CHAPTER – II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
AND
REVIEW OF LITERATURE
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Research Methodology and Review of Literature

A researcher’s primary goal, distant as well as immediate is to explore and gain a greater understanding of subject matter of her/his research. Stated in other words, social research is a systematic method of exploring, analyzing, and conceptualizing social life in order to extend, correct or verify knowledge, whether the knowledge aid in construction of a theory or in the practice of an art.¹ Therefore research has become an essential activity of our social life.

A scientific study is a means to an end that is it aims to solve a problem practical or theoretical or methodological. It aims at discovery, verification, validation and finding relationships among the accumulated data. These feats can be accomplished only by means of both scientific method, that is, logical and systematized application of the fundamentals of science to the general and over all questions of a study, and scientific techniques which provide precise tools, specific procedures and technical, rather than philosophical, means for getting and ordering the data prior to their logical and statistical manipulation.² This kind of research or scientific work is of vital importance when we want to understand and to study the nature, extent, causes, of the problem. All these factors are focused in the present study of girl child sexual abuse in Beed District.

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 sexual abuse has serious physical and psycho-social consequences which adversely affect the health and overall well being of a child. There is a large child population in India and a large percentage of this population is vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and neglect.

The researcher focuses on the need of the study as there is a record of only those crimes which can be registered under the IPC or other Criminal Acts. Corporal punishment, use of children for creation of pornography, exposure etc. are not reflected in National Crime Record Bureau data as they are not offences under the IPC.

The discussion of sex or sex related topics are still taboo in Indian society. The sexually abused girl children are often afraid and ashamed to being abused and report of being sexually abused is very less due to the stigma attached to this crime. There is a gross under reporting of crimes against girl children, there is a conspiracy of silence around the subject as it is a hidden fact. It is much higher than generally perceived and cognizance, which in itself is indication of the low priority accorded to children by parents, care-givers and the police. The data available on this issue is very limited. Hence, the researcher find to study this subject is need of the day.

So the researcher studied ‘Girl Child Sexual Abuse’ within limited scope i.e. restricted to Beed district. The aim of the study is to understand the extent, nature, causes and consequences of sexual abuse and to suggest coping strategies. The present study intended to addresses to a set of following objectives.
Objectives
1) To study the extent of girl child sexual abuse.
2) To study the socio-economic background of the victims of sexual abuse.
3) To find out the nature and causes of girl child sexual abuse.
4) To study the consequences of sexual abuse on victims.
5) To assess the attitude of family members towards the victims.
6) To suggest the strategies and rehabilitative programmes for victims.

Hypotheses
A hypothesis is a conjectural statement of the relation between two or more variables. Hypotheses are always in declarative sentence form, to variables. Hypotheses carry clear implications for testing the stated relations. Hypotheses framed in the light of objectives
1) Lower the economic condition more is the vulnerability of a girl child to sexual abuse.
2) Girl child sexual abuse occurs mainly within kinship.
3) Deterioration of morality and values leads to higher incidence of girl child sexual abuse.
4) Urban and rural divide exists in girl child sexual abuse.
5) Sexual abuse leads to mental and physical disorder in victims.
6) Attitude of family members is negative towards the victims of sexual abuse.
Operational Definition

1) Operational Definition of Girl Child

For the purpose of this study, Girl child was defined as a girl not having completed 18 years of age.

2) Operational Definition of Girl Child Sexual Abuse

Girl child sexual abuse is inappropriate sexual behavior with a girl child. It includes fondling a child’s genitals, making the child fondle an adult’s genitals, molestation, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, forcible kissing, exhibitionism, abduction, pornography, and prostitution. To be considered as girl child sexual abuse these acts have to be committed by a person responsible for the care of a child or related to the child (Parent, relatives, extended family members, peer, older child, friend, neighbour, baby sitter, caretaker, or stranger). Following indicators were decided for the study.

Indicators of Girl Child Sexual Abuse

1) Sexual assault.

2) Making the child fondle private parts.

3) Touching private body parts of child.

4) Making the child exhibit private parts.

5) Exhibiting private body parts to child.

6) Exposure—children forced to view private body parts.

7) Exposure—children forced to view pornographic material.

8) Forcible kissing.

9) Sexual advances during marriage situations.
10) Sexual advances during travel situations

11) Whistling

12) Singing vulgar songs

13) Passing sexual comments.

14) Threatening for touching.

15) Torture by using vulgar language on mobile.

16) Looking in wrong way.

3) Universe

For this study Beed District in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state in India has been selected. It is essential for the researcher to understand the universe thoroughly for the proper study of the problem undertaken. Socio-Economic and political background and cultural heritage are the important factors in the development of any region. Healthy social status, sound economic conditions and favourable geographical features contribute to the all round development of any area.

Beed District is located in the deccan black basalt stone ranges of Balaghat. The most significant river in Maharashtra is Godavari which flows on the border line of Georai and Majalgaon Tahasils. Geographical area of Beed District is 10693 sq. km. For the administrative purpose the district comprises two subdivisions. One section consists of five talukas 1) Beed 2) Georai 3) Patoda 4) Ashti 5) Shirur kasar. Other sections consists of 1) Ambajogai 2) Kaij 3) Majalgaon 4) Dharur 5) Parli 6) Wadwani Tahasils. There are eleven Tahasils and excluding urban area there are eleven Panchayat samitees.
In Maharashtra there is decline in child sex ratio from 913 to 833 during the decade 2001-11. This shows that there is increase in the shortage of girls per thousand boys from 87 in 2001 to 117 in 2011. The highest reduction of about 93 is found in Beed District. This shows the negative attitude towards girl child. The population of 0-6 age group is 3444122. The male child population is 191115 and the female child population 153007. Beed District is at the bottom of child sex ratio which is 801 per thousand.

Lack of educational and technical facilities and specialize vocational training leads to unemployment and poverty. The Marginal farmer and landless laborers, large scale migration of sugarcane harvesters on account of unemployment is peculiarity of the district and women and adolescent girls also migrate to working for their lively hood. Health and medical facilities in the District are also insufficient. Illiteracy, poverty, ignorance, superstition large scale migration of people and negative attitude towards girl children, results in girl dropout rate female feticide and sexual abuse. So these girls are engaged in work (domestic or outside) Girls from this district are worst suffer of sexual exploitation. The National Highway (211), from Ahemadabad to Hyderabad passes through Beed. This has given rise to Dhabas making minor girls from nearby villages vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation. Moreover, raids conducted in Mumbai brothels have revealed that a number of minor girls are from this Dist. There are instances of young girls being sexually exploited in Tamasha centers under the pretext of dance and entertainment. These minor girls are ignorant about HIV/AIDS. Number of police recorded cases also, reveals the fact that minor girls are sexually abused by their parents, family members and close relatives. Another disturbing fact of the district is
addiction to tobacco, alcohol, drug, among adults and youth. Connection between substance abuse and sexual abuse is a harsh fact. Hence the negative attitude towards girl child and addiction, illiteracy, poverty, lack of parenting interactions lead to sexual abuse of girl children. The researcher felt the need to disseminate information about children’s rights among children and parents and in the community, economic and social empowerment of women and girl children and awareness about the importance girl child in the society as an asset and not a burden. For this purpose the researcher selected Beed District and studied the extent, nature and causative factors of girl child sexual abuse and to suggest coping strategies and measures to prevent or control the problem.

4) Sampling

For the purpose of this study Beed District in Marathwada region at Maharashtra state was selected as universe. Universe was divided into rural and urban area. Among eleven Tahasils of Beed District two Tahasils Kaij and Ambajogai were selected purposively for the purpose of study on the basis of police recorded cases of sexual abuse against girl children.

Only school going girl children were selected for the purpose of study. Twenty schools were selected randomly. (Only twenty schools were given response). By an interactive orientation which was conducted with the girl children discussing child sexual abuse and giving them intimation on the UN convention of the child, especially on articles regarding abuse. Critical topics, such as how sexual abuse is never a child’s fault, were also emphasized. The girl children who were appear in Focused Group Discussion i.e. 500 girl children were selected as a respondent which was followed by One to One Interaction. There is no equal number of girls from each class and school because researcher
selected only those girls as respondents who came forward in group discussion as a victim of sexual abuse.

The sample included sexually abused school going girl children in the age group of 11-18 years. These girls were divided into two groups 11-14 and 15-18, girls of middle and High school were selected. The girls of 11-18 year’s age group were selected purposively. Because this age group girls can interact properly on the sensitive issue like sexual abuse and they can share their abusive experiences with the researcher.

**Case Study Method**

Case study method was also used in this research. Case study is a type of research method that investigates one or a few cases in depth using appropriate methods. As one of the methods in qualitative research, it favours intensive analysis of one or a few cases using in depth unstructured interviews, observation, and narrative rather than depending on numerical reporting. The method shares with other qualitative research the quality of developing rich insights that have direct relevance to real world behaviours.

Stake (1988) viewed case study as the “Study of a bounded system emphasizing the unity and wholeness of that system, but confining the attention to those aspects that are relevant to the research problem at the time”

In Beed District one sixty seven (167) total cases of girl child sexual abuse were recorded during the year 2006-2011 in eleven Tahasils of Beed District. According to the availability of the cases 10 cases were analyzed and studied with the help of case study method. Unreported 10 cases and 10 cases from key informants were also analyzed and studied with the help of case study method.
Hence, for the fuller understanding of the phenomenon and process and to study in depth by integrating different perspectives, case study method was used in the present study to study the reported and unreported cases selected according to their availability.

**Key Informants**

Key informants are another important source of data collection in the present study. Forty experts working on the concerned issue from different fields, such as ten advocates, ten doctors, ten social workers and ten police personnel were selected purposively from two selected tahasils as key informants and they were interviewed with the help of Interview-Guide to understand their opinions, experiences and suggestions regarding the issue of girl sexual abuse.

**Research Design**

As this study attempts to find out the characteristics and nature of girl child sexual abuse, the “Descriptive Research Design” was found suitable. “To portray accurately the characteristics of a particular situation or group or individual the Descriptive Research Design is to be useful and hence it was employed.

**Tools And Techniques Of Data Collection**

Taking into consideration that the child is sensitive to such issue, friendly attitude was used to share the girl’s experience of sexual abuse. Primary and secondary sources were used for collecting data.

**Primary Data**

Focused Group Discussions, One to One Interaction, Interview Schedule, Interview Technique, and Case Study Method were used.
1. **Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)**

FGD’s were conducted by the researcher starting with the story telling and showing some charts related to sexual abuse. The purpose of this discussion was to establish rapport with the girl children.

The orientation programme makes the respondents to know the background and purpose of the study. After attending orientation programme the girl children were given a choice as to whether they wanted to participate in the research or not, their participation was strictly a decision they had to make. The girl children who were approached in focused group discussion were selected as a sample.

2. **One To One Interaction With Girl Children**

The girls who were approached with the help of FGD’s were followed by one to one interaction. One to one interaction with girl children was conducted to elicit specific information from them and was conducted on the basis of guidelines developed by a report on child abuse by Ministry of Women and Child Welfare Department Govt. of India 2007. Interview Schedule was prepared to conduct One to One Interaction.

3. **Interview Schedule**

Interview schedule was prepared for One to One Interaction which includes open and close ended questions in which each question was judged in the context of its relatedness to the objectives of the study.

Before commencement of the data collection, the pre-testing of the interview schedule was carried out on 10 victims of sexual abuse with the view to detecting their short comings. The questions were modified in content, language, and sequence and then finalized.
**Case Study Method**

Thirty cases of girl child sexual abuse were studied with the help of case study method.

**Interview With Key Informants**

Forty experts working on the issue of girl child sexual abuse were selected as key informants. They were interviewed with the help of interview guide.

**Secondary Sources**

In secondary sources reported cases in police station, a report on Child Abuse by Women and Child Welfare Dept. Govt. of India, 2007. Studies of NGO’s, like Tulir, Rahi, Sakshi, etc. and Books, journals, research articles, reports, websites were used.

All measures were undertaken to protect the confidentiality of the respondents. All efforts to ensure privacy and comfort, within the available setting, were provided to the respondents.

**Data Analysis And Interpretation**

- Data collected through observation, group discussion, interview schedule, key informants were analyzed in the light of objectives and parameters developed by the researcher.

**Chapter Scheme**

The present study was divided in the following chapters

1) Introduction
2) Research Methodology and Review of Literature.
3) Socio-Economic Background of Victims of Sexual Abuse.
4) Case studies and Interviews with Key Informants.
6) Consequences of Sexual Abuse on Girl Child.
7) Rehabilitation of Victims of Sexual Abuse.
8) Conclusions and Recommendations.

Basic Concepts
The meanings of some basic concept, used in this research are as follows:

Victim
The word victim is usually the word to denote the person who has been abused by the activity of others. It is someone who is badly treated or taken advantage of, injured or destroyed while attaining an object or in gratification of a passion. This is, therefore, an appropriate term especially as one of the key elements of child sexual abuse is that of being used for an adult’s sexual pleasure or of being taken advantage of. It must be emphasized that a victim in relation to child sexual abuse is in no way responsible for or in any way contributing to the exploitative activity of the perpetrator\(^6\).

Abuser
An abuser is one who acts specifically in relation to the following meaning of abuse- to violate, to misuse anyone’s confidence. The term is generally used interchangeable with perpetrator and offender\(^7\).

Perpetrator
The word perpetrator is used in relation to the person or people who are directly abusing a child or children. Although it can be applied to the person responsible for any other form of mistreatment, it tends to relate to those committing child sexual abuses. It is not used to refer to other
adults who may have played a role but were not directly involved, such as a non abusing parent who might have been aware of the abuse but unable to intervene.  
(Source: RAHI New Delhi.)

**Exhibitionism**
This term is used to describe the exposure of the genitals as a deliberate act to gain satisfaction. Closely related to exhibitionism is a form of reverse voyeurism where the child is made to watch the sexual activities of adults or pornographic material.

**Pornography**
Pornography is both a contact and non-contact abuse. Porn material is publicly available in a variety of form such as audio, video, written and still Photographs depicting sexual act or body parts. The viewers cannot establish bodily contact and can yet use the porn material to excite and satisfy themselves. Children can be exploited for the use of pornography without having to be touched. They could be required to dress in erotic clothes or pose in sexual positions or they could be engaged in sexual acts, violated or even killed.

**Contact Abuse**

**Fondling**
This refers to touching the child’s body for sexual gratification.

**Masturbation**
Children can be forced or enticed to rub a perpetrators genitals (Doyle, c. 1994) it is important to note in the case at Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)
that mutuality of needs/desires is assumed by the perpetrator (adult) to justify his behaviour and reduce guilt.

**Penetration**

The term intercourse either vaginal or anal is usually referred for penetration by the penis. However, children can have all manners of objects inserted into the vagina or anus.

**Oral sex**

Kissing— kissing might sound relatively innocent and a affectionate act towards children but it can be highly sexualized and frightening for children\(^8\).

**Incest**

Incest is sexual intercourse between two people who by blood relationship are either parent and child, brother and sister, grandparent and grandchild Incest between a child and a related adult has been identified as the most wide spread form of child sexual abuse with a huge capacity for damage to a child\(^9\).

The legal definition of incest applies to acts of sexual intercourse between a man and a woman with in the prohibited relationships. These are a man with a woman who is his daughter, sister, mother, or granddaughter and to a woman with a man who is her father, brother, son or grandfather\(^10\).

**Modus-operandi**

‘Modus operandi’ (Latin) means “Method of Operation”. A method of procedure; especially: a distinct pattern or method of operation that
indicates or suggests the work of a single criminal in more than one crime.\textsuperscript{11}

The Abusers have some specific tactics which were used by them to sexually abuse the girl children. When sexually abusing a child the abuser must make a series of decisions or plans prior to committing the deviant act. This planning causes the offender to experience a sense of excitement that further motivates him until he is at the point of committing the offense. The tactics used by the abuser include verbal and/or physical intimidation, seduction or the use of enticements such as candy money or other gifts. Emotional blackmail of victim, emotional manipulation and verbal coercion were the most common tactics used by the offenders. The abuser gradually extends the affectionate touching to include sexual behaviour, all the while “testing” the child’s response. If no overt resistance is observed, the sexual abuse continues.

**Experiences and Observation**

As it was stated earlier that the subject of the study “\textbf{Girl Child Sexual Abuse}” itself is a limitation and the respondents i.e. girl children who are voiceless part of the society is a challenge to the researcher. It was become very difficult to the researcher to make them vocal on the issue, because the issue of girl child sexual abuse is unspoken subject in our country even though it is prevalent. Hence the researcher planned for the orientation of the girl children on the subject. The initial experiences and observations of the researcher were not positive as there was no response from the schools, most of the schools were rejected the permission for study by saying that this is the western concept and this will not happen in our country and we don’t want make our children know such bad things. Request was being made to the Head
Masters/Mistress by explaining the seriousness of the subject. Hence of the sensible teachers were given permission for study and only those limited schools were selected for the present study.

Another experience was about the girl children who were not ready to even listen the discussion, when the researcher started the orientation number of girls were go outside the classrooms one by one. But when the researcher talked about some true cases and shown the charts related to the subject and the girls were asked only to listen and watch the charts.

Then many of the girls started to cry, they become emotional and they ask the researcher that they want to discuss alone with researcher FGD’s made the girl children to understand and to become open about the subject which they later discussed in one to one interaction. Interview schedule make it easier to share their experiences about sexual abuse.

During home visits for case studies parents were not ready to give information, some parents ask whether any scheme are there for the victims, they need some financial support from the govt. for the treatment of child after the incident. Even though their daughters were suffering from the problems some parents told that this is not a subject of discussion but it is a secret matter. They told that the defamation never allow the girl children’s marriage and society will keep aside such girls as ‘damaged goods’. Due to conspiracy about the subject the girls were ashamed and afraid to discuss freely on their experiences of sexual abuse

It was observed during the home visits that the parents were ignorant about the legal procedure, medical procedure and also how they were exploited in society due to poverty, illiteracy, ignorance.
Some girls told about their helplessness to oppose the persons who sexually abuse them and their girls asked the researcher what can be done to solve their problem. Some girls were so silent that it took a lot of time to make them vocal. In schools girls were hesitating to discuss and they asked the researcher number of time not to tell anybody about their secret incident. They were told that for the first time somebody asks their problems so affectionately.

The girl children and her parents share their experiences with the researcher after heart to heart dialogue and emotional sympathies shown by the researcher.

Many of the key informants especially like doctors were not given permission for interview but some advocates, doctors, social workers and police person who are really committed for the work were given permission for interview and express their opinions and give suggestions about the subject.

**Limitations of The Study**

- One of the major limitations of the study is the subject itself i.e. Sexual abuse and also the respondents like girl children. It is extremely difficult to get responses from girl children on such a sensitive subject, because of their inability to fully understand the different dimensions of sexual abuse and to talk about their experiences. It is difficult to collect data on the subject due to the conspiracy and silence around the subject.

- It is a hidden issue in the area under study so the schools were not responding well during the initial stage. Many schools rejected our
consent letters as they said such things are not happening in our area.

- Younger children were not able to understand the concept properly and they participated in less number.

- It was very difficult to select reported cases from 11 tahasils. Because most of the victims were migrated / shifted / married. There were no proper addresses of some victims so they were not available on those addresses.

- Very often children do not even realize that they are being abused. Some of the respondents have stated that till the interview was conducted with them they did not realize that they had been abused. The incident is a painful and shameful one not to be ever told to anyone.

The study was challenging in itself due to its sensitivity. Despite all the limitations mentioned above and the operational difficulties, the study has been able to throw light on the many important findings that will help the policy makers to formulate policies and schemes for girl child protection.

**Review of Literature**

Child sexual abuse is the biggest kept secret in India due to societal denial, ignorance, and silence owing to the discomfort generated out of acknowledgement. It is a universal problem that occurs across gender, caste, religious, ethnic, occupational and socio economic groups.

Abuse of girls is usually kept hidden under the guise of family honor and issues of ‘purity’. Overlooking of child sexual abuse has happened not only in the sphere of society and community, but in the professional area as well. Therefore, there is a scarcity of empirical information on child
sexual abuse within the Indian context and consequently the indigenous body of knowledge on the subject is very limited.

The researcher has taken the review of literature in this concerned area to understand the magnitude of sexual abuse in India, the nature of child sexual abuse in the family and outside, the causes and consequences of child sexual abuse and the available intervention strategies for its prevention and management.

The present review has pointed out the prevailing dearth of research on child sexual abuse in family and outside in India and abroad.

**The first published work dedicated specifically to child sexual abuse appeared in France in 1857.** Medico-Legal studies of sexual Assault by Auguste Ambroie Tardiey, the noted French pathologist and pioneer of forensic medicine. (Masson, 1984 15-25)

Research work on Child sexual abuse could be said to have started even before Freud, in 1860, when French forensic physician Ambroise Tardien published several papers on battered children, rape and child sexual abuse. He was immediately shouted down by society and his contemporaries, later, Freud’s student, Ferneczi, confirmed child sexual abuse and pointed out that it leads to severe psychological distress, however, he added, being listened to comforted child sexual abuse victims. He died in 1933 and nobody ever accepted his insights in Child Sexual Abuse. Incidentally, in 1946 when the American pediatrician and radiologist, John caffey, discovered the physical evidence of child battering by means of X-rays, he was shouted down as people preferred to believe that children had problem. No one wanted see the obvious that parents could be physically batter in children just as they did emotionally.
It was only in 1962 when Henry Kemp’s book, ‘The battered child syndrome’ was published that the family evil came to be accepted.

In 1953 Alfred Kinsey and his research sampled over one thousand women. One in four reported child sexual abuse and 90 percent said they were petrified by the encounters.

By the late 1970’s and early 1980’s lot of work was being done on the subject in the early 1990’s as part of the women’s movement.

Castelino (1985) studied the incidence and prevalence of childhood sexual victimization and its long term influence on social and sexual behaviour, on the basis of a survey by 133 post graduate students from varied disciplines. An adapted version of David Finekelhor’s questionnaire and the Bell’s adjustment inventory were administered to groups of not more than 20 students.

The major findings of the study indicate that a majority of the respondents belonged to middle or high economic strata of society. It was revealed that almost 26 percent of the respondent has been sexually abused in childhood between the ages of 3 and 12 by persons who were below the age of 35 years. The mean age at which the respondents were sexually victimized, was nine years.

Only 16 percent of the females were victimized by strangers and the study confirmed the well established fact that sexual abuse largely occurs within a child’s intimate social network, Castelino found that sexual abuse occurred primarily in homes, their own the older partner’s or a friend’s. In brief, Castelino’s study provides evidence that one out of every three girls and one out of every ten boys has been sexually abused in childhood among the highly educated and middle class population in Bombay city12.
Another study conducted by Mehta, Lokeshwar, Bhat, Athavale and Kulkarni (1979) studied 130 cases of suspected rape in girls between the age of six months and 18 years who were admitted to the remand home, Bombay over a period of 15 months. These cases were examined medically to confirm the suspicion of rape. The researchers found that over 77.68 percent of the cases were more than 14 years of age and 6.15 percent were between the age of six months and six years. Most of the girl’s belong to poor socio economic strata and came from various slums in Bombay. A majority of them had poor educational background and more than one third of the girls were illiterate. A majority of the girls had some knowledge about sex. Of the 130 victims, 23 had conceived, and of them six delivered after full term.

Surprisingly, 36.16 percent of the victims were willing copartners in the sexual activity. Among the accused of the crime of rape, neighbours were responsible 57.53 percent of the cases. The remaining were friends, relatives and known hooligans from the same area. Shockingly, two fathers and eight uncles were responsible for committing the heinous crime on the child in the family13.

A 1992 survey studying father-daughter incest in Finland reported that of the 9,000 15-year old high school girls who filled out the questionnaires, of the girls living with their biological fathers, 0.2% reported father-daughter incest experiences; of the girls living with a stepfather, 3.7% reported sexual experiences with him. The reported counts included only father-daughter incest and did not include prevalence of other forms of child sexual abuse. The survey summary stated “The feelings of the girls about their in sexual experiences are overwhelmingly negative”.14
In 1994 a paper was presented by sociologist David Finkelhor, an internationally recognized expert on research on the incidence and prevalence of child sexual abuse, and director of the crimes against children research center, the countries covered in the paper, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Abstract: “Surveys of child sexual abuse in large non clinical populations of adults have been conducted in at least 19 countries in addition to the United States and Canada, including 10 national probability samples. All studies have found rates in line with comparable worth American Research, ranging from 7% to 36% of women and 3% to 29% for men. Most studies found females to be abused at 1.5 to 3 times the rate for males. Few comparisons among countries are possible because of methodological and definitional differences; however, they clearly confirm sexual abuse to be an international problem.15

Samvada’s 1996 study on students in Bangalore states that 47% of the respondents had been sexually abused; 62% of whom had been raped once and 38% of whom had suffered repeated violations.

A study on girl child sexual abuse was conducted by Trupti Panchal and Nahida Shaik in 1997. A total of 1,176 of child sexual abuse were registered between 1990-95 in Mumbai and there were only 57 reported cases on girls under 10 years who were sexually abused. All the 57 cases were selected for the study.

Conclusions of the study were the child sexual abuse is clearly a violation of trust of the child and the family by the abuser. The child
was threatened not to disclose the abuse. He control over the child because of the child being less powerful.

In a survey with 350 school girls in New Delhi by Sakshi in 1997, 63% had experienced child sexual abuse at the hands of family members; and 25% of the girls had either been raped, made to masturbate the perpetrator or engage in oral sex.

Another 1997 study on middle and upper class women from Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Goa by RAHI revealed that 76% of respondents had been sexually abused as children, with 71% been abused either by relatives or by someone they knew and trusted.

First comprehensive, global study conducted by the United Nations on all form of violence and first global study to engage directly and consistently with children. Children have participation in all regional consultations, help in connection with the study eloquently describing both violence they experience and their proposals for ending it.

- The report includes the following overview statistics (section II, B PP a–10) with references to specific studies provided for each almost 53000 children died worldwide in 2002 as a result of homicide.
- Up to 80 to 98 % of children suffer physical punishment in their homes with a third or more experiencing severe physical punishment resulting from the use of implements.
- 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence during 2002.
- Between 100 and 140 million girls and women in the world have undergone some form of female genital mutilation / cutting. In sub-Saharan Africa, Egypt and Sudan, 3 million girls and women are subjected to genital mutilation / cutting every year.
In 2004, 218 million children were involved in child labor, of whom 126 million were in hazardous work.

Estimates from 2000 suggest that 1.8 million children were forced into prostitution and pornography and 1.2 million were victims of trafficking.\textsuperscript{16}

Survey conducted in 2001 by \textit{SAVE THE CHILDREN}, Sweden found that 68\% had faced physical abuse, 46.6 \% faced severe abuse leading to injuries, 32.2 \% had their private parts touched by the abuser 20 \% were forced to have sexual intercourse.

An empirical study in 2009 in Delhi was carried out by Abhishek K. Singh to assess the nature. Extent pattern and causes of abuse and to analyze the effect abuse on a child’s role performance and his development. The study was focused on 170 children in the age group of 10-16 years of the 170 cases studies, 120 were cases of physical abuse, 23 of sexual abuse and 27 of and 38.4\% were girls. The age groups of the interviewed children were 10-16 years.

\textbf{Results are} – Physical abuse.

1. Boys are more battered than girls.
2. Non- working children are beaten more than working children.
3. Maximum number of abused children it from poor families.

\textbf{Sexual Abuse}

1. Girls are more and prime victims of Sexual abuse than Boys.
2. A high proportion of children become victims of Sexual Abuse when they are fourteen or above in years of age.
3. Male Victims are abused by one person but female victims are generally assaulted by more than one person.
Emotional Abuse

1. Boys are more emotionally maltreated than girls.
Aggressive imitable and domineering nature of parents results emotional abuse\(^{17}\).

**Tulir- CPHCSA’s** study in 2006, conducted among 2211 school going children in Chennai, indicates child sexual abuse prevalence rate of 42%, children of all socio economic groups were found to be equally vulnerable. While 48% of boys reported having been abused, the prevalence rate among girls was 39%. 15% of both boys and girls had been severely abused.\(^ {18}\)

The first ever **National Study on Child Abuse in April 2007**, covering 13 states in India and a sample size of 12,446 children was released by Minister for Women and Child Development showing these stark reality figures:
- More than 53% children report facing one or more forms of sexual abuse
- Almost 22% faced severe sexual abuse, 6% sexually assaulted
- 50% of sexual offenders were known to the victim or were in positions of trust (family member, close relative, friend or neighbour).
- Onset of abuse is from 5 years of age.
- Boys were equally at risk as girls.
- Severest sexual abuse in age group of 11-16 years.
- 73% of sexual abuse victims were in age groups of 11-18 years.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 have experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence involving physical contact. Much of this sexual violence is inflicted by family members of other people residing in or visiting a child’s family home-people normally trusted by children and
often responsible for their care. A review of epidemiological surveys from 21 countries, mainly high and middle-income countries, found that at least 7% of females (ranging up to 36%) and 3% of males (ranging up to 29%) reported sexual victimization during their childhood. According to these studies, between 14% and 56% of the sexual abuse of girls, and up to 25% of the sexual abuse of boys, was perpetrated by relatives or step parents. In many places, adults were outspoken about the risk of sexual violence their children faced at school or at play in the community, but rarely did adults speak of children’s risk of sexual abuse within the home and family context. The shame, secrecy and denial associated with familial sexual violence against children foster a pervasive culture of silence, where children cannot speak about sexual violence in the home, and where adults do not know what to do or say if they suspect someone they know is sexually abusing a child.19

A survey carried out by ‘SAMVAD’, Bangalore. In this survey 348 girls up to 18 years students from schools and colleges around Bangalore, approx 24% were found to have experienced sexual abuse at least once in their lives. Another study in Tamil-Nadu has shown about 23% of rape victims as girls under 16. 60 percent of victims were reluctant to name the offender. This was a clear indication that the abuse had happened within the home and the offender was too close for complaint. These incidences clearly confirm that the high incidence of sexual abuse of girl children is by someone known to or trusted by them.20

A survey conducted in Swaziland by UNICEF, the Centers to 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 neighbourhood the victims resided in.\textsuperscript{21}

‘Bitter chocolate’ is the first book in India on the issue of child sexual abuse. The author is Pinky Virani. This book published by Penguin Books, was translated in several Indian languages. Based on real cases of child sexual abuse, the book opens the hidden fact of child sexual abuse in India.

A Study of sexual abuse of girls and women was conducted by Maharshi Karve Institutes women study and research center in 2007 Pune, and Siddhivinayak Kala Vanijya Mahavidyalaya. A study of sexual abuse of girl children with 180 girls was conducted. The findings of the study were, victims or her parents were not ready to complaint against the abuser. Parents were suggested to their children about neglecting the incidence. Faith and trust on police is decreased and most of the girls wanted awareness camps about sexual abuse.

Invisible Tears is a first book written by Abigail Lawrence in the year 2010. This is the story of Abbie’s struggle to survive, the grim details of child sexual abuse of the worst kind all fold from the perspective of a little girl.

This book written to bring to public attention the horrors that some girl children go through and live with sexual abuse. After raising her own children, Abigail Lawrence decided to foster children in care this book is based on a true story.

More work is to be needed to know the nature, extent, prevalence of incident of child sexual abuse so it will help to suggest the measures to tackle the problem.
To conclude, it may be emphasized that an increase in research in the field of girl child sexual abuse will help in creating greater awareness about the phenomenon of girl child sexual abuse in our country and facilitate the formulation of suitable intervention strategies for its prevention.
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