

OFFICE OF THE FIRST APPELLATE AUTHORITY
FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA
LAW COLLEGE ROAD, PUNE - 411 004
Tel. 020-25580006 (O)

No.FTII/RTI/FAA/1(6)/2021

Date : 23.02.2021

IN THE MATTER OF : I.D. NO.54
FATIP/A/E/21/00006

Shri Sandeep Chatterjee
V/s
PIO/Dean (Films)
FTII, Pune

Appellant

Respondent

ORDER

Date of RTI Application - 15.12.2020
Date of RTI Reply - 19.01.2021
Date of RTI Appeal - 16.01.2021

This order shall dispose off the appeal filed by Shri Sandeep Chatterjee FATIP/A/E/21/00006 in respect of ID No.54.

The appellant in his RTI application dated 15.12.2020 requested for the following information or documents :

1. The date of the assessment of the dialogue exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student).
2. The authority/faculty who approved the sound file before assessment of the dialogue exercise of Prachee Bajania (2016 direction student) Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student).
3. The date on which the complaint was received that led to the constitution of an enquiry committee on anomalies in the dialogue exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student).
4. Who is the complainant, whose complaint led to the constitution of the enquiry committee on anomalies in the dialogue exercise Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student).
5. The date of the enquiry on the anomalies in the dialogue exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student) was carried.
6. The reports/documentary/audio/video evidence that led to the implication that Shri Sandeep Chatterjee was aware of the anomaly in the dialogue exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student), as concluded by the enquiry committee on anomalies

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in the dialogue exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student). Note : If the information is denied or partially provided, please mention the relevant clauses of the RTI act for the same.

The PIO, vide his reply dated 19th January, 2021 provided the information.

The appellant contends no response within the time limit.

The contention of the appellant is correct and therefore accepted. However, the PIO, vide his reply dated 19th January, 2021 (*copy enclosed*) had already sent the information. The appeal is therefore disposed of.

If he is not satisfied with the information provided, he may file an appeal before **Central Information Commission, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110 066** within the stipulated time.



(Sayyid Rabeehashmi)
Registrar
First Appellate Authority

Encl : As above

Shri Sandeep Chatterjee
FTII Type IV Quarters
Flat No.4, FTII Residential Colony,
Law College Road,
Pune - 411 004.

Copy to :

1. PIO/Dean (Films), FTII, Pune for information.
2. In-charge Multi Media, FTII with a request to upload the order on the FTII website.



(Sayyid Rabeehashmi)
Registrar
First Appellate Authority

54



भारतीय फ़िल्म और टेलीविज़न संस्थान

सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान

FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA

An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India.
PG Diploma Courses granted Master's degree equivalence by All PG Certificate Courses approved by AICTE

No. FTII/D(F)/RTI-4/2021

18.01.2021

To,

Mr. Sandeep Chatterjee
FTII Type IV Quarter Flat No 4
Law College Road, FTII
Pune, Pin-411004

Subject: Supply of information /documents under RTI Act 2005.

Sir,

This has reference to your online RTI application No. FATIP/R/E/20/00037 dated 15.12.2020 regarding above mentioned subject.

In this connection the information required by you is furnished at Annexure 'A'.

Under Section 19(1) of RTI Act 2005 and appeal can be filed within 30 days from the date of receipt of the reply before the first appellate authority, whose particulars are given below:

**Shri Sayyid Rabeeshahmi,
Appellate Authority & Registrar
Film & Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune 411 004.**

**Dhiraj Meshram
Dean (Films)
Public Information Officer**

Encl: as above

Annexure 'A'

Sr. No.	Information asked under RTI	Information provided
1.	The date of the assessment of the dialogue exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student).	The date of the assessment of the dialogue exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania (2016 Direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student) was 7 th and 8 th February, 2018.
2.	The authority/faculty who approved the sound file before assessment of the dialogue exercise of Prachee Bajania (2016 direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student).	Approval, if any, is obtained/given during pre-production, production and post-production process of dialogue exercises and not before assessment.
3.	The date on which the complaint was received that led to the constitution of an enquiry committee on anomalies in the dialogue exercise of Prachee Bajania (2016 direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student).	The complaint was brought to notice a day before assessment. Assessment dates are mentioned above at Sr. No.1
4.	Who is the complainant, whose complaint led to the constitution of the enquiry committee on anomalies in the dialogue exercise of Prachee Bajania (2016 direction student).	The information is of personal nature as per 8 (i) (j) of RTI Act.
5.	The date of the enquiry on the anomalies in the dialogue exercise of Prachee Bajania (2016 direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student) was carried.	The inquiry commenced on 21st March 2018 and concluded on 18.04.2018.
6.	The reports/documentary/audis /video evidence that led to the implication that Shri Sandeep Chatterjee was aware of the anomaly in the dialogue exercise of Prachee Bajania (2016 direction student), as concluded by the enquiry committee on anomalies in the dialogue exercise of Prachee Bajania (2016 direction student) and Aniket Sonawane (2016 Sound student).	Memorandum dated 11.06.2018 and Report dated 18.04.2018.

Dhiraj Meshram
19/04/2021
Dhiraj Meshram
Dean (Films)
Public Information Officer

No.FTII/Reg/3/2018
Film and Television Institute of India

Law College Road, Pune - 411 004
Dated the 11th June, 2018

MEMORANDUM

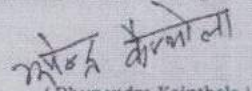
This is with reference to the report submitted by a Committee set up to inquire into unauthorised sound work of dialogic film exercise of Ms. Prachee Bajania.

The Committee has noted that as Head of the Direction department you were fully aware of the lapse. Further, the Committee has observed that while you could have intervened and taken action at the time of the act of commission, you chose not to take any action.

This prima-facie not only appears to be a case of unprofessionalism on your part but more importantly can have the effect of encouraging academic indiscipline which harms the reputation of the Institution.

You are hereby directed to render your explanation as to why action as deemed appropriate should not be taken against you in this regard.

Your explanation should reach the undersigned within 7 days of the issue of this memorandum otherwise it will be presumed that you have nothing to say in the matter and action as deemed fit, will be taken against you.


(Bhupendra Kainthola)
Director
o/c

To

Shri Sandeep Chatterjee,
Professor Film Direction
FTII, Pune

Subject: Enquiry report on Anomalies in Dialogue Exercise of Prachee Bajania

This is with reference to the order (No.Reg/Order/3/2018), dated 08/03/2018 sent by the Registrar, with the approval of the Director, regarding the enquiry into an unsuccessful attempt made by Ms. Prachee Bajania (Direction student 2016 batch) to replace the sound mix by unauthorized sound work, during the Post Production of Dialogue film exercise. A committee was constituted of Mr. Prasann Jain, HoD Cinematography, Mr. Arman Chakraborty, Editing Faculty, and Mr. Ashutosh Kavishwar, HoD ADPD to inquire into this matter.

The first meeting of the committee took place on 21st March 2018. In this meeting, the committee devised a plan of action with regard to the above-mentioned inquiry and decided to call and meet all the concerned persons. Accordingly, the following persons were intimated with a letter in advance and subsequently interviewed:

1. Mr. Aniket Sonawane, Student of Sound 2016 batch.
2. Ms. Prachee Bajania, Student of Direction 2016 batch.
3. Mr. Harish K.M., Head of Sound Department.
4. Mr. Madhu Apsara, Faculty of Sound Department.
5. Mr. Pramod Sagwan, Post Production Supervisor.
6. Mr. Manish Kumar, Demonstrator Editing Department (Film Wing).
7. Mr. Muthuraman, Lab Assistant, Film Processing Laboratory.
8. Mr. Amit Tyagi, Dean (Films).
9. Mr. Sudipto Acharya, Faculty of Direction Department.
10. Mr. Sandeep Chatterjee, Head of Direction Department.
11. Mr. Debkamal Ganguly, Academic Co-coordinator.

The committee started interviewing the above-mentioned people from 23rd March 2018 and completed the entire inquiry by 02nd April 2018. The statements of the persons mentioned above were also audio-recorded.

The committee had following observations after the entire enquiry:

- After hearing everyone mentioned above, the committee members surmised that there were indeed anomalies on the parts of both the students Ms. Prachee Bajania, Direction student 2016 batch and Aniket Sonawane, Sound student 2016 batch, involved in the coordinated exercise.
- The approach of Aniket Sonawane indicated behavioral problems. It was imperative that proper guidance be given to him so that he starts working as a team member. (Committee member felt during his interview and as per the suggestions of Mr. Madhu Apsara, Faculty Sound).
- The committee found Prachee Bajania, Direction student of 2016 batch, had tried to bypass the system, norms and discipline of Dialogue film exercise. She had shown lack of respect to her respective department including Direction department mentor appointed for the Dialogue film exercise. Committee felt that Ms. Prachee Bajania had no respect for the present committee members either.

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- 62.
- Both students had become over-ambitious as a team, and Aniket probably did not foresee the consequences of his actions when he agreed to work with an outsider, Mr. Kalhan Raina, a student of Sound from SRFTI, Kolkata, who was brought onboard by Ms. Prachee Bajania. Aniket took the sound file outside of the Sound department and shared it with Mr. Kalhan Raina. This is a serious breach of norms as well as the trust and cannot be accepted.
 - Ms. Prachee Bajania brought the sound mix for the DCP before assessment started, without the permission of the concerned department, bypassing the Editing department and Post Production supervisor. (Reference to the observations made by Mr. Pramod Sagwan, Mr. Muthuraman and Mr. Manish Kumar). She also made a false claim that this sound mix was taken officially from Sound department.
 - HOD - Film Sound Mr. Harish K. M. had made it clear that both the earlier submissions made by the Sound student Mr. Aniket Sonawane were wrong in length. Then how could the first DCP be made by that sound. This clearly proves that Ms. Prachee Bajania made the sound design and sound mix at the outside facility. (Reference to the statements of Mr. Harish, Muthuraman, Pramod Sagwan and Manish Kumar).
 - As clearly mentioned by Mr. Pramod Sagwan that the first sound file, which was used for DCP, was deleted immediately after the complaint was raised by Mr. Aniket Sonawane. With this, no evidence can be found by Mr. Pramod or any FTII authority.
 - Mr. Muthuraman confirmed that he deleted the file on Ms. Prachee Bajania's insistence.
 - In the meeting called in the HOD Direction office to look into the problem, Ms. Prachee Bajania and Aniket Sonawane fought unnecessarily in the presence of all faculty members present, which show lack of respect to seniors and faculties.
 - Committee strongly feels that the actions of Direction student Ms. Prachee Bajania clearly comes under academic indiscipline.
 - Mr. Aniket Sonawane had also failed to keep the trust of handling departmental sound session which should only be used under the supervision of the Sound department.
 - There is a strong disagreement shown by both the students Ms. Prachi Bajania and Mr. Aniket Sonawane towards FTII as the only Producer of the Dialogue film exercise.
 - HOD - Direction Mr. Sandeep Chatterjee expressed the futility of the enquiry, as he believed that the matter had been resolved amicably. He also suggested that there is well-established hierarchy in filmmaking, which the Sound student failed to comply. He rather wants all the departments to teach this hierarchy to the students before they put their step into any exercise/project.
 - It has been observed that to resolve all matters, Mr. Sudipto Acharya, an assigned supervisor for the entire Dialogue exercise (2016 batch) from Direction department was completely bypassed by Ms. Prachee Bajania, which is undesirable and demeaning to the Direction department.

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• committee suggested following Punitive Action -

- The case is of serious breach of trust, lack of respect, breaking of the norms, severe disregard for general and academic discipline by Ms. Prachee Bajania, Direction student of 2016 batch. So, the committee recommends a strict disciplinary action against Ms. Prachee Bajania, in the form of non-granting of any kind of scholarships, non-participation in any kind of students' exchange program and non-participation of her dialogue film or further exercises & projects in any of Film Festivals till the end of her academic tenure at FTII.
- Committee strongly recommends that Ms. Prachee Bajania should be expelled from all academic activities for a specific period.
- A stern warning should be given to Mr. Aniket Sonawane, Sound student of 2016 batch, who has breached the trust by taking the sound session out of the department without the permission of Sound department authority. Mr. Aniket Sonawane has to improve his temperament to what is acceptable for working in a co-ordinated exercise / project unit.
- Committee strongly recommends that Mr. Aniket Sonawane should be expelled from all academic activities for a specific period.
- The Head of Department, Direction did not conduct himself professionally in this matter, he must take full responsibility of this serious lapse by Ms. Prachee Bajania. Even though fully aware of the episode, he could have but did not act. He must take necessary preventive steps to ensure non-recurrence of such episode in future.

The committee suggests following Preventive Steps -


- To maintain the discipline and to avoid these kind of incidents, in future, all the digital files involved in the Post Production of any exercise should be done through a secured digital file distribution network and handled / accessed by the authorized person only. (Action - Multimedia Section, Post-production Supervisor & Film Lab, FTII)
- A student should not have any access to the secured files without the permission granted by the authority. (Action- Multimedia Section, Post-production Supervisor & HoD- Cinematography, Editing and Sound)
- No unauthorized or outside help should be allowed during any academic exercise or project under any circumstances. (Action- APP, PM & Unit Managers, concerned HODs)
- FTII film processing laboratory should ensure that without authorized staff no individual student could bring any of the necessary files for making the DCP. The Film Laboratory should restrict the number of DCPs and minimize the wastage of time under the pressure made by any student. (Action- Post-production Supervisor, Lab Manager & Dean (F))
- The competent authority should send clear instructions to Film Laboratory management for adhering to the norms concerning all academic lab work. (Action - APP, Post-production Supervisor, concerned HODs & Lab Manager)

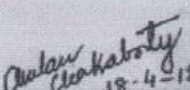
activity

[Signature]

- No file should be deleted/modified by the Film Lab on the insistence of any student. (Action - Lab Manager & Post-production Supervisor).
- Committee strongly feels that Film Laboratory Department should be functioning under the HOD, Cinematography Department for a greater efficiency and transparency. (Action - Registrar, Dean (F) & Director, FTII)
- During the coordinated exercises and projects phase, all activities should be monitored and the supervisors be kept informed all the time for greater transparency. (Action - APP, Post-production Supervisor, concerned HODs & Dean (F))
- The Direction department should be instrumental in addressing any conflict that may arise in any coordinated students' exercises / projects and the issue should be addressed objectively, without citing any conventional hierarchy, unsuitable for any academic institute. (Action - HOD, Film Direction)

All the audio recordings of the interaction conducted with the invited people regarding this enquiry are available and the textual transcription of the same is in the process of making.


(Prasann Jain) 18/4/2018


(Amlan Chakraborty)
18-4-18


(Ashutosh Kavishwar) 18/4