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WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal providededicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

JUSTICE TRIAL: A PSYCHOLOGICAL CRITIQUE OF RAPE ADJUDICATION IN INDIA THROUGH THE LENS OF VICTIM CREDIBILITY, TRAUMA RESPONSE, AND SYSTEMIC BIAS

AUTHORED BY - MIHIKA SHETTY¹

ABSTRACT

How rape cases are handled in India remains stuck in outdated notions about victim behavior, credibility, and consent dynamics, far too often opposite of what current psychological knowledge about trauma tells us. This paper is a critical analysis of Indian rape law, with specific focus on how the legal process is likely to misread or ignore the psychological effects of sexual assault. From the literature on trauma, memory, and how victims dissociate or report late, it is clear that courts are likely to misread such responses as signs of dishonesty or untrustworthiness.

The research throws light on the further trauma faced by the survivors in the shape of coercive cross-examinations, invasive medical examinations, and the absence of protection, especially for marginalized women who are also subjected to further barriers due to caste, class, or community bias. Through doctrinal and empirical analysis, the paper critically examines principal provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act, and judicial pronouncements, and uncovers the gap between legal evaluations of testimony and the psychological dynamics of trauma.

Finally, by synthesizing law and psychology insights, this paper promotes a more compassionate and equitable response to sexual violence in India. It also examines the systemic re-traumatization of survivors through adversarial cross-examinations, invasive medical examinations, and procedural safeguards, especially for marginalized women who are susceptible to caste, class, or communal prejudices.

Key words: Rape Law Trauma-Informed Justice, Victim Testimony, Post-Traumatic Stress

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Disorder (PTSD), Survivor Credibility, Psychological Trauma, Cross-Examination, Legal Reforms, Law and Gender, Courtroom Protocol,

INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence in India is not merely a legal problem; it is a grave socio-emotional crisis that is entrenched. Even after dramatic post-2012 Nirbhaya gang rape reforms, survivors still face numerous barriers to accessing justice. A large part of the issue is the law's narrow understanding of psychological trauma. Court processes assume victims must fit into archaic norms of conduct, consistency, being in control, and reporting quickly. This does not take into consideration how trauma can damage memory, lead to dissociation, and manifesting reporting delays.

Take the Kathua rape case. The victim was a minor from a lower caste whose experience was one of gruesome brutality, but whose family was repeatedly doubted in court. The defense's case was that it was all a conspiracy, even though the evidence was immense and forensic and circumstantial. In the Bhanwari Devi case, the Dalit woman's testimony was disbelieved because of the incorrect assumption that "upper-caste men would never rape a lower-caste woman," exposing the caste biases that infect judicial thought.

In all three cases, the testimony of survivors was eclipsed by institutional apathy, societal prejudice, and an evidence system that fails to recognize the psychological impact of sexual violence. Victims become retraumatized throughout legal proceedings through aggressive cross-examination, intrusive examination, and the absence of sympathetic legal representation, an experience generally known as secondary victimization.

This paper argues that Indian rape law needs to develop to more accurately reflect the psychological dynamics of survivors.²

² Katirai, N. (2020) Retraumatized in Court, Arizona Law Review, 62(1), pp. 81–118.

→ Courts often replicate patterns of psychological abuse by ignoring the trauma experienced by survivors, reinforcing the power dynamic they originally endured (Katirai, 2020, p. 83).

Katirai, N. (2020) Retraumatized in Court, Arizona Law Review, 62(1), pp. 81–118.

→ Survivors can be re-triggered during harsh cross-examinations, often reliving their trauma under the guise of legal scrutiny (Katirai, 2020, p. 88).

Katirai, N. (2020) Retraumatized in Court, Arizona Law Review, 62(1), pp. 81–118.

→ Behaviors like freezing, being inconsistent, or seeming evasive are often trauma responses, but are frequently interpreted as dishonesty (Katirai, 2020, p. 90).

Katirai, N. (2020) Retraumatized in Court, Arizona Law Review, 62(1), pp. 81–118.

While much has been changed by reforms since the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape, survivors continue to be impeded in their quest for justice—many of which are brought about by the law's limited knowledge of psychological trauma.

Legal processes continue to challenge victim testimonies based on traditional standards of consistency, composure, and prompt reporting, unaware of the manner in which trauma presents as discontinuous memory, dissociation, and delayed disclosure.

Thus, for example, in the Kathua rape case, the victim, a lower-castewoman, was not only violated but her family honor was repeatedly questioned, the defence accusing her of fabrication even in the face of overwhelming forensic and circumstantial evidence. Similarly, in the Bhanwari Devi case, a Dalit woman's account was doubted partly on the grounds that "upper-caste men would never rape a lower-caste woman," revealing the casteist logic of court thinking.

In both cases, survivor testimony was filtered through multiple layers of social bias, institutional callousness, and an evidentiary system that was unable to record the psychological effect of sexual violence. Survivors are continuously re-victimized by coercive cross-examination, intrusive questioning, and lack of sympathetic legal treatment, a process known as secondary victimization.

To survivors, the courtroom is barely different from some other site of violence. Having been attacked, rather than given care, they are greeted by suspicion. They are forced to recount their traumatic experiences before strangers, being asked to validate their trauma as if it could be an invention. Each question asked about their memories, each probing for inconsistencies, erodes their dignity step by step. They leave the courtroom not with closure, but carrying an additional wound, one not inflicted by their abuser, but by a system that promises to achieve justice. The psychological cost is staggering: anxiety, depression, PTSD, and in some instances, complete withdrawal from ever pursuing justice.³

→ When legal professionals lack trauma awareness, they can unintentionally misjudge credibility, dismissing genuine accounts of sexual violence (Katirai, 2020, pp. 96–97).

Katirai, N. (2020) Retraumatized in Court, *Arizona Law Review*, 62(1), pp. 81–118.

³ State v. Sanji Ram (2019) Sessions Court, Pathankot, Judgment dated 10 June 2019.

The judgment in the Kathua case underscored the deep psychological and communal scars inflicted on the survivor's family and revealed systemic apathy in handling sensitive rape trials.
State v. Sanji Ram (2019) Sessions Court, Pathankot, Judgment dated 10 June 2019.

To these survivors, the very word of "justice" can become a distant word that no longer seems to include them.

This psychological and emotional stress is generally outside the purview of legal argument. It is outside the technicalities of FIRs, charge sheets, and court orders, rarely acknowledged or allowed. The law generally views rape as an isolated incident, not considering the long-term psychological impact it has on an individual's life. In failing to grasp the impact trauma has on memory, conduct, and testimony, the system may be misinterpreting survivors, not because what they are saying is false, but because their trauma is not a story the legal system is prepared to listen to.

This paper tries to break that silence. It interweaves legal analysis and psychological finding with survivors' testimonies to call for a justice system that hears, not just the words spoken in the courtroom, but the profound truths that trauma itself is fighting to convey, but suspiciously, asked to relive their trauma in front of strangers, to explain their pain as if it were a lie.

Each doubting question, each scrutinizing stare, wears them down, incrementally diminishing their sense of dignity. Many leave the courtroom without justice, but with a deeper wound, one carved not by the perpetrator, but by the system meant to deliver justice. The psychological toll is ⁴enormous: anxiety, depression, PTSD, and in a few cases, an outright abandonment of pursuing justice. For these survivors, "justice" can be just another word that doesn't belong to them.

The courtroom became a secondary site of victimisation where the survivor's voice was largely sidelined amidst communal narratives and legal delays — reinforcing how procedural justice often neglects psychological healing. State v. Sanji Ram (2019) Sessions Court, Pathankot, Judgment dated 10 June 2019.

Despite public outrage and media pressure, the lack of trauma-informed judicial conduct highlighted a gap between legal formality and empathetic adjudication.

⁴ Wieberneit, M. et al. (2024) 'Silenced Survivors: A Systematic Review of the Barriers to Reporting, Investigating, Prosecuting, and Sentencing of Adult Female Rape and Sexual Assault', Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 25(5).

This review identifies systemic failures — including disbelief, legal intimidation, and trauma misrecognition — that prevent survivors from receiving justice.

Wieberneit, M. et al. (2024) 'Silenced Survivors', Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 25(5).

The article argues that procedural insensitivity and societal stigma amplify survivor trauma and erode the credibility of legal institutions.

Wieberneit, M. et al. (2024) 'Silenced Survivors', Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 25(5).

Its findings parallel the Indian context, where courtroom environments and evidentiary standards often retraumatize survivors rather than protect them.

This emotional and psychological turmoil is typically invisible in the language of law. It is outside the edge of FIRs, charge sheets, and court decrees, barely seen, even less understood. The law will probably perceive rape as an isolated event and not as a process that inflicts indelible psychological wounds. By failing to account for the manner in which trauma distorts memory, conduct, and testimony, the system is likely to misjudge survivors not because they are fabricating, but because their pain doesn't fit a scenario the law is ready to accept. This essay responds to that silence. It brings together legal scholarship, psychological studies, and survivor accounts to argue in favor of a justice system that listens, not just to what is said in court, but to what trauma is trying to communicate.

This framework is relevant to Indian courtrooms, which often lack guidelines for trauma-informed judicial conduct, leading to secondary victimisation.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

Despite legal changes and rising awareness of sexual assault in India, the criminal justice system still evaluates the credibility of rape survivors from assumptions that contradict prevailing psychological knowledge regarding trauma. Survivors are often subjected to secondary victimization throughout legal proceedings, during which behaviors like delayed reporting, inconsistent memory, or emotional detachment are misunderstood as indicators of fabrication. This leads to systemic discrediting of victim evidence and a failure of justice. The Indian justice system is devoid of trauma-sensitive procedures and does not include psychological expertise in the adjudication process, resulting in a serious disconnect between how the law anticipates victims to conduct themselves and the actual impact of trauma on them.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

The absence of trauma-informed legal processes in Indian rape trials plays a major role in the misinterpretation of survivor behavior, resulting in wrongful discrediting of victim testimony and increased secondary victimization within the justice system.⁵

⁵ Campbell, R. et al. (2020) 'A qualitative study of sexual assault survivors' post-assault legal system experiences', *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation*, 21(3), pp. 363–383.

This study highlights the emotional burden survivors face when interacting with the legal system, often resulting in feelings of betrayal, retraumatization, and discouragement from pursuing justice.

Campbell, R. et al. (2020) 'A qualitative study of sexual assault survivors' post-assault legal system experiences', *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation*, 21(3).

Survivors reported feeling unheard and unsupported, particularly during invasive questioning and credibility challenges during legal proceedings.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How do Indian courts interpret survivor testimony in rape cases, and to what extent do these interpretations align with established psychological research on trauma and memory?
2. How does the Indian legal framework currently account for psychological trauma in the assessment of credibility, consent, and behavior of rape survivors?
3. What forms of secondary victimization do survivors of rape face during the legal process in India, particularly during cross-examination and medical examinations?⁶

EXISTING LEGAL SITUATION IN INDIA

In India, the legal framework addressing rape is primarily governed by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Indian Evidence Act. Despite reforms, survivors often face significant challenges concerning testimonial credibility, medical examinations, and secondary victimization. The Supreme Court, in *State of Punjab v. Gurmit Singh* (1996), emphasized that a survivor's testimony could suffice for conviction if deemed credible; however, in practice, survivors frequently encounter skepticism and invasive cross-examinations that undermine their accounts. A particularly controversial practice has been the 'two-finger test,' used to assess a survivor's sexual history. In *Lillu @ Rajesh & Anr v. State of Haryana* (2013), the Supreme Court ruled this test unconstitutional, stating it violates the survivor's rights to privacy and dignity. Despite this ruling, reports indicate continued use of the test, leading to further trauma and secondary victimization. Furthermore, the absence of trauma-informed procedures within the judicial system exacerbates the psychological distress of survivors, highlighting a critical gap between legal practices and the psychological realities of trauma.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

When someone survives rape, the pain doesn't end after the act. It stays. It shows up in hospital rooms, in police stations, and worst of all, in courtrooms. The legal system, which is supposed

⁶ Dube, D. (2016) 'Secondary Victimization of Rape Victims in India', *Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics*, 37(1), pp. 1–17.

Dube examines how institutional processes—especially within the police and judiciary—often re-inflict trauma on survivors through disbelief, moral judgment, and insensitivity.

Dube, D. (2016) 'Secondary Victimization of Rape Victims in India', *Indian Journal of Criminology and Criminalistics*, 37(1).

to bring justice, often ends up making survivors feel like they're the ones on trial. Instead of asking, "How can we help you heal?", survivors are asked, "Why didn't you scream? Why did you wait to report? Why didn't you fight back?" We forget that healing is not the same for everyone. Survivors carry heavy emotional wounds—fear, shame, confusion—and our system rarely gives them the space or time they need to process it all. This research begins with one belief: survivors deserve to be heard without being broken down again.

This study looks closely at how the Indian legal system handles rape cases—how survivor testimonies are received, how medical tests are done, and how courtroom behavior often adds to the trauma. It talks about how practices like the two-finger test, though banned, still show up, making survivors feel humiliated all over again. It looks at how survivors are treated when they cry, when they don't cry, when they forget things, or remember too much—how their truth is doubted because it doesn't match what society or the law thinks trauma should look like. This paper is not just about what the law says; it's about what the law does to people who are already hurting.

The goal of this research is to ask important questions and look for real solutions. First, it wants to show how the gap between law and psychology is hurting survivors. Second, it tries to explain how courtroom processes and legal expectations don't match how trauma actually works in the human mind.⁷

Third, it hopes to suggest better ways forward—ways that make space for mental health experts, trauma-informed training for judges and lawyers, and courtrooms that care. At the heart of this paper is one simple message: justice should not come at the cost of a survivor's dignity.

⁷ Kabra, A. and Dube, D. (2025) 'Stealth: Decoding the Notion of "Consent" in Light of Indian Legal Jurisprudence', *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 32(1), pp. 49–70.

This article examines how non-consensual condom removal, known as stealth, challenges traditional legal interpretations of consent within the Indian judicial framework.

Kabra, A. and Dube, D. (2025) 'Stealth: Decoding the Notion of "Consent" in Light of Indian Legal Jurisprudence', *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 32(1).

The authors argue that Indian jurisprudence on 'rape by deception' can inform global discussions on the legal complexities surrounding stealth.

UNFPA India. (2014) *Medical Examination of Survivors/Victims of Sexual Violence: A Training Module for Doctors*.

Human Rights Watch. (2010) *Dignity on Trial: India's Need for Sound Standards for Conducting and Interpreting Forensic Examinations of Rape Survivors*.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper, entitled "Justice on Trial: A Psychological Critique of Rape Adjudication in India through the Lens of Victim Credibility, Trauma Response, and Systematic Bias," uses a qualitative interdisciplinary approach to investigate the nexus between legal paradigms and psychological trauma in rape adjudication in India. This method is best used for the study of intricate social problems where legal norms and human behavior meet, providing an in-depth analysis of how systemic biases and courtroom practices affect survivors' experiences.⁸

The use of this methodology is based on well-established scholarly practices. As observed by Schrama (2011), interdisciplinary legal research combines findings from non-legal fields to enhance legal reasoning, thus being optimally suitable for research focusing on the external effectiveness of law in societal settings. Furthermore, Kroeze (2013) points out that this kind of approach is critical for comprehending law in the wider social, political, and psychological spheres. Thus, the present study combines legal analysis with psychological research to critically evaluate how responses to trauma impact perceptions of victim credibility and detect systemic bias within the legal process. By leveraging this interdisciplinary approach, the study hopes to present a thoughtful critique of rape judgment in India, identifying points where legal process might unintentionally reinforce trauma or prejudice and proposing reforms guided by psychological principles to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of survivors.

1. Courtroom Credibility Gaps

Indian courts have traditionally given considerable importance to the emotional presentation and demeanor of rape survivors while determining their credibility. Survivors who present overt distress are generally considered credible, whereas survivors who present in a controlled or calm manner can be questioned. This judicial response, however, is not supported by established psychological research on memory and trauma. Research suggests trauma reactions are exceedingly diverse among

⁸ Augustus, P. and Pandey, S. (2023) 'Trauma-informed Care and its Significance in Responding to Child Sexual Abuse in India', *Journal of Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 19(3), pp. 243–247. This article discusses the importance of adopting trauma-informed approaches in addressing child sexual abuse in India, emphasizing the need for systems that are sensitive to the psychological impact on survivors. Augustus, P. and Pandey, S. (2023) 'Trauma-informed Care and its Significance in Responding to Child Sexual Abuse in India', *Journal of Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 19(3). The authors highlight the lack of awareness and stigmatization surrounding child sexual abuse in India, advocating for a comprehensive framework that integrates trauma knowledge into service delivery.

persons; a few survivors might show overt distress, and some others might present calm as an avoidance strategy. The meta-analysis named "A Meta-Analysis of the Emotional Victim Effect for Female Adult Rape Complainants" highlights emotional facade has a key impact on credibility determination, although there is no relationship between external emotional display and truthfulness of evidence. This gap indicates an urgent necessity for Indian judicial processes to incorporate trauma-informed understanding to provide equal and precise assessment of survivor accounts.

2. When Justice Ignores Trauma: The Ethical Cost of Misunderstanding Survivors

The Indian legal framework's response to evaluating the credibility, consent, and conduct of rape survivors too frequently ignores the severe psychological effect of trauma. This neglect not only disservice the quest for justice but also raises serious ethical and moral issues.⁹

Psychological studies have repeatedly demonstrated that trauma can contribute to fragmented memory, delayed reporting, and an impact on the demeanor of a survivor—each of which factors is often wrongly misinterpreted within the legal community as evidence of dishonesty or consent. As an example, research has suggested that survivors themselves can present avoidance or inconsistent recollections, frequent reactions to a traumatic event, but these become commonly misread in court settings, resulting in unfair questioning of the survivor's credibility.

Ethically, the absence of trauma-informed approaches in legal processes ensures a vicious cycle of victim-blaming and secondary victimization. Morally, it is an expression of systemic indifference to the survivor's lived experiences, effectively silencing them and discouraging others from pursuing justice. Not having a trauma-informed process not only undermines the credibility of judicial decisions but also violates the minimum standards of dignity and respect that are due to all individuals.

⁹Ellis-Petersen, H. (2020) 'India executes four men convicted of 2012 Delhi bus rape and murder', The Guardian, 20 March.

This article reports on the execution of the four men convicted in the 2012 Delhi bus gang rape and murder case, highlighting the public outcry and legal proceedings that led to their capital punishment
Wikipedia Contributors. (2024) Pratiksha Baxi. Wikipedia. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pratiksha_Baxi (Accessed: 10 April 2025).

This page provides an overview of the academic and feminist legal work of Pratiksha Baxi, whose ethnographic study *Public Secrets of Law* has deeply influenced discourse on courtroom dynamics in Indian rape trials.

Dworkin, E.R. and Weaver, T.L. (2021) 'The impact of sociocultural contexts on mental health following sexual violence: A conceptual model', *Journal of Clinical Psychology*

Correcting these ethical and moral shortcomings requires overarching legal reforms that integrate psychological expertise into the process of adjudication. Legal professionals' training in the subtleties of responding to trauma can result in more compassionate and equitable assessments of survivor testimony. These reforms are necessary to bring the legal system in line with the ethical mandate to protect and ensure the rights and dignity of rape survivors.

3. Secondary Victimization Faced by Rape Survivors in India's Legal Process

Indian rape survivors are frequently subjected to secondary victimization in court procedures, especially cross-examination and medical examination. This re-traumatization not only handicaps their quest for justice but also triggers deep ethical and moral issues.

Cross-examination under the defense can consist of intrusive interrogation of the survivor's character, sexual history, and intimate life with a motive to discredit them. Such methodologies serve to support victim-blaming ideology and even escalate the emotional pain of the survivor.¹⁰

When there are no trauma-informed strategies applied within court proceedings, courtroom protocols do not demonstrate compassion or understanding regarding the survivor's mental health status, and thereby escalate the survivor's trauma further.

Medical tests, set to provide forensic evidence, might also facilitate secondary victimization. Tests such as the since-abolished "two-finger test" involved intrusive testing of unfounded speculation regarding a female's past experiences, creating indignity and trauma.

The continued existence, although banned, serves to affirm how necessary proper and respectful medical policies are.

Ethically, they are against the principles of dignity, autonomy, and respect for survivors. Morally, treating people this way after a traumatic experience is unacceptable

¹⁰ Khan, A. A. (2023) 'The Persistence of Victimization of the Rape Victims in Contemporary India', *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*, 11(7), pp. e271–e279.

This article explores the prevalence of rape crimes and the victimization experienced by rape survivors in contemporary India, highlighting cultural norms and legal challenges that hinder survivors' access to justice.

Lillu @ Rajesh & Anr v. State of Haryana (2013) 14 SCC 643 (India).

The Supreme Court in this case declared the "two-finger test" unconstitutional, citing violations of a survivor's right to dignity and privacy.

Human Rights Watch. (2010) *Dignity on Trial: India's Need for Sound Standards for Conducting and Interpreting Forensic Examinations of Rape Survivors*.

and goes against the basic principles of justice and human rights. Adopting trauma-informed and survivor-oriented responses in the legal and medical systems is essential to avoid re-traumatization and maintain the dignity of survivors.

CONCLUSION

Justice, deprived of compassion, is little more than an apparatus of punishment — cold, removed, and separate from the lives it impacts. In trials for rape across India, this remove plays itself out daily in the treatment of survivors, being questioned, and remembered. The court— where it should best represent safety and truth — will oftentimes instead become a platform of re-victimization. They don't just ask survivors to recount their experiences. They are required to relive it under skepticism, suspicion, and bureaucratic unconcern. They are having their pain analyzed, their memory challenged, their replies misinterpreted — not because the survivors lack authenticity, but the system lacks sensitivity.

The law is intended to protect, but in such instances, it tends to punish the wrong individual — not only the accused, but the survivor as well. From intrusive medical examinations to humiliating cross-examinations, the process itself becomes a second violence. And worse still, it is done in the name of justice. One who has already endured the worst is forced to survive once more — this time, in silence, within a courtroom where her trauma is in trial, not her attacker. That silence is institutional — it's cultural. It is an indication of decades of not listening, of not believing, of not feeling.

It is tragic and profoundly unfair that survivors have to prove their pain to others who have never had to navigate it — others who want linear narratives, cohesive feelings, and flawless memories from someone whose universe was broken. Psychological science informs us that trauma shatters memory, postpones disclosure, and changes behavior — but the courtroom still insists on certainty, calmness, and clarity. When the law does not consider trauma, it disregards survivors completely. It makes the legal system an arena in which truth is measured not by what happened, but by show. And it does so at the expense of letting an untold number of truths fall between the cracks.

If we are to claim the title of a just society, then we need to ask ourselves: Who is the law actually serving? If survivors keep leaving trials feeling more broken than when they came,

more judged than heard, then we are not serving justice — we are continuing harm. We require a justice system that not only works, but feels. One that doesn't merely prosecute, but safeguard. And most of all, one who will listen — not just to phrases uttered in the courtroom, but to the space that lies between, to the terror that exists there, to the strength it has taken to say them at all.

SUGGESTIONS FOR REFORM:

1. Legally Recognize Trauma in Testimony

Courts need to recognize that trauma influences memory and behavior. Inconsistencies or delay should not disparage survivors. Psychological expert opinion needs to be permitted in the context of their answers.

2. Mandatory Trauma-Informed Training

It should train all stakeholders — judges, lawyers, police, and physicians— to comprehend trauma, prevent re-victimization, and treat survivors with compassion.

3. Reform Cross-Examination Practices

Invasive and character-based interrogation has to be limited. Survivors ought not to be questioned regarding their attire, sexual history, or presumed morality.

4. Ethical and Respectful Medical Practice

All medical procedures have to center on consent, dignity, and privacy. Illegal procedures such as the two-finger test have to be enforced and observed strictly.

5. Committed Psychological Counseling

From the complaint filing stage, survivors should have access to mental health professionals — not as a privilege but as a fundamental right.

6. Survivor-Centric Courtroom Language

Legal language must be stigma-free and respectful. Judgments must shun language that blames or mythifies survivors.

7. Independent Oversight

Set institutions to monitor survivor treatment in courtrooms, police stations, and hospitals. This enforces accountability and institutional sensitivity.

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