

## **Mumbai: Over 50% victims in rape cases are minor**

As per the reports, more than 50 per cent of rape cases recorded in Mumbai last year were committed against minors.

The data released by the non-profit Praja Foundation shows that over half of the rape cases recorded in Mumbai last year were committed against minors. Only 2 per cent of the cases registered were that of a stranger, while in the majority of the cases, offenders were friends, boyfriends, people introduced on social media or men who made false promises of marriage.

According to the report by the Times of India (TOI), Priti Patkar, co-founder of the non-profit, Prerana said, "The POCSO Act makes it mandatory to report and record sexual offences against children, which means that police cannot turn away anyone. Anybody can approach a police station to report a sexual crime against a minor. These special provisions could be one of the reasons why the number of sexual abuse of minors look so high."

For the unversed, the laws and awareness of crime against children have evolved over the years. The report suggested that there has been a delay in the judgements related to the rape cases where minors were involved.

As per TOI, while special courts set up under the POCSO Act are supposed to give out judgments within a year, many cases were delayed. As of the end of 2020, trials in 28 per cent of total POCSO cases were not even done in special POCSO courts.

Nitai Mehta, trustee of Praja Foundation was quoted as saying by TOI, "The implementation of special laws such as POCSO needs to be effectively monitored-- ensuring special courts try POCSO cases and dispose them off within a year as prescribed by the Act."

Link: <https://www.indiatoday.in/cities/mumbai/story/mumbai-over-50-per-cent-victims-in-rape-cases-are-minor-1885914-2021-12-09>