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A CRITICAL STUDY ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY

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"Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow."

- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

ABSTRACT:

India is a country where they give more importance and respect to the Children. Indian people strongly believe that the children of today will make the India of tomorrow.¹ The way we bring them up will determine the future of the country. Neighboring countries amaze by seeing India how they give respect and protection to the children of their country. But now the entire scenario has been completely changed. Neighboring countries are scared to send their country's children and women to India. Children irrespective of their race, culture, or economic status, appear to be at approximately equal risk for sexual victimization. Still, it is a major public health, social, and human rights problem.² The research methodology followed here is an empirical method and simple convenient sampling and the total number of sample sizes is 203. Data was collected online. The aim of the study is to analyze the child sexual abuse problem in society. The major finding in my research paper is that under the POCSO Act, any person can report the cases but people didn't know that any person can report the cases. So there is a lack of knowledge about the POCSO Act. Still there is no awareness about child sexual abuse. I finally conclude that making a child from a younger age onwards to be a strong person to face the problems in a society. And teach the children not to be silent and break the silence. And implementation of sex education and stringent punishment will definitely reduce the child sexual abuse problem. And the parents should take more responsibility towards their children. And the duty of the country to provide necessary care and protection to the child.

KEYWORDS: Child, Abuse, Sexual, Country, India.

¹ timesofindia, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/happy-childrens-day-2023-quotes-by-pandit-jawaharlal-nehru-and-other-famous-authors/articleshow/105128301.cms>, (last visited Mar. 6, 2024).

² who, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>, (last visited June 6, 2024).

INTRODUCTION:

One of man's innate longings is the protection and preservation of his dignity. Human dignity does not come from wealth, skin color, or family name. It is a gift from god. Our heavenly father formed us in our mother's womb with intricate precision. He uniquely and specially formed and fashioned each and every **child that enters the world, and this is the beginning of man's significance and dignity. Each child matters to God**".

Children are innocent in nature. Children are more important for the country and for the family. Children are the future of the nation. And they are the greatest asset to the nation.

Every, developed nation and still developing nation, links its future with the status of the Children. It is the duty of the nation to protect the health of the child and provide all the basic things to the child mainly educating the child for the future. So that the nation will be filled with well-developed and educated children. Because they are a mighty and useful human resource for the progress of the nation. If a country starts to ignore or neglect the children then obviously the country is wasting the supreme asset of the country and it is a great loss to the country. Children are more precious to the country and to the people. At the same time, it is very easy to take advantage of a child. Children are so tiny and they cannot fight back, even if they try. India has one of the largest populations of children in the world. But Many crimes are happening against children in India. It includes physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and exploitation, such as through child pornography or sex trafficking of minors Child abuses. Among these especially child sexual abuse is common in countries like India. Child sexual abuse is a widespread problem not only in India. In the entire globe child sexual abuse is a serious problem. Many abusive practices are rooted in culturally accepted child-rearing dogma passed from generation to generation. WHO in the year (1999) defines Child sexual abuse. According to WHO (CSA) defined as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society.³⁴ The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1 defines "the child" as every human being below the age of 18 years. Whereas The IPC defines the child as being 12 years of age, whereas the Indian Traffic Prevention Act, of 1956 defines a 'minor' as a person who has completed the age of 16 years but not 18 years. POCSO Act says child means any

³ Tyagi, S, and S Karande. "Child sexual abuse in India: A wake-up call." *Journal of postgraduate medicine* vol. 67,3 (2021): 125-129. doi:10.4103/jpgm.JPGM_264_21

⁴ childlineindia, <https://www.childlineindia.org/a/issues/sexual-abuse>, (last visited June. 6, 2024).

person who is below the age of 18 years. There is no certainty in the law. POCSO Act defines the term child Sexual abuse”.⁵ Child sexual abuse happens when a person younger or older than the child, male or female involves the child a boy or a girl in sexual activities.

Evolution of child sexual abuse: Child sexual abuse simply was not acknowledged prior to the late 1800s. Indeed, child sexual abuse has been documented throughout history, with Biblical references to child sexual abuse, and more extensive records of abuse in the Roman and Greek civilizations. Early civilization's children were treated literally badly in the ritual sacrifice of children to appease the gods this all took place in a few of the countries namely Egyptian, Carthaginian, Roman, Greek, and Aztec societies. Child sexual abuse was common in both Greek and Roman societies. Children were also sold for Prostitution purposes. Roman writer (Petronius) recorded the rape of a 7-year-old in Roman which was witnessed by a line of clapping women. Even in colonial America, records suggest that child abuse, including child sexual abuse, was widespread. In India, from Ancient times onwards child sexual abuse was prevailing. The history of childhood is a nightmare from which we have only begun to awaken. The further back in history one goes, the lower the level of child care, and the more likely children are to be killed, abandoned, beaten, terrorized, and sexually abused. Child sexual abuse is certainly not a recent phenomenon it was a problem from the mid-1800s onwards.⁶

Provisions in the Indian Constitution: Article 15(3), Article 39, Article 24. Under POCSO ACT 2012: Before the enactment of this Act. All the Child sexual abuse cases were prosecuted under the Indian Penal Code. Because there is no specific provision to deal with offenses against the child. Exclusively for protecting both male and female children from all forms of abuse, The POCSO Act has been enacted. The POCSO Act was enacted in 2012 and it is gender neutral. And it recognizes that boys can also be a victims of sexual violence as well. Child Sexual Abuse encompasses sexual assault, sexual harassment, and use of a child for pornographic purposes (POCSO Act 2012).⁷

Government initiatives: The Government of India has enacted comprehensive legislation i.e., the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, to handle child sexual

⁵ Pushpa Venkatraman, Laws on Child Sexual Abuse in India, karmayog, (June. 2, 2024, 7:19 AM), <https://karmayog.org/child-sexual-abuse/laws-on-child-sexual-abuse-in-india-pushpa-venkatraman/>

⁶ Powell, F. and Scanlon, M. (2015) ‘The construction of child abuse as a social problem’, in *Dark Secrets of Childhood: Media Power, Child Abuse and Public Scandals*. Bristol University Press, pp. 27–54.

⁷ Geetika Mantri, What is the POCSO Act and how is it used: A guide, thenewsminute, (June. 2, 2024, 7:19 AM), <https://www.thenewsminute.com/news/what-pocso-act-and-how-it-used-guide-143310>

abuse.⁸ And any person who commits offenses against children will be punished under this Act. And the punishment will be hard. **The recent initiative by the Tamil Nadu government for children:** After the death of a Coimbatore school student pontharani who committed suicide due to trauma faced due to sexual abuse, the Tamil Nadu government has come up with Tamilnadu state policy for children 2021 to prevent and protect children from abuse and other sexual explorations in urban and panchayat levels.⁹ The panchayats and urban bodies for children to report harassment and to create a safe space in the state. To create a safe space for the children in the state. Many states appreciated the new initiative of the Tamil Nadu government. **Factors affecting:** Child maltreatment is one of the most significant problems society faces today due to child sexual abuse.¹⁰ Having low self-esteem. Being involved in criminal activity. Suffering from poor impulse control. Inadequate policies and programs to prevent child abuse, child pornography, child prostitution, and child labour. **Current trends in Child sexual abuse:** During lockdown time there were huge problems aroused in schools and colleges with respect to child sexual abuse. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Most of the child sexual abuse offenders are School male teachers and College male professors. The current trend is that teachers are caught in these CSA Cases. Male teacher offenders are there in a few schools and colleges not in all Because of one teacher the community of male teachers' reputation got spoiled. In recent times whenever we open the news channel or hear any news most of the news is about child sexual abuse and secondly the most probably the offenders are male teachers his name falls first so it is the current trend. **Comparison between different states and countries:** NCRB Says UP reported the highest cases of Pocs0, followed by Maharashtra's second-highest cases in CSA, Madhya Pradesh third highest cases in CSA, and Tamil Nadu fourth highest cases on CSA, and West Bengal Fifth highest case in CSA. In India we have a separate Act to deal with offenses against children which is the Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012 it will deal only with offences happening against children. The South African law on sexual offences was codified in the Criminal Law (Sexual

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labour.gov,
https://labour.gov.in/sites/default/files/012524_booklet_ministry_of_labour_employment_revised2.pdf, (last visited June. 6, 2024).

⁹ news.abplive, <https://news.abplive.com/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-govt-launches-state-policy-for-children-2021-to-protect-minors-from-abuse-harassment-1494691>, (last visited June. 6, 2024).

¹⁰ Bottoms, B. L., Golding, J. M., Stevenson, M. C., Wiley, T. R. A., & Yozwiak, J. A. (2007). A review of factors affecting jurors' decisions in child sexual abuse cases. In M. P. Toglia, J. D. Read, D. F. Ross, & R. C. L. Lindsay (Eds.), *The handbook of eyewitness psychology, Vol. 1. Memory for events* (pp. 509–543). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.

Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007.¹¹ So in South Africa, there is no separate law for dealing with child sexual abuse. They have in general in that Chapter 3 of the act deals with sexual offences against children. The United Kingdom has the Sexual Offences Act of 2003. This Act includes definitions and penalties for child sexual abuse offenses, and (so far as relating to offenses) applies to England Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Like South Africa they too don't have a separate Act that deals with child sexual abuse only India has a separate Act. **The aim of the study is to analyze the child sexual abuse problem in society.**

The objective of the present research paper is,

- 1) To find out whether people are aware of the POCSO Act 2012
- 2) To identify how People came to know Sexual abuse of Children is a Punishable offense.
- 3) To find out who are the most common perpetrators of child sexual abuse.
- 4) To understand and analyze how serious the child sexual abuse Problem is in India.
- 5) To investigate who is the most sexually abused group among Children.
- 6) To identify whether parents and children have a transparent relationship with each other in today's Scenario.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

(Carson et al.2013) Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a serious and widespread problem in India. The trauma associated with sexual abuse can contribute to psychological and emotional disorders, that some children and adolescents may never overcome.¹² Further, the author stated that when sexual abuse goes unreported and children are not given the protective and therapeutic assistance they need, they are left to suffer in silence.¹³

(Fontes and Plummer 2010) The author stated that Cultural norms affect the likelihood that child sexual abuse will be discovered by an adult or disclosed by a child.¹⁴

¹¹ Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007, No. 32, Acts of Parliament, 2007 (India).

¹² Carson, D.K., Foster, J.M. & Tripathi, N. Child Sexual Abuse in India: Current Issues and Research. *Psychol Stud* 58, 318–325 (2013). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12646-013-0198-6>

¹³ *Id*, at 1489.

¹⁴ Fontes, L. A. & Plummer, C. (2010). Cultural issues in disclosures of child sexual abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 19, 491-518, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258021872_Fontes_L_A_Plummer_C_2010_Cultural_issues_in_disclosures_of_child_sexual_abuse_Journal_of_Child_Sexual_Abuse_19_491-518

(Bennett and O'Donohue 2014) There have been claims that some child molesters engage in a “seduction stage” prior to committing abuse stated by the author in his study. These behaviors, commonly known as “grooming,” is a method child molesters use to gain access to and prepare future victims to be compliant with abuse.¹⁵ Furthermore, there are no methods of known psychometrics to validly assess grooming.¹⁶ **(Kaylor et al.2021)** In his study, the author found that 30–45% of child sexual abusers use sexual grooming tactics. While sexual grooming is considered integral to the child sexual abuse process, there has yet to be a universally accepted definition of the construct that condenses and summarizes this complex process.¹⁷

(Rai 2016) The author in his research paper scrutinizes the situation of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and recommends effective programs for the prevention and protection of the victims in Five South Asian states- Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.¹⁸ Sexual violence against children is an uncivilized disruption of children's rights that exposes a child to severe mental, chronic physical, and psychological hazards with effects such as depression, fear, and low self-esteem and it affects them for the entire period of their lives. UNICEF and other NGOs that work on child issues show that children are at higher risk of sexual abuse in Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Effective child protection for the victims is inevitable. To discourage child sexual abuse, primary factors should be discovered and proceed for the prevention.

(Parkinson, 2013) The author explored that in recent years, an increasing amount of attention has been given to the problem of child sexual abuse in church communities. While all churches, and indeed all communities that care for children, have had experience with this problem, most attention has been paid to the problem of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.¹⁹ The child sexual abuse in church communities, drawing particularly on Australian data.²⁰ Most victims

¹⁵ Natalie Bennett & William O'Donohue (2014): The Construct of Grooming in Child Sexual Abuse: Conceptual and Measurement Issues, Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, DOI: 10.1080/10538712.2014.960632

¹⁶ scie.org, <https://www.scie.org.uk/social-care-online/>, (last visited June. 6, 2024).

¹⁷ Winters, G. M., Kaylor, L. E., & Jeglic, E. L. (2021). Toward a universal definition of child sexual grooming. *Deviant Behavior*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2021.1941427>

¹⁸ Rai, Balabhadra. (2016). A RESEARCH STUDY ON THE SITUATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN FIVE SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES AND FINDING THE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE PREVENTION. 10.20472/IAC.2016.021.034.

¹⁹ Blake, Garth. (2006). Child Protection and the Anglican Church of Australia. *Journal of Anglican Studies*. 4. 81 - 105. 10.1177/1740355306064520.

²⁰ Patrick Parkinson, Child Sexual Abuse and the Churches: A Story of Moral Failure?, abc.net, (June. 2, 2024, 7:19 AM), <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/child-sexual-abuse-and-the-churches-a-story-of-moral-failure/10099558>

of child sexual abuse both in the Catholic and Anglican churches in Australia, are adolescent boys.

(Shanks 2011) The author says society as a whole and participants in the criminal justice system have great difficulty dealing with allegations of child sexual abuse in a coherent and consistent fashion. Our social and judicial reactions are erratic.²¹ On the other hand, for many years there was a pervasive disbelief that individuals in positions of reverence and respect, such as priests and scout leaders, could possibly harm the children entrusted to their care.²²

(Kim and Gostin 2012) The authors express their view that the crime of sexually abusing children is punishable in all jurisdictions and also they insist on the duty to report suspected cases by individuals in positions of trust over young people, such as in the church or university sports. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) defines child maltreatment as an act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caregiver that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation, and establishes minimum federal standards.²³

(Sharma et al.2018)In this paper, the Researcher focuses on Child abuse and neglect. And researcher stated Child abuse and neglect that is maltreatment usually are common to under 18 children globally.²⁴ It varies from physical, mental, and social ill-treatment which harms the child. It has short-term and lifelong consequences which can ultimately slow down the country's social and economic development indirectly. It is estimated that 1 in every 5th woman and 1 in 13th men reported being sexually abused during their childhood. Mostly, it is due to the disruption of the social fabric in a community. Extensive failure by the pillars of the community like schools, institutions, and families, to timely notify and take action against proper authorities to maintain the high status of their organization and avoiding to be stigmatized.

²¹ Kathleen Faller, Child Sexual Abuse: Intervention and Treatment Issues, academia, (June. 2, 2024, 7:19 AM), https://www.academia.edu/34326608/Child_Sexual_Abuse_Intervention_and_Treatment_Issues

²² Kim, Susan C. et al. "Child abuse reporting: rethinking child protection." *JAMA* 308 1 (2012): 37-8 .

²³ govinfo, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GOVPUB-HE23_1200-PURL-LPS124431/pdf/GOVPUB-HE23_1200-PURL-LPS124431.pdf, (last visited June. 6, 2024).

²⁴ Jackson, Y. (2023). Future Directions in Child Maltreatment Research. *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 52(4), 578–587. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2023.2224430>

(Bradford 2014, Murray2000)The short-term impact of sexual abuse in childhood has led to depression, anxiety, anger, and fear”.

(Singh et al.2014)Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a universal problem with grave life-long outcomes.²⁵ The Author Stated 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.”²⁶ The prevalence of CSA was found to be high in India as well as throughout the world.²⁷ CSA is an extensive problem and even the lowest prevalence includes a huge number of victims. It also has various adverse effects on the psychological, physical, behavioral, and interpersonal well-being of the victim.

(Rogstad et al.2016) According to the author, he found in recent times evidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as a marker of child sexual abuse (CSA), when diagnosed after the neonatal period.²⁸ The diagnosis of a sexually transmitted infection (STI) in a child raises the issue of how it was transmitted and, in particular, if transmission is because of sexual abuse. Proposed transmission modes in children of STIs are vertical, either in utero, at delivery, or through breastfeeding.

(McMillen et al.1995)According to the author, People often report perceptions of benefits from adverse life experiences. In this study, adult perceptions of benefits from child sexual abuse were examined in a sample of 154 low-income women who were sexually abused as children. Almost half reported some perceived benefit.²⁹ The benefits fell into 4 main categories: protecting children from abuse, self-protection, increased knowledge of child

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²⁵ Urmila Kumari, Sexual Abuse with Children, A critical issue in India, 5, JETIR, 151 - 155, 2018, <https://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1808662.pdf>

²⁶ Singh, Mannat Mohanjeet; Parsekar, Shradha S.; Nair, Sreekumaran N.. An Epidemiological Overview of Child Sexual Abuse. *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care* 3(4):p 430-435, Oct-Dec 2014. | DOI: 10.4103/2249-4863.148139

²⁷ Singh, Mannat Mohanjeet, Shradha S. Parsekar and Sreekumaran Nair. “An Epidemiological Overview of Child Sexual Abuse.” *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care* 3 (2014): 430 - 435.

²⁸ Rogstad, Karen E et al. “Sexually transmitted infections in children as a marker of child sexual abuse and direction of future research.” *Current opinion in infectious diseases* vol. 29,1 (2016): 41-4. doi:10.1097/QCO.0000000000000233

²⁹ McMillen, J. & Smith, Elizabeth & Fisher, Rachel. (1997). Perceived Benefit and Mental Health After Three Types of Disaster. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. 65. 733-739. 10.1037/0022-006X.65.5.733.

sexual abuse, and having a stronger personality.³⁰ The degree of perceived benefit was associated with several indicators of adult adjustment.

(Bagley and Ramsay 1986)A study of the prevalence of serious sexual assault in childhood (up to age 16) is reported in the context of a community mental health study in a random sample of 377 women in a large Canadian city.³¹ Twenty-two percent of women reported sexual abuse in childhood. Sexually abused women were twice as likely to have poor mental health as women who were not abused.³² The implications are addressed for helping adults whose poor mental health reflects the complex interaction of negative childhood events, including sexual abuse.

(Hymel and Jenny 1997)The author mentioned multiple obstacles can hinder the medical evaluation of suspected child sexual abuse in pediatric primary care.³³ The need for diagnostic accuracy is high. Knowledge of sexual abuse risk factors, an understanding of the victimization process, and awareness of the varied clinical presentations of sexual abuse can be of assistance. The pediatrician's primary concern must be for the child's physical and emotional well-being.³⁴

(Jones 2021)The author identified in his study a clear chain of sexual behaviors, each of which fuels different layers of the problem, and the prevalence of early sexualization of children is associated with the prevalence of child sexual abuse.³⁵ Child sexual abuse is pervasive in large part, because of the normalization and social acceptance of violence against women and girls; “cultural” normalcy, in turn, fuels attitudes that contribute to sexual violence against women and girls. Especially during vulnerable circumstances, they face additional risks.

(Blum et al.2003, Halcón et al.2003) In their research paper, they found that the sexual abuse of children (CSA) is high in the Caribbean. And they conducted a survey of 15,695 students

³⁰ Plöderl, Martin & Wagenmakers, Eric-Jan & Tremblay, Pierre & Ramsay, Richard & Kralovec, Karl & Fartacek, Clemens & Fartacek, Reinhold. (2013). ploderl-2013-information-supplement-suicide-risk-sexual-orientation-critical-review.

³¹ Bagley, C., & Ramsay, R. (1986). Sexual Abuse in Childhood: Psychosocial Outcomes and Implications for Social Work Practice. *Journal of Social Work & Human Sexuality*, 4(1-2), 33-47. https://doi.org/10.1300/J291v04n01_07

³² Bagley, C., & Ramsay, R. (1986). Sexual Abuse in Childhood: Psychosocial Outcomes and Implications for Social Work Practice. *Journal of Social Work & Human Sexuality*, 4(1-2), 33-47. https://doi.org/10.1300/J291v04n01_07

³³ Hymel, K P, and C Jenny. “Child sexual abuse.” *Delaware medical journal* vol. 69,8 (1997): 415-29.

³⁴ *Id*, at 1493

³⁵ Front. Sociol., 11 May 2021 Sec. Gender, Sex and Sexualities, Volume 6 - 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2021.623661>

aged 10–18 years from nine countries who responded to the survey they got results 47.6% were girls and 31.9% were boys who reported they having been subjected to sexual abuse.

(**Julich 2005**), made a study on aspects of Stockholm Syndrome and it could be identified in the responses of adult survivors of child sexual abuse, which seems to impact their ability to criminally report offenders. An emotional bond, which has enabled the sexual abuse of children, has served to protect the offender long after the abuse has ceased.³⁶ The implications of Stockholm Syndrome could offer valuable insights to those working in the field of child sexual abuse.³⁷

(**Bifulco, A., et al.1991**) Sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence was studied in 286 working-class mothers living in Islington, who were contacted on three occasions over a two-year period.³⁸ Twenty-five women—9% of the sample—reported sexual abuse involving physical contact before age 17 and, of these, 64% had case depression in a three-year period.³⁹

(**Tomori et al.2016**)stated that childhood sexual abuse is a significant global public health problem that is associated with negative psychological outcomes and it has a higher risk of sexual behaviors in adults and it has numerous well-established adverse effects. CSA may play a key role in HIV like sexually transmitted diseases.⁴⁰

METHODOLOGY:

The research method followed here by the researcher is the empirical research method. And Convenient sampling method is used to collect the samples. The total number of samples is 203. From 203 people the researcher has got the data. The sample frame taken by the researcher is through online modes like WhatsApp, mail, Instagram, etc., The independent variables are age, income group, occupation, educational qualification, Gender, Marital status, and

³⁶ Jülich, S. (2005). Stockholm Syndrome and Child Sexual Abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 14(3), 107–129. https://doi.org/10.1300/J070v14n03_06

³⁷ *Id*, at 1494.

³⁸ Kendler, Kenneth S. et al. “Childhood sexual abuse, stressful life events and risk for major depression in women.” *Psychological Medicine* 34 (2004): 1475 - 1482.

³⁹ Bifulco, A., Brown, G.W. and Adler, Z. (1991) ‘Early Sexual Abuse and Clinical Depression in Adult Life’, *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 159(1), pp. 115–122. doi:10.1192/bjp.159.1.115.

⁴⁰ Tomori, Cecilia et al. “The prevalence and impact of childhood sexual abuse on HIV-risk behaviors among men who have sex with men (MSM) in India.” *BMC public health* vol. 16 784. 12 Aug. 2016, doi:10.1186/s12889-016-3446-6

Residence of the respondents. The dependent variables are the questions framed by the researcher as a research question.

RESEARCH QUESTION:

The study proposes the following research questions:

RQ 1: Are you aware of the POCSO Act 2012?

RQ 2: Sexual abuse of Children is a Punishable offense. How did you come to know about this?

RQ 3 Who are the most Common Perpetrators of Child Sexual abuse?

RQ 4:In your Opinion in India, how Serious is the Problem of Child Sexual abuse?

RQ 5:In your Opinion which is the most sexually abused group among Children?

RQ 6:Do you think parents and children have a transparent relationship with each other in today's Scenario?

RQ 7 :Do you know under the POCSO Act any Person Can report Child sexual abuse Cases?

RQ 8 :Where do you think Children are most vulnerable to Sexual abuse?

RQ 9:What would you do if a Child you know said to you about experiencing sexual abuse?

RQ 10 :Rate the Following Statements(Agree/Disagree)

1)Child Sexual abuse Prevention education should be mandatorily Part of the School and College Curriculum.

2)Educating every Child on sexual abuse is necessary.

3)As a Society has a huge responsibility to Prevent Sexual abuse against Children.

The statistics tool used by the researcher is SPSS, Pie Chart, and Bar graph.

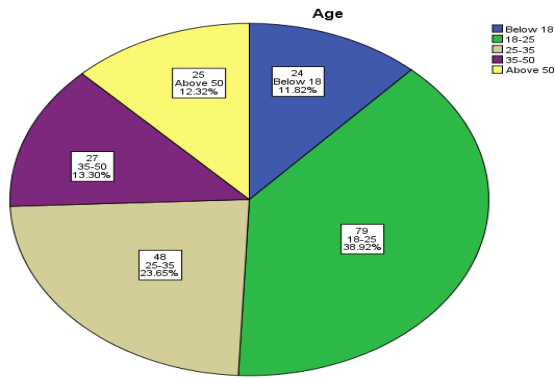
ANALYSIS:

FIG 1:

1494

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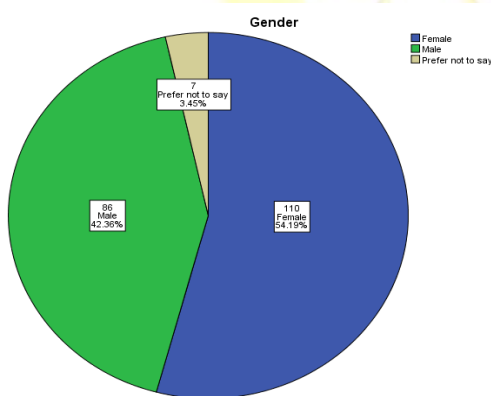
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Legend 1: Fig 1 Pie chart represents the age of the respondents which is divided into 5 categories,(Below 18;18-25;25-35;35-50; Above 50)

Results: From the above Fig 1 pie chart we can see the age of the respondents.As seen the majority of the respondents that is 38.92% belong to the age group of 18-25 years. And the least respondents 11.82% belong to the age group below 18 yrs.

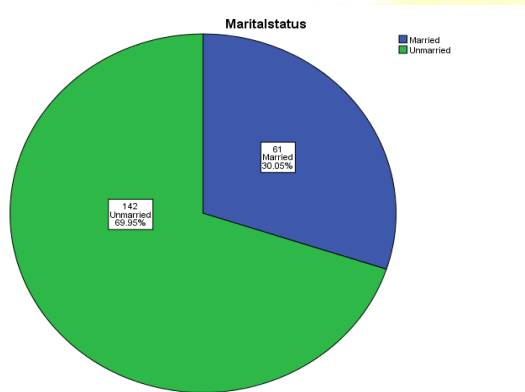
FIG 2:



Legend 2: Fig 2 Pie chart represents the Gender of the respondents which is divided into 3 categories,(Female, Male, Prefer not to say)

Results: From the above Fig 2 pie chart we can see the gender of the respondents. As seen, the majority of the respondents are female(54.19%). And the least respondents are male (42.36%).

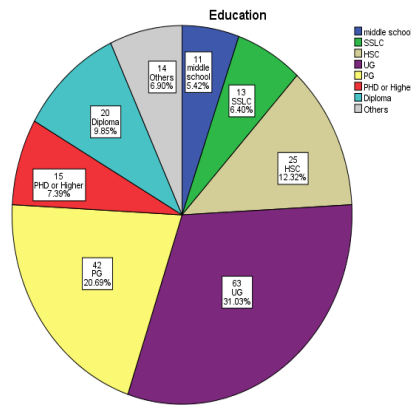
FIG 3:



Legend 3: Fig 3 Pie chart represents the Marital Status of the respondents which is divided into 2 categories, (Married; Unmarried)

Result: From the above Fig 3 pie chart we can see the marital status of the respondents. As seen majority of the respondents are unmarried (69.95%). And the least respondents are married(30.05%).

FIG 4:

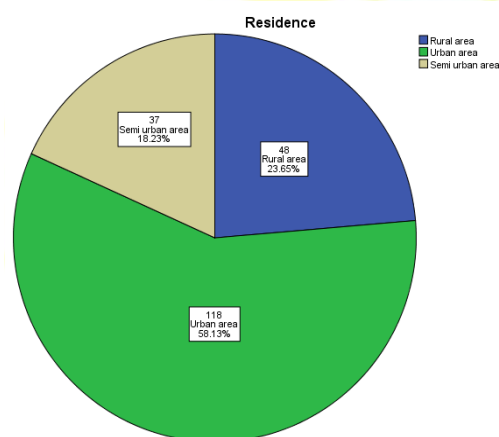


Legend 4: Fig 4 Pie chart represents the Education qualifications of the respondents which are divided into 8 categories,

(Middle School, SSLC, HSC, UG, PG, PHD(or)Higher, Diploma, Others).

Results: From the above Fig 4 pie chart we can see the education qualification of the respondents. Almost the majority of the respondents belong to UG 31.03%. And the very least respondents are pursuing middle school is 5.42%.

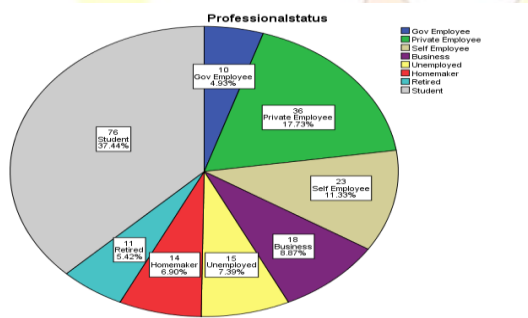
FIG 5:



Legend 5: Fig 5 Pie chart represents the Residence of the respondents which is divided into 3 categories,(Rural area, Urban area, Semi urban area)

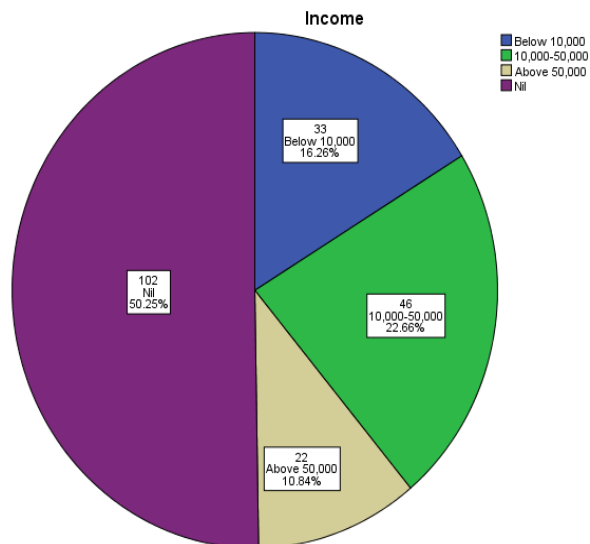
Results: From the above Fig 5 pie chart we can see the residence of the respondents. As seen, the majority of the respondents are from urban areas 58.13%. And the Least respondents are from Semi-urban areas 18.23%.

FIG 6:



Legend 6: Fig 6 Pie chart represents the Professional status of the respondents which is divided into 8 categories is (Homemaker, Unemployed, Business, Retired, SelfEmployed, Student, Private employee, Government Employee) Result: From the above Fig 6 pie chart we can see the Professional status of the respondents As seen, the majority of the respondents are students 37.44%.And the least respondents are Government Law employees 4.93%.

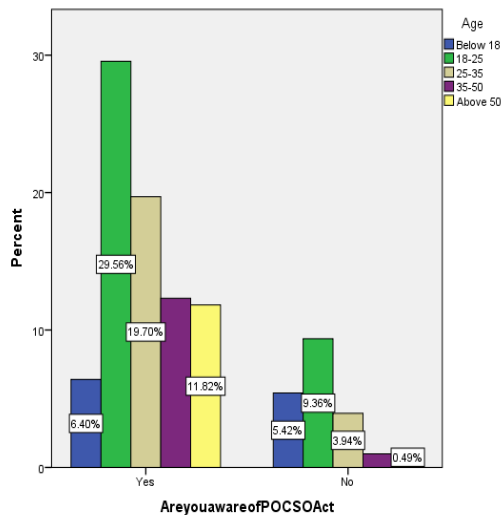
FIG 7:



Legend 7: Fig 7 Pie chart represents the Income status of the respondents which is divided into Categories into four Categories (Income Below 10,000 ; 10,000-50,000; Above 50,000 and Nil) Result: From the above Fig 7 pie chart we can see the Income status of the respondents. As seen, the majority of the respondents didn't earn income (Nil) 50.25%. And the least respondents earn income of Rs.10,000-50,000 is 4.93% .

FIG 8:

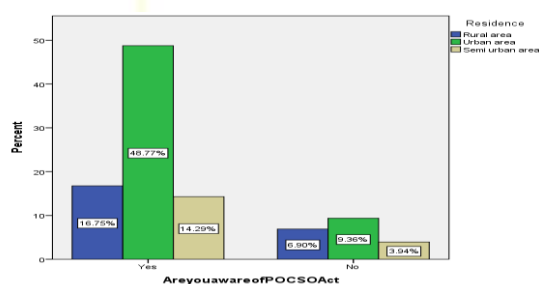
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Legend 8: Fig 8 Bar graph represents the Age distribution of the sample Population and the question that is (Are you aware of the POCSO Act ?)

Result: From the above Fig 8 Bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents belonging to the age group 18-25yrs say yes they are aware of the POCSO Act that is 29.56% and the least respondents belonging to the age group Above 50 say, No they are not aware of POCSO Act that is 0.49%.

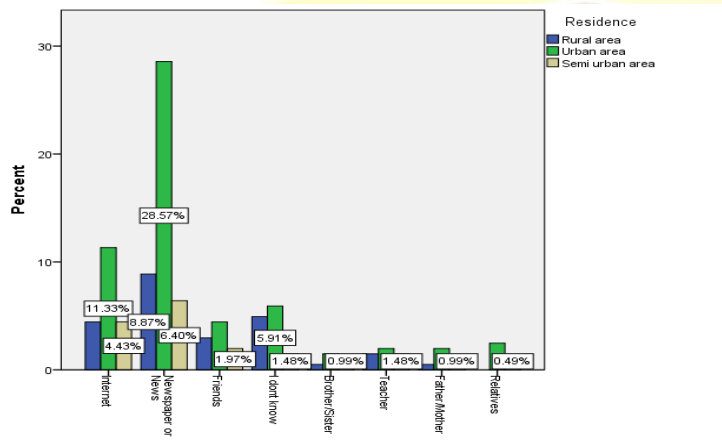
FIG 9:



Legend 9: Fig 9 Bar graph represents the Residential status of the respondents and the question that is (Are you aware of the POCSO Act ?)

Result: From the above Fig 9 Bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents belonging to urban areas say that they are aware of POCSO Act which is 48.77%. The least respondents belonging to semi-urban areas say that they are not aware of the POCSO Act which is 3.94%.

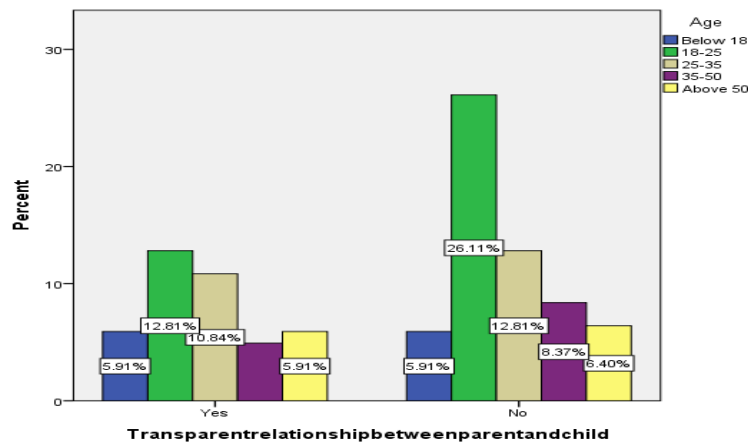
FIG 10:



Legend 10: Fig 10 Bar graph represents the residential status of the respondents and the question that is (Sexual abuse of Children is a punishable offense how did you come to know it is a punishable offense?)

Result: From the above Fig 10 Bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents belong to Urban areas 28.57% say that through newspapers and news, they came to know that sexual abuse of Children is a punishable offense. The least respondents belonging to semi-urban areas say that 0.49% say that they came to know that sexual abuse of Children is a punishable offense through their relatives.

FIG 11:

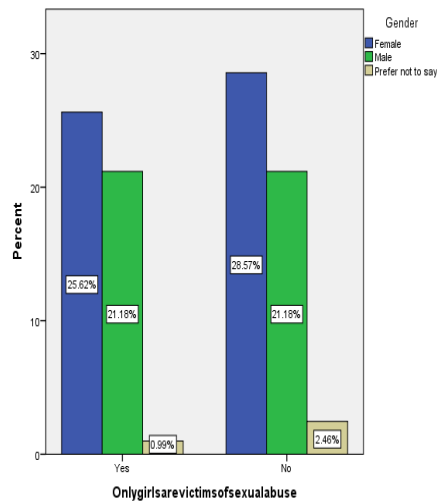


Legend 11: Fig 11 Bar graph represents the Age of the respondents and the question that is (In today’s scenario whether there is a transparent relationship between the parents and Children).

Result: From the above Fig 10 bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents belonging to the age group 18-25 say” No” which is 26.11%, In today’s scenario there is no transparent relationship between parents and their children. And the least respondents belonging to the age group below 18 years and above 50 say “yes” that is 5.91% there is a transparent relationship between parents and their children in today’s scenario.

FIG 12 :



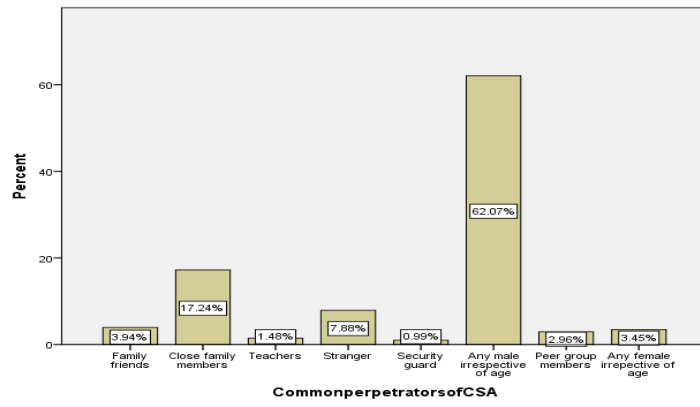


Legend 12: Fig 12 Bar graph represents the Gender of the respondents and the question that is (Only girls are the victims of Sexual abuse).

Result: From the above fig 12 bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents are female No 28.57% not only the girls are the victims of sexual abuse, boys are also the victims of sexual abuse. And the least respondents say yes 0.99% only girls are the victims of sexual abuse.

FIG 13

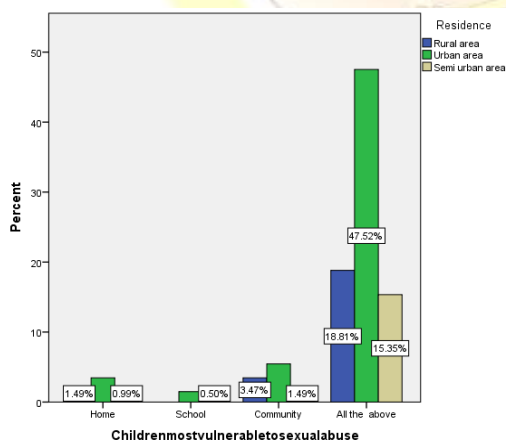
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Legend 13: Fig 13 Bar graph represents the question that is (Common Perpetrators of Child Sexual abuse)

Result: From the above Fig 13 Bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents say any male irrespective of age 62.07% are the common perpetrators of child sexual abuse. And the least respondents say security guards 0.99% are the common perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

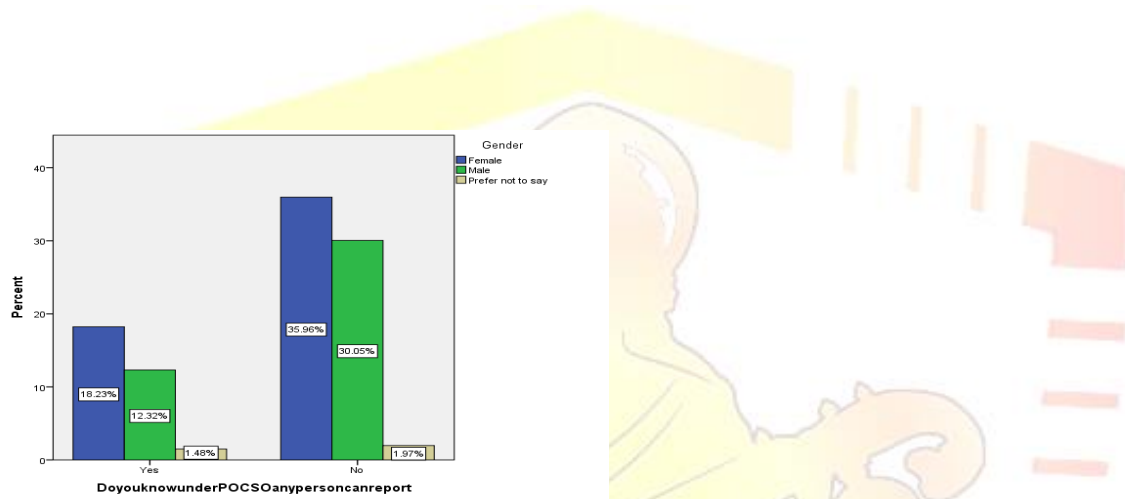
FIG 14:



Legend 14: Fig 14 Bar graph represents the residence status of the respondents and the question " (Among Children most vulnerable to child sexual abuse)

Result: From the above Fig 14 bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents from urban areas say all the above which is 47.52%. And the least respondents from rural areas say School which is 0.50%.

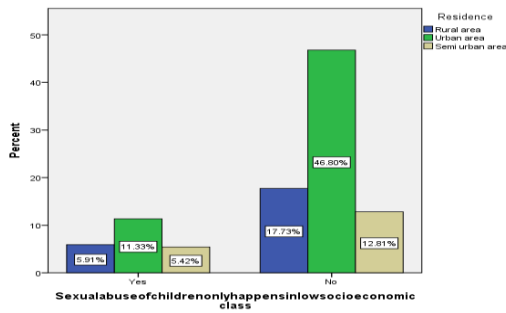
FIG 15:



Legend 15: Fig 15 Bar graph represents the gender of the respondents and the question that is (Among Children most vulnerable to child sexual abuse)

Result: from the above Fig 15 bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents are female. They say No 35.96%. They didn't know that as per the POCSO Act any person can report the case, And the least respondents did want to say their gender preferred not to say and they said yes 1.48% know that as per the POCSO Act, any person can report the case.

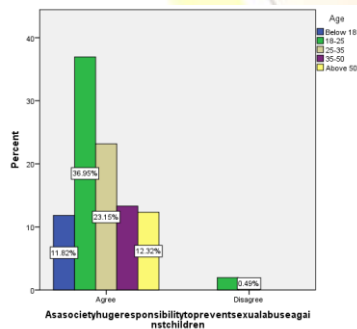
FIG 16:



Legend: Fig 16 bar graph represents the residential status of the respondents and the question is (Sexual abuse of children only happens in low socio-economic class)

Result: From the above Fig 16 bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents from urban areas say no 46.80%, Sexual abuse of children not only happens in low socio-economic classes. The least respondents from semi-urban areas say yes 5.42% Sexual abuse of children only happens in low socio-economic classes.

FIG 17:

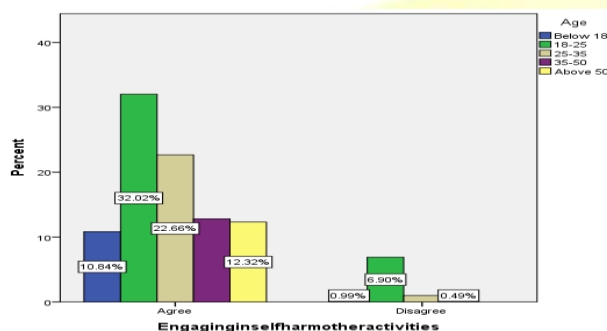


Legend: Fig 17 bar graph represents the Age of the respondents and the question that is (As a society has a huge responsibility to prevent sexual abuse against Children)

Result: From the above Fig 17 bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents belong to the age group 18-25 they agree 36.95% that society has a huge responsibility to prevent

sexual abuse against Children. The least respondents belong to the age group 25-35 they disagree that 0.49% of society has no responsibility to prevent sexual abuse against Children.

FIG 18:



Legend: Fig 18 bar graph represents the Age of the respondents and the question is (Children who encounter child sexual abuse will often engage in self-harm and other activities)

Result: From the above Fig 18 bar graph we can see that the majority of the respondents belong to the age group 18-25 they agree that 32.02% often children engage in self-harm and other activities. The least respondents belong to the age group 35-50 they disagree 0.49% no child will not engage in self-harm and other activities.

DISCUSSION:

Based on the above-mentioned result the discussion follows. In (Fig 8)bar graph, We can see, that most of my respondents belong to the age group 18- 25 yrs. They say “yes” they are aware of the POCSO Act. Only a few may not be aware of it. But almost everyone is aware of the POCSO Act. Every day in any place, any district, and in a State offenses against children are still prevailing some cases are explicitly known whereas few cases are implicitly happening. Particularly 18-25 age group people are youngsters they all use social media and they witness offences against children happening through reading news and posts on social media and watching news videos etc., which says such things are happening. Even they see protests happening for the prevention of child sexual abuse. They gather such news. Even they talked with their friends and shared with each other that such things were happening to the children. Whenever we open the television, mobile phones, and newspapers this child sexual abuse

tragedy comes in front of our eyes. Besides the post, we can notice that under the POCSO Act, the accused was booked such a thing was mentioned. We are living in the 2021 digital world so I could definitely say most of my youth respondents are very much aware of the POCSO Act. In (Fig 9) bar graph we can see most of my respondents belong to urban areas. They too say yes we are aware of the POCSO Act. In urban areas, people get wide information and knowledge because they live in a hot part of the city. City people are always keen on gathering the news. Someone who they will get to know. Nowadays in the city child sexual abuse cases are in the queue. Each and every day the life of an innocent child is a big question mark. Urban area people, witness cases of child sexual abuse. Compared to other areas people in urban areas people are very much aware of the POCSO Act. In urban areas, people didn't know very much what are the provisions there in the POCSO Act. At Least they know what the POCSO Act is and what it is concerned with. In the (Fig 10) bar graph we can see majority of my respondents belong to urban areas they all say mostly through newspapers and news they came to know that sexual abuse of children is a punishable offense under the POCSO Act. By this, we can say that we live in the digital world. But the newspaper and news are very helpful for the people to know about the issues which are still prevailing in the country. It keeps the people updated. The right to know is a fundamental right. At the same time right to be informed is also a fundamental right. A few respondents who live in semi-urban areas came to know that sexual abuse of children is a punishable offense under the POCSO Act through their relatives they came to know that their relatives are pursuing law. And few they generally said. In (Fig 11) bar graph we can see that the majority of my respondents belong to the age group 18-25 yrs. They say "No" to the question of whether there is a transparent relationship between parents and children in today's scenario. Most of the parents in today's world are running behind their jobs because they are all busy with it. To lead a sophisticated life they need money. They are in a mindset not to waste even a single minute. This is the major reason. Parents focus mainly on how to save money for our future generation. But they are missing a transparent relationship with their child. They don't spend a few minutes listening to their child. So that is why the child sexual abuse case is unknown to the parents what trauma their child is undergoing. A parent if they maintain a transparent relationship, with their child most of the problem is solved. Lack of transparent relationship between parents and children Many children when they face sexual abuse they didn't know whom to tell. And they make wrong decisions. Only a few parents give their valuable time to their children. In the (Fig 12) bar graph we can see majority

of my respondents are female they say “No” not only girl children are victims of child sexual abuse. Boy child also the victim of child sexual abuse. Mostly girl children were subject to sexual abuse only this matter comes out but boy child also affected by sexual abuse this news mostly won’t come outside if it comes it is rarely only. In the (Fig 13) bar graph we can see majority of my respondents say any male irrespective of age is the common perpetrator of child sexual abuse. In every case of child sexual abuse, the accused can be any person. It is different from one case to another. So we cannot particularly pinpoint the men who commit offence under POCSO each and every case the occupation of men will differ and age will also differ so my respondents keep this in mind they said any male irrespective of age. In the (Fig 14) bar graph we can see the majority of my respondents belong to urban areas they say that all the above places are homes, schools, and communities) where children are most vulnerable to child sexual abuse. Each and every place is affected nowadays no place is the safest place for the children. And children are innocent and they can’t fight back so by taking this as an advantage offenders use this as a chance to misuse the child. Only a few respondents from rural areas say in school mostly children are vulnerable to child sexual abuse. Recently most child sexual abuse cases were found in the school. Men staff misbehaving with children was the rural area people they opted for option school. In (Fig 15) bar graph we can see the majority of my respondents are female. They say “No “they didn’t know that under the POCSO Act, any person can report. There is a lack of awareness of the POCSO Act. Even if the people witness the cases they remain silent few people there are not aware of this provision of the Act they really didn’t know that anyone can report POCSO Cases. On the other hand, people are fearful to report. They think no problem should come to them. In the (Fig 16) bar graph we can see the majority of my respondents belong to the urban area they say “no” sexual abuse of children not only happens in low socio-economic class. It happens in every class of people. In (Fig 17) bar graph we can see the majority of my respondents belong to the age group 18-25 yrs they agree as a society we have huge responsibilities to prevent children from sexual abuse which is happening against them. As a society, we can make changes but we didn’t open up and we are selfish too. We are the instrument to make changes first. In (Fig 18) bar graph we can see the majority of my respondents belong to the age group 18-25 yrs they agree that the child who were affected by child sexual abuse often engage in self-harm and other dangerous activities they try to Kill themselves because they get panic what to do and whom to tell how others will

think of them so by thinking all those things then engage in self-harm by trying to commit suicide attempt etc..,

LIMITATIONS:

The Major limitation of the study is the sample frame. The sample frame Collected mostly through online platforms like sending mail, and sending links via WhatsApp is the limitation of the study. Due to the pandemic coronavirus, researchers could not go to all the fields to take surveys. The sample size is another drawback of the research. Collection of data via online platforms is limiting the researcher to collect data from the field. Since the data is collected on an online platform wherein the researcher does not know the real opinion of the respondents. The researcher could only come to an approximate conclusion of what the respondent is feeling to convey.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION:

Child Sexual Abuse encompasses sexual assault, sexual harassment, and use of a child for pornographic purposes (POCSO Act 2012). The aim of the study is to analyze the child sexual abuse problem in society. The major thing that I found in my research is that under the POCSO Act, any person can report the cases but people didn't know that any person can report the cases. So there is a lack of knowledge about the POCSO Act. Still there is no awareness about child sexual abuse. The lack of a transparent relationship between the parents and children is also one of the major drawbacks. Though in India we have separate laws to deal with child offence still we aren't able to prevent it. Day by day it is increasing. Society is filled with sorrowful incidents the major one is child sexual abuse. The reason for child sexual abuse is the lack of sex education. And people didn't know the difference between love, lust, and sex. The offender didn't see the child as a child. If he had seen a child as a child he wouldn't commit such offence. In India, we don't have sex education in schools and colleges as a curriculum. According to the result, it was concluded that still, child sexual abuse is still a very serious problem in India. It negatively impacts not only the life of a child and his /her family. But also the entire society. We could see many behavioral changes in the child sexually abused children. In India, we don't have sex education in schools and colleges as a curriculum other countries have. So this is also one of the reasons for child sexual abuse. The best solution I say is the strong implementation of Sex education and changes to be brought in laws by increasing the punishment. Good and bad touch to be taught to the child. And the Role of Government, Role

of Parents, Role of Schools, Role of mental health professionals, Role of NGOs.If all these above-mentioned roles are played correctly then definitely child sexual abuse rate will be reduced and we can bring the rate of child sexual abuse to 0 rate. I finally conclude that raising a child from a young age onwards makes us a strong person to face the problems in society. And teach the children not to be silent, break the silence. As a mother of a child, her duty is to safeguard the child each and every minute. And the duty of the country to provide necessary care and protection to the child.



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