

# Crimes against girls: 90% of trials pending in Mumbai, says Praja | Mumbai News

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MUMBAI: Falling conviction charges and big pendency of trials have been discovered in circumstances of crimes against girls and youngsters, in keeping with a report launched by the non-profit Praja Foundation.

A lifecycle examine of periods court docket circumstances, carried out by the NGO, additionally revealed that the time taken for trials in courts has doubled in 2013-17 as in comparison with 2008-12.

### Times View

Pendency of circumstances in courts has been a problem since lengthy. The complete legal justice system wants an overhaul. Vacant positions amongst prosecutors and judges should be crammed up as quickly as doable. Trials of severe crimes like below POCSO should be accomplished inside a 12 months. Justice delayed is justice denied.

The conviction charges in 2019 in circumstances of crimes against girls (31%) and crimes against kids (38%) have been the bottom since 2017. Of the circumstances which have been to be tried in court docket final 12 months, trials are pending in greater than 90% of crimes against girls and youngsters. "Merely bringing in special laws to tackle pendency would not help. The entire process needs to be reviewed," mentioned Jennifer Spencer, mission coordinator, Praja. For occasion, the Pocso Act requires that circumstances be tried by a particular Pocso court docket and that the judgment be given inside a 12 months of cognizance of offence.

"But we found that half of the total Pocso cases tried in 2019 did not go to special courts. Not just that, only 20% of the 222 cases tried in special Pocso

courts in 2019 got judgments within a year,” mentioned Spencer. Pendency of investigation and trials is linked to scarcity of manpower in enforcement departments and courts. Praja discovered a 14% scarcity as in comparison with sanctioned strength amongst periods court docket judges, 18% scarcity in the police division, 28% scarcity amongst public prosecutors in periods court docket and a 42% scarcity in forensic laboratories this 12 months. “It’s not just manpower shortage, but improper living conditions and working conditions that affect a policeman’s job. In Mumbai, only 38% policemen live in houses allotted by the state. In the past three years, before Covid struck, more than 100 policemen have succumbed annually to various ailments, the most common being heart disease, cancer, liver or kidney disorders,” mentioned Nitai Mehta, trustee of Praja.

The lifecycle examine of all periods court docket circumstances confirmed that on a mean solely 24% of IPC crimes received a conviction between 2013 and 2017. The least convictions in this era (12%) got out for dacoities and the best (33%) for murders.

The commonest motive for acquittals was failure to show guilt as a consequence of a scarcity of proof. The examine additionally confirmed that it took 3.4 years on a mean for circumstances to succeed in from the FIR stage to the judgment stage, the best being 5.8 years for dacoity circumstances.

“One of the police reforms announced was implementation of Police Complaints Authority (PCA) at the state and divisional levels. A divisional PCA, which handles complaints against cops of or below senior inspector rank, is yet to be set up for Mumbai,” mentioned Spencer, including that 170 complaints had been lodged with the state PCA final 12 months..

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