CHAPTER IV

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

Scope of the Study

This study covers the type, causes, situational analysis and consequences of child sexual abuse against children. Moreover, the socio-economic condition of the victim's family and family type and victim's psychological level are also considered for this study. It also focuses on the reaction of the victims and level of rehabilitative measures taken for such abuses, especially behavior and attitude of the children.

Operational Definitions

Dependent Variables

Sexual Abuse:

Sexual abuse includes any contact or interaction between a child (under the age of 18 for both boys and girls) and an adult (who is significantly older than the victim and is in a position of power or control over the child, or may even be an acquaintance or an unknown person) in which the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or another person. The activities involved in child sexual abuse include, besides actual sexual intercourse, inappropriate touching, and exposures of indecency, and forcing to participate in sexually stimulating acts.
Independent Variables

1. Child Specific Variables
   - Socio Economic Status: Social and economic status of the family of the victim child.
   - Rural-Urban background: The respondents residential place whether being rural setup or an urban place.
   - Age: Chronological age of the respondent.
   - Sex: Sex of the respondent.
   - Education: Educational qualification of the respondent during the period of interview.

2. Personality related Variables
   - Anger: Anger is viewed as a form of reaction and response that has evolved to enable people to deal with threats.
   - Aggression: Aggression is defined as behavior aimed at causing harm or pain, psychological harm or personal injury or physical distraction. An important aspect of aggressive behavior is the intention underlying the actor’s behavior.
   - Anxiety: Anxiety is defined as a form of formless fear.
   - Behavior Problem: Behavior problem is defined as the activities of the respondent which is continued by others as problem caring.
   - Somatization: Somatization is defined as the respondent’s pain in their body, aches and experience of nightmares.
- **Depression**: Depression is defined as the respondents feeling of 'low' due to the sexual abuse.

- **Attitude towards school**: The respondents feeling, opinion towards their school is constructed as Attitude towards school.

- **Concern for Personal safety**: Concern for Personal safety is defined as the feeling of safety, as perceived by the respondent, at school, neighborhood and on the way to the school.

- **Future Aspirations**: Future aspirations are defined as the respondent's future goals and the clarity of such goals.

- **Hopelessness**: Hopelessness is defined as the respondent’s negative feeling towards his or her future being unsuccessful.

- **Sense of safety**: Sense of safety is defined in this study as the feeling of 'Safeness' expressed by the respondents.

- **Low Self Esteem**: Low Self esteem is defined as the respondent's Low or Poor image about himself or herself.

3. **Police Related Variables**

- **Problems in investigation**: The problems faced by the respondents at the time of investigation by the Police.

- **Problems in enquiry**: The problems faced by the respondent's at the time of enquiry by the Police.

- **Problems in procedure**: The respondent's problem with procedure to be adopted in proceedings in the court.
4. Judicial related variables

- Victim perception of Judiciary: This variable is defined as how the respondent feels about the judicial system and its procedures.

5. Medical related variables

- Problems in medical assistance: The respondent's problems in getting the medical assistance, for their abuse.

6. Family related variables

- Parental Attachment: Parental Attachment is defined as the respondents perceptions of how close they feel to their father and mother and whether they share their thoughts and feelings with their parents.
- Presence of Domestic Violence: Whether there is any domestic violence in the respondent’s parent’s life.
- Family Bonding: Family bonding is defined as the respondent’s attachment and communication with his parents and other family members.

7. Social Variables

- Stigmatization: Whether the respondent faced any social boycott, stigmatization and stigma due to their abuse.
8. Economic Set of Variables

- **Compensation**: The respondents receipt of compensation for their abuse, as a result of criminal trial.

9. Consequences of abuse

- **Social Problems**: The respondent’s social problems in their life after the incidents of abuse by the society.
- **Academic Problems**: The respondent’s academic problems in their life, after the incidence of abuse in the school. And whether the performance in the education has been affected.
- **Hostility**: Hostility is defined as the respondent’s feelings of irritability and uses to harm others.

Research Questions

The various research questions that this research will be addressing are as follows:

Child Related questions

1. What is the magnitude of Child Sexual Abuse?
2. Is socio Economic Status of the Child Related to Sexual Abuse?
3. What is the relationship between the age of the child and the type of sexual abuse?
4. What is the relationship between the education and sexual abuse?
5. Is there a difference in the type of Sexual Abuse between Urban and rural areas in Tamil Nadu?
Personality related questions

6. What is the relationship between personality variables of the child like Anger, Aggression, Low Self Esteem, Concern for Personal Safety and the type of sexual abuse?

7. What is the relationship between personality variables of the child like Anxiety, Behavior Problem, Somatization, Depression, Attitude towards School, Future Aspirations, Sense of safety and the type of sexual abuse?

Police related questions

8. What is the victim perception of treatment by Police?

9. Whether the victim is satisfied with the treatment given by the police?

Judicial related questions

10. How does the victim perceive the judiciary?

Medical related questions

11. What is the victim perception of medical treatment?

12. Was the medical assistance satisfactory?

Family Related Variables

13. Did the child share their feelings with their parents?

14. Does the presence of domestic violence in the family breed abuse of the child?
Social problems related Questions

15. Does Child Sexual Abuse produce stigma?

16. What are the types of stigma prevalent in Tamil Nadu, due to child sexual abuse?

Economic related Questions

17. Did the child face financial problems due to hospitalization?

18. Did the child get any compensation from the government due to child sexual abuse?

Consequences of Abuse

19. Did the child face problems in academic performance?

20. What are the various consequences of child sexual abuse?

21. What are the various social problems faced by the abused child?

Child Victims’ perception of the Criminal Justice System

22. Has the perception of the police changed due to the victim’s interaction with the police?

23. How does the abused child perceive the judiciary and the judicial process?

Area of the study

The area of the study included both rural and urban parts of Tamil Nadu. The five districts selected for this study are Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. It must be mentioned that in these districts, the corporation area is selected for the urban parts and the rural towns were included for the rural part.
Selection of the sample

Five corporations in Tamil Nadu had been selected for this study. Correspondingly, a rural area in the same district of the corporation was also included in this study. In the selected areas both government and private schools were randomly selected. Quota sampling method had been used for this research. The detail of the places of the study and corresponding sample size are given below;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Tiruchirapalli</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>750</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 1500 students attending schools were included as respondents for the present study. The list of schools selected is given in Annexure 2.

The Research Tool

The review of earlier researches (discussed in chapter II) in the area of child sexual abuse, revealed the various types of instruments, used by social scientists. Almost all of them used multiple item indices to measure Child Sexual Abuse and other variables.
Hence the investigator constructed an Interview schedule to measure the Child Sexual Abuse and other variables. Each of these indices was tested for reliability and validity using appropriate methods. The tool covers all the variables selected for the research. Different scales had been used for assessing the child sexual abuse and other psychological variables included in the study. The tool was also pre-coded for easy use with computer. Each respondent had taken approximately 30 minutes for answering all the items.

Pilot study

A small set of respondents from the universe had been selected to test the work ability of the tool. The data had been used for determining the reliability, validity and workability of the tool. 100 respondents from rural and urban areas were interviewed to check the interview schedule. In order to verify whether a particular item (questions) contributed to the intended dimensions (variables), restricted factor analysis was performed for the pilot study data. Through the restricted factor analysis, the relative loadings of individual question to the various dimensions were determined. It was found that the questions in the various indices of the schedule contributed significantly to that dimension. For example, in the Child Sexual Abuse index all the 12 items contributed to one factor and personality related variable items like Anger contributed to another separate dimensions. So 26 distinct factors emerged, referring to the 26 variables chosen for the study.

Having determined whether the items in each index measure what they intended to measure, reliability and validity were established. For reliability Cronbach's Coefficient alpha (Alpha) was determined (Cronbach, 1949). Table 3 shows the Alpha reliability of the various indices, used in the tool.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Question No</th>
<th>Alpha Reliability coefficient</th>
<th>Validity (index of reliability)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>0.5015</td>
<td>0.7081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aggression</td>
<td>20-31</td>
<td>0.5028</td>
<td>0.7090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>32-38</td>
<td>0.1019</td>
<td>0.3192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Behavior Problem</td>
<td>39-45</td>
<td>0.5033</td>
<td>0.7094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Somatization</td>
<td>46-50</td>
<td>0.4724</td>
<td>0.6873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>51-61</td>
<td>0.5719</td>
<td>0.7562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Attitude towards school</td>
<td>62-66</td>
<td>0.0023</td>
<td>0.0479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Concern for Personal Safety</td>
<td>67-71</td>
<td>0.4112</td>
<td>0.6412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Future Aspirations</td>
<td>72-77</td>
<td>0.5128</td>
<td>0.7161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hopelessness</td>
<td>78-83</td>
<td>0.1046</td>
<td>0.3234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sense of Safety</td>
<td>84-93</td>
<td>0.7964</td>
<td>0.8924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Low Self Esteem</td>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>0.5850</td>
<td>0.7648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Police related Variables</td>
<td>101-102</td>
<td>0.2231</td>
<td>0.4723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Victim perception of police</td>
<td>103-104</td>
<td>0.9072</td>
<td>0.9524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Victim perception of judiciary</td>
<td>105-109</td>
<td>0.8957</td>
<td>0.9464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Medical related variables</td>
<td>110-116</td>
<td>0.8933</td>
<td>0.9451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Family related variables</td>
<td>117-120</td>
<td>0.4055</td>
<td>0.6367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Family bonding</td>
<td>121-126</td>
<td>0.5544</td>
<td>0.7445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Presence of domestic violence</td>
<td>127-131</td>
<td>0.5879</td>
<td>0.7667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Stigmatization</td>
<td>132-136</td>
<td>0.9043</td>
<td>0.9509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Economic cost</td>
<td>137-139</td>
<td>0.8673</td>
<td>0.9312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>140-144</td>
<td>0.4896</td>
<td>0.6997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Consequences</td>
<td>145-153</td>
<td>0.9652</td>
<td>0.9824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Academic performance</td>
<td>154-158</td>
<td>0.9857</td>
<td>0.9928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Hostility</td>
<td>159-164</td>
<td>0.9909</td>
<td>0.9954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>165-176</td>
<td>0.7385</td>
<td>0.8593</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Validity means measuring whether the questions measure what they promote to measure. Apart from face validity, validity was also measured using 'index of reliability' (Garrett, 1970). Table 3 also shows the validity (index of reliability) of the various indices used in this study.

Measuring Child Sexual Abuse

Following Hulme (2004), twelve items were designed to measure Child Sexual Abuse. The first item focuses on any remarks made by the offender on the body part of the victim. The second item asked the respondent of any 'Obscene gestures'. The third item asked whether the respondent was shown any dirty pictures. The next two items focused on 'showing private parts' by both offender and victim. The sixth item found on 'kissing forcefully' and the next two items focused on touching private parts (both offender and victim). The other four items focused on 'Oral contact', 'intercourse', 'forcing act on others' and 'Anal intercourse'.

Scoring Child Sexual Abuse and other Variables

The items in the interview schedule carried response like 'Yes' or 'No'. The scoring was so arranged that a high score (Yes 2) indicates a high value and a low score (No 1) indicate the low value. For example if a respondent has a high score on Child Sexual Abuse index then he or she has been abused seriously. A similar scoring pattern was followed for all the additive indices in the schedule. In measuring variables like 'Personal Safety' 'Hopelessness' etc; Positive scoring was given for the positive items and negative scoring (reverse scoring) was given for negative item, following the psychometric principles. The Interview Schedule is kept of Annexure 1.
Data processing

The data collected for the research had been analyzed with the help of computers, after data editing and coding. The data was analyzed with appropriate statistical techniques with SPSS Software. Univariate analysis like percentage was used to describe the magnitude of sexual abuse prevalence in Tamil Nadu. Correlation and Chi square will be used to determine the association of two variables. Path analysis was used to build a model on the causes and consequences of child Sexual Abuse in rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu.

The purpose of the frequency analysis is purely descriptive and provides information on the distribution of a simple variable. This method was employed to find the extent of Child Sexual Abuse in Tamil Nadu, the prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse, among both Male and Female students.

In contrast to the univariate analysis, bivariate analysis such as, correlation or chi-square gives information as to whether two variables are related and, how changes in the one variable is related to another. This investigator had used Pearson's product moment correlation co-efficient (r) to study the relationship between variables, when both the variables are continuous, for example, age and Child Sexual Abuse.

Whenever the variables were clearly dichotomous, for example, like victims and non victims, chi-square analysis was undertaken to determine the degree of association between the variables.

However, in the case of some continuous variables such as Child Sexual Abuse, normal distribution was assumed and it was divided into two groups (High Child Sexual Abuse and Low Child Sexual Abuse) based on the Means. These two groups were later
used for the chi-square analysis to find association ship with other dichotomous variables such as gender, type of family etc.

In order to establish the causes and consequences of Child Sexual Abuse this research proposes to test a model, using multivariate analysis. Figure 3 shows the model to be tested.
Figure 3
Causes and Consequences of Child Sexual Abuse
Model to be tested

Back Ground
Variables
Socio Economic Status
Rural Urban Background
Age
Sex
Education
Victim's Perception of Police
Victim's Perception of Police

Sexual
Personality Related Variables
Police Related Variables
Medical Related Variables
Family Related Variables
Social Variables
Economic Set of Variables