



## A Study on Child Abuse in India

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### ABSTRACT

India has the world's highest kid population, accounting for about 41% of the total population under the age of eighteen. Any goal for the country's success and development must include the health and safety of its children. For abused and neglected children, doctors and health care providers are frequently the initial point of contact. They serve an important role in discovering child abuse and neglect, as well as providing children with urgent and long-term care and support. Despite their importance as stakeholders, physicians frequently lack a thorough understanding of how to protect these vulnerable populations. A structured training program for physicians to prevent, detect, and respond to situations of child abuse and neglect in the clinical setting is urgently needed. The objective of this article is to provide an overview of child abuse and neglect in India, from a medical assessment to a socio-legal perspective, in order to guarantee that victims of child abuse and neglect receive a fast and comprehensive multidisciplinary response. Medical professionals can use the telephone assistance line (CHILDLINE telephone 1098) throughout their hectic clinical practice to refer cases of child abuse, connecting them to socio-legal services. Physicians should be informed of the new law, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of 2012, which makes it essential to report cases of child sexual abuse or face penalties. Furthermore, doctors and other medical professionals can help prevent child sexual abuse by instilling in their young patients and parents the value of personal space and privacy.

**KEYWORDS :** Child, Sexual abuse, Neglect, Protection, Population

### INTRODUCTION

In different cultural contexts and socioeconomic settings, the term "child abuse" may have diverse connotations. In the Indian context, a universal definition of child abuse does not exist and has yet to be articulated. Child abuse is a worldwide epidemic characterized by emotional, physical, economic, and sexual maltreatment of children under the age of eighteen. However, in India, like in many other nations, there is a lack of understanding of the problem's scope, magnitude, and tendencies. The expanding complexities of life, as well as the drastic changes brought about by India's socioeconomic transformations, have increased children's vulnerability to varied and innovative forms of abuse. Child abuse has substantial physical and psychosocial implications that have a negative impact on a child's health and general well-being. "Child abuse or maltreatment encompasses all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, commercial or other exploitation, resulting 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," according to the World Health Organization. Child abuse is a violation of a child's basic human rights that results from a complex set of familial, societal, psychological, and economic issues. One of the most pressing issues on the world human rights agenda is the subject of child abuse and human rights breaches. Acceptance of child rights as core inviolable rights, as well as a universal understanding of them, is relatively new in India. The National Study on Child Abuse, conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India in 2005, aimed to determine the scope, breadth, and severity of the problem. In addition, it investigates two points:

- (a) Child-abuse prevention and intervention strategies
- (b) Identifying areas for further investigation based on the study's findings.

**Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse is when a child is injured physically. Burning, striking, punching, shaking, kicking, beating, or otherwise injuring a child are examples of this. It's possible that the parent or caretaker had no intention of harming the youngster. It could, however, be the result of inappropriately harsh discipline or physical punishment for the child's age.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse is when a youngster is subjected to inappropriate sexual behavior. Fondling a kid's genitals, forcing a child to fondle an adult's genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism, and sexual exploitation are all examples of sexual exploitation. These acts must be committed by a person responsible for a child's care (for example, a babysitter, a parent, or a daycare provider) or by someone who is connected to the kid to be termed 'child abuse.' If these acts are committed by a stranger, they are considered sexual assault and must be addressed by the police and criminal courts.

**Verbal abuse,** mental abuse, and psychological maltreatment are all terms used to describe emotional abuse. It include actions or inactions by parents or caregivers that have resulted in or may result in substantial behavioural, cognitive, emotional, or mental trauma. This can include parents/caregivers

utilizing harsh and/or strange punishments, such as locking a child in a closet or dark room for long periods of time, or threatening or harassing a youngster. Belittling or rejecting treatment, using pejorative phrases to describe the child, and a habitual tendency to blame or make the child a scapegoat are all less extreme but equally detrimental acts.

Neglect is defined as the failing to meet a child's basic requirements. Neglect can take many forms, including physical, educational, and emotional neglect. Physical neglect might include failing to provide adequate food or clothing, as well as failing to provide necessary medical treatment, supervision, or weather protection (heat or cold). Abandonment is a possibility. Failure to offer proper schooling or specific educational requirements, as well as tolerating severe truancy, are examples of educational neglect. Psychological neglect comprises a lack of emotional support and love, never paying attention to the child, and substance abuse, which includes permitting the youngster to use drugs and alcohol.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**1. Uma A Segal:** There is a tiny but developing body of literature that attempts to explain child abuse in India. However, there is a scarcity of empirical evidence to back such broad conclusions. Because it is considered that child abuse in India has gotten insufficient attention due to a widespread lack of sensitivity to the issue, this study intended to analyze Indian citizens' perceptions of child abuse.

**2. Mohammad Reza Irvani:** Youngster abuse occurs when another person, whether an adult or a child, harms or neglects a child. Child abuse occurs across all cultural, racial, and socioeconomic lines. Child abuse can take many forms, including physical, emotional-verbal, sexual, and neglect. Abuse can result in serious injury to a kid, as well as death. Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment are global concerns of gender violence that are only now coming to light in India. There has been relatively little research done in this field in India, and just a few books have been written, further obscuring the subject in the country's mind.

**3. Manisha Gupta:** Child abuse is one of the only human rights violations that is generally condemned while still being universally practiced. Children have been subjected to physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as neglect, for millennia. This issue should, by any objective measure, be high on the world agenda, but it is surrounded by a wall of silence and perpetuated by ignorance in practice. Child sexual abuse is a horrible reality that affects our daily lives on a regular basis, but it remains unrecognized and unreported in the vast majority of cases.

**4. Aruna Ashtekar:** Self-reports of physical violence were reported by roughly half of the 515 children interviewed at a Children's Observation Home in Bombay, with over two-thirds of those reporting abusive assault. Furthermore, over 60% of children who had ran away from home mentioned parental violence as the key cause for their departure, suggesting that this may be one of the factors contributing to India's growing number of street children.

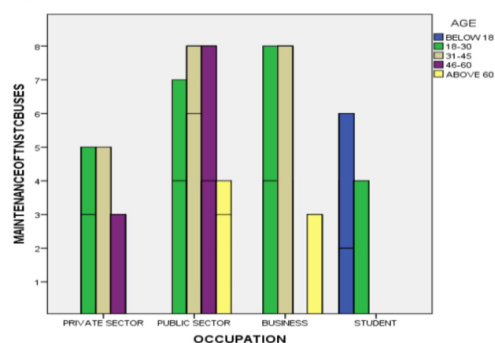
**5. Narendra Saini:** The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) (1989) is the most commonly approved child rights instrument in the world, defining children as anybody under the age of eighteen. 1 "States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse," the Convention states when defining violence and children's rights.

## OBJECTIVES

- To study about Child Abuse.
- To know the causes of Child abuse in India.
- To know the laws which prevents children from Child abuse

## ANALYSIS

**Figure 1:**



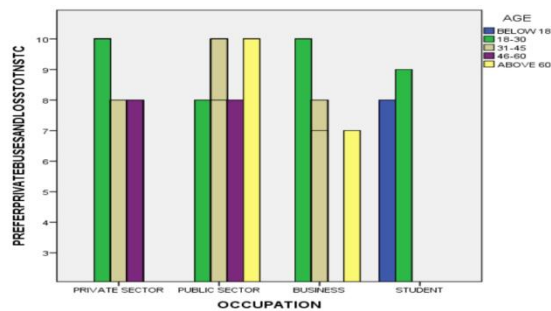
**Legend:** From the above figure we can observe that the highest scale responses was given by the 31-45 aged of public sector and the business peoples and 46-60 aged of private sector respondents and 18-30 aged of business peoples .

**Fig -1**

From the figure, it is found that 20% of male respondents in between the age of 18-25 have stated strongly agreed that the online respondent classes are effective, 15% female respondents in between the age of 18-25 have stated disagreed that the online classes are not effective, 10% female respondents

in between the age of 18-25 have stated agree that the online classes are effective, 35% male respondents in between the age of 25-35 have stated strongly agree that the online classes are effective, 20% female respondents in between the age of 25-35 have stated that the online classes are effective. It is found that there is a significant change between independent and dependent variables.

**Figure 2:**



**Legend:**

From the above represented graph it was seen that the highest scale response was given by the variables of 18-30 aged of private sector occupational, 31-45 & above 60 aged of public sector, 18-30 aged of business peoples. And all other respondents were given a above average

**Fig.2:**

From the figure, 25% male respondents in between the age of 18-25 have stated strongly agreed that the online classes are very difficult to concentrate, 15% female respondents in between the age of 18-25 have stated agreed that the online classes are very difficult to concentrate, 10% female respondents in between the age of 18-25 have stated neutral that the online classes are very difficult to concentrate, 35% male respondents in between the age of 25-35 have stated strongly agreed that the online classes are very difficult to concentrate, 15% female respondents in between the age of 25-35 have stated disagreed that the online classes are very difficult to concentrate.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on a non-doctrinal examination of the subject. The data for the study was gathered from primary and secondary sources. The data acquired from people through surveys is the major source. Books, journals, articles, and other e-sources are examples of secondary data.

## DISCUSSION

On average, respondents from occupations classified as others and belonging to females have claimed that there is better effectiveness in fig.1, which could be related to the fact that people in that category are using online education to teach their children. Female respondents agreed on average in fig.2 that online classes are particularly difficult to understand, which could be owing to the burden placed on them by the faculty. Female respondents agreed to a higher extent than male respondents in fig.3 regarding lack of understanding of the government's initiatives for online classes, which could be attributed to increased burden placed on women in society during their children's education.

## LIMITATION

The main disadvantage is the sample size's limited range. Physical variables have no bearing on the study and are not a major limiting element because it is an online response study. Furthermore, the sample frame is a constraint. Chennai is the sample frame, which has no specific reference.

## CONCLUSION

While the data clearly shows an increase in child abuse, the author also sought to translate the impacts of child abuse on the country's overall growth and inclusive development. While the analysis clearly distinguishes between different types of abuse experienced by Indian children, it also emphasizes the critical need for much-needed reforms in this sector. This study note aims to demonstrate that child abuse not only reduces a child's productivity but also disrupts the child's socialization process. As a result, society must respond to the urge to protect and enhance children's childhoods. This would not only allow youngsters to participate more fully in the process of innovation and evolution, but it would also benefit world society as a whole. While the situation is concerning, it is crucial to remember that the study was not conducted with the goal of instilling fear or worry. On the contrary, the study's goal was to prove that child abuse exists and to create a data base that would aid the government in developing legislation, plans, and interventions to address the issue. These factors have combined to produce a climate in which child abuse is being discussed, the media is focusing on the subject, and

awareness of its significance is growing. This understanding must be translated into action, and not only the federal government, but also state governments, civil society, families, and children must all understand the rights perspective and work together to create an enabling environment in which a child is protected from abuse and exploitation.

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