

ORDER

In the matter of Appeal against TV show 'Bigg Boss' on Star Vijay channel (Episode of 09/11/2023)

This Council has received an Appeal against 'Bigg Boss' telecast on Star Vijay channel in November 2023.

The Appellant has alleged that contestants - Poornima and Maya - supported the most indecent gesture of displaying innerwear among each other.

The Appellant has stated that this act of displaying innerwear is being replicated by his wife, just like the contestants, for the purpose of fun. He has further stated that his six-year-old son has also started doing the same act.

The Appellant, beside demanding a decent compensation for being made to watch such unethical content, which has an enormous impact on viewers, has also sought strict action against the channel.

Upon receipt of the grievance, the channel (Tier-1) had made the following points:

- 'Bigg Boss' is a reality show and all views and actions expressed in this program are independent views of the respective participants and they do not reflect the views of the channel. This is a reality gameshow which tests the mettle and personalities of the contestants when placed under unconventional situations and the manner in which they overcome the same in the show.
- The incidents happening in Bigg Boss house are totally organic and spontaneous and nothing is scripted. Neither the channel nor the host are responsible for contestant's behaviour or reactions in the show.
- The Channel reviewed the episodes referenced in the complaint and could not find any content that could be deemed inappropriate. As a responsible broadcaster, the Channel is extremely careful with what it chooses to put on air and reassures the Complainant that the whole program goes through a rigorous process of content curation and review to ensure that it is suitable for a television audience.

Not satisfied with the channel's response, the complainant lodged an Appeal with BCCC and made the following points:

- "How does the most indecent gesture of displaying one's innerwear to the other contestants be deemed to be appropriate?"
- "How could the channel claim to undergo rigorous content curation and why was this scene not omitted?"
- "How can the channel be absolved of all responsibility stating that it is a reality show and everything happens as per the emotions of the contestants?"

The Appellant has further mentioned that his six-year-old son has repeated the same act of showing innerwear in school, which has been brought to this notice by the school authorities.

BCCC's ORDER:

The Council viewed the episode and found there were no visuals of innerwear being depicted by any of the contestants during the episode. However, the visuals of the scenes are doing the rounds on social media. Social media is outside the ambit of this Council and it is for the channel to find out how such scenes, which were not displayed on television, find a way through to such platforms.

The Council felt the 'Bigg Boss' show format contains unscripted situations and actual occurrences between groups of people who live in a closed environment away from all external influences. BCCC felt the interactions between groups of people living in a closed environment highlight personal drama and conflict to a much greater extent than other unscripted television. The Council also felt that this show is aimed at an audience that appreciates satire and conflicts arising from human relations. The results range from angry confrontations to genuine and tender connections. These reactions must, therefore, be understood in the context in which they are made without extending their meaning and seeking secondary nuances.

The Council is of the opinion that primarily the impugned scenes were not shown on television and hence this particular episode does not attract any attention or warrant any reprimand.

The Appeal is DISPOSED OF.

For & on behalf of

Broadcasting Content Complaints Council



Justice Gita Mittal (R)
Chairperson

New Delhi
22 February 2024