CHAPTER VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present research was conducted to

I. To study the various forms of child sexual abuse prevalent in urban and rural areas in Tamil Nadu.

II. To study the magnitude of the various forms of child sexual abuse.

III. To explore the causes and consequences of child sexual abuse.

IV. To find the perceptions of police and the criminal justice system, by the child sexual abuse.

The study was conducted at both rural and urban parts of Tamil Nadu, in order to compare the rural and the urban students. The five districts selected for this study were Chennai, Thiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Madurai and Tirunelveli. In all the districts the corporation areas were selected, for the urban parts and the schools in the rural towns, were included for the rural parts. A total of 1500 students, studying in both private and government schools, were included as respondents for this study. For measuring Child Sexual Abuse and the other variables chosen for the study, a pre coded interview schedule was constructed by the researcher, for which reliability was established and reported. The data collected was analyzed using appropriate statistical techniques such as univariate, correlation, chi-square and path analysis.
Findings of the Study

The following are the important findings of the study

1. Of the respondents included for the study, 37.2% of the students reported high Child Sexual Abuse and 62.8% of the students reported low Child Sexual Abuse.

2. Among the various demographic variables included in the study, it was found that the age of the student was found to be negatively correlated with Child Sexual Abuse. The study found that as the 'class of study' of the respondents increased the sexual abuse decreased. There was no relationship between Child Sexual Abuse and the income of the respondent's family.

3. Interestingly, the study found that 22.8% of the boys were sexually abused highly, as compared to the girls (14.4%). The study also found that the urban students were abused more (20.8%), as compared to the rural students (16.4%).

4. The study found that 34.0% of the respondents studying in government schools were highly abused and only 3.3% of the respondents studying in private schools, faced Child Sexual Abuse.

5. Regarding the personality related variables, the study found that abused children had more anger because of their sexual abuse. Similarly, Child Sexual Abuse increased the aggression of the victims. The study also found that the Child Sexual Abuse increased the anxiety levels of the students. There was positive correlation between behavior problems and Child Sexual Abuse. The physical and psychological problems faced by the victims of Child Sexual Abuse (somatization) increased with Child Sexual Abuse.
6. This study found that there is strong correlation between Child Sexual Abuse and depression. The victim’s concern for personal safety increased due to the sexual victimization. The study found that future aspirations of the victim decreased due to Child Sexual Abuse. Attitude towards school was not found to be significantly related to the Child Sexual Abuse.

7. The study found that as the Child Sexual Abuse increased, the hopelessness of the child also increased. The actual sense of safety of the child decreased with the increase of Child Sexual Abuse. Low self esteem was found to be correlated with the Child Sexual Abuse. Parental attachment was found to be negatively related to Child Sexual Abuse. Family bonding was found to be positively correlated with Child Sexual Abuse.

8. The domestic violence present in the family is found to be positively related to Child Sexual Abuse. Similarly, there is a strong correlation between Child Sexual Abuse and stigmatization. The study also found that, as the Child Sexual Abuse increases the social problems faced by the respondents also increased. The academic performance of the victims decreases because of their sexual victimization. Hostility of the victim was found to be positively related to Child Sexual Abuse.

9. Regarding the perception variables, the study found a strong positive correlation between sexual abuse victims and their perception of Police. The study also found that as the victimization increases, the positive perception of the judiciary decreased. The victim perception of medical treatment increased with increased sexual abuse. There is a positive correlation between Child Sexual Abuse and victim perception to compensation.
10. The results of multivariate analysis showed that behavior problems exhibited by the child, family bonding, parental attachment, low self esteem emerged as strong causes of Child Sexual Abuse. Academic performance, social problems, stigmatization emerged as strong consequences of Child Sexual Abuse.

11. The separate multivariate analysis done for rural and urban students, found that the causes of Child Sexual Abuse and the consequences of Child Sexual Abuse are same for both urban students and rural students. However considering the order of importance based on the path coefficients, there were slight changes. In the case of urban students, presence of domestic violence and low self esteem were the second and third causes. In the case of rural students family bonding and presence of domestic violence emerged as the second and the third causes.

12. Similarly considering the consequences of Child Sexual Abuse, for the urban students, hopelessness and concern for personal safety emerged as the second and the third important consequences of Child Sexual Abuse. Whereas in the case of rural students concern for personal safety and hostility emerged as important, second and third consequences of Child Sexual Abuse.

Limitations of the Study

The comparative study covered five districts in five corporation areas in Tamil Nadu and their corresponding rural areas. Collection of data from a National level in India would have brought the deeper nuances of the research area. However, with the limitation of time and finance faced by this individual researcher this study had to be conducted and completed with this limit. Conducting a National level study will assist inferences to a larger extent.
Conclusions

Considering the above mentioned limitations of this study, the following inferences are in order.

1. Child Sexual Abuse is prevalent among the students of both private and Government schools.

2. Urban students are more likely to be victims of Child Sexual Abuse, as compared to rural students.

3. Male students are likely to be victims of Child Sexual Abuse, as compared to girl students and students of Government schools are more likely to be victims of Child Sexual Abuse, as compared to private schools.

4. Personality factors like anxiety, somatization, depression, concern for personal safety, future aspirations, low self esteem, presence of domestic violence and stigmatization were found to be related to Child Sexual Abuse.

5. Behavior problem of the child, family bonding, parental attachment, low self esteem, emerged as major causes of Child Sexual Abuse.

6. Academic performance, social problem and stigmatization emerged as important consequences of Child Sexual Abuse.

The analysis of the research findings suggested that even though India is a country with strong culture and embedded norms, Child Sexual Abuse is prevalent among the students in both urban and rural milieu.
Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations are made to deal with Child Sexual Abuse.

1. Awareness of Child Sexual Abuse

Awareness programmes must be formulated for students, for vulnerable age groups, to expose them to the problem of Child Sexual Abuse. These programmes must be conducted in the government schools, in both urban and rural areas. These programmes should be designed by experts and executed by professionals in the classroom environment of the students.

2. Police Victim Interaction

Since it is evidenced that the victim perception of police is positive and significant, police personnel should be adequately oriented in dealing with victims of Child Sexual Abuse. Periodical Orientation and refresher programmes need to be conducted for the police personnel, so that the police at the service delivery level will be able to deliver services efficiently.

3. Orienting Non Government Organizations (NGO’s)

The medical services offered by the government units are not satisfactory. Hence there is a need to orient existing NGO’s to deal with victims of child sexual abuse. NGO’s from district level can be identified and they may be trained on procedures to deal with victims of Child Sexual Abuse.
4. Need for Legislation

At present abuse of children, especially sexually is dealt with under Indian Penal Code and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act (2006). These legislations focus on various other needs of children more than the abuse of children. Hence there is a need for a separate legislation, to deal with abused children in order to protect their privacy, emotional situation and social consequences.

5. Creation of Sexual Abuse Prevention Cell

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act (2006), provides for creation of a ‘child friendly environment’, with the designated police officers at the police station level. This facility needs to be enlarged, to create a cell for prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, at every police station level. This cell will aim to provide procedural assistance; counseling and prevention work in the area of Child Sexual Abuse.