI SWEETY", Song "Chhote chhote peg".
- e) Hindi movie "ITS ENTERTAINMENT", Song "Johnny Johnny".

Reliance is also placed on the famous Hindi movie "3 idiots" where drinking scene is shown upon graduation in campus.

8. Having viewed the film, we find merit in the submissions of the Appellant. Considering the background, theme, context and picturization as it appears, the scenes at serial no. (1) & (ii) cannot be regarded as justifying or glorifying drinking and being in violation of guidelines no. 2 (v). These scenes have to be considered in the light of the prevailing norms and contemporary standards in the society. Such scenes are usually being shown all along without any cuts or excisions in different movies.

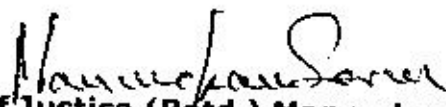
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Similarly, we find a scene at serial no. 3 i.e. visuals of blood on the body of the hero who is shot, does not cause revulsion or depict any aggravated violence, but shows blood on a Revolver Bullet wound and is a realistic depiction.

In view of the foregoing discussion, we are of the view that the impugned order deserves to be set aside and is set aside. It is directed that the film Ravi History be granted UA certification with parental caution without any excisions.



Shazia Ilmi
(Member)



Chief Justice (Retd.) Manmohan Sarin
(Chairperson)