

## CHAPTER IV

### CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

*“The greater a child’s terror, and the earlier it is experienced, the harder it becomes to develop a strong and healthy sense of self.”*

*— Nathaniel Branden<sup>1</sup>*

Children are regarded as vulnerable section of the society because of their immaturity they are not in a position to differentiate good from bad and always fall in a helpless situation as they don’t know what to do and whom to approach if anything bad happens with them. They fail to select the right person to proceed with. Many times they even don’t know that they were sexually abused by their relatives or known person as because child trust the elderly known person very easily. Again our society is such that from ancient times till date children’s voice are always dominated by the elders and adults having control over them due to which they fear to speak out something even though they find it to be uneasy. Due to this vulnerability of children they fall easy prey to different types of abuse, neglect and exploitation from their early childhood in various institutions like family, school, orphanage, children’s home so on and so forth. Among these abuses sexual abuse is the most prominent issue that often result in negative immediate effect on child’s psychology, emotion and also health, development and their dignity.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Branden was a Canadian–American psychotherapist and writer known for his work in the psychology of self-esteem.

<sup>2</sup> Deb, S., & Walsh, K., “Impact of physical, psychological, and sexual violence on social adjustment of school children in India”, 03 *School Psychology International*, 394 (2012).

#### **4.1. Causes:**

Child sexual abuse in any form is always for the fault of the offender for whatever reason it may have been committed. There is no one single factor responsible for the offence of child sexual abuse rather it is a combination of multiple factor which leads to such intention in the mind of the offender. The causes are discussed under various headings below.

##### **4.1.1. Poverty:**

Poverty is always the primary cause of various problems within a society including crime and among them child sexual abuse is worth mentioning. Poverty has a multifaceted angle as a cause responsible for occurrence of child sexual abuse. Firstly, it is always easy to target a poor child because the offender is always of the view that the parents who are poor will be helpless and will not be able to get any legal remedies which is quiet expensive.<sup>3</sup> Secondly, the poor parents can be motivated to engage their children in household work or any other working place by giving the greed of money which the child will earn. Once the child is engaged to work it is a step forward towards commission of sexual abuse of the child because he/she will be all alone in the workplace. Another dimension is that many parents sell their child only due to extreme poverty so that they could earn some money and also to get rid of the child which become a financial burden upon from the day the child takes his/her birth.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Mathews, P.D., "Sexual abuse of the children and law" 42 *LNAV* 12 (1996).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

#### 4.1.2. Urbanization & Industrial Development:

Urbanization and industrial development go hand in hand and are inevitable from the modern society. Urbanization is the process where rural population shift to urban areas and one of the chief reasons behind urbanization is industrial development or industrialization which generally takes place in the urban areas such as towns, cities and metropolitan areas. The density of population in the urban areas had drastically increased because people of the rural areas who were basically agrarian population had changed their mindset to become industrial worker with the hope that they would be able to get a better lifestyle which would include quality education for their children, updated health facilities and many more in comparison to the rural areas.<sup>5</sup> But unfortunately, the result is adverse in nature. It had led to lack of living space which resulted in growth of slum areas within the cities and also later unemployment increased due to oversupply of industrial workers from villages. Increase in slum areas had further led to increase in various types of crime because there are no proper protected housing facilities and people are poor and illiterate. A child who is left out by both his/her parents alone at home or with her relatives or neighbor in order to go to work is always a easy prey for the offender with an evil mind. Parents usually don't have much time to give to their child which again results in juvenile in conflict with law<sup>6</sup> because these small kids learn many vulgar things in their tender age which leads them to a different path.

---

<sup>5</sup> M.D. Krishna. "Human Trafficking in women and children – Human Rights Dimensions under Domestic and International Law: A critical study," *08 Indian Journal of Human Rights and the Law*, 121 (2011).

<sup>6</sup> The Juvenile Justice (Care And Protection Of Children) Act, 2015, Section 2(13) "child in conflict with law" means a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence and who has not completed eighteen years of age on the date of commission of such offence;

#### 4.1.3. Influence of Intoxicants:

The use of alcohol and other Intoxicants like drugs is of ancient origin but their consumption had increased in an unprecedented way.<sup>7</sup> It is because in this complex modern society with several problems people are much more attracted towards intoxicants so that they could avoid their tensions at least for few hours which are very much attached with their daily life. Intoxicants generally mean those substances which keep a man away from his normal behavior such as alcohol and drugs which may be in any form. These substances on consumption give abnormal pleasure to the person for some time. Alcohol or drugs may give rise, directly or indirectly to various crimes.<sup>8</sup> Many times it is seen that people commit crime after consumption of alcohol or drug without any intention of doing the same and when he is asked regarding the same he could hardly remember the acts that he did. Among the various crimes that are committed sexual offence is a common one which also includes sexual offence or abuse of children may be within the family or upon the street children who are without shelter and guardian.<sup>9</sup>

#### 4.1.4. Non- Reporting of cases:

In societies like the Indian society people are too conscious about what others say or how society will react upon any act or news. Again the people always try to blame the victim in cases of offence like sexual abuse with a presumption that there might be some mistake on the part of the victim due to which such an act had been committed against him/her.

---

<sup>7</sup> Ahmed Siddique, *Criminology: Problems and Perspectives* 400 (Eastern Book Company, Lucknow, 6<sup>th</sup> edn., 2009)

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* at 411

People in the neighborhood apart from blaming the victim also take steps like boycott of the family from cultural and religious institutions. The fear of such reaction of the society towards the victim and his/her family is one of the primary reason for non reporting of the grievous offences like child sexual abuse to the legal machinery like police, DCPU, Child Line etc... An another reason behind non reporting of cases is that, the family members fear that if the victim happens to be a girl child she will have a bad name in the society, which will have some bad effect in her marriage life or sometime may lead to cancellation of marriage and if the victim is a boy it is generally ignored or not believed by the parents or guardian of the child as because it is a popular belief that a boy cannot be sexually molested or abused by anyone in the society.<sup>10</sup> In one word it is an alien concept for many of us. However, this act of non reporting of the case have an positive effect on the offender. Non reporting of the offence act as an motivation to the evil minded perpetrators because they come to know that even they commit it again nothing will happen to them as it will go unreported. In the words of Supreme Court, *“that some adult members of the families including the parents choose not to report such crimes to the police on the plea that it was for the sake of protecting the child from social stigma and it would also do more harm to the victim.”*<sup>11</sup> Thus, various studies had proved that a huge percentage of the cases relating to child sexual abuse go unreported which boost the morale of the offender as there is no fear of punishment as that of other offences.

---

<sup>10</sup> Muhammad Faiz A.U, *Sexual offences against children and its methods to eradicate it*, (2019) (Research paper, ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar on Child rights in India: Issue and challenges)

<sup>11</sup> *Shankar kisanrao khade v. State of Maharashtra*, (2013) 5 SCC 546

#### **4.1.5. Low conviction rate:**

Low conviction rate had always acted as an motivating factor for the potential offenders because when an accused go unpunished even after long trial in the court of law they feel that nothing can happen to them even if they are caught by police and tried by court.<sup>12</sup> The basic object of punishment and criminal law get vanished when the actual offenders go unpunished and are acquitted due to lack of evidence to establish the case against the accused. This basically happens due to lack of training to the investigating officers for the purpose of investigation, overburden of work upon the investigating officer and so on. Due to lack of training the investigating officer could not properly collect and preserve the evidences and due to overburden of work the officer could not give sufficient time in investigation which ultimately results in acquittal of the accused. An another reason behind losing of case by the prosecution is that inefficiency of the public prosecutor or special public prosecutor in handling such sensitive cases like child sexual abuse.

#### **4.1.6. Visual Media Display:**

Nowadays, visual media such as social networking sites, YouTube and others has become an inevitable part of everyone's life which simultaneously has far reaching and grave impact on human mind. In a way it can be said that the virtual media has started controlling our brain and day to day activity as because people spend lot of time watching these visual media which contains not only good things but also bad things such as porn sites, dark websites, adult magazines etc.. which have far reaching

---

<sup>12</sup> Nath N., & Kohli M., "Child Abuse in India: Some issues". *National Seminar on Child Abuse in India*, 1988, New Delhi

negative impact on human mind resulting in subconscious provocation to do the same act that he had seen in the visual media leading to abetment to commit sexual offences not only against adult but also against child.<sup>13</sup>

#### **4.1.7. Lack of parental control:**

Parents are the first teacher of a child and hence it is very necessary that the parents have maximum control over the child behavior and day to activities. Lack of parental control in many cases leads to child in conflict with law or victim of abuse including sexual abuse.<sup>14</sup> It is because if there will be no fear of parents, the child will not hesitate to learn bad things from the adult friends and vice versa the adult friend will also not worry to teach all vulgar things to the young lads which will easily influence the child due to their tender age resulting in falling prey to sexual abuse in the hands of those so called adult friends.

#### **4.1.8. Lack of Sex education:**

Sex education or adult education is a must for every child but unfortunately in the countries like India, people are reluctant to accept the positive effects of sex education, due to which parents never talk with their adolescent children regarding the physical changes that occur in their body nor there is any such provision in the school curriculum except a few to make the students understand the bodily changes of themselves

---

<sup>13</sup> Nirmala Devi, "Sexual offences against Children in India: On the Higher Side", 07 *International Journal of Recent Scientific Research* 13337-13343 (2016).

<sup>14</sup> P. Nautiyal & A. Mal, "Towards Protection Of Children Against Sexual Abuse: No Childs Play", 3 *NUJS LAW REV.* 77 (2010)

and their opposite sex.<sup>15</sup> Sex education means education on the subject of sex whereby students are taught regarding sex and sexuality so that they can understand the value of sex of themselves and others and could take proper decision. This lack of sex education among the young lads results in the curiosity to explore the opposite sex by every possible means which are still unknown to them at that age. In this effort to know the opposite sex they are misguided by the peer groups or magazines or websites because they interpret those items in a negative manner due to lack of guidance. They are also not able to choose the proper source for knowing the same in a positive manner. These sometime result in adult like sexual behavior of the child which may provoke his mind to do naughty things resulting into crime like sexual abuse.

#### **4.1.9. Religious and cultural practices in the society:**

There have been a number of traditional religious and cultural practices that are prevalent in the society especially in the rural areas mostly populated by the poor, illiterate and ignorant people. Among the many child marriage and *devadasi* (servant of God) is a popular practice followed till date throughout India indifferent form. The term 'child marriage' has been defined under The Prohibition Of Child Marriage Act, 2006 as "child marriage means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is a child".<sup>16</sup> Although child marriage is a prohibited practice as per law but still people perform child marriage wherein many times it is the girl who is a child due to reasons like economic backwardness or not knowing the evil of bad effects of child marriage on

---

<sup>15</sup> Sydney Moirangthem, Naveen C. Kumar & Sures Bada Math, "Child sexual abuse: Issues and concern" 01 *Indian Journal Of Medical Research*, 222 (2015).

<sup>16</sup> Section 2(b) The Prohibition Of Child Marriage Act, 2006



the child and the society as a whole. Child marriage leads to sexual abuse by the spouse in the form of forceful intercourse which many time even leads to pregnancy of the girl child before 18 years of age. On the other hand *Devadasi system* is a religious practice where parents offer their girl child to temples in the name of god as sacrifice. The girl once sacrificed are deprived of their normal lifestyle and they need to earn their own due to which they prefer begging in the streets where they become victim of sexual abuse and later get converted to prostitutes.<sup>17</sup> This practice had been banned in India since 1988 but unfortunately the reality is that it is still in practice specially in south India among the lower caste of the society.

#### **4.1.10. High demand for young girl child for red light areas:**

Red light areas means those areas which are mostly located in the cities and metro cities populated by huge number prostitutes in a organized manner to satisfy the huge demand of the people seeking pleasure of sex. Traditionally these red light areas were dominated by the adult and matured women's coming from various parts of the globe either voluntarily or by force. But lately due to the increase in the cases of HIV positive among these sex workers, customers started preferring for virgin or young age girls who are basically below 18 year of age so that they can have safe sex without fear of HIV.<sup>18</sup> Due to these reasons there had been high demand for young girls in the red light areas resulting into growth of child trafficking leading to serious sexual abuse of these innocent children's.

---

<sup>17</sup> Ankur Shingal, "The Devadasi System: Temple Prostitution in India" 22 *UCLA Women's Law Journal* 109 (2015)

<sup>18</sup> S.D. Moharana, "Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences Act, 2012: An Analytical Study", 02 *International Journal Of Academic Research*, 161 (2015)

#### 4.1.11. Lack of awareness:

Awareness is always the most fruitful weapon in the hands of the common mass to fight against any evil or crime that takes place in the society. A person who is aware of the problem and its evil consequences will definitely find a way out to face the same and to keep themselves safe from it. But unfortunately maximum people are not aware of the problems like child sexual abuse and a few who know about the problem do not consider it as a serious problem faced by the society.<sup>19</sup> A child many times do not know what is *good touch* and *bad touch* due to which they fail to judge a person on the basis of their activities who is well known to them as relative, teacher etc.. The children's are also not taught what to do and whom to approach in cases of sexual abuse if committed on them or their friend. The perpetrators always take the advantage of ignorance and thus become successful in committing the crime like sexual abuse of child.

#### 4.1.12. High life style:

Change in social life style specially in the cities made the people run after material comfort and luxury which can be achieved only by earning huge sum of money. Earning of huge income is not a easy job for most of the middle class families due to which the child don't get what she desires from her parents as a result of which the young teenage girls enter into prostitution (call girl service) so that, they could earn for maintaining their social status with the peer groups basically from high class families. This is how the young teenage girls are sexually abused but not forcefully.

---

<sup>19</sup> Nayana Teron, *Child rights and its protective mechanism: Challenges in the protection of child rights in Assam* (2019) (ICSSR Sponsored National Seminar on Child Rights in India: Issues and Challenges).

#### **4.1.13. War:**

The consequences of war are always severe and long lasting. Among the many ill effects of war sexual abuse of enemy in the form of rape is a common phenomenon.

#### **4.1.14. Illegal immigration:**

Illegal immigration means migration of people from native place to an alien place mostly country to country with the hope of settlement in violation of the immigration law of the alien country. Illegal immigration basically takes place in mass flow of population which is not accepted by the native people of the alien country due to which they suffer from various problems including sexual exploitation.<sup>20</sup> Further, these illegal immigrants are mostly poor and illiterate people who are always ready to do anything for their survival including work in sex industries.

### **4.2. Consequences:**

Sexual abuse is a heinous crime that has far reaching effects on the victim and the situation gets worst when the victim is a child irrespective of his gender because children do not suffer in the same manner as that of an adult. Sexual abuse during childhood has traumatic consequences upon the child which can be observed in the behavioral change of the victim child not only in his childhood but also when he attains adulthood. The effect is so brutal that it hinders the normal social growth of the child and be a cause of many psychosocial problems. The long term effects of sexual abuse on child has interconnection with depression, guilt, same anxiety, eating disorder, repression,

---

<sup>20</sup> P. B. Behere, "Sexual abuse in women with special reference to children: Barriers, boundaries and beyond" 55 *Indian J Psychiatry*. 316-319 (2013)

stress, sexual problems and many more.<sup>21</sup> The consequences are broadly classified into following three categories:

- ✓ Physical Consequences
- ✓ Psychological Consequences / mental health disorder
- ✓ Behavioral Consequences

#### **4.2.1 Physical Consequences:**

A child suffers from physical injury both external and internal in the cases of severe sexual abuse, which have both immediate and long-term effect on the victim. The physical consequences that are common are discussed below:

##### **a) Risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections/diseases-**

Nowadays sexually transmitted diseases are very common in the people. Hence a child who is sexually abused are always at a high risk of contaminated by sexually transmitted infection or disease like HIV positive because many times perpetrators' take very little effort of safety measures while intercourse.<sup>22</sup> Once the victim is affected by such infection it is very difficult to cure and remain attached with the child for lifetime in majority of the cases.

##### **b) Somatization disorder & Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)-**

Somatization disorder which is popularly known as Somatic symptom disorder (SSD) includes physical symptoms in various body

---

<sup>21</sup> M. Hall & J. Hall, "The long-term effects of childhood sexual abuse: Counseling implications" *VISTAS Online* 03 (2011). Available at: [http://counselingoutfitters.com/vistas/vistas11/Article\\_19.pdf](http://counselingoutfitters.com/vistas/vistas11/Article_19.pdf) (Visited on June 13, 2018)

<sup>22</sup>

parts like Pain, Neurologic problems, Gastro intestinal complaints and Sexual symptoms. Similarly, Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a disorder in the large intestine which leads to severe pain in abdominal area along with cramping and constipation problem. Both these two disorders may appear on a child who had been victim of sexual abuse either immediately within few days or lately.<sup>23</sup>

**c) Permanent damage to reproductive organs-**

Forceful sexual abuse with any person may lead to damage of reproductive organs and the situation gets worst when the victim is a child because at the tender age the reproductive organs are not fully grown and developed to accept sexual activities, due to which there always lies a chance of causing permanent damage to those organs.<sup>24</sup>

**d) Pregnancy-**

Pregnancy is a very common consequence of sexual abuse if the victim is a female who have attained puberty till she continues her menstrual cycle. 45% of pregnant teens report a history of child sexual abuse.<sup>25</sup> However, pregnancy may not lead to birth of baby if the victim or her family members proceed with medical termination of pregnancy. It always has serious and long

---

<sup>23</sup> Debra Rose Wilson, "Health Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse" 46 *Perspectives In Psychiatric Care* 59 (2010).

<sup>24</sup> J. Cunningham, T. Pearce, & P. Pearce, "Childhood sexual abuse and medical complaints in adult women" 03 *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 141 (1988).

<sup>25</sup> J. G. Noll, C. E. Shenk, & K. T. Putnam, "Childhood sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy: A meta-analytic update" 34 *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* 369 (2009).

term impact on the girl child if she experience pregnancy in her childhood.

**e) Death-**

Death is the severest consequence of sexual abuse on a child. This basically happens due to brutal and multiple injury suffered by the child while he was violently abused by the perpetrator.

**f) Gynecological and perinatal complications-**

Forceful sexual intercourse with a young girl child may result in Gyneocological and Perinatal complication throughout her life and specially during the stage of pregnancy till the time of delivery.<sup>26</sup> Gynaecological disorders would include symptoms like chronic pelvic pain, dysmenorrhea, menstrual irregularities. Whereas perinatal complication is so severe that it may cause risk of life of the baby in the womb as well as to the mother.<sup>27</sup> Apart from it there is also a chance of problems like pre mature delivery, low birth weight etc<sup>28</sup>.

**g) Poorer physical health-**

There is every possible chance that the child may suffer psychiatric problem in the post victimized period which would result in poorer health condition or growth of child because as per medical science mental health is directly connected with physical

---

<sup>26</sup> Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, "Guidelines For Medico-Legal Care For Victims Of Sexual Violence, PP 09 (Govt. of India, 2014) available at: <https://main.mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/953522324.pdf> (Visited on 19 October 2019)

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>28</sup> Perinatal complications associated with increased risk for OCD (October 05, 2016) available at: <https://www.healio.com/news/psychiatry/20161005/perinatal-complications-associated-with-increased-risk-for-ocd> (Visited on February 2019)

health of a human being.<sup>29</sup> The psychiatric problems will not allow the child to develop to the fullest extent as he may show symptoms like eating disorder, sleeping disorder, lack of stability etc.<sup>30</sup>

#### **4.2.2 Psychological Consequences / mental health disorder:**

The human brain is responsible for the overall development of a human being due to which it is quiet necessary that the person do not face any type of incident against his choice/will which may have bad impact on his brain. Child sexual abuse is such a disaster that it not only has its ill effects on the physical health of the child but also on the mental health which indirectly affect the physical health as well as social behavior of the child. This mental health disorder is also known as psychological disorder which is manifold in nature. These psychological disorder are classified as follows:

##### **a) Depression -**

Depression is a common form of mental disorder which may result from various factors like adverse life events such as psychological trauma.<sup>31</sup> Sexual abuse being a serious psychological trauma it causes depression on the victim which again has far reaching effects. A person suffering from depression will face problems like poor

---

<sup>29</sup> Nirmala Devi, "Sexual Offences Against Children In India: on The Higher Side" 07 *International Journal of Recent Scientific Research* 13348, (2016)

<sup>30</sup> Connection Between Mental and Physical Health, available at <https://ontario.cmha.ca/documents/connection-between-mental-and-physical-health/> (visited on November 2019)

<sup>31</sup> Michael D. Jibson and Lisa S. Seyfried (eds.), *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition* (DSM-5) 642-645 (American Psychiatric Association, Virginia, 2013).

concentration, lack of focus and even may be motivated towards Suicidal thoughts.

**b) Personality disorders-**

“A personality disorder is a way of thinking, feeling and behaving that deviates from the expectations of the culture, causes distress or problems functioning, and lasts over time.”<sup>32</sup> Personality disorder is another type of psychological problem faced by a person who had been sexually abuse and the problem is quiet common if the victim of abused is a child who basically don't know about sex. In simple it can be said to be unusual change in the behavior of a person. A few of the types of personality disorder are Antisocial personality disorder, Borderline personality disorder, Dependent personality disorder and many more.<sup>33</sup>

**c) Psychological distress-**

Psychological distress is common among those people who are victim of emotional suffering such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse etc. accompanied by depression and anxiety.<sup>34</sup> Such type of distress have long time effect such as worry, sleep disturbance, fatigue, depression etc. upon the person and when the sufferer is a child the condition becomes worst.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> *Supra* note 31.

<sup>33</sup> Shibnath Deb and Aparna Mukherjee, “Impact of Sexual Abuse on Personality Disposition of Girl Child” 35 *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied psychology* 125 (2009)

<sup>34</sup> Tina Arvidsdotter, Bertil Marklund and Sven Kylen, “Understanding persons with psychological distress in primary health care” 30 *Scandanivian Journal Of Caring Science* 687 (2016)

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*



**d) Dissociation-**

Dissociation is such a state of human brain in which the person gets disconnected with his surrounding atmosphere. In general, dissociation means detachment from many things. As per medical science a person who had witnessed traumatic events such as extreme violence, abuse, kidnapping etc. may often fall prey to such mental health issue which will be evident from the symptoms like loss of memory, multiple personality disorder etc.<sup>36</sup>

**e) Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder-**

Post-traumatic stress disorders popularly known as PTSD in medical science is the problem faced by almost every individual who experience a terrific event.<sup>37</sup> Sexual abuse of a child is always deemed to be a terrifying event for the victim and hence he / she suffer from PTSD which remains for a long time in the form of nightmares, flashback etc. if people fail to undergo proper treatment mostly counseling.<sup>38</sup>

**f) Anxiety disorder-**

Anxiety disorder is common form of emotional disorder which may affect any person irrespective of his or her age. Although anxiety is normal but if it continues for longer than six month it may be called as anxiety disorder. It includes symptoms like panic disorder and phobia. This problem may occur on a child who sustains abuse.

---

<sup>36</sup> Sydney Moirangthem, Naveen C. Kumar & Sures Bada Math, "Child sexual abuse: Issues and concern" 01 *Indian Journal Of Medical Research*, 142 (2015).

<sup>37</sup> Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, available at: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/post-traumatic-stress-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20355967> (Visited on August 18, 2019)

<sup>38</sup> K. Ratican, "Sexual Abuse Survivors: Identifying Symptoms and Special Treatment Considerations" 71 *Journal of Counseling & Development* 35 (1992).

**g) Self-mutilation-**

Self mutilation is a psychiatric problem in which the patients harm herself or himself as they start to dislike and hate their own body which may be due to many environmental reason. One of such reason to dislike one's own body is when they get sexually abused and hence there is every chance of suffering from psychological problem like self-mutilation.

**h) Drug and alcohol abuse<sup>39</sup>**

Abuse of drug and alcohol is not a new thing in the society. There might be various reasons for drug and alcohol abuse but one of the major cause is psychological stress and depression. A teen in order to avoid the nightmare and forget the horrific incident of abuse that took place with him/her many times start consumption of alcohol and drugs which later on turn to be their habit.

**i) Eating disorder**

A person with psychological or emotional disturbance may also have problems like eating disorder. Thus, a child who is mentally disturbed have every chance of suffering from eating disorder. Eating disorder lead to problems like skipping meal, overeating, eating in secret etc..<sup>40</sup> Eating disorder may lead to consequences like serious

---

<sup>39</sup> Immediate Consequences of Child Sexual Abuse, Mayo Clinic, available at: <https://www.childsafehouse.org/wp-content/uploads/immediate-consequences.pdf> (Visited on September 17, 2019)

<sup>40</sup> Eating Disorders, Mayo Clinic, available at: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/eating-disorders/symptoms-causes/syc-20353603> (Visited on July 18, 2019)

health problem, depression, anxiety, improper growth and development.

### 4.2.3 Behavioral Consequences:

Abnormal and anti social behaviors are the common outcome of all types of child abuse including sexual abuse.<sup>41</sup> As per studies<sup>42</sup> physically and sexually abused children show higher level of fear, anger, aggression and appear to be dysfunctional. The behavioral consequences' are discussed under the following subheadings:

#### a) Poor peer relations-

A child with the history of sexual abuse may be less competent in the social interaction with his peer groups or any other person in the society.<sup>43</sup>

A few of the symptoms of poor peer relation may be staying alone away from friends, not sharing class notes or lunch box, not interested in games and sports etc.. It may happen as because the child could not come out of the trauma of the extent of abuse that he had faced or due to lack of family support.<sup>44</sup>

#### b) Extraordinarily violent behaviors-

Violent behavior means frequent loss of temper, anger, aggression and many more. In sort it can be said to be such a behavior which is not normal and may lead to causing of injury to the person himself or

<sup>41</sup> David Finkelhor and L. Baron, "Risk Factors for Child Sexual Abuse" 01 *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 63 (1986).

<sup>42</sup> J. Kaufman, B. Jones and E. Stieglitz, "The use of multiple informants to assess children's maltreatment experiences" 9 *J Fam Viol* 227-248 (1994)

<sup>43</sup> M.A. Straus and R.J. Gelles (eds.), *Physical violence in American families: Risk factors and adaptations to violence in 8,145 families*, 421-427 (Transaction Publishers, United States, 1992)

<sup>44</sup> Anne C. Petersen, *Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect* 74 (National Academy Press, Washington, 1<sup>st</sup> edn.,1993).

to others. Such behavior can be a outcome of severe and multiple form of abuse upon the child when he was helpless and could not do anything in his defense.<sup>45</sup>

**c) Lowered intellectual functioning-**

Childhood sexual abuse may have direct impact upon the intelligence or other intellectual performance of the child which may further result lack of attention, concentration, creativity and poor performance in school examinations.<sup>46</sup> As per the studies a child who had been sexually abuse tender to perform lower on psychometric tests while measuring parameters like academic achievement and memory assessment when compared to a normal non abused child of the same age.<sup>47</sup>

Curtis in his research paper published in the year 1963 had well stated that “abused and neglected children would become tomorrow's murderers and perpetrators of other crimes of violence, if they survive”.<sup>48</sup> Although it is not an established fact that every child who suffered sexual abuse in their child hood turned into a delinquent because every child have a distinct behavior but however, there is a high risk and possibility of becoming a delinquent if proper care is not taken in the post victimization period by the family members.<sup>49</sup>

---

<sup>45</sup> *Supre* note 44.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> R Wells, J McCann, J Adams, J Voris and B Dahl, “A validation study of the structured interview of symptoms associated with sexual abuse using three samples of sexually abused, allegedly abused, and nonabused boys” 21 *Journal of Child Abuse & Neglect* 1159 (1997).

<sup>48</sup> G. C. Curtis, “Violence Breeds Violence—Perhaps?” 120 *American Journal of Psychiatry* 386 (1963).

<sup>49</sup> J.L. Aber, J.P. Allen, V. Carlson, and D. Cicchetti, “The effects of maltreatment on development during early childhood: Recent studies and their theoretical, clinical and policy implications” in D. Cicchetti and V. Carlson (eds.) *Child Maltreatment: Theory and Research on Causes and Consequences*. 579-619 (Cambridge University Press, 1990).

#### **d) Becoming a runaway-**

Many times it happens that the child is sexually abused in their home itself by their family members living with them. In such cases the child gets frightened and insecure in their own home due to which they finding no other alternative way out flee from their home to an unknown place so that they would not face the same relative who had abused him before.<sup>50</sup> Here the child do not runaway to get or achieve something but rather to save himself from such activities that he do not like or feel comfortable with.

### **4.3 Discussion:**

Child abuse had taken place in India from time immemorial due to various social factors prevailing in Indian society. On analysis of the various literature and reports regarding it is found that there are multiple factors which are responsible for CSA. These factors sometimes independently lead to CSA and sometimes these factors combinely lead to CSA in several forms. Some of the causes which are responsible for CSA, either directly or indirectly and independently or with the help of other causes, are identifies as; poverty, urbanization, industrial development, influence of intoxicants, non reporting of cases, low conviction rate, visual media display, lack of parental control, lack of sex education, religious and cultural practices in the society, high demand for young child in the red light areas, lack of awareness, desire for high life style, war and illegal immigration.

Among these fourteen identified causes few are very old, such as; lack of sex education, religious & cultural practices in the society and lack of awareness which,

---

<sup>50</sup> J.L. Aber and J.P. Allen, "The effects of maltreatment on young children's socio emotional development: An attachment theory perspective" 23 *Developmental Psychology* 219 (1987).

contributed in CSA from time immemorial. The religion and cultural practices like *yogini*, *devadashi* etc. were the most prominent causes, which mislead the people during the historical period and continuing in some parts of the country even in the modern day.

Similarly, the causes like poverty, urbanization & industrialization, sex tourism, and desire of high life style are economy based causes because the victims are identified as economically weaker section of the society and the abuser from strong economic background. Again, a few causes are related to psychology or mental state of the abuser, such as; influence of intoxicants, non-reporting of cases, low conviction rate and visual media display. The factors like influence of intoxicants & visual media display leads to uncontrolled behavior of the intoxicated person which sometimes results in CSA and the factors like non-reporting of cases & low conviction rate boost the psychology of the person who possess such thinking, making them fearless.

On the other hand, the causes like War and illegal immigration are not permanent or everlasting causes. It is basically the opportunists who take advantage of such situation. However, the most prominent form of sexual abuse is prostitution which takes place due to the increasing business of sex tourism and high demand of child sex workers in these red light areas.

As that of the causes, the consequences are also multiple in number and of different nature, such as; physical consequences, psychological consequences and behavioral consequences.

The physical consequences are injury that the victim suffers, which could be trace in his/her body. The physical consequences are characterized by various injuries like; risk of contacting sexually transmitted diseases, somatization disorder & irritable bowel syndrome(IBS), permanent damage to reproductive organs, unwanted pregnancy, gynecological & prenatal complications, poorer physical health and death.

The effect like risk of contacting sexually transmitted diseases, such as; HIV, somatization disorder or & irritable bowel syndrome(IBS) and death are common to all the child victims irrespective of gender. However, the rest consequences are seen applicable for female victim only.

The psychological consequences which are also known as mental health disorder are very dangerous because they are not easily identifiable and have long term effect. The common type of psychological consequences that are often observed in victim of CSA are; depression, personality disorder, psychological distress, dissociation. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, feeling of self-mutilation, eating disorder and drug & alcohol abuse. All these consequences are common for all the children irrespective of his/her gender and seriousness of the offence. Although, all the consequences are dangerous but the feeling of self-mutilation is the most severe because the victim may at any time harm or kill himself/herself if proper treatment and counseling is not provided.

The behavioral consequences of CSA upon the victim are the result of mental illness, which the victim suffers. In a way, the behavioral consequences are having some type of nexus with the psychological consequences, because these consequences make a person mentally ill due to which he have behavioral changes, such as; poor peer relation, extra ordinarily violent behavior, lowered intellectual functioning & becoming a runaway takes place.

Thus, these consequences of CSA are long term and disastrous, because it is not only physical but also psychological & behavioral. Again, it is not only the victim who suffers from evil consequences but with him/her the entire family suffers with psychological consequences due to the societal attitude towards the victim of such offence. Although, many of the consequences are immediate that can be traced

immediately after victimization of the child but a few cannot be witnessed in the victim until the child grow to an adult.