

**ANALYSIS ON THE PRINT MEDIA'S INFLUENCE ON
SEXUAL ABUSE**

(A STUDY IN HYDERABAD)

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CONTENTS

1. Abstract
2. Introduction
3. Statement of Problem
4. Objectives
5. Research questions
6. Hypothesis
7. Significance of the Study
8. Literature Review
9. Research Methodology
10. Bibliography

ABSTRACT:

The print media are a key disseminator of knowledge. With a large percentage of the population solely dependent on the media for facts, media reports can influence public opinion at large, and even impact criminal case outcomes. In particular, media representations of rape and sexual assault can affect the legal response to such cases on multiple levels. As we will argue in this article, media representations of rape can potentially influence whether a victim reports the assault to the police and whether legal officials, from the police to jurors, find the perpetrator culpable for the crime. Therefore, it is imperative that the media not only objectively report individual cases of rape, but also that they accurately represent research findings on rape and sexual assault.

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INTRODUCTION:

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THE IMPORTANCE OF NEWS IN THE SOCIETY:

News reports play a large role in our lives. Stories of crime and deviant behavior, in particular, provide a significant part of those news reports.

The issues of crime and criminal justice attract so much attention because such reporting is full of drama, involves life and property, and the frightening power to deprive a person of liberty. In other words, crime news will always be "prime news", although some authors have suggested that media coverage of crime has declined. While many journalists take the position that they merely reflect society's views, they clearly exercise some degree of power. It has been argued that journalists play a major role in constructing what is considered "deviant" in our society and, therefore, what is "normal".

It is apprehended that journalists do not merely reflect the work of others who define deviance and attempt to control it, but are themselves in some ways agents of social control; they are "a kind of deviance defining elite" who articulates the "proper bounds to behavior" in our society. Such a role has inevitably led to critical scrutiny of the role of journalists in creating images of crime. Print media play a major role in the field of news gathering and publishing.

PRINT MEDIA:

Media has both great power and responsibility in reporting about sexual abuse. Print advertisements, billboards, magazines, and newspapers – wherever you go, there is always a sign of print media. Just like taxes, they are certain to be a part of your life whether you like it or not. For years, they have been praised as very effective and successful means of providing the entire population their need for information, news, and entertainment.

Print media is one form of media that has never lost its essence through the ages. They have been informing people of the happenings of the everyday world from many years. When it comes to the coverage of sexual media, the print media hasn't been able to throw light on many happenings in the society. There were many few cases that were printed on the papers, in the early days.

Newspapers and tabloids have been able to cover cases of sexual abuse from the earlier days. Since then, there has been a rise in the amount of sexual abuse in the society. But the print hasn't been able to cover everything. The main problem being the people not in a position to come out of their shells, to tell of the injustice that has happened to them. This is because they find it embarrassing or to safeguard the family's respect. They quietly endure the painful thoughts that will haunt them for life. Also there are people who threaten the victim and the family of the victim to not reveal anything to anybody. In such cases, neither is media being able to cover the cases nor is justice being given to these people.

No one likes to talk about child sexual abuse. Yet tens of thousands of children are sexually assaulted every year. A matter this serious and pervasive deserves attention. News coverage in particular is important because it puts issues in front of the public and in front of policy makers. News coverage of child sexual abuse is doubly important because the abuse is often hidden from view. For many people – including many policy makers -- news coverage will be the only way they learn about the issue.

Child sexual abuse happens every day, but few incidents are covered. We wanted to know: When child sexual abuse is covered in the news, why? Why that story, and why that day? Many factors can influence the news selection process, from the details of the incident itself to what else competes for coverage that day. Reporters commonly refer to the trigger for a story as a "news hook," so we identified the news hook for each article that addressed the question "Why was this article published today?"

Prominent events like the revelations about abuse within the Catholic Church can propel the issue into the spotlight. But how do journalists cover child sexual abuse in the absence of a prominent case? Do they cover it routinely? Do sensationalist stories focusing on the "stranger danger" misconception (that victims of child sexual abuse do not know their abuser) dominate news coverage? Or does the news reflect the prevailing patterns of child sexual abuse? Is preventing child sexual abuse discussed? In this framing memo we examine how child sexual abuse is portrayed in the news.

Source- bmsg

SEXUAL ABUSE:

Sexual abuse has been around as long as the human race has existed. It seems to be a purely destructive aberration, which serves no evolutionary or biological purpose. Sexual abuse is still here, because abusers desire to control and exert their power of their victim. Sexual abuse is always wrong and it is about power, not sex. The victims are hurt through the process.

Newspapers and tabloids have been able to cover cases of sexual abuse from the earlier days. Since then, there has a rise in the amount of sexual abuse in the society. But the print hasn't been able to cover everything. The main problem being the people not in a position to come out of their shells, to tell of the injustice that has happened to them. This is because they find it embarrassing or to safeguard the family's respect. They quietly endure the painful thoughts that will haunt them for life. Also there are people who threaten the victim and the family of the victim to not reveal anything to anybody. In such cases, neither is media being able to cover the cases nor is justice being given to these people.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

The problem stated here would be how do journalists cover child sexual abuse in the absence of a prominent case and do they cover it routinely? Do sensationalists stories focusing on the "stranger danger" misconception (that victim of child sexual abuse do not know their abuser) dominate news coverage or does the news reflect the prevailing patterns of child sexual abuse and most importantly will print media influence child sexual abuse?

OBJECTIVES:

Two hypothesis initiated the research. The first hypothesis is what role a notice and takedown system has played by the print media and should play in a strategy designed to achieve the end of child sexual abuse. The second hypothesis is describing the media affects perceptions of the problems and solutions and also describing the key points of research on print media.

With the hypothesis in mind, this study aims to examine the advantages and disadvantages of a notice and takedown system in effectively providing an end to the sexually abused children, hence by giving a strong solution.

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

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How does sexual abuse start?

Sexual abuse has been around as long as the human race has existed. It seems to be a purely destructive aberration, which serves no evolutionary or biological purpose. Sexual abuse is still here, because abusers desire to control and exert their power of their victim. Sexual abuse is always wrong and it is about power, not sex. The victims are hurt through the process.

What is Child sexual abuse?

Child sexual abuse includes a wide range of sexual behaviors that take place between a child and an older person. These behaviors are meant to arouse the older person in a sexual way. In general, no thought is given to what effect the behavior may have on the child. For the most part, the abuser does not care about the reactions or choices of the child.

Child sexual abuse often involves body contact. This could include sexual kissing, touching, and oral, anal, or vaginal sex. Not all sexual abuse involves body contact, though. Showing private parts ("flashing"), forcing children to watch pornography, verbal pressure for sex, and exploiting children as prostitutes or for pornography can be sexual abuse as well. Researchers estimate that in our country about 1 out of 6 boys and 1 out of 4 girls are sexually abused.

Under the child sexual abuse laws, the abuser must be older than the victim in most cases. Some states require the abuser to be at least five years older.

Who commit child sexual abuse?

Most often, sexual abusers know the child they abuse but are not family. For example, the abuser might be a friend of the family, babysitter, or neighbor. About 6 out of 10 abusers fall into that group.

About 3 out of 10 of those who sexually abuse children are family members of the child. This includes fathers, uncles, or cousins. The abuser is a stranger in only about 1 out of 10 child sexual abuse cases. Abusers are men in most cases, whether the victim is a boy or a girl.

Women are the abusers in about 14% of cases reported against boys and about 6% of cases reported against girls. Child pornographers and other abusers who are strangers may make contact with children using the Internet.

What are the effects of child sexual abuse?

It is not always easy to tell whether a child has been sexually abused. Sexual abuse often occurs in secret, and there is not always physical proof of the abuse. For these reasons, child sexual abuse can be hard to detect.

Some child sexual abuse survivors may show symptoms of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). They may behave in a nervous, upset way. Survivors may have bad dreams. They may act out aspects of the abuse in their play. They might show other fears and worries. Young children may lose skills they once learned and act younger than they are. For example, an abused child might start wetting the bed or sucking his or her thumb. Some sexual abuse survivors show out-of-place sexual behaviors that are not expected in a child. They may act seductive or they may not maintain safe limits with others. Children, especially boys, might "act out" with behavior problems. This could include being cruel to others and running away. Other children "act in" by becoming depressed. They may withdraw from friends or family. Older children or teens might try to hurt or even kill themselves.

Almost every child sexual abuse victim describes the abuse as negative. Most children know it is wrong. They usually have feelings of fear, shock, anger, and disgust. Sexual abuse can be very confusing for children. For a child, it often involves being used or hurt by a trusted adult. The child might learn that the only way to get attention or love is to give something sexual or give up their self-respect. Some children believe the abuse is their fault somehow. They may think the abuser chose them because they must have wanted it or because there is something wrong with them. If the abuser was of the same sex, children (and parents) might wonder if that means they are "gay."

If childhood sexual abuse is not treated, long-term symptoms can go on through adulthood. These may include:

PTSD and anxiety, depression and thoughts of suicide, sexual anxiety and disorders, including having too many or unsafe sexual partners, difficulty setting safe limits with others (e.g., saying no to people) and relationship problems, poor body image and low self-esteem, unhealthy behaviors such as alcohol, drugs, self-harm, or eating problems. These behaviors are often used to try to hide painful emotions related to the abuse. If you were sexually abused as a child and have some of these symptoms, it is important for you to get help.

What is the solution to stop child sexual abuse?

If a child says she or he has been abused, try to stay calm. Reassure the child that what happened is not her fault, that you believe her, that you are proud of her for telling you (or another person), and that you are there to keep her safe. Take your child to a mental health and medical professional right away. Many cities have child advocacy centers where a child and her family can get help. These centers interview children and family members in a sensitive, warm place. They can help you report the abuse to legal authorities. They can help you find a medical examiner and therapist skilled in child sexual abuse. The National Children's Alliance* website has more information and a listing of centers.

Children can recover from sexual abuse and go on to live good lives. The best predictor of recovery is support and love from their main caregiver. As a caregiver, you might also consider getting help for yourself. It is often very hard to accept that a child has been sexually abused. You will not be supporting your child, though, if you respond in certain unhelpful ways. For example, you will not be able to provide support if you are overwhelmed with your own emotions. Don't downplay the abuse ("it wasn't that bad"), but also try not to have extreme fears related to the abuse ("my child will never be safe again"). It will not help children if you force them to talk, or if you blame the child. Getting therapy for yourself can help you deal with your own feelings about the abuse. Then you might be better able to provide support to your child.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS:

In the formation of my hypotheses for this thesis, relevant research findings from other studies have been integrated into this research project. These hypotheses are grounded in previous scholarship that has revealed the solution for child sexual abuse and these hypotheses seek to replicate and add new findings to the study of print media influence on child sexual abuse.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Sexual abuse of children

In 2007, the Ministry of Women and Child Development did a survey of children and young adults. 53.22% of children reported having faced sexual abuse. 5.69%

had been sexually assaulted (oral sex or penetration of vagina or anus). 21.90% of child respondents faced severe forms of sexual abuse including assault, exposure or being photographed in the nude. 50.76% reported other forms of sexual abuse including sexual advances in travel or marriage situations, exhibitionism and being forced to view pornographic material. 50% of abusers were known to the children or in a position of trust and responsibility. Most children had not reported the matter. The authors concluded:

The subject of child sexual abuse is still a taboo in India. There is a conspiracy of silence around the subject and a very large percentage of people feel that this is a largely western problem and that child sexual abuse does not happen in India. Part of the reason of course lies in a traditional conservative family and community structure that does not talk about sex and sexuality at all. Parents do not speak to children about sexuality as well as physical and emotional changes that take place during their growing years. As a result of this, all forms of sexual abuse that a child faces do not get reported to anyone. The girl, whose mother has not spoken to her even about a basic issue like menstruation, is unable to tell her mother about the uncle or neighbor who has made sexual advances

towards her. This silence encourages the abuser so that he is emboldened to continue the abuse and to press his advantage to subject the child to more severe forms of sexual abuse. Very often children do not even realize that they are being abused.

In a study on Women's Experiences of Incest and Childhood Sexual Abuse conducted by RAHI, some of the respondents have stated that till the questionnaire was administered to them they did not realize that they had been abused as children. They had buried the incident as a painful and shameful one not to be ever told to anyone. Some deep-seated fear has always moved Indian families to keep their girls and their 'virginity' safe and many kinds of social and cultural practices have been built around ensuring this. This shows that there is knowledge of the fact that a girl child is unsafe though nobody talks about it. However this fear is only around girls and the safety net is generally not extended to boys. There is evidence from this as well as other studies that boys are equally at risk.

How was the act characterized? Estimates indicate that in 90-95% of cases of child sexual abuse, the victim knows his or her abuser. To see if news coverage accurately reflected this pattern, we classified the relationship between the victim and the accused. It is also noted how the sexual assault was described.

- **Relationship between the victim and accused:** In the overwhelming majority (70%) of news on child sexual abuse from 2007 – 2009 in which a specific case of abuse was described, the victim knew the accused. Of these, 29% described a situation in which the accused was an authority figure, such as a coach, teacher, or religious official. In 23% of articles, the accused was an acquaintance of the victim or of the victim's family. The accused was a family member in 18% of these stories. The accused was described as a stranger in only 4% of the news. In 26% of stories, the relationship between the child and the abuser was not specified at all.

- **Abuse type:** The type of sexual abuse characterized in the news is not clear. They use vague terms like “demeaning sexual acts” or “inappropriate sexual behavior”. The person who is abusing them can abuse a child in many ways. This is done to maintain the ethics of journalism, but is it

actually giving the right picture to their audience? No! Sometimes even big cases are pictured in a way that it does not seem much exaggerated. This is not objectivity.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

The print media play an important role in the way the public perceives the criminal justice system since the majority of public knowledge about crime and justice is derived from the media (Dowler 2003; Surette 2011; Weitzer and Kubrin 2004). But media are often ineffective in educating the public about crime. Indeed, coverage of violent and sensational crimes disproportionate to their levels in official data exaggerates public fears of victimization (Dowler 2006; Proctor, Badzinski, and Johnson 2002; Quinn, Forsyth, and Mullen - Quinn 2004; Surette 2011; Weitzer and Kubrin 2004), especially for sex crimes.

Homogeneity:

Sex offenders are not part of a homogenous group. Specifically, different types of sex offender's recidivate at very different rates. Offenders who commit sexual acts against adult's recidivate at higher rates than child molesters do. There are even significant differences within the group of offenders who victimize children. Despite the heterogeneity of sex offenders, programs designed to control and treat this population — most notably offender registration and notification laws — are often based on the flawed assumption of homogeneity.

Child Sexual compulsion:

The notion of sexual compulsion suggests that sex offender's recidivate at an unusually high rate; yet, research suggests otherwise. Hanson and Bussière (1998) reported sexual recidivism rates between 10 to 15% after five years. Other studies, however, have noted the importance of long - term, longitudinal research with sex offenders. Prentky and colleagues (1997), for example, reported that using a five – year window to look at recidivism misses 30% of the charges identified when a 25 – year follow - up period is used. Still, when compared to other serious type of criminal behavior, sex

offenders generally have lower recidivism rates and possess minimal criminal histories (Nieto and Jung 2006; Sample and Bray 2003).

CSA is clearly an important societal problem in need of further understanding. In addition to any direct, negative effects of CSA there may also be an additional impact from the label itself. This proposal also examines hypothesized mechanisms of how the sexual abuse label may potentially have an adverse influence on the children identified as sexually abused. An analysis which addresses childhood sexual abuse from such a framework will hopefully result in a broader and more holistic contextual understanding of CSA. The varied correlates that have been demonstrated to be associated with CSA will be briefly reviewed in order to provide a background for understanding possible labeling influences. Labeling research from a variety of different areas will be addressed, including educational and mental illness labels, with the discussion then focusing on research pertaining specifically to the sexual abuse label. occurrence of a sexually abusive experience is not something that one can manipulate as an independent variable. Given limitations with respect to experimental control, a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of a variety of issues related to CSA (e.g., short and long - term sequel) is challenged. A causal relationship or direct association between CSA and the myriad of possible negative symptomatology frequently cited in the literature must be inferred, given the correlational nature and methodological limitations of research in this area. A working model of the sexual abuse labeling process will be presented. Lastly, directions for future research and practice are addressed.

The manner in which child sexual abuse is manifested makes research in this area quite challenging. Given the potential for “sexual abuse” to function as a label, the variety of individuals who come in contact with children who have been sexually abused may be subject to altering their expectations and/or manner of interacting with the child based solely on the label. Children who have been identified as sexually abused usually experience a system of intervention(s) characterized by contact (e.g., interviews, therapy, etc.) with a number of adults. In addition to contact with teachers and parents, children who have been identified as sexually

abused often come into contact with counselors, psychologists, investigators, social workers, nurses, doctors, and lawyers.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SERVICE ESTIMATES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse data has been collected annually since 1992 through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. These data are based on incident level reports gathered from state child protective services and agencies and are published in an annual report. The publication *Child Maltreatment*, which is released annually, reports incident – based allegations per state along with census-based estimates of the population of children younger than 18. Child sexual abuse is defined as “maltreatment that involves the child in sexual activity to provide sexual gratification or financial benefit to the perpetrator” (Child Maltreatment, 2001). Child maltreatment reports show a decline in reported incidents from 1992 to 2001 for all reporting states.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE STATISTICS

The prevalence of child sexual abuse is difficult to determine because it is often not reported, experts agree that the incidence is far greater than what is reported to authorities. CSA is not only uniformly defined, so statistics may vary. Statistics below represent some of the research done on child sexual abuse.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Children’s Bureau report *Child Maltreatment 2010* found that 9.2% of victimized children were sexually assaulted.

- Studies by David Finkelhor, director of the Crimes against Children research center, show that:
- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse
- Self-report studies show that 20% of adult females and 5-10% of adult males recall a childhood sexual assault or sexual abuse incident.

- During a one-year period in the US, 16% of youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized.
- Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized.
- Children are most vulnerable to CSA between the ages of 7 and 13.

According to a 2003 National Institute of Justice report, 3 out of 4 adolescents who have been sexually assaulted were victimized by someone they knew well.

A Bureau of Justice Statistics report shows 1.6% (sixteen out of one thousand) of children between the ages of 12-17 were victims of rape/sexual assault. A study conducted in 1986 found that 63% of women who had suffered sexual abuse by a family member also reported a rape or attempted rape after the age of 14. Recent studies in 2010, 2012 and 2013 have all included similar results.

Children who had an experience of rape or attempted rape in their adolescent years were 13.7 times more likely to experience rape or attempted rape in their first year of college. A child who is the victim of prolonged sexual abuse usually develops low self – esteem, a feeling of worthlessness and an abnormal or distorted view of sex. The child may become withdrawn mistrustful of adults, and can become suicidal.

Children who do not live both parents as well as children living in homes marked by parental discord, divorce, or domestic violence, have a higher risk of being sexually abused. In the vast majority of cases where there is credible evidence that a child has been penetrated, only between 5 and 15% of those children will have genital injuries consistent with sexual abuse.

Child sexual abuse is not solely restricted to physical contact, such as could include noncontact abuse, such as exposure, voyeurism, and child pornography. Compared to those with no history of sexual abuse, young males who were sexually abused were five times more likely to cause teen pregnancy, three times more likely to have multiple sexual partners and two times more likely to have unprotected sex, according to the study published online.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study is a comparative and evaluative in nature and employed both quantitative and qualitative content analysis. The quantitative analysis aimed to identify general trends in the nature of the print media coverage over time, and to establish the quality of the media portrayal of allegations of historical abuse involving young persons in our Country. The qualitative analysis focused on how the issues surrounding allegations of historical abuse were represented by the print media.

For the present study, was administered to 70 random people. Respondents were not required to decipher words such as ‘abuse’ or ‘molestation.’ Rather, they were required to indicate whether they had experienced specific sexual acts whilst less than sixteen years of age that made them feel uncomfortable. Prior to the distribution of the questionnaire, approximately fifteen minutes was spent with them discussing the research, covering the pertinent ethical issues and allowing for any questions to be answered.

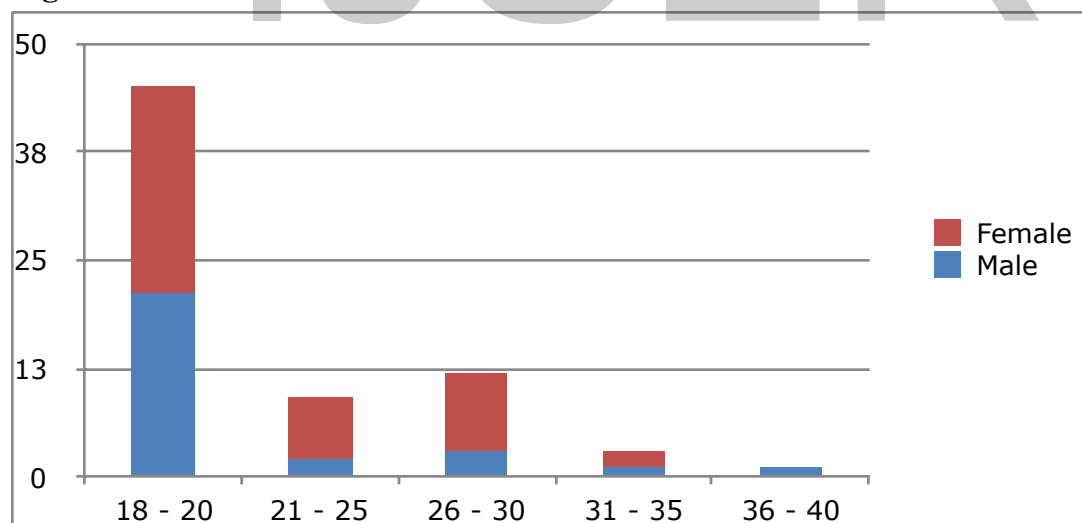
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DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION (RESULTS):

Table 1: Incidence of child sexual abuse reported in Hyderabad (2012) survey – Sample by age and gender

AGE GROUP	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
18 - 20	21	24	45
- 25	2	7	9
- 30	3	9	12
-35	1	2	3
- 40	1	-	1
	28	42	70

Figure 1:

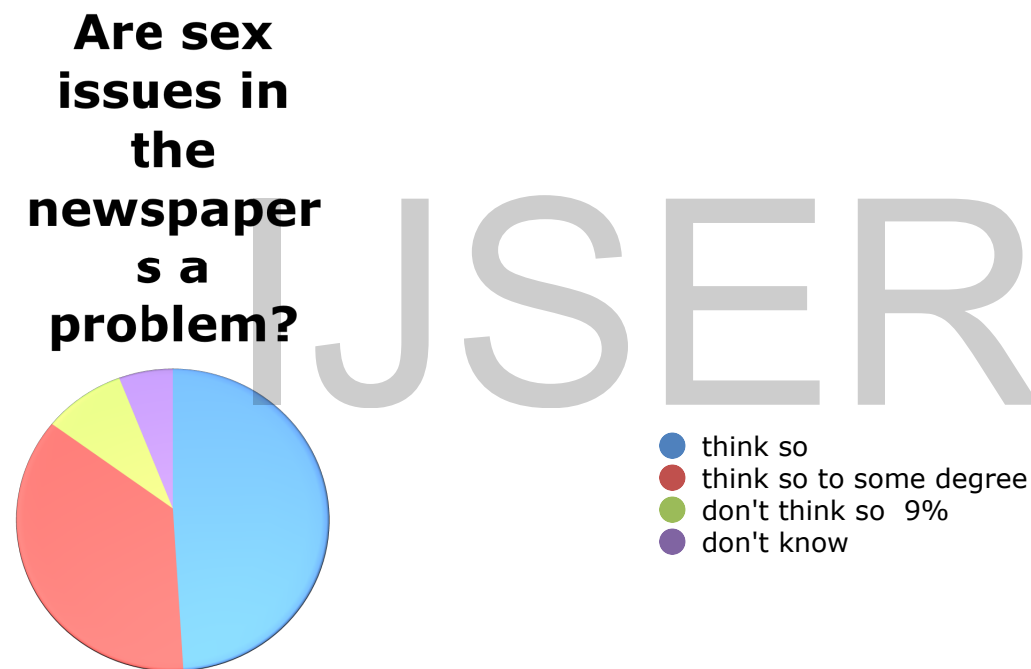


A total of 70 people were surveyed. Approximately 45% were in the 18-20 age group, with smaller numbers of older age groups. Twenty four per cent of them were female.

Table 2: Response for sex issues a problem in the newspapers

	Male	Female	Total
Think so	21	28	49
Think so to some degree	14	22	36
Don't think so	5	4	9
Don't know	3	2	6

Figure 2:



The above chart shows the numbers of people agree/disagree whether sex issues in the newspapers are a problem. 49% think that it's a major problem.

Table 3: The nature of Human aggression

Did witness outside their home	86%
Did not witness outside their home	14%

Figure 3:

**Of those who
witnessed
Violence in
their home**



This graph show that people who recalled abuse in the home were more likely to also have been arrested. This could possibly suggest the importance of environment.

Figure 4: Respondents admit how many times they have been cheated when they were young

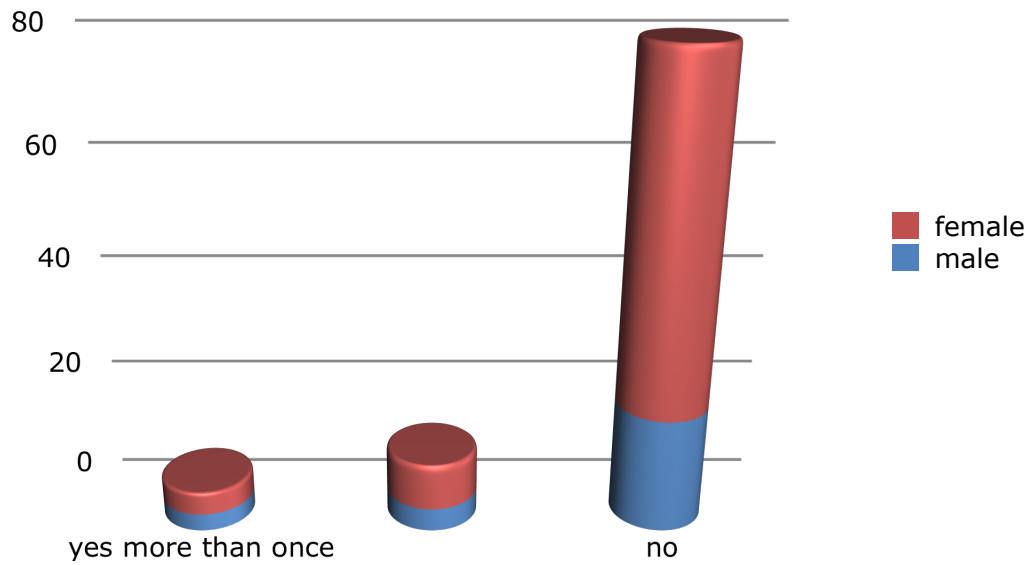


Figure 5: Percentage breakdown of primary substantial harm types in 2012 – 2013

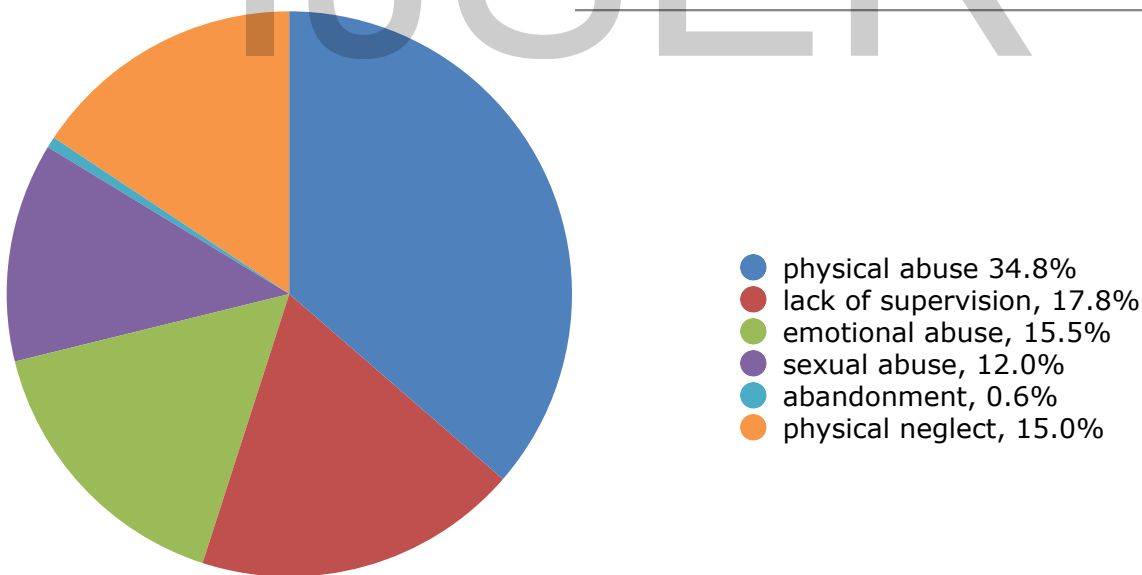
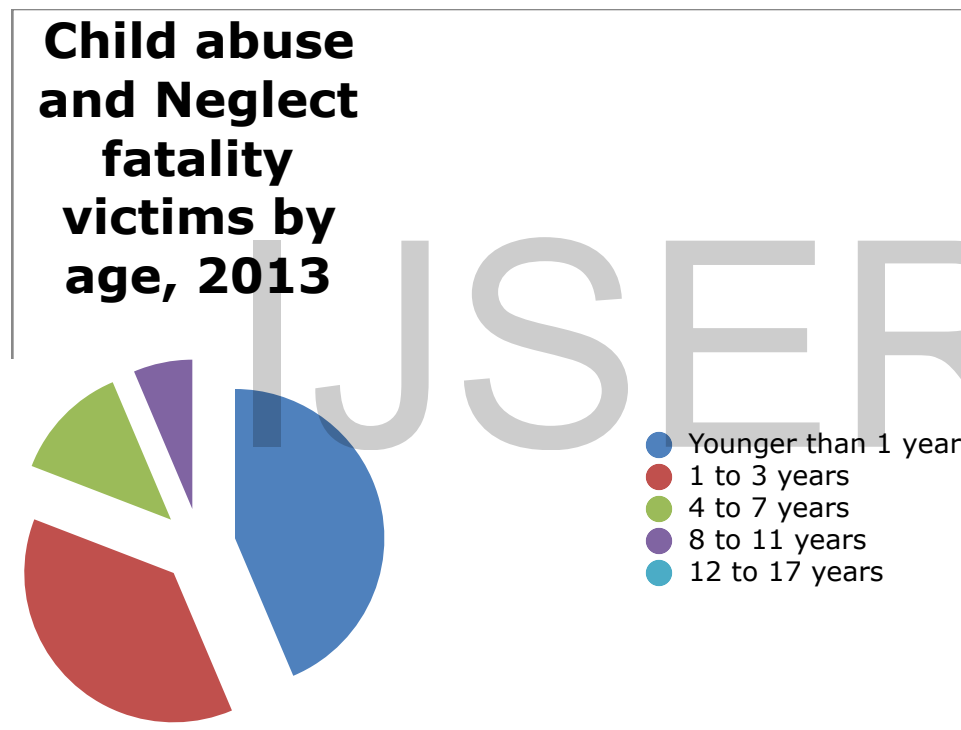


Table 6: Child abuse and Neglect fatality victims by age

Younger than 1 year	41%
1 to 3 yrs	35%
4 to 7 yrs	12%
8 to 11 yrs	6%
12 to 17 yrs	6%

Figure 6:



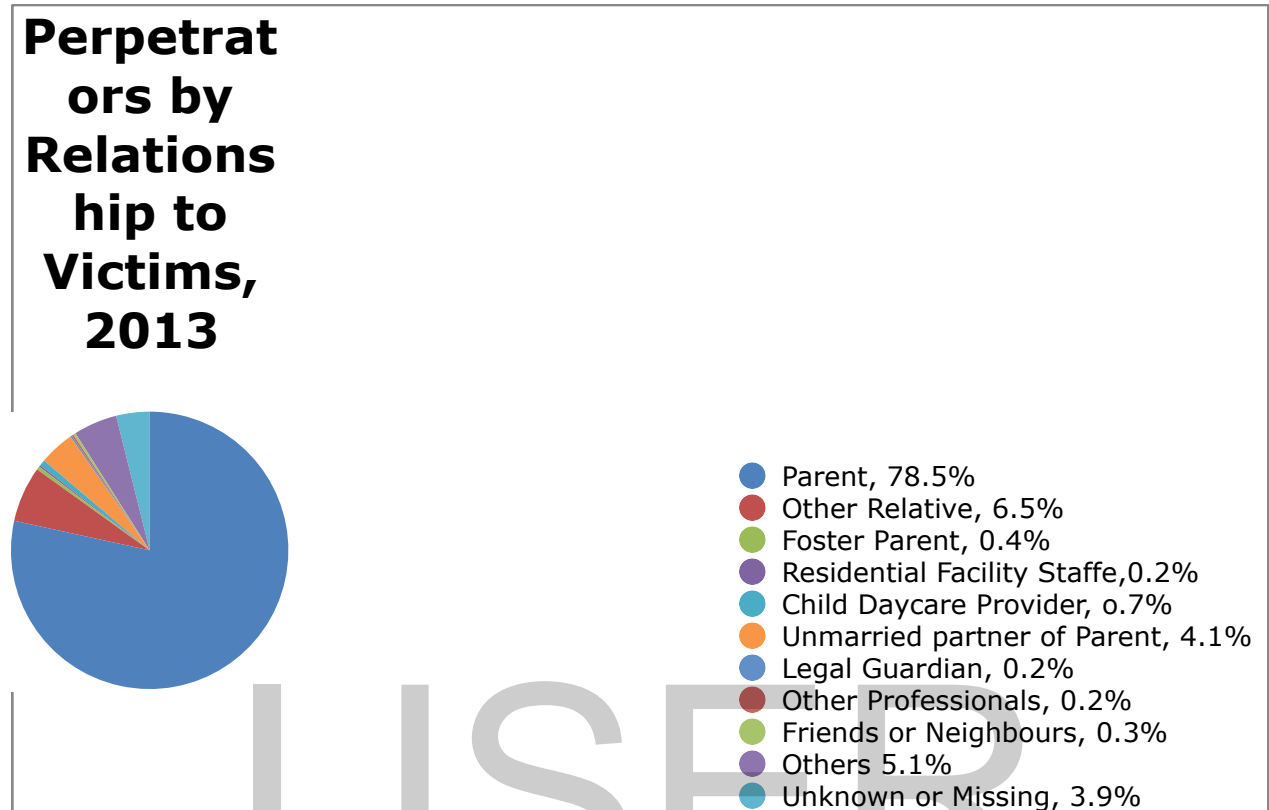
People often speculate as to why child abuse happens. Some wonder if the abuser has mental health issues, others believe it happens to low income families. And even some think it could be due to overzealous religious beliefs. Some wonder what the victim could have done to trigger such a harsh response. And often it's not their fault. After all, some vocalize, there has to be a reason as to why abusers hurt their loved ones the way they do. It's as though it would be easier if we could find and acknowledge a reason as to why children are treated so cruelly. The reality is that there are no boundaries when it comes to child abuse. It doesn't happen to only a particular group of people. Yes, some do abuse

because of the state of their mental health. These abusers may not know or be able to comprehend that what they are doing is wrong. They may, in their state of mind, think that what they do is justified.

Table 7: Perpetrators of unwanted sexual experiences

	Male No. Abused by	Female No. Abused by	as % of all reported perpetrator
Parent	12	36	78.5
Other Relative	0	14	6.5
Foster Parent	1	1	0.4
Residential Facility Staff	0	1	0.2
Child day care provider	1	3	0.7
Unmarried partner of Parent	3	8	4.1
Legal guardian	0	1	0.2
Other professionals	0	1	0.2
Friends or Neighbors	1	2	0.3
Other	0	9	5.1
Unknown or Missing	0	7	3.9

Figure 7:



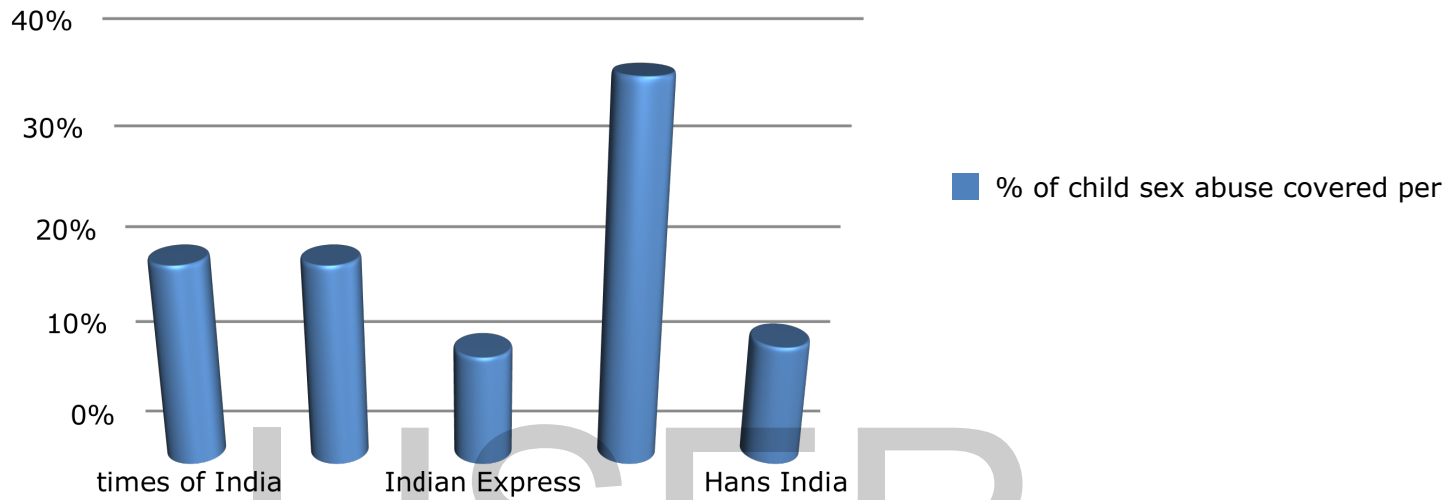
The key statistic that is so often overlooked and rarely discussed is that 95% of Child Abuse and Sexual Abuse are perpetrated by family members.

Table 8: Newspapers that cover child sex issues per month

	% of Stories covered per month
Times of India	20%
Deccan Chronicle	20%
Indian Express	11%
The Hindu	37%
Hans India	12%

Figure 8:

% of child sex abuse covered per month



The above chart shows the number of stories covered by these newspapers every month. Statistics shows that the highest number of stories is published by 'The Hindu'.

CASE STUDIES:

CASE STUDIES OF SEXUAL ABUSE COVERED BY NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, NEWSLETTERS

These are some of the case studies, where the public has opened up through the forms of magazines and newspapers. Print media forms have played a huge role in the lives of these men and women in comforting them indirectly, by providing justice to them and make them an example to spread awareness in the society regarding this very issue.

These cases that have been taken, happened to people who are from different backgrounds of family and friends. They went through different situations of sexual abuse, which affected them in various ways regarding their self esteem, the way they behave in the society, some diseases transferred to them, etc. Coming out of their shell has actually proved to be liberating for them, but the past will always haunt them no matter what. Just that, it will be a little less now and they can face it with courage, without sulking to themselves.

These cases have been taken from the years 2011 to 2013. We can say that media has grown through the past years. The percentage of news covered from the past years, shows that the recent years have the highest number of cases covered. Even though the stories of these people have taken place recently or only a many years back, these have been brought into light only in 2011-13. The victims of the abuse have come out with their story through the newspaper, magazines, blogs, chat shows, etc. Mostly, these cases were brought out in an emotional way, where the victim had to be an inspiration for the rest of the world to bring up their issues, if they have been abused sexually.

CASE: 1

RAPED BY MOM

Gregg Milligan, a man who says his mother raped him when he was a boy, shared details of his horrific childhood. His story inspired even more victims to come forward. As ugly as this topic is...people need to know about it because silence and denial perpetuates these crimes.

Gregg Milligan' mother began to fondle him when he was just four years - old and she began to aggressively sexually assault and beat him soon after. Gregg was sometimes beaten unconscious. Gregg's father left him when Gregg was two and by the age of eight, men that his prostitute mother brought home to have sex with were sexually abusing Gregg.

But like most victims, Gregg was too ashamed to reveal what was happening. Not only was he ashamed about being sexually violated but his mother created terrible guilt inside of Gregg by brutally beating him when she could not reach an orgasm while abusing him. Gregg says, *"Through her difficulty reaching climax, she would become frustrated and violent, hitting and punching and slapping not only my genitals, but my face and body."* This heinous act must have created terrible deep-seated guilt inside of Gregg.

What this woman did to her son is beyond the repair of superficial therapy and positive thinking therapy. For a mother to cause violence on the genitals of her son because she not only had to abuse a child for sexual stimulation, but that she could not orgasm, is a traumatic crime – one that probably affected Gregg in ways that we cannot imagine.

"That is exactly the reason why I wanted to do these shows," Oprah says. "To get people to step out of the shame, to come forward, to tell somebody."

Source: The Oprah Show

CASE: 2

ABUSED SEVERAL TIMES BY STEP FATHER

Where do I start ... I have never written any of my thoughts down about the sexual abuse I have endured in my lifetime. I am sure, that compared to some, it is not "as bad." To me, it was horrible. It is still with me to this day. I'm not sure who will read my story. If anyone that knows me reads this, I would say to them, "This is my life story; this is who I am and why I am the way I am."

My step - dad was the abuser. I know that I have repressed memories; but I am too afraid to remember them. One of my earliest and most painful was one day when my mom was gone (the abuse only ever happened when she was gone). I was about ten, I had been outside playing. After coming indoors, “step-father” said that he needed to check me for supposed, “ticks.” Of course I didn’t think anything of it ... I was a child!

He took me into the bathroom, made me undress and then told me to spread my legs. He said he needed to check me all over; meaning my vagina. It felt like he was touching me for hours, it was horrible. He just kept touching my vagina, and kept repeating that he was looking for ticks. I suppose in some sick way, by saying that, it made it seem (to him) that he wasn’t doing anything wrong. To this day when I think about this, I want to get physically sick. It truly makes me feel like it was my fault. Or that I am a lesser person for this having happened to me. There is a country song popular right now with the lyrics, “I want to check you for ticks;” this song is what has brought out many repressed memories—such a simple memory trigger.

After several episodes, I built up enough confidence to tell my mom “I think dad sexually abused me.” She told me, “Don’t ever lie to me again.” I still remember where we were ... in the car next to an old bakery.

When I was “bad” he would spank me. I would have to take off my pants and underwear and bend over as far as I could. I remember the most he spanked me was thirty times with a yardstick with holes drilled in it (in the basement, next to the sump pump). He was always being physically and verbally violent. In high school, he used to come into my room late at night. He would wake me up and pull my shirt up ... high enough for him to see my breasts. He would rub my stomach and breasts. He never ever said anything. This would go on for about five minutes and then he would leave. I was so scared of him, I never said a word.

My junior high and high school years were horrible. When I was coming out of the bathroom after my shower, he would make me drop my towel and he always wanted “a hug.” This also frequently occurred when I was in the laundry room. During my life at his house, if I were ever in the

bathtub, he would always come in and want to wash me. Saying no to him was never an option. He was and still is a monster.

When you are scared of someone this much, you do whatever he says. With my mom believing I was a liar, I had no one to turn to. I tried to talk to my cousin, but she said I was lying also. Everyone wanted to believe that he was this saint that could do no wrong. I will always remember a certain car trip where he was taking me to school. He asked me, "Have I ever done anything wrong to you? Have I ever done anything to hurt you?" He knew exactly what he had done. Of course I answered, "No ...". What was the point of saying yes?

As the abuse continued, life at home became more strained. I eventually moved out on my own at the age of sixteen, after my mom accused me of being a "whore." I can still remember where I was when she said it; I was in the back hallway of our house, by the laundry room. It's always interesting how these memories are embedded in my memory. On the way out of the house, I keyed their sports car. I keyed it so hard that I ripped the flesh of my finger clean through. It felt so good to do it, I will be honest. What was more painful, however, was the fact that my mom called me a "whore." I had never been with anyone and I was too scared to be with anyone. My self-esteem was non-existent.

I dropped out of high school and got my high school diploma from night school. I then applied and got into a university in my state. All of a sudden, my mother had decided to let me back into her good graces. Ridiculous, that it takes getting into college to do this. I still remember going over to their house that day. My mother had gotten me a sweatshirt with the university logo on it.

Somehow the evening turned into a horrible scene ending with me yelling and pointing at my stepfather; "He sexually abused me." My stepfather reached over the couch and tried to punch me in the face. I moved out of the way just in time. I didn't speak with them again for some time. I believe it was about a year and a half.

I am now almost thirty years old. The memories that I have just outlined for you are just a few of the things that have happened to me. To this day, when I am around “him” my skin crawls. Even on my wedding day, I cut the father-daughter dance short; I couldn’t stand to be near him or even touch him. He doesn’t have the right to hurt me anymore, nor did he ever. My mom, and even brother, does not believe me. Sometimes I think it would be better to end the relationship with the three of them, rather than live like this. The sexual abuse happened. It’s a fact. I need to be true to myself. I can’t keep pretending it didn’t happen, because that’s what they want to believe.

For anyone reading this, I am just beginning my journey of recovery. I know it will take a very long time. But I have faith in God — that he will heal me.

Source: Divine Caroline

CASE: 3

DAN GERIOUS MODEL OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In one case an Asian teen from the north-west described being dragged out of a car by her hair by her 'boyfriend' who took her to a hotel room "to have his friends come over and do what they wanted to me'.

According to the charity, a younger man will often be used to seduce the child, and may not take part in their abuse, but pass her on to other older men. Boys and girls as young as 14, some who have been abused themselves, can also act as bait.

Boys and young men to be used for sex for a gang recruit other girls. "Unfortunately, in many places this is part of gang culture," said Carrie.

Of Barnardo's 22 specialist services surveyed for the report, 21 had seen evidence of the most serious and dangerous model of sexual exploitation – the trafficking of children through organized networks for sex, often with multiple men.

CASE: 4

TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

Tim was 14 when one man groomed him, but it was not long before he was expected to have sex with many more. "They'd give us fags, alcohol," he said. "After a while there would be three or four guys all at once. It was horrible and very scary."

Before long Tim was being taken to different houses, in different areas. He doesn't know how many men he was forced to have sex with.

Some trafficking networks hide behind legitimate taxi business or takeaways, according to the report.

Source: www.guardian.co.uk

CASE: 5

CHILD VICTIMS CONTINUE TO GO UNIDENTIFIED

Emma was 14 when she met her first 'boyfriend'. He – in his 30s – bought her presents; picked her up in his car, told her he loved her.

But he soon changed. He became violent and before long was forcing her to have sex with his friends. Then, like a toy, Emma was passed on, shipped around the country and raped by countless men. "I got taken to flats. I don't know where they were and men would be brought to me," she said. "I was never given any names and I don't remember their faces."

Emma's story is one of unimaginable horror, but according to children's charity Barnardo's there are many more victims like her, and numbers are growing. "Child victims continue to go unidentified as tell-tale signs are overlooked from the front line of children's services to the corridors of Whitehall."

CASE: 6

A MINOR GIRL CHEATED BY HER BOY FRIEND AGED “34”

Sophie was 13 when she met a boy who said he was 18, at her cousin's 21st birthday party. "I thought he was gorgeous, it was really exciting," she said.

At first he treated her well, but soon he started to control her, isolating her from her family. Asked if he hit her often she said: "Just when I wouldn't do something he wanted me to do" She paused, and then added in a small voice: "So, yeah, often." When the police came to rescue Sophie, they told her the man was 34, and had a criminal record for child abuse. "I said they were lying," she said. "I thought I was in love, I thought it was normal."

CASE: 7

SCHOOL GIRLS PHYSICALLY ABUSED FOR TWO YEARS BY THE HEADMASTER

In a petition, the father of the girl submitted that on July 12, his daughter came back from school disturbed and depressed. Upon repeated enquiries by his wife and the neighboring women, she confided in them that Arockiasamy, the headmaster of the school, had misbehaved with her. On further enquiries with some of her schoolmates, the children shocked everyone saying that Arockiasamy had been subjecting them to physical abuse for the past two years.

He also contended in the petition that a girl who was studying in class 8 shared painfully that when she approached the headmaster for school admission in 2010 along with her grandmother who is visually challenged; he misbehaved with her taking advantage of the situation. When the girl tried to resist, he threatened her that he would not give her admission, he added.

Following protests by the parents, Arockiasamy was suspended, but not arrested. Hence, the petitioner preferred the present petition seeking to transfer of the investigation, as the police has not arrested him.

Source: indiatimes.com, Aug 25, 2011.

CASE: 8

WOMAN RAPED BY DAILY WAGER

HYDERABAD: A 50-year-old woman was brutally assaulted and raped allegedly by her 25-year-old neighbor in Chennareddyguda in Manchal mandal of Ranga Reddy district in the wee hours of Friday. He threatened the woman with dire consequences if she told anybody about the incident.

Manchal police said the woman lives with her elder son Seetharam in Chennareddyguda, a suburb of Hyderabad. The crime took place when Seetharam along with his wife went to his in-laws house in Mahbubnagar to attend a family function. On Friday, Sriram, a daily wager, knocked on the woman's door and as soon as she opened it, he barged into the house and assaulted her physically. When the woman resisted, Sriram hit her on her face. He fled the house after committing the crime.

Early morning, locals found her in an unconscious state with bleeding injuries. She was rushed to hospital for medical examination and her son was informed about the incident, Manchal inspector M Gangdhar said.

A case has been registered under Sections 376 (rape), 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) and 448 (trespass) of the IPC against Sriram. The accused is at large, the police said.

Source: Hyderabad-news on June 11, 2011.

CASE: 9

MINOR GIRL GANG RAPED

Hyderabad: A minor girl was allegedly gang raped by three teenagers near Gautham Nagar railway station at Malkajgiri on Thursday night. Parents of the girl lodged a police complaint on Friday.

According to Malkajgiri sub inspector Janaiah, the victim, studying in Class IX at a local school and resident of Gautham Nagar, was allegedly raped by three teenagers—Joseph, 19, Sandeep, 18 and Sagar, 19, and residents of BR Basthi of Malkajgiri. Police said the girl left home at around 7 pm on Thursday and met her friend Joseph. He took her to a bakery at Gautam Nagar where two of his friends, Sandeep and Sagar were already waiting. All the four had some snacks after which they went to a deserted area near the railway station. The accused allegedly dragged the girl into the bushes nearby and committed the crime. The trio later fled from the spot at about 9.30 pm. The girl reached home at 11 pm with bleeding injuries. When her mother enquired about it, she told her about the incident.

Police sub-inspector said while Joseph had failed in SSC, Sandeep was in Intermediate and another accused Sagar was into scrap business. The Malkajgiri police have registered a case under Section 376 (G) of IPC and took the accused into custody

Source: Hyderabad Daily News, June 11, 2013.

CASE: 10

In 2 Gang Rape Cases, Communities Blame 11-Year-Old Victims

Authorities in Texas have arrested more than a dozen suspects in the gang rape of an 11-year-old girl. There is outrage and there is anger -- but much of it is being directed at the victim. Something similar has also happened in Michigan, where another 11-year-old was gang raped.

"People have a tendency to say, 'Boys will be boys.' That is a common mentality now," Dr. Walter E. Afield, a nationally known health expert, told

AOL News. "But rape can be just bad as murder, and if they had killed an 11-year-old people would be outraged." In Texas, the girl's mother says she has been receiving harassing phone calls from people asking for her daughter.

"[People] keep calling and asking for her," the victim's mother, identified only as Maria, told The Houston Chronicle. "They don't believe me when I say she's not here and cuss us out. They're trying to find her."

Maria's daughter has told police that at least 20 teenagers and men attacked her on Thanksgiving. The girl said she was taken to an abandoned home in Cleveland, 50 miles northeast of Houston, where she was forced to have sex with them under the threat of violence, police said.

Details of the gang rape did not surface until days later, when cell phone video recordings of the assault surfaced at Cleveland High School. According to the Chronicle, a student who recognized the victim and several of her attackers notified school officials. Since that time, 17 suspects, ages 14 to 27, have been charged.

"There are five who attend public schools," Cleveland Assistant Police Chief Darrel Broussard told AOL News. "Everyone knows them."

An attorney, who represents four of the defendants, told CNN "The families are dealing with it. It is a very stressful environment," he said. Some are pointing a finger at the victim's parents.

"Where were they when this girl was seen wandering at all hours with no supervision and pretending to be much older?" Cleveland resident Kisha Williams told the Chronicle. Maria told the Chronicle she believes her daughter may have been seeking attention in the past and says she and her husband had once questioned their daughter about a lurid photo of a boy that was found on a cell phone she used, but she says the boys should have known better.

"These guys knew she was in middle school," Maria said. "You could tell that whenever you talked to her. She still loves stuffed bears." The Texas

case is somewhat similar to one that is making its way through the legal system in Michigan right now.

"When you see five young men take advantage of an 11-year-old girl," Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith told The Detroit News, "it is our job to make sure they pay for it.". The outcomes of the Michigan and Texas cases are yet to be seen. But in Maria's case, she says the wait for justice is compounded by the emotions of residents.

Maria says she has received so many angry phone calls that the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services have placed her daughter in foster care for her own safety. Gwen Carter, a spokeswoman for the department, would not discuss Maria's claims. "We're not able to comment on that family," Carter told AOL News. According to local media outlets, a judge issued a gag order Friday preventing the agency from discussing the case.

Source: www.aolnews.com

CASE: 11

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Five arrested in gang-rape case

HYDERABAD: The Shameerpet police of Cyberabad on Monday arrested five persons in connection with the gang rape of a B.Ed. student recently.

Two of the accused, Sai Kumar and Mohd. Ghouse, both auto rickshaw drivers, saw the woman on the night of May 4 waiting at Tumkunta bus stop to catch a bus to Aliabad. The duo, who was drunk, approached her saying they were going to Aliabad. After she boarded the vehicle, they started towards Aliabad. Their associates, Krishna, Anand and Sriramulu, followed them in another three-wheeler. The woman shouted to stop the vehicle when Kumar and Ghouse changed the route on reaching Mazidpura. "The drivers told her that another woman passenger was waiting a few yards away but took her to a secluded place where they violated her," the Inspector, Narender Reddy, said. The other three, after roaming for some time, drove back to their place. A case of gang rape and robbery

was registered against Kumar and Ghouse, and their associates were charged with intention to commit gang rape.

Source: The Hindu

CASE: 12

RAPE CASE: ACCUSED STILL ON THE LOOSE

HYDERABAD: Two days after the alleged rape of a 14-year-old girl, Cyberabad police are groping in the dark as the three teenaged accused continues to be absconding.

On Saturday, the victim was sent for medical examination while manhunt is on for the accused.

Cyberabad police found that one of the three accused lured the victim to come to a nearby bakery as he had intimacy with her. Later, he and his friends allegedly raped her.

During investigation police came to know that Joseph, an accused, knew the 14-year-old victim for the last several months. It was Joseph who called the victim to a bakery on Thursday. Later, Joseph's friends- Sagar and Sandeep joined them.

They took her to a secluded place near Malkajgiri railway station and allegedly raped her. "In the complaint, the victim's mother said that her daughter went to meet Joseph who committed the offence in the name of friendship," Malkajgiri police said. However, it is learnt that Cyberabad police already took the accused into the custody but they are tight-lipped about the entire case.

Source: <http://ibnlive.in.com>

THE SOLUTION

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SOLUTIONS TO THE MEDIA

Print Media has been trying ways and means of educating people about this very issue either directly through message or indirectly by publishing the stories of victims who have been abused and gone through a rough life, or reporting news of sexual abuse through print media.

Solutions to Common Public

The cases of sexual abuse should be brought out into light. This can be done only if the victim is willing to let his story out. He needs to be encouraged in a huge way to allow him to step out of his fears. They need a lot of counseling and assurance of a good future, if they come out. They must be made aware of the fact that they will become a huge inspiration to others and let their life story be the one to pave the way for the others.

Some of the precautions that normal people can take to help this issue are:

What Individuals Can Do??

- Write a Letter to the Editor calling people's attention to the inaccuracies in the story.
- Call the editor or reporter to explain your concerns.
- A prompt response should be given to all allegations of child sexual abuse.
- Care should be given to the emotional and spiritual well being of those who suffered abuse and their families.
- There should be immediate consideration, following a complaint, of child protection issues which arise.

Taking a stand and correcting misinformation can play an important role in changing the culture surrounding child sexual abuse.

Give children the right and a way to speak out

How many sexually victimized, traumatized, and fearful children are sitting silently through prevention programs? How do we help them?

Why do we provide anonymous sexual victimization surveys only for adults? If children are more vulnerable than adults, more afraid to speak out than adults, why do we not also give children the right and a way to express their needs without being inhibited by fear of identification? Do children not deserve the same opportunities to speak out?

Bagley (1992) administered anonymous questionnaires on stress to 14-through 16-year old adolescents in two western Canadian junior high schools. He posited that children and adolescents might be reluctant to report some experiences directly or through a questionnaire in which they have to identify themselves. Bagley contended that adolescents in school settings are willing to anonymously report various kinds of stress, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

An instrument or procedure is needed that will allow young victims to anonymously provide us with current, targeted information on the frequency of undisclosed sexual abuse. In response to this need, unanswered questions, and the continuing problem of sexual abuse, this investigator devoted three years to the development and implementation of research to anonymously survey young adolescents (Faulkner, 1996).

What Media should do

A major concern of rape and sexual assault victims is having their identity exposed through the news media. Confidentiality is important to many victims and concerns about privacy result in many victims who don't report rapes and sexual assaults for fear of others learning about the crime. Most news papers and magazines have policies that protect the identity of rape victims, and some states have passed laws that prevent anyone from publishing information that identifies sexual offense victims.

Victim service providers and survivors can work together to identify key issues that can help journalists understand the scope and nature of sexual assault and victims' privacy concerns. For example:

- When reporting on sexual assault, journalists are encouraged to balance the victim's right to privacy with the public's right to know.

- Reporters must judge when details are needed for public safety and when such details only serve to re-traumatize the victim or reinforce myths about the victim's role in the attack.
- Details about the attacker are relevant: physical description; how access was gained; whether a weapon was used; and if additional physical violence was involved (for example, the victim was incapacitated, held down, or blocked from leaving).
- Details about the victim's private life—habits, sexual history, or physical appearance, clothing or physical appearance, for example—do not contribute to the public's safety and usually lead to victim blaming.
- Carefully choose words and phrases to avoid furthering the notion that the victim is culpable for the crime. Consider the assumptions inherent in these phrases:
 - "Innocent victim"—all crime victims are "innocent."
 - "Violent assault"—Rape and sexual assault are acts of violence, whether the victim sustained other physical injuries or not.
- In place of "rape allegation," try "reported rape." The word "allegation" is not neutral and strongly implies doubt.
- In place of "date rape," use the term "acquaintance rape." The former term implies that the assault occurred "on a date." In fact, the term is often broadly used in cases where the victim knew the perpetrator.
- Use accurate language. Rape or assault is not "sex." A pattern of abuse is not an "affair."
- Avoid language that suggests the victim is somehow to blame for the crime.
- It may take time to build trust with victims and family members. Explain the type of story you're planning to write. Show clips of stories you're proud of.
- Consider letting victims read portions of your story before publication. While controversial in journalism circles, many award-winning journalists report that this helped them identify errors or insensitivities in their reporting. It can also build rapport that encourages victims to share more of the story with the reporter.

- When describing the assault, reflect on how much graphic detail to include. Too much can be gratuitous; too little can weaken the victim's case.
- Include information that can help others avoid assault without inferring that the victim caused the assault.
- Provide contact information for agencies that assist survivors and their families within stories or as a sidebar.

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CONCLUSION

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This thesis focused on news stories, feature articles and investigative journalism that have covered sexual abuse cases. We reason that if more and more sexual abuse cases will be brought out to light in media, it will give the victims, who are hiding due to various reasons, to break the chains of insecurity and threat they are living in and come out and actually be an inspiration to the others. This very issue has to be eliminated from the country. It will only happen if everyone take courage and stand against this, almost, disease. The right precautions should be taken to boost the moral self of people and to strengthen their inner self.

In this we have concentrated on print media education. It demonstrates the media's potential power to positively influence child welfare policies, community responses to children and young people, and societal acknowledgement of, and reaction to, child abuse and neglect. This study challenge those who are involved in child welfare and child protection to make greater efforts to understand media influences and to use this media constructively.

Society sometimes fails to recognize that children are the most vulnerable group in our community, and are thus in need of the greatest protection. The social and economic costs to societies that have not prioritized children's needs, especially the prevention of child abuse and neglect, are well documented. In addition to news stories, feature articles, and investigative journalism, sporadic mass media education and prevention campaigns are launched. These campaigns usually Endeavour to broaden community knowledge of child abuse and neglect, to influence people's attitudes towards children and young people, and to change behaviors that contribute to, or precipitate, the problem of child abuse and neglect in our communities.

The print media's role in preventing child abuse and neglect is multi-faceted. The early 'discovery' of child abuse is the clearest example. Without intense media exposure 'battered child syndrome' may have remained largely unseen and unheard of. Children are not only the most vulnerable but their voices are often silenced, especially when the subject is child abuse and neglect. Examples of the print media's ability to confront people with images and messages that they may not want to see and hear have been documented

above. Investigative journalism also plays a less direct but nonetheless influential role in community education. And opinion pieces are yet another means of educating both the public in general and professionals in particular about best practice. Print media present the opportunity to communicate to large numbers of people and to target particular groups of people. As observed, mass communication is significantly different from other forms of communication. They note that mass communication has the capacity to reach 'simultaneously' many thousands of people who are not related to the sender. It depends on 'technical devices' or 'machines' to quickly distribute messages to diverse audiences often unknown to each other. It is accessible to many people, but may be avoided. It has been orchestrated by specialists whose intent is to persuade potential audiences of the benefits of their attention. It is 'controlled by gatekeepers' who censor the content of messages. And finally, unlike one-to-one communication, it produces only minimal, delayed feedback to its senders. Accesses by the media can impugn a convicted person's ability to seek and receive rehabilitative care when entering the prison system and can destroy the reputation of an acquitted person.

The reality of the print media's coverage of crimes against children is that journalists *will* seek to interview child victims. Although victim service providers can seek to protect the privacy of young victims, they cannot ultimately prevent them from being interviewed.

A recent publication from the Dart Center, "Covering Children & Trauma: A Guide for Journalism Professionals," presents information for reporters and editors relevant to covering child victimisation. While victim service providers may disagree with the basic premise of interviewing child victims, this publication offers insights into guidelines that journalists can follow when speaking to children who are victimised. It is helpful to understand the media's point of view on the subject.

However, to be effective, mass media campaigns will need to be part of a broader prevention program that includes the provision of supports and services for all children and families. A broader prevention program would reflect a society that recognizes the value of children, respects children's rights, and optimizes children's life chances. It is argued that information or

communication cannot resolve problems that are essentially caused by scarce resources, rather than a lack of knowledge.'

There are limitations to what the print media can achieve. It is purported that the print media is the 'most powerful in furnishing information and setting agendas for members of a public. It is the next powerful in impinging on the thoughts, opinions and attitudes of members of a public and least powerful in affecting actions of members of a public. Mass communication campaigns also have a crucial role to play in setting agendas for professional, administrative and political leaders and decision makers.

The nature of print media influence is constantly changing. The power and ever increasing potential of this particular media, however, remains constant. Positive mass media communication waits to be tapped by those who advocate for children and young people. Mass communication may be a vehicle that constantly reminds people to value children and to respect children's rights. Moreover, print media may be 'an advocacy tool to achieve policy change', improving the status of children and addressing the physical and social conditions in which children and young people live.

The agenda for our community and the government, which represents us, should be clear. The prevention of child abuse should be a priority. We have education campaigns, which respond to problem gambling, speeding drivers, illicit drug use and drunken driving. Yet there has been no equivalent effort, at state or federal level, to prevent child abuse.

The print media plays a significant role in forming and influencing people's attitudes and behaviour. It draws attention to the essential role of the media in increasing society's awareness of, and response to, child abuse and neglect. Of particular note was the part played by news and features that reported on specific child abuse cases, research and intervention strategies. Such media attention to child abuse has, at times, positively influenced public, professional and political responses to the circumstances in which children and young people find themselves. Understanding print media influences, and how to use it constructively, may thus be an essential tool for those who advocate for children, young people, and their families.

.....because this is the cry of every victim who was ever abused.

"Sometimes I hear my voice and it's been here, silent all these years."

"Give me life, give me pain, give me myself again."

-Tori Amos.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION:

Print Media - a medium that disseminates printed matter. Print media often takes the form of mainstream papers, Magazines and gutter press publications and is usually the form of media with the highest form of circulation.

Influence - the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behaviour of someone or something, or the effect itself.

Sexual Abuse - a statutory offence that provides that it is a crime to knowingly cause another person to engage in an unwanted sexual act by force or threat; "most states have replaced the common law definition of rape with statutes defining sexual assault"

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