

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



2018 | Day 6

VIOLENCE IN CONDUCTING MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Medical Examination till date is conducted from the perspective of medico-legal evidence. The intention of victim assistance and care is missing considering the current standards of medical examination.

Scene 1



A child walks into the hospital and is made to sit outside the medical evaluation room, equipped with a single bench and just one vacant seat. She is accompanied by an old woman who claims to be her mother. In a period of 45 minutes, the child and mother take turns to sit on the only available seat on the bench. Doctors and nurses constantly pass by the duo. The mother and the daughter are waiting for their names to be called by one of them.

Scene 2



A doctor appears from inside and calls out loud to the attendant on the counter, “*Woh rape wali ladki hain na, usko ander bhejo.*” The attendant approaches the bench looks at the people sitting there and asks “*rape wala case aap hi ka hai na? Jao aander. Doctor bula rahe hai.*” Looking at the mother he says, “*Tum bhi aander jao*”

Scene 3



The female doctor calls out, “*Tera forensic karna hain naa?*” The child looks around not understanding head nor tail of what’s been said. The child looks at her hassled mother and the mother nods. The examination room is separated by a small dividing curtain. The female attendant calls out to the girl and announces, yet again, “*Medical karna hain, kapde utar le.*” The mother waits for yet another ordeal to end.

Scene 4



Junior doctor to her senior doctor – “*Sir, iska medical ho gaya hain.*”
Senior doctor warns the junior doctor – “*Iska baaki ka history pucha ke nahi, pehle isne kuch lafdaa kiya hain kya? Iske history mein woh sab kuch jaane do.*”