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# An Empirical Study on the Effects of Abuse Faced by Children in Modern Era

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper outlines the study on child sexual assault. The terms sexual assault can be understood as sexual behaviour or a sexual act upon a women, man or child which acts as a violence which the attacker uses against someone they perceive as weaker than them. The researcher has followed the descriptive research method using a convenient sampling method. The sample size of the study is 230. The independent variables taken here are gender, age, educational qualifications, occupation, marital status. The dependent variables are the causes of child sexual abuse, opinion of the people when they see a child being abused, sexually abused person tend to, responsible persons for the negligence of child sexual abuse to happen, overcoming from the impact of child sexual abuse, satisfaction on the measures taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse. The result observed from the study is that most people are unaware of the seriousness of this issues and it was found that the child sexual assault happens because of the negligence of the parents.*

**Keywords:** *Child sexual assault, parents, people perception, negligence, physical pressure.*

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Child sexual abuse became a public issue in the early 1970's and 1980's. Studies on child sexual abuse were non-existent until the 1920's. In 1948 the first national estimate of the number of child sexual abuse cases was published. Legal action started out to emerge as extra customary within the 1970's within the enactment of child abuse prevention and treatment act in 1974 together with introduction of the national centre for the abuse and neglect. Early civilizations regularly abandoned deformed or unwanted children, and the ritual sacrifice of children to appease the gods took place in the Egyptian, Carthaginian, Roman, Greek, and Aztec societies. In Roman society the father had complete control over the family, even to the extent that he could kill his children for disobedience. Sexual abuse of children was common in both Greek and Roman societies. Children were also sold as prostitutes. Women often participated in abuse. Petronius (c. 27–c. 66), a Roman writer, recorded the rape of a seven-year-old girl witnessed by a line of clapping women.

The initiatives taken by the government for the prevention of the child sexual abuse are the POCSO (Protection of children from sexual offences) Act, 2012 which is “ An Act to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography and provide for the establishment of special courts for the trial of such offences and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto” and the POCSO e-box which is an online complaint box for reporting child sexual abuse. Taking a cue from the success of the Kaval programme, the Women and Child Development Department has launched two new initiatives to provide psycho-social support to survivors of child sexual abuse and children in need of care and protection. Both these programmes are being piloted in Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad districts with the support of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In the case of survivors of child sexual abuse, only a few live in the 17 Nirbhaya Women and Children Homes run by the government. The rest, nearly 96%, return to their families or relatives. Often, it may not be in their best interests even. While these children get support such as legal help, their long-term rehabilitation and holistic care does not get enough attention. The new programme ‘Community-based rehabilitation of survivors of child sexual abuse’ will provide survivors of child sexual abuse support through the community.

The factors affecting the child because of the sexual abuse include a history of abuse or neglect as a child, physical or mental illness, family isolation and inadequate parenting skills. The most significant risk factor which tends to increase the chance of child sexual abuse is insufficient

education or understanding about boundaries. Children who do not have a clear understanding of boundaries are highly unlikely to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behavior. Adherence to traditional gender role norms, weak community sanctions against sexual violence perpetrators.

The recent study reported that every second child reported emotional abuse, 69% reported physical abuse and 53% reportedly experienced sexual abuse. The total lifetime economic burden of child sexual abuse in united states in 2015 was estimated to be atleast 9.3 billion dollars. Most of the children were victims of neglect with sexual abuse (8.4 percent). In the recent study 18- 20% child sexual abuse occurs in family and 50% in institutional settings.

In recent analysis Africa had the highest prevalence rate of child sexual abuse (34.4%) because of high rates in South Africa. Europe showed the lowest prevalence rate (9.2%). American had a prevalence rate between (10.1%) and (23.9%). As America had, Asia also had a prevalence rate between (10.1%) and (23.9%).

#### **(A) Objective**

- To find out the main cause of the child sexual abuse to happen.
- To examine the impact of child sexual abuse on the victim.
- To examine the reaction of the people when they see a child being abused.
- To find out what a sexually abused person tends to do.
- To determine from who's negligence is responsible for the child sexual abuse to happen.
- To find the methods from which the sexually abused person can overcome the impact.

#### **(B) Review of literature**

Study was conducted on Long Term Effects of Assault and Violence on Children's Behavior. Respondents were randomly selected for voluntary disclosure and client's request for counseling. The major finding is that the Children from families where domestic violence regularly occurs in the home environment tend to suffer from emotional violence if not physical assault. Children reported spousal violence in their home environment where there is domestic violence. More than Fifty percent of child sexual offenders physically assaulted their adult female partner. Half of these males tend to physically assault the partner's children **Maria Lourdes A de Vera (2019)** Study was conducted on parents' perception about child assault and their impact on physical and emotional child assault. The sample size of the study was 200 and the sample was collected from the parents. The data was collected through a survey. It was found that 34% of the parents reported a childhood history of physical assault and 18% used

physical punishment **Mohammed aldosari et al (2017)** study was conducted on childhood sexual assault perception and experience among college students of Panchkula. The sample size of the study was 1000 and the sample was collected from the college students. The data was collected through a descriptive statistics and chi-square test. It was found that 18% of the students were exposed to child sexual assault with boys more often affected than girls **Amandeep Chopra et al (2020)** studied the factor associated with perception of the child sexual child assault and lack of parental knowledge. The sample size of the study was 400 and the sample was collected from random people. The data was collected through a self-administered questionnaire. The study has found or identified areas that need more focus in parents perception and knowledge of child sexual assault **Aidah Abdul-Aziz Alrammah et al (2018)** study was conducted on the perception of children on child sexual assault: The case of children in some selected schools in the cape coast metropolis, Ghana. The sample size of the study was 256 and the sample was collected from the public school children. The data was collected through proportion sampling. The study has found that parenting styles, child's educational level and sex of the child were found to influence the perception of the child on child sexual assault **Solomon Sika - Bright et al (2013)** study was conducted on explore the perception on child sexual assault among the parents of school children. The sample size of the study was 42 and the sample was collected from the parents of the school children between the age of 6-12 years. The data was collected through maximum variation sampling technique. This study has found that parents perception regarding child sexual assault were categorised into 6 domains and 19 themes. The identified themes are exemplified with representative quotes. The final coding scheme included major codes such as: risk, victim, description, beliefs and protection **S.Rathidevi et al (2019)** Study was conducted on the prevalence of exposure to potentially traumatizing and negative life events and the occurrence of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among a specific sample of Indian adolescents. The sample size of the study was 411 and the sample was collected from the 9th graders from private schools. The data was collected through a questionnaire. This study has found that 70% of females and 85% males had been exposed to or witnessed at least one traumatizing or negative life event **Ditte J. Rasmussen et al (2013)** Study was conducted on parental involvement in sexual assault prevention education. The sample size of the study was 101 and the sample was collected from parents of pre-school and day care center children. The data was collected through an interview. The study has found that there were no significant differences based upon the sex of the child and no significant interaction effects between sex of parent and sex of child **Elrod JM, Rubin RH (1993)** study was conducted on the impact of parents' education meeting on preschool parent's knowledge of

child assault. The sample size of the study was 116 and the sample was collected from parents. The data was collected through a study. The study has found that the parent's data showed negligible effect of parent education as it is presently delivered **Berrick JD (1988)** study was conducted on the investigation to examine parents expectation, comfort level and experience discussing sexual development and sexual assault prevention with paediatricians. The sample size of the study was 605 and the sample was collected from parents. The data was collected through a survey. It was found that out of 605 parents of participants, 536 responses (89%) were analyzed. Respondents were 83 % mothers and 65 percentage college graduates **Thomas D, et al (2004)** performed an investigation to examine the level of knowledge and skills related to prevention of child sexual assault (CSA). The sample size of the study was 136 and the sample was collected from the preschool students. raita us collected through a Chinese version of personal safety Questionnaire. It was found that preschool children lack child sexual assault prevention knowledge and related self protection skills culturally relevant primary child sexual assault prevention programmes in China need to be developed and parental education should be a part of child sexual assault prevention **Zhang W et al (2013)** did a qualitative study of parents views on child sexual assault. The sample size of the study was 24 and the sample was collected from Australian parents. The data was collected through a qualitative study. It was found that parents have good knowledge about child sexual assault and its risks but they do not provide their children with the knowledge on the prevention measures by prevention campaigns **Rudolph et al (2018)** did an investigation whether parents who reported more positive parenting practices reported more discussions of child sexual assault with their children. The sample size of the study was 248 and the sample was collected from parents from Australia and the UK with children aged 6-11 years. The data was collected through a survey. It was found that the analysis showed that parents who reported speaking to their children about child sexual assault also reported more positive parenting practices, more discussions of other sensitive topics and assessed child sexual assault risk for children to be higher **Julia Rudolph et al (2018)** study was conducted on parents experience of their children's disclosure of child sexual assault. The sample size of the study was 14 and the sample was collected from parents. The data was collected through a ground theory approach. It was found that there was a need for parental support following child disclosure of sexual victimisation **Mc Elvaney et al (2020)** did an investigation on the child's disclosure of sexual assault. The sample size of the study was 191 and it was collected from victims aged 3-18 years. The data was collected through a forensic interview. It was found that individual children identified why they told and why they waited to tell about it **Schaeffer et al (2011)** study was conducted on a study which investigated the

effects of legislative reforms and amendments to judges directions to juries in the success of appeals against conviction for child sexual assault. The sample size of the study was 238 AMS it was collected from appeals. The data was collected through a survey. It was found that out of the appeals identified, 118 (49.6%) were successful. Legislative reform showed the only significant differences between successful and unsuccessful appeals **Mills et al (2017)** study was conducted on Allegations of sexual assault of a child which provide a critical review of the modest body of relevant research. The sample size of the study was 62 and the sample was collected from professionals. The data was collected through a descriptive survey. It was found that agencies consider conducting extended assessments with young or traumatised children whose sexual assault allegations are not resolved with a single interview as well as in complex child sexual assault cases **Faller KC et al (2010)** To identify predators of delays in child sexual assault disclosure, specifically whether emotional and physical assault by a parental figures contribute to predicting delay or and above other improtant victim factors. The sample size of the study was 76 and the sample was collected from alleged CSA victims. The data was collected through an interview. It was found that the child assault victims expectation of lack of parental support **Tashjian SM et al (2016)**, study was conducted on gendered perception of sexual assault and investigating the effect of offender, victims and observer gender on the perceived seriousness of child sexual assault. The sample size of the study was 213 and the sample was collected from the British public. The data collected through a vignette describing. It was found that the assault was considered more serious when the offender was male or the observer was female and also found a novel three way interaction **Olivia Banton and Keon west (2020)** study was conducted on young people perception of sexual assault in residential care. The sample was collected from young people between 13 to 21 years. The data collected through a survey. It was found that young people in this study voluntarily reported know incidences of the sexual assault and harassment in levels, perpetrated by workers, individuals outside of residential care and peers within residential care **Jodi Death et al (2021)** study was conducted on parents perception of the risk of child sexual assault and their protective behaviours. The sample size of the study was 24 and the sample was collected from parents of pre-schools children. The data was collected through a qualitative interview. It was found that the parents identified strategies they used to protect their children from assault and their underlying thought regarding protection **Mary Elizabeth Collins (1996)**

### **(C) Materials and methods**

The author has adopted an empirical method in the descriptive research. A total of 230 Samples have been taken out of which is taken through convenient sampling. The sample frame was

taken by the researcher through online methods and also nearby people. The independent variables taken here are gender, age, educational qualifications, occupation, marital status. The dependent variable are the causes of child sexual abuse, opinion of the people when they see a child being abused, sexually abused person tend to, responsible persons for the negligence of child sexual abuse to happen, overcoming from the impact of child sexual abuse, satisfaction on the measures taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse.

## II. Analysis

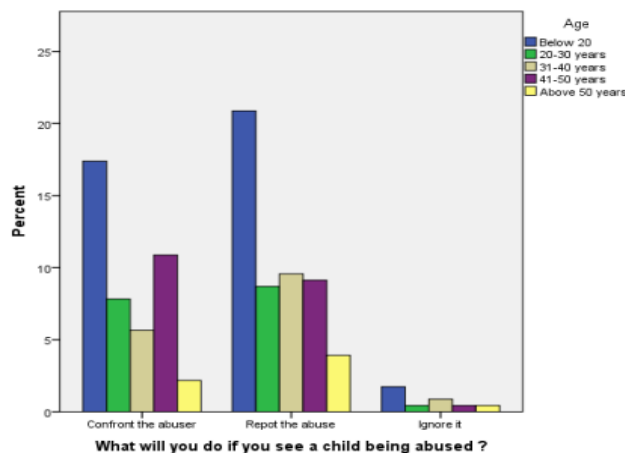
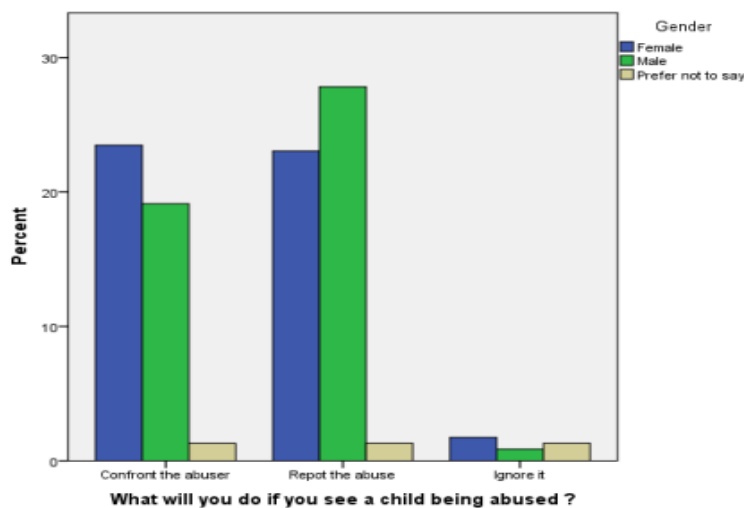


Figure. 1

**Legend:** Figure.1 shows the respondents opinion on what if they see a child being abused based on age factor.

Figure. 2



**Legend:** Figure.2 shows the respondents opinion on what if they see a child being abused based on gender factor.



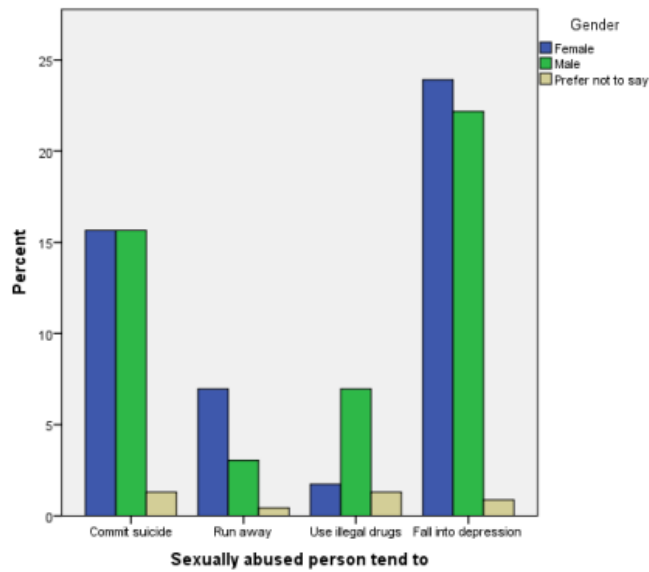


Figure.3

Legend: Figure.3 shows the respondents view on what sexually abused persons tend to do based on gender criteria.

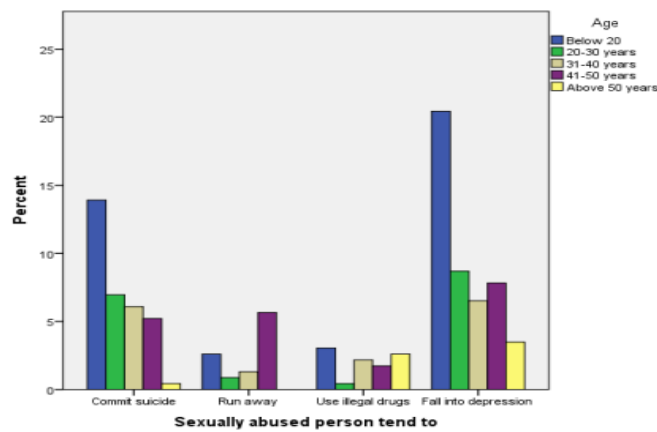


Figure. 4

Legend: Figure.4 shows the respondents view on what sexually abused persons tend to do based on age criteria.

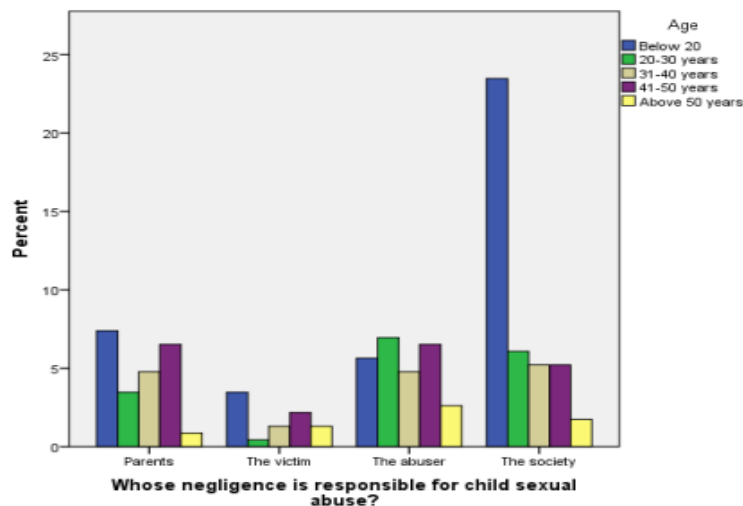
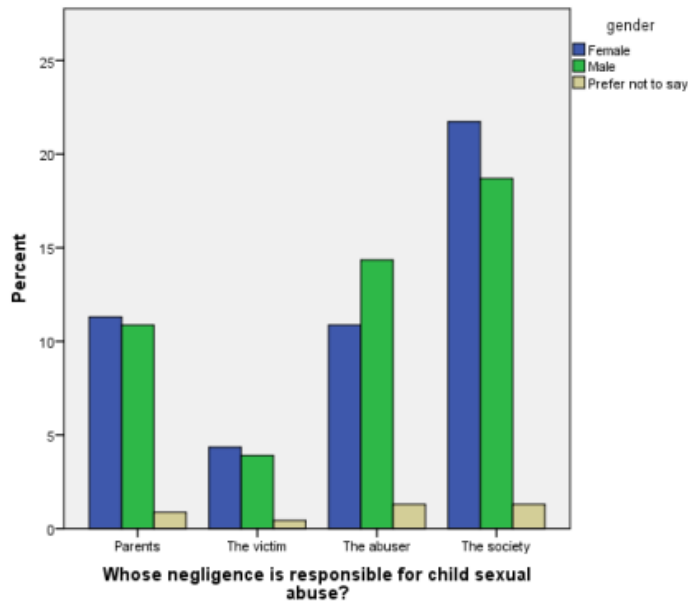


Figure. 5

**Legend:** Figure.5 shows the respondents view on whose negligence is responsible for child sexual abuse to happen based on age criteria.

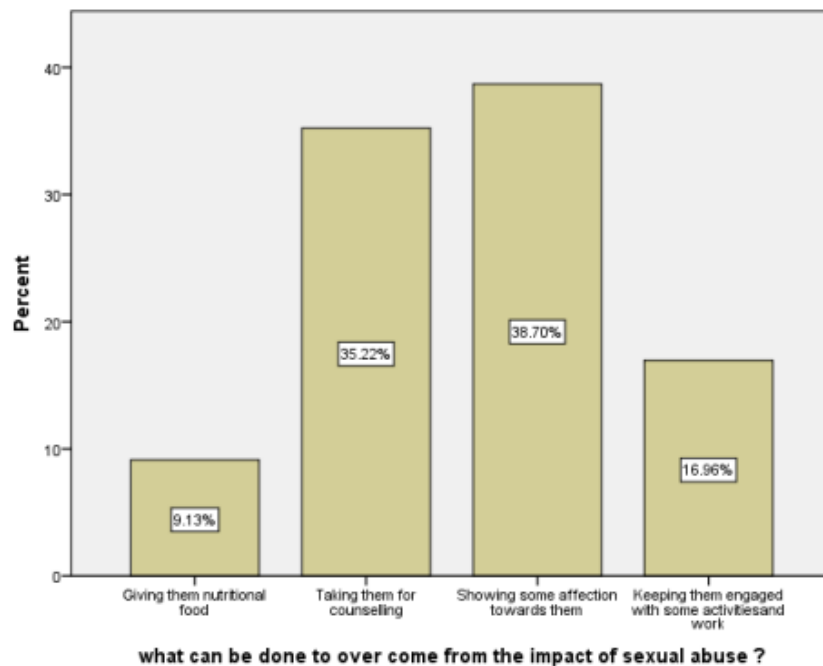
**Figure. 6**



**Legend:** Figure. 6 shows the respondents opinion on whose negligence for child sexual abuse.

**Figure. 7**

**Legend:** Figure.7 shows the respondents view on what sexually abused persons tend to do based on age criteria.



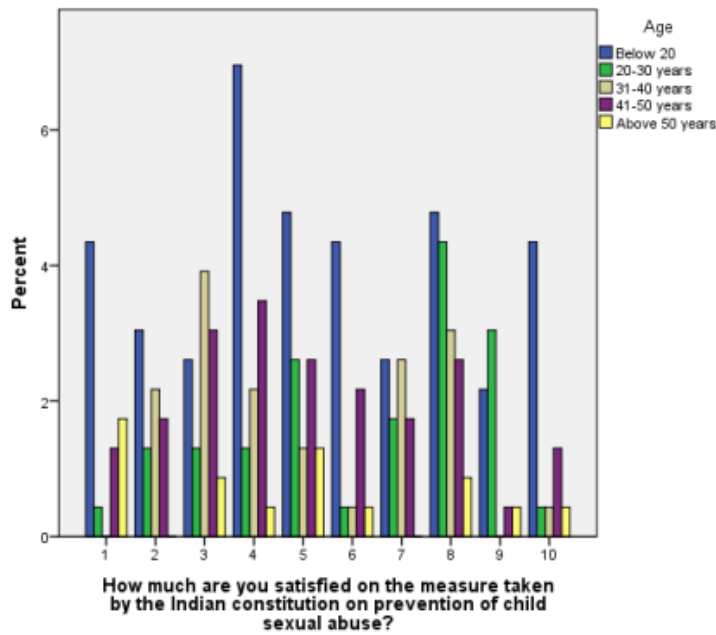
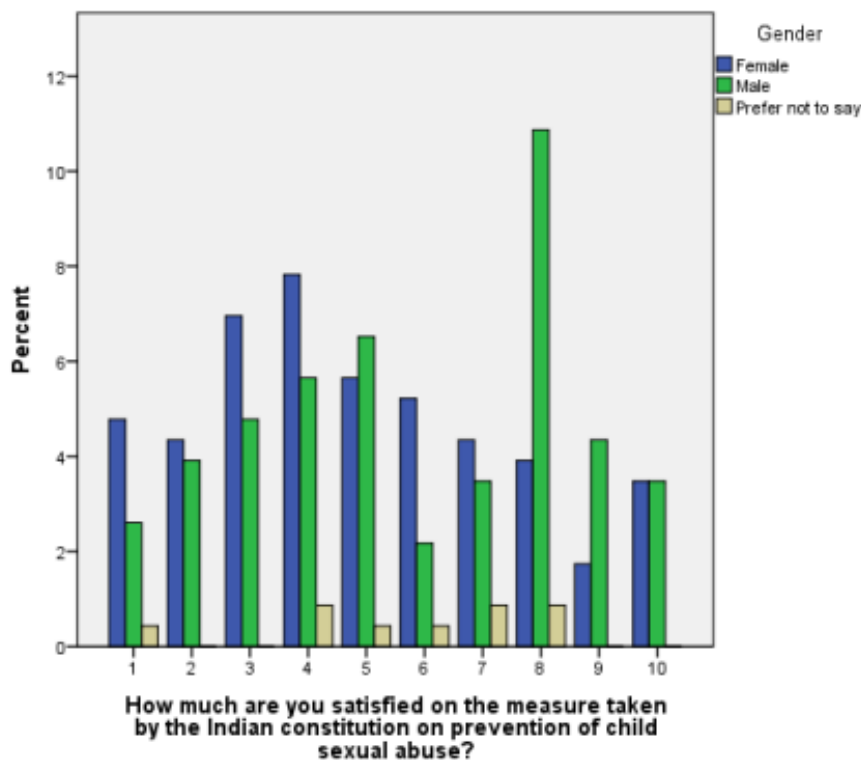


Figure. 8

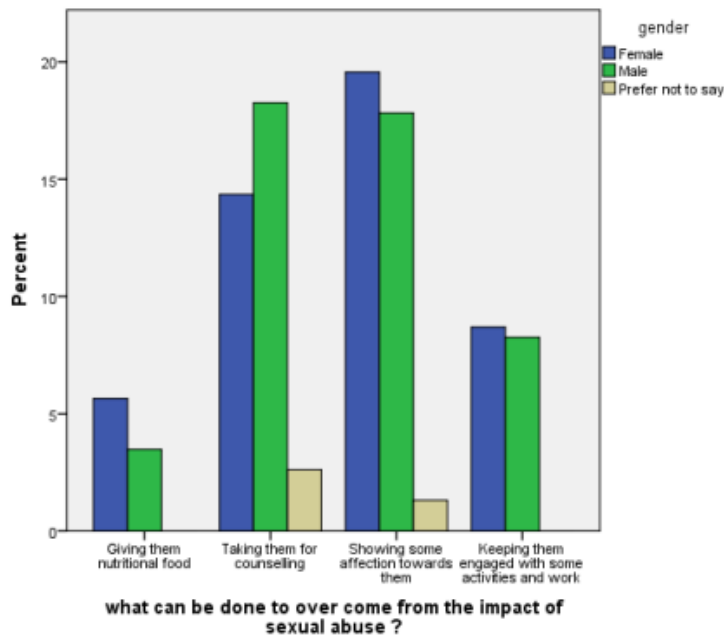
Legend: Figure.8 shows the respondents view on the measures taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse based on age criteria.

Figure. 9



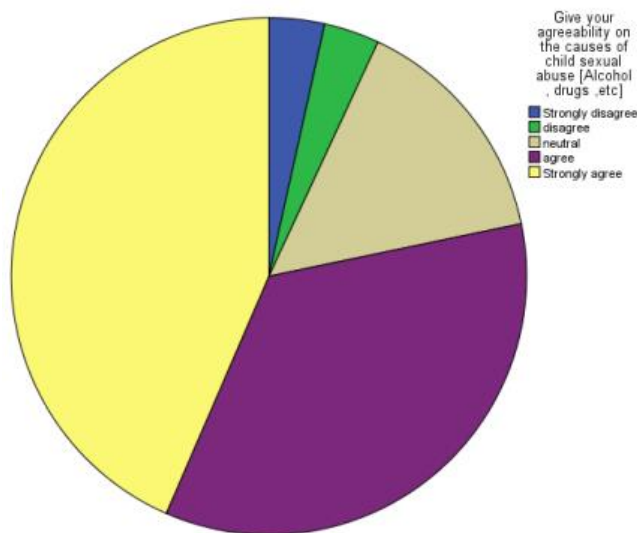
Legend: Figure. 9 shows the respondents opinion on the measures taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse based on gender criteria.

Figure. 10



Legend: Figure 10 shows the respondents opinion on what can be done to over come from the impact of sexual abuse.

Figure. 11



Legend: Figure 11 shows the respondents opinion on give your agree ability on the causes of sexual abuse [Alcohol,drugs,etc]

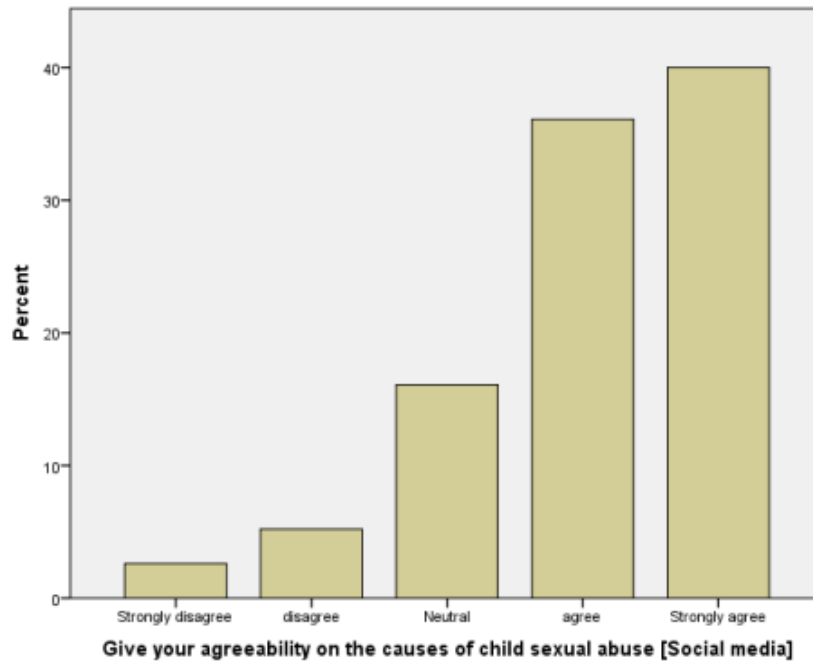
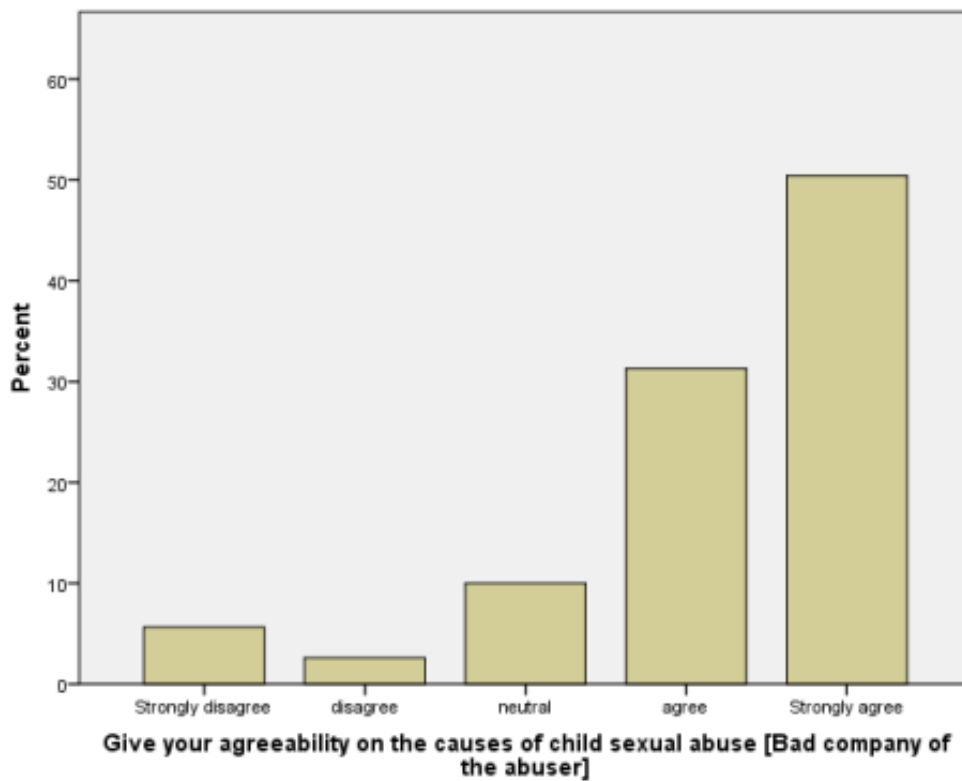


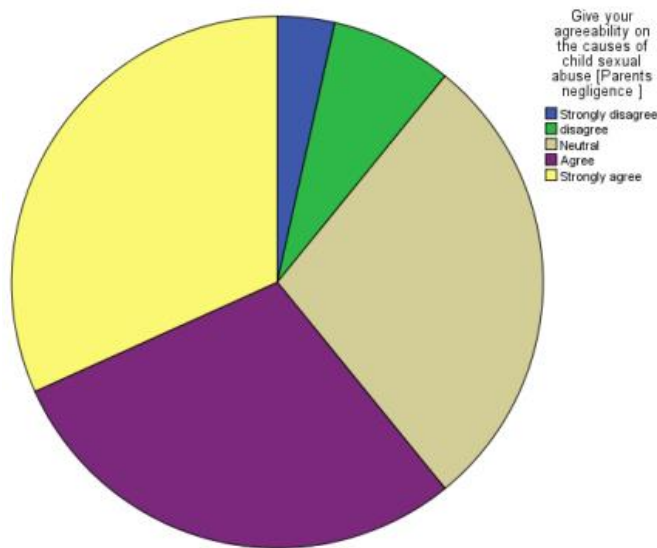
Figure. 12

**Legend:** Figure 12 shows the respondents opinion on give your agree ability on the causes of child sexual abuse[Social media].

Figure. 13



**Legend:** Figure 13 shows the respondents opinion on give agree ability on the cause of child sexual abuse[Bad company of the abuse

**Figure. 14**

**Legend:** Figure.14 shows the respondents opinion on give your agree ability on the causes of sexual abuse [Parents negligence]

### III. RESULTS

**From Figure.1** it is clear that below 20 years says that they will report the abuse. Respondents of 20-30 years say that they will confront the abuser. Respondents of 31-40 years say that they will report the abuse. Respondents of 41-50 years say that they will confront the abuser. And the respondents above the age of 50 years say that they will report the abuse. **From Figure.2** it is clear that the female respondents will confront the abuser whereas the male respondents will report the abuse. And the respondents who are not ready to reveal their gender say that they will confront the abuser. **From Figure.3** it is clear that the female respondents and the male respondents will fall into depression whereas the respondents who are not ready to reveal their gender say that they will commit suicide. **From Figure.4** it is clear that below 20 years says that they will fall into depression. Respondents of 20-30 years say that they will fall into depression. Respondents of 31-40 years say that they will commit suicide. Respondents of 41-50 years say that they will fall into depression. And the respondents above the age of 50 years say that they will fall into depression. **From Figure.5** it is clear that below 20 years says that they will fall into depression. Respondents of 20-30 years say that they will fall into depression. Respondents of 31-40 years say that they will commit suicide. Respondents of 41-50 years say that they will fall into depression. And the respondents above the age of 50 years say that they will fall into depression. **From Figure. 6** it is clear that Female say that the society is responsible for child sexual abuse to happen. Respondents of male also say that the society is responsible

and Respondents who prefer not to say that the abuser is responsible for child sexual abuse to happen. **From Figure. 7** It is clear that below the 20 year age group, people say that they will fall into depression. Respondents of 20-30 years say that they will fall into depression. Respondents of 31-40 years say that they will commit suicide. Respondents of 41-50 years say that they will fall into depression. And the respondents above the age of 50 years say that they will fall into depression. **From the figure. 8** It is clear that those below the age of 20 are more satisfied with the government initiatives than the other age group people. **From the figure. 9** it is clear that from the scale 1 to 10 most of the males chose 8 which is clear that they are not satisfied with the measure taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse, whereas most of the females chose 4 from the 1 to 10 scale which is clear that females are slightly satisfied with the measure taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse. **From the figure. 10** it is clear that the female says that showing some affection towards them will help them to over come from the impact of child sexual abuse. Respondents of male say that taking them for counselling will help them to over come from child sexual abuse and respondents of prefer not to say also say that taking them for counselling will help them to over come from the impact of child sexual abuse. **From the figure. 11** it is clear that most of them strongly agree that alcohol, drugs, etc are the main cause of child sexual abuse. **From the figure. 12** it is clear that most of them strongly agree that social media is a main cause of child sexual abuse to happen. **From the figure. 13** it is clear that most of the strongly agree that bad company of the abuser is a main cause of child sexual abuse to happen. **From the figure. 14** it is clear that most of them strongly agree that parents negligence is the main cause of child sexual abuse.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION**

**From Figure. 1** it is clear that below 20 years says that they will report the abuse. This might be because reporting the abuse is the first and prior thing that a person looking up for should do. **From Figure. 2** it is clear that the female respondents will confront the abuser. This might be because Confronting the abuser is the main and for most things that the victim fails to do. But this should be done in the right way. **From Figure. 3** it is clear that female respondents and the male respondents will fall into depression. This might be because the victim will really be stressed and it takes time to come out of it. This might put them into depression. **From Figure. 4** it is clear that irrespective of age people will fall into depression when the person has been sexually abused. This might be because it takes time for the victim to get rid of it and it may lead to mental pressure and physical pressure which will ultimately make them depressed. **From Figure. 5** It is clear that irrespective of age people will fall into depression when the person has been sexually abused. This might be because it takes time for the victim to get rid of it and it

may lead to mental pressure and physical pressure which will ultimately make them depressed. **From the figure. 6** it is clear that female say that the society is responsible for the child sexual abuse to happen. Respondents of male also say that the society is responsible and Respondents who prefer not to say that the abuser is responsible for child sexual abuse to happen. This might be because the society is not aware of the consequences of the issue and they think that it is the victim who is responsible for the abuse to take place and mostly blame the victims instead of the abuser. **From Figure. 7** It is clear that irrespective of age people will fall into depression when the person has been sexually abused. This might be because it takes time for the victim to get rid of it and it may lead to mental pressure and physical pressure which will ultimately make them depressed. **From the figure. 8** It is clear that people below the age of 20 are more satisfied with the government initiatives than the other age group people. This might be because below the age 20, people are more aware of the government initiatives than the other age group because they are more active in social media than the other age groups. **From the figure. 9** it is clear that from the scale 1 to 10 most of the males chose 8 which is clear that they are not satisfied with the measure taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse, whereas most of the females chose 4 from the 1 to 10 scale which is clear that females are slightly satisfied with the measure taken by the Indian constitution on prevention of child sexual abuse. This might be because the government is taking initiatives like producing an Act against the issue, giving appropriate judgements etc. **From the figure. 10** it is clear that the female says that showing some affection towards them will help them to over come from the impact of child sexual abuse. Respondents of male say that taking them for counselling will help them to over come from child sexual abuse and respondents of prefer not to say also say that taking them for counselling will help them to over come from the impact of child sexual abuse. This might be because both the solution will help the victims to over come from the impact of child sexual abuse. **From the figure. 11** it is clear that most of them strongly agree that alcohol, drugs, etc are the main cause of child sexual abuse. This might be because alcohol and drugs tend to change the mindset and behavior of a person which makes them sexually abuse a child. **From the figure. 12** it is clear that most of them strongly agree that social media is a main cause of child sexual abuse to happen. This might be because there are lots of chances that a person can be influenced by social media and have more chances that the person might sexually abuse a child. **From the figure. 13** it is clear that most of the strongly agree that bad company of the abuser is a main cause of child sexual abuse to happen. This might be because a person who has bad company might get influenced by that person and have more chances that the person might sexually abuse a child. **From the figure. 14** it is clear that most of them strongly agree that



parents negligence is the main cause of child sexual abuse. This might be because parents negligence like not educating the children and being irresponsible can be a cause for the child sexual abuse to happen.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Child sexual abuse is a sexual behaviour or a sexual act forced upon a women, man or child without their consent and is also an act of violence. This research is all about educating people about child sexual abuse and it's impact on the victims and also educating the children to open up about the incident. The major findings is that the children are not aware of this content and mostly the child sexual abuse takes place because of the negligence of the parents. Parents mostly think that educating children about the sexual abuse unnecessary. If people are educated then we can make our society an abuse free one. This can be made possible if the government takes some initiatives towards the issue.

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