

## **Studies of Sexual abuse between boys and girls in different socio economic status groups**

Singh Shashi\*, Singh Anamika\*\*, Mathur Anjali\*\*\*,

\*Research scholar Calorx Teacher's University

\*\*Research scholar C.S.A University, Kanpur

\*\*\*Assistant professor Ethelind College of home science, SHUATS

Corresponding Author: Singh Shashi

---

**Abstract:** The present study was an attempt to find out the prevalence of sexual abuse among children and prevalence of gender disparities in abuse across three socio economic groups in Allahabad district. A total sample of 180 children in the age group of 9-18 years from three socio economic status families using stratified random sampling technique comprising 60 respondents and their parents from each socio economic group (30 boys and 30 girls respectively) were selected for the study. Socio economic status scale was used to assess the socio economic status of the respondents and a self made interview schedule for parents and children was used to assess the prevalence of sexual abuse. Results indicated that children reported a higher incidence of sexual abuse as compared to that reported by their parents. Socio economic status had a significant effect ( $P < .01$ ) and gender had a non significant effect on the prevalence of child sexual abuse. The study indicated that sexual abuse was found to be generally inflicted by neighbors' followed by relatives and unknown people. Hence, the study revealed that sexual abuse was prevalent among children and it was suggested that awareness campaigns, role of mass media, law and policies for protection of children's rights can prove to be helpful in combating child sexual abuse.

**Key Words:** Abuse, children, parents, prevalence.

---

Date of Submission: 13-01-2018

Date of acceptance: 30-01-2018

---

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

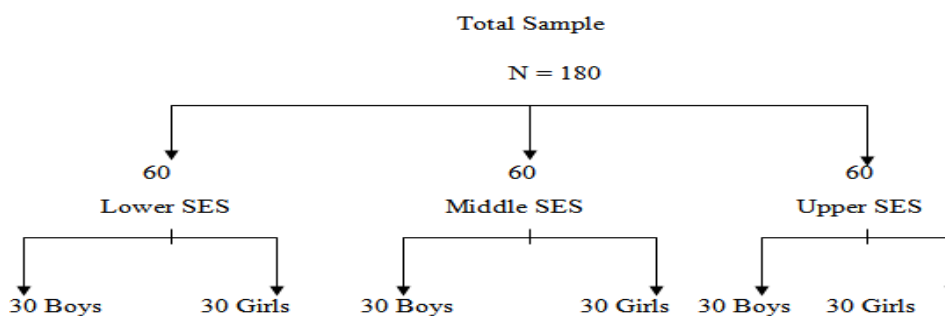
Sexual abuse is engaging a child in any sexual activity that he/she does not understand or cannot give informed consent for or is not physically, mentally or emotionally prepared for. Abuse can be conducted by an adult or another child who is developmentally superior to the victim. This includes using a child for pornography, sexual materials, prostitution and unlawful sexual practices. Neglect or negligent treatment is purposeful omission of some or all developmental needs of the child by a caregiver with the intention of harming the child. This includes the failure of protecting the child from a harmful situation or environment when feasible. Child sexual abuse among adolescents is an often overlooked issue in pediatrics, yet it is a major cause of low self esteem and stigmatization in adolescents (Manyike *et al.*, 2015). Sexual abuse is inappropriate sexual behavior with a child. It includes fondling a child's genitals, making the child fondle the adult's, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation. To be considered as 'child abuse', these acts have to be committed by a person responsible for the care of a child (for example a baby-sitter, a parent, or a daycare provider), or related to the child. If a stranger commits these acts, it would be considered sexual assault and handled solely by the police and criminal courts.

### **II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Allahabad district was purposively selected for the study as the researcher was familiar with the place. Allahabad district is divided into 21 blocks according to Allahabad Municipal Corporation. Out of which, 6 blocks were selected for the present study using random sampling technique. Families belonging to the three socio economic status i.e. lower, middle and upper from each block were selected using stratified random sampling technique. From each socio economic group a total of 10 families from each block were selected, among which 5 families having an index child as a boy and 5 families having an index child as a girl were selected using purposive sampling technique.

Children in the age groups of 9-18 years and their parents belonging to the lower, middle and upper socio economic status families were selected to study the prevalence of child abuse. A total sample of 180 children comprising of 60 children each (30 boys and 30 girls) and their parents from lower, middle and upper

socio economic status families respectively were selected. Parents of the same sample were taken to administer the schedule targeted for them.



**Procedure of the study:**

A total sample of 180 children was purposely drawn to access the socio economics status using socio economics status scale devised by Kuppuswami (1962). A self structured interview schedule was developed and administered on the selected sample of the children to access the prevalence of sexual abuse. A self made questionnaire was also developed and administered on the parents of the identified samples to access the methods adopted by the parents to deal with their children.

**Observation and Discussion**

**Table 1 Prevalence of child sexual abuse among boys across three socio economic groups as reported by children and their parents.**

| Sexual abuse reported by | Lower socio economic status |                    | Middle socio economic status |                    | Upper socio economic status |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
|                          | Mean + SE (N=30)            | Standard Deviation | Mean + SE (N=30)             | Standard Deviation | Mean + SE (N=30)            | Standard Deviation |
| Children                 | 7.26±0.22                   | 1.21               | 7.66±0.24                    | 1.36               | 7.53±0.21                   | 1.15               |
| Parent                   | 2.0 ± 0                     | 0                  | 2.0 ± 0                      | 0                  | 2.1 ± 0                     | 0                  |

**Table 1 indicates that** the prevalence of child sexual abuse among boys across three socio economic groups as reported by children and their parents. It is evident from the above table that the children reported the prevalence of the sexual abuse to be highest among boys belonging to the middle socio economic group i.e. 7.66, followed by upper socio economic group i.e. 7.53 and minimum in lower socio economic groups i.e. 7.26. The prevalence of sexual abuse in lower socio economic group was also found to be lowest as compared to the other socio economic group which may be due to the underreporting of the incidences of sexual abuse among boys. The results are in accordance with the study carried out by **Holmes and Slap (1998)** which revealed that sexual abuse among boys is common, underreported, under recognized and under treated. The study concluded that health care professionals should be more aware of and sensitive to the possibility of sexual abuse in their patients. It is evident also that the prevalence of the sexual abuse was highest (2.1) in upper socio economic group followed by (2.0) in lower and middle socio economic group as reported by parents. It may be due to inhibition that people having regarding reporting the incidence of sexual abuse.

**Table 2: Prevalence of child sexual abuse among girls across three socio economic groups as reported by children and their parents.**

| Sexual abuse reported by | Lower socio economic status |                    | Middle socio economic status |                    | Upper socio economic status |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
|                          | Mean + SE (N=30)            | Standard Deviation | Mean + SE (N=30)             | Standard Deviation | Mean + SE (N=30)            | Standard Deviation |
| Children                 | 10.26±0.32                  | 1.78               | 10.7±0.32                    | 1.22               | 11.26±0.25                  | 1.39               |
| Parent                   | 3.0 ± 0.15                  | 0.856              | 2.6 ± 0.10                   | 0.55               | 2.6 ± 0.09                  | 0.525              |

**Table 2:** The data revealed that the prevalence of child sexual abuse among girls across three socio economic groups as reported by children and their parents. It is evident from the above table that the children reported the prevalence of the sexual abuse to be highest among girls belonging to the upper socio economic group i.e. 11.26, followed by middle socio economic group i.e. 10.7 and minimum in lower socio economic

groups i.e. 10.26 respectively, which justifies that children from lower socio economic groups are more vulnerable to various types of problems like antisocial behavior, personality problems etc. The data also indicates that the prevalence of sexual abuses reported by parents which was highest (3.0) in the lower socio economic group followed by (2.6) middle and upper socio economic groups. The results are in accordance with the study conducted by **Zielinski (2007)** on assessing the long term impact of socio economic status on child abuse which revealed that lower socio economic status place victims at significantly increased risk for problems like lowered self esteem, blocked aspirations, status frustration, impaired efficacy, fatalism, lowered mastery and personal control.

### III. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the study that sexual abuse is prevalent in all three socio economic status families irrespective of the gender. Sexual abuse found to be more prevalent among boys in the families belonging to middle socio economic group followed by upper socio economic group and lower socio economic group reported by children and prevalence of sexual abuse was reported to be the highest in upper socio economic groups followed by lower socio economic groups and middle socio economic groups by the parents. The study brought out that sexual abuse is prevalent in all three socio economic status families irrespective of the gender. Sexual abuse found to be more prevalent among girls in the families belonging to upper socio economic group followed by middle socio economic group and lower socio economic group reported by children and prevalence of sexual abuse was reported to be highest in lower socio economic group followed by upper socio economic group and middle socio economic group by the parents which focuses the need of educating public, specially policy maker about the true nature of sexual abuse and shifting the prevention of child sexual abuse from children to adult.

#### **Suggestion and recommendation**

Raising awareness of the unacceptability of child sexual abuse and promoting the nation that stopping child sexual abuse is everyone's responsibility. Rigorously evaluating and strengthen existing child sexual abuse prevention programmes.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1]. **Banyard, V.L. (2002)**. The relationship between the experience of childhood sexual abuse. *Journal of child abuse and neglect*. Vol. 24 : 65-69.
- [2]. **Baytunca, M. B. Ata, E. Ozbaran, B. Kaya, A. Kose, S. Aktas, E. O. Aydn, R. Guney, S. Yuncu, Z. Erermis, S. Bildik, T. and Aydin, C. (2017)** Childhood sexual abuse and supportive factors. *Pediatrics International*; 59(1):10-15.
- [3]. **Ezekiel, M. J., Mosha, I. H., Kisanga, F., Mpembeni, R., Anaeli, A., Kamazima, S. R. and Muhondwa, E. P. Y. (2017)** Factors associated with child sexual abuse in Tanzania: a qualitative study. *Tanzania Journal of Health Research*: 19(2) unpaginated.
- [4]. **Holmes, W.C. and Slap, G.B. (1998)**. Sexual abuse of boys; Definition, prevalence, correlates, Sequela, and Management. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Vol.28: 18855-1862.
- [5]. **Manyike Pius C, Chinawa Josephat M, Aniwada Elias, Odutola Odetunde I and Chinawa T. Awoere (2015)** Child sexual abuse among adolescents in southeast Nigeria: A concealed public health behavioral issue. *Pakistan Journal of Medical Sciences* 2015 Jul-Aug; 31(4): 827–832.
- [6]. **Mlekwa, F. M., Nyamhanga, T., Chalya, P. L. and Urassa, D. (2016)** Knowledge, attitudes and practices of parents on child sexual abuse and its prevention in Shinyanga district, Tanzania. *Tanzania Journal of Health Research*; 18(4):unpaginated.
- [7]. **Shafe, S. and Hutchinson, G. (2014)** Child sexual abuse and continuous influence of cultural practices: a review. *West Indian Medical Journal*; 63(6):634-637.
- [8]. **Xie QianWen Qiao DongPing Wang XiaoLei (2016)** Parent-involved prevention of child sexual abuse: a qualitative exploration of parents' perceptions and practices in Beijing. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*; 25(3):999-1010.
- [9]. **Zielinski, D.S. (2007)** Long term socio economic impact of child abuse and neglect: implication for public policy, policy matters. Center for child and family policy, Duke University.

Singh Shashi "Studies of Sexual abuse between boys and girls in different socio economic status groups ." *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR- JHSS)*. vol. 23 no. 1, 2018, pp. 09-11.