

GLOBAL AND INDIAN SCENARIO OF CHILD SEX ABUSE

Ramanjeet Kaur, Jaspreet Kaur , Himani Saini
Assistant professor
A.S.B.A.S.J.S. Memorial College Bela, Ropar, India

Abstract: Child sex abuse (CSA) is a universal problem with painful long-term effects. CSA has many definition depends upon the country under study. This study meant to assess the types, effects, and issue related to CSA. The prevalence of CSA was found to in throughout the world. CSA is a major problem throughout the world with huge no. of victims. It also has various effects on the psychological, physical well being of victim. Hence strict measure should be taken or control and prevention of this hidden public problem.

Keywords: CSA, prevalence, psychological, long-term effects.

1. INTRODUCTION

Child sex abuse is a universal problem with painful long-term effects. Child sex abuse which is also called child molestation is a form of child molestation in which an adult child uses for sexual stimulation. Child sexual abuse can occur in varieties of settings including home, school or work (as a child labor).

According to UNICEF child marriage is the one of the main form of CSA. UNICEF stated that child marriage “represent perhaps the most preventing form of sexual abuse and exploitation of girls”.

Not only child marriage but activities like intercourse, attempted inter course, attempted intercourse, oral-genital contact, fondling of genitals directly or through clothing, exhibitionism or exposing children to adult sexual activity or pornography also forms CAS.

2. TYPES OF CHILD SEX ABUSE

- Sexual activities
- Indecent exposure
- Child grooming

2.1 Sexual activities

A term defining offenses in which adult used for purpose of sexual gratification. Forms of child sexual assaults include asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities i.e. indecent exposure of the sexual organs of a child, displaying pornography to a child and use of child to produce child. For example rape.

2.2 Commercial sexual exposure

A term defining offenses in which adult victimized as minor for advancement or profit. For example, prostituting a child or child trafficking.

2.3 Child grooming

A term defining the social conduct of a potential child sex offender who seeks to make a minor more accepting of their advances, for example, in online chat room, invaliding the child’s privacy, talking about sexual topics that are not age appropriate.

3. EFFECTS OF CHILD SEX ABUSE

Child sex abuse not only effect victims body but also effects on his/her mental health, which are discuss as below:

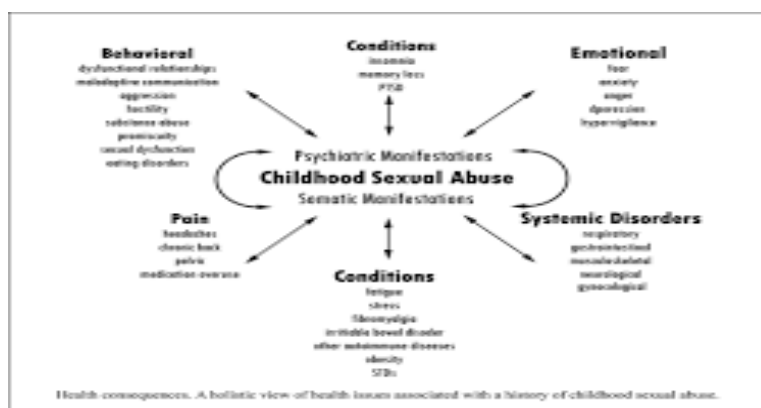
3.1 Psychological effects

Child sex abuse can result in both short term and long term harm, including psychopathology in later life. Psychopathology effects like depression, anxiety, eating disorder, poor self-esteem, sleeping disturbance etc.

Studies have been found that 51% to 79% of sexually abused children exhibit psychological symptoms.

3.2 Physical effects: -

- 3.2.1 **Injury:** - child sex abuse causes major injury depending on the age and size of the force. It causes internal bleeding, damage to internal organs. In some cases it causes death.
- 3.2.2 **Infection:** - Child sexual abuse may cause infection and sexually transmitted diseases.
- 3.2.3 **Neurological damage:** - Child sexual abuse may cause deleterious on brain development.



4. GLOBAL SCENARIO OF THE PROBLEMS

According to WHO in 2002 approximately 73 million boys and 150 million girls under the age of 18 years was abused.

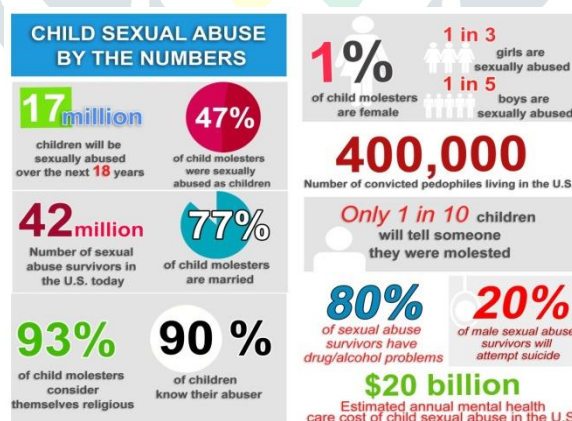
Meta-analysis conducted in the year 2009 analyzed 65 studies in 22 countries and an “overall international figure”. The main findings of the study were:-

1. An estimate 7.9% males and 19.7% females universally faced sexual abused before the age of 18 years.
2. Africa has highest rate of child sexual abuse (approximately 34.4%).

Another study conducted in 2009, the prevalence of child sex abuse was 5.6% among girls and 1.6% among boys. It was also reported that boys has been sexually abused at younger ages in comparison to girls.

A study conducted in Mexico reported prevalence of child sex abuse to be 18.7% (58% in girls and 42% in boys).

According to study conducted in U.S.A. in 2012 17 million children was sexually abused over the next 18 years. 47% of children was sexually molester. 77% of child molesters are married.



5. INDIAN SCENARIO OF THE PROBLEM

In India child sex abuse is a major problem. Total 33,098 cases of sexual abuse in children were reported in the nation during the year 2011. In 2011 child sex abuse was increased by 24% in comparison to 2010. India has world’s largest no. of child sex abuse cases.

It is estimated by the government that 40% of India’s children are susceptible to threats like being homeless, trafficking, drug abuse, forced labor and crime.

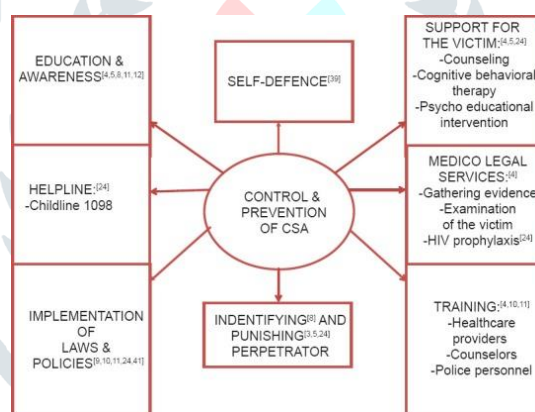
Another survey by UNICEF on demographical and health was conducted in India from 2005 to 2013 which reported that 10% of girls have experienced sexual violence when they were 10-14 years of age. 30% during 15-19 years of age.

A study was conducted in 2007 by Ministry of women and child development in India covering 13 states. The study reported that about 21% of the participants were exposed to extreme forms of sexual abuse.,57.3% were boys and 42.7% were girls was sexually abused, out of which 40% were 5–12 years of age. The data reported by the study on prevalence of various forms of sexual abuse are depicted in the table

Forms of sexual abuse	Prevalence (%)	Gender-wise distribution (%)	Perpetrator* (%)	Not disclosed (%)
Sexual assault	5.67	Boys: 54.4 Girls: 45.6	Uncle/ Neighbour: 31	72
Forced to touch private parts	14.5	Boys: 58.4 Girls: 41.6	Friend: 38.5	77
Forced to touch exhibit parts	12.6	Boys: 60.2 Girls: 39.7	Friend: 44.4	82
Photographed in nude	4.5	Boys: 52 Girls: 48	Friend, uncle and neighbour	71.4
Forcible kissing	21	Boys: 45 Girls: 55.02	Friend: 35	72
Child forced to view private parts	17	Boys: 55.9 Girls: 44.4	Friend: 40.7	79
Pornographic material exposed to child	30.2	Boys: 67.03 Girls: 33	Friend: 66	80

*Only the maximum prevalence of the relation of the perpetrator with the victim in each of the forms of CSA has been mentioned in the table above

6. CONTROLS AND PREVENTIONS OF CHILD SEX ABUSE



6.1 Education and awareness

Education and awareness is essential for control and preventions of child sex abuse. Teach kids to speak up if touched inappropriately and then take action when they disclose. Routinely remind the kids you care for that they are in charge of their body and nobody is allowed to touch them.

6.2 Child helpline number

CHILDLINE stands for a friendly ‘didi’ or a sympathetic ‘bhैया’ who is always there for vulnerable children 24 hours of the day ,365 days of the year. A phone number that spells hope for millions of children across India is 1098. Childline works for the protection of the rights of all children in general. But its social focus is on all children in need of care and protection, especially the below sections:

- Street children and youth living alone on the streets.
- Domestic help i.e. Girls domestics
- Children of commercial Sex workers
- Mentally challenged children
- Differently able children
- HIV/AIDS infected children
- Children whose families are in crises.

6.3 Implementation of laws and policies

The Parliament of India passed the 'Protection of children against sexual offences Bill' 2011 Regarding Child Sex Abuse on 22 May 2012 into an act. This act provides for a variety of offences under which an accused can be punished. Offences under the act includes:

- Penetrative Sexual Assault: Insertion of penis/object/another body part in child's vagina/ urethra/anus/mouth or asking the child to do so with them or some other person.
- Sexual Assault: When a person touches the child or makes the child touch them or someone else.
- Sexual Harassment: Passing sexually colored remark, sexual gesture / noise, repeatedly following, flashing etc.
- Child Pornography
- Aggravated Penetrative Sexual Assault/Aggravated Sexual Assault

6.4 Support for the Victim

The child who's sexually abused need a support from a family, friends etc. There are so many methods to help the victim and these methods are describe below:

6.4.1 Counseling

Counseling in child sexual abuse is not enough. Although ethical and legal mandates to report suspected abuse are typically addressed in counselor education programs, prevention and treatment issues are rarely examined. In order to prepare counselors with the knowledge and skills required to meet professional responsibility.

6.4.2 Cognitive behavioral therapy

CBT is taking therapy that can help you manage your problem by changing the way you think and behave. It is based on the concept that your thoughts, feelings, physical sensation and actions are interconnected and that negative thoughts and feelings can trap you in a vicious cycle. Its most commonly used to treat anxiety and depression but can be also useful for other mental and physical health problems.

6.4.3 Psycho-education intervention

Psycho-education is an evidence-based therapeutic intervention for patients and their loved ones that provides information and support to better understand and cope with illness. it is associated with serious mental illness, including dementia, clinical depression, eating disorder, personality disorder and autism.

6.5 Medico Legal Services

Medico legal field is one such field that has never been centre stage in field of medicine due to the slack of expertise in this field. Until few years, not many would have thought that we doctors would have to face medico legal problems. Even the so called developing countries are also influenced by westernization. With this changing scenario doctors have to adapt to the situation and may have to face such legal tangles, which is intangible and disturbing sometimes. Our advisors are well qualified, knowledgeable and have been providing timely advice to medical Practitioners, Lawyers, Insurance companies i.e. LIC and GIC for more than a decade in various capacities.

Conclusion

This paper was meant to understanding the magnitude and problems related to child sex abuse. The problems of child sex abuse were found to be very high in India throughout the world. The major issue has been identified that makes it difficult to estimate the exact numbers of victims. First of all the way abuse is defined plays an important role. Secondly, many cases were not reported by victims. Last different study reports the prevalence for different time periods. Child sex abuse problem is alarming. Hence, strict measure should be taken or control and prevention of this hidden public problem.

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