

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCE

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Abstract:

Child Sexual Abuse is a serious problem in all over the World and the consequences of Child Sexual Abuse can effect the development and growth of the survivors. The survivors also face psychological and emotional disorder that some children and adolescents may never overcome. And so The Ministry Of Women And Child Development advocate the introduction of TheProtection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. In order to effectively label the heinous crime of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation Of Children. This act has been proved to protect children from offences of Sexual Assault, SexualHarassment, and Pornography.

KEYWORDS: Child Sexual Abuse, POCSO, Prevention.

Introduction:

Child Sexual Offence (CSO) or we can also use also use Child Sexual Abuse. It includes all types of Sexual victimisation of children penetrative or non-penetrative sexual intercourse, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, pornography, sex tourism. In India, The Protection Of Children From Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act,2012 which tells us about the sexual activity with children below 18 years, and also describes various form of sexual offences. Abuser's can be neighbours, friends and family members. People who sexually abuse children can be found in families, schools, child care institutions, places of work, anywhere. About 90% of the children's who are victims of sexual abuse knew their abuser. Only 10% sexually abused children are abused by a stranger. About 60% of children who are sexually abused are abused by people whom the family trusts. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 32,608 cases were reported in 2017 for sexual abuse or offence.

Researches in India estimates that between 18% and 50% of the population may have experienced some type of sexual abuse in their life. According to the research, 160 boys and 160 girls of grade 8 in the state of Tripura. Total 18% of children had experienced sexual

abuse surrounded by family members. Girls reporter higher incidence of sexual abuse than boys. According to 2017 data Uttar Pradesh is most unsafe for women.

Method:

The research strategy is based on CSA data, reports, literature. I also searched articles on Child Sexual Abuse which brief me about all the information.

Result:

1. The effects of childhoods sexual abuse:

Child Sexual Abuse causes effect not only mentally and physically and socially also. Many children who are sexually abused take years to disclose such abuse and some never do. While each survivor is unique in their experience.

Childhood Sexual Abuse has been correlated with higher level of:

- Guilt – Some survivors thinks that they are bad, wrong, dirty.
- Self-blame – It has been shown that the survivors feels that the abuse was their fault. When the sexual abuse is done by the most trusted adult it may be hard for the children to imagine the perpetrator in a negative light.
- Anxiety –The survivors experience PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), a recent multi site treatment study of 299 sexually abused children aged 8 to 14 reported traumas experienced by them.
- Sexual Problems – A sexual abuse is such a boarder line which impacts the survivors perception of when or how to set boundaries. They experience difficult feelings and also try to forget about the abuse but later recover those memories in their peer conversation.
- Relationship Problems – Many survivors face difficulties in establishing a relationship – Trust issues are common. For the survivors along with that fear of intimacy, fear of being different, lacking interest in sex, experience negative feeling such as anger, disgust with touch.

2. Parents – Child Discussion:

- Parents have the important responsibility of protecting their children. The parents should know detail fact of CSA and take care at every step to protect their children.

- The parents should explain their children aged between 3 – 5 years about good touch and bad touch, and places over the body where nobody except the mother can touch or clean.
- Elder children should be informed about the body parts, difference between boys and girls and issues of privacy. The parents should ask the children to report any unusual behaviour by adults. These matters should be taken seriously, not ignored.

3. POCSO (The Protection Of Children From Sexual Offence):

- The Protection Of Children From Sexual Offence Act, 2012 was enacted to protect the children from the offence of sexual assault, pornography, sexual harassment. VIRENDRA KUMAR introduced POCSO Act and also provides strict punishment for other crimes. This act protects the interest and welfare of the children.
- POCSO E-box is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting system of sexual abuse so that action should be on time.
- In keeping with the best protection child standard, the act also provide mandatory reporting of sexual offence. The said Act makes provision for medical check up and police personally receive the report. The medical check up should be done in the presence of family members and if the victim is a girl then it should be done by female doctor. The police also brings matter to the attention to the CWC (Child Welfare Committee) within 24hours.
- There are two distinct aspects for gathering information from the sexually abused children:
 - a) Medical record – Under section 27 (Medical examination), the examination of a child in respect of whom any offence has been committed. Under this act shall, not with standing that a first information report or complaint has not been registered for the offences. Under this act, be conducted in accordance with section 164 A of CRPC,1973.

Incase the victim is a girl child the medical examination shall be conducted by a women doctor. The medical examination shall be conducted in the presence of parents or the trustful person. And if in

any case the parents of the victim are not present then the medical examination will be conducted in the presence of the women nominated by head of medical institution.

Emergency Medical Care: The child may be brought to the hospital for medical emergency, section 357 C of CRPC states that all hospitals are required to provide first-aid or medical treatment, free of cost to the victims of a sexual offence. When a child is brought to a doctor for medical check up, the first thing that a doctor should do:

- Take the written consent of the child. Where the child is too young the parent needs to give the consent.
 - The examination should never be painful. It should be conducted in sensitive manner. Ensure that the child has privacy while the examination is being conducted. Carefully collect all the general medical history.
- b) Interview – Interview method is the most appropriate way to picturize the child's physical and emotional state, to find out whom the child trusts the most, also about the support of the family.

While conducting an interview it should be always in mind that all children should be approached in extremely sensitive way. Try to make comfortable environment so that children could express their feelings. In short interview of children is a specialised skill and it should be done by professionals so that it can obtain direct information from sexually abused children.

Conclusion:

Child Sexual Abuse is the dark reality in India. POCSO Act,2012 has undoubtedly made a contribution to tackle the problems of CSA in India. It helps to identified and criminalised the range of unacceptable sexual abuse that cause harm to children. The effect of CSA is so intense that entire growth of child gets hinder and the effect is so harsh that it gets complicated when abusers is from family. As the victims are asked to repress all abuse and even deny any medical or therapeutic health. And with this knowledge it is imperative that counsellors continued to expand their knowledge of child sexual abuse. The counsellors need

to be well trained to provide the best service to the survivors as the consequences were experienced throughout in his/her lives.

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