

Childhood Sexual Abuse in Pakistan: A Comparative Study of Domestic and Public Domains

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Abstract

Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) remains a significantly under-addressed issue within Pakistani families, often shrouded in silence due to various societal factors. A notable contributing factor to this silence is the prevalent gap in communication between parents and children, which hinders the disclosure of instances of abuse, including sexual assault and molestation. Consequently, reliable data on the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse and molestation is scarce. This study aims to ascertain the extent of childhood abuse victimization through an exploratory survey conducted among students enrolled in higher education institutions in Karachi and Hyderabad. Furthermore, this study aims to quantify and compare the acts of CSA occurred inside the premises of home and outside. Subsequent analysis focused on delineating gender disparities among victims and elucidating potential correlations between family structure, familial status, and instances of childhood sexual abuse. This multifaceted approach endeavors to shed light on the details of this issue within the Pakistani context. In this study among the 364 respondents, a total of 109 reported experiencing childhood sexual abuse and/or molestation, of whom 58 were female and 51 were male. Sixty-four respondents indicated they were abused only within the home, while 4 reported abuses occurring outside the home, and 41 stated they were abused both inside and outside the home. Furthermore, 55% of the victims reported that the perpetrators were known to them.

Keywords: Childhood sexual abuse, intrafamilial, disclosure – nondisclosure of sexual abuse, molestation.

Introduction

The destructive effects of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) on victims in long term and short term are seen keenly within the purview of this topic.¹

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¹ Rebecca M. Bolen, and Maria Scannapieco 'Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse: A Corrective Metanalysis', *Social Service Review* 73:3 (1999), 281-313. Accessed 2023/12/01/. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1086/514425>.

CSA has long-term and short-term effects on the victims.² The CSA has been prevalent in all societies of the world regardless of cultural and economic backgrounds.³ The number of cases of CSA cannot be determined with precision because most of the CSA cases go unreported. Child sexual abuse results in various psychological and physical health problems which affects children varyingly.⁴ This phenomenon is rapidly growing globally. The UNICEF reported that sexual activity was forced on more than 121 million children during their childhood.⁵ Even in developed countries like the USA, only 310 CSA victims report to police out of 1000 actual cases; the number of cases⁶ in developing countries is estimated to be far more than that. In CSA cases most of the perpetrators belong to the family of the victim that accounts for more than 92%. Although CSA has not been limited to any specific socio-cultural or economic background, but it is reported that, vulnerability of a child increases if the parents are not with children, and socio-economic condition is not stable.⁷

CSA in context of Pakistan has been a taboo topic to be discussed. There have been numerous minor rape and murder cases in Pakistan that have sparked outrage and attention of mainstream media in different times. One such case is the six-year-old Zainab Ansari rape and murder case.⁸ Legislation, media attention, rallies and strict police actions only decide the post abuse course. The intentions, psycho-social analysis of culprits, vulnerability of child and precautionary actions taken by parents are

² Manukrishnan and Krishnamani Bhagabati, 'Surviving Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Qualitative Study of the Long-Term Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse on Adult Women's Mental Health', *Journal of Psychosexual Health*, 5:4 (2023), 253-262. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26318318231221948>

³ Roopesh N. Bangalore, *Child Safety, Welfare and Well-being* (India: Springer, 2016), 75.

⁴ Joseph H. Beitchman, Kenneth J Zucker, Jane E Hood, Granville A DaCosta, Donna Akman, and Erika Cassavia. 'A Review of the Long-Term Effects of Child Sexual Abuse'. *Child Abuse & Neglect* 16:1 (1992), 102.

⁵ Lorraine Radford, Debra Allnock, Patricia Hynes & Sarah Shorrocks, *Action to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: A Review of the Evidence* (New York: UNICEF, 2020), 32-43.

⁶ RAINN, 'The Criminal Justice System: Statistics', 2020. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>.

⁷ Sana Ali, Hiba Abou Haykal, and Enaam Youssef, 'Child Sexual Abuse and the Internet—a Systematic Review', *Human Arenas* 6:2 (2021): 415. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s42087-021-00228-9>

⁸ 'Pakistan Zainab Murder: Imran Ali Hanged for Six-Year-Old's Death', BBC 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-45885686>.

solemnly ignored. This study will focus on the vulnerability of children due to non-disclosure of the CSA. No discussion on taboo topics makes child safety even more difficult. In context of Pakistan talking about sexuality, sex, gender, puberty and issues related to child sexual abuse are not discussed in families even related to reproductive health.⁹

According to data collected by Sahil organization and presented by researchers a continuous rise is seen in the cases related to CSA in Pakistan. In 2010 a total of 2252 cases were reported whereas 2303, 2788, 3002, 3508, 3768 and 4139 cases of CSA were reported in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively. With most cases reported against girls, boys are also prone to this crime. In comparison to 2010 where abuse of boys was 1/3 of the girls in 2016 it rose to more than 41% of total sexual abuse crimes against children.¹⁰

The data and literature on CSA is a newfound topic in Pakistan. Intrafamilial CSA or domestic childhood sexual abuse (DCSA) is even rare to find. For this reason exploratory research based on grounded theory approach is devised to put a limelight on this very sensitive topic. The unavailability of reliable data on CSA makes researchers refer data of neighboring countries.¹¹ This kind of limitation is further limited when DCSA topics are explored in context of Pakistan.

Undertaking such research in Pakistan is challenging because unavailability of data and rarity of intrafamilial or domestic sexual abuse registered cases put bar in extracting reliable and valid outcomes. Primary obstruction in this research was to identify the victims. Secondly, it was also challenging to obtain consent from the victims to come out and speak about the traumatic experiences they have been through. In such interviews male and female respondents are equally reluctant to respond about many aspects of their experience and vulnerability.

Nevertheless, these obstructions make this research more important in finding out the causes, similarities, and exclusiveness of this

⁹ Zeba Sathar, Minhaj ul Haque, Azeema Faizunnissa, Munawar Sultana, Cynthia B Lloyd, Judith A Diers, and Monica J Grant, *Adolescents and Youth in Pakistan 2001-2002: A Nationally Representative Survey* (Pakistan: UNICEF 2003), 40.

¹⁰ Muhammad Abdullah Avais, Hamida Narijo, and Mike Parker. 'A Review of Child Sexual Abuse in Pakistan Based on Data from 'Sahil' Organization'. *Journal of Islamabad Medical & Dental College* 9:3 (2020), 212-18. <https://dx.doi.org/10.35787/jimdc.v9i3.412>.

¹¹ Shumaira Rahim, Caitlin Bourgaize, Majid Khan, Laurie Matthew & Ian Barron, 'Child Sexual Abuse in Pakistan Schools: A Non-Systematic Narrative Literature Review', *Journal of Child Sex Abuse*, 30:5 (2021), 10. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2021.1901168>.

crime in Pakistani society. This will encourage policymakers, teachers, and parents to prioritise addressing this issue, which is often hidden under the protective shield of the family unit.

This study aims to ascertain the extent of childhood abuse victimization through an exploratory survey conducted among students enrolled in higher education institutions in Karachi and Hyderabad. Furthermore, this study aims to quantify and compare the acts of CSA occurred inside the premises of home and outside.

Problem Statement

The prevalence of CSA is considered to be much higher than the registered cases all over the world. Only a small portion of reports reach the authorities. In most cases in Pakistan, abuse is only registered if it has been followed by murder or viral videos. Mainstream media tends to focus on these cases, while home-based CSAs receive minimal coverage. The data and comparison on domestic and outside home abuse is never compared. This research gap presents a chance to investigate this widely prevalent yet academically overlooked subject.

Therefore, the problem statement for this study is ‘to explore the number of cases of CSA and the setting in which this abuse has been performed’.

Definitions

Child: As defined by the law a child is a person of any sex who cannot give consent for her/himself for any medical or legal action. In Pakistan different provinces have different definitions of child under child labour acts but a person is considered child until she/he reaches the age of 18. Whereas the penal code of Pakistan makes it clear that a person below the age of 18 is a child and cannot consent to intimacy.¹²

Child Molester: Child molester or child abuser or perpetrator, or predator are the terms alternatively used for the person who engage in a sexual activity (physical or non-physical) with a person who is legally a child to fulfill intimate desires.¹³

Childhood Sexual Abuse: The CSA can be defined as an act (attempted or completed) by a relatively elder person against a child to fulfill a sexual

¹² Government of Pakistan. Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLv of 1860), 2004, 218. 2016. Available at: <https://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/legislation/1860/actXLVof1860.html>

¹³ *Ibid.*

desire. That act may include but not limited to touching, hugging, making child sit on laps and private part by or without removing cloths. This may also include penetration, physical contact, touching private parts, kissing, exposing children to pornography, creating videos or photographs of youngsters and their private parts for personal use or for financial gain through the sale of such images and videos.¹⁴

Sexual Grooming: The CSA and DCSA perpetrators tend to groom children. Sexual Grooming is the deceiving behavior in which a potential perpetrator mentally trains a child for sexual acts which bars children from disclosing the actions. More likely it becomes difficult for parents or caregivers to understand the signs of sexual grooming because the perpetrator's behavior is most likely be similar to a behavior of a normal person.¹⁵ The prime objective of grooming is to increase the chances of future intimacy with the child, reducing the threats of being pointed out and maintaining a starting relationship with victim on softer terms...

...Around 63 countries have also rectified the grooming through online channels which broadens the umbrella of grooming that initially was limited to one-on-one grooming of a child victim.¹⁶

Study objectives:

- Quantifying the number of CSA victims through a survey in the public universities of Hyderabad and Karachi.
- Determining whether CSA occurred inside the home or outside the residence of respondents.
- Comparing domestic and outdoor CSA cases.

Literature review

Magnitude of the occurrence of DCSA is very complicated and disputed due to numerous methodological concerns. The definitions of DCSA, which usually diverge among studies, such as the conditions set for the age which is defined as childhood and the forms of actions deemed as

¹⁴ Ruth Gilbert, Cathy Spatz Widom, Kevin Browne, David Fergusson, Elspeth Webb, and Staff Ian Janson, 'Burden and consequences of child maltreatment in high-income countries', *The Lancet*, 373:9657 (2009), 69. [https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(08\)61706-7](https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(08)61706-7).

¹⁵ Elizabeth L. Jeglic, Georgia M. Winters, and Benjamin N. Johnson, 'Identification of Red Flag Child Sexual Grooming Behaviors', *Child Abuse Neglect*, 136 (2023), 10. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105998>.

¹⁶ Georgia M. Winters, Elizabeth L. Jeglic, and Leah E. Kaylor, 'Validation of the Sexual Grooming Model of Child Sexual Abusers', *Journal of Child Sex Abuse* 29:7 (2020), 5. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2020.1801935>.

CSA. Prevalence approximates are affected by the choices of sample selection, methods of data collection, and the quantity and depth of investigating questions, among others.¹⁷

Various types of sexual abuse have been revealed in children. Non-physical abuse have been reported at around 31% for female victims where as 17% for male victims making female children more prone to abuse.¹⁸ Some researchers assert that the variation in numerical representation is due to use of various methodologies by researchers.¹⁹ According to UNICEF (2020a), globally 121 million children were engaged in forced sexual acts in their youth; though, the factual number is much higher.²⁰

It has been observed that specialists in child protection may also lack identifying the CSA victims. This makes most CSA cases are not reported, examined, put on trial or lead to convictions.²¹

In Africa childhood non-penetrative sexual abuse ranges from 2.1% - 68.7% in females of Ethiopia and Tanzania respectively and for males 4.1% - 60% in South Africa. Prevalence of contact CSA in Africa exists between 4.9% - 56% for female victims in Nigeria and Swaziland respectively and for male victims 3.5% - 54% in Kenya and Nigeria.²²

The rate of CSA ranged variably in Honduras 7.8% to 6.4% El Salvador and in Guatemala 4.7%. Majority of CSA victims were females in countries listed above who experienced CSA earlier than 11 years of

¹⁷ Juliette D. G. Goldman, and Usha K. Padayachi, 'Some Methodological Problems in Estimating Incidence and Prevalence in Child Sexual Abuse Research'. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 37:4 (2000): 306. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00224490009552052>.

¹⁸ Barth Juergen, Lilian Bermetz, E. Heim, S. Trelle, and T. Tonia, 'The Current Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse Worldwide: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis', *International Journal of Public Health*, 58:3 (2013), 476. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00038-012-0426-1>.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Sana Ali, Hiba Abou Haykal, and Enaam Youssef, *op.cit.*

²¹ Joe Sullivan, 'Child Sexual Abuse and Molestation: The Spiral of Sexual Abuse', *Handbook of Behavioral Criminology* (Springer International Publishing AG: 2017) 257.

²² Victor Selengia, Hanh Nguyen Thi Thuy, and Declare Mushi, 'Prevalence and Patterns of Child Sexual Abuse in Selected Countries of Asia and Africa: A Review of Literature', *Open Journal of Social Sciences* 8:9 (2020), 151-52. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4236/jss.2020.89010>.

age. The offenders belonged to family members, neighbors, or known people.²³

Almost 15% of girls between the age of 7-16 experienced sexual abuse; 14% of immigrant females testified of being sexually abused. Events of sexual abuse differed by sexual experience, age, and race/ethnicity. Females that reported to have sexually active reported to be prone in relation to those who never had sex.²⁴

In Pakistan, there is a lack of organized initiatives, in-service training, or available materials to aid teachers in educating children about Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). Furthermore, the training provided to new teachers does not address this issue, leaving both teachers and children without fundamental awareness of abuse and susceptible to potential abuse by teachers. While some teachers, prompted by increased media coverage, have independently sought resources to enhance awareness, a more systematic approach is deemed necessary. Globally, there are various abuse prevention programs, many of which have been evaluated and proven effective. These programs could be culturally tailored for implementation in Pakistani schools and subsequently evaluated. The increased media attention, growing rates of CSA reporting, and the interest exhibited by certain teachers may signify a readiness, willingness, and necessity to contemplate the introduction and evaluation of a school-based abuse prevention program and strategy in Pakistan.²⁵

Diverse opinions exist among Pakistani parents and teachers when it comes to sexuality education. A larger percentage of parents express a preference for incorporating age-appropriate sexuality education into school curricula compared to teachers. Notably, bullying prevention and sexual abuse prevention receive strong support as relevant topics, while pregnancy prevention garners the least endorsement. The primary obstacle perceived in implementing sexuality education is the reluctance of some parents to have the subject taught in schools, with the prevention of sexual abuse identified as the most significant benefit.

²³ Ilene S. Speizer, Mary Goodwin, Lisa Whittle, Maureen Clyde, and Jennifer Rogers, 'Dimensions of Child Sexual Abuse Before Age 15 in Three Central American Countries: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala', *Child Abuse & Neglect* 32:4 (2008): 458. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2007.03.026>.

²⁴ Michele R. Decker, Anita Raj and Jay G. Silverman, 'Sexual Violence against Adolescent Girls: Influences of Immigration and Acculturation', *Violence Against Women* 13:5 (2007): 501-502.

²⁵ Shumaira Rahim, Caitlin Bourgaize, Majid Khan, Laurie Matthew, and Ian Barron, *op.cit.*

Additionally, effective pre-service and in-service teacher training programs are essential to ensure the delivery of high-quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). Consequently, addressing the challenge lies in developing scientifically accurate, age-appropriate, and culturally relevant CSE programs and identifying suitable methods for their successful implementation in Pakistan.²⁶

Child sexual abuse remains a relatively overlooked and unexplored form of maltreatment in Pakistan, as people are hesitant to confront a multitude of associated issues. Nonetheless, incidents of child sexual abuse have been prevalent in Pakistan since the country's inception in 1947, leading to enduring consequences for both the victims and society. Despite the existence of child sexual abuse within Pakistani society, it continues to be a taboo subject. While discussions about sex are permissible, addressing matters related to sexuality is deemed immoral in Pakistan. The number of survivors of child sexual abuse is steadily increasing, and between January 2010 and December 2016, a total of 21,760 cases of child sexual abuse were reported.²⁷

However, the existing evidence on CSA in a broad sense can be connected to intrafamilial child sexual abuse specifically, although its precise relevance or lack thereof to the latter phenomenon is not immediately evident. Many aspects of this evidence are also applicable to the context in Zimbabwe. For instance, factors such as poverty, armed conflicts, and the disintegration of family and social networks are frequently cited as contributing factors to the emergence of child labor, child trafficking, child prostitution, and child pornography.²⁸

In cases of domestic sexual abuse, the most prevalent form involved touching and penetration of the sex organs. Approximately one-third of the victims experienced violence and threats. Most victims (90.2%) delayed reporting the abuse due to fear, shame, and the belief that they wouldn't be believed. Moreover, the initial disclosure was typically made to a family member. The utilization of forensics in the reporting process stood at 25.3%, and mental health deterioration was observed in 53.7% of cases. Notably, 31.5% of cases refrained from making a legal

²⁶ Amina Nadeem, Maryam Khalid Cheema, and Sheharyar Zameer, 'Perceptions of Muslim Parents and Teachers Towards Sex Education in Pakistan', *Sex Education* 21:1 (2021), 18.

²⁷ Muhammad Abdullah Avais, Hamida Narijo, and Mike Parker, *op.cit.*, 214.

²⁸ Anthony Shuko Musiwa, 'Addressing Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse: Lessons from the Victim-Friendly Court in Marondera District, Zimbabwe', *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 37:2 (2019), 209.

complaint against the perpetrator, citing reasons such as affection or protection for the perpetrator and a desire to preserve family integrity.²⁹

A subtle inclination towards increased domestic violence within the household was observed when the accused perpetrator of sexual abuse was a relative or a member of the patient's household. However, no statistically significant distinction in exposure to domestic violence was identified based on the status of the perpetrator. Among mothers, 28% disclosed personal encounters with physical abuse, and 42% reported experiences of sexual abuse during their own childhood. Notably, there were no noteworthy variations in maternal experiences of sexual or physical abuse, irrespective of whether the abuser of their child was a relative, non-relative, household member, or non-household member.³⁰

Instances of most incidents of DCSA frequently remain undisclosed and unacknowledged. While female sexual abuse remains prevalent, it is more readily recognized and screened for in Bangladesh, resulting in a higher reporting rate. Conversely, societal gender norms in Bangladesh foster self-reliance in men and boys, making boys more hesitant to seek support when subjected to DCSA. This reluctance contributes to a persistent underestimation of the issue of male abuse in the country. Although available data indicates a significant rise in the abuse of male children in Bangladesh in recent years, leading to increased reporting, insights from both Key Informant Interviews and secondary sources suggest that boys often experience greater confusion about the abuse. They may be uncertain about whether engaging in sexual acts with an older person constitutes abuse due to visible physiological responses, emotional grooming by the abuser, and societal perspectives that view such interactions with someone not significantly older as a neutral or even positive experience, rather than a potentially traumatic one.³¹

Hypothesis

The scale of childhood sexual abuse inside the premises of homes is higher than the abuse happened outside.

²⁹ Nilüfer Koçtürk, and Fadime Yüksel, 'Characteristics of Victims and Perpetrators of Intrafamilial Sexual Abuse', *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 96 (2019), 6.

³⁰ Kathryn Bowen, 'Child Abuse and Domestic Violence in Families of Children Seen for Suspected Sexual Abuse', *Clinical Pediatrics* 39:1 (2000), 36.

³¹ Sanzida Akhter, *A Research Roadmap for the Way Forward: Intrafamilial Sexual Abuse in Bangladesh* (Dhaka: Share-Net Bangladesh, 2020), 42.

Research Methodology

The Grounded theory approach was utilized. This methodology seeks to obtain theory from systematic data.³² This approach was used to know about the prevalence of CSA by carrying out a survey in higher education institutions of two major cities of province Sindh: Hyderabad, and Karachi. The survey was conducted due to unreliable data on CSA and unavailability of data on DCSA. The purpose of the survey was to identify potential key respondents for an in-depth interview to be conducted later. In this quantitative part respondents were asked about their knowledge regarding laws on CSA and if they had experienced any act of molestation, sexual abuse, or non-physical verbal sexual attempt in their childhood by a person who was an adult.

Research Design

Data collection: An informed verbal consent was obtained from the respondents of the survey. Online consent was obtained again from each participant and those who agreed to fill in the online survey questionnaire. All the forms are saved on an encrypted cloud account with 256-bit password protection to avoid any unauthorized access to the data and information of the respondents.

Population: The survey was conducted in 7 different departments of two public sector universities in Karachi and Hyderabad. The estimated population of these 7 departments is around 9000 students.

Sampling: The sample size was calculated using calculator.net sample size calculator with a confidence level of 95%, margin of error at 5%, and population size 9000. This means 369 or more measurements/surveys are needed to have a confidence level of 95% that the real value is within $\pm 5\%$ of the measured/surveyed value.

A total of 657 students were approached and briefed about the research topic in both universities. Out of which 369 students filled in the online form. 5 of the 369 respondents changed their mind during filling the online form and disagreed to participate in the survey any further. A total of 364 respondents participated in the quantitative survey.

³² Devajit Mohajan, and Haradhan Kumar Mohajan, 'Classic Grounded Theory: A Qualitative Research on Human Behavior', *Studies in Social Science & Humanities*, 2:1 (2023), 1.

Data analysis techniques: Descriptive analysis and correlation analysis is used for this study.

Descriptive analysis: The study examines the characteristics of demographic variables by employing descriptive statistics for both demographic and study variables. Data related to demographic and study variables is visually presented through tables and charts. Additionally, descriptive statistics are used to analyze frequencies, percentages, and mean values. The SPSS 28 package is utilized for this purpose.

Correlation coefficient analysis: The Pearson correlation coefficient is a statistical method used to examine the direction, magnitude, and strength of the relationship or association between two quantitative, continuous variables. It is highly effective because it is based on the concept of covariance. Researchers often perform correlation coefficient analysis using SPSS 28.

Data Presentation

Table 1: Correlations CSA Victims with socio-economic variables

Correlations		CSA Victim	Age Group	Gender	City Village	Family Structure	Economic Status
CSA Victim	Pearson Correlation	1	.005	.096	-.061	.027	.055
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.927	.067	.246	.610	.293
	N	364	364	364	364	364	364

No significant correlation was found between those molested, their age group, gender, residence, family structure, and economic structure. The CSA has been prevalent in all strata of the society regardless of status and boundaries.

Table 2: Age ranges of respondents

Age Group	N	%
17 – 23	312	85.7%
24 – 30	37	10.2%
31 – 37	11	3.0%
38 – 43	3	0.8%
44 and Above	1	0.3%
Total:-	364	100%

The study included a total of 364 respondents who filled out a complete online survey form. 312 respondents belonged to the age group between

17 to 23. 37 respondents were between ages 24 to 30 followed by 11 respondents between 31 to 37 and 3 respondents between 38 to 43. 1 respondent was in the age group of higher than 44 years old.

Table 3: Number of CSA Victims

CSA Victim	N	%
No	255	70.1%
Yes	109	29.9%
Total:-	364	100%

Out of 364 respondents 109 reported to be victims of childhood sexual abuse which accounted for 29.9% of the total sample.

Table 4: Gender * CSA Victim Crosstabulation

CSA Victims		No	Yes	Total
Gender	Male	146	51	197
	Female	109	58	167
Total:-		255	109	364

Among 109 CSA victims there were a total of 58 female CSA victims and 51 male CSA victims. Around 35% of female respondents reported to have been CSA victims and almost 26% of male respondents were CSA victims.

Table 5: Place of CSA Victimization

	N	%
Not Abused	255	70.1%
Inside Home	64	17.6%
Outside Home	4	1.1%
Inside and Outside Home	41	11.3%
Total:-	364	100%

A total of 64 respondents reported to be abused inside their home and did not experience any act of CSA outside their homes. 4 respondents replied that they were abused only outside their home. 41 respondents stated that they were abused both inside and outside the premises of their homes.

Table 6: CSA Victimization place * Gender Cross tabulation

		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
CSA Victimization Place	Not Abused	146	109	255
	Inside Home	31	33	64
	Outside Home	1	3	4
	Inside and Outside Home	19	22	41
Total:-		197	167	364

Table 6 explains that 31 of the male respondents were abused inside their home, 19 reported to have been abused in both inside and outside of their homes and 1 male respondent reported to have been abused only outside the home. Whereas 33 of the female respondents were abused inside their home, 22 reported to have been abused in both inside and outside of their homes and 3 female respondent reported to have been abused only outside the home.

Table 7: CSA Victimization Place * City/Village Cross tabulation

		City/Village		Total
		Urban Area	Rural Area	
CSA Victimization Place	Not Abused	189	66	255
	Inside Home	51	13	64
	Outside Home	4	0	4
	Inside and Outside Home	32	9	41
Total:-		276	88	364

51 respondents living in urban areas reported to have been CSA victims inside their homes, 4 only outside the home and 32 in both inside and outside the home. Whereas 13 respondents from rural areas were recorded to be CSA victims inside their home and 9 inside and outside their homes. No respondent from rural areas reported to have been only abused outside the setting of home.

Table 8: CSA Victimization Place * Family Structure Cross tabulation

		Family Structure			Total
		Nuclear Family	Joint Family	Extended Family	
CSA Victimization Place	Not Abused	175	68	12	255
	Inside Home	49	12	3	64
	Outside Home	2	2	0	4
	Inside and Outside Home	21	17	3	41
Total:-		247	99	18	364

Table 8 indicated 49 CSA victims have lived in nuclear family and were abused inside their home. 2 of them were abused outside and 21 were abused both inside and outside their home. Out of 99 respondents who lived in a joint family 12 were abused inside their home, 2 outside their home and 17 in both inside and outside their home.

Table 9: Do you know any other CSA Victim

	N	%
No	221	60.7%
Yes	143	39.3%
Total:-	364	100%

All 364 respondents were asked if they knew anyone who had been a victim of CSA. 39.3% of respondents replied 'Yes' to this question which accounts for 143 CSA victims. Whereas 221 replied 'No' to this question.

**Table 8: CSA Victims * Do you know any CSA Victim * Gender
Cross tabulation**

Gender			Do you know any CSA Victim		Total
			No	Yes	
Male	CSA Victim	No	94	52	146
		Yes	21	30	51
	Total:-	115	82	197	
Female	CSA Victim	No	78	31	109
		Yes	28	30	58
	Total:-	106	61	167	
Total	CSA Victim	No	172	83	255
		Yes	49	60	109
	Total:-	221	143	364	

Among 197 male respondents 82 recorded 'Yes' to the question 'Do you know any CSA Victim'. Among these 82 respondents 30 were themselves CSA victims and 52 stated that they have not been CSA victims. While among 167 female respondents 61 recorded 'Yes' to the question 'Do you know any CSA Victim'. Among these 61 respondents 30 were themselves CSA victims and 31 stated that they have not been CSA victims.

Discussion

The study explored various demographic factors in relation to childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and aimed to distinguish any significant correlations

among them. A comprehensive review of existing literature was conducted to identify potential factors that may contribute to CSA. The study's objective was to investigate whether demographic factors such as age group, gender, residence, family structure, and economic status were correlated with CSA occurrence. However, the findings reveal a lack of significant correlation between CSA occurrence and these variables. This suggests that CSA exists across diverse societal strata without regard for traditional boundaries or economic and social status of any specific group. The results indicate that CSA can affect individuals from all walks of life, regardless of their demographic background. A comprehensive sample of 364 individuals participated in the study, having the largest representing age group between 17 to 23 (85.7%), with smaller cohorts in older age brackets. The sample was diverse and representative of the population, allowing for generalizable findings. The study's results have implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working to prevent CSA and support survivors. By recognizing that CSA can affect anyone, regardless of demographic factors, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all individuals. Interestingly, the distribution of CSA victims showed a relatively equal split between genders, with 58 (15.9%) female and 51 (14.0%) male victims among the respondents. This finding suggests that CSA affects both males and females in similar proportions, highlighting the need for support services and interventions that cater to both genders. However, the percentage of reported CSA victims was slightly higher among the total of female respondents (34.7%) compared to the total of male respondents (25.8%). This disparity may indicate that females are more likely to report CSA experiences in anonymized surveys and/or that, they are more vulnerable to abuse. Regarding the location of abuse, a notable portion of respondents (64) which accounts to be (17.6%) reported experiencing abuse exclusively within their homes. This finding underscores the importance of the home environment in CSA prevention and intervention strategies. A smaller number (4) at (1.1%) reported abuse solely outside of their homes, while a significant proportion (41) with a percentage of (11.3%) disclosed experiencing abuse both inside and outside their homes. This latter finding highlights the complexity of CSA experiences and the need for comprehensive support services that address multiple settings. Analysis by residential setting revealed a significant presence of CSA victims in both urban and rural areas. However, the data showed a notable difference in the location of abuse between urban and rural respondents. A majority of urban respondents (51) reported experiencing abuse within their homes, whereas a smaller number of rural respondents (13) reported similar experiences. Further analysis revealed that economic status played

a role in CSA victimization. The distribution of CSA victims varied across economic classes, with a higher number of middle-class respondents reporting abuse within their homes compared to lower or upper-class respondents. This finding suggests that economic factors may contribute to CSA risk and vulnerability. However, statistical analysis ruled out any significant correlations between two. Family structure was also an important factor in CSA experiences. A considerable number of CSA victims living in nuclear families (49) reported abuse within their homes, while joint-family respondents (12) also reported similar experiences. These findings highlight the importance of considering family dynamics and relationships in CSA prevention and intervention strategies.

The study further examined respondents' awareness of CSA within their social circles, which provided significant results. Approximately 39.3% of respondents reported knowing someone who had been a victim of CSA, indicating a widespread prevalence of CSA within the broader social context. A notable finding emerged when analyzing male respondents' awareness of CSA. A significant portion (82) reported knowing a CSA victim, with a subset of these individuals (30) also identifying as CSA victims themselves. This overlap suggests that male respondents who experienced CSA were more likely to be aware of others who had also been victimized. Similarly, among female respondents, a notable percentage (61) reported awareness of CSA victims, with an equivalent subset (30) disclosing personal experiences of CSA. These findings highlight the importance of social networks and personal experiences in shaping awareness and understanding of CSA.

These findings show the complex, pervasive, and deeply entrenched nature of CSA within various social contexts and demographic backgrounds. These emphasize the imperative for sustained research, awareness, and intervention efforts to combat this critical and widespread social issue. The submission of CSA by respondents in the research, coupled with the significant proportion of individuals who knew someone affected by CSA, highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle this socially rooted evil. This should involve education, community engagement, and support services tailored to diverse demographic contexts. Ultimately, fostering a safer and more supportive environment for all individuals requires a collective effort to prevent CSA, support survivors, and promote healing and justice.

Conclusion

The findings of this study highlight the increased prevalence of CSA within domestic and familial settings. Despite comprehensive

investigation, no significant correlations emerged between CSA victimization and various demographic factors, indicating its occurrence across diverse socio-economic contexts. Moreover, the research emphasizes an increased susceptibility of female children to CSA compared to males. The reported victimization rate of 29.9% highlights the necessity of considering potential underreporting in online anonymous surveys, suggesting that the actual prevalence may be higher. This signifies the urgent need for sophisticated methodologies to grasp the true scope of CSA. Additionally, the study identifies the concerning reality that perpetrators frequently have unsupervised access to children within supposedly secure home environments, raising significant concerns for child protection strategies.