

SC BANS 'TWO-FINGER' TEST ON RAPE SURVIVORS

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Rights & Welfare of Women - Schemes & their Performance, Mechanisms, Laws Institutions and Bodies

The Bench noted that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had issued guidelines for health providers in cases of sexual violence. "These guidelines have proscribed the application of the two-finger test," the judgment noted.

In the present case, the two-finger test was conducted a decade ago. "But it is regrettable that it [two-finger test] continues even today," the court underscored.

The court directed the Centre and the State Governments to ensure that the Ministry's guidelines were followed to the letter. The court ordered that the guidelines be circulated to private and government hospitals.

'Hold workshops'

It said workshops should be held for health providers to prevent the test from being conducted on rape survivors. The court said the curriculum in medical schools should be revised. It ordered copies of the judgment to be handed over to the Health Ministry, which should be circulated to the health and home departments of the States.

The home departments should circulate the judgment to the Director-Generals of Police. "Any person who conducts the two-finger test in sexual assault cases shall be guilty of misconduct," the court ordered.

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