CHAPTER I

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“The child is father of the man” said William Wordsworth. What he obviously meant was that the productiveness of an adult depends on the opportunities he has had to grow and develop as a child. From this follows that ultimately the quality of a nation depends on the attention it pays to its children.¹

It was rightly focused by Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, former President of India (2007) in his address to the joint session of the parliament. He reiterated the government’s commitment to women and children. “The rights of women and children and their aspirations are of paramount importance in our march towards an inclusive and equitable society. Keeping in view the constitutional provisions and in order to give greater focus to issues relating to women and children, an independent ministry of women and child development has been created. Investment in the well-being of children is an investment in the future of the country. At the same time issues relating to child protection are high on my Government’s agenda”². (Kalam-2007)

India’s children are India’s future as the strength of the nation lies in a healthy, protected, educated and well-developed child population that will grow up to be productive citizens of the country. Protecting the physical and mental development of children is the most important of all investments in the social and economic development of our Society.

Children are wealth of the nation. They are real social capital of our future and they are the citizens of tomorrow. They are the pillars of
tomorrow’s healthy society. A society can be accessed on the basis of how it treats its children and women.

It is the right of all children to be protected wherever they are at home, in school, on the streets and at all times, be they of peace or conflicts or calamity. Their right to protection is as intrinsic to their well-being as is the right to survival, development and participation. Children deserve to live in an environment where good governance and the full enjoyment of human rights are mutually reinforcing.\(^3\)

Before going to further details of children development it is important to know who is a child.

**Definitions of child**

The child, internationally, is defined as any person aged up to 18 years. With the adoption of the Juvenile Justice Act (1986, amended in 2000), the National plan of Action for children 2005, and the Commissions for the protection of children’s Rights Act 2005, the Government of India has now recognized that childhood legally extends to the age of 18 years\(^4\).

In India, the law considers any one less than 18 years of age to be a child/minor.\(^5\)

The Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Bill, 2012 defines a ‘child’ as any person below the age of 18 years and seek to penalize anybody who commits a sexual offences against him or her. With more than a third of its population below the age of 18, India has the largest child population in the world. This background explores the levels of health, nutrition, education and social security of children, and
Government policy and action on child rights. In this context it is essential to know the status of children in India.

**Status of children**

Children are citizens of tomorrow. They are the wealth, the real social capital, of the nation. The quality of a nation depends on physical and psychological development of its children. They are the pillars of tomorrow’s healthy society. The strength and stability of the social edifice that society tries to erect depend upon how children are raised in the society. The quality of the life of a child determines the quality of a nation that citizens seek to build.

India is home to almost 19 percent of the world’s children. More than one third of the country’s population around 440 million, is below 18 years, 40 percent of these children are in need of care and protection, which indicates the extent of the problem. In a country like India with its multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious population, the problem of socially marginalized and economically backward groups are immense. Within such groups the most vulnerable section is always the children. The challenge is to reach out to the most vulnerable and socially excluded child of this country and create an environment wherein, not only is every child protected, but every child also has access to opportunities and education for all round growth and development.

In India nearly 90 percent children suffer from malnutrition, about One Lakh succumbing to it every month. India’s infant mortality rate of 120 in thousand has put it in the 27th Position from the top in a list of 130 countries.

2011 Indian census reveals some shocking data about child (0-6 years) population. Child population in India has decreased where as
overall population has increased about 17.64% in last 10 years. Something that is alarming is the sex ratio of children under 6 years has dropped to just 914 girl child per thousand boys. Both rural and urban India has the same negative changes. This negative change make her face number of problems like low educational status results in school dropout, low health status results in mal-nutritious children. Her low status in family and society results in female feticide, early marriage, resultant early maternal mortality, childhood neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse and overall social injustice. The lame explanation of son preference as a social bias or poverty as a can no longer is an excuse; the state must find a way to protect both the dignity and the lives of daughter.6

‘As India races towards achieving superpower stature, the status of child population is serious problem. Without increasing the status of its child population especially girl child it cannot become superpower. The development of a nation can be assessed with the progress of its children by ensuring them all their necessities because children are the future of tomorrow. But India’s children continue to face a huge backlog of deprivations, especially girl children are still back in terms of healthcare, education and other facilities. Let us see the educational, health status of children in India.

**Educational status**

Education is the ultimate panacea for curing the ills of people; it is one of the important factors responsible for the development of a human personality. Right to education, therefore, is held as a very important human right. Right to education Act (RTE), which was passed by the Indian parliament on 4 August 2009, describes the modalities of the
provision of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21 A of the Indian constitution. India became one of the 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child when the Act came into force on 1 April 2010.\(^7\)

The Act provides that no child shall be held back, expelled, or required to pass a board examination until the completion of elementary education. There is also a provision for special training of school drop outs, to bring them up at par with students of the same age.

**Girl Child Literacy Updates In India**

Education is the corner stone of girl’s empowerment because it enables to respond to opportunities to challenge their traditional roles and to change their lines. This is true not only because education is entry point to other opportunities, but also because it has ripple effects within the family and across generations, investing in secondary school education for girls yield high dividends.

Education strategy in primary and secondary schooling is the most important intervention for giving children their due Right. The Govt. of India’s National plan of action for children 2005 comprehensively commits itself to ensure all rights to all children up to the age of 18years.\(^8\)

According to 2011 census report pre-primary school participation, gross enrolment ratio (%) of girl children in 2007-2010, is 54 percent, primary school participation; net enrolment ratio (%), 2007-2010, of girl children is 94 percent. Secondary school participation, net attendance ratio 2005-2010, of girl children is 49 percent.

The 11\(^{th}\) year plan envisions reaching out to all categories of children. It includes children with disabilities who are discriminated
against in the education system. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is the flag ship programme of the Government of India to achieve universal elementary education, in a time bound manner. The 86th amendment to the Constitution makes free and compulsory education to children in 6 to 14 years age group, a Fundamental Right.

Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan also seeks to provide quality elementary education including life skills. It has a special focuses on the education of the girl child and children with special needs. Another important component of the Abhiyan is to provide computer education to bridge the digital divide.

“Short-changing girls is not only a matter of gender discrimination: it is bad economics and bad social policy, experience has shown, over and over again, that investment in girls education translate directly and quickly into better nutrition for the whole family, better health care declining fertility, poverty reduction and better overall economic performance”( From Millennium Report).

Education helps girls to know their rights and to gain confidence to claim them. Despite Govt. efforts education appears to be a distant dreams for many a girl from rural area. This educational backwardness of girls has been resultant cause of the low status of girls in the country. Hence, parents have to change their attitude towards the educational development of their daughters and encourage them for learning.

**Health Status**

For a nation’s progress, it is essential that the health of its population, including health and nutrition of women, children and especially girl children, mothers of the new generation, is adequately cared for. The health and nutritional status of women children and
adolescent girls leaves much scope for improvement, as Anemia affects 74 percent of children under the age of three, more than 90 percent of adolescent girls and 50 percent of women. Girls are more at risk of malnutrition than boys because of their lower social status. It has serious consequences because malnourished children are less likely to perform well in school and more likely to grow into malnourished adults at greater risk of disease and early death.  

**Facts of Health**

**Special Statistics on Girl Child**

- 1 out of every 6 girls does not live to see her 15th birthday.
- Of the 12 million girls born in India, 1 million do not see their first birthday.
- Of the 12 million girls born in India, 3 million do not see their fifteenth birthday, and a million of them are unable to survive even their first birthday.
- One-third of these deaths take place at birth.
- Every sixth girl child's death is due to gender discrimination.
- Females are victimized far more than males during childhood.
- 3 Lakh more girls than boys die every year
- Female mortality exceeds male mortality in 224 out of 402 districts in India.
- Death rate among girls below the age of 4 years is higher than that of boys. Even if she escapes infanticide or feticide, a girl child is less likely to receive immunization, nutrition or medical treatment compared to a male child.  

The above statistics shows the lower health status of girl child, Indian girls are facing discrimination in the home and in society due to
their lower status they are treated as burden not as asset. A girl child in a family or outside the world has to face double jeopardy, beside other deprivations she is discriminated against because of her sex. Her low status make her feel inferior and to tolerate exploitation such conditions makes her silent even when she is sexually abused in her family by her near and dear ones. Hence, low educational status, low health status she loses her confidence and she feels sad about herself being a girl child.

**Status of Girl Child**

Even in 21 century the girl children are suffering with secondary status in their families and in society. In Such unfavorable situations in family and society the girl child is double deprived. Besides common deprivations, she is discriminated because of her sex. The discrimination is confirmed by the male female ratio in our country 913 females to 1000 males, an imbalance causing many girls suffer from malnutrition than boys. Morbidity is higher among the female children than among male and girls enter adolescence and motherhood in under nourished condition, in turn giving birth to under weight babies. Thus girl children are neglected. As the institution of family is under stress and strain for various reasons and child specially girl child, is the victim of this breakdown of family structure, she is not only neglected in the society but she is neglected and abused in her own families. The future of a nation can’t be secured if it does not build capacity to assure good health facilities education facilities and insured and secured life for its future mothers i.e. the girl children.

Although the Constitution of India guarantees equality to all citizens, the status of women and girls is not at par with that of males in some sections of society. The skewed sex ratio in the 0-6 year age group
is an indicator of this fact. The Government of India has launched several schemes and programmes for the welfare of the girl child, and trying to reduce discrimination against the girl child. Some of these are:

**Girl Child Scheme/ Adolescent Girl Scheme**

2. Balika Samriddhi Yojana (1997)
5. District Primary Education Programme (1994)
6. Reproductive and Child Health Programme (1996)
7. Integrated Child Development Services (1975)
8. National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) (1995)
10. ‘SABALA’, scheme for Adolescent Girls (Launched in 2010)

**Legislative Measures**

Various legislations have been enacted for the protection of children. These are:


Although the democratic Constitution and laws state that there have to be equal and full opportunities, the girl child, if she survives barely gets to see her 15th birthday. Out of the 15 million baby girls born in the country, every year nearly 25% of them do not reach their 15th birthday.

It is only a woman who understands that, weather a male or female child, it should be healthy and given equal status. A woman has the power to end the evil of dowry system also. As girls are given a chance to live, there will be control in population. Families will be small, healthy better educated and happy. Today’s woman has to be given the confidence to live. She will eventually be a balanced mother. The craving for the ubiquitous male heir has to vanish. Discrimination between the male and female child has to end forever. Educated Indians have to behave responsibly and set an example for one another.11

In many homes across the country, girls are treated with indifference. Daughters are considered as liabilities. Every 26 minutes a woman is molested. Every 34 minutes a rape takes place. Every 42 minutes a sexual harassment incident occurs. Every 43 minutes a woman is kidnapped. And every 93 minutes a woman is burnt to death over dowry. One-quarter of the reported rapes involve girls under the age of 16 but they are never reported.12

Girl child education in India: The Constitution guarantees free primary school education for boys and girls up to 14 years of age. But till today, only 39% of girls and 64% of boys get education in Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. If women teachers were
increased chances are that girls in rural areas would continue to study. As girls get enlightened, they will raise better families.\textsuperscript{13}

These girls are also deprived by right to education due to work like house hold work, or they care for cattle, attend to younger children, collect fire wood and work in fields. The status and action report of the central advisory board of India States that at least 15 percent of all sex workers in the country are the girls under the age of 15.

**The Millennium Report UNO Vital Statistics**

- Of the more than 110 million children not in school approximately 60 percent are girls.
- By age 18, girls have received an average on 4.4 years less education than boys.
- World wide of the more than 130 million primary school age children not enrolled in school; nearly 60\% are girls.
- In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls have HIV rates up to five times higher than adolescent boys.
- Pregnancies and child birth-related health problems take the lives of nearly 146,000 teenage girls each year.
- At least one in three girls and women worldwide has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime.
- Two million girls and women are subjected to female genital mutilation every year.

Hence, many of these girl children have not got their needs satisfied by their parents. Most of these children have had painful experiences in their emotional, psychological fields and social coping. Stressful pattern in the families often impede opportunities to children to
share their feelings in family life. Broken marriages, disintegrated families and single parent families, migrant families and addiction in the family, are leading to lack of interaction between parents and children and such families become weak in guiding and understanding the needs of children which create a vacuum in the life of girl children.

The situation of girl children in urban area is not different. In the nuclear families, in urban area, many children are left in the hands of professional care-takers and in day-care centers, in leisure clubs, sports clubs, residential institutions and boarding schools. Numbers of children are abused by the care takers, teachers and other persons.¹⁴

We forget that children have their own emotional, physical, psychological needs for which they are dependent on their parents but, most of the time, in the families, parents cannot fulfill the needs of their children. Now the structure of the family has changed and due to this, children are feelings isolated in their homes. They feel insecure in their own family there is nobody to share their feelings and such situations are misused by the neighbours, family friends, care takers adults in the families and these people exploit the children sexually. The girl child who is victim of sexual abuse in the family keeps silent in such situations not disclosing the incidence due to shame and fear.

These girls are not only abused in their families, they are even abused outside the homes. The fact is that India is home to around 440 million children, nearly 42% of the country’s population, the largest number of minors in any country in the world. Over 16 million children work in India, comprising 5 percent of the work force. Most of them are exploited and thousands of girl children are kidnapped every year.
Despite her ethos of non violence, tolerance, spirituality, India hosts the world’s largest number of sexually abused children, a far higher rate than any other country. According to world health organization (W.H.O) one in every four girl and one in every seven boys in the world are sexually abused. Countries where children are most vulnerable, India ranks sixth position in the world. The fault is not only of state, but the problem is so serious that any efforts made by the state are very limited when compared to the problem.

Thus conditions are unfavorable to the girl children in their homes as well as in the society, due to deep rooted biases. Traditionally in India, the responsibility of care and protection of children has been with families and communities. A strong knit patriarchal family that is meant to look after its children well has seldom had the realization that children are individuals with their own rights. While the Constitution of India guarantees many fundamental rights to the children, the approach to ensure the fulfillment of these rights was more needs based rather than rights based. The transition to the rights based approach in the Government and civil society is still evolving. The situation can only improve with a change in attitude. (Preface of report by Ministry of Women and Child Welfare India, 2007)

Indian society is facing various problems in these days. There is a large child population in India and a large percentage of this population is vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. They are facing various problems and one of the serious problems is of child abuse. Children have their own physical, psychological and emotional needs for which they are dependent on the family and the society around. If a child is insecure and feels isolated, the situation is misused by care takers, family friends and
neighbors to exploit and abuse the child sexually and the child suffers in silence, not speaking about the incidence due to shame and fear.

There was enormous number of children needing care and protection, while on the other hand there were not enough schemes or sufficient budgetary allocations to deal with them. It was also observed that to carry the issue of child protection forward there was a need to create an enabling environment through a legislation to address issues of child abuse, make a policy on child protection, formulate interventions and outreach services and create an information base on child protection.

The problem is that data on child sexual abuse is limited. The only source of data presently available was with the National Crime Records Bureau. Although this data was useful, it constituted a miniscule of the total crimes/violence committed against children. The reason for this is that very often crimes against children are either not reported or cognizance is not taken and also that some crimes against children are not covered under existing legislations. Though gaps in information were at all levels, child abuse being an issue shrouded in secrecy, emerged as the most burning issue.

Girl child is the future of every nation and India is no exception. A little amount of care, a handful of warmth and a heart full of love for a girl child can make a big difference. Close your eyes, free your thoughts and hear the voice of Girl, she is saying something to all of us, “Save Me”.

In this concern it is necessary to understand the concept of child abuse and girl child sexual abuse which make the girl most vulnerable in home and in society. After discussing the children and their status in
India the need is to discuss the problem of girl sexual abuse, so before that, it is important to note that this particular problem is studied under the branch of criminology.

Criminology is that branch of ‘sociology’ which deals with the scientific study of crime as a social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the process of making laws, of violating laws and reaction towards the breaking of laws.\(^{15}\)

It is also described as a study of the crime and its causes. In its broader perspective, criminology means the study of crime, the causes of the crime, the prevention of the crime, the effects of punishment on criminals and society and the treatment of the criminals.\(^{16}\)

**Definition of Criminology**

**Sutherland** – According to, Sutherland “Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon”

The knowledge of criminology will contribute to the development of other social sciences and through these other social studies will contribute to the efficiency in general social control of crimes. Besides, theoretical knowledge, criminology is also important from its applied point of view. Its main aim is to give practical shape to all the measures of crime control.

Sex crime is such crime which prevails in almost all societies from ages. Modern mechanization and urbanization has brought about total disintegration of the ‘family’ institution which has created serious problems in human life. The control of parents over their children has weakened considerably. In fact it is parental negligence which is responsible for growing problem of abuse of children. It has become a
global problem. The problems of children are increasing in the form of
unmarried motherhood, incest, rape, kidnapping, enticement, abduction,
indecent assault etc.

Like any other western country, India is also facing the problem of
girl child sexual abuse. Despite repressive socio-legal measures to control
sex-crimes, India is facing the problems aggravated by causing
obstruction for prosecution and punishment for sexual offenders. These
offences, therefore, have thrown a great challenge before the society.

In this context researcher, in the present study, studied the nature,
extent, causes, consequences and rehabilitative measures of girl’s child
sexual abuse, as a study under the branch of criminology.

**Child Abuse**

Child abuse is a state of emotional, physical, economic and sexual
maltreatment meted out to a person below the age of eighteen and is a
globally prevalent phenomenon. However, in India, as in many other
countries, there has been no understanding of the extent, magnitude and
trends of the problem. The growing complexities of life and the dramatic
changes brought about by socio-economic transitions in India have
played a major role in increasing the vulnerability of children to various
and newer forms of abuse.

Child abuse is a violation of the basic human rights of a child and
is an outcome of a set of inter-related familial, social, psychological and
economic factors. The problem of child abuse and human rights
violations is one of the most critical matters on the international human
rights agenda. In the Indian context, acceptance of child rights as primary
inviolable rights is fairly recent, as is the universal understanding of it.
Child abuse in one form or another has occurred in almost in all societies throughout history. However its recognition as a social problem is of recent origin in development countries like UK and the USA the number of cases of child abuse may be equally enormous in developing countries. (Rane-1994)

Children are exploited or abused in the society, child laborers by the employers, street children beggars, orphans by the strangers, and child prostitute by the elders, adults. Not only girl children are the victim of sexual abuse but male children also the victims of sexual abuse in the world. Child abuse is not only limited to any one community or illiterate people but it has become a national problem. Unfortunately the phenomenon in our country is not yet recognized.

The phenomenon of child abuse has not yet come to the fore front in India due to various reasons. Proffenger (1981) rightly observed that punitive child rearing practices and authoritarian treatment of children by their parents in Indian society have been persisting for centuries and have become purposeful socio-cultural norms. Such behavior of parents is very often justified because of wide spread acceptance of corporal discipline as a part of child rearing and parental authority in disciplining their children.

According to Sharan (1990) child abuse in India is manifested to a great extent in the form of child neglect, child labour, child beggary, abandonment of children and child marriage. Several factors such as poverty and sex problems of adults, is cause of child sexual abuse in India (Rane-1994). According to Rath (1991) the role of parenting behavior in the dynamics of child abuse can be viewed under two major perspectives under Indian conditions, the essence of which is rare in other societies elsewhere in the world. The first perspective refers to the macro variables
relating to social, economic, religious, educational, and other demographic variables. The second perspective refers to the micro level variable, relating to parental attitude, child rearing history, emotional neglect, distinct motivational and personality typology within the individual (Rane-1994).

Child abuse has serious physical and psycho-social consequences which adversely affect health. It refers to any act or failure to act that violates the rights of the child that endanger his or her optimum health, survival and development.

Human Touch Bureau Report 2004 defines “Child Abuse” as causing or permitting any harmful or offensive contact with a child’s body, and any communication or transaction of any kind which humiliates, shames, or frightens the child. Some child development experts go a bit further, and define child abuse as any act or omission, which fails to nurture or in the upbringing of the children.  

The Child Abuse Prevention And Treatment Act defines child abuse and neglect as at a minimum any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm to the child.

According to Burgers (1971) child abuse refers to any child who receives non accidental physical and psychological injury as result of act and omission on the part of his parents or guardians or employers.

The most common ways of defining child abuse has been in terms of physical injuries to the child. According to Gil (1970) abuse of children is the intentional, non accidental use of force or intentional, no
accidental acts of omission on the part of parents or caretaker interacting with the child in his care aimed at hurting the child.

In the Indian context, the committee constituted at the national institute of public operation and child development, New Delhi, in June 1988 evolved the following definition of child abuse. ‘Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) is the intentional, non accidental injury, maltreatment of children by parents, caretakers, employers or other including those individuals representing governmental, non governmental bodies which may lead to temporary or permanent impairment of their physical, mental and psychosocial development, disability or death’. It is a broad definition involving abusive behavior of all types of caretaker towards children in their care.  

Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill treatment sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

This problem can be seen everywhere without discrimination of sex, religion, color, social economic, background, age etc. There are many factors that may contribute to the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. Parents may be more likely to maltreat their children. Some parents may not be able cope with the stress resulting from the changes and may experience difficulty in caring for their children.
Major types of child abuse are

Neglect, Emotional abuse, Physical abuse and Sexual abuse,

Neglect

The failure to provide for child’s basic needs, neglect, can be physical, educational, or emotional. Physical neglect can include not providing adequate food or clothing, appropriate medical care, supervision or proper weather protection, educational neglect includes failure to provide appropriate schooling or special educational needs. Emotional or psychological neglect includes the lack of any emotional support and love never attending to the child, spousal abuse, and drug and alcohol abuse including allowing the child to participate in drug and alcohol use are some of the examples of emotional or psychological neglect of the child.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse means verbal abuse, mental abuse, and psychological maltreatment which includes act or the failure to act by parents or caretakers that cause or could cause serious behavioral, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders to the child.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is causing physical injury to a child. This may include, burning, hitting, punching, shaking, kicking, beating or otherwise harming a child. The parent or caretaker may not have intended to hurt the child. The injuries caused may be the result of over discipline or physical punishment which is not proper.
Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse means improper sexual behaviour with a child. It includes fondling a child’s genitals, making the child fondle the adult genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation.

Sexual abuse of girl children is taking place in our neighbourhood, friend circle and even in our own family. It is more shocking that the persons who are supposed to be responsible for socialization of the children are the ones who are destroying their future. Childhood which ideally should be a care free time of life filled with love and joy becomes a shameful experience for these abused children.

Definition of Child Sexual Abuse

According to Human Touch Bureau Report 2004- Sexual Abuse defined as “the involvement of child in any sexual activity whether forced or consensual that occurs prior to the age of 18, the legal age of consent in India. It includes fondling a child’s genitals intercourse incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation.”

Definition of child sexual Abuse by World Health Organization (WHO) -

Sexual abuse is in appropriate sexual behaviour 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.
**Girl Child Sexual Abuse World Scenario**

Girl Child sexual abuse has gained public attention in the past few decades and has become one of the most high profile crimes since the 1970s. The sexual abuse of children and child molestation has increasingly been recognized as deeply damaging to children and not acceptable to society as a whole. While sexual use of children by adults has been present throughout history. It has only become the object of significant public attention in recent times.

Feminism has brought greater awareness of child sexual abuse and violence against women and made them public, political issues. Judith Lewis Herman, professor of psychiatry in Harvard University, wrote the first book ever on father-daughter incest, when she discovered during her medical residency, that a large number of women she was seeing had been victims of father-daughter incest. Herman notes that her approach to her clinical experience grew out of her involvement in the civil rights movement. Her second book ‘Trauma and Recovery’ considered a classic and ground breaking work.¹⁰

In 1986 congress passed the Child Abuse Victim’s Rights Act, giving children a civil claim in sexual abuse cases. The number of laws created in the 1980s and 1990s began to create greater prosecution and detection of child sexual abuse. During the 1970s a large transition began in the legislature related to child sexual abuse. Megan’s Law which was enacted in 2004 gives the public access to knowledge of sex offenders nationwide.

Anne Hastings described these changes in attitude toward child sexual abuse as “the beginning of one of history’s largest social revolution”.

On June 30, 2008 in the nation Zambia the issue of teacher-student sexual abuse and sexual assault was brought to the attention of the High Court of Zambia Kwacha (& 13,000 USD) to the plaintiff, a 13 yr old girl-student, for sexual abuse and rape by her school teacher.


On October 11, 2006 the United Nation (UN) released the first UN Secretary- General study on Violence against Children within the schools, alternative care institutions and detention facilities, places where children work and communities. The study took years to complete and was supported by the United Nations Child Fund (UNICEF). The World Health Organization (WHO) and the office of the High Commissioner Human rights (OHCHC).

**Girl Child Sexual Abuse At International Level**

Girl Child Sexual Abuse is not the problem of any particular country, but it is a rapidly increasing global problem. According to a study conducted by U.N. population fund, titled by International statistics on child sexual abuse, at least 2 out of four girls are victims of sexual abuse.

A multi-country study by WHO, including both developed and developing countries, showed that between 1 and 21% of women reported to have been sexually abused before the age of 15, in most cases by male family members other that the father or stepfather. (*WHO, 2005*)

Sexual abuse statistics vary between countries and reports, but are consistently alarming: Research indicates that 36 % of girls have suffered
child sexual abuse and 46 % girls have experienced sexual coercion. (The 57th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights)

**Girl Child Sexual Abuse in US and Europe**

Child sexual Abuse occurs frequently in western society. The rate of prevalence can be difficult to determine. There is great difference between the number of reported cases and the number also covered by retrospective Surveys years after the events.

**United Kingdom (U.K)**

In the U.K. it is estimated at about 8 % for boys and 12 % for girls. In United Kingdom 0.3 % of children were reported as discovered cases of sexual abuse (Beezley M. Razek, Bentovim Nd Lynch 1981) this postal survey revealed the gross under reporting of abuse at the time it was made referring to 18 months in 1977-78.  

Girl children are used for pornography of every conceivable kind including the making, selling and buying of photographs, films and videos. Sex rings have come into practice in England (Wild and Wynne, 1986) in one area of Leeds in such eleven sex rings 175 girl children were engaged in 1984-85. A man who lived alone enticed a girl into a range of abuses, from looking, photographing or touching, to masturbation and intercourse.  

In England congress passed the Child Abuse Victim’s Right Act in 1986, giving children a civil claim in sexual abuse case. The number of laws created in the 1980s and 1990s began to create greater precaution and detection of child sexual abuse. During the 1970s a large transition began in the legislature relating child sexual abuse. Megan’s law which was enacted in 2004 gives the public access to knowledge of sex
offenders nationwide and thus proves the extent of the problem of girl child sexual abuse.

In the UK it is estimated that about 8% for boys and 12% for girls have suffered sexual abuse in some form or the other. The most serious sexual crime encompasses rape, sexual assault, and sexual activity with children. In 2007 to 2008, 41,460, ‘most serious sexual offences’ were recorded by the police within this 11,648 rape cases of girls and 20,534 cases of sexual assault of girl children were recorded.

According to NSPCC report, 2007, 10 % of children aged under 16 experienced sexual abuse by father, and 3% by another relative, 11% of children aged under 16 experienced sexual abuse by people known but unrelated to them.

Between the years 2004 to 2009 the annual number of children counseled by child line regarding sexual abuse rose from 8637 to 12268, giving an overall increase of 42 percent.17,727 sexual crimes against children under 16 were recorded in England and Wales in 2010/11.

**United States of America (USA)**

The estimates for the United States vary widely, a literature review of 23 studies found rates at 3 % to 37 % for males and 8% to 71 % for females. Which produced an average of 17 % for boys and 28 % for girls, while a statistical analysis based on 16 cross sectional studies estimated the rate to be 7.2 % for males and 14.5 % for female the U.S Department of Health and Human services reported 83600 sustained reports of sexually abused children in 2005, including incidents which were not reported would make the total number even larger.22

A study Lawson and Chaffin indicated that many children who were sexually abused were ‘Identified solely by a physical complaint that
was later diagnosed as large real disclosure of sexual abuse during the initial interview’.

In United States 24% of 4441 adult’s women described sexual advances or contacts before the age of 14. 52% were exhibition of genitals 3% reported cases (kinsgytal 1953). In United States 19% of women and 9% of men had been abused, among 796 college students (Finkolhor 1979).

In United States 28% of girls abused before 14 years, 38% of girls abused before 18 years (Russell, 1983). 12% of girls abused under 16.8% of boys under 16 (Buchan).

In US schools, according to the US department of Education, “nearly 9.6% of students are targets of educator sexual misconduct some time during their school career. In study of student sexual abuse by male and female educators, male students were reported as targets in ranges from 23% to 44% in US schools setting same sex (Female / Male) Sexual misconduct against students by educators.

In the absence of public and govt. interest in the problem of child abuse in the United States, Gil (1970) estimated that there were between 2.5 and 4.1 million cases of child abuse per year.”

The estimates for the United States vary widely. A literature review of 23 studies found rates at 3% to 37% for males and 8% to 71% for females. In United States 28% of girls are abused before 14 years and 38% of girls are abused before 18 years.

The United States has the worst record in the industrialized nation losing five children every day due to abuse related deaths. 78.3% children are sexually abused in USA in 2010-11 (children’s Bureau-2011)
Africa

The prevalence of child sexual abuse in Africa is compounded by a belief that sexual intercourse with a virgin will cure a man of HIV or AIDS. This belief is especially common in South Africa which has the highest number of HIV positive citizens in the world.

Eastern Cape social worker Edith Kriel notes that “Children abusers are often relatives of their victims, even their fathers and providers. More than 67000 cases of sexual assaults against children were reported in 2000 in South Africa”.

Researcher Suzanne Leclerc – Madlala Sates that the myth that sex with a virgin is a cure for AIDS is not confined to South Africa. Fellow AIDS researchers in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria have told me that the myth also exists in these countries and that it is being blamed for the high rate of sexual abuse against young children.

Zambia

On June 30, 2008 in the nation Zambia the issue of teacher-student sexual abuse and sexual assault was brought to the attention of High Court of Zambia by KW ache, the plaintiff, a 13 years old girl student, for sexual abuse and rape by her school teacher.

The prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women and girls in Zambia is extremely high A 2007 Government survey reported that 47% of Zambian women had been the victim of sexual violence at least once since the age of 15.

The Zambian Victim support unit (VSU), a unit of the Zambian police, recorded that there has been a sharp increase in cases of statuary
rape, since 2008, in 2008 the rape cases were 1237, and these cases were increased to 2430 in 2010.

**Canada**

In Canada, National statistics on child abuse and Neglect first became available in 2000-2001 with the publication of the first Canadian Incidence study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (2001) before that they had not been compiled largely due to the challenge posed by varying definitions of child abuse across the countries, provinces and territories.

**Australia**

Commonwealth Dept of family and communal services is working for prevention of child Abuse and Neglect in Australia.

It is estimated that, less than 30% of all sexual assaults on girl children are reported and that the reporting rate is even lower for aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. (Stanley et al-2003)

According to Robert Hini contemporary child sex abusers are much more likely to be male relatives than they are to be catholic priest. While more than 70 priests and religious have been convicted of sex offences in Australia, in 2010-11 there were 5,437 substantiated claims of sexual abuse throughout Australia, according to the Child Protection Australia 2010-11 report: 431 of those came from Western Australia.

Sexual abuse made up 13 percent of all substantiated harm. In every State and Territory, girls were more likely than boys to be sexually abused.
What these facts reveal is that we certainly do have a problem with the horror that is the sexual abuse of children but it is “our” problem, as a society, not just for “those people” in the catholic church.\textsuperscript{24}

Thus sexual abuse against girl is a global human rights injustice of vast proportion with severe health and social consequences. In 2007, the world Health organization estimated that 150 million girls under the age of 18 had experienced sexual abuse (WHO 2007). Further, studies also indicate that 36\% - 62\% of reported sexual assaults are committed against girls age 15 and younger. A survey conducted in Swaziland by UNICEF, the center for disease control and prevention (CDC), and local partners in 2007 illustrated the scope of the problem, with approximately one in three girls a victim of sexual abuse prior to the age of 18, and three quarters of the perpetrators being men and boys (including boyfriends, husbands, and male relatives) from the neighbour hoods the victim reside in.\textsuperscript{25}

Dr. Rodney (Director, division of violence prevention, CDC’s) says “while it is generally known that sexual violence against girls is a global problem, very limited data exist on the extent of this problem in the developing world. Obtaining valid data is a key step towards mobilizing policy and other positive interventions”.

In addition, girl sexual abuse has overarching consequences both over the short and long term. Girls who are victims of sexual violence are three times more likely to have an unwanted pregnancy, and girls under 15 who are pregnant are five times more likely to die in childbirth than pregnant women aged 20 to 24. Sexual violence is often hidden and under reported, due to the panic, shame, and disbelief associated with the act. Only an estimated 10\%–20\% of child sexual abuse cases are reported to authorities.
Girl sexual abuse is also connected to issues of social and economic injustice. The threat of sexual abuse can affect a survivor’s chances of receiving an education. Girls who have experienced sexual abuse can find themselves pulled from school by their families and caregivers, or they choose to leave school because of their fear and depression. A lack of education hinders a girl’s prospects of earning a sustainable income, perpetuating and deepening the cycle of vulnerability. Ultimately, societies pay a deep price for these outcomes because educated women are vital to the health and prosperity of the country.

Girl’s sexual abuse can also increase the risk of infectious diseases and chronic disease later in life. Girls who are victims of sexual abuse are at increased biological risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Sexual abuse alters the life path of many girls, leading them down a road of depression, substance abuse, and high-risk behaviors. Ending sexual abuse will allow girls worldwide to live safer and healthier lives and fulfill their right to freedom from exploitation, and abuse.

Health Service providers need to understand the context of abuse, identify signs of abuse and provide sensitive and empathic care. Often the nature of injury helps doctors in their surmise. Appropriate documentation of cases with confidentiality will strengthen the evidence base and help provide redress to the victims.

The health care system can help reduce the consequences of abuse by providing services to the survivors, training to providers to detect cases of injury arising from sexual violence, counseling for abused children, appropriate treatment and referral. A range of approaches
including residential care, psycho-therapy and community-based programmes have been found useful. The capacity of the health sector to manage abused survivors needs to be strengthened. This may be done through appropriate integration of girl sexual abuse issues into health services.

Hence, Girl child sexual abuse is identified as a priority issue for immediate action. The issue needs to be given special attention and the culprits should be given exemplary punishment so that examples are set for potential abusers.

**Girl Child Sexual Abuse In Asia**

Child abuse and neglect issues are common in all countries at the global level such as physical abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, abandonment and, increasingly, problems of street children. There are also many issues which are prevalent only in certain regions of the world. For instance, in Asia where population density is high, the issues of child labour and child sexual exploitation are also high.

Political instability and other internal disturbances including conditions of insurgency in many countries in Asia are also creating major problems, with increasing number of child soldier, refugee children, trafficked children and children on the streets.

The situation of girl children is very critical as she is doubly deprived. She is a silent sufferer of the problem. Girl child sexual abuse in the southeast Region is largely under reported or ‘hidden’. It occurs in various forms and is deeply rooted in the cultural, economic and socio-cultural environment. Rape is a frequently reported type of abuse in the Region. Of the 5,738 cases of rape reported in Bangladesh from 1991 to 1996, almost 17 percent of rape victims were minors. In India of all rape
cases in 1997, children alone accounted for 28.8 percent (NCRB 2000). In Sri Lanka, a study among advanced secondary and university students reported that 12 percent of girls had experienced sexual abuse as children. A report on injuries and deaths from assaults by the Epidemiology Division of the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand in 2002 has stated that sexual assaults of girl children under 10 years old was reported from every hospital in the surveillance system. Several cases of girl child rape reported from South-East Asia are attributed to the myth that intercourse with a virgin may be a cure for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).  

In Nepal A survey conducted in 1996 on domestic violence found that 13 percent of the respondent girls knew about at least one case of child sexual abuse. In Maharashtra, India, it is alleged that 500 girls under 16 years of age were sexually abused and then photographed for blackmail.(UNICEF-2003)

Prevention of child abuse and neglect is still an uncharted field in Asia. The largest population of these children lack access to proper health care, nutrition and education. This reflects the socio economic reality of the developing countries of the Asian region. The main factors that contribute to the magnitude of the problem of child abuse are poverty, illiteracy, caste systems and landlessness, lack of economic opportunities, rural to urban migration, population growth, political instability and weak implementation of legal provisions.

**Girl Child Sexual Abuse In India**

Independent India has taken large stride in addressing issues like child education, health and development. However, child protection has remained largely undressed. There is now a realization that if issues of
child abuse and neglect like female feticide and infanticide, girl child discrimination, child marriage, trafficking of children, child sexual abuse and so on are not addressed, it will affect the overall progress of the country.

Nineteen percent of the world’s children live in India. 440 million people in the county today are aged below eighteen years and constitute 42 percent of India total population i.e. four out of every ten persons. This is the enormous number of children that the country has to take care of while articulating its vision of progress, development and equity. India has expressed its recognition of the fact that when its children are educated, healthy, and happy and have access to opportunities, they are the country’s greatest human resource.

It is rightly stated in the study by Ministry of Women and Child Welfare Child Abuse in India 2007 that the subject of child sexual abuse is still a taboo in India. There is a conspiracy of silence around the subject and a very large percentage of people feel that this is a largely western problem and that child sexual abuse does not happen in India. Part of the reason, of course, lies in a traditional conservative family and community structure that does not talk about sex and sexuality at all. Parents do not speak to children about sexuality as well as physical and emotional changes that take place during their growing years. As a result of this, all forms of sexual abuse that a child faces do not get reported to anyone. The girl, whose mother has not spoken to her even about a basic issue like menstruation, is unable to tell her mother about the uncle or neighbour who has made sexual advances towards her. This silence encourages the abuser so that he is emboldened to continue the abuse and to press his advantage to subject the child to more severe forms of sexual abuse.
Child abuse is shrouded in secrecy and there is a conspiracy of silence around the entire subject. In fact there is a well entrenched belief that there is no child abuse in India and certainly there is no sexual abuse in the country. Further, certain kinds of traditional practices that are accepted across the country, knowingly or un-knowingly amount to child abuse. Existing socio-economic conditions also render some children vulnerable and more at risk to abuse, exploitation and neglect. It is about time that we recognize this and take remedial measures. Lack of empirical evidence and qualitative information on the dimensions of child abuse and neglect makes it difficult to address the issue in a comprehensive manner. (Chaudhary Renuka in the report by Ministry of Women and Child Welfare India on Child Abuse - 2007)

Child sexual abuse is an especially complicated form of abuse because of its layers of guilt and shame. It is important to recognize that sexual abuses do not always involve body contact. Exposing a child to sexual situations or material is sexually abusive, whether or not touching is involved. Even though boys and girls are abused, girl children are at more risk. In fact sexual abuse of girls may be under reported due to shame and stigma.

Both male and female children are sexually abused. Girls, however, are abused more frequently and for a longer period of time. At least 2 out of 8 girls and one out of 6 boys are victims of sexual abuse.

Statistics on India reveals that the country has the dubious distinction of having the world’s largest number of sexually abused children with a child below 16 years raped every 155th minute and a child below 10 years every 13th hours. Studies undertaken by various NGOs in India reveal that boys and girls are equally vulnerable. In 90% of child abuse cases someone the child knows and trusts, a neighbour, close
relative, family friend and even father is the abuser. This is perhaps due to the fact that in India, children are expected to respect and obey adults.\textsuperscript{29}

1977 Scott reported that between one and twelve children per 1000 were abused by their parents or guardians. Considering the poverty, illiteracy and large size of families in India, it could be said that five to fifteen children per 1000 children are abused by relative and employers in our country.\textsuperscript{30}

In India: data from Delhi show that in the first six months of 1994, nearly two out of three rape victims were children. Rape cases in the city have been on the rise since 1993. Figures indicate that out of a total of 321 victims, 197 girls were minors, of whom 35 were less than seven years old and 119 were between 12 and 16 years of age.\textsuperscript{31}

Studies conducted by various NGOs and institutions in 1995 and 1997 respectively in Delhi revealed that more than half the girls surveyed had experienced sexual abuse by family members; 76\% women across five cities in India admitted sexual abuse as children.

In India the only information available annually is the crime data maintained by national crime Record Bureau. There is a record of only those crimes which can be registered under the IPC or other criminal Acts.

Cases of Crime against children includes kidnapping, sexual assault and rapes in the country increased by about 5 percent in 2010, as compared to 2009, according to a publication of National Crime Record Bureau.
Crime Against Children State Wise Distribution

During 2009 to 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other States</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: National Crime Record Bureau, 2010)

Crime Against Children In India During 2008 to 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Kidnapping and Abduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>5446</td>
<td>7650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5368</td>
<td>8945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5484</td>
<td>10670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: National Crime Record Bureau, 2010)

The above table shows that there is increase in rape cases from 2008 to 2010 and also there is increase in the cases of kidnapping and abduction which Shows how children are becoming the victims of crime.
Data of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) India 2011-12 reveals that Delhi tops the list of states where highest number of crime against children was committed in 2011. While MP and UP recorded the highest number of rape and murder cases of kids respectively. A total of 33,098 cases of crime against children were reported in the country in 2011 as compared to 26,694 cases in 2010, suggesting an increase of 24 percent. According to National crime Record Bureau the rate of crime against children is biggest in Delhi (25.4 percent) followed by Andman & Nickobar island (20.3 percent) Chandigarh and Chattisgarh (7 percent each) M.P. (6 percent) and Goa (5.1 percent) as compared to the National average of 2.7. A total of 1514 cases of murder of children including infanticide were reported in the country in 2011 against 1508 cases in 2010. UP has reported the highest number of such cases (326) accounting for 22.9 percent of the total murder cases reported in the country.

Prevention of child sexual abuse is the need of the day. Many factors that contribute to the magnitude of the problem of girl child sexual abuse are poverty, illiteracy, lack of economic opportunities, rural to urban migration, population growth, and negative attitude towards girl children, political instability and weak implementation of legal provisions.

Hence, this problem needs more efforts through the creation of adequate knowledge on the issue and thereby to change the mindset of the society.

**Girl Child Sexual Abuse In Maharashtra**

Girl child sexual abuse is an everyday occurrence in Maharashtra, but few cases get reported. The Mumbai Police commissioner Mr. Arup Patnayak said that the issue of girl sexual abuse is serious but
unfortunately very few cases get reported. He said that 99% incidences are never brought to us i.e. only 1% incidences are reported in Mumbai. When the incidences are not at all recorded then how can the Police take any action?\(^{32}\)

The study by Ministry of women and children in India 2007 reveals the fact that majority of the child abusers (sexual abuse) in India are teachers and neighbours where as in the state of Maharashtra the abusers are family members. This proves that the persons who are supposed to be responsible for socialization of the children are the ones who are destroying their future.

In the eleventh plan the child help line Phone number 1098 will be extended to all districts of the country. According to child line reports in Maharashtra the sexual abuse of children is taking place by family members and owners (Workplace).

### Incidence of Rape, Kidnapping and Abduction of Girls

#### During 2003-2008 In Maharashtra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Kidnapping and abduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source National Crime Record Bureau, 2008)

The incidence of crime committed against the girl children have increased during 2008 by 0.07% when compare to the year 2007. The cases of rape on girls have been reported during 2008 (690) and this statistics is increased as it was during the year 2007 (615) in Maharashtra.
Statistics In Maharashtra 2011 (NCRB 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Heads</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Murder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-a infanticide</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-b other murder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Procurement of minor girl</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rape</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Kidnapping</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Abetment to commit suicide</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Prostitution</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. selling of girls for prostitution</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Buying of girls for prostitution</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Child marriage</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Other crimes</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>1189</td>
<td>1277</td>
<td>1208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: National Crime Record Bureau India 2011)

[Note- In the above data there is a record of only those crimes which can be registered under the IPC or other criminal Acts. Corporeal punishment, use of children for creation of pornography, exposure, fondling are not reflected in NCRB data as they are not offence under IPC.]

There are no national or state statistics for girl child sexual abuse in India. However, some data is available from the National Crime Record Bureau. The above table indicates the reported cases sexual abuse against girl child from 2008 to 2011 in Maharashtra. The table shows there is increase in the leads of crime like murder (infanticide and other murder)
Rape cases, Abetment of commit suicide. Increase in all these crime indicates for the protection and security of the girl child in the country. Because the figures show that the girl children are not secured and protected in their own families. These girls need legal protection and rehabilitation to overcome the problem.

**Unit Wise Percentage Of Offences Against Children During 2010-11**

![Pie chart showing unit wise percentage of crimes against children during 2010-11 in Maharashtra.](source)

(Source: National Crime Record Bureau 2011)

The above table shows unit wise incidence and percentage share of crime reported against children during 2010 to 2011.

The above table shows the unit wise percentage of crime against children during 2010 to 2011 in Maharashtra. The highest percentage of crime against children found in Mumbai city i.e. 16 percent, followed by Pune 11 percent; Nagpur 7 percent, Thane 6 percent, Pune rural 4 percent, Beed 3 percent, and other constitute 47 percent. Crime against children is increasing day by day which really a major obstacle in the development of children.
Victims Of Child Rape (2006 To 2010) In Maharashtra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age Group (Years)</th>
<th>Share Of Children Rape Victims In Total Rape Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Below 10</td>
<td>Between 10-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30.12</td>
<td>16.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-17.56</td>
<td>34.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: National Crime Record Bureau 2011)

The above table provides the detail information on child rape victims and their proportion to the total rape victims during the year 2006-2010.

The above table indicates the victims of child rape in Maharashtra during 2006 to 2010. The table reveals the fact that the rape cases of minor girls are increasing i.e. below 10 years and even between 10 to 18 years. The Pubescent and adolescent girls are at higher risk zone. The table also reveals that the share of children rape victims in total rape victims is also increasing which was 42.63 percent in 2006 but it is 46.99 percent in the year 2011.
The following data by child line from 2009 to 2011 in Maharashtra is as follows-

**Abusers Of Girl Children At Home And Out Side**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abusers</th>
<th>Year 2009 to 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strangers</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Members</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Friends</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care takers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner (workplace)</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Child Line Report 2012)

The above data again proves that the trusted people of the child like parents, family members, caretakers commit the heinous crime of sexual abuse and rape of child in their care. Such incidences have a deep effect on the psyche of the child and the future life of the child becomes a life of shame guilt, self-pity and fear and the child loses faith in family relationships.
The following table shows the type of abuse in Maharashtra 2011.

**Type Of Sexual Abuse**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molestation</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eve-teasing</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Child Line Report 2012)

This table shows the increase in the crimes against children in Maharashtra which is a serious matter. The above table shows the types of sexual abuse. Rape cases are 211 in the year 2011, Molestation is 81 and eve-teasing is 96. There is an increase in the crime compared to 2009 to 2011 in all the types. This shows the severity of the problem. Easy availability of minor girls and the tender age of the girls are the causative factors of sexual abuse against girl child. Those girl children find it difficult to break the silence, especially in cases of incest; enforced secrecy and a child’s fear of destroying the privacy and security of the family are powerful obstacles in disclosure.
Age Group Of Victims Of Sexual Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 15</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to 18</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Child Line Report 2012)

The above table reveals that even though children from 5 to 18 years are abused, the age group of 11 to 15 i.e. adolescent girls is at high risk. The teenage girls are attracted by the gifts and special treatment given by the abusers. Abusers use a number of tactics to gain access to children. Emotional manipulation and verbal coercing were the most common tactics used by the abusers. Most sexual abuse takes place in the context of ongoing relationship between the abuser and the child. This gives the abuser an opportunity to exploit the child’s wants and tears.

The subject of girl child sexual abuse is still taboo in our society so the problem of girl child sexual abuse has not received enough attention. Some deep seated fear has always moved in our families to keep our girls and their ‘virginity’ safe and many kinds of social and cultural practices have been built around ensuring this. This shows that a girl child is unsafe though nobody talks about it.

These girl children need special attention. Apart from girl children requiring special protection and care, there are some children who need to be supported and brought under the purview of effective policies and they are the “sexually abused girls”- who are regularly denied opportunities for leading healthy, creative and happy life.
**Girl Child Sexual Abuse in Beed District**

Beed District in Maharashtra State is grappling with problems of sex determination tests, female feticide, girl child sexual abuse, domestic violence dowry death and harassment. This is due to gender bias in the society and undoubtedly, a male child is preferred over a girl child. The latter is considered a burden and a liability. Due to particular type of social upbringing, abused girls do not seek any help from family and outside the family setting. The socialization process teaches the girls not to respond, to be silent and to bear, adjust and suffer in silence. All these make the girl child not to break the silence against her sexual abuse.

Girl child sexual abuse is on rise in Beed District. Beed District which is known for its migrant labourer, low sex ratio and for its low socio-economic status (census 2011) and Beed District is in the bottom of child sex ratio i.e. 801. In Maharastra the highest reduction of about 93 is found in Beed. This is due to negative attitude towards girl child. Illiteracy of parents leads to increase in dropout rate of girl child in schools. They are engaged in domestic work and most of the time these girls were alone at their house and became easy prey for abusers. Due to all these things sexual abuse of girl children is increasing day by day.

The rate of girl sexual abuse is higher in the months of January to April eleven rape cases of girl children were registered in Beed District in 2011.
The following data shows the severity of the problem in the District.

**Registered Cases Of Girl Child Sexual Abuse In Beed**

**District From 2006-2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Abuse</th>
<th>Year 2006-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape cases</td>
<td>56 (33.53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molestation</td>
<td>52 (31.13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping and Abduction</td>
<td>57 (34.13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution</td>
<td>02 (1.19%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>167</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Police Station, Beed.)

Above table shows the type of Abuse from the cases of minor girls reported to police station in Beed District during 2006-2010. Kidnapping and Abduction cases are highest i.e. 34.13 among all other types of abuse, followed by rape cases 33.53, molestation 31.123 and 1.19 percent prostitution.

**Age Of Victims Of Rape Cases In Beed Districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Source: Cases reported to Police Station, Beed, for the year-2006-2010]

The above table shows that early age girl children (3 to 10) are also the victims of rape. As the age increases the incidence increases. Teen age girls are the major sufferers of the crimes, the abusers are none other
than their parents, family friends the person known and trusted by them which makes the girl child feel shame and guilt and deprives her from her right of carefree and joyful childhood.

The above discussion proves that the statement by Scott in (1977) that “between one and twelve children per thousand (1000) were abused by their parent and guardians in India”.

Defamation is the primary concern in not to register such cases, as the social status of the family and future of the girl child is in danger. So instead of police complaint, the matter is hushed up by the parents. More over lack of legal literacy, poverty, fear of police treatment, unwanted publicity etc. are contributory factors for treating the matter as closed.

The girl child sexual abuse is now becomes a global problem irrespective of class, caste, rural-urban region, countries and continents. This problem is a violation of the basic human rights of a girl child and is an outcome of a set of inter-related familial, social, psychological and economic factors. Hence, the problem of girl-sexual abuse and human rights violations is one of the most critical matters on the international human rights agenda. In, the Indian context, acceptance of child rights as a primary inviolable right is fairly recent, as is the universal understanding of it. There is no understanding of the problem of girl sexual abuse and its extent, magnitude and trends. So awareness and understanding the dimensions/ complexities of the problem of girl child sexual abuse is need of the day.

India is a young nation with about 44 percent or more of its 440 million people being children. Way back in 1974, the National Policy for children declared that the nation’s children were its more important
assets. We need to lobby for the allocation of necessary resources to develop this national asset to its full potential.

**Need of The Study**

Indian society is facing various problems in these days. There is a large child population in India and a large percentage of this population is vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. One of the serious problems is that of girl child sexual abuse. Girl child sexual abuse is not an individual problem. It has become a very important social issue.

Girl child sexual abuse is a grave problem with serious consequences to the society in general and to the concerned child in particular. Though the occurrence is enormous and of wide prevalence, not much is said about it due to low priority accorded to girl children by parents and caregivers.

In Beed District of Maharashtra State it was found that, due to the backwardness and poverty, many people do not have settled families. They are engaged in seasonal work of sugarcane cutting and move from place to place in search of work along with their family. The children from such families have to suffer a lot. They don’t get proper schooling, and have to live in a disorganized family. The girl children in this particular area are an easy prey to the potential abusers who exploit the situation and sexually abuse the girls.

A girl child is vulnerable to sexual abuse and is abused frequently and for a longer time. In a patriarchal structure of Indian family, meager or no attention is paid to her well being. Her nutrition, her health, her education, secondary status and deprivation of girl child her security, her small physical needs, her socialization and her emotional needs of love and affection are the last priority in the family. The girl child is the first
victim of poverty, ignorance and social taboos. The situation of a girl child in our country is the result of deep rooted biases that can only improve with a change in attitude that treats a female only as an object of sex.

Unfortunately, the phenomenon of girl child sexual abuse in our country has not yet been brought to the forefront for various reasons. Wrong notions of dignity and status of women in society, puritanical attitude of parents, their punitive and authoritative child rearing practices have been purposeful socio economic norms and are justified on the ground that they are persisting for centuries and are thought to be good for the proper upbringing of the child and necessary for the sustenance of society.

Awareness about the subject among people in the society and punishing the guilty is urgently needed. Girl child sexual abuse is not only dangerous to the child psychology but is also dangerous for our society in future as it may lead to several social crimes because an abused child never understands the value of humanity. Thus it is very essential to look at this problem seriously.

The study of the subject is also needed to take the responsibility to focus on the issue and to make the society aware of it to prevent the incidence by not tolerating the incidence but to safeguard the rights of children and let them enjoy their childhood and help them to become healthy citizens of India.

There is a gross under-reporting of crimes against children, which in itself is indication of the low priority accorded to children by parents, care givers and the police.
Taking into consideration the seriousness of the problem the researcher studied ‘Girl Child Sexual Abuse’ in Beed District in Maharashtra State.

There is a limited research on child abuse especially on girl child sexual abuse, As Dr. Rodney Hammond, says that “while it is generally known that sexual violence against girls is a global problem, very limited data exist on the extent of this problem in the developing world obtaining valid data is a key step towards mobilizing policy and other positive intervention” Taking into consideration the need explained in the above statement the researcher studied the subject in selected area about girl sexual abuse, to find out its extent, nature, causes and consequences. The researcher also considers suggestions given by Asha J. Rane in the Book “Research on families with problems in India” also emphasized on the limited literature on girl sexual abuse she says that whatever available data is focused on physical abuse and other studies focused on both Boys and girls abuse. Some studies on women childhood experience or on all the forms of child abuse, but special studies on girl child sexual abuse are very limited so the study is contributing on the extent, nature causes, consequence and coping strategies of girl child sexual abuse in the family and outside, in different social and economic setting. The findings of this research contributing to step forward to mobilizing policy and other positive interventions, by suggesting intervention strategies required to work with abused girl and her family. This study also contributes in taking the opinions and suggestions by interviewed key informants who are working in the particular field and also suggests suitable intervention strategies for the management and prevention of the problem.

This is specially focused study on sexually abused girl children but the researcher do not presume to claim these finding to be representation
of the entire country but these are patterns in these accounts that other survivor can relate to and there is much to learn from these experiences for those trying to help for the most vulnerable and voiceless group i.e. sexually abused girl children.

The study tried to aware all the important persons in the society the social workers, researchers, doctors, advocates, police personnel’s, parents the policy makers to take immediate actions to prevent the evil of girl sexual abuse and bring confidence in the girl child she may feel proud herself of being a “girl child.”

**Theoretical Framework**

‘Integrated model’ and ‘Systems theory’ has been adopted for the present research as theoretical frame work.

**Integrated Model of Child Abuse**

Kewalraman’s Study (1992) of child abuse focused on the major premise of this model and the inter dependence between parent, child and situation. This model focuses on four factors in child abuse. 1) Family environment 2) Structural stresses 3) Individual characteristics of parents, and 4) Sub-cultural learning.

The model requires knowledge in five different areas: 1) Child development 2) Socialization processes 3) Family interactions 4) Learning principles and 5) Sources of arousing anger, aggression, hatred and so forth.

These areas point out that-

Child abuse can be viewed in terms of the degree to which a parent uses negative or inappropriate control strategies with her/his child.
Employing ‘normal’ methods (meeting all the child’s needs, adequate control, positive disciplining, and clear communication) contributes to a child’s social, emotional and intellectual development, whereas taking recourse to ‘abnormal’ methods (neglecting child’s needs, inadequate control, negative disciplining, conflict between parents, addiction of father, unclear communication, negligent parenting, being indifferent and unresponsive and not paying due attention and over-reliance on coercion) in child rearing inhibits a child’s development and causes child abuse. Factors like unemployment and dissatisfaction with job affects an individual’s behaviour which leads to child abuse.

**Systems Theory (Founche and Oliphant 1977)**

According to Founche and Oliphant there is link between basic principles of system theory and sexual abuse. The focus is not only on the victim as a child who has been sexually abused but also on the context of abuse.

The abuse forms part of a larger pattern of dysfunction such as marriage problems, financial problems or other dysfunctional behaviour.

The family system forms pattern of behaviour, which acts as the basis of family functioning. When these patterns of behaviour are operating to maintain the abusive relationship, they can be seen as dysfunctional and not to the benefit of the child.

Behaviour in the system (including the behaviour regarding the sexual abuse) the sexual abuses are circular in nature. The System is constantly in a state of stability and change, indicating that the family tries to cope with the abuse by means of certain patterns of behaviour for instance family may decide to cope with the sexual abuse by means of secrecy.
Draucker (1991-92) Indicates that it is essential to acknowledge that sexual abuse occurs within a larger context, often important factors of sexual abuse according to him are family composition, for example the loss of a parent through divorce, death, separation, and the role of the other significant caretakers, the survivors birth order and the number of siblings in the family.

Draucker explains the social factors socio-economic class. Other significant family is pathology or stresses, parental alcoholism, emotional or physical abuse, mental illness, criminal behaviour and extra family resource. He further explains the characteristics of abusing families. These elements are denial, inconsistency and unpredictability, lack of empathy, lack of clear boundaries, role reversal, closed family system, incongruent communication, conflict, deterioration relationships and strained marriage relationships.
REFERENCES


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