ABSTRACT

State Intervention in the lives of Sexually abused Children and Families: A study with special reference to the Justice system in the State of Kerala

Introduction

Sexual victimization is a painful experience. Life can become more difficult if the victim is a child. The lack of emotional maturity and societal stigma coupled with deep personal guilt feeling can make the life of a child a miserable one. The child and the family may not be even sure to approach the justice system. They may be concerned about the response which the victim receives from the justice system. The role of a child friendly justice system thus becomes crucial in this regard. The assurance and support from the justice system can ensure the victim fight for the justice. Moreover it can ensure the victim comfortable and thus reduce the effect of victimization. Given this as backdrop, the main purpose of the study is to highlight this particular area of interaction between victim and justice system like Child Welfare Committees in Kerala.

Materials and methods

The study is based on an Explanatory Research Design. This is a multiple phase mixed method design. The overall purpose of this design is that qualitative data helps, explain or build upon initial quantitative results. The questions raised in this research is to find out whether the justice system in the state of Kerala protect the rights of sexually abused children and whether there is adequate and efficient laws/ facilities which assist justice system to handle child sexual abuse cases.

Findings

Study identified different crucial elements in the intervention of Child Welfare Committees in the lives of sexually abused children. It brings light on
the nature of sexual abuse cases handled and various assistances provided by the Child Welfare Committees in Kerala. The complex procedures of intervention are represented along with the challenges faced by the justice system to get a clear picture of the research problem. Analysis of the legal measures and international standards of child rights like UNCRC are also presented in the findings.

*Keywords: State Intervention, Sexually Abused Children, Child Rights, Child Welfare Committees, Mixed Method*