

Maharashtra: Trials pending in over 90% cases related to crimes against women and children in Mumbai

Mirror Now Digital

Updated Nov 27, 2020 | 08:51 IST

Praja project coordinator, Jennifer Spencer, said that merely framing laws to tackle pendency of cases will not help.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The pendency of trials has been blamed mostly for manpower crunch in the courts and law enforcement department.
- There was 14 per cent shortage among the session court judges while the police department faced a manpower crunch of 18 per cent in 2020.

Mumbai: A study by non-profit organisation, Praja Foundation, has found massive pendency of trials and falling conviction rate in cases related to crimes against women and children in Maharashtra capital Mumbai.

A lifecycle study of sessions court cases carried out by the NGO found that the time taken for the trial of cases has doubled between 2003 to 2017 as compared to 2008 to 2012.

The conviction rate in 31 per cent cases of crimes against women and 38 per cent cases of crimes against children has been found to be the lowest in 2017, according to a report in Times of India.

Out of the cases to be tried in 2019, the trials in over 90 per cent of the cases related to crimes against women and children are still pending.

"Merely bringing in special laws to tackle pendency of cases would not help. The whole system needs to be overhauled," the report quoted Jennifer Spencer, project coordinator Praja, as saying.

POSCO Act stipulates that the trial by special POCSO court must be completed and judgment be given within a year of the offence being registered.

"However, half of the total POCSO cases tried in 2019 did not go to special courts. And the judgment was delivered in only 20 per cent of the 222 cases tried in special POCSO courts in 2019," she added.

The pendency of trials has been blamed mostly for manpower crunch in the courts and law enforcement department. The study by Praja found that there was 14 per cent shortage among the session court judges while the police department faced a manpower crunch of 18 per cent in 2020.

There was a 28 per cent shortage of public prosecutors in sessions court and 42 per cent in forensic laboratories this year.

Link:- <https://www.timesnownews.com/mumbai/article/maharashtra-trials-pending-in-over-90-cases-related-to-crimes-against-women-and-children-in-mumbai/687357>