Summary of the Study

Sexual Abuse of Children: A Sociological Study in Delhi Metropolis

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Summary of the Study

With the urbanization and modernization comes the expectation that each citizen of every culture will experience a sense of well being and comfort. And yet, many of our children – are being beaten, neglected and molested in greater number than ever before. This statement can be supported by the first Human Development Report of the Delhi released by Planning Commission on 24 August'06 in Hindustan Times. According to the report, Delhi ranks first among the 35 cities of the world known for crime against children.

A total of 22,500 cases of crimes against Children were reported in the country during 2008 as compared to 20,410 cases during 2007, suggesting an increase of 10.2%. Out of the all the crimes done against children, sexual abuse is considered as one of the heinous crime and it has a long lasting effect, if not treated well on time. Sexual Abuse of children can be defined as an inappropriate behavior with a child. It includes fondling a child’s genitals, making the child fondle the adult’s genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the statistics of 2008 for child rape cases in India showed that there is a % variation of 7.9% in 2008 over 2007 which means the cases of child rape went up during 2008 (5446) over 2007 (5045). Age group wise distribution of total incest cases out of all rape cases over the period of 3 years (2006-08) shows first a decrease (2007 over 2006) and then an increase in cases in Delhi (UT) but when it comes to the percentage of incest victims under 18 years of age, the percentage has decreased from 73.1% to 59.5%. But still a considerable number of incest victims (much more than half) i.e. 59.5% were children (as per the definition of CRC) in comparison to adults.

The cases of Selling of Girls for Prostitution decreased by 29.0% during the year 2008 (69 to 49 cases). The cases of Buying of Girls for Prostitution also decreased by 25.0% (40 cases in 2007 to 30 cases in 2008). Madhya Pradesh (4,259), Uttar Pradesh (4,078), Maharashtra (2,709) and Delhi (1,854) have accounted for 18.9%, 18.1%, 12.0% and 8.2% of total crimes respectively against children at the National level. The incidents of Molestation in the country have increased by 4.3% in 2008 over the previous year (38,734). The number of sexual harassment cases has increased by 11.5% in 2008 over the previous year (10,950).
So the above figures show that the intensity and seriousness of the abuse have increased alarmingly. Even about 3 decades back, mention of sexual abuse of children was considered an oddity and public discussion of the subject was extremely rare. A code of silence was associated with child abuse, treating it as a mishap, perhaps an isolated incident, rather than as a social problem which needed collective action. Cases of the incest were the most tightly kept secret, as family honor was at stake, as was also the concern about the future of the child. Society was unwilling to accept that child abuse covered a large percentage of very young children. This has prevented sexual abuse from being considered as a priority item for the protection of the child, working out preventive, rehabilitative and legislative interventions to tackle it, & for ensuring that offenders are punished. This shows that abuse has existed for centuries but now the problem has become so big and unbearable. This increase is directly pointing towards the bad working of child protection system which has been set up to safeguard the lives of children which includes not only the laws but also the police, society, schools and even the family of a child. No one is apt in giving protection and assistance to the children. Each and every unit is lacking somewhere. There is no separate act to deal with this problem in India and even the existing sections which deals with this problem has been hugely misused by the offenders because of the tender age of the children. Sometimes the age of a child is so less that it becomes difficult for him/her to recapitulate the whole incidence in front of the court and the offender easily gets the benefit of doubt.

Even the societies have reacted to this abuse with a so called “ostrich psychology”. This attitude of the society has resulted in the reluctance of the affected individuals to share their traumatic and painful experiences with anyone close to them or health professionals, and hesitate even to report the cases and bring it to the notice of the law, thus hindering the process of rehabilitation, research and understanding of the phenomenon. Therefore in most of the cases, families of the victim generally opt out from registering a case and even opt out from taking medical and psychological help for their child. There the acute problem starts for a child because the after effects of this abuse can destroy the physical, psychological and even the sociological growth of the child. The child starts developing certain symptoms like aggressiveness, depression, anxiety etc. which, if persists for long time can also leads to Post Traumatic Stress
Disorder. The school authorities can play a major role in educating the parents and children about this menace but they are not doing so.

So basically this topic has been chosen as children are the first call on agenda of human resource development- not only because young children are the most vulnerable, but because the foundation for lifelong learning and human development is laid in these crucial years. It is now globally acknowledged that investment in human resource development is a pre-requisite for economic development of any nation. India is the home to the largest child population in the world and hence, the development of children should be the first priority on the country’s development agenda, not because they are the most vulnerable, but because they are our supreme assets and also the future human resources of the country.

Therefore in this context, a scientific study aimed at examining the diverse forces operative in the process of commission of sexual abuse of children seem to be urgently necessary which would help not only in explaining the interplay of different factors culminating in commission of child sexual abuse but also to locate crime prone areas and to formulate practical strategies for combating this menace.

The study has been conducted with the following Objectives in mind:

1. To study the socio-economic background of the families of child victims and the perpetrators involved in sexual abuse cases.
2. To unravel the diverse forces which are operative in the process of sexual victimization of children.
3. To identify and study in depth, the areas which are prone to these types of crimes.
4. To study the consequences of sexual abuse on children and it’s after effects on their future.
5. To suggest the ways and means for reducing the menace of child sexual abuse in the city.

The present study has been carried out in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, for determining the all India scene as a major support to the literature of the present study, basic information with regard to child sexual abuse was collected from various states
through secondary data. The period of the study was from 2006 to 2009 and the female child victims of sexual abuse from 3 to 18 years of age were interviewed for the completion of the study. Also the study covered the convicts sentenced and lodged in Tihar Prison under various types of child sexual abuse cases, police personnel who have dealt with these cases and few prominent NGOs working in this field. The scope of the study was only limited to the female victims of child sexual abuse but in order to give full justice to the male victims of sexual abuse who are equally vulnerable, 50 male children were randomly studied to see the prevalence of this menace among the general population of male children residing at two children home of Delhi and the copy of the analysis has been annexed in Appendix A.

To carry out this study, an Exploratory Research design was adopted because there is hardly any national study on this subject except the study conducted in 2007 by Ministry of Women and Child Development which was more of a survey. Also there are so many factors behind child sexual abuse which keeps on changing according to time and places, therefore the outcome of the earlier studies can be taken only as a hint not as a base to carry further study.

Since the nature and objectives of the study required a great deal of precision and sensitivity, just one type of sampling method would have not been appropriate. There were multiple units of sample and their characteristics were too specific. Therefore, sample design was made suitable to include the sample units that otherwise would have remained out of focus. The triangulation of sampling was used as it combines the different strength of two or more relevant sampling methods to ensure getting the sufficient coverage of the data. For the present study, Stratified Random Sampling method and Purposive Sampling method was adopted to give full justice to the study.

There were five categories of samples for the present study. Category I include 255 victims of child sexual abuse in total which was divided under 3 major categories i.e. 100 victims of child rape, 80 victims of child molestation/harassment and 75 victims of child commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution). Category II includes 100 convicts of child sexual abuse cases detained in Tihar Prison. Category III includes 36 police officers from Sub-Inspector to ACP level from the major nine districts of Delhi i.e. North, North-West, Central, East, North-East, South, South-East, South-West and West, who directly deals with sexual abuse cases. Category IV includes nine prominent NGOs from all over Delhi who are working in the field of sexual
abuse of children and category V includes 50 male children from two children homes of Delhi i.e. Prayas Children home and Don Bosco Ashalayam.

Three sets of Interview schedule for victims, convicts and the male children and two sets of Interview guide for police and NGOs were developed for the process of data collection. In addition to this, four case studies were also developed on some specially selected cases to give a deeper insight into the problem of sexual abuse of children. The study has relied upon both the primary and secondary data. Primary data was harnessed through research tools as stated above. The secondary source was comprised of FIRs, official records, documentary evidences, newspaper cuttings, Crime in India, Population Census, 2001 and the literature related to the problem.

Findings of the Study

Profile of Victims Child Sexual Abuse

1. Social Profile- Rape & Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims
   - 58.9 % of the victims interviewed were in the age category of 13-18 years, 29.4 % were between 8-13 years and the rest 11.7 % were between 3-8 years of age. The ‘top-risk’ age group for victims was found to be 13-18 years.
   - Maximum i.e. 36.7 % were illiterates at the time of interview, 32.2 % were literate up to matric level (continuing studies), 17.8 % left studies at primary or matric level only, 5.6 % were literate up to primary level only (continuing studies) and 3.3 % has not started their studies at the time of interview because of their young age.
   - 88.3 % of the total victims interviewed belong to nuclear family. The cross analysis of the type and size of the family shows that out of 159 victims who were living in a nuclear family, a significant 67.3 % had a family size of 4 to 10 members.
   - Maximum numbers of victims i.e. 41.7 % were living in a semi-urban locality of Delhi, 38.9 % were living in slums, 8.9 % were living in rural backyards of Delhi and 2.8 % on roads. Only 7.8 % (i.e. 14 victims out of 180) were living in urban registered colonies of Delhi.
   - 61.1 % of the victims interviewed said that they had neighbors of mixed character i.e. both negative and positive elements of the society living together.
2. Social Profile- Child Sexual Exploitation victims

- Out of 75 victims, 30 were brothel based from Nepal, Bangladesh, Orissa, Bengal etc, 30 were street/home based sex workers operative in various districts of Delhi and the rest 15 were rescued by the police.

- 53.3 % of the victims were illiterate, 40 % were literate up to primary level and the rest 6.7 % were literate up to matric level.

- Maximum of the victims interviewed i.e. 93.3 % were used to live in nuclear family and the rest 6.7 % in joint family. 70.7 % victims had a family size of 4-10 members and 20 % had 4 members in the family.

- 54.7 % were from a rural background. Out of that 54.7 %, maximum were brothel based sex workers who were forced into this profession or came on their own will to earn money. 36.0 % were living in semi-urban areas of Delhi and 5.3 % were living in slums. Maximum of them were street/home based sex workers and very few were brothel based.

3. Economic Profile- Rape & Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims

- 25 % were from a family whose income was in between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 monthly. 21.1 % victim’s family income was in between Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 and 17.2 % of the victims said that the family income was in between Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000. 3.9 % said that the family income was below Rs. 500 per month which is same as negligible if you are living in Delhi.

4. Economic Profile- Child Sexual Exploitation victims

- 28.0 % victims said that their family income were in between Rs. 500 to Rs. 1500 and 18.7 % said that the income were in between Rs. 5000 to Rs. 8000. Out of all the 75 victims, 49.3 % (37 out of 75) said that they are the sole bread earner of the family and the income comes purely from prostitution. The rest 50.7 % had one or more helping hands in adding to the family income.

5. Case Profile- Rape & Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims

- Irrespective of the type of abuse the victims went through, maximum were in the age group of 13 to 18 years.

- 30.6 % said that they were abused at accused’s house only. 24.4 % were victimized at their own place which shows that the victims were abused by a known and trustworthy person that too in a place where they were supposed to feel safe, which further makes this
abuse more gruesome by nature. 11.1 % said that the accused took them to a place outside Delhi. 8.3 % were abused in their neighborhood. 6.7 % were abused in parks nearby to their places. The rest of the locations were moving vehicle, accused’s office, Gurudwara, school, barber’s shop and an unknown place in Delhi.

- 48.9 % of the victims were already present at the location of the incident and the rest 51.1 % were taken by the accused on some or the other pretext.
- 66.1 % of the victims interviewed said that they knew their accused personally, 15.0 % knew their accused by face only and the rest 18.9 % were unknown to their accused.
- Out of all the 180 victims, 132 i.e. 73.3 % was properly related to their accused and the rest 48 cases i.e. 26.7 % comprised of 34 unknown cases and 14 cases in which the accused was known by face but there was no relationship. 27.3 % (36) victims were abused by their fathers and 7.6 % (10) by their relatives which summed up to make 34.9 % (46) cases of incest. Around 25 % said that they were abused by their neighbors and 18.9 % said that they were betrayed by their boyfriends.
- Out of 146 victims who were abused by someone known, maximum i.e. 56.2 % (82 victims) said that the same person abused them in the past also but that behavior was unreported and the previous abuse ranges from touching of body parts, fondling, kissing etc. to molestation and in few cases intercourse.
- 68.3 % of the victims interviewed were alone at the time of abuse and the rest 31.7 % has one or the other person around at the time of abuse.
- 17.2 % of the victims said that there were more than one accused participated in the act (gang rape, gang molestation/harassment).
- 43.9 % victims offered resistance by fighting back or struggling or physical resistance or biting etc. while 56.1 % confessed that they did not offer any resistance. Of 56.1 % victims who did not offer resistance, maximum i.e. 60.4 % (61 out of 101 victims) did so because they were scared to death and 19.8 % (20 out of 101 victims) did so because it was a consented act as accused promised marriage.
- 59.4 % of the victims were beaten up by the accused and 12.2 % were given verbal threats. Under 28.3 % cases, there was no violence used.
- There were 89 victims out of 180 i.e. 49.4 % whose abuse was disclosed without any delay and the rest 91 victims (50.6 %) delayed because of the various reasons.
• The prominent reason which maximum victims (48 out of 91) gave was trauma and 25 victims said that they were confined in a place. 18 out of 91 i.e. 19.8 % delayed the disclosure of incident because of the fear of non-accepting attitude of parents (mothers in case of father as accused).

6. Case Profile- Child Sexual Exploitation victims

• Maximum i.e. 41.3 % said that they willfully came to earn money either because of poverty or absence of earning member or unemployment due to illiteracy etc. 30.7 % said that they were lured for money, 13.3 % ran away from home to earn money, 6.7 % were lured for job, 5.3 % were sold by their parents and the rest 2.7 % were sold by their boyfriends.

• Irrespective of any reason, whether they came into this profession willfully or by force; when asked that what are the compulsion to stay in this profession, maximum i.e. 38.7 % said that there is no compulsion, they are free to walk but they are continuing on their own will. 25.3 % of the victims were compelled to stay because of the alcoholic and unemployed husband. 18.7 % were compelled because of poverty and the rest because of the mediators (pimps) and parents.

• When asked that whether they have been harassed for the reason that they are in this profession or not. Only 30.7 % said that they never experienced any harassment from anybody. 30.7 % said that they were harassed by the head of the group (sometimes for entertaining more clients and sometimes for the share of money) and the negative elements prevailing in the society (gunda). 17.3 % said that they were harassed by the “Gundas” of the society where they live or where they work. Sometimes, they even molest them in public, extract money forcefully, and defame them in public. 14.7 % said that they were harassed solely by the lady head (pimp). 5.3 % said that they were harassed by the fellow workers and only 1 victim i.e. 1.3 % said that they were harassed by the police personnel.

Profile of Convicts

1. Social Profile

• 44% convicts belong to the category of 32 years and above (young-old) and a significant number i.e. 40% belong to the category of 25-32 years of age (young-young). The least i.e. 16% belong to the category of 18-25 years of age (very young).
• 62% of the convicts interviewed were married at the time of abuse and 38% were unmarried.
• A little less than half of the convicts interviewed i.e. 46% were illiterate, 26% were educated up to matric level only and 18% were educated up to primary level only which is near to negligible education. A least i.e. 8% were graduates at the time of abuse.
• 79% were used to live in a nuclear family at the time of abuse, 19% in a joint family and the rest 2% had no family at all. 71% of the total convicts interviewed had a family size ranging from 4 members to 10 members.
• 45% of the convicts interviewed were used to live in the semi-urbanized portions of Delhi, 25% in rural areas, 16% in slums and the rest 14% in urban settings.
• The present study shows that maximum number of convicts i.e. 86% come from a backward background (Rural-25 + Semi urban-45 + Slums-16 = 86%).
• 56% of the convicts interviewed had few friends and a little less than 56% i.e. 39% said that they had many friends. When it comes to background check before making friends, a considerable number of them i.e. 93% said that they never check the whereabouts or character of the person with whom they are friendly.
• 16% said that they follow their friend’s advice blindly but out of that 16%, 25% said that they never did any illegal act on the advice of friends. 25% were involved in the case of kidnapping and 12.5% each under the case of illegal sexual act, drugs/alcohol, gambling and theft respectively before convicted under this crime.
• 86% had cordial relationship with their family. 88% of the convicts interviewed said that they always had a family support in case of need.
• 74% did not have sound relationship with their neighbors and the rest 26% had sound relationship with their neighbors.
• 71% of the total convicts interviewed were chain drinkers, 18% were occasional drinkers and only 11% said that they never had alcohol in their life.

2. Economic Profile
• 64% of the convicts interviewed were earning between Rs. 1500 to Rs. 5000 only, 18% were earning between Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000, 8% were earning Rs. 10,000 and above, 6% were earning meagerly an amount less than Rs. 1500 and the rest number of convicts i.e. 4% were unemployed at the time of abuse.
- Out of 64% of the convicts who were earning between Rs. 1500 to Rs. 5000, maximum i.e. 62.5% were married at the time of abuse and had a responsibility towards the family. Out of 4% of the convicts who were unemployed, 50% of them were married and had responsibilities on them.
- 58% were the sole earning member of the family that means these convicts were the sole depending factor for many family members.

3. Childhood History
- 31% did not get any proper attention or care during their childhood and out of that, majority i.e. 38.7% had broken home (absence of father or mother or both or disputed family) and 35.5% had working mother.
- 48% said that their parents did not have any sound relationship between them.
- 47% said that their parents used to physically abuse each other in front of them and the rest 5% said that their parents used to physically as well as sexually abuse each other in front of them.
- A majority of them i.e. 88% never had any open communication with their parents on any subject matter. Out of that 88%, 66% said that their parents were backward, hence, no point communicating with them and the rest 34% said that their parents were authoritative in nature.
- 46% experienced physical abuse and 4% experienced physical as well as emotional abuse mainly by their parents and relatives.

4. Case Details
- The percent analysis shows that the potential victim has more threat from those who are above 25 years of age.
- Only in 14% of the cases, the victim was unknown to the convict and in the rest 86% cases; the victim was known in some or other way. In around 44% cases, the victim was neighbors (highest) and in 20% cases, the victim was convict’s girlfriend. The incest cases were 13% (daughter-7%, relative-6%).
- Out of 14% of the cases in which the victim was unknown to the convicts, the maximum i.e. 57% said that they chose their victims because of their easy availability.
- 38% of the total convicts interviewed had a pre-planned motive behind the crime and out of that 38%, maximum i.e. 52.6% said that they did to satisfy their sexual desire. 39.5%
of the convicts sexually abused their victims in order to take revenge in which the victims were either the direct target or the secondary target, just a source to destroy others.

- 62% of the convicts did not plan their act rather they were provoked to indulge in crime. 27.4% said that they were provoked because of uncontrollable situational sexual urge. 20.9% of the convicts were provoked because the victim seduced them. Maximum of these cases involved the girl friends and they were convicted because they had sex with an underage girl irrespective of their consent or seduction in convict’s language.

- In case of daughter as victims, out of 7 convicts, 4 said that they had an uncontrollable sexual urge at the time of abuse. In case of girlfriends as victim, out of 20 cases, maximum i.e. 8 were provoked because the victim was living with them only and 6 said that they were seduced by the girl only. In case of 14 unknown victims, 8 convicts were provoked to indulge in crime.

- Maximum of the convicts i.e. 34% said that the victim was a soft target because of her age and her availability and 15% of the convicts said that they chose a child because they can be easily threatened and put in to fear in comparison to full grown women (34% + 15% = 49%). A good majority of convicts i.e. 26% said that it was a case of love affair (76.9% were both sided love and the rest 23.1% were one sided love). Around 8% of the convicts said that the child victim can be easily lured for sexual abuse.

- Maximum i.e. 62% picked their victims from their house only which signifies that victims were very well known to them. Around 14% picked their victims from a park near to victim’s house, 10% of the convicts said that the victim come on her own to meet them, 8% said that they picked their victims from road and 2% from movie hall. 4% of the convicts said that they themselves went to the victim (in case of commercial sexual exploitation).

- 45% of the convicts said that they abused their victims at the same place from where they were picked. There was no change in place. 41% said that they took them to different places. Out of 41% of the convicts, maximum i.e. 31.7% took the victims to some other city (with or without consent and force).

- 85% of the convicts said that there was no abetment in the commission of crime what they did. A few i.e. 15% were abetted by their friends.
5. Post-Incident

- 65% said that they did nothing to save them, 31% said that they threatened the victims and her family members and put them under the fear of death to settle the case, 2% said that they plead to their victims and told them to pay any way they want and the rest tried to bribe the police officers and judges also to avoid their arrest and conviction.
- 78% regret for what they have done in the past.
- In case of girlfriend as victims, 55% (11) of the convicts regret for the act and a comparatively some number i.e. 45% (9) did not regret for the act. The minute difference of only 2 convicts shows that in these cases, the convicts held their victims partially responsible for the act. In both the cases of daughter and unknown victims, majority i.e. 71.4% regret for what they did and the rest 28.6% did not regret because according to them, it’s the situation was at fault in which the crime took place more than the convict himself.
- 51% said that they did not feel bad or pity for their respective victims.
- 93% of the convicts did not confide about the incident to anyone unless it was opened publicly on its own.
- 95% said that the police behavior was normal, 3% said that the police were hostile and rude to them and the rest 2% said that the police were sympathetic.
- There was no negative response for the prison authorities from the convict’s side as 98% said that they were all treated in the same way as all other convicts under other crimes. However, many of the convicts pointed out that the behavior of fellow mates was notably very harsh towards them. The fellows treat them as a second grade person and labeled them as perverts inside the prison.

Facilitating Factors behind Child Sexual Abuse

Child Rape & Molestation/Harassment Victims

1. Personal Characteristics

- The mean age of child victims of rape was 13.4 years and the mean age of child victims of molestation/harassment was 12.18 years.
- 9.4% of the victims interviewed were physical disabled. 2.8% were mentally disabled.
- 27.3% (36) victims were abused by their fathers and 7.6% (10) by their relatives resulted into 34.9% (46) cases of Incest out of whole lot. Around 25% were abused by
neighbors and 18.9 % said that they were betrayed by their boyfriends. Out of 21 cases of under-age maids, 14 were sexually abused by their employers (employer-employee relationship), 5 by another maid’s friends and 2 by the car-driver of the employer. 2.8 % (5) victims were abused by their teachers in school which shows a breakdown of the pious relationship between a guru and a shishya (teacher-student).

- 36.7 % victims were illiterate at the time of abuse and around 32.2 % were literate upto matric level (continuing studies). A good percentage i.e. 17.8 % were those who had left their studies at primary or matric level. Hence, no-education and under-education make a total of 54.5 %, a little more than half of the victims interviewed.

- 31.1 % of the victims used to spend their maximum time inside the house doing household chores, 20.6 % inside the house with their siblings, 10 % inside the house studying and 1.1 % inside the house with parents which makes a total of 62.8 % of the victims interviewed who used to spend their time inside their house. 17.2 % of the victims used to spend their time chatting with neighbors, 13.3 % outside the house playing with friends and 1.7 % working on the field (farming) which makes a total of 32.2 % of the victims interviewed who used to spend their time outside their house. The rest 5 % were used to beg on road which makes them vulnerable from all the ways a person can think of.

2. Family Characteristics

- 88.3 % of the total victims interviewed belong to nuclear family, 6.1 % were living in joint family and the rest 5.6 % were orphans. Maximum numbers of victims i.e. 60.6 % were living in a large family which had 4 to 10 members in it. The cross analysis of the type and size of the family shows that out of 159 victims who were living in a nuclear family, a significant 67.3 % had a family size of 4 to 10 members.

- The percentage analysis shows that as the family size increases from 4 to 4-10, the abuse increases and when size increases from 4-10 to more than 12 members, the intensity of abuse decreases. The significant number of victims was from large family size i.e. 4 to 10 members, which shows that the offenders target those children who are from a big family and hence less checked by their parents.

3. Family Environment

- 52.8 % said that there was no sound relationship between the parents. Under the category
of absence of sound relationship, maximum victims were raped (52) in comparison to molestation (43).

- The correlation value of -0.335 shows a bleak but negative (inverse) correlation between the two variables which means that both the variables i.e. abuse and sound relationship are somewhat related to each other and the absence of sound relationship between the parents increase the chances of being abused in any form.
- 56.7% of the victims interviewed said that their parents used to physically abuse each other in front of them (father to mother abuse) and 31.1% said that the parents did not abuse each other in front of them but the existence of abuse cannot be ruled out in these families.
- 90.6% of the victims never had open communication with their parents. The correlation value of -0.297 (value can be consider as a negative correlation because of the sensitivity of the issue studied) shows a bleak but negative correlation between the abuse and open communication. It means that the absence of open communication increases the chances of getting abused.
- 87.2% of the victims interviewed said that their parents never trust or support them in any matter especially the non-supporting attitude of parents after the disclosure of abuse was evident in all the cases. Even the correlation value of -0.170 shows a very bleak but negative (inverse) correlation between the two variables. Therefore, it can be easily concluded from the present study that both the variables i.e. absence of open communication with the parents and absence of parents trust or support in every matter, are interlinked to each other and plays a vital role in facilitating the child sexual abuse.
- 50.9% of the victim’s said that mostly the outsiders used to visit their houses. Under the types of outsiders, neighbors outnumbered any other option during the study.

4. Occupation
- 44.4% said that they had both the parents working, 48.9% said that the mother was not working and the rest 6.7% were orphans (death of parents).
- Out of those, whose both parents were working, maximum i.e. 97.5% said that there was no one who take care of them and the rest 2.5% were left on the mercy of relatives. That 97.5% of the victims are those types of girls who are perfect victims for the abusers as they left unattended by their parents.
• Out of those, whose mother was not working, maximum i.e. 54.5 % (48 victims) said that their mother never takes care of them. Out of 48 victims whose mother never takes care of them, maximum i.e. 20 victims said that their mother was not concerned to them, 18 said that there were many children to look after for, hence the preference over girl children was quite negligible.

5. Socio-Economic Status
• 41.7 % were living in a semi-urban locality of Delhi, 38.9 % were living in slums, 8.9 % were living in rural backyards of Delhi and 2.8 % on roads. Only 7.8 % (i.e. 14 victims out of 180) were living in urban registered colonies of Delhi.
• 61.1 % of the victims interviewed said that they had neighbors of mixed character i.e. both negative and positive elements of the society living together.
• 25 % were from a family whose income was in between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 monthly and 21.1 % victim’s family income was in between Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000. 3.9 % said that the family income was below Rs. 500 per month which is same as negligible if you are living in Delhi.

Child Sexual Exploitation Victims
6. Individual Characteristics
• 57.3 % of the victims interviewed said that money is important for them and the rest 42.7 % said that it is very important. All of them said that they can do anything to earn money. This shows the plight of all the victims that they all were victims of extreme poverty and that they have decided to enter in this profession or decided to continue in this profession in order to earn money only. This particular variable is considered as one of the major facilitating factor behind sexual exploitation of children (especially girls aged 13-18 years) and if provided with other alternatives to earn money, they will be saved from this exploitation.
• 72 % of the victims said that they blindly believe or trust on neighbors or friends.
• 53.3 % of the victims were illiterate and 40 % were literate up to primary level. Illiteracy and under education is one of the facilitating factors which forces a young girl to enter in to this profession to earn easy money or which proves to be a boon for the middle men or pimps to entice young and immature girls in to this profession for money.
Maximum of the street/home based victims who were interviewed for the present study said that because of their illiteracy, there were no jobs for them outside and if they want to earn money to support family they have to enter in this profession to earn easy bucks without any educational background.

Same is the case with those brothel based sex workers who have migrated to Delhi in search of jobs and because of illiteracy they found prostitution the easiest way to earn money.

7. Other Characteristics

- Maximum number of victims i.e. 54.7 % were from a rural background. Out of that 54.7 %, maximum were brothel based sex workers who were forced into this profession or came on their own will to earn money. 36.0 % were living in semi-urban areas of Delhi and 5.3 % were living in slums. Maximum of them were street/home based sex workers and very few were brothel based.

- 73.3 % of the victims interviewed said that they had neighbors of mixed character i.e. both bad and good people living in the near-by society. The victims who were from rural background of other cities or countries said that most of the neighborhood girls or middle aged women who are in this profession only, lured young girls to this profession. Those victims who were Delhi based or migrated to Delhi for work said that the female neighbors influenced them to join this profession.

- 93.3 % were used to live in nuclear family and 70.7 % victims had a family size of 4-10 members. However, there is no direct relation between the size of family and child commercial sexual exploitation but size of the family does matter in case of poor and poverty stricken families as the number of members are more to feed but income is so less.

- 69.3 % (52) of the victims of sexual exploitation said that there was no sound relationship between their parents. Also 76 % of the victims said that their parents used to physically abuse each other in front of them. The combined existence of unsound and abusive relationship within the family makes it a virtually broken family where there is an absence of moral and ethical values which weakens their internal constraints.

- Poverty and the type of society they are living in weaken their external constraints and hence the outcome becomes an easy entry into this profession.
• 41.3 % said that they willfully came to earn money either because of poverty or absence of earning member or unemployment due to illiteracy etc. 30.7 % said that they were lured for money, 13.3 % ran away from home to earn money, 6.7 % were lured for job, 5.3 % were sold by their parents and the rest 2.7 % were sold by their boyfriends.

• Irrespective of any reason, whether they came into this profession willfully or by force; when asked that what are the compulsion to stay in this profession, maximum i.e. 38.7 % said that there is no compulsion, they are free to walk but they are continuing on their own will. 25.3 % of the victims were compelled to stay because of the alcoholic and unemployed husband. 18.7 % were compelled because of poverty and the rest because of the mediators (pimps) and parents.

8. Absence of Sex Education

• The absence of sex education is quite visible with all the victims interviewed which is pointing towards the importance of having sex education for the children be it from the hands of parents or from school.

Consequences of Sexual Abuse on Children

1. Sociological Consequences- Rape & Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims

• 18.9 % (34) of the victims were continuing with their studies, 33.9 % (61) victims discontinued their studies after the incident and the rest 47.2 % (85) victims were not studying.

• 51.7 % (93) were not studying at the time of incident but this percentage has reduced to 47.2 % because few victims have started their studies after the incident when given an opportunity to study.

• Out of 18.9 % (34) of the victims who continued their studies even after the incident, maximum i.e. 52.9 % (18) victims did not see any behavior change in school authorities, 32.3 % continued their studies from open school (no direct connection of the victim with school authorities) and the rest 14.8 % (5) said that the school authorities held them responsible for the crime. These 14.8 % cases were those in which the victim were abused by their teacher in school only and the school authorities were in favor of their teacher.

• Out of 33.9 % (61) victims who discontinued their studies, maximum i.e. 65.6 % (40) victims did not continue because of parents. 29.5 % (18) of the victims said that they
discontinued because of the ill-fame in school and in 4.9 % (3) cases, the school authorities refused to accept the child back in school.

- 53.3 % (96) of the victims interviewed said that they saw a change in the behavior of parents/siblings after the incident.
- Maximum i.e. 64.6 % (62) victims said that their parents (especially mother) held them responsible for the crime, 30.2 % (29) were looked down upon by their parents/siblings and the rest 5.2 % (5) said that they never came to meet at shelter home.
- Out of 96 victims who saw change in the behavior of their parents, maximum i.e. 91 said that there family should be counseled so that they start accepting the reality and see victim as a victim not as a culprit and culprit as a culprit.
- 27.8 % (50) said that their friends stop talking to them after the incident on their own and in few cases on the verdict of their parents and the rest 11.1 % (20) said that their friends started taunting them about the incident.
- 36.1 % (65) of the victims said that they have stopped trusting people now, 21.7 % (39) did not find change in their social life, 18.9 % (34) have stopped moving alone, 13.9 % (25) became less talkative and the rest 9.4 % (17) stopped visiting social gatherings.
- 52.7 % said that there was a change in the behavior of their neighbors after the incident. 18.3 % (33 out of 180) victims said that their neighbors used to stare at them and their family, 16.1 % (29) said that their neighbors defamed them, 11.1 % (20) said that they stopped talking and the rest 6.1 % (11) used to taunt at them every now and then.
- 50 % of the victims changed the place of living after the incident.

2. Sociological Consequences- Child Sexual Exploitation victims

- More than half of the victims i.e. 53.3 % (40 out of 75) said that there was no change in the behavior of their parents because they were not aware of the profession. 30.7 % (23) said that they noticed change in the behavior of their parents and out of that, maximum i.e. 15 victims said that they were looked down upon by their parents and the rest 8 victims were even asked to quit the profession but the victims were themselves not interested in quitting. The rest 16 % (12) of the victims interviewed said that they did not see any behavior change because in few cases, the parents were only responsible to throw them in this profession and in rest of the cases, out of poverty they have become helpless on one hand and greedy on the other because they want money to live their life.
• 40% (30) of the victim’s social life was not affected at all because of the reason that they are continuing with the profession by keeping everyone in dark. 36% (27) victims said that they have stopped visiting social gatherings in order to avoid meeting people because of the fear to get noticed as a sex worker among the crowd of known people. 13.3% (10) victims said that they have stopped visiting local markets (brothel based sex workers) because the general public stare at them and taunt them. 9.3% (7) said that the people stare at them and also they were looked down upon.

• 46.7% (35) did not want to go to the same place or family. Maximum i.e. 24 victims out of 35 did not want to go back because of the fear of rejection by the family and society and 9 victims did not want to go because they want to earn money for themselves.

• 30.7% said that they never experienced any harassment from anybody. 30.7% said that they were harassed by the head of the group (sometimes for entertaining more clients and sometimes for the share of money) and the negative elements prevailing in the society (gunda). 17.3% said that they were harassed by the “Gundas” of the society where they live or where they work. Sometimes, they even molest them in public, extract money forcefully, and defame them in public. 14.7% said that they were harassed solely by the lady head (pimp). 5.3% said that they were harassed by the fellow workers and only 1 victim i.e. 1.3% said that they were harassed by the police personnel.

3. Psychological Consequences- Rape & Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims

• When all the victims asked about whether their perception of men has changed or not after the incident, 81.7% said it was a drastic change. Maximum i.e. 38.3% (69) victims said that they have started hating males now, 33.3% (60) have lost trust, 8.9% (16) have become fearful and 2 of the victims said that they would not marry in future at any cost.

• When it comes to known and related accused under 46 incest cases, 33 neighborhood cases and 25 cases in which boyfriend were involved, maximum of the victims said that they have started hating males and lost their trust on them.

• The cross analysis between the victim’s perception and their age group shows that the majority of strong and negative feelings came from the age group of 13 to 18 years and then 8 to 13 years. The victims under the age group of 3 to 8 years felt less strongly in comparison to their elder counterparts because of their inability to think maturely and judge the situation and the abuser.
• 68.9 % (124) victims showed some signs of depression. Maximum i.e. 34.4 % (62) said that they have become very quite after the incident, 18.9 % (34) said that they do not want to communicate more now and 10.5 % (19) said that they suffer from sleepless nights and nightmares.

• Under the category of 3 to 8 years, majority of victims became quite (11) and the rest (10) suffered from sleepless nights and nightmares. Under the category of 8 to 13 years, maximum victims became quite (20). Under the category of 13 to 18 years, maximum victims i.e. 44 showed no depression and 56 victims became quite and stop communicating with people (31 + 25= 56 victims).

• Only 15.6 % (28) of the victims confessed of having suicidal tendencies after the incident. Out of these 28 victims, 17 were abused by their own fathers, 2 by their relatives and the rest 9 by their close neighbors

• 60.6 % (109) of the victims interviewed had a revengeful attitude towards the accused. The maximum of the victims demanded for life imprisonment as the punishment for the dreadful act. A few i.e. 15 victims went for death penalty as the only punishment under child sexual abuse cases.

• 10.6 % (19) starts feeling nervous and 10 % (18) starts feeling irritated when out in crowd.

• Out of 37 victims who never feel comfortable in crowd, 16 were abused by someone known personally and 11 by unknown. Hence, it can be said that this feeling of the victims generally generates from their own tendency to control the fear within itself rather than on the type of accused.

• A good number of victims i.e. 41.7 % (75) wish to live alone or in isolation after the incident and the rest 58.3 % (105) do not mind mingling with the people. However the percentage of victims (who wish to live in isolation) is comparatively less but still it cannot be ignored as such.

• 66.1 % (119) of the victims remain disturbed most of the time after the incident. Out of 34 cases in which the accused were unknown, maximum i.e. 29 were disturbed mainly because of the blaming attitude of parents. Out of 46 incest cases and 33 cases of neighborhood abuse, maximum victims were used to remain disturbed after the incident because of the proximity of the relationship with the accused.
4. Psychological Consequences- Child Sexual Exploitation victims

- Majority of the victims i.e. 89.3 % (67) did not change their perception of men after entering into this profession but the point here to be noticed is that the earlier perception of the victims for men was not positive at all. Most of the victims blamed the males in their life for their plight besides poverty. They said if they would have a properly earning father or husband, they would have not joined this profession. 6.7 % (5) of the victims have lost trust over men and 4 % (3) victims have started hating males. They were those victims who were backstabbed by their own families or known men and sold away or forced into child prostitution.

- Majority i.e. 85.3 % showed no signs of depression because they have accepted their life the way it is. The rest 13.7 % (11) victims have joined recently and hence they were depressed a little bit.

- There was no suicidal tendencies and revengeful attitude found out in any of the victims interviewed.

- 46.7 % (35) victims used to feel comfortable in crowd, 38.7 % (29) victims used to feel nervous in crowd and the rest 14.7 % (11) used to feel irritated in crowd. The reasons behind nervousness and irritation were the crawling eyes of general public, their comments and the recognition of them as a sex worker.

- 73.3 % of the victims did not have this feeling to live alone or in isolation because according to them they are not culprits, rather they are the victims of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. Above all, they consider prostitution as any other profession in which a woman sells her body to earn money and in other profession a woman sells her mind to earn money. Because of this attitude they carry about themselves and the profession, most of them i.e. 85.3 % (64) said that they never remain disturbed rather they have accepted their life the way it is and enjoys it.

- 25.3 % (19) victims said that even after accepting prostitution as their working life, they feel degraded or pathetic on labeling and 18.7 % (14) said that they feel degraded most of the times. 56 % (42) said that they are used to labeling now. But, still labeling is one factor which disturbed them emotionally because its society only who forced them to adopt this profession and then its society only who make them feel pathetic and impure via labeling.
5. Self Changes - Rape & Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims

- The victims who are continuing their studies even after the incident, they were studying with the same interest as earlier. There was no adverse effect of the abuse on their learning abilities.
- 55% (99) of the victims are not pursuing their hobbies as earlier. They used to love talking to people, exploring places, dancing, singing and doing whole lot of things but after the incident they have lost their interest in it because of the regular blaming process either by the family or by neighbors or by friends. They feel degraded and devastated and hence not enjoying the life the way they used to do it earlier.
- 60% of the victims have same work interest. The victims includes all those who were used to do house hold chores or those who were house maids and even those who used to do small time jobs outside the house. Their intact interest in the work shows the compulsion attached with it.
- 63.9% (115) of the victims vision a bright future of their as other children and a considerable number i.e. 36.1% (65) said that they do not have a bright future. They carry this feeling that they will not be accepted by the society.

6. Self Changes - Child Sexual Exploitation victims

- 69.3% (52) of the victims are not pursuing hobbies with the same interest as earlier because they do not have time for it. Instead of spending time in pursuing hobbies, they would rather entertain clients and earn money for themselves which is going to help them in future.
- Majority of the victims i.e. 68% (51) said that they do not have any future, forget about the bright future. “Once a prostitute, always a prostitute”, they said that even if they want to leave the profession, they will be tagged with the same thing. 32% (24) who were confident about their future said that after earning sufficient money, they will settle in some other city and live in peace.
- When all the victims were asked that if given an option to earn respectfully, will they continue with this profession, majority i.e. 66.7% (50) victim said yes they will continue with this profession and only 33.3% (25) said no.
- Out of 50 victims who want to continue, maximum i.e. 29.3% (22) gave money the priority reason. They are aware of this fact that because of illiteracy and unemployment,
out in the world, prostitution is the only way by which they can earn a good amount of money. 25.3 % (19) said that they will continue both for money and the fear of rejection by the society. 9.3 % (7) said that they will only leave this profession after depositing a good amount of money for their sustenance.

The Dark Side of the City

1. Analysis of Vulnerable Areas/ Districts of Delhi- Rape & Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims

- The overall analysis from the available secondary sources shows that the two districts i.e. North-west and North-east which reported majority of rape (under 18) cases in Delhi, are densely populated and houses the major slums and poverty stricken population. However, it is not justified to say that rape takes place only in these areas but on the other hand, it would be worth mentioning here that they are the breeding grounds for many such crimes. The reason are the unavailability of basic resources, low literacy rate, low awareness level, low work participation rate and unemployment together breeds a criminal situation as well as a criminal mind into a social human being.

- If we talk about molestation cases in Delhi, the figures of 4 years (2006-09) showed that South Delhi reported maximum number of cases but in 2009, the East district came up with maximum number of cases. The East district was the 3rd most densely populated district as well as at the 3rd number when it comes to low work participation rate. The south district had the low literacy rate and more percentage of rural population in comparison to other districts. The district wise analysis for this crime does not come to any workable conclusion as all the areas of study for ex. population density, literacy rate, work participation rate etc. for both the districts didn’t point out towards a perfect reason for the existence of this crime.

2. Analysis of Vulnerable Areas/ Districts of Delhi- Child Sexual Exploitation victims

- When it comes to sexual exploitation of both women & children, Delhi is a major Destination State. They are trafficked to Delhi from almost all the states of the country and Nepal & Bangladesh. Delhi in recent times has emerged not only as a major destination but also as a major transit point for the trafficking of girls from the North Eastern states and Eastern states. In Delhi, mostly the girls are worked as domestic servants in the day and function as prostitutes in the night.
- DSACS Mapping estimated that there were 61,621 female sex workers (FSWs) in Delhi State in 2006. The number of FSWs had increased from 35,062 in 2002 to 61,621 in 2006, showing an increase of 76% in four years.

- North-west Delhi had the highest number of FSWs i.e. 12,324 followed by South (9859), North (9859) and West (8627). The lowest FSWs were in New Delhi and Central (1232) district but the New Delhi (1232) district had the second highest FSWs per thousand population i.e. 8.28 after the North district (12.51).

- According to DSACS mapping, 2006, nearly one-sixth of FSWs in Delhi were brothel based while 28-29% were home-based sex workers. About 44-45% were street based while 10-11% were call girls.

Handling of Child Sexual Abuse Cases (Police Viewpoints)

- As a whole, it has been proved by the study that police is doing their best in handling the cases of child sexual abuse be it in form of female police assistance in a separate room or space in case of questioning, taking NGOs help for counseling, provide security in case of threat calls etc. When it comes to investigation of child sexual abuse cases, the situation is quite critical as there are many criminal cases but the head count of investigating officers is less. The same investigating officer who investigates other cases has to investigate these cases as well; hence, the investigation gets delayed unnecessarily. There is no minimum time limit prescribed for the investigation part of these cases but according to the police officers, the investigation starts soon after the reporting of case. They duly follow the legal code laid down for the investigation and in sensitive issues in which the child is involved they always prefer to use Section 164 of Cr PC. It helps them in the long run of the case.

- Also, Delhi police is extending its helping hand to the common mass in every way possible so that they come forward with their problems without any hesitation and overcome the fear of police which is plugged into their mind. Police has become more compassionate and sensitized in comparison to the past and it is the outcome of the sensitization programmes which generally run for all level of police officers (also an initiative of Delhi police), so that, they can sensitize themselves against the crimes against children/women and handle the traumatized victims gently in comparison to other victims.
Role of NGOs in the Prevention of Sexual Abuse on Children

- After an intricate analysis of all the 9 NGOs working in the area of child sexual abuse, it’ll be needless to say that NGOs are the backbone of society without which our body cannot stand straight. They are doing exceptionally good work. Without any doubt, they hold the promise of providing a better deal to child victims. But given the all-round inertial and indifference, bordering on hopelessness and helplessness, it is unrealistic, however, to believe that the existing preventive, protective, curative and rehabilitative policies and programmes run by large number of NGOs in the field of child welfare, would produce results better than before. Child serving agencies are treating the symptoms and are not working properly on the roots of the problem. What is needed, therefore, is a more fundamental approach of correcting the societal conditions that make millions of our children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Sexual Abuse of Male Children

- The children under study were run-away kids or orphans who were rescued by the police or counselors or NGO people and sent to children home.
- 38 % of the male children who were interviewed were from a rural background. They were basically from villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Ghaziabad and the other NCR regions of Delhi and ran away from their homes because of varied reasons. Around 34 % were from the slums of Delhi and other states. 22 % of them were orphans.
- Majority i.e. 62 % of the children interviewed said that there was no sound relationship between their parents. Around 56 % (28) of them said that their parents used to abuse each other in front of them only.
- All the children except orphans (78 %) said that they neither had an open communication with their parents nor their parents has trusted them or supported them over any issue. The abusive and distorted relationship within the family makes it a broken family which is one of the basic reasons behind the problem of run-away kids.
- The finding of the present study with male children shows that approximately all of them belonged to low economic background.
- As all the children studied were run-away kids except 22 % (11) who were orphans, they were asked what were the reasons behind eloping form their families. Maximum i.e. 18 % (9 victims out of 50) said that they wanted to explore Delhi. 16 % (8) of them ran away to get rid of the excessive physical abuse by their parents. 12 % (6) said that they used to
have tiff with their fathers. There was an unsound relationship between them and they cannot stand each other. 8% said they used to get tortured by their step-mothers. 6% (3) of them said that because of the damage caused by them at their house, they ran away to avoid beating and scolding. Very few of them i.e. 2 children said that they never wanted to study but forced by their parents to continue with the school. Hence, they ran away from their homes in order to avoid studies.

- 78% (39 out of 50) of the children interviewed said that they were excessively physically abused in their past by their parents or relatives or known people. 22% (11 out of 50) said they were physically as well as psychologically abused in their past. Around 26% (13 out of 50) of the children interviewed said that they were sexually abused in their past.

- Out of 13, 12 were sexually abused at railway station where they used to work by the boys elder to them who reside and work at the railway station only and 1 was sexually abused in the children home only where he used to live by one of his roommate.

- The nature of sexual abuse varied from touching and fondling to intercourse. The number of cases of intercourse was 4 out of 13. The cases of sexual abuse reported in the present study were not a single time incident rather they were series of incidents.

- None of the children reported the incident of sexual abuse officially to anyone. 46% (6) said that they did not report the incident out of guilt and shame, 31% (4) did not report because of the reason that nobody will going to believe them and 23% (3) were scared to death by the abuser.

- Maximum of the children i.e. 62% (8) said that their behavior did not change after the incident and the rest 38% (5) became less talkative post-incident.

- 77% (10) showed no signs of depression because of the reason that in India, the boys are reared in such a way that they should not show their weak points and fallacies in them. Only 23% (3) became fearful.

- None of the children said that their social life was not affected because of the past sexual abuse.

- 62% (8) of them carried a revengeful attitude towards their abuser and the rest 38% (5) did not. When asked that will you do the same act to anybody else, everybody replied no.
RECOMMENDATIONS

For Child Rape/Molestation/Sexual Harassment Victims

1. The study reveals that 90.6% of the victims never had open communication with their parents and 87.2% said that their parents never trust or support them in any matter especially the non-supporting attitude of parents after the disclosure of abuse was evident in all the cases. **It is therefore recommended** that parents should work on strengthening the relationship between parents and child. It is their duty to establish a comfortable and free atmosphere at home so that it encourages their child to disclose anything they, may have felt as a violation, especially if it has been felt within the family: remember a child’s silence is what the abuser has been trading on.

2. The major threat of sexual abuse for children is from the person they know in comparison to strangers as evident from the present study because 81% of the victims were abused by someone known to them out of which, 66.1% were known to them personally. 27.3% victims were abused by their fathers, 7.6% by their relatives and 25% by their neighbors. **It is therefore recommended** that a proper vigilance and attention is required by the family and especially mothers in case of father-daughter incest in order to keep the children safe. Mothers should be taught to get away with this feeling that reporting this crime would bring disrepute to the family first and then make it dysfunctional. The vigilant and attentive attitude should not be the only responsibility of family members, the neighbors also can do their bit in the early detection and prevention of sexual crimes by keeping their eyes and ears open.

3. The study reveals that 65% of the victims were from the age group of 13 to 18 which is the adolescent period. At this stage, the girls need to be made aware of her vulnerability and responsibility regarding her sexuality, so that she may avoid situations where she can be molested or raped as 18.9% victims were abused by their boyfriends in the present study. **It is therefore recommended** that appropriate programmes should be imparted to the girls of adolescent age with the help of parents, schools and NGOs to keep them away from the clutches of real beast who come in their lives in the form of lovers.

4. One of the basic features of child sexual abuse is that the abuser preys on those children who are easy to get. The study proves the easy and un-protective availability of children
ultimately removing the external inhibitors for the abusers. **It is therefore recommended** that special homes managed by the local NGOs should be created in those areas which are vulnerable to abuse for those children whose parents are working and the children stays back home alone. A protective atmosphere should be the utmost priority for those vulnerable children.

5. The overall analysis of the vulnerable areas/ districts of Delhi where the frequency of sexual abuse cases are more includes the areas which are densely populated and houses the major slums and poverty stricken population. Those areas lacks the availability of basic resources which are important for a simple living, has the low literacy rate, low awareness level, low work participation rate and unemployment which together breeds an abusive situation. **It is therefore recommended** that proper steps should be taken by the police to patrol these areas especially by women police constables in order to give a safe environment to female children. Government should make proper schemes for the upliftment of these sections and provide them with basic amenities and education. Also the NGOs should organize awareness programmes timely to make them aware of their basic rights, the possibilities of intra as well as extra familial sexual abuse, the importance and urgency of disclosure of abuse etc.

6. The study reveals that after the abuse, the victim’s perception of men generally change (in a negative manner) which can prove to be problematic in future life. Most of the victims were disturbed and showed some signs of depression. Few became very quite after the incident and few suffered from sleepless nights and nightmares. As per the study, the more close the accused to the victim, more signs of depression were shown by the victims. **It is therefore recommended** that in case of child sexual abuse the Government with the help of NGOs, psychologists and psychiatrists should institute a properly designed treatment programme to guarantee the psychiatric treatment and regular counseling sessions to all the identified child victims during the trial runs and otherwise also for free to ensure the healthy development of the future of the nation.

7. During the course of study, the researcher came to know about the legal complications related to the problem of child sexual abuse in India. There are few sections or sub-sections in our Indian Penal Code and Bare Acts which covers this issue but they all are not child specific. **It is therefore recommended** that a special act should be formed
which would deals with all the crimes related to children especially the sexual abuse and that law should cover all the forms of child sexual abuse and a complimentary punishment for the same to give proper justice to the children. A positive step has already been taken by the Indian Government by formulating few bills like Offences against Children Bill, 2005 and Prevention of Children from Sexual Assault Bill, 2010 who are in favor of child victims. But the need of the hour is the early conversion of these bills into the Acts and the proper implementation of the same.

8. During the interview of police personnel and NGOs, it has been discovered that during the trial process few of the victims disappeared or take their case back on the verdict of their parents or because of defamation and many generate unreliable responses or retreat from originally true statements under the repeated questioning by the defense lawyers in order to escape further discomfort or unwanted consequences. It is therefore recommended that a model should be adopted by the Indian judiciary in which the child victims of sexual abuse should not necessarily be required to appear at the trial. An expert should be appointed by the judge to take the child’s testimony and to provide the court with a report, which should be in two parts. The first records what the child said, the second gives the expert’s own impression and evaluation of the child’s evidence. One advantage of this system is that a child’s evidence can be evaluated soon after the incidents are first reported instead of waiting for what may be a long delayed trial, with the witness exposed during the interim to undesirable pressures or suggestions.

For Child Sexual Exploitation Victims

9. Prostitution is one of the oldest, discernible and most condemned professions in the society. Further, rehabilitation of the sexually exploited individual is the most formidable but essential task ahead of us. The packages of rehabilitation should be remunerative enough to attract and retain them on alternate vocations on giving up their profession and lead a normal life. But the present study reveals the mockery of current rehabilitative mechanisms as most of the victims prefers to remain in this business in order to earn their living. It is therefore recommended that the rehabilitative mechanisms for the child and young victims of commercial sexual exploitation can broadly be categorized into three groups. The first group comprises newly trafficked children and young girls, who have to
be rescued as early as possible and have to be rehabilitated and repatriated on a priority basis. The second category includes young girls who continue to live in brothels due to lack of alternative income generating options and young street sex workers who entered into this profession out of poverty. This section of young girls and children may not need much persuasion to give up the profession once other means of respectable and good source of livelihood are offered. The third category includes young girls belonging to “willing” category who would need more persuasion and counseling especially the “hard core” types, because they are in the profession willingly and for easy money. Here, we have to offer attractive means of livelihood for them to be economically independent. The rehabilitative strategies for each group should be differently devised by keeping the best interests of the victims based on the informed consent of victims/survivors.

10. It has been reported repeatedly, that the traffickers usually belong to same or nearby village and are often familiar with the family of children. Sometimes ex-prostitutes come to their native places to recruit new girls. They lure the girls by display of jewellery, cosmetics and fling money by throwing feasts for the whole village. **It is therefore recommended** that here in these types of cases, panchayats need to look into the matter. Once the purpose of such visitors becomes obvious, the children should be protected from their clutches and such people should be ostracized by the panchayat and thereby by the community. Further the trafficker should be imposed with heavy fine on compensatory grounds to the victim’s family, so as to discourage such future activities.

11. The study reveals that 53.3% of the victims were illiterate and 40% were literate upto primary level only. Illiteracy and under education is one of the facilitating factors which forces a young girl to enter in to this profession to earn easy money or which proves to be a boon for the middle men or pimps to entice young and immature girls in to this profession for money. Maximum of the street/home based victims who were interviewed for the present study said that because of their illiteracy, there were no jobs for them outside and if they want to earn money to support family they have to enter in this profession to earn easy bucks without any educational background. Same is the case with those brothel based sex workers who have migrated to Delhi in search of jobs and because of illiteracy they found prostitution the easiest way to earn money. **It is therefore recommended** that stress should be made on the proper implementation of
already existing policies related to free and compulsory education because literacy spreads general awareness, strength, economic empowerment as well as sense of judgment to differentiate between the right and the wrong. Awareness generation and legal literacy on economic rights, particularly for women and adolescent girls should be taken up by Government bodies as well as NGOs. Also formal education should be made available to those victims who are still within the school going age while non-formal education should be made accessible to young girls so that they can come out of the trauma by getting themselves engrossed in something productive for their life. The Central and State Governments in partnership with non-governmental organizations should provide gender-sensitive market driven vocational training to all those rescued victims who are not interested in education so that they can keep up with their lives.

12. The study reveals one of the new forms of prostitution involving young girls i.e. the business of fake marriages. In this new type, the girl’s marriage has been fixed by their operating group with the boys living in villages of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh where there are no prospective girls for marriages. The group charges some hefty amount from the boy’s family to arrange a girl and to solemnize the wedding. Then after a month or so, the girl ran away from their in-laws house to her operating group back to resume her business of getting married again. The girl charges a good amount of share out of the earnings. It is therefore recommended that police with the help of local NGOs operating in the respective areas, should keep a check on these new forms or methods of exploitation of young girls in order to earn money. Proper steps should be taken to get away with these new forms of exploitation and to rescue innocent and young girls from the clutches of the organized groups.

**Need for Research**

13. The research in India on child sexual abuse is scanty in comparison to researches in other countries. The absence of in-depth analysis in this field makes the policy makers helpless in deciding over the major issues related to the problem as research impact the decision making in a positive and fruitful manner. The outcome of the research gives a base for the further formulation of legislative and rehabilitative measures suiting to the needs of children and the present scenario. It is therefore recommended that the Government
should timely fund research projects related to the field of sexual abuse of children in order to keep an update over this issue. The summary reports of these national based studies should be distributed among all the pillars of criminal justice system to keep them informed regarding the frequency and prevalence of this obnoxious problem so that they can devise some workable solutions to cop-up with it. Infact, NGOs working in this area should be promoted to conduct some short surveys regularly in their operating areas and these surveys can be taken as base for the conduction of further scientific studies.

**Need for Sex Education**

14. The study reveals the visibility of the absence of sex education with all the victims interviewed be it from the hands of parents (informal education) or school authorities (formal education). The importance of sex education lies in the fact that information is power, and in this high risk day and age, children and teens need all the information they can get about sex, sexual relationships, reproduction and birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual abuse in a proper and systematic manner. To withhold information about the sex and the possibility of sexual abuse puts all children at risk as it has already been proved by the present study. Refusing to talk about sex does not mean that children are safe, that nothing bad will happen to them. **It is therefore recommended** that a correct knowledge about sex in the form of sound sex education should be imparted to all the children which helps them to understand sex better than get addicted to aberration which border on crime. A question which needs to be posed at the outset is who should be entrusted with the responsibility of imparting sex education. The answer to this question lies in the shared responsibility of school authorities as well as parents. It should be made mandatory for all the school authorities that they should include this subject in their formal education system and develop a systematic curriculum as per the standards suiting to every age group. Also, educators and civic leaders must encourage parents to accept responsibility in the area of sex education and thus strengthen the family function in helping children to achieve a fuller and balanced approach to their sexual development. Parents must remember that if their children are old enough to ask a question, they are old enough to receive an honest and accurate answer.
CONCLUSION

A problem that is only beginning to come into light in India, sexual abuse of children is a worldwide issue of intense discussion. There is very little research done in this area in India, and only a few books have been written, keeping the subject even further from the consciousness of the country. However, the problem persists with staggering incidence, and India’s unique profile adds to the complexity of an already difficult subject. Fortunately, the issue of child sexual abuse is slowly becoming a more recognized issue, and for this reason, the present research study focused much on the socio-economic background of the victim’s family, the diverse forces which are operative in the process of sexual victimization and the consequences related to the abuse. The study also attempted to identify and study the areas of Delhi which are prone to sexual abuse of children.

Majority of the victims belonged to weak economic families or poverty-stricken families and were illiterate living in un-urbanized colonies and slums of Delhi. The analysis of the victims of child rape and child molestation/harassment revealed that a young age, disability, relationship with the accused, low education-level, nuclear family of big size, unsound and abusive relationship between parents, absence of open-communication with parents, absence of parents trust or support, virtual absence of mother, unattended children, unregistered society, semi-urban areas and slums, bad character neighbors, low family income were the major facilitating factors behind their sexual abuse. On the other hand, the overall analysis of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation revealed that their extreme poverty, illiteracy, lack of access to formal education, importance of money, rural background (where the avenues to earn money is very less for a female), nuclear family with big size, abusive and unsound relationship between parents, unemployed or underemployed or alcoholic parents or husbands, lured by friends or neighbors, migration etc. were the diverse forces operative in the process of their victimization.

The actual problem with this menace is that the disclosure of the cases is quite less or minimal because disclosure is the most difficult and threatening step for a victim and because of real and imagined difficulties, victims often won’t come forward. A child may be embarrassed about the incident. Children, who most often have no formal or much less informal education about sexual matters, often find they have mixed feelings about their experiences and find it extremely awkward to discuss such matters. Sometimes the fear of being responsible or blamed
comes in the way. The confusion may induce a fear that they will be blamed for what happened because they in some way allowed it to happen. Often a child will be afraid of disclosure for fear that exposure might draw censure from peers or parents. Once the incident is brought to the attention of the parents, be it an inter-familial or extra-familial situation, the parents often refuses to allow it outside the family, fearing the investigative and court process. Often the child keeps the secret about the abuse because of the threats the offender has made, expressed or implied. The last but not the least barrier in disclosing the cases is the guilt. All these things further victimize the children in addition to the primary victimization they are going through.

In sum, sexual abuse of children in India is a large problem without an easy solution. Though the issue persists worldwide, India’s culture which traditionally keeps women below men, makes talk of private matters such as sex unallowable, and a corrupt and weak legal system when it comes to sexual abuse of children makes the problems even larger. No sexually abused victim should be treated in an undignified manner, particularly if the victim is a child. The consequences of the sexual abuse traumatize the children throughout their childhood and even continue to create imbalances in their emotions when they enter the adulthood. If the whole incident is dealt at the right time and in an appropriate manner then a child sexual abuse victim can easily be rehabilitated and can enjoy life like any normal person.

**FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS**

The outcome of the present study opens up a platform for the further researches on the topic of child sexual abuse whose further relevance can be used to fill the research gap. A research study can be conducted aimed at understanding how the reactions of other people to the child’s disclosure of the abuse, may have affected the development of problematic behaviors or symptoms which would be valuable. A comparative study in this regard, may investigate the symptoms of children supported by parents and/or others after disclosing the abuse, with those that received no support, or who were ignored or rejected as a result of such disclosure. Such research can further investigate the coping mechanisms employed by child victims. Furthermore comparative studies may document how individuals, who received therapy after disclosing the abuse, coped in comparison to those who were not supported after disclosure. Such research may focus on shame, guilt, poor self-esteem, depression, and inter-personal relations. Also a research can be done to study the inhibitory factors behind the delay in disclosure of cases.
In India, the issue of sexual abuse is still wedged between legal and policy commitments to children on the one hand, and the fallout of globalization on the other. A nationwide furor resulted after the Government’s decision to introduce sex education in schools. The subject has divided opinion between camps who felt such a step would lead to unnecessary experimentation by curious teenagers and others who believed it would help whittle down cases of sexual abuse by creating widespread awareness. Hence, a research aimed at proving the positive as well as negative after-effects of providing sex education to children can be done and its results can be used to decide on the formal acceptance of sex education in all the educational institutes in India.

Also at present the developmental theories documenting the manner in which child sexual abuse affect emotional, cognitive, spiritual, social and moral, sexual and identity development do not exist. Despite the fact that information is available regarding the after-effects of childhood sexual abuse, such finding have not been integrated into any existing developmental psychology models. Research studies can be done aimed at explaining how sexual abuse hinders specific aspects of human development which helps in developing different models to cope up with the existing problems.