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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Parents' harass complaint after JU student dies by suicide

Jan 28, 2024, 08:19 AM IST



Kolkata/Siliguri: The passing away of a Jadavpur University blind student, Renaisa Das, who died by suicide at her Malbazar home in Jalpaiguri on Jan 18, has prompted her parents to lodge a complaint with the varsity on Thursday, alleging that a student and a research scholar had provoked their daughter to take the step. The accused are also blind.

The parents have also lodged an FIR at Malbazar PS on Wednesday alleging that their daughter — a second-year student of English department — was blackmailed and mentally harassed. They have also written to the West Bengal Women's Commission.

Registrar Snehamanju Basu acknowledged that the complaint has been received. "It is an unfortunate incident. We will discuss it and also talk to our lawyer."

According to cops, an unnatural death case was registered on Jan 18 and later on Jan 24, a specific complaint was filed by the family members. The Malbazar cops have started a probe. "We have registered a case under section 306 of IPC pertaining to abetment of suicide. According to preliminary investigation, she was in a relationship with a student," said officer Tenzing Bhutia.

Sources said Renaisa, who earlier used to stay at the hostel, was staying at home for the past few months. She came to the hostel on Jan 1 and returned home after the semester exams on Jan 16. Her mother had accompanied her to Kolkata then, sources said.

In the letter to JU, her parents wrote that their daughter was forced to kill herself because of two students as she was deceived in name of friendship. "There was breaking of trust, relationship complexities and mental torture," they alleged. They also claimed that they got to know about this from their daughter on Jan 1. Naming the two accused, the parents wrote, "They were mentally harassing and torturing her through phone calls."

Victim's mother Barnali Das said, "My daughter had always been the topper of her school and among the top scorers in the district. She got admitted to JU in 2022 and met these students. They blackmailed her." Das added that she tried to convince her daughter to come out of the relationship. "We got to know about the research scholar after her death and through her chats," she added.

Das said her daughter was prescribed medicines for depression. "She was alone at home on Jan 18 afternoon. She consumed all the pills," she added.

"I didn't do or say anything that is provocative. I met her on campus on Jan 4 on her request and after that I didn't contact her. But she called me on Jan 17," said the accused student. TOI tried to contact the research scholar but he did not respond.