

## **Asked to stay overnight at school for 'practical exam', 17 Class 10 girls sedated, molested by teacher**

09/12/2021 19:50 by admin

On the night of November 17, seventeen Class 10 girls in UP's Muzaffarnagar were allegedly sedated and molested by the school owner. They had been called to school on the pretext of a CBSE practical exam.

*(Photo: Representative)*

**Uttar Pradesh, India:** On November 17, seventeen Class 10 girls in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar were called to school and asked to stay overnight on the pretext of a CBSE practical exam. There, they were allegedly given food laced with sedatives and subsequently molested by the school owner. They returned home from the private school in Purkazi area only the next day.

The girls were purportedly threatened not to tell anyone what had happened or their family members would be killed. The girls come from very poor families, as per sources.

The case came to light when parents of two of the victims approached Purkazi MLA Pramod Utwal, who then contacted Senior Superintendent of Police Abhishek Yadav to initiate an inquiry. Until then, the parents had tried to get their complaint registered by the police several times but to no avail, they claimed.

An FIR has now been lodged against two individuals - the owner of the school where the girls study and the owner of the school where they were taken for the 'practical exam' on the night of the incident. One of the two has been arrested so far.

A departmental inquiry has also been initiated against the Purkazi station house officer Vinod Kumar Singh for his alleged negligence in the case. "He was sent to police lines on charges of delay in initiating action in the case," an official was quoted in a Hindustan Times report.

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