CHAPTER VIII
CONCLUSION

Sex and sexuality are highly misunderstood and misrepresented. The most profound fact that sex is a potent and sacred source of energy has to be admitted and acknowledged. When sexuality is openly accepted our, the approach and attitude towards it gets much simplified and naturalized. This would help society to tear off the hypocritical attire of false secrecy and shame and honour.

As Osho says in his book ‘From Sex to Super-consciousness’, 1997, two things happen to a human being in the depths of sex. First in copulation, the ego vanishes. Egolessness is created. It is a state of self-effacement. The second thing about the experience of sex is that time is undone for an instant. Timelessness is created. The present is not part of time, the present is eternity.

As several studies have shown and the present one corroborates, defying sex as sin leads to the repression of the natural and spontaneous expression of sex. There are no channels to clear doubts regarding sex and no positive channels for the outflow of sexual energy. This is, undoubtedly one of the reasons for abusive behaviour. This repression of sex also leads to the muting of children when they are abused and creation of feelings of guilt and sense of damage.
The Following Myths Relating to CSA have been Identified:-

- Children deserve sexual abuse as they provoke it.
- It is mostly children from the lower strata who are abused and they deserve it due to lack of culture.
- Sexual abuse is caused by favourable circumstances alone.
- Most of the abusers are mentally abnormal.
- Child sexual abuse takes place with the consent of the child.
- Children enjoy child sexual abuse.
- Child Sexual Abuse takes place because the child asks for it and the mother is engaged in commercial sex activities.
- Abusers, who, on provocation or momentary impulse indulge in Child Sexual Abuse need to be acquitted and the legal system consider their future favourably.
- Convictions do not help in deterring the crime.
- Acquittals are essential in saving the future of the accused and their families.

Investigations have shown not only that these are myths but that they are propagated on purpose-to justify the crime and evade prosecution. Research studies prove that CSA is committed by known and respected people in whom the child has confidence. Situations/Circumstances are deliberately manipulated to whet the appetite of the
abuser. It has been medically proved that no child has the capacity to consent to sexual act or is sufficiently informed to understand abuse when it is committed by a known person. There is no discussion in the family or in the educational system about sex or sexuality and hence no information is imparted to the child about sexuality or sexual development. Distorted information are imparted through the media, cable TV and pornography. It was found that the youth satisfy their urge/curiosity to know about sexuality through pornography, which imprints violent sexual relations and sharp gender discrimination into their minds.

In Kerala, with its highly acclaimed social indicators of development, people are caught up in double standards of morality. They have secretive discussions about sex, surreptitiously indulge in it but refuse to address sexual issues by opening up a dialogue or talking frankly to children. Under such circumstances one cannot expect children to have proper knowledge of sex. This makes their position particularly vulnerable and they are much easily victimised

The present study shows that children are abused sinisterly using means like enticements or threats. When the abuser is a known person, the child is confused not knowing if the act is an extension of love and by the time the child realizes that it is abused, it is loaded with feelings of guilt and fear. It also shows that both boy and girl children equally are victims and suffer equally from the consequences of CSA. Victimized children generally share the feeling that normal life is now
beyond them. This is found to be the result of the highly glorified notions of virginity and chastity internalised by the girl child and the exaggerated feeling of loss of masculinity by the boy child in the process of their socialization. Another danger is that the child feels guilty that it was responsible for the abuse. Several psychological problems result from this.

In the cultural and social situation prevalent in Kerala, the child is placed in a totally helpless position. The study has shown that abuse is a manipulation of power by those who wish to whet their sexual appetites over which they have no control. The present study also proves that the abusers are normal people and children from all sections of the population irrespective of class, creed, religion, and race are victimized.

Defence lawyers have always employed the tactic of maligning the character of the mother of the abused child and portraying her as a prostitute to put down/destabilize the morale of the family. The case studies show beyond doubt that there is no connection between the profession of the mother and the abuse of the child. A child is a child and to discriminate between children on the basis of their status or profession of their parents is totally unjust. Even the child of a commercial sex worker has an equal right to protection from abuse as any other child.

Only a small fragment of the cases are reported and registered. The awesome and cumbersome legal procedures further re-victimize and traumatize the child. The defence lawyers in particular must take it
upon themselves to abide by an ethical sense in their profession and hence abstain from using obscene language and unnerving questions in the course of cross-examination.

The importance of creating social awareness was felt before and after the conduct of workshops. Grass-roots level conscientisation contributed considerably towards the creation of a congenial atmosphere for collective action. Workshops for professional have helped in making a positive attitudinal change in them of which in turn have re-oriented their methods of dealing with the cases of child sexual abuse.

Emotional nurturance is also a formidable aspect in the prevention of this problem. This nurturance should start at home so that the child develops into a complete human being. And finally it is important for every parent to remember that his/her child can be victimized and be in the same difficult position. And so it is vitally important to get together and tackle this issue on a war-footing.