

Sexual Abuse with Children, A critical issue in India

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Abstract

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a universal problem with grave life-long outcomes. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines CSA as “the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend and is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared, or else that violate the laws or social taboos of society.” The term CSA includes a range of activities like “intercourse, attempted intercourse, oral-genital contact, fondling of genitals directly or through clothing, exhibitionism or exposing children to adult sexual activity or pornography, and the use of the child for prostitution or pornography. Child sexual abuse occurs predominantly in domestic settings, most commonly in the offender’s or victim’s home.

A smaller but significant proportion of incidents occur in organisational settings, including schools. In 2007, Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, supported by UNICEF, save the children and Prayas conducted a study to understand the magnitude of child abuse in India, they found that 53.22% children faced one or more forms of sexual abuse; among them, the number of boys abused was 52.94%. India shelters 430 million children, approximately one in five children (individuals under age 18) in the world and the government assesses that 40 % of India's children are susceptible to intimidations such as trafficking, homelessness, forced labour, drug abuse, and crime. Every 2nd child is being exposed to one or the other form of sexual abuse and every 5th child faces critical forms of it. They all are in need of protection. Reporting is a difficult decision to be made by the survivors, many fear revictimizations through the criminal justice system and fear they may be blamed for it.

Keywords: Sexual Abuse, Victimization, Behavioural, Psychological, Physical, Interpersonal, CSA, GOI, WHO, UNICEF, Human Rights, POSCO, Childline, NGO

Introduction

Child sexual abuse is generally defined by law as any sexual behaviour involving a person under the age of consent – usually 16 years of age. It encompasses a diverse set of problem behaviours, including exposure of genitals, producing or showing sexual images, sexual harassment, grooming and procuring, and contact offences ranging from sexual touching through to violent sexual assaults causing physical injury and in rare cases death. Sexual abuse is inflicted by someone who stands in a position of power over the victim. It can be a family member, a member of the victim’s community, a teacher or any other authority figure. Vulnerable and defenseless children are often the targets and victims of adults who abuse their power in order to prey upon them.

Child sexual abuse is a traumatic event in the life of a child. According to the WHO (1999), it results in actual or potential harm to a child's health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power.

India houses 40% of children in its total population but is ranked as the sixth most unsafe country for children. In 2007, Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, supported by United Nations Children's Fund, save the children and Prayas conducted a study to understand the magnitude of child abuse in India, they found that 53.22% children faced one or more forms of sexual abuse; among them, the number of boys abused was 52.94% and of girls was 47.06%. Among the 69% of physically abused in 13 sample states,

54.68% were boys and 88.6% were physically abused by parents. Sixty-five percent of school going children reported facing corporal punishment; 50.2% of children worked all 7 days in a week and they never reported abuse to anyone. Children on the street, children at work, and children in institutional care reported highest incidence of sexual assault.

Global Scenario

The WHO in 2002 estimated that 73 million boys and 150 million girls under the age of 18 years had experienced various forms of sexual violence. The Center's for Disease Control and the US Department of Justice conducted a study in the US and reported prevalence of being forced to have sex at some point of time in their lives as 11% and 4% of the high-school girls and boys, respectively. A meta-analysis conducted in the year 2009 analyzed 65 studies in 22 countries and estimated an "overall international figure." The main findings of the study were: An estimated 7.9% of males and 19.7% of females universally faced sexual abuse before the age of 18 years, the highest prevalence rate of CSA was seen in Africa (34.4%), Europe, America, and Asia had prevalence rate of 9.2%, 10.1%, and 23.9%, respectively. With regards to females, seven countries reported prevalence rates as being more than one fifth i.e., 37.8% in Australia, 32.2% in Costa Rica, 31% in Tanzania, 30.7% in Israel, 28.1% in Sweden, 25.3% in the US, and 24.2% in Switzerland. The lowest rate observed for males may be imprecise to some extent because of under reporting. The study concluded that CSA is an extensive problem and even the lowest prevalence includes a huge number of victims who still need to be considered.

In a study conducted in Ethiopia among boys studying in high schools, the lifetime burden of sexual abuse was 68.2% and that of rape was 4.3%. A study conducted in Hong Kong among college students on recall of sexual abuse before 17 years of age reported the prevalence of various forms of CSA to be 6%; these rates were higher in females. Majority of the participants reported being abused during their teens; the average age being 11 years.

A study by Song *et al.* in China, found that about 33% of the participants reported sexual abuse. The lifetime burden of which was 41% for girls and 29.5% for boys. Another study among urban Chinese population reported the prevalence of CSA before the age of 14 years to be 4.2% (males: 5%, females: 3.3%). In a study done in Boston, the burden of CSA was 26.7% and 16.7% in girls and boys, respectively. Review conducted by Townsend *et al.* reported burden of CSA to be 7.5–11.7% (girls: 10.7–17.4%, boys: 3.8–4.6%). A study conducted by Verelst *et al.* reported more than one third of the participants experienced sexual violence.

Indian Scenario of the Problem

India is home to 19% of the world's children. As per the 2001 census, about 440 million individuals in India were below 18 years of age and constitute 42% of total population. National level research such as the Government of India's 2007 survey in 13 states across the country suggests that child sexual abuse (CSA henceforth) has reached epidemic proportions in India with one in two children surveyed, reporting abuse .

Despite the GOI study of all forms of child abuse and a more recent national qualitative study by Human Rights Watch (2013) specifically on CSA, there was little impact on the public discourse on sexual abuse of children, until the increased English media reporting of CSA in Indian private schools. The National Study reported that: 53.18 % children in the family environment not going to school reported facing sexual abuse, 49.92% children in schools reported facing sexual abuse, 61.61% children at work (Shop, factory or other places) reported facing sexual abuse, 54.51% children on the streets reported facing sexual abuse, 47.08 % children in institutional care reported facing sexual abuse, 20.90% of all children were subjected to severe forms of sexual abuse that included sexual assault, making the child fondle private parts, making the child

exhibit private body parts and being photographed in the nude and 50% abusers are persons known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility.

A total of 33,098 cases of sexual abuse in children were reported in the nation during the year 2011 when compared to 26,694 reported in 2010 which increased by 24%. A total of 7,112 cases of child rape were reported during 2011 as equated to 5,484 in 2010 depicting a growth by 29.7%. India has the world's largest number of CSA cases: For every 155th minute a child, less than 16 years is raped, for every 13th hour child under 10, and one in every 10 children sexually abused at any point of time. Studies propose that over 7,200 children, including infants, are raped every year and it is believed that several cases go unreported. 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. In India, every second child is being exposed to one or the other form of sexual abuse and every fifth child faces critical forms of it.

A survey by United Nations International Children Education Fund (UNICEF) on demographic and health was conducted in India from 2005 to 2013, which reported that ten per cent of Indian girls might have experienced sexual violence when they were 10–14 years of age and 30% during 15–19 years of age. Overall, nearly 42% of Indian girls have gone through the trauma of sexual violence before their teenage.

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. Among the participants who reported being abused, 57.3% were boys and 42.7% were girls, about 40% were 5–12 years of age. About half of the participants were exposed to other forms of sexual abuse. The data reported by the study on prevalence of various forms of sexual abuse are depicted in the Table 1.

Table1: Prevalence of various forms of child sexual abuse in India

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

According to Carson *et al.* the detection of new cases of CSA is high in India: One-fifth to half of the country's population might have faced some form of sexual abuse at least once in their life, but these may not include the children (1 in 5) who do not reveal their sexual abuse from within or outside their family.

Status of Sexual abuse in Jharkhand

Jharkhand State stands **17th** in all crime records in **2013**. **8th** in no of murders, **12th** in no of rapes and **17th** in no of kidnapping. Five leading districts in crimes are Koderma, Garhwa, Dhanbad, Giridih and Bokaro in respective number. Jharkhand with 3.65% in Rape is higher than National average 2.78%. It shows the status of sexual abuse contributing in Rape crime. The rate of Rape has been reported in increasing order.

Collaborative child response unit, a MDT(Member of Multidisciplinary Team), to tackle child sexual abuse in a general hospital received 3 referrals of male child abuse among the 27 referrals in 20 months in Table 2.

Table 2: Collaborative child response

Sociodemographic data + nature of abuse	N (%)
Age of the victim	
<10 years	7 (25.93)
Between 10 and 17 years	20 (74.07)
Gender of the victim	
Female	24 (88.9)
Male	3 (11.2)
Nature of abuse	
Sexual	25 (92)
Physical	1
Both	1 (8)
Penetrative abuse (oral sex, sodomy included)	
Penetrative	23 (85.2)
Nonpenetrative	4 (14.8)
Pregnancy	
Present	4 (14.8)
Absent	16 (59.25)
Trafficking	
Present	6 (22.2)
Absent	21 (77.7)
Grooming	
Female victims of extra-familial abuse-compliant	16 (59.2)
Not confirmed, including coercion	11 (40.7)
Police referrals	23 (85.1)
Other referrals	4 (14.8)

From the above table showing category wise value, we can understand affect of sexual abuse and it's sensitivity can be measured.

The research on the issue of CSA has not received much importance in India because of lack of reporting/disclosure. Although considerable attention has been brought about sexual abuse among females, there is dearth of information on CSA in India.

PREVALENCE OF CHILD ABUSE IN INDIA

Given that research on CSA in India is nascent, we have few sources of data on the issue. The GOI's 2007 survey mentioned earlier includes all forms of child abuse (physical, emotional and sexual) and surveyed 12447 children aged between 5 and 18 years and 2324 young adults from 18-24 years. Of the children, 53%

of the boys and 47% of the girls report being sexually abused. This finding not only indicates that CSA is rampant across India but also suggests that policies and interventions on CSA should recognize the vulnerability of both boys and girls. Given that surveys of sexual crimes often carry the risk of underreporting due to associated stigmas, it is possible that actual incidence of the crime is even higher, than reported.

A much smaller study undertaken by Tular (a sexuality education NGO) and Save the Children in 2006 with a representative sample of 2211 school going children Chennai found that 48% of boys and 39% of girls reported abuse.

In relation to reporting of abuse, the GOI study found that most children who were abuse, even sexually assaulted did not confide in anyone (just 12% reported it to parents) and particularly police reporting was very low, thereby artificially lowering the rates in the figures in the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a national repository of crime statistics. Even so, NCRB data indicates that reported cases of child rapes have been increasing at an alarming rate with a decennial increase of 336% from 2113 cases in 2001 to 7112 cases in 2011 . The adolescent abuse regarding preparatory wise has been shown in Table 3.

Table 3- Nature of CSA Disaggregated by Perpetrators GOI Survey 2007

Identity of Perpetrator	Fondling	Forcing to exhibit private parts	Forcibly Kissing	Exhibiting Private Parts to Children	Exposing children to dirty pictures	Sexual assault (Penetration)
Brother / sister	6.7	4.8	5.6	5.5	3.3	0
Cousin	11.1	9.5	11.5	9.2	9.1	10
Friend/class fellow	38.5	44.4	34.9	40.7	66.1	29
Uncle /neighbor	24.9	23	31.5	24.4	13.1	31
Employer	4.8	5.2	5.2	4	2.8	9
Any other	14	13.1	11.3	16.3	5.5	21
Totals	1805	1568	2621	2116	3734	681

Source: <http://ncrb.gov.in/>.

Above table indicates that the majority of perpetrators are male, including classmates, uncles or neighbours and typically are well acquainted with the child. The fact that children are most at risk from their friends or classmates establishes the case for extensive preventive efforts to be made in schools not just with employees of schools as parents' pressure groups have demanded, but also with older children in their relationships with younger children. In schools, sexual involvement of a staff person with any student, regardless of age, is likely to be prohibited by school policy, teacher registration rules, and sometimes also

by law. Abuse of a student by a known adult is the next most likely problem. Both the opportunity and the conducive conditions are greatest for those adults whose roles involve sustained close involvement with students, particularly those that involve care of especially-vulnerable students (e.g. marginalised, maltreated or disabled children), and those that involve emotional or physical intimacy (e.g. counselling, pastoral, nursing, or coaching roles). Abuse of a student by a school visitor or passer-by is probably least likely, though perhaps the most dangerous because of possible abduction and physical harm.

A review by NSOPW (studying is sexual abuse) 2012, revealed that an estimated 60% of perpetrators of sexual abuse are known to the child but are not family members, e.g., family friends, babysitters, child care providers, neighbors, about 30% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are family members, 10% of perpetrators of child sexual abuse are strangers to the child, 23% of reported cases of child sexual abuse are perpetrated by individuals under the age of 18.

It is important to avoid stereotyped conceptions of the problem. Children are much more likely to be abused by someone they already have a close relationship with than by a stranger. It is possible that a determined serial abuser may surreptitiously seek employment or other involvement in the school in order to create opportunities to abuse, but it is probably much more likely that abuse related motivations arise for the first time during the course of the potential abuser's involvement with a particular child or children.

Vulnerability to sexual victimisation may be increased if the child is lonely, has problems at home, is emotionally needy, and lacks confidence. Sexual victimisation may itself lead to further isolation from family and peers. Abuse by strangers, and abuse involving physical injuries, is more likely to be reported. In other circumstances victims can develop complex emotional bonds with their abuser, and may feel responsible for the abuse. Disclosures are more likely to be made to a trusted friend, family member, or teacher, than directly to child protection authorities or the police. Delayed reporting is common. Effects vary widely. Abuse by a father or father-figure, a longer duration and frequency of abuse, and more intrusive abuse, are associated with more negative outcomes. Reactions by significant others to detection or disclosure can affect psychological outcomes in positive or negative ways. Victimisation increases risk of further sexual victimisation, sometimes in different contexts and in later stages of life.

Who are More Vulnerable to CSA?

The rates of sexual abuse tends to rise after commencement of menarche though children in the younger age-group also face several forms of it. The overall prevalence is seen to be high among both genders though studies suggest girls are more prone than boys, few studies report that there is no difference, while some others report males to be more prone. In most (95%) of the cases, the perpetrator is known to the child (relatives, neighbors, step parents, highly trusted people). Physical debilities like deafness, blindness, and mental retardation have found to be associated with increased risk of being sexually abused. In a study conducted by Romero et al. among bipolar disorder patients, 7% had history of CSA, while in a study done by Schudlich et al. the prevalence was 20%. Children belonging to the lower socio-economic status are at higher risk. The absence of one or both biological parents, marital conflicts, and/or parental substance abuse increases the vulnerability. Children under the influence of alcohol/drugs are more susceptible. Customs such as child marriages, devadasi system, and ngozi makes some children more prone to be victims of CSA. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) are more prone to CSA.

The CSA Awareness Program reaches out to children between the age group of 7-12 years i.e 2nd-6th standard. This age group has been targeted as various studies, including the 2007 report of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), have found the 7-12 years age group to be most vulnerable to sexual abuse.

Factors Contributing to the Sexual Exploitation of Children

Numerous factors contribute the sexual exploitation of minors. These include: 1. Poverty: poor children are more vulnerable than others because they believe that what the exploiters offer is a chance to make a decent living:

2. Loosing Hope: they quickly lose hope and find they are the perpetual victims of sexual relationships based solely on violence and force.

3. Sex-trafficking networks: the development of communication technology (cell phones, the Internet, etc.) permits the rapid spread of information throughout the world. Consequently, international and cross-border networks of child-traffickers have developed, thereby facilitating the exploitation of children all over the globe. A review by global institute, NSOPW (2012), presented use of technology for online sexual abuses: 13% adolescent Internet users received unwanted sexual solicitations, 9% of adolescent Internet users had been exposed to distressing sexual material while online, 76% predator with an Internet-initiated sex crimes victim took place in an online chat room, 47% of the cases involving an Internet-initiated sex crimes victim, Only 5% of the predators told their victims that they were in the same age group as the victims, 15% of cell-owning teens (12–17) say they have received sexually suggestive nude/seminude images of someone they know via text, 26% of teenagers and adolescent say they have participated in sexting, Nearly 40% of adolescent in a relationship have experienced at least one form of abuse via technology. 81% say they rarely or never feel their significant other uses technology to keep tabs on them too often.

4. Humanitarian crises : caused by armed conflicts or natural catastrophes, such crises aggravate the precarious situation in which children find themselves helpless, sometimes orphans, who struggle day in and day out to survive, are often easy prey for individuals who wish to sexually exploit them.

5. Worldwide development of the sex industry : such development leads to an increase in the size, shape and scope of sexual exploitation.

6. Adolescents of our society are interpolated with many unacceptable stereotypical messages and the same is passed to future generations. Child sexual abuse in India thrives on this very mentality. Parents have no idea how adversely this crime can affect children in their adulthood.

Sexual Exploitation for Commercial Purposes

Sexual commerce is a problem in many countries around the globe. It is illegal and takes many different forms and it is difficult to measure. The expression “sexual exploitation for commercial purposes” can, as it pertains to children, designate sexual relations in which the child is paid for his or her services. However, it is often the case that the victim is not paid; rather, the money goes to the exploiter. In the case of child-trafficking, the victims are recruited, transported, housed and fed by their exploiter who forces them to work in warehouses or other establishments that cater to such activity. As for child pornography, certain exploiters do not hesitate to photograph, film, or videotape sex scenes involving minors which they then sell for commercial gain. (How can a pedophile site be identified?) Sexual commerce is often tied to tourism. Many foreign men and women do not hesitate to visit such countries as Thailand in order to engage in sexual relations with children.

Children and the Consequences of Sexual Exploitation

Children who are the victims of sexual exploitation suffer from physical and emotional trauma. They are vulnerable to manipulation and end up performing acts that they have no wish to do. Consequently, they lose all confidence in adults and their promises. They believe themselves to be abandoned and rejected by society, and don't know anyone whom they can turn to for support.

Sexual exploitation has a negative impact on the physical state of children. Forced to have sexual relations, they risk contracting sexually transmitted diseases and the AIDS virus. Young girls also risk becoming

pregnant. Should this happen, they generally have no one to turn to for support. Furthermore, pregnancy at such an early age constitutes a veritable threat to the health of both mother and baby alike.

The adverse effects of CSA can be grouped into psychological, physical, behavioral, and interpersonal which is depicted in 4.

Table 4: Adverse effects of child sexual abuse

Psychological	Physical	Behavioral	Interpersonal
Post-traumatic stress disorder ^(8,9,10,11,12,20,40)	Bleeding per vagina or infection ^(8,9)	Violation of laws and social conduct ^(8,9,10)	Communication problems ^(8,9)
Depression ^(8,9,10,11,12,20)	Urinary tract infection ^(8,9)	Lower academic performance and absenteeism ^(8,9,10,11,12)	Insecure relation ^(8,10)
Low self-esteem ^(8,9,10)	Menstrual irregularities ⁽⁹⁾	Sexualized behaviors (e.g. prostitution) ^(8,9,10,11,12,20)	Reduced social competence ⁽⁸⁾
Anxiety and panic disorders ^(8,9,10,11,40)	Sexually transmitted infections, including HIV ^(8,9,11,14,30)	Exhibition of violent behavior ⁽⁹⁾	Lack of trust ^(8,10)
Guilt and anger ⁽⁸⁾	Early pregnancy ^(8,9,10,11,20,30)	Increased tendency to grow up as perpetrators ⁽⁹⁾	
Body image concern and eating disorders ⁽⁸⁾	Gastrointestinal problems ⁽⁸⁾		
Substance abuse ^(9,11,12,17,30)	Genital injury ⁽⁸⁾		
Attempt to suicide ^(8,20,40)			
Hopelessness ^(11,17)			
Affects cognitive and emotional development ⁽⁸⁾			

How to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Minors?

The authorities must make a serious effort to comply with and enforce Article 34 of the International Convention of Children’s Rights which states: “States must protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual violence.” Child sexual abuse is a punishable act as per the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act the bill passed in the parliament in May 2012. Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POSCO) Act sec. 19(relevant) is applicable for suppressing sexual abuse. In 1996, CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) launched CHILDLINE, the country's first toll-free tele-helpline 1098 service for street children in distress.

Accurate information about sexual exploitation and the means of preventing it must be furnished to the public. Sexual exploitation is considered a taboo subject and there is considerable silence surrounding these practices which affect the world at large. We can all do our part in combatting sexual exploitation by keeping the world informed about such practices and reporting those who exploit children to the appropriate authorities.

Despite the harsh statistics, currently there are only four organizations (Arpan, SNEHA, Save the Children, Bachpan Bachao Andolan) in India working on the issue in a determined manner. Hence, the need is great to make people aware about this issue and talk more about it openly. Getting involved in the fight against sexual abuse is the only way to prevent it. We should raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating adults about preventive steps, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse. We need to teach children, both boys and girls about empathy, respect, compassion and consent.

At Arpan, we do all these things and more, through our Personal Safety Education programme for Schools, communities, and institutions and run awareness and training programmes for adults and caregivers from different walks of life. However, the true power to end Child Sexual Abuse rests in the hands of the common man, people like you and me, who can stand up and break the silence around this heinous crime. Together we can achieve any goal.

In the case of Child Sexual Abuse, prevention becomes the most important pillar, because if the case reaches the intervention stage where the child has been abused the damage is already done. The scars of

abuse last a lifetime and affect other areas of the child's life including relationships, professional life etc. The experience of abuse can lead to anxiety disorders, substance abuse and depression among others.

Though there are already a few programs targeting parents and schools in the CSA space, children, who are at the receiving end of abuse, are mostly ignored in preventive communication programs. CIF's program aims to break the communication barrier about the issue between parents and children and encourages children to break the silence about a 'touching problem' and openly communicate on the subject with a trusted adult.

The CSA Awareness Program Delivery Model has been evolved keeping in mind a four pronged approach. The Model looks at engaging the Community, Parents, Children and Putting Support Structures in place.

A clear conception of the problem is the starting point for effective prevention. In schools, the most likely problem will be abuse among students themselves. This is because there will usually be many more students than staff, and particularly in high schools because many students will have reached or be approaching puberty and will not yet have established adequate behavioural controls. Sexual teasing, bullying and 'initiations' have historically been common in schools and other youth-oriented organisations.

"CCTVs are good, but they are not the answer to everything. There is always the question of privacy, because of which we can't have cameras in toilets, and these are the spaces where many such incidents have taken place," said Mathur (Vice Principle of Govt. School).

WHAT INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DO

A background check must be conducted on all new hires to ensure they have no record of questionable behaviour. Candidates who have criminal records of sexual and/or physical violence should not be recruited for any position within an institution. Schools should develop a standard teacher-training module that would train them to recognise suspicious behaviour, create a safe environment for students, and be aware of legal recourses in cases of something happens. Schools should adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards child abuse. There should be a counsellor in every school that would be able to provide any intervention when needed. Confidentiality must also be maintained by these personnel.

There is little existing research that tests the effectiveness of prevention techniques for sexual abuse in school settings. That said, good practice principles, which schools are encouraged to adopt, draw from situational crime prevention mechanisms. These mechanisms are increasing the effort (to commit the crime), increasing the risks (of detection) and removing the excuses (for inappropriate behaviour). If abuse does occur, early detection is important to avoid repeat victimisation.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO

Pay attention to any adult that might seem to be making your child feel or look "uncomfortable". Pay heed to any sudden behavioural changes. Make sure your children have your address and phone numbers handy, and know how to ask for help if they are lost or alone. Talk to kids about good touch, and bad touch. Tell them what "private" parts are, and how they should not allow anyone to touch them. Any touch that makes them feel safe is okay and good. Any touch that hurts them or makes them feel bad, is a bad touch. Talk. Keep all channels of communication open. Let your child know that they should immediately come to you if anybody makes them feel uncomfortable or if they are not sure about something.

In addition of above Control and prevention of CSA should be done using a multi centric and an integrated approach which is depicted in [Figure 1](#).

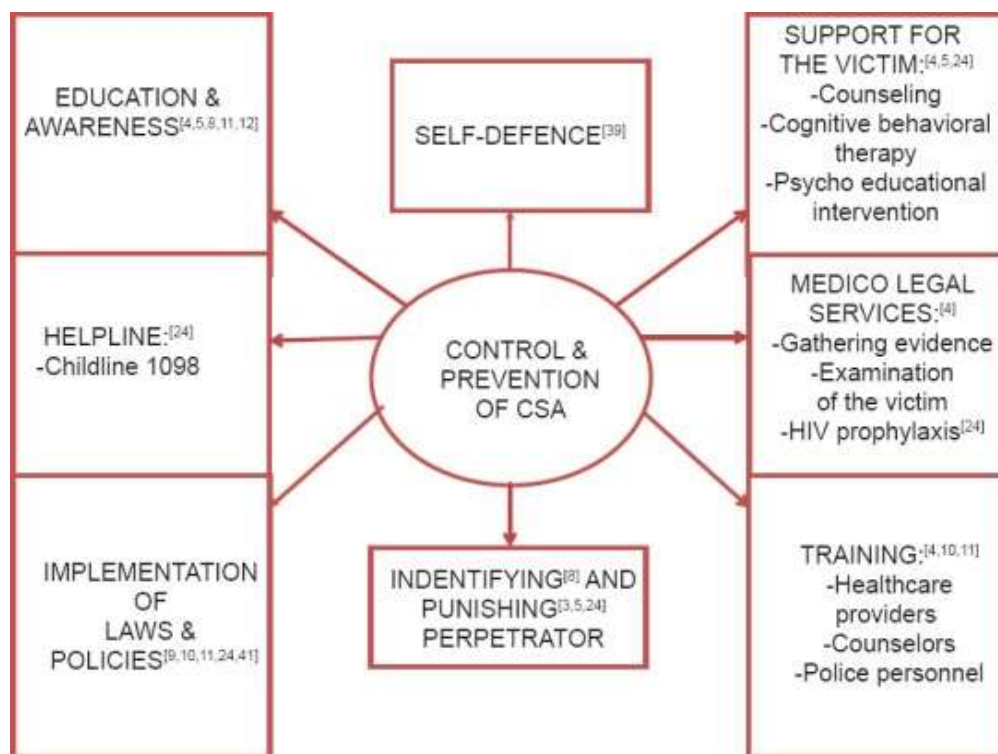


Figure 1 Control and prevention of child sexual abuse(CSA)

Conclusion

This paper was intended to understand the magnitude and issues related to child sexual abuse. The prevalence of CSA was found to be high in India as well as throughout the world. CSA is an extensive problem and even the lowest prevalence includes a huge number of victims. Three main issues have been identified that makes it difficult to estimate exactly how many children are victims of CSA. Firstly, the way abuse is defined plays an important role. Secondly, the cases reported by the official organizations usually underrate the number of victims as many cases never get reported to them. Thirdly, different studies report the prevalence for different time periods, for e.g., few give data on number of children abused in one year, others give numbers based on children ever abused in their lifetime, and few others involve adults who recall and report their childhood abuses. The prevalence of CSA is alarming; hence, stringent measures should be taken for its prevention and control.

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