

## CHILD ABUSE AND DERELICT IN INDIA: ISSUE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE NEED FOR CHANGE

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### A. INTRODUCTION

#### B. Background:

According to the World Health Organization, "Child abuse" is defined as the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types' physical and/ or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. (Woodman, (2018)) Increasingly, witnessing intimate partner violence is also considered as a form of child maltreatment. "Physical abuse" is defined as an intentional use of physical force or implements against a child that results in or has the potential to result in physical injury. "Sexual abuse" is any completed or attempted sexual act, sexual contact with, or non-contact sexual interaction with a child by a caregiver. "Emotional abuse" is an intentional behavior that conveys to a child that she/ he is worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted, endangered or valued only in meeting another's needs. "Neglect" is failure to meet a child's basic physical, emotional, medical or educational needs; failure to provide adequate nutrition, hygiene or shelter or failure to ensure a child's safety. "Intimate partner violence" is defined any incident of threatening behavior, violence or abuse (Psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of sex or sexuality.

Child maltreatment is a worldwide problem with serious life-threatening consequences. Many low and middle-income countries fail to produce data on survey related to such abuse. It is very complex to do research or study on child maltreatment because the estimation depends on various factors including the definition, the maltreatment being studied, the quality of surveys, etc. (Woodman, 2018) Another reason is, it is extremely difficult to get responses from children regarding sensitive issues and lack of understanding among children among different dimensions of child abuse. Failure in addressing the child right to protection can affect all the rights, Child protection and development is important and critical to achieving Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG). It is very difficult to achieve the Goals unless child protection becomes an integral part of programs and strategies to protect children who are prone to such abusive acts.

This paper while discussing this shall discuss about the global scenario and the statistics of child abuse, shall further go on to discuss the problem and extent of child abuse in India with concentration on the Indian scenario and the trend of child abuse in India. The paper shall then discuss consequences of child abuse in the field of public health and its effects on the children. Moving forward the paper shall concentrate on the gaps in the India's approach towards child abuse and finally shall put forward the recommendations taking into consideration the limitations of the study.

**Global Scenario of Child abuse:** Globally there were 676,000 victims of child abuse and neglect reported to Child protective services in 2016. About 1750 children died due to abuse or neglect in 2016. (Fortson, 2016) Estimated child abuse (2 to 17 years of age) is found to be 1 million worldwide. According to WHO, self-report of child abuse is found to be 23% in the case of physical abuse, 36% and 16% in the case of emotional and physical abuse respectively. In case of sexual abuse, 18% of girls and 8 % of boys have been affected. Kenya has the highest percentage of girls affected by abuse and among boys it is found to be in Zimbabwe. Nearly 41,000 children under the age of 15 become a victim of Homicide every year. WHO says that adults who had experienced abuse or neglect in the past as children will have consequences last for life time, which can result in depression, obesity, high risk of sexual behaviors, harmful use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, etc. (UNICEF, 2015)

Save the Children Federation reported that, for at least 700 million children worldwide, childhood ended soon. The major reasons are found to be poor health, conflict, extreme violence, child marriage, early pregnancy, malnutrition and so on. About 236 million children are out of school, 168 million children are involved in child labour. 40 million girls between the ages 15 to 19 are married worldwide; nearly 28 million children have been forced to move out of homes. Roughly 16 million girls between the age of 15 and 19 years give birth each year, around 8 million children die before the age of 19 and 7500 plus children were murdered in 2015 (UNICEF, 2015). UNICEF reported that the governments are not doing enough and many unreported cases still exist around the world. For example, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that almost 53,000 people were murdered worldwide in 2002. A survey which was counted among various countries worldwide reported that 20 to 60 percent of school children have been bullied either physically or verbally. In the year 2002, WHO estimated that 73 million boys under 18 were forced to have sex or have experienced other form of sexual violence. Female genital mutilation was undergone by 100 to 140

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million women worldwide. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that 218 million children were involved in child Labour; 5.7 million were forced to work. And 1.8 million children were involved in pornography and prostitution. (LoveleenKacker, 2007)

### C. PROBLEMS AND EXTENT OF CHILD ABUSE IN INDIA

#### Indian Scenario of Child Abuse:

In India there has been no better understanding of the magnitude, extent and trends of the problem which resulted in increasing the vulnerability of children in various forms. Child abuse is a violation and it is an outcome of many interrelated factors such as social, economic and psychological. Human right violation and Child abuse are considered as one of the major critical matters in international context. But in India, accepting child rights as primary inviolable rights is recent. Children were declared as "National Asset" by The National Policy for Children, 1974 and it promised to secure and safeguard all the needs of the children. Unfortunately, even though after successive five year plans, none have met the needs of children in the country. India has many traditional practices which are harmful. They are Child marriage, caste system, discrimination against the girl child, child labor which can ultimately lead to abuse and children become more vulnerable. Most of the abusers are known to children in one way or the other. This directly affects their physical as well as mental health. Apart from this, lack of adequate nutrition, migration, poor access to education and medical facilities, child beggars can expose them to any form of abuse.

A total of 1, 11,569 children were reported missing in the year 2016, in which maximum children were from West Bengal. Out of this total, 55,625 children were left untraced. (Bureau, 2016) A study was conducted in Kerala in the year 2008 to find the prevalence of Child abuse in a school environment. The Self reported physical, emotion, sexual and other abuses are found to be 75.5 %, 84.5 %, 21 % and 80.7 percent respectively. In Indian context parental unemployment is associated with a higher chance of abuse. Children who ever feel unsafe at school and who dislike attending school are at risk of abusive experiencing. (Kacker, 2008) Lack of knowledge among parents regarding the issue is also one of the reasons why Child abuse is still a major concern in India. An intervention program was conducted in Thrissur to assess the knowledge of mothers of under-5 children regarding child abuse. It was found that 50 % of mothers had the average knowledge, 46.66 % had poor knowledge and only 3.34% had good knowledge of Child abuse and its prevention. (E A, 2016)

In India, the number of children needing care and protection is huge and increasing. Uncontrolled families, extreme poverty, illiteracy result in the provision of very little care to the child during the early formative years. Even services that are freely available are poorly utilized. The urban underprivileged, migrating population (a very sizable number) and rural communities are particularly affected. In large cities, there are serious problems of street children (abandoned and often homeless) and child laborers, employed in menial work. Children in difficult circumstances such as children affected by disasters, those in conflict zones, refugees, HIV AIDS need appropriate care and rehabilitation. (RN) For example, in India, there are about 440 million children; about 40% of them are vulnerable or experiencing difficult circumstances. Twenty Seven million babies are born each year. A large majority these births are among the underprivileged section of the population, mostly unplanned and where the parents cannot provide proper care to their children. The situation of the newborn and the periods of infancy and early childhood are particularly critical and the morbidity and mortality rates continue to remain very high. Maternal under nutrition, unsafe deliveries, low birth weight babies and poor newborn care, lack of adequate immunizations, poor nutrition, neglect of early development and education are major issues that need to be appropriately addressed. Child-rearing practices reflect social norms and very often adverse traditions are passed from one generation to the next, especially in illiterate and poorly informed communities, and are extremely resistant to alter. As per Government of India (2007) survey, the prevalence of all forms of child abuse is extremely high (physical abuse (66%), sexual abuse (50%) & emotional abuse (50%). (India., 2007) In these contexts, India must also seek its own insights and way forward plans to protect their children.

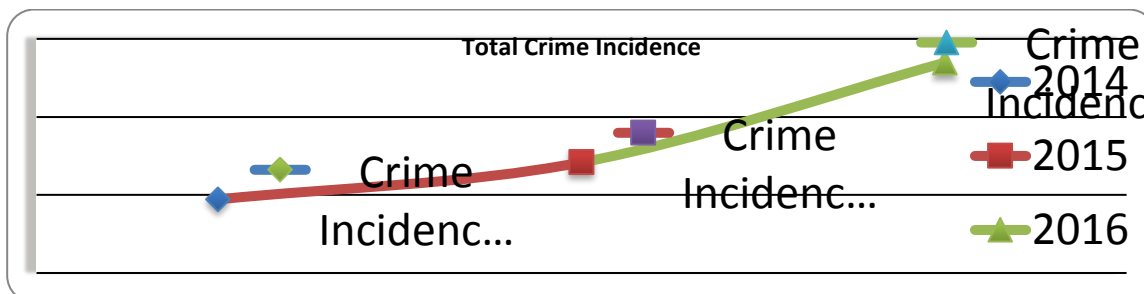
Table 1: Crime against children in India- Incidence

Crimes	2002*	2005*	2016**
Rape	2532	4026	19765
Kidnapping and Abduction	2322	3518	54723
Procurement of minor girls	124	145	2465
Selling of girls for prostitution	5	50	122
Buying of girls for prostitution	9	28	7
Abetment of suicide	24	43	41
Infanticide	115	108	93
Foeticide	84	86	144
Child marriage	113	122	326

\*Dr. Loveleen Kacker, (2007), Study on Child Abuse INDIA 2007 Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India, p.8

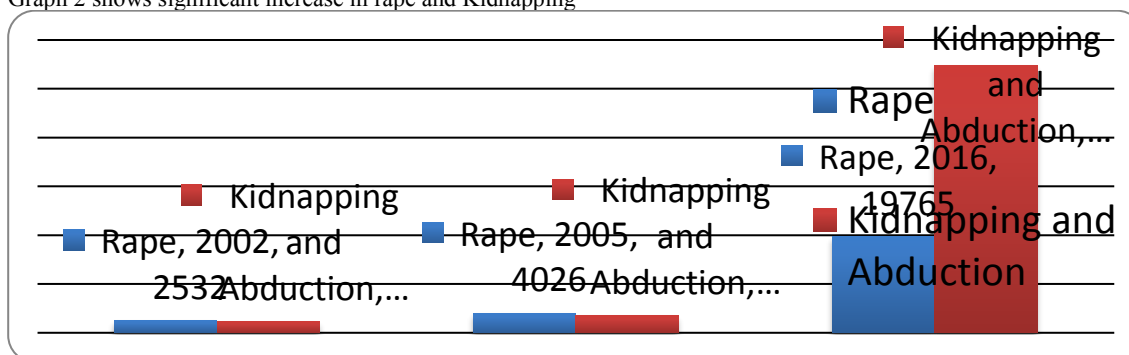
\*\* National Crime Bureau Statistics, 2016, National Crime Records Bureau (Ministry of Home Affairs) Government of India, Pg.186-194

Graph 1 shows the overall increase in crime over the years



Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India (2016): Crime in India

Graph 2 shows significant increase in rape and Kidnapping



The above table (table 1) indicates that there was a huge rise in the total number of crimes against children from 2002 to 2016. Significant increase was found in Child rape, which is the worst form of abuse and Kidnapping & Abduction. Though few crimes like Foeticide and buying girls for prostitution have reduced, still the country is not able to eliminate it. Though there have been measures taken in order to address the issue, the need to understand its dimensions and complexities are crucial.

There are many obstacles which stand in the way of addressing Child abuse in India. The major reason is poverty, lack of adequate food and lack of proper education at the right time which results in child abandonment and low literacy rate. Cultural beliefs also play a major role when it comes to abuse. Most often children are usually blamed for causing their parents to abuse them. Female children become more vulnerable in India and less likely to receive education, medical care and nutrition because they are considered as burden among lower socioeconomic groups. (Carson, 2014) Gender system still prevails in Indian family life. Very early in their life, children begin to experience differentiation and discrimination with other. This also continues to distribute food, family resources, and family membership, nutrition and education. Female feticide and Son preference which prevails in India is a classic example of discrimination. Another major concern in an Indian family is Secrecy. Sharing private matters is still considered as taboo and it is meant to be dealt with in the family itself. (Patnaik, 2013) A study done in Madhya Pradesh to understand the experiences of sexually abused girls and family, reported that many girl's families feel that discovery of abuse usually cause re-traumatization and many wants to avoid the stigma of abuse, especially sexual abuse forced the girls to remain silent about their past experience. (Sahay, 2010)

**D. CHILD ABUSE: ITS CONSEQUENCES AS A MAJOR CONCERN IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Healthy child development is a major determinant of healthy life. Yet each year the number of children experiencing abuse and neglect keeps increasing. Child Abuse is considered as a major concern because of the consequences it imposes on the child as well as on the society. Child abuse or maltreatment if repeated can cause a major impact on the child if the victim is young and dependent. It can affect physically, psychologically, intellectually which can last for lifetime (Petersen, 2013)

The severity of outcomes depends upon the timing, chronicity, and frequency of abuse. Child abuse is a holistic approach because parents, caregivers, a society with its cross cultural-differences, family and social factors constitutes to the effect and the health of children, who are considered as an asset to the society. The primary responsibility of protecting the children lies not

only in the family but also in the community, civil society and all the stakeholders who are responsible for the protection of children and promoting their health.

Abuse and neglect become a risk factor for many psychiatric disorders. There is a strong association between childhood trauma and the anxiety disorders including unipolar disorders, bipolar disorders, anxiety and panic disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, etc. Abuse as well as neglected children faces effects on amygdale, a structure in the brain which is responsible for emotions and anxiety. There is strong evidence that childhood violence increases the risk of injury, sexual violence, mental health problem, delayed cognitive development, reproductive health problems, and musculoskeletal disorders as well. (Fortson, 2016) Children who experience abuse and neglect can develop antisocial traits and they grow older. Neglect from parents and caregivers are associated with personality disorders, inappropriate modeling of adult behavior. (way, 2013)

Adolescents and adults with the previous past history of abuse have long-term consequences like a high rate of alcohol abuse and alcoholism, post traumatic stress disorders. Moreover, children who experience abuse and neglect are more prone to engage in sexual activities at an early age and also develop the risk of adverse outcomes related to sexual risk-taking behaviors, thereby increasing the chance of sexually transmitted diseases. On exposure to repeated abuse and neglect, children may even end up with stunted growth. (Petersen, New Directions in Child Abuse and Neglect Research , 2013) Victims of child sexual abuse are at risk for rape in adulthood. Studies have also shown a positive correlation between child abuse and Juvenile delinquency. Children with past experience of abuse are more likely to involve in criminal activities in the future. (way, 2013)

#### **Economic burden on the society: Global and Indian context**

Prevalence and trends of child abuse in the country reflects the quality of nation-building. A Child who is abused or those who have faced violence are more likely to become violent in the future. Violent against children can impose any kind of cost lie health costs, service cost, and judicial expenditures. This is a great impact on family's economic well being as well as the nation. At the global level, the cost of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children are estimated to be 2 % of global GDP and in the high scenario it even reaches up to 8 percent (Perezniето, 2014). In the modern world, where families are nuclear, such impacts can not only cause burden to the individual, but also to the family who ensure the protection of the child. But in developing countries like India, the Central budget allocation for child protection has not even reached 50 paise of 100 rupees pledged for social development. (Saini, 2013) Lack of resource allocation and lack of economic capacity are some of the main concerns. Child abuse and Neglect can also cause long- term socio-economic burden. For example, abuse can result in less schooling, experiencing victimization in future, thereby physical and mental health is affected, which interferes with one's job. The number of literature on various determinants of child labour is quite common, but the economic impact of child labour is instead very less and least explored, particularly in countries like India. It is important to also know about the economic burden and social burden of the issue to formulate right policies and avoid unexpected counter effects.

#### **E. INDIA'S APPROACH TO PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Ideally, the parents should be responsible for proper care and protection of their child. Every birth should be planned and all births registered. However, the child must not suffer in case the parents can't provide care and protection. It is the duty of the proximate community and the Government at large to address the issues of care and protection, education and empowerment of families. The magnitude and seriousness of the problems of underprivileged children are too great to be tackled through "external" measures. The child must be the responsibility of the parents, the family, and the proximate community. The families and the community must be educated, informed and empowered so that they can provide care and protection to their children. Parenting skills, alternative forms of discipline and basic support to vulnerable families must be expanded (Saini N. , 2013). In India, the Government cannot afford to separate children from their vulnerable families and place them in institutions. Such approaches are also being challenged in most developed countries as well. What most families need is some extra support to cater for their children, in the form of sponsorship schemes, social protection programs. Awareness of their rights and information about governmental assistance would ensure proper utilization of various "schemes."

#### **Role of the community**

Wherever the parents are unable to take care and protect the child, the proximate community and their elected representatives must take up that responsibility. (Baradha G. , 2006) Thus, in the village, Panchayat officials (local self-government) and in the urban areas, the elected members must ensure that every child is in school, receives basic health care (particularly immunizations, nutrition) and protection from child abuse & neglect. (RN, Child health & welfare, panchayats & rural development., 2008)

#### **Role of Non-Government Organization's (NGO's)**

A large number of NGOs are working in the field of child welfare and child protection. However, because of the huge numbers of children requiring protection, their efforts can make only a marginal impact (Carson D. J.-3., 2013). However, they should coordinate their child welfare activities and need to work together. They also need to oversee the implementation of various government measures that are already in place. The crucial ones include basic right to health, education, infant and young child development and prevention of child abuse & neglect (Deb, 2005).

#### **Role of Government**

The ultimate responsibility to protect its nation's children lies with the Government. By ratification of International instruments such as UN CRC (Convention on the rights of the Child) & UN General Comments #13, the Government's should commit appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to prevent and protect children from maltreatment. In 1992, India accepted the obligations of the UN CRC. In the last two decades, the government has taken several steps towards

publically advance children's rights. These include the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000 (Amended in 2006), Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006), the formation of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (2005), a National Plan of Action for children (2005), Right to Information (RTI) 2005, the Goa Children (amendment) Act 2005, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 (two notifications in 2006 & 2008), expanded the list of banned and hazardous processes and occupation), Integrated Child Protection Scheme (2009) and advancing various legislations such as Right to Education Bill (2009) & Prevention of children from Sexual Offences (POCSO Act 2012) to protect, promote and defend child rights in the country. However, still, there is a wide gap between policy & implementation/practice & outcome, and millions of children fall through the gaps.

**The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000** was a key step in the right direction by the Government of India. It established a framework for both children in need of care and protection and for children in contact with the law. However, further harmonization is needed with other existing laws, such as the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, the Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986 or the Right to Education Act 2009. Important contradictions exist among these laws, starting with the definition and age of the child. Conflict with personal laws should also be addressed, ensuring universal protection of children, regardless of the community they belong to (Iravani, 2011).

**National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** was established by the Government of India in March 2007 by an Act of Parliament, with a wide mandate and considerable powers. The Delhi Commission for protection of child rights was started in July 2008. Similar bodies at the State level have been pursuing various matters concerning child rights and protection. Telephone help lines (CHILDLINE 1098) and Child Welfare Committees (CWC) have been established, where reports of child abuse or a child likely to be threatened to be harmed can be made and help sought.

#### **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (Scheme, 2009)**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has launched an Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (2009), which is expected to significantly contribute to the realization of State responsibility for creating a system that will efficiently and effectively protect children. It is meant to institutionalize essential services and strengthen structures, enhance capacity at all levels, create database and knowledge base for child protection services, strengthen child protection at family and community level and ensure appropriate inter-sectoral response at all levels and raise public awareness. The guiding principles recognize that child protection is a primary responsibility of the family, supported by community, government and civil society. The document "The integrated child protection scheme (ICPS). A centrally sponsored scheme of Government—Civil society partnership" gives detailed accounts of this scheme.

#### **Prevention of children from Sexual Offences, Act 2012 (India, 2012)**

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, specifically address the issue of sexual offences committed against children, which until now had been tried under laws that did not differentiate between adult and child victims. The punishments provided in the law are also stringent and are commensurate with the gravity of the offence. Under this act, various child-friendly procedures are put in place at various stages of the judicial process. Also, the Special Court is to complete the trial within a period of one year, as far as possible. Disclosing the name of the child in the media is a punishable offence, punishable by up to one year. The law provides for relief and rehabilitation of the child, as soon as the complaint is made to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) or to the local police. Immediate & adequate care and protection (such as admitting the child into a shelter home or to the nearest hospital within twenty-four hours of the report) are provided. The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) is also required to be notified within 24 hours of recording the complaint. Moreover, it is a mandate of the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) to monitor the implementation of the Act. (Chawla, 2004)

### **F. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PLAN FOR WAY FORWARD.**

India is a home to 42 percent of the world's children, according to the last census. India has been introducing many measures in addressing child's health, education, and development. Child protection remains unaddressed in the country. The information that is available on abuse in the country is inadequate. Though many studies attempt to understand the magnitudes of the situation in the country, the initiation from the country's point of view is still not sufficient. The only information that is available annually is data from the National Crime Records Bureau, but these records crimes only that are registered under the IPC (Indian Penal Code) or other criminal acts. There is a huge under-reporting of crimes against children in the country which reveals the priority of children in the society. (Kapur1, 2017) Studies on child abuse will overcome the barriers and break the silence that exists in the country and recommend immediate actions that can be undertaken by not only the government, but also by parents, family, and community. Also, such studies will be helpful in finding the gaps in the existing law and lead to further transforming actions and guidelines for the protection of children in the country.

Survival, early child health care, nutrition, education, development and child protection are most crucial child rights. In India, child rights, protection, and exploitation are intimately linked to socio-cultural and economic inequalities. (Bhogle, 1999) The deprived sections of society may not know all their rights, and may not have high expectations. But the State does know, and so do professional bodies that all children have equal rights and entitlement to priority attention and care. Multidisciplinary professionals should step forward and work together to make such attention and care a reality accessible to every child.

Review of existing Indian legislations concerning reporting of child sexual abuse demonstrates a pathetic state. (Deb, Child Protection: Scenario in India, 2009) Although there are some provisions for reporting of any offence in the IPC (1860), and The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act 2012), in none of the legislations, name or category of the

professionals have been clearly defined except media professionals (as mentioned in the POCSO Act 2012). There is an urgent need for amendment of child-welfare related legislation and incorporation of provision for mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse and child trafficking since these two types of abuse badly affects the future of the children and their mental health. The following issues should be taken into account while framing new legislation or amending existing legislation for mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse and child trafficking in India.

For sexual abuse people/professionals like parents, doctors, nurses, teachers, and personnel from NGOs should be mandated for reporting. It is also necessary to state clearly about the range of activities which should be considered as sexual abuse as defined by the international legislations and/or WHO. Normally in Indian society, sexual intercourse with a minor is considered as sexual abuse and other forms like stimulation, showing a pornographic picture, touching private parts of a child, and so on, are not generally recognized as sexual abuse and ignored (Priyabadini, 2007).

Regarding child trafficking, reporting should be mandatory. It is relevant to mention here that child trafficking is more a rural phenomenon in India. Girl children from the rural areas with poor economic background and low social network are more vulnerable to child trafficking. (Chawla, 2004) Therefore, for reporting of child trafficking, Gram Panchayat members (elected by the villagers) and health workers at the village level in addition to the parents are the potential for reporting the incident to local police, child protection officer and/or child welfare committee members since they have close contact with the village people. (Carson D. S.)

There is a challenge for family members when a child experiences sexual abuse at the hands of its biological father especially when the family belongs to lower socio-economic strata. The issue of economic security and a possibility of social isolation become a big threat to the family (Baradha G. , 2006). Therefore, family members have a tendency not to report the incident to the police. This type of critical situation should be taken into account when new legislations are framed or the existing laws are amended. (Seymour, 1999)

Reporting of sexual abuse will be higher if female juvenile/police officers are posted in all the police stations. Although it was mentioned in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000, in reality, it has not been implemented across India. Therefore, a victim of sexual abuse does not feel comfortable to report the incident to a male police officer.

There is no standard method for medical examination of sexual abuse cases in India. In the same medical institution, two doctors follow two different procedures for medical examination and come out with two different types of reports. In order to avoid this sort of confusion, there is an urgent need to bring a uniform and/or standard procedure for medical examination of sexual abuse cases in accordance with the guidelines developed by the World Health Organization. (Oates, 2013) It is very important to ensure that physicians and other medical staff respond to cases of sexual abuse in a sensitive manner that minimizes invasive examination and provides access to continued reproductive, sexual, and mental health services.

In addition, there is an urgent need for providing psychological support services to the victim and the family immediately especially in case of sexual abuse, which is missing in India and this issue should be mentioned in the legislations. One-time counseling may not be adequate in every case. Therefore, ongoing psychological support services should be arranged for the victims and their family members.

In this regard, coordination with local NGOs and hospitals is essential for ensuring psychological support to the victim and the family. There is also a need to organize periodic training programs for the public prosecutors to sensitize them about the sensitivity of the issues involved in child sexual abuse incidents, victim's mental state, and how to probe the issues and proceed further. It is relevant to mention here that caseload of the public prosecutors is a challenge in paying proper attention to each case. Therefore, there is a need to appoint more number of government lawyers. In this regard, some section of the media and right activist groups has demanded "One Stop Abuse/Rape Crisis Centre" to address all related issues like reporting, medical care and examination, investigation, and justice fast, as well as dissolve a case within a limited time period. It is important to ensure effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, which will in turn ensure safety for most of all children (Aggarwal K, 2010).

Apart from the legislative changes the preventive and intervention strategies are equally important for the protection of children. The following recommendations shall be important for the protection of children in the upcoming years.

**Preventive and Intervention strategies (Aggarwal K, 2010)**

- i) Workshop for Parents on Child Development and Healthy Child Rearing Practices
- ii) Multidisciplinary Training for Health Care Professionals including General Practitioners, Forensic Experts, Pediatricians, Psychiatrists and Psychologists, Police, NGO Personnel, Child Welfare Committee Members, Judges of Family Court, Juvenile Court and Personnel from Observation/Rehabilitation Homes
- iii) Special Educational Program for Teachers and Guardians in School
- iv) School-Based Educational Program for Children
- v) Psychological Services for the Victim
- vi) Behavior Modification of Deviant Children with a History of Neglect and Abuse
- vii) Perpetrator and Victim-based Programs
- viii) Psychological Services for the Victim

Child protection issues need to be addressed through an integrated approach whereby, a consolidated package of services and facilities should be collectively mobilized to provide a child his or her Constitutional Right for a safe and healthy childhood. This is only possible with the collective work of all the instrumentalities in the societies joining hands together for safe future of the children.

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