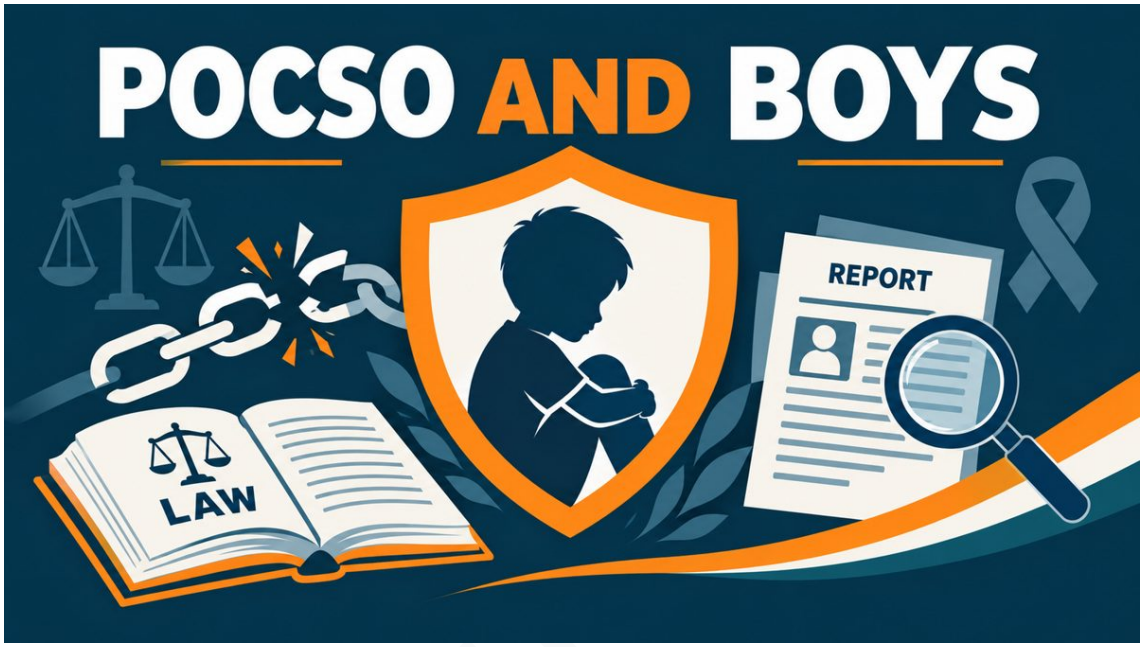
Boys Under POCSO: The Underreporting Problem Highlighted by the Madrasa Case

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13 November 2026: A case has been registered in Telangana against a madrasa teacher for the sexual abuse of an 11-year-old boy. The incident draws fresh attention to the growing gap in reporting of male child sexual abuse under the POCSO Act.

Key facts of the case

Incident: A teacher at a Telangana madrasa is accused of sexually abusing an 11-year-old student; police have registered a case under POCSO sections.

The wider problem: Experts say male child sexual abuse is severely underreported - due to social stigma, notions of 'masculinity' and families' unfamiliarity with the issue.

POCSO's scope: The Act is gender-neutral - it protects all children below 18 equally, yet identification and registration rates for boys' cases remain low.

Institutional response

NCPCR: The Commission has run awareness campaigns to improve reporting of boys' abuse; its social media/online gaming safety guidelines are in the final stage.

Judicial view: The Supreme Court has made strong observations in CSEAM (Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material) cases and prioritised digital child protection.

Why it matters for exams

Prelims facts: POCSO's gender-neutrality, specific sections (3, 5, 7), NCPCR's role and the underreporting problem.

Mains theme: Gender bias and gaps in the child-protection machinery.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

Q1: Consider the following statements about the POCSO Act: 1. It covers all children below 18 years. 2. It is only for girls. 3. It is gender-neutral. How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one(b) Only two(c) All three(d) None

Answer and explanation: (b) Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong - the Act is gender-neutral and protects boys equally.

Q2: What was the age of the victim in the case registered against the madrasa teacher in Telangana?

(a) 8 years(b) 11 years(c) 14 years(d) 16 years

Answer and explanation: (b) A case was registered over the sexual abuse of an 11-year-old boy; it highlights the underreporting of male child abuse.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: A case has been registered in Telangana against a madrasa teacher for the sexual abuse of an 11-year-old boy; despite POCSO being gender-neutral, boys' cases are underreported.

Question: Is POCSO only for girls?

No - the Act is gender-neutral and covers all children below 18.

Question: Why is reporting of boys' cases low?

Social stigma, notions of 'masculinity' and families' unfamiliarity.

Question: What is NCPCR doing?

Running awareness campaigns on boys' abuse; social media/online gaming safety guidelines are in the final stage.

Sources:

- The Hindu - Case booked against madrasa teacher for sexually abusing 11-year-old boy
- The Hindu - Child sexual abuse: when boys' voices break

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