

After NGO's help, rape survivor gets interim aid

COMPENSATION She received ₹20,000 to fight case in court

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NEW DELHI: With little money and no roof over her head, getting justice had become an uphill task for 16-year-old rape survivor Rachna (name changed). She was on the verge of giving up when an NGO came to her rescue.

After the death of her father, her mother was the only earning member and the family had to move to a smaller accommodation to continue fighting the case.

The family sent letters to the police twice to get interim relief, allowed under the Delhi Victims Compensation scheme of 2011. But she did not get any response.

The victim then approached an NGO, which helped her move the court and she was awarded ₹20,000 as interim relief.

This was one of the first few cases where a rape victim was provided financial compensation during trial. According to child rights activists, such cases set examples for rape victims who are unable to fight such cases in court due to financial problems.

TOUGH TASK

- After her father's death, her mother was the only earning member.
- The family had to move to a smaller accommodation to continue fighting the case.
- The family sent letters to the police twice to get interim relief, allowed under the Delhi Victims Compensation scheme.
- The victim then approached an NGO, which helped her move the court and she was awarded ₹20,000 as interim relief.

"We push such cases for compensation, especially in cases of incest. We have noticed that families are reluctant in reporting cases of incest as they fear losing the earning member. If we start giving them compensation during trial, it would encourage them to come forward with the complaint," said a member of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), requesting

anonymity.

The victim was raped in March last year and the trial is on.

"The victim's financial condition is poor. Her father died when she was young and her mother is working in an ashram. After the incident, the family faced a financial crisis. Her mother couldn't go to work for a long time and they had to change their rented accommodation twice," said a member of Pratiidhi NGO, which had approached the court for the compensation.

The Delhi Legal Service Authority (DLSA) (east) has directed the divisional commissioner to provide rehabilitation grant of ₹20,000 to the victim.

According to officials, under section 33 (8) and rule 7 of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012, there is a provision of providing interim compensation to the victim to meet her immediate need of rehabilitation.

As per the notification of Delhi government, ₹20,000 can be provided for the rehabilitation of the victim.