

# A Study on the Socio-demographic Outline of the Victims of Child Sexual Abuse in India

Dr. Jyoti Angris

Assistant Professor, School of legal studies, RIMT University, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab, India

Correspondence should be addressed to Dr. Jyoti Angris; [jyotiengrish@rimt.ac.in](mailto:jyotiengrish@rimt.ac.in)

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**ABSTRACT-** Child sexual assault is a severe violation of human rights and the worst kind of child maltreatment. Child sexual abuse is a threat to public health and not just a private problem, but also has long-term psychological consequences for children in adolescence and adulthood. It was the main aim of this article, not to critically assess each study, rather than perform a systems analysis of the socio-demographic profile of victims, and to systematically examine the existing literature. Age data, etc., comprised of secondary sources like journal publications, government documents and media articles, which are part of the socio-demographic factors. The scientists investigated children's sexual assault predictors. Children's sexual abuse was very prevalent in most major areas included in the research. A frequent misconception amongst criminals is that sex with minors will cure them of HIV (Human immunodeficiency viruses). This article has thus looked at the socio-demographic profile of child sex abuse studies published in the past decade. Initially, the research was confined to women victims of child sexual abuse, but it has been extended to include men who are as susceptible to sexual abuse.

**KEYWORDS-** Child, Family, India, Sexual, Victim.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates society's laws or social taboo." Clinical observations on difficulties related with child sexual abuse, such as depression, sexual dysfunctions, and low self-esteem, abound in the literature on child sexual abuse[1].

Further research has revealed that sexual assault has a negative impact on both psychological and physical health. In his book 'A fifty-year legacy to child abuse and neglect,' Kempe underlined this as "another hidden paediatric problem" on child sexual abuse[2]. The historical viewpoint highlights the fact that there was no research or public knowledge of sexual abuse of children in the years following World War I, despite the fact that sexual offenders were occasionally prosecuted in criminal courts involving minors[3].

Abuse, particularly in typical loving families, was assumed to be uncommon in the community, with its occurrence

concentrated in the lower socioeconomic strata[4]. Adults have a tendency to trust other adults in sexual matters while mistrusting minors. According to research, a significant proportion of children are sexually assaulted by family members, friends, and acquaintances; however, the ratio of sexual abuse by family members is significantly greater.

The Indian constitution provides all children in the country fundamental human rights and allows the government to create specific provisions for them[5]. The Directive Principles of Public Policy enable the nation protect children from neglect and abuse by ensuring that they have access to opportunities and facilities for healthy growth in an environment of equality and dignity[6].

The state is responsible for ensuring that children's early development is protected from emotional and physical abuse (Social Statistics Division Central Statistics Office & Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Government of India, 2018)[7]. India's government established the "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)" law in 2012 as a result of rising public awareness and activism surrounding child protection[8].

This law makes it illegal to abuse, attack, or traffic a child under the age of 18 for the purpose of pornography, and it mandates the creation of special courts to expedite the prosecution of these offences CSA is a long-standing and deeply rooted social problem in India, and child trafficking for commercial sexual abuse has surfaced as a key issue for politicians, despite the law's passage.

India is also home to the vast majority of exploited children in the world (Carson et al., 2013). Child sexual abuse is thought to be the outcome of a complex interplay of individual and environment elements, needing the long-term deployment of a wide range of prevention interventions. CSA is less common than child physical violence and neglect, according to both retrospective studies and government reports.

However, the true prevalence of child sexual exploitation is unknown, as the majority of CSA instances tend to be either not disclosed during childhood or not reported to authorities. Although retrospective surveys provide additional information, there is evidence that "survey aversion" and inefficient questioning practises may lead to underreporting by former adult CSA victims.

**A. Socio- demographic profile of the victims:**

The proportion of children (1 in 5) who are sexually solicited while using the internet, as well as the significant number of victims who never report sexual harassment from within and outside their homes, may be underestimated. The number of youngsters that do not report could be anything from 30% to 87 percent[9].

Meanwhile, only conscious memories are counted, and the first sexual abuse of children is nearly never recalled, except in psychotherapy. As a result, these molestation estimates are typically only a quarter of the genuine rates

The enormous numbers of sexual abuse in India are explained in part by socio-cultural and family factors. Poverty, illiteracy, child abandonment, underreporting, and cultural views and behaviours about parental rights and methods are all contributing issues.

The threat is exacerbated by parents who believe that their children are their personal property and that their children's rights and decisions are solely theirs. Age, gender, socioeconomic position, and location of child sexual abuse victims are among the socio-demographic characteristics examined in this study. Table 1 displays the locations where certain types of incidents have occurred.

Table 1: Place of Incidence Where That Types of Incidence Occurs.

Place of Incidence	Frequency
Accused home	71
Victim home	30
Roadside	10
Forest	16
Retented Room	8
Fields	8
Different Places	3
Coaching Room	2
School	2
Hotel	11
Guest House	7
Car	3

Figure 1 depicts the location of an incident where that type of incident occurred. The residence of the accused was the most prevalent place of assault in 71 cases, followed by the

house of the victim in 30, fields/jungles in 16, and the roadside in ten.

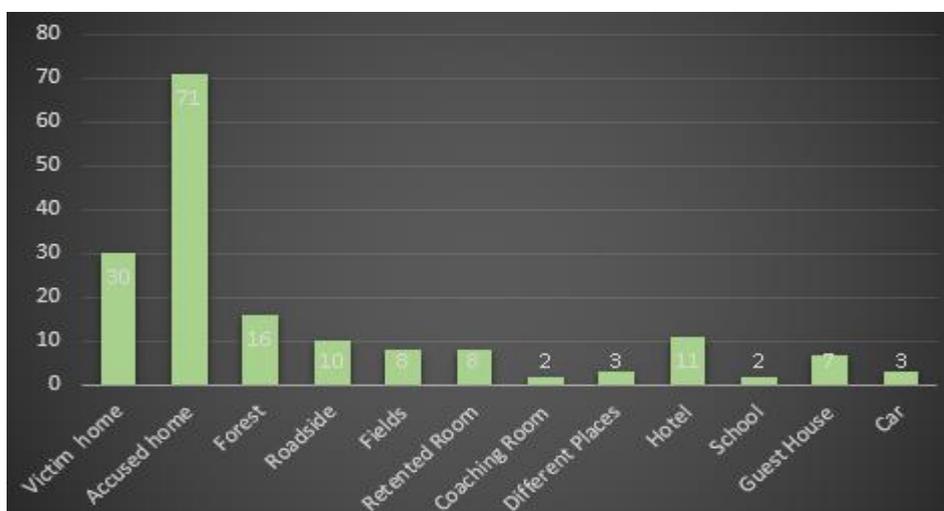


Figure 1: Bar Graph of Place of Incidence Where That Types of Incidence Occurs.

**B. Age of the victim:**

In India, a child under the age of 16 is raped every 155th minute, a kid under the age of 10 every 13th hour, and one out of every ten children is sexually assaulted at any one

moment. While children of all ages are frequently subjected to various forms of sexual abuse, after menarche, the rates of sexual abuse seems to rise. Table 2 illustrates the sociodemographic profile of sexual assault victims by age from the year 20.13 to 2016.

Table 2: Socio Demographic Profile of Sexual Assault Victims in the Year between 20.13 to the Year 2016 by Age.

Age Group	Frequency
0 to 5	10
6 to 10	24
11 to 15	62
16 to 18	88

Figure 2 depicts the socio-demographic characteristics of sexual assault victims by age from the year 20.13 to 2016. The most vulnerable age group was 16-18 years, with an incidence rate of 88, followed by 11-15 years, with an

incidence rate of 62, 6-10 years, with an incidence rate of 24, and 0-5 years, with an incidence rate of 10. Hindus were the majority of the victims, followed by Muslims.

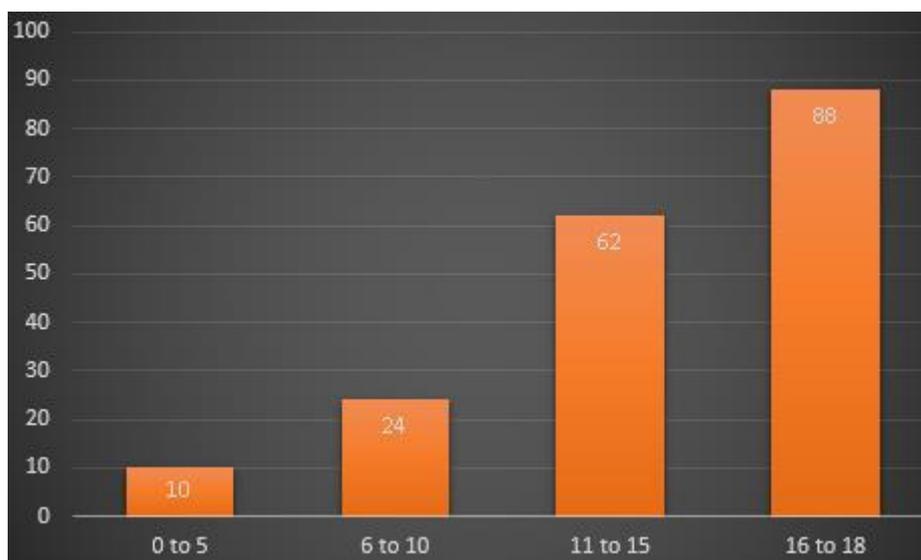


Figure 2: Bar Graph of the socio demographic profile of sexual assault victims in the year between 20.13 to the year 2016 by age

The first research on CSA in India was undertaken in 1998 by Recovery and Healing from Incest, an Indian non-governmental organisation (NGO). The majority of those polled (76%) admitted to being mistreated as children or teens (Singh et al., 2014). Sharma and Gupta reported that the youngest girl who had been sexually molested was only two years old in a research done in Chandigarh, India.

In a 2015 survey in India performed by Deb, roughly 45.8% of participants stated they had been sexually molested between the ages of 14 and 17, while 37.5 percent indicated they had been assaulted between the ages of 10 and 13. The remaining 16.7% were sexually molested between the ages of 6 and 9, when they were extremely young.

**C. Gender of the victim:**

In India, particularly in rural regions, girls face

discrimination in terms of education, nutrition, and medical treatment; they are more prone to undergo infanticide; and they are frequently considered as a family burden. Furthermore, boy children are frequently revered and favoured in Indian households, and boy children benefit from what their parents have to offer. Female children are more likely than boys to be sexually harassed and exploited as a result of all of these variables. Table 3 depicts the socio-demographic profile of sexual assault victims from the year 20.13 to 2016.

Table 3: Socio Demographic Profile of Sexual Assault Victims in the Year between 20.13 to the Year 2016.

Category	Percentage
Male	2.75
Female	95.6
Not Mentioned	1.74

Figure 3 depicts the socioeconomic profile of sexual assault victims from the year 20.13 to 2016. Between 2013 and 2016, 181 cases of child sexual abuse were

investigated for this study. 95.60 percent of the 181 incidents included female sexual assault, while 2.75 percent involved male sexual assault.

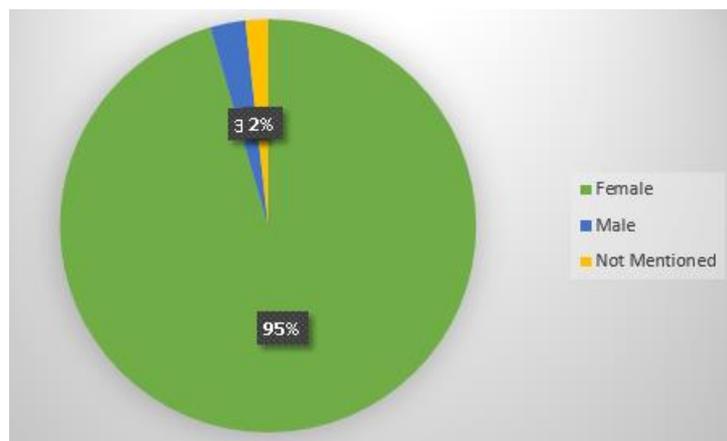


Figure 3: Bar Graph of the Socio Demographic Profile of Sexual Assault Victims in the Year between 20.13 to the Year 2016

In 2007, the Ministry of Women and Child Development in India conducted a report that covered 13 states. According to the report, almost 21% of the participants had been subjected to serious types of sexual abuse. 57.3 percent of the participants who reported being victimised were boys, 42.7 percent were girls, and about 40 percent were 5–12 years old. Other types of sexual harassment were experienced by around half of the participants.

The overall prevalence of CSA is high in both genders, though studies show that girls are more susceptible than boys. Because of a lack of documentation and transparency, CSA research has received little attention in India. Despite the fact that sexual harassment of women has received a lot of coverage, there is a scarcity of information on CSA in India.

**D. Socio-economic status of the victim:**

CSA is frequently associated with poverty, yet it can also be present in wealthier communities of many religious and cultural backgrounds. India is shifting away from joint to nuclear households, with both parents working, in order to satisfy rising financial demands. As a result, young children are frequently left alone or compelled to commit their care to daycare facilities.

As a result, young children are far more susceptible to abuse (Srivastava et al., 2017). Children on the street, children at work, and children in institutions were also shown to have the greatest rates of child sexual abuse.

**E. State wise reports of csa:**

In 2010, Karnataka recorded 107 occurrences of child rape, 125 cases of kidnapping and abduction, and 21 incidents of procuring young females; by 2012, those figures had climbed to 142, 471, and 45, respectively. In 2012, Bengaluru, Karnataka, was responsible for 26.76 percent of all reported sexual assaults. There were around 27 instances reported in 2010, which grew to 47 in 2011. According to statistics, around 2,000 school-aged children have been sexually molested in Bengaluru. In 2012, Bangalore City Police received 38 reports of rape, followed by 34 in 2013, and 47 in 2011. Between April 2011 and March 2012, 157 cases of CSA were reported in Kerala, according to records. Around 73.3 percent of those polled reported they were drugged and sold to brothels in big cities including Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, and Kolkata, where they were raped. Others claimed they fled their hometowns in search of better career possibilities in larger cities, only to find trapped in a cycle of violence [10,11].

**F. P3erpetrator of sexual abuse:**

In India, the male gender is dominating, making girls even more susceptible. Furthermore, many in rural regions have a prevalent misunderstanding that people with sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, can get rid of their problem by having sexual contact with a little child. As a result, many adults' tendency to financially and sexually abuse children raises the risk of child trafficking and sexual exploitation, especially in an environment

marked by overpopulation, poverty, low-paying jobs, illiteracy, a lack of educational opportunities, a general lack of promotion of children's rights, and limitations on children's life chances(12–17) due to poor education (Deb,2015). The bulk of sexual abuse instances occur in the home, with the perpetrators being close family members, according to the findings.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are various researches and research on the topic Sociodemographic Profile of the Victims of Child Sexual Abuse in India .The few of researches and research are given: Vikas Choudhry et al. studies The CSA is both a human rights concern and a public health threat. We conducted a systematic review of quantitative and qualitative studies on CSA published in India in the last decade to examine the distribution of prevalence estimates for both genders, improve understanding of the determinants and consequences of CSA, and identify gaps in the current state of research[18].

Chowdhuri Soumeek et al. studies to cope with situations of child sexual abuse, the government passed the "Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act" in 2012. It was judged important in this case to do research into the socio demographic profile of people charged with assault under this provision. The Shapiro Wilk test and the Q-Q plot demonstrated that the population's age was evenly distributed. On average, the accused were 28.62 years old. The ages of the participants ranged from 13 to 64[19].

## III. DISCUSSION

The Sociodemographic Profile of Child Sexual Abuse Victims in India is the subject of this paper. Rather than critically evaluating each study, the major purpose of this research was to undertake a systematic analysis of the sociodemographic profile of victims and to present a systematic overview of the relevant literature. Age and other sociodemographic data were used in the writing of this research. Secondary sources were used to compile the data, which included journal papers, government reports, and media pieces. The researchers looked into the factors that predict child sexual abuse. Because the majority of the individuals interviewed had been assaulted as children and adolescents, age was a key indicator of sexual abuse. In the majority of research, girls were subjected to more sexual abuse than boys. Although poverty is a powerful predictor of sexual abuse, the breakup of joint families into nuclear families, as well as both parents working, puts children at risk of sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse was quite common in most of the major cities examined in the study. Offenders frequently believe that having sexual relations with youngsters can cure them of HIV/AIDS and STDs. As a result, this report looked at research on the sociodemographic profile of child sexual abuse published in the last decade.

## IV. CONCLUSION

This paper concludes that despite the implementation of the POCSO Act in 2012, child sexual abuse is a long-

standing and deeply rooted social problem. Thus, it is evident that child sexual exploitation is a serious problem in India. This paper concludes that shows the socio demographic profile of sexual assault victims in the year between 20.13 to the year 2016. Between 2013 and 2016, 181 incidents of childhood sexually abuse were investigated for this research. Out of 181 instances, 95.60 percent included women sexually abuse and 2.75 percent involved men's sexually assaults, as well as the location where it incidents occurred. The common site of assault was the house of accused in 71 cases followed by the house of victim in 30, fields / jungles in 16 and roadside in 10 cases. This broad reach reflects the understanding that forcing sexual intent on someone against their will, regardless of whether physical force is used or if contact or damage results, is intrinsically violent. These classifications also bring up the topic of consent, identifying persons who are unable to assent or refuse because of their age, disability, state of consciousness or intoxication, or fear of harming themselves or others. The study's scopes originally limited to female victims of child sexual abuse, but it was expanded to include male victims of sexual abuse, who are just as vulnerable.

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