

HC orders counselling for kids of divorcing parents

Order Passed To Ease The Children's 'Emotional Suffering' And Make Them Agree To Meet Their Father

Hetal Vyas | TNN

Mumbai: Taking note of the "emotional suffering" of three siblings who are caught in a bitter divorce battle between their parents, the Bombay high court has sent them for counselling. The girls are in their teens, aged 16 and 15, while the boy is eight years old.

The order was passed earlier this month for the children's welfare, to help them overcome the bias against their father and make them agree to meet him.

Hearing a petition filed by a woman in her mid-thirties, Justice Roshan Dalvi directed the mother, a resident of central suburbs, to take her children to a senior child specialist from Muskan TISS in the family court.

Justice Dalvi observed that the family court has the required infrastructure to deal with the emotional needs of children who are at such an impressionable age.



Ram "The children shall be interviewed by the child specialist with or without their mother or father," observed Justice Dalvi.

The court also noted that the mother should abide by the instructions given by the child specialist. The court noted that the specialist will prepare a report on each of the three children, and, if necessary, also on the parents, after a month of interviews and counselling.

"The court has sought the report by December 1 and adjourned the case till then," said Vivek Kantawala, the petitioner's lawyer.

The woman filed a petition in the high court in August this year, challenging an order passed by the family court, which had granted custody of the minor children to their mother last year, but had given the usual access to the father.

The father contended that children have denied meeting him under

pressure from their mother.

"Mothers are taking advantage of laws which favour them. They want maintenance from the father, but do not want to give access to the children, which is not fair," said Manjula Rao, counsel for the husband.

The warring couple, who married in 1993 and separated in 2009, is currently fighting the divorce case in the Bandra family court.

The woman's petition stated that she has not denied access of her children to her husband, but that they themselves did not want to meet him as they have been witness to gruesome atrocity meted out to her by him.

The woman has also stated in her petition that her two daughters, who are mature enough to take decisions, have categorically denied access as they do not wish to meet their father.

"Due to this fact, I am unable to comply with the order of giving access of children to the father," states the petition.