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Applicability of POCSO Act on the Consensual Relationship between the Minors

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ABSTRACT

One of the significant pieces of legislation that is the POCSO Act of India in 2012, has so far catered to the protection of kids against sexual crimes and abuse by entrusting strict legal safeguards. However, this deals with the criminalization of sexual activities involving minors, a matter that raises massive concerns when applied to consensual relationships between adolescents. This research paper critically investigates the impact of the Protection of Children from the Sexual Offence Act on teenagers' willing romantic relationships by inquiring into adolescents' autonomy complexes, the development of legal definitions concerning consent, and sociological attitudes toward teenage relationships. This paper, thus, uses a child protection framework in looking at the application of a doctrinal analysis concerning relevant case law and legal interpretation on the difficulties that arise in distinguishing between consenting acts within minors and exploitative behaviors. The stringent conditions under the act raise pertinent questions on how they will apply to the relationship between two teenagers based on mutual consent.

This paper critically questions the POCSO foundation behind negotiating consent relating to relationships. Moreover, issues regarding establishing consent in the light of adolescent interactions are discussed in detail, including the legal principles of the concept of consent. This paper will try to make things more straightforward concerning judicial perception towards consensual relations under the POCSO Act by perusing relevant case laws and legislative changes. It further takes the tangent discussion regarding the legal implications of consensual relationships and sociological and cultural nuances that may alter perceptions in the same regard. In this context, it will enlighten legal practitioners, lawmakers, and other concerned parties about safeguarding the legal rights and welfare of children.

Keywords: POCSO Act, Sexual Offence, Consensual Relationship, Legal Implications.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is undoubtful that romantic relationships and sexual urges are of great concern, especially

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during the growth phase, of the minor. One of the most significant points that mark this stage of development is the beginning of a romantic attachment.² Also, it has potential consequences on the stage of life transitioning to the senior phase.³ Adolescents seek more autonomy with respect to their choices in life, particularly in choosing a romantic partner.⁴ However, in our Country, there is a strong influence of social culture, at that time only family of the minor plays a highly significant role in adolescents' life choices, including their life partner.

The families of teenagers were, by far, the most vociferous in their opposition to the adolescent's love relationships. As a result, often, when adolescents become the target of such aggression, the couple elopes to strengthen their relationship. and become entangled in the legal system. According to the Act of 2012, sexual activity of any kind is illegal under criminal law and in romantic relationships. The valid age of consent is eighteen years old.⁵ Although this legislation was enacted nearly 10 years ago, few studies in that field emphasize its functioning and enforcement.⁶ Apart from disagreements and biased remarks, various studies have cited issues related to minors engaging in consensual sex. Literature regarding cases filled with regards to the romantic relationship, about which literature is unavailable to discuss the legal implications.⁷ Therefore, if the sensitive aspect of the question of the POCSO Act is considered upon consensual sexual acts arising from any romantic relationship, Given the sociocultural foundations, a thorough study of it is unquestionably worthwhile. This essay explores how the POCSO conduct affects teenagers' sexual rights and the necessity of assessing the idea of consented sexual conduct from an Indian legal standpoint.

Healthy human relationships are built around consensual partnerships, a relationship of mutual understanding between two parties.⁸ However, the nature of consensual collaboration raises

² SCITECH - Beyond Infatuation and Love: Review of Adolescent Mental Health Manuals in India - Journal of Psychiatry and Psychology Research (ISSN:2640-6136), SCITCENTRAL.COM (2018), https://www.scitcentral.com/article.php?journal=30&article=542&article_title=Beyond%20Infatuation%20and%20Love:%20Review%20of%20Adolescent%20Mental%20Health%20Manuals%20in%20India (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

³ Wendy D. Manning et al., *The Complexities of Adolescent Dating and Sexual Relationships: Fluidity, Meaning(s), and Implications for Young Adults' Well-Being*, 2014 NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT 53 (2014), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5806510/>.

⁴ Rachna Sujay, *Premarital sexual behaviour among unmarried college students of Gujarat, India*, KNOWLEDGE COMMONS (2019), https://knowledgecommons.popcouncil.org/departments_sbsr-rh/511/.

⁵ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT AND RULES, 2012 AND THE CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2013, (2015), <https://sje.rajasthan.gov.in/siteadmin/Uploads/201908261611310791pocsoact2013.pdf> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

⁶ Renu Renu & Geeta Chopra, *Child Sexual Abuse in India and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012: A Research Review*, 6 INTEGRATED JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES 49 (2019), <http://www.pubs.iscience.in/journal/index.php/ijss/article/view/892>.

⁷ Geetika Mantri, *POCSO criminalising teen sexuality? NCRB data suggests that may be true*, THE NEWS MINUTE (2019), <https://www.thenewsminute.com/delve/pocso-criminalising-teen-sexuality-ncrb-data-suggests-may-be-true-111281> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

⁸ Amisha Shrivastava, *"How Can POCSO Act Offence Be Termed Romantic?" : Supreme Court Slams HC*

several complex legal, moral, and social considerations, mainly because this legislation was introduced to protect children from abuse. It, therefore, play a crucial role in determining the nature of consensual relationship between the minors and who are below the age of 18 years. Thus, this paper aims to discuss many points of consensual relations under the POCSO Act. The evolving discourse surrounding child protection necessitates a critical examination of consensual relationships through the (POCSO) Act. This analysis must be situated within a broader sociological understanding of relationship dynamics and their implications for collective well-being, particularly as they intersect with adolescent development and societal norms. The intersection of legal safeguards and developmental psychology warrants a nuanced approach that protects vulnerable individuals and acknowledges the complexity of interpersonal relationships within contemporary social structures.⁹

II. THE POCSO ACT, 2012, AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Act of 2012 represents watershed legislation in Indian jurisprudence, enacted on November 14, 2012. This comprehensive legal framework establishes stringent provisions to safeguard minors' fundamental rights and welfare against various forms of sexual exploitation, encompassing acts of sexual assault, harassment, pornographic exploitation, and related criminal conspiracy. The statute marks a significant advancement in India's child protection legal infrastructure and demonstrates the state's commitment to work in accordance with the international conventions. The POCSO Act is a comprehensive legislation for addressing sexual offenses perpetrated against the minors, representing a critical threshold for the definition of a minor. As cornerstone legislation grounded in constitutional principles, the Act institutes child-centric procedural safeguards throughout the judicial process. These procedural mechanisms encompass multiple phases: the initial reporting of offenses, evidence documentation, investigative protocols, and expedited adjudication through specialized judicial bodies (Special Courts). This systematic approach reflects a paradigm shift towards child-centered jurisprudence, prioritizing protecting minors' interests and psychological well-being throughout legal proceedings.

The legislation's procedural architecture demonstrates a nuanced understanding of the vulnerabilities inherent in cases involving minor victims, incorporating protective measures that

Suggestion To Decriminalise..., LIVELAW.IN (2024), <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/how-can-pocso-act-offence-be-termed-romantic-supreme-court-slams-hc-suggestion-to-decriminalise-consensual-sex-among-teens-267190> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

⁹ Manik, *Applicability Of The POCSO Act On The Consensual Relationship Between The Minor*, LIVELAW.IN (2023), <https://www.livelaw.in/columns/applicability-of-the-posco-act-on-the-consensual-relationship-between-the-minor-220686> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

facilitate access to justice while minimizing potential trauma associated with legal processes. This reflects an evolution in India's legal framework towards more victim-sensitive judicial mechanisms.¹⁰ ***The recent amendment was made in 2019.***¹¹ Before this these legislations were the part of Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, only applied to women when it came to the issue of legal age of consent for sexual activity. ***Initially set at ten years, the length was increased to twelve in the year 1891, fourteen in the year 1925, and sixteen in year 1940.***

The status remained the same persisted till the enactment of one of the important legislations of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, following the widespread public aggression in response to the heinous rape case of Nirbhaya on December 16, 2012, in New Delhi.¹² The gender-neutral POCSO Act of 2012 established the “age of consent at 18 for both the genders. Unless married males have sex with their wives who are older than fifteen, section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, defines rape as the act of a man having sex with a woman under the age of sixteen without her permission.”¹³

The legal marriage age was set at 18 for females and 21 for men by the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) of 2006. Except in Karnataka State, where the custom of child marriages is permanently void, any marriages entered before this age, under any circumstances, could be declared voidable by either party filing a petition with the District Court before or two years after reaching the legal age of marriage or attaining majority.¹⁴ Religion-specific personal rules also specify the age of marriage. For example, under Muslim Personal Law, a female can marry after turning 15 or achieving puberty. Under the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955,¹⁵ To marry, girls must be 18 years old, and boys must be 21. The ***Code of Canon Law for Christians*** holds that marriage is constituted by both couples' legitimate consent, manifested between legally qualified individuals; no other human power can grant this permission. ***Section 42-A states that the Act of 2012*** replaces all these statutes.

¹⁰ Jyoti Belur & Brijesh Bahadur Singh, *Child sexual abuse and the law in India: a commentary*, 4 CRIME SCIENCE (2015).

¹¹ The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019, PRS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH, <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-protection-of-children-from-sexual-offences-amendment-bill-2019-979>.

¹² kanchi, *Sexual offences Archives - Academike*, ACADEMIKE (2020), <https://www.lawctopus.com/academike/tag/sexual-offences/> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

¹³ Simon H. Bronitt & Ashutosh Misra, *Reforming Sexual Offences in India: Lessons in Human Rights and Comparative Law*, PAPERS.SSRN.COM (2014), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2623352 (last visited Aug 20, 2022).

¹⁴ D SANJAY JAISWAL, *THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016*, <http://feministlawarchives.pldindia.org/wp-content/uploads/5332LS.pdf> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

¹⁵ Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, INDIACODE.NIC.IN (2018), <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1560>.

III. CONSENSUAL AND NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACT AMONG ADOLESCENTS: A DEBATE

Nationally, after the passage of the POCSO Act in 2012, disputes about whether the POCSO Act applies to children who meet child protection mechanisms (CPMs)¹⁶ Against the backdrop of romantic connections among the stakeholders. The following section has produced a debate on various relevant topics.¹⁷ Thus, the POCSO Act has a significant impact on consensual relationships, mainly when the people involved are under the age of consent. Therefore, understanding the act's legal ramifications is critical for guaranteeing compliance with the law and effectively structuring consensual relationships. By adhering to the boundaries and norms established by the legislation, one can avoid exploitation and foster good, consensual relationships. The act raises knowledge of the significance of permission, respect for boundaries, and moral behavior during encounters, making the social environment safer and more informed.¹⁸

IV. SOCIOCULTURAL INFLUENCE OF ADOLESCENT ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS IN INDIA

*Dunphy's pioneering work*¹⁹ It is proven that both personal and environmental variables, including initiating romantic involvement, are vital in ordering the developmental stage. This discovery developed theologies regarding the adolescent romantic relationship within the contextual and developmental framework.²⁰ In Asia, notably in India, contrasted to Western cultural norms, the sociocultural values practiced by families considerably impact romantic ideologies due to living jointly. Even though the perception is evolving, in most Indian states, an adolescent romantic relationship is considered as one against the dignity and honor of the family, especially if there are religious, caste, or economic inequalities visible.²¹ The final choice of a life mate in the goodness of fit pattern of the family network would typically be the

¹⁶ Need to revisit the concept of “age of consent,” TIMES OF INDIA BLOG (2019), <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/legally-speaking/need-to-revisit-the-concept-of-age-of-consent/>.

¹⁷ Renu Renu & Geeta Chopra, *Child Sexual Abuse in India and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012: A Research Review*, 6 INTEGRATED JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES 49 (2019), <http://www.pubs.iscience.in/journal/index.php/ijss/article/view/892>.

¹⁸ Sunil Sudhakar Varnekar & Upankar Chutia, *Navigating consensual relationships: Understanding the POCSO Act*, 4 ~ 150 ~ INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CIVIL LAW AND LEGAL RESEARCH (2024), <https://www.civillawjournal.com/article/76/4-1-29-746.pdf> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

¹⁹ Dexter C Dunphy, *The Social Structure of Urban Adolescent Peer Groups*, ROUTLEDGE EBOOKS 327 (2017).

²⁰ Jennifer Connolly et al., *Mixed-Gender Groups, Dating, and Romantic Relationships in Early Adolescence*, 14 JOURNAL OF RESEARCH ON ADOLESCENCE 185 (2004).

²¹ Gokul Varma, *Caste, Class and the Love-Marriage: Social Change in India*, 39 JOURNAL OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY 823 (2019), https://www.academia.edu/38823947/Caste_Class_and_the_Love_Marriage_Social_Change_in_India (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

parents or other influential people in the family.

Until then, controlled parental will be observed in every department of romantic relationships. Whether adolescent, young adult, or adult, the moment they are into a romantic relationship, it is often considered a poor act because they never had proper self-discipline and have no mastery over their sense of control.²² Great value is placed on premarital sex and, thus, a more significant violation of the value system.²³ If such a link is found, the families usually have those teenagers married before they reach legal adulthood, particularly if the woman is expecting.²⁴-this being illegal. Hence, teenagers have challenges in creating a relationship suited for their age yet violate the value system of the society in which they reside. However, research papers examining this phenomenon are limited in India.

V. DEVELOPMENTAL NEED AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

The teenagers aged “13–19 years indicated some sexual closeness with their love relationship in most answers.³⁸ *From a normative legislative point of view, it is considered deviant* because they lack the legal capacity to give consent; minors under the age of eighteen are always subject to the POCSO Act. For example, a study conducted in five states by the Centre for Child and the Law (CCL) of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) CCL-NLSIU13 showed that 21.58% of cases involving romantic relationships were registered in Delhi, 21.21% in Andhra Pradesh, 20.52% in Maharashtra, 15.69% in Assam, and 5.45% in Karnataka.” However, this study.²⁵ There are no gender-specific limits or requirements for both parties' consent while forming a romantic relationship. However, the statute's gender-neutral notion is frequently broken. Dubious. Most of the time, legal action would be taken against the man, regardless of his age, with women being considered the victims.²⁶ Simultaneously, if grooming is incorporated as a method, the component of psychological manipulation the perpetrator caused to the victim is hard to quantify, mainly when the individual is in a position

²² SUNIL SAINI & JASWANT SINGH, *Gender Differences in Relational Aggression and Psychosocial Problems in Romantic Relationships among Youths*, <https://jiaap.in/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/10-1.pdf> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

²³ Giri Raj Gupta, *Love, Arranged Marriage, and the Indian Social Structure*, 7 JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE FAMILY STUDIES 75 (1976).

²⁴ N Janardhana & B Manjula, *Psycho social intervention for Adolescents in relationship issues under the care and protection of child welfare committee*, 14 JOURNAL OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH 40 (2018).

²⁵ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POCSO ACT, 2012 BY SPECIAL COURTS: CHALLENGES AND ISSUES BASED ON CCL-NLSIU'S STUDIES ON THE WORKING OF SPECIAL COURTS IN FIVE STATES WITH SUPPORT FROM, (2018), <https://ccl.nls.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/8.-Implementation-of-the-POCSO-Act-2012-by-speical-courts-challenges-and-issues.pdf> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

²⁶ Veenashree Anchan, Navaneetham Janardhana & John Vijay Sagar Kommu, *POCSO Act, 2012: Consensual Sex as a Matter of Tug of War Between Developmental Need and Legal Obligation for the Adolescents in India*, 43 INDIAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE 158 (2020).

of trust.²⁷ This makes considering the age of consent to be above 18 years the most debated concern nationwide.

It makes this Act more accessible while talking about relationships based on consent because it articulates the various law rules and guidelines related to sexual activities with children. The understanding of terms and POCSO consequences aids in regulating responsible consensual ties between people, communities, and legal authorities so that no child is exposed or hurt because of certain forms of exploitation. Additionally, POCSO awareness and a conscious culture of practicing ethics, informed consent, and respect for relationship boundaries create a conducive environment for developing safe and healthy interpersonal connections.²⁸ The POCSO Act has the most influence on consensual relationships when parties involved are below the age of consent. The Act is, therefore, necessary to enhance the knowledge of consent and limit and respect moral behavior in all engagements to create a safer and better-educated social environment²⁹ of sexual exploitation and to support their healthy development.

VI. A COMPLEX ETHICAL CHOICE THAT IMPACTS VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS

A competent group of multispectral partners from various CPMs was identified and put to work within the allotted time limit with the POCSO Act to provide CSA survivors and their families with a child-friendly legal procedure.³⁰ The one of the important points from the arguments of the debaters about consensual sexual activity among the minors is that the social reality around teen romantic relationships poses an ethical dilemma for the CPMs. They frequently encounter conflicts when handling cases involving consensual sex, such as a conflict between their moral duty to persuade the families to plan the adolescents' futures by societal norms and their professional obligations to fulfill legal mandates.

A study report by the Centre for Child and the Law (CCL)³¹ (NLSIU Bengaluru) found that the judicial process was much more lenient since it started with a lawsuit filed based

²⁷ Whittle, H. C., Hamilton-Giachritsis, C., & Beech, A. R. (2013). Victims' Voices The Impact of Online Grooming and Sexual Abuse. *Universal Journal of Psychology*, 1, 59-71. - References - Scientific Research Publishing, SCIRP.ORG (2014), <https://www.scirp.org/reference/referencespapers?referenceid=1261277> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) ACT, 2015 _____ ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS _____ CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY SECTIONS 1. SHORT TITLE, EXTENT, COMMENCEMENT AND APPLICATION. 2. DEFINITIONS. CHAPTER II GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/2148/1/a2016-2.pdf>.

³⁰ Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015., INDIACODE.NIC.IN (2016), https://www.india-code.nic.in/handle/123456789/2148?view_type=browse#:~:text=An%20Act%20to%20consolidate%20and.

³¹ IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POCSO ACT, 2012 BY SPECIAL COURTS: CHALLENGES AND ISSUES BASED ON CCL-NLSIU'S STUDIES ON THE WORKING OF SPECIAL COURTS IN FIVE STATES WITH SUPPORT FROM, (2018), <https://ccl.nls.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/8.-Implementation-of-the-POCSO-Act-2012-by-speical-courts-challenges-and-issues.pdf>.

on a romantic relationship history and had a more accepting stance toward various types. For example, the when the attempt is not made or there is insufficient efforts in determining the age of the minor who has been suspected of these crimes by conducting necessary tests or/and unable to produce the proof of age required; the inability of the police to take initiatives in tracing the evidence scarceness of proactive action from the police in searching for the various pieces of evidence to confirm the accused with the culprits; dereliction on the part of analysts in establishing the subtleties to establish the conditions which lead the minor to yield to the offense no matter how wide the age difference between the offender and the victim is, where all the possibilities favor grooming; and disallowing the testimony of the victims considering the force component as explained by the legal implication of **the word "assault" under the IPC, 1860 without considering the legal guidelines set out in the POCSO Act—all of which shows how superficially the CPMs handled romantic relationships. The defendants have purposefully connected threats to this designation.**

This sort of tolerant approach implemented by the CPMs might offer a workable solution to aid these teenagers and their families since they have expertise in dealing with cultural hurdles in such circumstances. Moreover, their cultural heritage may provide practical considerations. For instance, if the girl is either below the age of a minor or pregnant, carrying a baby, and weds an accused person, the likelihood of social marginalization and hardship rises when the CSA survivor accused person is imprisoned. This may overshadow the potential for such rehabilitation for the CSA victim and her kid.³² Instead, it may only be seen as an effort to lessen the strain of the impending trials in such romantic situations.³³ The legal paths taken by survivors of consenting and non-consensual acts may differ, as will their expectations of CPMs. When these youngsters elope, the family, usually the parents, has filed missing complaints, according to the recent trend in cases that are being filled, which is most common in cases of consenting sexual actions. This might be a symptom that their family disapproves of their love engagement, especially if the youngster and their romantic partner have different religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.

In this instance, the family's primary goal may be to end their connection by locking the boy up and forbidding them from communicating.³⁴ However, the desired result of filing a complaint

³² Ekta Dogra et al., *Teenage Pregnancy- Sexually Violated or Sexually Active: Medico Legal Dilemmas of POCSO Act 2012 and other Related Acts*, 3 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HEALTH SYSTEMS AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH 84 (2019), <https://ijhsir.ahsas-pgichd.org/index.php/ijhsir/article/view/35> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).

³³ Geetika Mantri, *POCSO criminalising teen sexuality? NCRB data suggests that may be true*, THE NEWS MINUTE (2019), <https://www.thenewsminute.com/delve/pocso-criminalising-teen-sexuality-ncrb-data-suggests-may-be-true-111281>.

³⁴ Connected Papers | Find and explore academic papers, CONNECTEDPAPERS.COM (2024),

in proven instances of sexual cases is to get justice against the horrible conduct. The rate of offenders that are being convicted for consensual sexual behavior is as low as 0% in Assam and Andhra Pradesh, 1% in Delhi, and 3% in Maharashtra, according to the CCL-NLSIU research. Most of these cases end in acquittal for the simple reason that the minors do not want to testify against their spouse and grow hostile after giving birth or marrying the accused against their will. Along with the facts mentioned above, it is also shown that these female youngsters refuse to submit to age-determination and medical examination tests in such circumstances. These are mandates from the law. It only occurs when the amorous partner declines to be married or abstains from accepting responsibility for the pregnancy. Then, these young girls come out to gripe about their husbands.

VII. CONCLUSION

Relationships become healthy, egalitarian, and respectful only by defining rights, valuing consent, and communication, and recognizing and upholding limits. To deal with the intricacies of consensual relationships and guarantee the safety and well-being of individuals (especially the minors) from various backgrounds, the legal system, educational system, and social organizations must all integrate their perspectives and methods into culturally sensitive tactics. If awareness is increased, support is provided, and societal and legal reforms acknowledge the interconnectedness of culture, ethnicity, and oppressed populations, people of all races can engage courteously, understanding and empowering them.

A community where everyone is valued, safe, and prepared to interact with others politely and constructively may be developed because of these sorts of activities. It is common for teenagers to experiment with sexual aspects and begin having sexual relationship with a loving partner as they grow up. A complicated interplay of social events has already impacted the whole element of romantic relationships among the minors in India. Even from a legal perspective, as stipulated by the POCSO Act, 2012, the consent problem remains a conflict between the legal responsibilities of India's children and their developmental needs according to their age. Unfortunately, this conversation completely obscures and obscures actual cases of minor child who are facing the sexual abuse. The issue must be resolved since this law promised to protect children's best interests from all types.

<https://www.connectedpapers.com/main/fa438d14748dc26f81d0cb52642292ed2bd6ddcc/Adolescent-girls-in-romantic-relationship-under-child-protection-system-%E2%80%93-3A-A-study-from-India/graph> (last visited Nov 11, 2024).