

Medical evidence tough to obtain in older case

Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

Mumbai: The police may have to largely rely on the survivor's account in the absence of strong medical evidence in the new rape allegation against the Shakti Mills gangrape accused. The reason is that the incident allegedly happened a month ago.

Forensic evidence, too, could help nail the culprits if investigators are able to thoroughly search the crime scene, said experts.

"Most of the evidence washes away after the victim takes a bath," said Dr Harish Pathak, professor and head of forensic medicine at KEM Hospital.

Head of Kalina's Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Dr M K Malve said unwashed clothes of a survivor could become important evidence.

Forensic tools such as lie-detector tests, psychological profiling and layer voice analysis of the accused can help.

"These tests can act as strong corroborative evidence and scientifically establish the role of the accused," said former director of FSL Dr Rukmini Krishnamurthy.

Layer voice analysis, which the Shakti Mills accused have already been subjected to, indicates deception and intention behind the deception. In layer

Survivor's ₹2L bill paid from CM's Relief Fund

The state government has borne the medical expenses of the Shakti Mills survivor, who was admitted to the Jaslok Hospital for six days after the incident. The bill of Rs 1.85 lakh was paid from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The survivor was treated for injuries in a private room, besides undergoing counselling. After the incident, the hospital was flooded with calls to help the family with the expenses. Money from the same fund was also used to treat the 24-year-old woman from Worli who was attacked by a pizza delivery boy. Her medical expenses of Rs 93,509 were paid to SL Raheja Hospital in Mahim by the state.

voice analysis, a psychologist analyses the perpetrators' recorded statement frame by frame.

Pathak said the psychological clues spelt out by the survivor during counselling could also be used to strengthen the case. "Most often the survivors suffer from rape trauma syndrome and a psychologist can read the distinct signs in the survivor's mind," he said.