Child Sexual Abuse: A Study on the Cases of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Professor Md. Omar Faruk, PhD
Md. Ishtiaq Ahmed Talukder, PhD
Mujib Ahammad Patwary, MPhil

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

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Research Team

Principal Investigator

Dr. Md. Omar Faruk
Professor & Chairman, Department of Criminology and Police Science
Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University
Tangail, Bangladesh

Co-Principal Investigator and Gender Expert

Dr. Md. Ishtiaq Ahmed Talukder
Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Police Science
Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University
Tangail, Bangladesh

Subject Mater Expert

Mr. Mujib Ahmmad Patwary, MPhil
Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police
Public Order Management (West) Division
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

Field Liaison Officer

Ms. Sanjida Afrin
Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police
Women Support And Investigation Division
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

Research Associate

Ms. Mahmuda Akter
Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology and Police Science
Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University
Tangail, Bangladesh

Research Assistant

1. **Mr. Kazi Aminul Islam**
   MSS in Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and
   Technology University, Tangail, Bangladesh
2. **Ms. Tomalika Paul**
   MSS in Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and
   Technology University, Tangail, Bangladesh

Facilitation and Monitoring Team

Chief Facilitator
Mr. Abul Hasnat Khan
Deputy Commissioner of Police
Planning, Research & Human Resource Development Division
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

Monitoring Officer
Mr. A K M Sazzadul Alam, PPM (Sheba)
Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police
Planning, Research & Human Resource Development Division
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

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Dr. Md. Omar Faruk
Professor & Chairman,
Department of Criminology and Police Science
Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University
Tangail, Bangladesh

Dated: Dhaka, November 2023

Preface

After completion of the one-year research project on 'Sexual Abuse: A Study on the Cases of Dhaka Metropolitan Police', this book is an outcome. The report was prepared by a seven-member research team consisting of university faculty members and post-graduate students of the Criminology & Police Science department from 'Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University' and expert police professionals of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. A strong facilitation and monitoring team consisting of two-members from the Planning, Research & Human Resource Development (PR&HRD) Division, Dhaka Metropolitan Police always facilitate the research team to accomplish this project.

This crucial exploration of a profoundly sensitive and pressing issue in our society: child sexual abuse. The following pages unveil a comprehensive study that delves into the challenges confronted by sexually abused children in their quest for justice and support services, with a specific focus on their interactions with law enforcement, particularly the police.

The objective of this study is to shed light on the motives behind these heinous crimes, the complexities inherent in the investigative process, and the role of law enforcement in addressing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). We emphasize that CSA is a pervasive issue demanding a multi-faceted approach to its resolution. The specific objectives and results of our investigation are outlined in detail for your clear understanding.

Our research integrates data from multiple sources, including victimization statistics, factor analysis, and the perspectives of children who have suffered from sexual violence, offering invaluable insights into the challenges they encounter during their

interactions with the police. This study focuses on the dynamics of CSA in Bangladesh, with particular attention to the vulnerabilities faced by young girls from lower socio-economic backgrounds and the urgent need for targeted interventions and support.

The research process involved surveys conducted among students from various educational institutions and street children using structured interview questionnaires. We meticulously selected a representative number of samples for this purpose. Additionally, we examined 25 CSA chargesheets from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to gain a deeper understanding of the issue. Chargesheet cases were selected at random, with 25 cases showing distinct patterns - some involving "signs of forceful sexual intercourse" observed by forensic examiners, while others exhibited "no signs of forceful sexual intercourse."

Furthermore, in-depth interviews were conducted with eight CSA victims. To enrich our findings, we also engaged with key informants from the criminal justice system, academia, and civil society, seeking their valuable perspectives. Lastly, we organized a workshop that brought together individuals from diverse professional backgrounds, including law enforcement, legal experts, psychologists, academics, and gender specialists, to generate structured and effective policy recommendations.

Based on the surveyed data, it is evident that a substantial number of individuals in the study experienced victimization. Shockingly, 45.3% reported experiencing sexual harassment as a form of abuse. The study further illustrates the distressing array of experiences faced by young victims, from "unwanted sexual touch" to "attempted rape," with an alarming number involving known offenders, often in the victims' homes.

Our analysis also unveils the motives behind these crimes, with sexual gratification as a dominant factor. The involvement of power rapists and sadistic rapists underscores the complex psychological factors influencing the perpetrators' behaviour, including a desire for control, dominance, and inflicting pain.

Key informant interviews (KII), largely comprising law enforcement professionals from DMP, reveal the disturbing range of CSA cases, spanning from molestation to rape. The victims, predominantly female children, often hail from impoverished and broken families, primarily residing in slum areas. Perpetrators, typically middle-aged males, are commonly involved in these cases.

As the book unfolds, it delves into the profound and lasting impact of these violent acts on the children. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) manifests in various ways, including dietary changes, eating disorders, insomnia, family dishonor, and self-blame. Many children tend to avoid places, situations, or triggers that remind them of the sexual violence they endured. The trauma experienced by CSA victims, particularly those below the age of 10, is severe, and they often face social stigmatization.

Access to justice is a major concern explored in this book, as many victims face daunting obstacles in seeking help from the police. The findings highlight both the promise and challenges within the justice system's response to child abuse in Bangladesh. Further insights emerge from the perceptions of respondents, educational institutions, and society at large. The roles of teachers, awareness campaigns, and changes in societal attitudes all play pivotal roles in addressing child sexual abuse.

In the final chapters, we delve into the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies and provide recommendations for effective

child protection mechanisms in Bangladesh. It is only through a collaborative approach involving families, educators, society, and the police that we can create a safer environment for children, prevent future instances of child sexual abuse, and ensure justice for survivors.

This book aims to be a comprehensive resource for understanding the challenges faced by sexually abused children in accessing justice and support services. We hope that the insights and recommendations provided will contribute to a more informed and compassionate response to this critical issue.

Thank you for taking the time to explore this critical issue with us.

Professor Dr. Md.Omar Faruk
Dr. Md. Ishtiaq Ahmed Talukder
Mujib Ahmmad Patwary, MPhil

Dated: Dhaka, November 2023

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASK	:	Ain o Salish Kendra
BP	:	Bangladesh Police
BSAF	:	Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum
CRA	:	Child Rescue Alert
CSA	:	Child Sexual Abuse
DMP	:	Dhaka Metropolitan Police
DNA	:	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
FIR	:	First Information Report
IICSA	:	Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse
IDI	:	In-Depth Interview
KII	:	Key Informant Interview
NCA	:	National Crime Agency
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
NPCC	:	National Police Chief's Council
NCPA	:	National Child Protection Authority
NCRB	:	National Crime Record Bureau
POCSO	:	Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences
PTSD	:	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
SOAC	:	Sexual Offenses Against Children
UK	:	United Kingdom
UN	:	United Nations

Chapter One

Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

Child sexual abuse is a grave problem that is prevalent across the world. In Bangladesh, it is a pervasive issue that has long-term effects on the physical, psychological, and emotional well-being of children. The country is grappling with a high incidence of child sexual abuse, which is perpetuated by cultural and societal norms, poverty, and lack of awareness. This report aims to explore the prevalence, causes, and consequences of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh. The report also examines the efforts made by the government, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to address the issue.

The prevalence of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh is alarming. A study conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in 2016 revealed that 82 percent of children in the country have experienced some form of violence. Out of these, 33 percent had experienced sexual violence, including rape, molestation, and sexual harassment. Another study conducted by the Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) in 2017 found that 3,295 children were raped, 2,537 were sexually assaulted, and 938 were victims of attempted rape in the country.

Child sexual abuse (CSA) in Bangladesh increased significantly before the inception of the Covid-19 Pandemic (The Business Standard, 2019) which transformed into new dimension during the covid period and kept occurring sporadically. The most alarming issue with this subject area is child murder and child rape, which already have attracted significant number of stakeholders at different levels.

Sexual abuse specifically child sexual abuse is considered as a burning issue for not only nationally but also internationally due to its widespread nature (Carson, Foster & Tripathi, 2013). Child of developing countries including Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka are more vulnerable than developed countries especially child is at higher risk to sexual abuse (Rai, 2016). Child sexual abuse is an activity which purpose is to provide sexual pleasure, sexual gratification to adults by kissing, talking about sexuality implicit matters to a child and tempting a child in sexual acts of any kind (Islam & Akter, 2016; Castro, Ibanez, Meta, & Esteban,2019). Another study defined child sexual abuse as the misuse of power and authority including force or coercion that bump up the exploitation of children (Carson, Foster & Tripathi, 2013). It does not necessary that physical contact will always be involved between victim and perpetrator as many children are found to be abused through technology like Facebook, YouTube etc. Some individual's characteristics including low self-esteem, social loneliness and insecure attachment are responsible for generating child vulnerability for sexual exploitation (Ireland & et.al., 2015).

The BSAF report (2013) further revealed that the age group most vulnerable to sexual abuse is between 7-12 years. Boys and girls are equally susceptible to abuse, with the majority of perpetrators being acquaintances or family members. Several factors contribute to the high incidence of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh. Poverty, illiteracy, and cultural norms are some of the primary causes (Talukder, Akter and Bakul, 2015). Children from poor families are particularly vulnerable to abuse as they are often forced to work in hazardous conditions or engage in illegal activities to earn a living. Illiteracy is also a contributing factor as

parents are often unaware of their child's rights and fail to recognize the signs of abuse.

Cultural norms in Bangladesh are also a significant area of concern which still propagates the patriarchal system, society places a high value on family honour and considers sexual abuse a taboo topic. As a result, many cases of abuse go unreported, and victims are often blamed for bringing shame to their families. Additionally, the lack of sex education and awareness campaigns on child sexual abuse leaves children vulnerable to exploitation.

Child sexual abuse has severe and long-lasting consequences for the victims. However, the psychological consequences are often more severe and can last a lifetime. Victims of sexual abuse may suffer from anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health problems. They may also have difficulty forming relationships, trust issues, and low self-esteem. The physical consequences of abuse can include sexually transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies, and physical injuries. Victims may also suffer from chronic pain and other physical health problems. Moreover, child sexual abuse also has societal consequences. It undermines the development of children and perpetuates the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and gender inequality. Victims of sexual abuse are more likely to drop out of school, have lower academic achievements, and have limited opportunities for employment.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The following objectives have been designed for the study:

1. To identify existing forms, factors and nature of child sexual abuse.

2. To determine the effects and the consequences of the various forms of violent acts against children, their families and the community at large.
3. To identify the constraints or challenges in access to justice.
4. To inform the Public-Private mechanisms to prevent the child sexual abuse.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The focus of this study is on a few crucial components of child abuse. Additionally, it highlights recent cases of child abuse so that the general public can understand the grave reality and distressing state of harmed children. In light of this, the researcher examines the reality and worsening situation (social, psychological, and physiological) of abused children and suggest some doable measures to help them shed the shadow of their cursed existence. The results of research may help to lessen society's callous attitude toward abused children. Only when all responsible parties step forward, reach their gentle hands to the abused children, grasp the inner worth of the children, and are aware of the scope and character of the problem can such concerned parties' step forward to be involved in the process of solving it. And it's only achievable after a thorough investigation into the nature and cause of the issue. Only then, with the aid of the paper's results and condensed information, would the proper massage be sent to the affected bodies. The results of this study may be helpful, and it is to be anticipated that they will provide the concerned citizens of our nation, NGOs, and law enforcement authorities with an estimate regarding the pattern of child abuse and its effects on children's lives. Additionally, for the benefit of the abused children, the government and non-governmental organizations would implement a number of welfare and legal plans and activities.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Child sexual abuse is a serious and complex problem affecting children worldwide, and Bangladesh is no exception. Bangladesh was placed 110th out of 182 nations in the Kids Rights Index 2021 for how well children's rights are upheld, up from 108th in the pre-pandemic period. Given the substantial rise in child rape and online harassment throughout the COVID-19 era, it is likely that the issue is becoming worse. According to reports from the Bangladeshi legal aid and human rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 6,514 children—including 705 victims who were six years old or younger—experienced some form of violence between 2016 and 2020 in Bangladesh, but only 3,237 of those victims sought legal assistance(ASK, 2021).

Ahmed and Khanam (2020) conducted a systematic review of the literature on child sexual abuse in Bangladesh and found that the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh ranged from 3.3% to 41.5%. They also found that girls were more likely to be victims of sexual abuse than boys, and that most perpetrators were known to the victims. These findings suggest that child sexual abuse is a widespread problem in Bangladesh, with girls being particularly vulnerable.

Alam et. al. (2021) conducted a situational analysis of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh, and found that poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms that prioritize male dominance and silence on issues related to sexuality were key risk factors for child sexual abuse. They also found that child sexual abuse had

serious consequences for the physical and mental health of victims, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition, they noted that the response to child sexual abuse in Bangladesh was inadequate, with limited access to support services and low levels of reporting.

These findings highlight the urgent need for action to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse in Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka Metropolitan Area. Effective prevention strategies should address the root causes of child sexual abuse, including poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms that condone or silence sexual abuse. Prevention efforts should also focus on empowering children to recognize and report sexual abuse, as well as educating parents, caregivers, and community leaders about the importance of protecting children from sexual abuse. In addition, efforts to respond to child sexual abuse should be strengthened, including improving access to support services for victims and their families, as well as strengthening the legal framework to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. Law enforcement agencies should also be trained to handle cases of child sexual abuse in a sensitive and effective manner.

To further expand on the literature review section, it is important to note that child sexual abuse is a complex issue that is influenced by a variety of factors, including cultural and social norms, economic disparities, and political systems. In Bangladesh, cultural norms that prioritize male dominance and silence on issues related to sexuality have contributed to a lack of awareness and understanding of child sexual abuse, as well as limited access to support services for victims and their families.

Moreover, poverty and lack of education are key risk factors for child sexual abuse in Bangladesh, particularly in urban areas

like Dhaka Metropolitan Area. Children from low-income families are more likely to be at risk of sexual abuse, as they may be forced to work in hazardous conditions, lack access to education and healthcare, and live in overcrowded and unsafe environments. In addition, the high levels of population density in urban areas, including Dhaka Metropolitan Area, can exacerbate the risk of sexual abuse, as perpetrators may find it easier to exploit vulnerable children in crowded and chaotic environments.

To address these complex issues, it is important to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to prevention and response, which includes a range of stakeholders, including government, civil society organizations, community leaders, parents, and children themselves. Effective prevention strategies should include measures to empower children to recognize and report sexual abuse, as well as to educate parents, caregivers, and community leaders about the importance of protecting children from sexual abuse.

In addition, efforts to strengthen the response to child sexual abuse should include improving access to support services for victims and their families, as well as strengthening the legal framework to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. Law enforcement agencies should also be trained to handle cases of child sexual abuse in a sensitive and effective manner, with a focus on protecting the rights and dignity of the victims. By adopting a multidisciplinary approach and working collaboratively across sectors and stakeholders, it is possible to address this complex issue and ensure that children are protected from sexual abuse and exploitation.

In this literature review, we examine the prevalence, risk factors, consequences, and response to child sexual abuse in

Bangladesh, with a focus on Dhaka Metropolitan Area. As Dhaka is the busiest city in this country, safety and security among all individuals are very challenging to ensure for the law enforcement officials. Recently educational institutions are considered as the most prominent place of child sexual abuse. Girls including boys become the victim of child sexual abuse frequently. Commercial child sexual exploitation is another new term which has become acute problem for Bangladesh where children are sexually exploited and treated as commercial subjects employing them as child labour and slave for earning money.

In conclusion, child sexual abuse is a serious problem in Bangladesh, with significant consequences for the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of victims. Effective prevention and response strategies are urgently needed to address this issue, and to ensure that children are protected from sexual abuse and exploitation.

2.2 Nature of Child Sexual Abuse around the World

There are many forms of child sexual abuses found to be occurred globally such as sexual exploitation, pornography, femicide, child rape, child prostitutions, and sexual exploitation as child marriage, exploitation as homosexual partner, sexual abuse by clergy or authority etc. Girls are found to be more sexually abused than boys in Europe.

2.2.1 Statistical Evidence of Sexual Offences against Children in Europe

A study conducted on Europe including Switzerland, Sweden, Georgia, France showed a percentage change in case of penetrative abuse. For females, rates for penetrative abuse range from 2.9% to 10.5% in Sweden; 3% in UK; 4.9% in

Turkey; 5.6% in Ireland; 7.8% in Greenland. For males, rates for penetrative abuse range from 0.6% and 5.5% in Sweden; 1% in UK; 2.7% in Ireland; and 3.2% in Greenland (Lalor & McElvaney, 2010). In Denmark, 15.8% girls and 6.7% boys reported sexual experience before the age of 15 (Helweg-Larson and Larson, 2006; Tabassum, 2021). The rate of child sexual abuse is also high in Finland, and this is stated by a study conducted in 2017 on 405 children where it is found that 96% of the girls having been experience of sexually abused (Sariola & Uitela, 1994). Netherlands is holding the top most position for child pornography and child prostitution. In USA, according to the estimation by world health organization approximately 40 million children are abused each year around the world. In 2018, the number URL containing CSA materials were 47% which increased to 71% in 2019 that shows double increased rates (Independent Women's Forum, 2019).

2.2.2 Statistical Evidence of Sexual Offences against Children in England and Wales
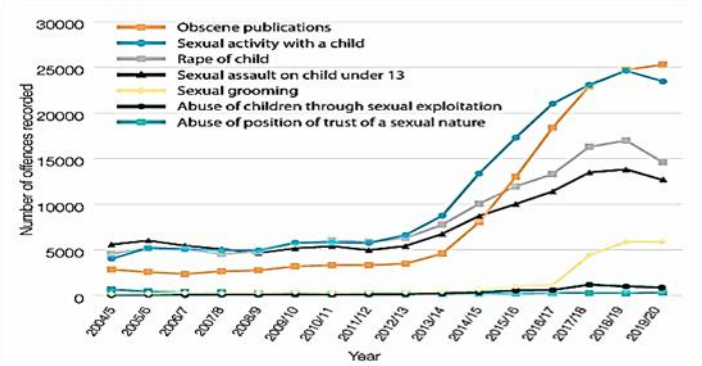
Source: Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), Annual Report 2022

Figure 2.1: Police Recorded Child Sexual Abuses in England and Wales

Police data from 2004-5 to 2019-20, which reveals generally steady levels of recording of child sexual abuse offenses in the mid–2000s, was made public as part of the UK government's Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy (2021). The findings show a sharp rise in registered infractions beginning in 2012. The graph's data for the years 2018–19 and later appear to show a more recent drop-in criminal activity connected to some offenses involving child sexual abuse, like rape and sexual assault of a kid under 13. The Inquiry has nonetheless received complaints of tens of thousands of crimes involving child sexual abuse, as indicated in Figure 2.4 violations involving indecent pictures, which are classified in the graph as "obscene publications" violations, have increased significantly in particular (IICSA, 2022).

Source: Department for Education (2022a: Tables A4 and A5, year ending 31 March 2022). Chart excludes a small number of children whose age was not recorded.
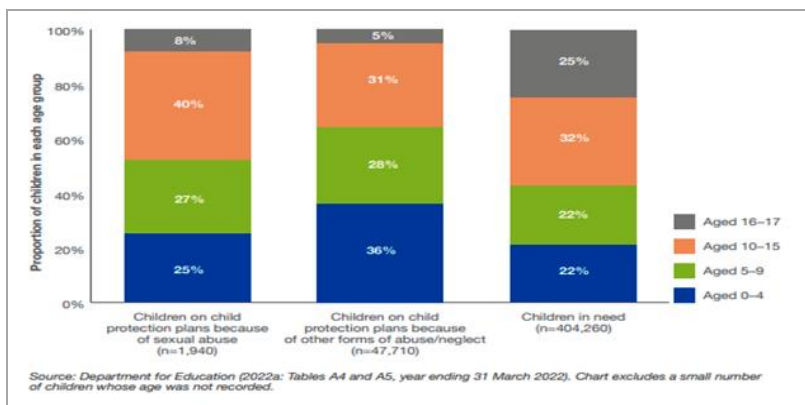
Figure 2.2: Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation Identified during Assessments by Local Authority Children's Services, 2015/16–2020/21, England

Children in England who were the subject of a child protection plan for sexual abuse on March 31 were less likely to be under five and more likely to be older than ten years old than those on a protection plan for other types of abuse or neglect. The

127 children in Wales who were included on the child protection register in the principal category of sexual assault during the years of 2021/22 had a mostly similar age distribution but were considerably more likely to be 10 or older: In terms of age, 24% were 0-4, 23% were 5-9, 46% were 10-15, and 8% were 16-17 (CSA, Uk-2021).

Preventing CSA in England: Even while more than ever about child sexual abuse is known in England, a sizable fraction is still unreported. The most frequent place of abuse, according to victims and survivors, is one's own or another person's home, but this is rarely acknowledged and is veiled in taboo. National Crime Agency of UK (2018) suggests the following initiatives to combat CSA: Improving the quality of missing person's data that police can access, delivered as part of the new Law Enforcement Data Service; Improving the effectiveness and reach of the Child Rescue Alert (CRA), delivered by the NCA on behalf of UK policing. Working with the NPCC lead for missing persons to support effective, risk-based police responses to missing children's incidents. When there is a genuine, urgent risk to a missing kid's life, the police, media, and the general public work together through the kid Recovery Act (CRA) to find the child safely; assisting the non-profit sector in providing crucial assistance to missing children at risk of abuse and exploitation, such as Missing People's 24/7 helpline, Test Safe, and Safe Call (supporting children, young people and families concerned about county lines exploitation) services.

2.2.3 Statistics of Sexual Offences against Children in South Africa

Child sexual abuse more specifically child rape including the offences of pornography and indecent exposure is also a severe

problem for South Africa experienced with highest number of rapes revealed by a study conducted in 2006. 41% children of all child victims are rape victims where 15% of all reported victims of rape are children under 11, and another 26% children aged 12-17 (Andrade & et.al, 2007). The most common form of child sexual abuse was sexual assault by a known adult and forced exposure to pornography. Boys having problematic personal life including divorced, separated, widowed parents and unemployed father are related with child sexual abusive incidents. Their victimization is not associated with family income and parental education (Chan et.al., 2013). Another common child sexual abuse is forced prostitution is also a serious problem for Africa whether by physical and non-physical contact. Rape, oral sex, buggery etc are considered as physical contact and seeing online sexual images, encouraging children to behave in a sexual way (Pereda, 2009).

2.2.4 Statistics of Sexual Offences against Children in Asian Countries

2.2.4.1 Statistics Evidence of Sexual Offences against Children in India

Sexual offenses against children (SOAC) have been a hidden issue in India and are widely disregarded by both the criminal justice system and the public debate. The statistics for sexual offenses against children between the years of 2001 and 2019 are summarized in figure 1. The figure shows a significant increase up to 2013, after which it slightly fell in 2014. India saw a substantial increase in the frequency of sexual offenses against children during the course of the next two years. India saw a slight decrease in incidents in 2017. But the incidents only stay down for a year before starting to rise again in 2019. The "Incidences of

Sexual Offences against Children" data show extreme fluctuations, suggesting that there may have been turning points during the study period (Maity & Chakraborty, 2023). In India, about 57.27% children in Assam, 41% in Delhi, 33.87% in Andhra Pradesh and 33.27% in Bihar faced child sexual abusive incidents (Srivastava, 2017). Rape is also considered an acute problem in Indian society where 24,212 cases of child sexual abuse from January to June 2019 which affect the society in creating various abnormalities (Tabassum, 2021).
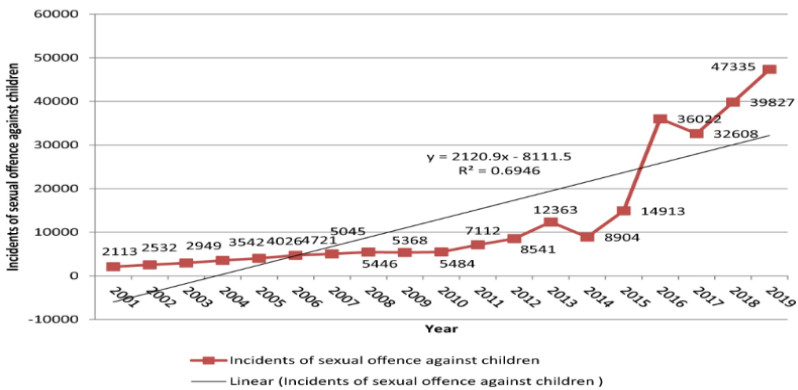
Source: National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) Data, 2019

Figure 2.3: Incidents of Sexual Offence against Children in India Overtime

Nearly 60000 abuse-related complaints were received in India in 2018–19, with child marriage emerging as the most common type of abuse (37%), followed by physical abuse (27%) and then sexual abuse (13%), emotional abuse (12%), and corporal punishment (4%). 35% of the 7684 child sexual abusers nationally that were reported to Child Line were neighbours. 73% of child sexual abuse is committed by known individuals, including family members, relatives, teachers, stepparents, caregivers, and employers (Natu, 2019).

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73% OF ABUSERS KNOWN PERSONS: DATA

Child sexual abuse complaints: Top 10 states

State	Complaints
Kerala	1,742
Tamil Nadu	985
Maharashtra	443
West Bengal	436
Karnataka	428
MP	402
AP	399
UP	381
Delhi	318
Chhattisgarh	277

6th Maharashtra's ranking in child labour complaints

Child labour complaints: Top 10 states

State	Complaints
Karnataka	4,549
Telangana	3,661
Rajasthan	3,622
MP	3,420
TN	3,412
Maha	2,897
AP	2,334
UP	2,299
Delhi	1,555
Odisha	1,545

Category of abusers (All-India figures)
Figures rounded off

- Step-parents 2%
- Institution staff 2%
- Teachers 7%
- Relatives 8%
- Friends 9%
- Family 11%
- Strangers 25%
- Neighbours 35%
- Others 1.72%
- Employers | 0.7%
- Caretaker | 0.6%
- Hospital staff | 0.19%
- Police | 0.14%
- Defence personnel | 0.09%

TOTAL 7684

Source: Childline '1098', Data for 2018-19

Gender distribution for interventions made (Figures in %)
Boys | Girls

Intervention	Boys	Girls
Protection from abuse	44	56
Child in conflict with law	85	15
Medical	56	44
Shelter	65	35
Restoration	73	27
Sponsorship	52	48
Missing	71	29
Emotional support and guidance	62	38
Other interventions	57	43

Source: Chlidline'1098', Data for 2018-19

Figure 2.4: Complaints to Childline about Child Sexual Abuse (2018-2019)

In order to combat violations of children's rights, India's Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act of 2012 (POCSO) have recently been tightened. On basis of this act, Save the children recommend the following initiatives to combat CSA in India: children must be taught about unwanted sexual advances or threats, and parents must instil in them the idea of "bad touch" as a means of protection from abuse; developing 'e-box' - an online reporting system child enabling children to report incidents of inappropriate touching and molestation, anonymously if they choose.

2.2.4.2 Statistics Evidence of Sexual Offences against Children in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, compiled data gathered by the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), the police, and Thousands of child abuse cases are pending indictments in High Courts and other legal measures, according to the Attorney General's Department under the Ministry of Justice. At least three children are raped by adults in the country every day, according to data on child abuse cases from 2010 to 2019 provided by the police. Nearly half of all allegations are pending in courts awaiting further action or there are delays in pressing charges in courts. In 2019, from January to July, police successfully resolved 256 out of a total of 688 child rape complaints, but only 294 out of 666 complaints of other types of child sexual abuse. Interestingly, police found it challenging to wrap up cases as the years passed, leaving 7,584 instances unresolved, despite the fact that they almost completely addressed all complaints they received in 2010 (1,772) and 2011 (1,989). The toll-free, round-the-clock hotline 1929 received the majority of complaints. Only 294 of the 666 allegations of different types of child sexual abuse were successfully resolved by police in 2019, from January to July, out of a total of 688 child rape complaints. Interestingly, police found it challenging to wrap up cases as the years passed, leaving 7,584 instances unresolved, despite the fact that they almost completely addressed all complaints they received in 2010 (1,772) and 2011 (1,989). (Rubatheesan, 2019).

Given the consistent and scary frequency with which reports of child sexual assault from all around Sri Lanka arrive in our newsfeeds, it is evident that the country is dealing with a serious problem of child abuse. In total, the NCPA received more than 35% of its complaints from the four districts of Colombo,

Gampaha, Kurunegala, and Galle. It was noted that the criticisms coming from these districts had not received much attention (Fonseka, 2020).

Table 2.1: Number of Complaints about Child Abuse Cases in Sri Lanka from 2011-2018

Year	Number of Complaints Received	Number of Complaints Finalized	Number of complaints not Resolved	Percentage of resolving Complaints (%)
2011	6,106	2,857	3,249	46
2012	8,504	5,692	2,812	66
2013	11,489	5,985	5,504	52
2014	11,100	5,317	5,783	47
2015	11,212	5,450	5,762	48
2016	9,535	4,489	5,046	47
2017	9,202	3,764	5,438	40
2018	9,266	1,940	7,326	20
30.09.2019	2,845	1,692	1,153	59
Total	79,259	37,186	42,073	53

Source: Auditor General's Department

Source : National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), 2019

Figure 2.5: Child Abuse Cases in Sri Lanka from 2010-2019

Issues

Physical punishment is widespread and still legal in most settings. **40%** of parents surveyed in 2013 had physically abused their child in the previous month.

Sexual and gender-based violence: one study found **14%** of both adolescent girls and adolescent boys reported experiencing some form of sexual abuse.

Emotional violence and mental health: **31%** of adolescent boys and **25%** of adolescent girls surveyed in 2009 experienced emotional abuse in the previous three months. About 14,175 children in institutions are at risk of emotional and physical abuse.

Child marriage continues to impact some girls, although rates appear to be in decline.

Online safety: increased access to information and communication technologies has led to concerns that children will be exposed to harm. Laws need to be put in place to mitigate risks.

Data on violence against children: there is a lack of up-to-date and disaggregated data on the prevalence, trends and drivers of violence against children of all ages.

Preventing Violence Against Children

Implementation and enforcement of laws
Good legal coverage exists in Sri Lanka but implementation is a challenge.

Norms and values
Some public norms and values continue to expose children in Sri Lanka to various forms of violence.

Safe environments
More information is needed on 'hot-spots' for violence against children in communities

Parent and caregiver support
Vulnerable parents, including migrating mothers, need support to care for and protect children.

Income and economic strengthening
A range of schemes seek to improve family incomes but child impacts are not well understood.

Response and support services
Actors are delivering services and support to children, but the quality is inconsistent, fragmented and can re-victimise children.

Education and life skills
Excellent school uptake is protective but children need access to improved life skills.

Pathways

Priority actions to end violence against children in Sri Lanka

1. **Conduct a study** on the drivers of violence against girls and boys in Sri Lanka

2. **Accelerate action** to end sexual violence against girls and boys

3. **Tackle physical and humiliating punishment** in family, school and institutional settings

4. **Build momentum with some quick wins:**
   - Finalise the Draft National Policy for Child Protection
   - Convene Grassroots Learning Forums on preventing violence against children
   - Explore pathways to work with the Private Sector
   - Amend, finalise and enact the Children (Judicial Protection) Bill.

Figure 2.6: Preventing Child Abuse Case in Sri Lanka (UNICEF, 2018)

Child sexual abuse is also alarming issue for Pakistan where abduction, rape, sodomy, gang rape, gang sodomy etc are responsible for triggering up child sexual abuse. In 2020, the number of child sexual abuse was 1489 in which average 8 children are sexually abused in a day (Tabassum, 2021). The picture of child sexual abuse is worst also in Afghanistan where boys are at higher risk than girls as the elite class prefer male child below 15 for satisfying their lust as a sign of luxury and status. This culture is so much nasty culture and continuing from many years in this society (The Guardian, 2010). Rich people in Arabian countries like Afghanistan also use little boys under the

age of 15 for sex as a culture of sodomises (Tabassum, 2021). The problem of child sexual abuse in Middle East countries is becoming acute like Children of United Arab Emirates below 18 are used as sexual slavery by the landlords for creating high profile and achieving good status in society (Gohir, 2010).

2.3 Statistics Evidence of Sexual Offences against Children in Bangladesh

Between January and December 2021, 818 instances of child rape were recorded, a 31% increase over the same period in 2020, in the national daily. Comparing 2021 to the previous year, there were 588 and 154 more sexual assaults and attempted rapes, respectively. 426 percent of youngsters were victims of early marriage in that year (Daily Prothom Alo, February, 2022). According to the data gathered by Manuser Jonno Foundation, child rape was down 31.5% in 2022 compared to the previous year. But children are still at risk as 560 were raped and 98 were victims of rape attempts across the country. Of them, 12 girls died after being raped (Daily Dhaka Tribune, January 24, 2023). Sexual abuse among children is increasing an alarming rate in Bangladesh as the number was 1383 in 2019 compared to 812 in 2018 which indicates 72.32% rise from previous year (Kamruzzaman, 2020). According to Mahila Parishad in 2013, the number of rapes was 509, gang-rapes 158, and killing after rape 158. Children in Bangladesh who live under poverty, children working in the work or streets, children with disabilities are more vulnerable to sexual abuse (Shariff & et al, 2015). Disabled children remain at a higher risk position for being sexually abuse because of having in capabilities to make difference between good and bad even not having power to protect themselves.

The Business Standard (2020) reported that child sexual abuse has become a burning issue for Bangladesh as the 76% rise in the child rape incidents. About 27 child rape cases were found to be coming out in 2019. Sexual exploitation of housemaid is the main problem of urban area where children coming from destitute families have to face with several abusive incidents Here Author conducted study on 50 housemaid of different ages and 55% agreed that they had to lose their chastity against their will. Economic condition is act as the triggering factor to influence children to do illegal activities.

About 90% of the child victims of sexual exploitation have come from extreme poor economic classes (Rahman, 2005). Poverty and social inequality forced children to do illegal activities involve with income generating activities like prostitution and child trafficking given that virginity, innocence and physical immaturity are considered as most demanding things amongst perpetrators. Children from marginal groups are often targeted in Bangladesh for sexual exploitation with the purpose of ethnic cleansing (BSAF, 2013).

Ahmed and Khanam (2020) indicated that the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh ranged from 3.3% to 41.5% where girls were more likely to be victims of sexual abuse than boys, and that most perpetrators were known to the victims. In addition, Alam, and Rahman (2021) presented that poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms that prioritize male dominance and silence on issues related to sexuality were key risk factors for child sexual abuse. They also found that child sexual abuse had serious consequences for the physical and mental health of victims, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Moreover, they noted that the response to child sexual

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abuse in Bangladesh was inadequate, with limited access to support services and low levels of reporting.

These findings highlight the urgent need for action to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse in Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka Metropolitan Area. Effective prevention strategies should address the root causes of child sexual abuse, including poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms that condone or silence sexual abuse. Prevention efforts should also focus on empowering children to recognize and report sexual abuse, as well as educating parents, caregivers, and community leaders about the importance of protecting children from sexual abuse. In addition, efforts to respond to child sexual abuse should be strengthened, including improving access to support services for victims and their families, as well as strengthening the legal framework to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. Law enforcement agencies should also be trained to handle cases of child sexual abuse in a sensitive and effective manner. Moreover, poverty and lack of education are key risk factors for child sexual abuse in Bangladesh, particularly in urban areas like Dhaka Metropolitan Area. Children from low-income families are more likely to be at risk of sexual abuse, as they may be forced to work in hazardous conditions, lack access to education and healthcare, and live in overcrowded and unsafe environments. In addition, the high levels of population density in urban areas, including Dhaka Metropolitan Area, can exacerbate the risk of sexual abuse, as perpetrators may find it easier to exploit vulnerable children in crowded and chaotic environments.

2.4 Effects of Violent Act on Children and Families

Child sexual abuse may be occurred by various types of physical contact like touching, oral, vaginal, anal sex etc that

affect child victim creating many types of devastating and horrible consequences including abnormal psychological functioning, aggressive behaviour, interpersonal problems educational difficulties, abnormality in daily life etc. Due to psychological abnormalities including depression, anxiety, sleep problems, sometimes child victims are found to take alcohol or other drugs or commit suicide (Castro, et.al, 2019; Basnet & et.al, 2020).

Another study conducted in India whereby it is revealed that effects of child sexual abuse on individuals may vary depending on the cases and it can damage the child's self-concept and sense of trust facing with various kinds of behavioural and emotional disorders that includes anxiety disorders, personality disorders, organic disorders, childhood mental disorders, and conduct disorders. These disorders are responsible for creating frustration, fear, shame, guilt, anger among child victims (Srivastava, 2017). Carson & et al (2013) articulated in his study that child victim abused sexually may never overcome their situation. They often lead their life with extreme level of trauma related symptoms and low attachment with parents, family members and peer groups (Aspelmeier & et.al, 2007).

Sexually abused children have to face genital injury, sexual and reproductive health problems including pregnancy, HIV or other kinds of sexual issues (Rai, 2016). Maximum victims cannot forget about their victimization incidents as they spend their life through post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which negatively affect victim and her family members (Alexander & et.al, 2015). Victims of child sexual abuse remain at top most risky situation for being raped in adulthood (BSAF, 2013). Women with repeated victimization experienced child sexual abuse involving physical contact always remember their past experience for which they always blame themselves and reported higher level of post

traumatic symptoms and higher risk of sexual behaviour (Arata, 2000).

Sometimes victims after being raped are forced to marry urgently dropping out of the school or hampering education before they reached at the legal age of marriage. One of the main reasons of this is social embarrassment where victims are found to be the subject of mockery by neighbours and relatives (Ali, 2018). Society cannot take her normally as the victims are stigmatized and victims are found to be socially excluded as the society, family members, parents remain reluctant to deal with the issues considering it as a threat to the family reputation (BSAF, 2013).

The Bangladeshi government adopted a bill (Amendment of Children Act, 2013) in October 2018 to create a child-oriented court system with provisions to construct one or more child-friendly tribunals in each district of the nation in response to the rising trend of child abuse cases. However, the trajectory in child rape instances between 2020 and 2021 showed that changing the situation with just legislative approval for child protection was insufficient. Additionally, paedophilia and child sexual assault are not sufficiently addressed by the current legislation. Bangladesh is making progress in avoiding violence against children, but not all laws are being fully followed. Physical and sexual violence have received increasing attention from Bangladeshi law. The legal system in Bangladesh does not define child neglect. The majority of laws concern how to penalise instances of child rape, kidnapping, abduction, child labour, etc. Most instances of family mental abuse and neglect of children go unreported. The Children Act establishes the Child Welfare Board, a comprehensive juvenile court system, a child-specific police desk, and a provision for child bond. But proper implementation is impossible due to a

lack of sufficient resources and a clear definition of who has authority.

To address these complex issues, it is important to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to prevention and response, which includes a range of stakeholders, including government, civil society organizations, community leaders, parents, and children themselves. Effective prevention strategies should include measures to empower children to recognize and report sexual abuse, as well as to educate parents, caregivers, and community leaders about the importance of protecting children from sexual abuse. In addition, efforts to strengthen the response to child sexual abuse should include improving access to support services for victims and their families, as well as strengthening the legal framework to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. Law enforcement agencies should also be trained to handle cases of child sexual abuse in a sensitive and effective manner, with a focus on protecting the rights and dignity of the victims. By adopting a multidisciplinary approach and working collaboratively across sectors and stakeholders, it is possible to address this complex issue and ensure that children are protected from sexual abuse and exploitation.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Household Socio-economic Indicators	Child Sexual Abuse	CSA Effect and Consequences
☐Household size ☐Heads of household and their occupational status ☐Gender structure of households ☐Age distribution of households and dependency ratio ☐Annual household income ☐Annual household expenditure ☐House building materials ☐Ownership of household assets ☐Food security and sufficiency status ☐Educational status of household members ☐Frequency and purposes of travel by women	☐ Sexual Exploitation of Housemaids. ☐ Child Prostitution in the Brothels and in the Pimps Houses. ☐ Sexual Exploitation as Child Marriage. ☐ Child Rape. ☐ Exploitation as Paedophilias. ☐ Abandoned to Fend. ☐ Femicide.	•Anxious arousal •Intrusive experiences •Defensive avoidance, and dissociation •Symptom clusters that often coexist with trauma response, such as: ⓾depression ⓾anger/irritability ⓾sexual concerns ⓾dysfunctional sexual behavior ⓾impaired self reference, ⓾and tension-reduction behavior.

Figure 2.7: Conceptual Framework of CSA

The child sexual abuse is very much correlated with different forms of socio-economic factors which can be explained through the family system and structural-functional theories. The theories focus on the conditions on family relations, economic situation as well as kinship. Several forms of vulnerabilities of the children also increases the chance of child sexual abuse. The consequences are enormous and also fatal in many of the cases which can be categorized into both physical and psychological injuries, may sustain for long period.

Chapter Three

Methodology

The title of the work demands a comprehensive method for which a mixed method has been adopted in this study. The qualitative method includes case study, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and workshop outputs. And the quantitative method, survey tool, has been used to generate and triangulate the qualitative findings. The study objectives were transformed into study questionnaire included different level of perceptions and Likert scales based on different literatures. In order to create a comparative picture of child sexual abuse between the DMP cases and CSA among a particular group of people who were vulnerable to this type of deviant behaviour an explorative survey has been conducted.

According to project objective required case study and survey, such as:

1. CSA cases of DMP which is randomly taken charge-sheets for qualitatively analysis and in-depth studies from the cases within; and

2. Survey on students of high school and college and also street children to explore the status of CSA among them.

Objective based Methodology:

Issues	Research Objectives	Methods of Inquiry
Identification of Problems and Collecting Suggestions	1. To identify existing forms, factors and nature of Child Sexual Abuse.	• Desk Review • Charge-sheet Analysis • Survey on children (Review of existing cases registered at DMP)

Assessment	2. To determine the effects and the consequences of the various forms of violent acts against children, their families and the community at large.	Children Experience Survey (Respondents: High School and College Level student and Street Children)
Identification of Challenges and Issues	3. To identify the constraints or challenges in access to justice.	• Case Studies • Charge-sheet Analysis • Survey • KII and • Workshop(Discussion with different level of police officials, Civil Society, Advocates and Human Rights Workers)
Developing Policy Plan	4. To inform the Public-Private mechanisms to prevent the Child Sexual Abuse.	Consultation Workshop (Participatory contribution of experts from both government and non-government institutions)

3.1 Study Indicators

The analysis depends on identification of the right indicators which describe the project outcome in detail based on document analysis (CSA cases) and survey responses. This study also includes the indicators inherited from the literature review to provide a clear idea about the study plan. The indicators are:

Household Socio-economic Indicators
- Household size
- Heads of household and their occupational status
- Gender structure of households
- Age distribution of households and dependency ratio
- Annual household income
- Annual household expenditure
- House building materials
- Ownership of household assets
- Food security and sufficiency status
- Educational status of household members
- Frequency and purposes of travel by women

CSA Identification Indicators
- Sexual exploitation
- Child prostitution
- Sexual exploitation as child marriage
- Child rape
- Exploitation as paedophilias
- Abandoned to fend.
- Femicide

CSA Analysis Indicators
- Trauma Symptom Inventory
- Children's Impact of Traumatic Events

3.2 Research Techniques and Instruments

A combination of study technique from both qualitative and quantitative study design are used in this study. Based on the aforementioned techniques the study plan (to accommodate a clear comparison) following instruments have been used in the study:

Document Review: CSA cases reviewed after collecting from DMP. CSA Survey at Schools and Colleges: Simple random sampling-based sample survey where questionnaire was structured and scale based.

Case Study: CSA registered cases provided lists of victims based on that 10 cases will be covered.

KII of Key Personnel and Workshop

- Police Personnel
- Advocate
- Human Rights Workers
- Personnel from NGO working with Child Abuse
- Academicians from educational institutions

3.3 Study Area and Sampling

The study area is Dhaka metropolitan area. This study covered both north and south city corporation areas for sample selection. Two different schools and colleges were selected from two different areas of Dhaka city. Due to ethical consideration and request of the institutions their names are not stated in this study. The street children were selected from around Dhaka University Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) area, Shahbag.

The following statistical formula is used to estimate minimum sample size in order to conduct the survey which is also known as Fisher's (1935) exact test equation. The formula is:

$$n = \frac{z^2 \times p \times (1-p)}{d^2}$$

Where, n is the estimated minimum sample size
z is the value of standardized normal variate
p is proportion exposed
d is degree of precision

Considering, z=1.96 at 95%, confidence interval, p=0.5, d=0.05, and margin error/ degree of precision, d=8%

Therefore, n = 151

The minimum sample size will be 151.

For sample survey approximate 151 school going students will be collect: 50 from each level of educational institutions.

For Qualitative Interview
1. In-depth Interviews, n= 8 CSA Victims
2. Advocates, judges and media professionals' In-depth Interviews, n= 5
3. Law enforcement officials KII, n= 5

3.4 Data Analysis

The data analysis techniques involved in this study included secondary review and thematic analysis of the outcome and SPSS based survey data analysis which includes both univariate and bi-variate analysis. The univariate analysis are frequency, percentage and charts; and the bi-variate analysis is conducted using cross-tabulations and inferential statistical analysis such as Factor analysis. Both the qualitative and quantitative data is then reviewed together in a different section.

The following statistical tools were used to analyse the data:

1. *Frequency Distribution:* Frequency distribution is a descriptive statistical technique used to organize data into different categories or intervals and count the number of observations falling into each category. It helps in understanding the distribution and patterns of variables within the dataset. In the given context, frequency distribution was likely used to calculate the number of

victims within each age group and time of occurrence category.

2. *Charts:* Charts, such as bar charts or pie charts, are graphical representations of data that provide a visual summary of the information. They are useful for presenting and comparing categorical data. In the given analysis, charts may have been used to visually represent the distribution of victims across different age groups and time of occurrence.

3. *Crosstabulation:* Crosstabulation, also known as a contingency table, is a method used to explore the relationship between two or more categorical variables. It displays the frequencies or proportions of observations in each combination of categories for the variables being analysed. In the provided data, crosstabulation might have been employed to examine the association between the age of the victims and the time of occurrence of abuse incidents.

4. *Factor Analysis:* Factor analysis is a statistical technique used to identify underlying factors or dimensions that explain the pattern of correlations among a set of observed variables. It helps in reducing the dimensionality of the data and understanding the underlying structure. Although not explicitly mentioned in the provided data, factor analysis could potentially be used to identify common factors or themes related to child abuse incidents, based on a larger set of variables beyond just age and time of occurrence.

These statistical tools enable researchers to explore and analyse the data, identify patterns, and derive meaningful insights. By employing these techniques, researchers can better understand the relationships, distributions, and underlying factors associated with the variables in the dataset.
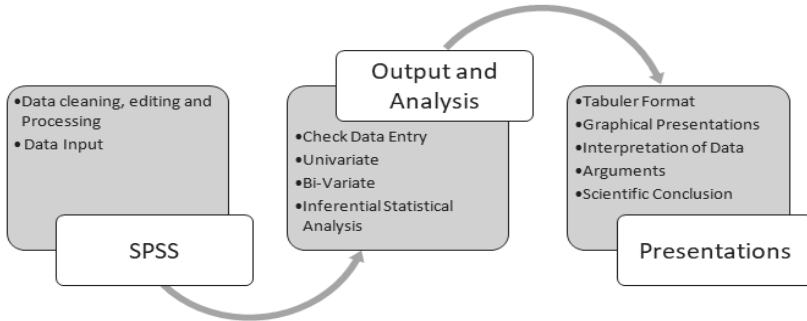
Figure 3.1: Quantitative Analysis Plan
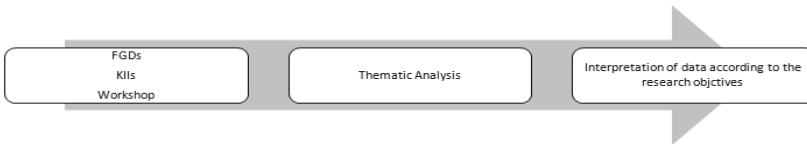
Figure 3.2: Qualitative Data Analysis Plan
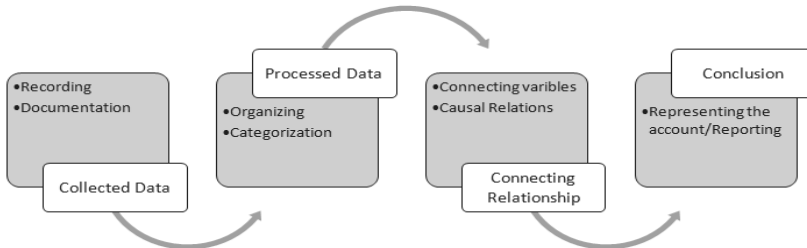
Figure 3.3: Data Processing Flow Chart

3.5 Ethical Consideration

The ethical considerations in conducting a survey on child sexual abuse are of highest importance to ensure the well-being and protection of the participants. The autonomy and right to privacy of the children are protected by seeking their informed consent prior to performing the survey and interviews in this study. This permission approach guarantees that the children understand the objective of the survey and have the flexibility to

participate or decline without compulsion. Moreover, the examination of the questionnaires by both gender experts and police authorities further supports the ethical context of the study while it already tried to maintain ethical guidelines provided by World Health Organization (WHO). The inclusion of gender experts helps to ensure that the questions are sensitive, age-appropriate, and cognizant of the potential emotional impact on the participants. The presence of DMP research subject matter expert and research wings' valued members in the evaluation process contributed to the legal and ethical aspects of the study, guaranteeing conformity with relevant laws and rules. The overall goal of these ethical considerations is to give the child participants' safety, well-being, and dignity the highest priority throughout the research process.

3.6 Theoretical Relevance of Child Development and Child Abuse

Dr. Murray Bowen's Family System Theory refers to a planned style of living for people. Everyone in the human lifecycle maintains a system, and this orderly method of living brings humans a lot of happiness. Members of this system will actively respond to one another regarding their roles and perform them. When the behaviours of some family members are pushed in some situations or behaviours that affect the entire behaviour of the family members, this system thinks patterns form within the system's bounds.

Similar to this, children from poor and dysfunctional families are unable to fulfil their job due to system interruption. Such a family must compel its members to participate in taxing tasks that disrupt the dynamics of the entire unit (Sprey, 1988).

This study aims to connect the family system theory to the impoverished children who are preoccupied with laborious tasks and, as a result of their push labour, are unable to operate properly within the family, which leads to strained relationships between family members. Children working in such demanding jobs have also experienced physical abuse in addition to intense mental stress. Additionally, children who live close to a low-income household experience neglect and occasionally abuse in a variety of ways.

Caregiver is the primary subject of attachment theory. Every child requires a primary caregiver, which is crucial. Because these carers acquire all the fundamental dealings and communication techniques. The primary caregiver makes a difference in the children's ability to understand the natural sentiments that influence their feelings and sentiments. In essence, connection is based on a person's ability to instill critical dependability in their careers and in themselves.

The socioeconomic characteristics of abused children have been a focus of the attachment theory. The importance of the attachment theory is examined in relation to the weak street children who experience repeated physical abuse and the poor youngsters who are forced to labour hard jobs for money and endure unimaginable torment.

With the aid of attachment theory, this study investigates how, in the absence of the original caregiver or, in some cases, the primary caregiver, children frequently engaged in forced labour, which is a common form of physical abuse of children. In addition, children without caregivers experienced numerous social and behavioural issues, which often led to criminal activity and, in the majority of cases, sexual abuse in the future.

All forms of human interaction consist conflict. The frame of reference for conflict theory places more emphasis on balancing a good relationship than it does on reaching an agreement and promoting order. This theory aids in determining how conflict and various systems interact.

The focus of this study is mostly on many facets of child abuse in Bangladesh and from a worldwide viewpoint. With the aid of this theory, it will be simple to identify the social and familial interactions of the abused children with their family members and relatives. A child's psychology and development will be impacted, particularly when a conflict situation arises in their social and familial lives.

One of the most well-known theories about how children develop is called "development theory." Numerous psychologists have examined this theory. In reality, all of these psychologists have assembled and talked about various aspects of child development.

Different stages and patterns of child development have been demonstrated by Jean Piaget, Lawrence Kholberg, Erik Erikson, and Sigmund Freud. Numerous psychologists focus on several phases before analysing the collection of developmental stages elastically.

In this study, all development theories play a significant role in identifying the developmental obstacles faced by abused children. The words of distinct life stages (childhood and adolescent) serve to identify the original psychological misconduct and physical limits of abused children, in addition to the fact that being abused children, those children's cognitive development is severely affected. Due to their mistreatment, these kids have experienced a lot of incoherence from both their family

and the wider community. According to the study's findings, internal conflict and carelessness, together with the experience of abuse, have played a significant influence in the healthy development of children. Children's development is falling behind where such development is disrupted.

Kinship and connections within the family are the focus of the structural-functional frame of reference theory. This idea offers a framework for handling interactions with family members.

This structural-functional frame theory has been helpful in this investigation. With the aid of this hypothesis, it has become obvious how abused children interact with other members of their family, including parents, siblings, and classmates. The study's conclusions cantered on the fact that, from a Bangladeshi perspective, most of the time, inner family members of abused children exhibit severe oppression and bad behaviour, or in some cases, it has been discovered that children have occasionally been sexually or physically abused by their own family members (uncle, cousins, stepfather and step brother etc.).

The entire socialization process has been the focus of development theory's social context. This idea makes clear the negative impacts of extensive socialization on kids. According to this account, children try to influence their immediate family members as well as the social environment. Examples include peer relationships, parent-child interactions, extended family relationships, the community, racial identity, social status, schools, churches, and television.

This hypothesis aids in determining the abused children's initial place in society. The position of abused children in society both before and after is never the same. Abused children's

psychology is greatly impacted by the breakdown of parent-child interactions, weak familial ties, and social position within the community and among peers.

Understanding child sexual abuse in Bangladesh can be simpler to comprehend through the use of the Routine Activity Theory. This theory, which was developed in 1979 by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson, contends that criminal events are more likely to occur when motivated criminals, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardians are all present. In the context of child sexual abuse, this theory underlines the significance of scrutinising the routine behaviours of both potential victims and perpetrators.

In Bangladesh, various circumstances correspond with the ideas of the Routine Activity Theory and contribute to the incidence of child sexual abuse. Firstly, socioeconomic problems, such as poverty and lack of education, can create an atmosphere where children are prone to abuse. According to a study by Ahmed, Ferdousi, and Ahmed (2017), poverty and low educational attainment are connected with greater incidence of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.
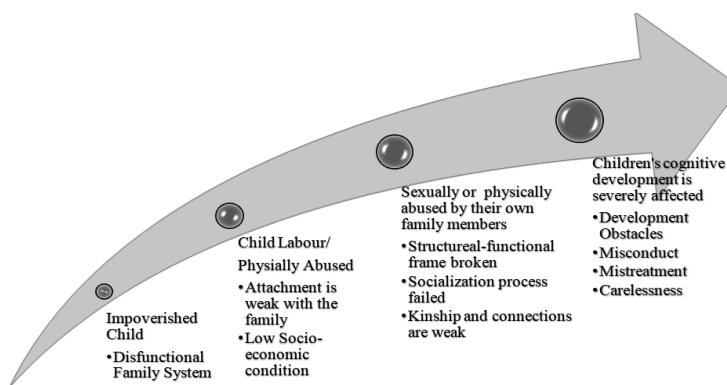
Figure 3.4: Theoretical Framework of CSA

Secondly, the accessibility of children, particularly in situations where they are unsupervised, can increase their exposure to potential offenders. For instance, children who are left unattended owing to the migration of parents for job or other reasons are at greater risk. According to UNICEF's study on child protection in Bangladesh, a substantial number of children are exposed to exploitation and abuse due to the absence of supervision and guardianship. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for designing effective prevention strategies and interventions to protect children from sexual abuse in Bangladesh. Lastly, the absence of capable guardians or protective structures further exacerbates the problem. Weak implementation of child protection legislation, low resources for child welfare agencies, and societal norms that stigmatize reports of abuse can deter victims from seeking help. In order to stop child sexual abuse in Bangladesh, a study by Rahman, Kuddus, and Ahmed (2016) emphasises the importance of developing protective measures and support structures.

In summary, the *Routine Activity Theory* helps explain the occurrence of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh by highlighting the interplay between motivated perpetrators, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardians. Factors such as poverty, lack of education, unsupervised children, and insufficient protective systems contribute to the occurrence of abuse. Designing effective preventative techniques and treatments to safeguard Bangladeshi children from sexual abuse requires a thorough understanding of these relationships.

3.7 Working Definitions

Child: A child is a person below 18 years stated in Bangladesh Children Act, 2003.

Child Abuse: Child abuse means intentional physical, sexual and emotional harm against a child by an adult person.

Child Physical Abuse: Child physical abuse means any intentional physical violence against a child that causes physical injury such as hitting, kicking, pushing, biting, blocking, throwing any objects or using any physical weapons etc.

Child Psychological Abuse: Psychological or emotional abuse against children includes all those intentional psychological pain towards a child that results mental disturbance, including nervousness, chronic depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder etc.

Child Sexual Abuse: Child sexual abuse means sexual activity against a children for the fulfilment of sexual desire of offender or providing sexual stimulation like unwanted sexual touch, rape or oral sexual activity.

PTSD: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a psychological health condition that develops after a hurtful situation or criminal victimization. It includes flashbacks of victimization, memories, or nightmares, fear, frustration, dissociation, avoidance etc.

Maltreatment of Children: Maltreatment of Children is the act of treating a child violently that includes physical exploitation, negligence, sexual abuse and emotional abuse.

Child Victim: Child victim is a child under 18 years of age who has become a victim of physical, sexual or psychological victimization.

Victimization: Victimization includes the process of being physically, psychologically, economically and socially victimized.

Victim Support Centre: Victim Support Centre is the government victim helping centre for supporting victims of crime and traumatic incidents. In Bangladesh, victim Support Centre is established to provide different support service towards women and child victims.

Women Help Desk: Women Help Desk provide all round emergency assistance to distressed women as well as children involving violent crime and sexual harassment.

Chapter Four
Result and Analysis

4.1 Overview of the Data Collection

Objective of the Section:

- Description of the sample size and characteristics of participants.

To acquire data on the study's research topic, various data gathering techniques are used. Survey, case document study, interviews, and workshops are a few of these techniques.

A. Survey: 150 people make up the sample size for the survey, and they are split into three groups: 50 college students, 50 high school students, and 50 street children. The survey gathers quantitative information and offers perceptions into the attitudes, convictions, and actions of the respondents.

B. Case Document Study: Case document studies with 25 Charge-sheets of 29 people who sought legal help for rape cases from several police stations of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Division are undertaken. These case studies, which were chargesheets submitted by the concern investigating officer to the court for hearing, offer in-depth details on unique experiences connected to the study's subject.

C. In-depth Interview (IDI): Children who have personal experience with it were the subject of in-depth interviews. These interviews give a thorough knowledge of the unique opinions and ideas of individuals. Eight victims were successfully interviewed.

D. Key Informant Interview (KII): Ten experts who work in the fields related to the research issue, like law enforcement and education, are interviewed as key informants. These

interviews offer knowledgeable viewpoints and insider information from specialists in the topic.

E. Workshop: In addition, one seminar is conducted as part of the study, includes judicial professionals and the other law enforcement personnel. Professionals with in-depth knowledge of the subject are gathered for these workshops to offer their insights and experiences.

In general, the study uses a variety of data collection techniques to give a thorough grasp of the research issue. While the case studies, interviews, and workshops provide more in-depth and qualitative information from people with specific skills or experiences connected to the research issue, the survey collects quantitative data from a wide sample size.

4.2 Prevalence and Types of Child Sexual Abuse

Objective of the Section:
- Analysis of survey data to determine the prevalence and types of child sexual abuse experienced by participants
- Comparison of findings with other data sources, such as case studies and in-depth interviews

4.2.1 Prevalence and Types of Child Sexual Abuse

The survey was conducted in Dhaka city where three schools and colleges were selected for respondents selection. Along with that few respondents also participated who can be categorised as street children. The data shows that 63% of them were girls and the rest were boys.

The following table 4.1 provides information on the distribution of religious affiliation among a sample of 150 individuals. The majority of respondents, accounting for 86.7%

(130 individuals), identified as Muslims. Hindus constituted 12.7% (19 individuals) of the sample, while Christians represented only 0.7% (1 individual). The table also presents the total count of respondents, which is 150, and the corresponding percentages for each religious group.

The lat section of this table focuses on the household head within the families of the respondents. Among the 150 households, 84.7% (127 households) had a father as the head of the family. In 10% of the households (15 households), the mother held the position of the household head. The remaining 5.3% (8 households) had someone other than the father or mother as the household head. The table also displays the total count of households, which is 150, and the percentages for each category of household head.

These tables provide a snapshot of the religious composition and household head distribution within the given sample. They offer insights into the diversity of religious affiliations and the roles played by different individuals as household heads in the surveyed population.

Table 4.1: Demographic Information of the Respondents

Demographic Information		Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Boy	56	37.3
	Girl	94	62.7
	Total	**150**	**100**
Religion	Islam	130	86.7
	Hindu	19	12.7
	Christian	01	0.7
	Total	**150**	**100**

Household Head of the Family			
	Father	127	84.7
	Mother	15	10.0
	Others	08	5.3
	Total	**150**	**100.0**

The table provides information on the type of schooling among a sample of 150 individuals. It includes the frequency, percentage, valid percentage, and cumulative percentage for each category.

It's worth noting that the table 4.2 shows 11 individuals (7.3% of the sample) who do not go to school, but this category is not included in the calculation of valid percentages and cumulative percentages.

Overall, the study provides insights into the distribution of different types of schooling among the surveyed individuals, with the majority attending private schools/colleges, followed by government schools/colleges and other types of schooling.

Table 4.2: Type of Educational Institutions

Type of Schooling	Frequency	Percent
Govt. school/Colleges	23	15.3
Private school/Colleges	102	68.0
Govt. Madrasa's	01	0.7
Others	13	8.7
Total	139	92.7
Do not go to school	11	7.3
Total	**150**	**100.0**

4.2.2 Prevalence and Types of Child Victimization

Based on the surveyed data, 60% of the individuals in the study were categorized as victims, while 40% were classified as non-victims. This information indicates that a majority of the respondents experienced some form of victimization, while the remaining individuals did not report being victims.

The following chart presents data on the type of abuse experienced by a group of 150 individuals. It includes the frequency, percentage, and valid percentage for each category.
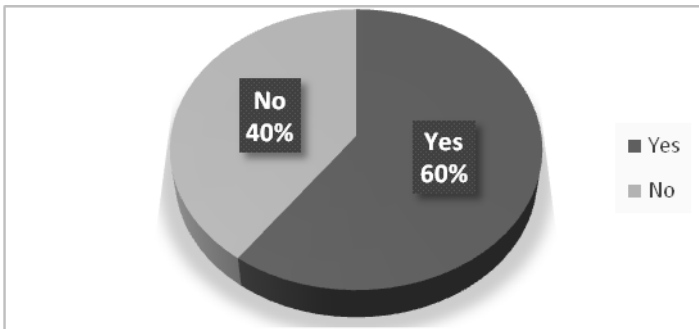
Figure 4.1: Prevalence of Victimization

Among the respondents, 45.3% (68 individuals) reported experiencing sexual harassment as a form of abuse. A smaller proportion, 2.0% (3 individuals), reported experiencing physical abuse, while 12.7% (19 individuals) reported experiencing psychological abuse. The cumulative valid percentages show that 75.6% of the respondents experienced sexual harassment, 3.3% experienced physical abuse, and 21.1% experienced psychological abuse.

The data also indicates that 40.0% (60 individuals) of the respondents did not report experiencing any form of abuse. This

category is not included in the calculation of valid percentages and cumulative percentages but is listed separately.

Overall, the data provides insights into the prevalence of different types of abuse among the surveyed individuals, with sexual harassment being the most frequently reported form, followed by psychological abuse and physical abuse. Additionally, it indicates that a significant proportion of respondents did not report experiencing any abuse.
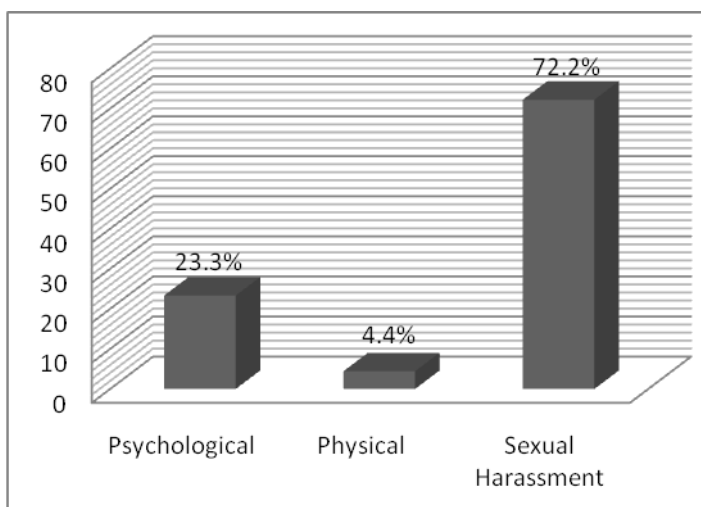
Figure 4.2: Nature of Child Abuse among the Respondents

Contemporary Situation of Child Victimization in Dhaka

Victim Support Center registered total 643 litigations related to child and women sexual abuse. Among 643 litigations, there were 180 cases (28%) related to only child sexual abuse. The data represent a period of 4 years' time picture of Dhaka Metropolitan area. Particularly children of 14 to 16 years age group are very vulnerable to this type of offence.

Table 4.3: Contemporary Situation of Child Victimization in Dhaka City

Year	Total Child Victims	Total Sexually Abused Victims	Sexually Abused Child Victims
2019-2023	1272	643	180

**Child Sexual Abuse according to the Age
(January 2019- September, 2023)**

Age of the Child Victims	Frequency	Percent
03-05 months	02	1.1
08-10 years	12	6.7
11-13 years	33	18.3
14-16 years	96	53.3
17- 18 years	37	20.6
Total	**180**	**100**

Forms of sexual abuse victims experienced

Tried to show you or do something which you do not want to:

- Response: 23 individuals reported experiencing this type of abuse.

- Age during the event: The average age was 13.35, with a mode of 16, a minimum age of 6, and a maximum age of 18.

- Relationship with the offender: 12 cases involved someone known to the victim, 6 cases involved a relative, and 5 cases involved unknown individuals.

- Place of occurrence: 10 incidents happened at home, 3 incidents involved relatives, and 10 incidents occurred outside.

- Year: Most of the incidents happened last year.

- Times of event: The majority of victims experienced this type of abuse more than once.

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Unwanted sexual touch:

- <u>Response:</u> 50 individuals reported experiencing this type of abuse.

- <u>Age during the event:</u> The average age was 12.90, with a mode of 14, a minimum age of 5, and a maximum age of 18.

- <u>Relationship with the offender:</u> 33 cases involved someone known to the victim, 9 cases involved a relative, and 8 cases involved unknown individuals.

- <u>Place of occurrence:</u> 12 incidents happened at home, 3 incidents involved relatives, and 35 incidents occurred outside.

- <u>Year:</u> Most of the incidents happened last year.

- <u>Times of event:</u> The majority of victims experienced this type of abuse more than once.

Touched your genitalia:

- <u>Response:</u> 19 individuals reported experiencing this type of abuse.

- <u>Age during the event:</u> The average age was 11.32, with a mode of 15, a minimum age of 5, and a maximum age of 18.

- <u>Relationship with the offender:</u> 7 cases involved someone known to the victim, 4 cases involved a relative, and 8 cases involved unknown individuals.

- <u>Place of occurrence:</u> 6 incidents happened at home, 2 incidents involved relatives, and 11 incidents occurred outside.

- <u>Year:</u> Most of the incidents happened within the last two years.

- <u>Times of event:</u> The majority of victims experienced this type of abuse once.

Made you watch others' sexual activities:

- <u>Response:</u> 3 individuals reported experiencing this type of abuse.

- <u>Age during the event:</u> The average age was 10, with a mode of 12, a minimum age of 8, and a maximum age of 12.

- <u>Relationship with the offender:</u> 2 cases involved a relative, and 1 case involved someone known to the victim.

- <u>Place of occurrence:</u> 10 incident happened at home, 1 incident involved relatives, and 1 incident occurred outside.

- <u>Year:</u> Mostly within the last two years.

- <u>Times of event:</u> Mostly once.

Forced you to have intercourse with the offender:

- <u>Response:</u> 3 individuals reported experiencing this type of abuse.

- <u>Age during the event:</u> The average age was 12.67, with a mode of 15, a minimum age of 11, and a maximum age of 15.

- <u>Relationship with the offender:</u> 2 cases involved a relative, and 1 case involved someone known to the victim.

- <u>Place of occurrence:</u> 1 incident happened at home, 1 incident involved relatives, and 1 incident occurred outside.

- <u>Year:</u> Within the last three years.

- <u>Times of event:</u> Mostly once.

Rape:

- <u>Response:</u> 16 individuals reported experiencing this type of abuse (respondents who voluntarily participated in the survey from DMP provided list shared this opinion).

- <u>Age during the event:</u> The average age was 12, with a minimum age of 6 and a maximum age of 16.

- Relationship with the offender: 6 cases involved neighbours, 7 cases involved relatives, and 3 cases involved unknown individuals.
- Place of occurrence: 10 incidents happened at home, 3 incidents involved relatives, and 3 incidents occurred outside.
- Year: Most of the incidents happened in 2020.
- Times of event: The majority of victims experienced this type of abuse more than once.

Attempt to rape:

- Response: 7 individuals reported experiencing this type of abuse.
- Age during the event: The average age was 13, with a mode of 13/15, a minimum age of 11, and a maximum age of 15.
- Relationship with the offender: 4 cases involved someone known to the victim, 2 cases involved a relative, and 1 case involved an unknown person.
- Place of occurrence: 2 incidents happened at home, 2 incidents involved relatives, and 3 incidents occurred outside.
- Year: The incidents mostly happened within the last two years.
- Times of event: The majority of victims experienced this type of abuse more than once.

These interpretations provide insights into the types of abuse, age of the victims during the events, relationships with the offenders, places of occurrence, years of the incidents, and frequency of the events in each category.

Table 4.4: Forms of Child Sexual Abuse (n=68)

	Types	Response (%)	Age during the event	Relationship with the Offender	Place of Occurrence (PO)	Year	Times of event
1.	Tried to show you or do something which you do not want to	23 (33.8)	Av. 13.35 Md 16 Min 6 Max 18	Known 12 Relative 6 Unknown 05	Home 10 Relatives 3 Outside 10	Mostly last year	More than once mostly
2.	Unwanted sexual touch	50 (73.5)	Av. 12.90 Md 14 Min 5 Max 18	Known 33 Relative 9 Unknown 08	Home 12 Relatives 3 Outside 35	Mostly last year	More than once mostly
3.	Touched your genitalia	19 (28)	Av. 11.32 Md 15 Min 5 Max 18	Known 7 Relative 4 Unknown 08	Home 6 Relatives 2 Outside 11	Mostly within last two years	Once mostly
4.	Made you watch others' sexual activities	3 (4)	Av. 10 Md 12 Min 8 Max 12	Relative 2 Known 1	Home 1 Relatives 1 Outside 1	Mostly within last two years	Mostly once

5.	Forced you to have intercourse with the offender	3 (4)	Av. 12.67 Md 15 Min 11 Max 15	Relative 2 Known 1	Home 1 Relatives 1 Outside 1	Within last three years	Mostly once
6.	Pornographic photography, filming, or activity	3 (4)	Av. 15 Md 15 Min 15 Max 15	Unknown 2 Known 1	Home 1 Classroom 1 Hotel 1	Mostly last year	More than once mostly
7. 8.	Prostitution of teenager	1 (1.4)	10	Uncle	Home	Recently 2023	Ten times
9.	Rape	16 (23.5)	Av. 12 Md 15 Min 6 Max 16	Neighbour 6 Relative 7 Unknown 3	Home 10 Relatives 3 Outside 3	Mostly in 2020	More than once mostly
10.	Attempt to rape	7 (10.3)	Av. 13 Md 13/15 Min 11 Max 15	Known 4 Relative 2 Unknown 1	Home 2 Relatives 2 Outside 3	Within last two year	More than once mostly

The data provided in the table 4.4 shed light on the types of child abuse experienced by individuals in a specific context. While it's important to note that these statistics are specific to the given data and may not reflect the entire national scenario in Bangladesh, they can still provide insights into broader issues related to child abuse in the country.

The table reveals various forms of child abuse, including unwanted sexual touch, touching of genitalia, forced intercourse, and pornography-related activities. These findings indicate that children in Bangladesh may be vulnerable to different forms of sexual exploitation and violation of their rights.

The table also highlights the relationship between the victims and offenders, with known individuals, relatives, and unknown individuals being involved. This suggests that child abuse can occur within various contexts, including within families, communities, and unknown individuals. It emphasizes the importance of promoting awareness and education on child protection and fostering a safe environment for children.

Furthermore, the locations where the abuse took place, such as homes, relatives' places, and outside settings, imply that child abuse can occur in both familiar and unfamiliar environments. This underscores the need for comprehensive child protection measures not only within homes but also in public spaces and institutions.

The timeframe of the incidents, ranging from the last year to within the past few years, indicates that child abuse is an ongoing concern that requires continuous attention and preventive measures. The recurrence of abuse events, as mentioned in the interpretation, highlights the need for sustained efforts in

providing support, intervention, and rehabilitation for victims and survivors.

In terms of connecting to Bangladesh's child abuse national scenario, it is important to consider that the data provided is a specific sample and may not fully represent the entire country's situation. However, it does provide a glimpse into the types and patterns of child abuse that can be prevalent in Bangladesh.

To fully understand the national scenario of child abuse in Bangladesh, it is necessary to analyse data from various sources, including government reports, surveys, and research studies, which consider a broader range of demographics and regions. Such comprehensive data can help policymakers, child protection organizations, and stakeholders develop targeted interventions, raise awareness, strengthen legal frameworks, and ensure the well-being and safety of children across the country.
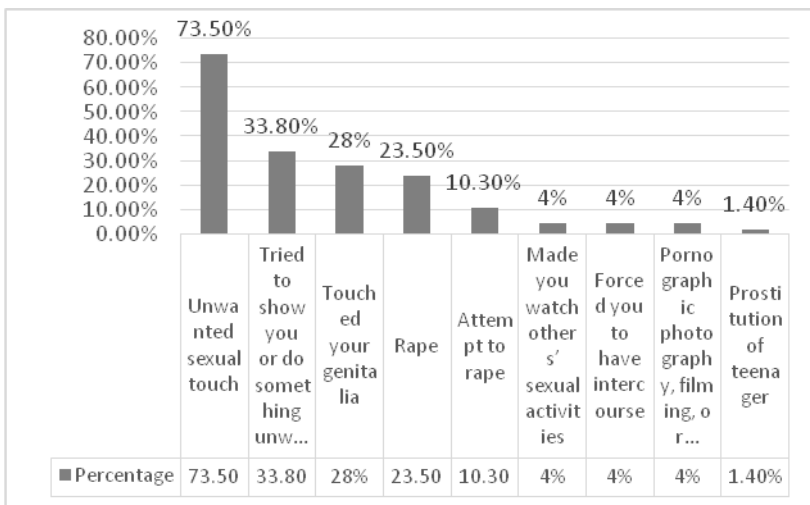
Figure 4.3: Forms of Child Sexual Abuse

4.3 Risk Factors and Consequences of Child Sexual Abuse

Objective of the Section:

- Identification of the risk factors associated with child sexual abuse based on data from different sources
- Analysis of the consequences of child sexual abuse on the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of victims

4.3.1 Factors of Sexual Victimization

The factors contributing to sexual abuse based on the responses provided by the survey participants are summarized here:

Relationship with peer group: A significant portion of respondents disagreed that their relationship with their peer group played a role in their victimization. This suggests that they did not perceive their peer group as a significant contributing factor.

Uncontrolled life leading: The majority of respondents disagreed that an uncontrolled life leading was a contributing factor to their victimization. They did not perceive their lack of control over their life as a significant factor.

Refusal in love affair: Many respondents disagreed that refusal in a love affair was a factor in their victimization. They did not perceive their refusal to engage in a romantic relationship as a significant contributing factor.

Physical beauty: Respondents generally disagreed that their physical beauty played a significant role in their victimization. They did not perceive their appearance as a significant contributing factor.

Table 4.5: Reason behind Victimization or Sexual Abuse

Factors	Highly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Highly Disagree
1. Relationship with peer group	6.2	16.9	6.2	44.6	26.2
2. Uncontrolled life leading	4.6	7.7	6.2	49.2	32.3
3. Refusal in love affair	11.9	14.9	03	43.3	26.9
4. Physical beauty	**12.1**	**31.8**	10.6	33.3	12.1
5. Manhood psyche (Sex drive)	**58.1**	**25.7**	4.1	5.4	6.8
6. Sex pleasure	**59.7**	**25**	2.8	9.7	2.8
7. Due to state of living area condition	24.6	13	1.4	**39.1**	**21.7**
8. Lower income group area	16.2	14.7	5.9	**41.2**	**22.1**
9. Family conflict	03	4.5	1.5	**52.2**	**38.8**
10. Enmity attitude	1.5	03	6.1	**51.5**	**37.9**
11. Religion, caste	0	4.5	4.5	**50**	**40.9**

Manhood psyche (Sex drive): A high percentage of respondents strongly agreed that manhood psyche (sex drive) was a factor in their victimization. They believed that their sexual desires and drives played a significant role in their victimization.

Sex pleasure: Many respondents strongly agreed that seeking sex pleasure was a contributing factor to their victimization. They believed that their pursuit of sexual pleasure played a significant role in their victimization.

Due to the state of living area condition: Respondents were divided on whether the state of their living area condition had an impact on their victimization. Some agreed that their living conditions influenced their vulnerability to sexual abuse, while others disagreed.

Lower income group area: A significant portion of respondents disagreed that being from a lower income group area contributed to their victimization. They did not perceive their socioeconomic status as a significant contributing factor.

Family conflict: The majority of respondents disagreed that family conflict played a role in their victimization. They did not perceive conflicts within their family as a significant contributing factor.

Enmity attitude: Respondents largely disagreed that an enmity attitude towards them was a factor in their victimization. They did not perceive personal conflicts or animosity towards them as a significant contributing factor.

Religion, caste: The majority of respondents disagreed that their religion or caste played a role in their victimization. They did not perceive their religious or caste identity as a significant contributing factor. These interpretations are based on the responses provided by the survey participants and reflect their perceptions of the factors contributing to their own victimization. It's important to consider that individual experiences may vary, and these interpretations may not capture the full complexity of the factors involved in sexual abuse.

4.3.2 Sharing Victimization Information With

The table displays the frequency and percentage distribution of different types of relationships with whom the surveyed children shared their victimization information regarding sexual abuse. Here's a breakdown and explanation of the table:

Table 4.6: Victimization Information First Shared with
(Relationship)

Types of Relationship	Frequency	Percent
Father	06	14.0
Mother	16	37.2
Siblings	04	09.3
Relative	04	09.3
Friend	10	23.3
Other	03	07.0
Total	**43**	**100.0**

Mother: 16 children (37.2% of the respondents) disclosed their victimization information to their mother.

Friend: 10 children (23.3%) revealed their experiences to a friend.

Father: This category indicates that 6 children (out of the total surveyed) shared their victimization information with their father. This accounts for approximately 14.0% of the respondents.

It's important to note that this table represents the responses of the surveyed children and provides insights into the types of relationships they felt comfortable sharing their experiences of sexual abuse with.

4.3.3 Psychological Impact of Child Abuse

The table provides information on various symptoms experienced by individuals related to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). These symptoms reflect the psychological and emotional impact of traumatic experiences, which could be connected to the child abuse scenario discussed earlier. Here is the interpretation of the table 4.7:

Dietary changes/eating disorder symptom has the highest mean score, indicating that individuals affected by PTSD may experience significant changes in their eating habits or develop eating disorders as a result of the trauma they have experienced.

Insomnia, or difficulty sleeping, is the second-highest symptom reported. It suggests that individuals with PTSD may have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep due to intrusive thoughts, nightmares, or heightened anxiety.

Family dishonoured, indicates that individuals affected by PTSD may perceive that their family's honour or reputation has been compromised as a result of the traumatic experience. It reflects the social and cultural implications that can accompany the aftermath of abuse.

Individuals may engage in self-blaming behaviours, holding themselves responsible for the traumatic event or its consequences. This symptom highlights the psychological impact of guilt and self-criticism that can arise in the aftermath of abuse.

Not being able to move freely, this symptom suggests that individuals with PTSD may experience a sense of restriction or limitation in their ability to move freely, possibly due to a heightened sense of fear or hyper vigilance.

Frustration is a common symptom reported by individuals with PTSD. It reflects the emotional distress and irritability that can result from the traumatic experiences they have endured.

Feelings of inferiority can arise as a result of the trauma, leading individuals to perceive themselves as less valuable or worthy than others. It signifies the impact of the abuse on their self-esteem and self-perception.

Anxiety is a prevalent symptom of PTSD. Individuals may experience persistent worry, nervousness, and a sense of unease, which can significantly affect their daily functioning and overall well-being.

Shamefulness reflects the deep sense of shame that individuals with PTSD may experience as a result of the abuse they have endured. It indicates the negative self-perception and self-judgment associated with the traumatic event.

Fear is a core symptom of PTSD, and it is ranked lowest in this table. However, it is important to note that fear can manifest in different ways and may still have a significant impact on individuals' lives.

Overall, the table highlights the wide range of symptoms associated with PTSD in the context of child abuse. These symptoms encompass emotional, psychological, and behavioural aspects that can profoundly affect the well-being and quality of life of individuals who have experienced trauma. Understanding and addressing these symptoms are crucial for providing appropriate support, therapy, and intervention to help survivors of child abuse in Bangladesh and promote their healing and recovery.

Table 4.7: Psychological Impact of Child Sexual Abuse

PTSD	N	Mean	SD	Rank Order
Dietary Changes/ Eating Disorder	58	3.38	1.254	1
Insomnia	59	3.15	1.424	2
Family Dishonoured	58	3.09	1.537	3
Self-blaming	58	2.78	1.427	4
Not being able to move freely	59	2.41	1.301	5
Frustration	58	2.38	1.282	6
Inferiority	58	2.24	1.204	7
Anxiety	58	2.14	1.277	8
Shamefulness	59	2.00	1.339	9
Fear	58	1.90	1.252	10

4.4 Response and Interventions for Child Sexual Abuse

Objective of the Section:

- Evaluation of the existing response and intervention mechanisms for child sexual abuse in Dhaka Metropolitan Area
- Identification of gaps and challenges in the current response and intervention mechanisms

4.4.1 Access to Justice Experience

The data shows that out of the total respondents, 34% of them went to the police for help, while 66% did not seek assistance from the police. This information provides insights into

the willingness of individuals to involve law enforcement authorities in cases of child abuse.
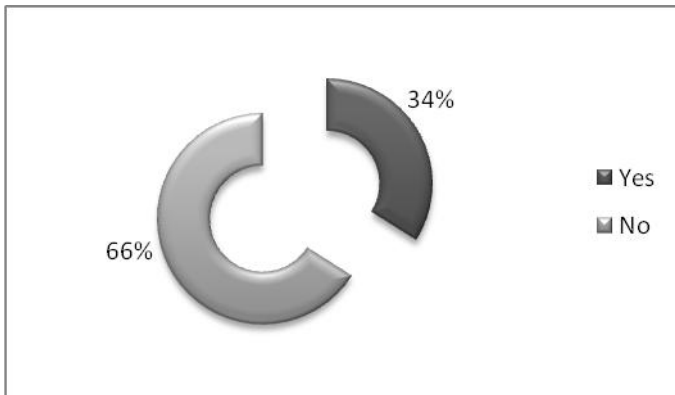
Figure 4.4: Percentage of Victim went to Police for Help

The analysis of this data can be further expanded as follows:

Reasons for Seeking Help: Among the respondents who went to the police, it would be valuable to explore the underlying reasons for seeking help. This information could shed light on the factors that motivated individuals to report their cases and the perceived importance of police involvement.

Factors Influencing Non-reporting: For the majority of respondents who did not go to the police, it is essential to understand the reasons behind their decision. This could include factors such as fear, lack of trust in the police, concerns about societal stigma, or a belief that seeking police intervention would not be effective in addressing the abuse.

Support Systems: It would be beneficial to investigate the availability and accessibility of support systems for child abuse victims who choose not to involve the police. This could include examining the role of community organizations, helplines, counselling services, or other

resources that victims may turn to instead of formal law enforcement channels.

Impact of Police Response: A deeper analysis could explore the experiences and perceptions of those who did go to the police for help. This could involve assessing the respondents' satisfaction with the police response, the support received during the reporting process, and any challenges or barriers they encountered.

Demographic Factors: Considering demographic variables such as age, gender, socioeconomic status, and geographic location may provide additional insights into the decision to seek police help or not. Analysing how these factors intersect with the respondents' experiences could help identify patterns and disparities in accessing justice.

By delving into these aspects, a more comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing the decision to seek police help or not can be gained. This analysis can contribute to the development of targeted interventions, policy improvements, and awareness campaigns to enhance support for child abuse victims in Bangladesh.

4.4.2 Overall Experience with Law Enforcement

Based on the findings related to the respondents' interaction with the police and their satisfaction levels, the following interpretations can be made:

Engagement with the Police:

- Out of the total respondents, 17 individuals reported their cases to the police, indicating a willingness to seek justice and support.

- Among these 17 respondents, 9 individuals shared their experiences, which suggests a certain level of openness in discussing their abuse incidents.

- Within this group, 7 respondents mentioned receiving a friendly response from the police, indicating a positive and supportive attitude from law enforcement authorities.

- Additionally, 4 respondents sought assistance from the Women and Child Help Desk, highlighting the availability of specialized support services for victims of child abuse.

Satisfaction Levels:

- Of the 9 respondents who reported their cases to the police, their satisfaction levels were assessed.

- The data does not provide specific details on the satisfaction levels, but it suggests that some respondents expressed satisfaction with the actions taken by the police in addressing their cases.

- However, the extent of satisfaction and the factors contributing to it are not elaborated upon in the given analysis.

Reasons for Not Seeking Help:

- It is indicated that some respondents did not seek help or report their cases to the police.

- Reasons for not seeking help could include a lack of awareness regarding the specialized treatment and support available to victims of child abuse.

- Some individuals may not have had the opportunity or resources to seek assistance due to various socio-economic or personal circumstances.

Arrests and Court Submissions:

  - The police were able to arrest 9 offenders, indicating their efforts in taking action against perpetrators of child abuse.

  - Furthermore, 7 cases were successfully submitted to court, suggesting progress in the legal proceedings and the potential for justice to be served.

  - The average experience mentioned regarding court submissions does not provide specific details on the nature of these experiences or the outcomes of the court proceedings.

In summary, the findings suggest a mixed response from the police in handling child abuse cases, with some respondents reporting a friendly response and satisfaction with the actions taken. However, there is a need for further awareness and access to support services to encourage more victims to seek help. The successful arrests and court submissions indicate progress in the legal process, but additional information would be required to assess the overall effectiveness of the justice system in addressing child abuse in Bangladesh.

4.4.3 Challenges Faced at Police Station

The table provides the percentage responses of children regarding the challenges they faced while visiting the police station to report a case. Let's analyse these challenges in connection with the previous data given:

Socio-economic status:

The data on the socio-economic status of the victim and their family indicated that the victim belonged to a lower middle-class family. The percentage responses suggest that a significant portion of children agreed or highly agreed that their socio-economic status posed a challenge when seeking help from the police. This aligns with the previous data and emphasizes the impact of socio-economic factors on accessing justice and support.

Gender disparity:

The data on the relationship between the victim and the offender showed that sexual violence was primarily perpetrated by individuals known to the victim, including relatives, friends, and neighbours. While the table does not explicitly mention gender disparity, it can be inferred that the majority of respondents agreed that gender disparities might influence their experience at the police station. This suggests that children might face specific challenges related to their gender when seeking help and support.

Powerful offender/abuse of power:

The previous data highlighted the presence of offenders with positions of power, such as relatives or individuals with political influence. The percentage responses indicate that a significant portion of children agreed or highly agreed that they faced challenges due to powerful offenders or the abuse of power. This suggests that children might encounter difficulties in seeking justice when the offenders hold positions of authority or influence.

Political influence:

> Similarly, the previous data indicated that offenders with political influence were involved in some cases. The percentage responses reflect the agreement among children that political influence presents a challenge when interacting with the police. This reinforces the notion that political influence can hinder the pursuit of justice for sexually abused children.

Susceptive attitude of police:

> The table indicates that the majority of children neither agreed nor disagreed about the susceptive attitude of the police. While this response does not provide a clear direction, it suggests that some children might perceive a lack of supportive or empathetic attitudes from the police officers they interact with.

Threat from the offender:

> The percentage responses indicate that a significant portion of children disagreed or highly disagreed that they faced threats from the offender when visiting the police station. This suggests that children generally felt safe from immediate threats by the offender during the reporting process.

The analysis of the challenges faced by children when visiting the police station aligns with the previous data on sexual violence and its impact on victims. It highlights the influence of socio-economic status, gender disparities, powerful offenders, political influence, and the susceptive attitude of the police. These challenges can create barriers for children seeking help and support, emphasizing the need for improved systems and resources to address the specific needs of sexually abused children in their interactions with law enforcement.

Table 4.8: Challenges Faced while Visiting the Police Station

Items (Percentage)	Highly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Highly Disagree
1. Socio-economic status	43	14	14	29	0
2. Gender disparity	0	17	83	0	0
3. Powerful offender/ abuse of power	17	0	0	83	0
4. Political Influence	17		0	83	0
5. Susceptive attitude of police	0	17	0	83	0
6. Threat from the offender	0	17	17	66	0

4.5 Statistical Analysis

The table provides information on the association between the age of the victims and the time of occurrence of the abuse incidents, as reported in the charge-sheet data. The analysis of this data can provide insights into the patterns and trends related to the timing of child abuse incidents based on the age of the victims.

4.5.1 Analysis from Chargesheet Cases (n=25)

Analysis on victim's age and its relationship with time of victimization:

The majority of abuse incidents occurred 3 to 6 years of age group which occurred in the afternoon, between 2 pm to 4 pm. This suggests that abuse may be happening during daytime hours, potentially in familiar environments such as homes or educational institutions.

Abuse incidents for victims aged 8 to 9 years were reported to occur during the evening and late-night hours, ranging from 8 pm to 12:40 am. This indicates a higher likelihood of abuse happening in the evenings, possibly when the victims are at home or in social settings.

Abuse incidents in 11 to 12 years age group occurred in the afternoon, between 3 pm to 4 pm, as well as during late-night hours at 11 pm. The variation in timings suggests that abuse incidents can happen at different times during the day, emphasizing the need for vigilance and protection throughout the day.

Abuse incidents reported for victims aged 13 years predominantly occurred during the late-night and early morning hours, from 11 pm to 6 am. This indicates a higher vulnerability

of older children during nightime, potentially indicating situations where they may be alone or unsupervised.

Abuse incidents for victims aged 14-15 years occurred at various times throughout the day and night. The reported timings include 1:30 pm, 7 pm, and a range of 11 pm to 5 am. This suggests a wider range of potential risk factors and situations where abuse can occur.

Reported abuse incidents for victims aged 16 years occurred in the late morning, between 10:30 am to 11 am. This indicates the possibility of abuse happening during daytime hours, potentially in settings such as schools or public places.

Overall, the analysis reveals that abuse incidents can occur at various times of the day depending on the age group. Younger children (3-6 years) are more vulnerable during the afternoon, while older children (8-9 years) face higher risks in the evening. Abuse incidents for children aged 11-12 years and 13 years show variations in timings, indicating the need for continuous vigilance throughout the day. For victims aged 14-15 years, abuse incidents occur at diverse times, suggesting a broader range of potential risk factors. The reported incidents for 16-year-olds indicate a possibility of abuse happening during late morning hours. This information highlights the importance of age-specific preventive measures and awareness campaigns to protect children from abuse.

The findings emphasize the importance of constant vigilance and protection measures for children throughout the day, not just during specific hours. This analysis can help inform preventive strategies, awareness campaigns, and interventions targeting specific age groups and corresponding vulnerable timeframes.

Table 4.9: Victim's Age and Time of Occurrence Association
(Chargesheet data)

Age of Victim	Number of Victim	Time of Occurrence
3 to 6 years	04	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
8 to 9 years	05	8.00 pm to 12:40 am
11 to 12 years	06	3.00 pm to 4.00 pm, and 11.00 pm
13 years	05	11.00 pm to 6.00 am,
14-15 years	06	Diverse: 1:30 pm, 7.00 pm, 11.00 pm-5.00 am
16 years	02	10:30 to 11 am

4.5.2 Survey Data Analysis

4.5.2.1 Relationship with Offender

The table 4.10 provides information on the relationship between victims of sexual violence and their offenders. Here is an analysis of the data:

The data shows that in 11.8% of the cases, the offender was the victim's uncle. This indicates that a significant proportion of sexual violence incidents occurred within the victim's extended family. Approximately 5.9% of the victims reported that the offender was their cousin. This suggests that instances of sexual violence also occur within the victim's close family circle.

About 8.8% of the victims reported that the offender was a relative other than an uncle or cousin. This category includes relatives such as distant relatives or family friends. The data indicates that in 4.4% of the cases, the offender was a friend of

the victim. This highlights the unfortunate reality that sexual violence can occur even within trusted social relationships.

The data shows that 10.3% of the victims identified their neighbours as the offenders. This suggests that instances of sexual violence can occur in close proximity to the victim's residence. The largest proportion of victims (39.7%) reported that the offenders were unknown to them. This indicates that a significant number of incidents involve perpetrators who are strangers to the victims.

Table 4.10: Relationship with Offender

Relationship	Frequency	Percent
Unknown	27	39.7
Uncle	08	11.8
Neighbour	07	10.3
Relative (other than uncles or cousins)	06	8.8
Teacher	05	7.4
Cousin	04	5.9
Known but not relative	04	5.9
Friend	03	4.4
Boy friend	02	2.9
Local Boys	02	2.9
Total	**68**	**100.0**

It is important to note that these percentages are based on the available data and may not represent the overall prevalence of sexual violence by relationship in the broader population. Nonetheless, the data provides insights into the different relationships between victims and offenders in cases of sexual violence. This information can help inform prevention strategies,

support systems, and policies aimed at addressing and reducing sexual violence in society.

4.5.2.2 Gender and Type of Abuse

This table presents the frequency distribution and percentages of different types of abuse based on the sex of the respondents. Here's an explanation of the table without using numbers:

The table examines three types of abuse: psychological, physical, and sexual harassment. The respondents are divided into two groups based on their sex: boys and girls.

For boys:

- Psychological abuse: 61.9% of the boys reported experiencing psychological abuse.

- Physical abuse: 25.0% of the boys reported experiencing physical abuse.

- Sexual harassment: 20.0% of the boys reported experiencing sexual harassment.

For girls:

- Psychological abuse: 38.1% of the girls reported experiencing psychological abuse.

- Physical abuse: 75.0% of the girls reported experiencing physical abuse.

- Sexual harassment: 80.0% of the girls reported experiencing sexual harassment.

In total:

- Among all respondents, 23.3% were boys and 76.7% were girls.

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- Among all types of abuse reported, psychological abuse accounted for 23.3%, physical abuse accounted for 4.4%, and sexual harassment accounted for 72.2%.

Overall, sexual harassment is the most prevalent form of abuse reported in this study, accounting for 72.2% of all types of abuse reported. The high prevalence of sexual harassment among both boys and girls highlights the urgent need for awareness, prevention, and protection measures to address this issue effectively. The results also emphasize the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in combating child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

Table 4.11: Gender and Type of Abuse

Sex of the Respondent		Type of Abuse			Total
		Psychological	Physical	Sexual Harassment	
Boy	Count	13	1	13	**27**
	% within Sex of the respondent	48.1%	3.7%	48.1%	100.0%
	% within Type of Abuse	61.9%	25.0%	20.0%	30.0%
Girl	Count	8	3	52	**63**
	% within Sex of the respondent	12.7%	4.8%	82.5%	100.0%
	% within Type of Abuse	38.1%	75.0%	80.0%	70.0%
Total	**Count**	**21**	**4**	**65**	**90**
	% within Sex of the respondent	23.3%	4.4%	72.2%	100.0%
	% within Type of Abuse	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

4.5.2.3 Age Group and Nature of Abuse

The following table provides information on the distribution of different types of abuse based on the age of the respondents. It also includes the percentage breakdown within each type of abuse.

Psychological Abuse: Among respondents aged <= 14, 57.9% experienced psychological abuse, followed by 31.6% among those aged 15-17, and 10.5% among those aged 18+. Overall, 100% of the reported cases of psychological abuse fall within these age groups.

Physical Abuse: In terms of physical abuse, 33.3% of respondents aged <= 14 reported experiencing it, followed by 33.3% among those aged 15-17, and 33.3% among those aged 18+. Again, the total percentage within this type of abuse adds up to 100%.

Sexual Harassment: Among respondents aged <= 14, 32.4% reported experiencing sexual harassment, while it was reported by 48.5% of those aged 15-17, and 19.1% of those aged 18+. The total percentage within sexual harassment is 100%.

Overall, the table suggests that the prevalence of different types of abuse varies across different age groups. The highest percentage of psychological abuse was reported by respondents aged <= 14, while sexual harassment was more prevalent among those aged 15-17. Physical abuse had relatively similar percentages across all age groups.

It's important to note that without additional information from the national database, we cannot compare these findings directly to the national data or make broader conclusions about the victimization trends in Bangladesh.

Table 4.12: Age vs. Type of Abuse

Age of the Respondent		Type of Abuse			Total
		Psychological	Physical	Sexual Harassment	
<= 14	Count	11	1	22	**34**
	% within Type of Abuse	57.9%	33.3%	32.4%	37.8%
15 - 17	Count	6	1	33	**40**
	% within Type of Abuse	31.6%	33.3%	48.5%	44.4%
18+	Count	2	1	13	**16**
	% within Type of Abuse	10.5%	33.3%	19.1%	17.8%
Total	**Count**	**19**	**3**	**68**	**90**
	% within Type of Abuse	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

4.5.2.4 Educational Level and Nature of Abuse

The table presents the distribution of different types of abuse based on the educational level (years of schooling) of the respondents. It also includes the percentage breakdown within each type of abuse.

- Psychological Abuse: Among respondents with <= 9 years of schooling, 66.7% reported experiencing psychological abuse. For those with 10-11 years of schooling, the percentage was 22.2%, and for those with 12+ years of schooling, it was 11.1%.

- Physical Abuse: In terms of physical abuse, 50% of respondents with <= 9 years of schooling reported experiencing it, while for those with 12+ years of schooling, the percentage was 50%. No instances of physical abuse were reported by respondents with 10-11 years of schooling.

- Sexual Harassment: Among respondents with <= 9 years of schooling, 37.3% reported experiencing sexual harassment. For those with 10-11 years of schooling, the percentage was 51%, and for those with 12+ years of schooling, it was 11.8%.

Overall, the table suggests that the prevalence of different types of abuse varies based on the educational level of the respondents. Psychological abuse was more commonly reported among those with <= 9 years of schooling, while sexual harassment had higher percentages among those with 10-11 years of schooling. Physical abuse had relatively similar percentages among respondents with <= 9 years and 12+ years of schooling.

Table 4.13: Educational Level and Nature of Abuse

Class Level	Type of Abuse			Total
	Psychological	Physical	Sexual Harassment	
<= 9	12	1	19	**32**
	66.7%	50.0%	37.3%	45.1%
10 - 11	4	0	26	**30**
	22.2%	0.0%	51.0%	42.3%
12+	2	1	6	**9**
	11.1%	50.0%	11.8%	12.7%
Total	**18**	**2**	**51**	**71**
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

4. 5.2.5 Occupation of the Family Head with Whom They Shared Victimization experience

- Service Holder: One respondent shared it with their father.

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- <u>Business:</u> One respondent shared it with their father, four with their mother, two with siblings, two with friends, and one with others. A total of ten respondents shared it.

- <u>Driver:</u> One respondent shared it with their mother, one with others. A total of two respondents shared it.

- <u>Farmer:</u> One respondent shared it with their father, one with a friend. A total of two respondents shared it.

- <u>House Maid:</u> One respondent shared it with their mother. A total of one respondent shared it.

- <u>Service Holder:</u> Three respondents shared it with their father, six with their mother, two with siblings, four with relatives, six with friends, and one with others. A total of 22 respondents shared it.

- <u>Tea seller:</u> One respondent shared it with their mother. A total of one respondent shared it.

- <u>Teacher:</u> Three respondents shared it with their mother, one with a friend. A total of four respondents shared it.

The total number of respondents who shared their experience varies based on the occupation of the family head. The highest number of respondents who shared it were from the "Service Holder" category, followed by "Business" and "Teacher." The occupation of the family head appears to have some influence on the choice of individuals with whom the respondents shared their experiences of abuse.

Please note that the table only provides a specific breakdown based on this dataset, and further analysis would be required to draw broader conclusions or comparisons to the national scenario.

Table 4.14: Occupation of the Family Head with Whom shared Victimization Information

Occupation of Family Head	Person Information share with						Total
	Father	Mother	Siblings	Relative	Friend	Others	
Service Holder	1	0	0	0	0	0	**01**
Business	1	4	2	0	2	1	**10**
Driver	0	1	0	0	0	1	**02**
Farmer	1	0	0	0	1	0	**02**
House Maid	0	1	0	0	0	0	**01**
Service Holder	3	6	2	4	6	1	**22**
Tea seller	0	1	0	0	0	0	**01**
Teacher	0	3	0	0	1	0	**04**
Total	**06**	**16**	**04**	**04**	**10**	**03**	**43**

4.6 Inferential Analysis

4.6.1 Factors of becoming Victim of Sexual Abuse

The above analysis provides insights into various factors that may contribute to or be associated with child sexual abuse. Here's an interpretation of the variables in the context of child sexual abuse:

Sex Pleasure: This factor suggests that perpetrators of child sexual abuse may derive pleasure or satisfaction from engaging in such activities.

Manhood Psyche (Sex Drive): This factor indicates that individuals with a strong sex drive or a perception of sexual prowess may be more prone to engaging in child sexual abuse.

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Physical Beauty: This factor implies that the physical attractiveness of a child may be a contributing factor, as perpetrators may target children based on their appearance.

Living Area Condition: The state of the living area may play a role in child sexual abuse, suggesting that children living in disadvantaged or unsafe environments may be at a higher risk.

Lower Income Group Area: This factor suggests that residing in lower-income group areas may be associated with a higher prevalence of child sexual abuse, possibly due to increased vulnerability and limited access to resources.

Refusal in Love Affair: This factor implies that rejection or dissatisfaction in adult relationships may lead some individuals to seek inappropriate and exploitative relationships with children.

Relationship with Peer Group: This factor suggests that the dynamics within an individual's peer group may influence their propensity for engaging in child sexual abuse.

Uncontrolled Life Leading: This factor indicates that individuals with an undisciplined or chaotic lifestyle may be more likely to engage in harmful behaviours such as child sexual abuse.

Enmity Attitude: This factor suggests that individuals with hostile attitudes may be more prone to perpetrating child sexual abuse, possibly using it as a means of exerting power or control.

Family Conflict: This factor implies that conflicts within the family may create a disruptive or dysfunctional environment that increases the risk of child sexual abuse.

Religion, Caste: This factor suggests that cultural or religious factors, including beliefs or norms related to sex and power dynamics, may influence the occurrence of child sexual abuse.

It is important to note that these factors do not justify or excuse child sexual abuse in any way. Instead, they provide insights into potential risk factors and areas that require attention and intervention to prevent and address child sexual abuse effectively.

Table 4.15: Perceptions on the Causes of Sexual Violence

The Causes of Sexual Violence	Mean	Std. Deviation	Priority of Rank*
Sex Pleasure	4.26	1.094	1
Manhood Psyche (Sex Drive)	4.17	1.206	2
Physical beauty	3.00	1.287	3
Due to state of living area condition	2.66	1.482	4
Lower income group area	2.51	1.336	5
Refusal in love affair	2.38	1.331	6
Relationship with peer group	2.32	1.213	7
Uncontrolled life leading	2.03	1.060	8
Enmity attitude	1.78	.820	9
Family conflict	1.75	.830	10
Religion, Caste	1.72	.761	11

The rank is based on descending order of mean score

The communality data provided offers insights into the amount of variance in the original variables that is explained by the extracted factors through principal component analysis. Here's an extended analysis incorporating the communality data:

Sex Pleasure (.793) and Manhood Psyche (Sex Drive) (.795): These variables have high communality values, indicating that they share a significant amount of variance with other variables. This suggests that sexual pleasure and a strong sex drive play crucial roles in child sexual abuse, reinforcing the previous analysis.

Physical Beauty (.714): The high communality value suggests that physical attractiveness remains an important factor associated with child sexual abuse. Perpetrators may target children based on their physical appearance.

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Lower Income Group Area (.801) and Due to State of Living Area Condition (.759): These variables have high communality values, indicating that the state of the living area and belonging to a lower-income group are closely related factors contributing to child sexual abuse. Children living in disadvantaged areas or with limited resources may face higher vulnerability.

Refusal in Love Affair (.649), Relationship with Peer Group (.556), and Uncontrolled Life Leading (.469): These variables capture psychological and behavioural aspects of the perpetrators. The communality values suggest that these factors are interrelated and contribute to the occurrence of child sexual abuse. Individuals with difficulties in relationships, peer group dynamics, and a lack of self-control may be more prone to engaging in such abusive behaviour.

Enmity Attitude (.445) and Family Conflict (.702): These variables also play a role in child sexual abuse, although with relatively lower communality values. Enmity attitude suggests that hostile attitudes contribute to the perpetration of abuse, while family conflict highlights the impact of disruptive family environments on the occurrence of abuse.

Religion, Caste (.529): The communality value suggests that religious and caste-related factors have a moderate association with child sexual abuse. Cultural and societal norms within specific religious or caste contexts may influence the occurrence of such abuse.

By considering the communality data, we can further understand the shared variance among the factors and their relevance to child sexual abuse. It is important to address these factors through comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies to effectively combat child sexual abuse and protect vulnerable children.

Table 4.16: Factor Analysis of the Causes of Violence: Communalities

Causes of Violence	Extraction
Relationship with peer group	.556
Uncontrolled life leading	.469
Refusal in love affair	.649
Physical beauty	.714
Manhood Psyche (Sex Drive)	.795
Sex Pleasure	.793
Due to state of living area condition	.759
Lower income group area	.801
Family conflict	.702
Enmity attitude	.445
Religion, Caste	.529

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

The fear factors measured in Likert scale was examined using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with Verimax rotation. The initial inspection of the R-matrix indicated a substantial number of the coefficients were above .30. The Kaiser-Mayer-Olkin (KMO) index was 0.622, exceeding the recommended value of 0.6 (Kaiser, 1970), and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (Bartlett, 1954) reached statistical significance (χ2=172.434, p<.000), indicating that our data were suitable for factor analysis. The results of the initial analysis revealed four factors with Eigen values over 1, explaining 25.93%, 18.69%, 10.93%, and 10.02% of the variance, respectively. However, the Scree plot suggests a clear break after the fourth factor (Figure 4.6), suggesting a potential four-factor analysis for factors of

sexual violence. Following the best practices of item retention outlined at the outset, 9 items were retained for the factors of violence with two latent factors.
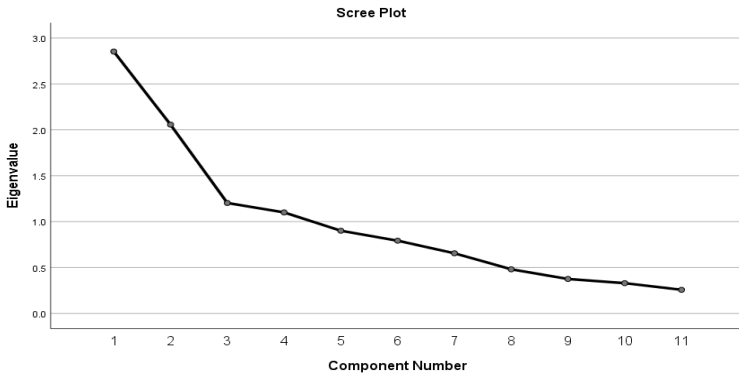
Figure 4.5: Scree Plot for Factors PCA

Table 4.17: Rotated Component Matrix

Items	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Family conflict	.760			
Religion, Caste	.707			
Enmity attitude	.615			
Due to state of living area condition		.841		
Lower income group area		.832		
Sex Pleasure		.631		
Physical beauty			.824	
Refusal in love affair			.598	
Relationship with peer group			.554	
Manhood Psyche (Sex Drive)				.882
Uncontrolled life leading				.502

4.6.2 Analysis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

The factor analysis results provide insights into the perception of sexually abused children regarding the factors associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Here's an analysis of the factors based on the given extraction data:

Shamefulness (.927): This factor has the highest communality value, indicating that feelings of shame are strongly associated with PTSD among sexually abused children. The experience of sexual abuse can lead to a profound sense of shame and self-blame, contributing to the development of PTSD symptoms.

Fear (.806) and Anxiety (.787): These factors also have high communality values, suggesting that fear and anxiety are prevalent in sexually abused children. The traumatic experience of sexual abuse can instil intense fear and anxiety, leading to hyper vigilance, heightened arousal, and an ongoing sense of threat.

Dietary Changes (.748) and Inferiority (.743): These factors capture the psychological and emotional impact of sexual abuse. The communality values indicate that sexually abused children may experience changes in their eating patterns and develop a sense of inferiority as a result of the abuse.

Not being able to move freely (.718), Insomnia (.665), and Frustration (.659): These factors reflect the physical and emotional consequences of sexual abuse. The communality values suggest that sexually abused children may face difficulties in feeling safe and secure, resulting in a sense of restriction and insomnia. Frustration is also a common emotional response to the trauma experienced.

Self-blaming (.622) and Family Dishonoured (.609): These factors capture the internalization of blame and the impact on familial relationships. Sexually abused children may blame themselves for the abuse and experience a sense of dishonour within their family context.

The factor analysis indicates that the perceived factors related to PTSD among sexually abused children encompass a range of emotional, psychological, and interpersonal aspects. Shame, fear, anxiety, self-blame, and the impact on family dynamics are prominent factors contributing to the development of PTSD symptoms. These findings emphasize the importance of providing comprehensive support and interventions to address the specific needs and experiences of sexually abused children and mitigate the long-term effects of trauma.

Table 4.18: Communalities of PTSD Items

Factors	Extraction
Shamefulness	.891
Dietary Changes	.786
Anxiety	.736
Fear	.729
Not being able to move freely	.719
Inferiority	.710
Frustration	.702
Insomnia	.684
Family Dishonored	.672
Self-blaming	.528

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

The PTSD events are measured in Likert scale was investigated using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with Verimax rotation. The initial inspection of the R-matrix indicated a substantial number of the coefficients were above .30. The Kaiser-Mayer-Olkin (KMO) index was 0.843, exceeding the recommended value of 0.6 (Kaiser, 1970), and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (Bartlett, 1954) reached statistical significance ($\chi2$=345.725, p<.000), indicating that our data were suitable for factor analysis. The results of the initial analysis revealed three factors with Eigen values over 1, explaining 48.76%, 12.56%, and 10.26% of the variance, respectively. However, the Scree plot suggests a clear break after the third factor (Figure 19), suggesting a potential three-factor analysis for PTSD after sexual violence. Following the best practices of item retention outlined at the outset, 10 items were retained for the factors of violence with two latent factors.
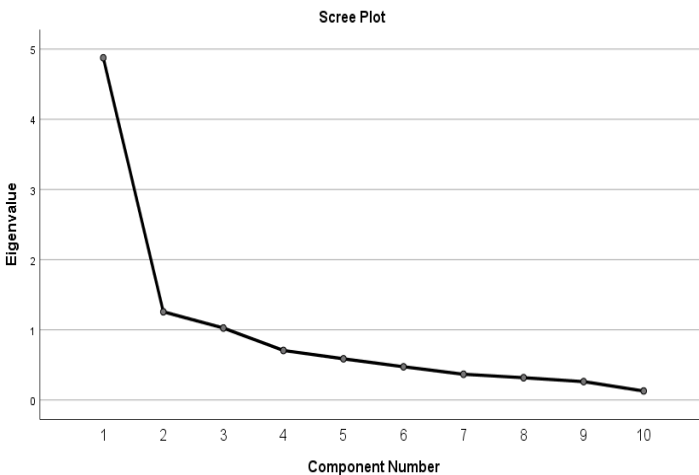
Figure 4.6: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Scree Plot

Table 4.19: Rotated Component Matrix

Items	Component		
	1	2	3
Fear	.777		
Frustration		.706	
Inferiority		.785	
Anxiety	.718		
Dietary Changes			.825
Insomnia			.728
Shamefulness	.885		
Not being able to move freely	.822		
Family Dishonoured			.772
Self-blaming		.710	

4.6.3 Traumatic Event Screening Questionnaire

The result presents the impact of sexual violence on children based on their responses to various statements. The responses were measured on a scale from 0 to 5, with 0 indicating "not at all" and 5 indicating "often times." Here is an analysis of the table:

Are you alert and watchful even when there is no obvious need to be? (Rank: 1)

This statement indicates that the majority of children experience heightened alertness and vigilance even in situations where it is not necessary. They remain hyper vigilant as a result of the trauma they have experienced.

Do you stay away from reminders of it (e.g., places or situations) (Rank: 2)

Many children tend to avoid places, situations, or triggers that remind them of the sexual violence they endured. This avoidance behaviour is a common coping mechanism for managing the distress associated with the trauma.

Do you try to remove it from your memory? (Rank: 3)

Children often make efforts to suppress or remove the memories of the traumatic event from their minds. This suggests that they actively try to distance themselves from the painful memories.

Do you think about it even when you don't mean to? (Rank: 4)

The children frequently experience intrusive thoughts about the sexual violence, even when they don't intentionally try to think about it. These involuntary thoughts may intrude upon their daily lives and cause distress.

Do you have waves of strong feelings about it? (Rank: 5)

Children commonly experience intense emotional reactions related to the sexual violence they have experienced. These waves of strong feelings may include emotions such as fear, anger, sadness, or confusion.

Do pictures about it pop into your mind? (Rank: 6)

Children often have intrusive visual images or flashbacks related to the sexual violence. These images can spontaneously appear in their minds, causing distress and reactivating the trauma. They exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress, such as hyper vigilance, avoidance, intrusive thoughts, and emotional distress. Understanding these impacts is crucial for providing

appropriate support and interventions to help these children cope with their experiences and facilitate their healing process.

Table 4.20: Impact on the Victim

Items	Impact on the Victim
Item-1	: Do you think about it even when you don't mean to?
Item-2	: Do you try to remove it from your memory?
Item-3	: Do you have difficulties paying attention or concentrating?
Item-4	: Do you have waves of strong feelings about it?
Item-5	: Do you startle more easily or feel more nervous than : you did before it happened?
Item-6	: Do you stay away from reminders of it? (e.g., places or situations)
Item-7	: Do you try not talk about it?
Item-8	: Do pictures about it pop into your mind?
Item-9	: Do other things keep making you think about it?
Item-10	: Do you try not to think about it?
Item-11	: Do you get easily irritable?
Item-12	: Are you alert and watchful even when there is no obvious need to be?
Item-13	: Do you have sleep problems?

The impact of sexual violence on children event was measured in Likert scale and investigated using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) with Verimax rotation. The initial inspection of the R-matrix indicated a substantial number of the coefficients were above .30. The Kaiser-Mayer-Olkin (KMO) index was 0.880, exceeding the recommended value of 0.6 (Kaiser, 1970), and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (Bartlett, 1954)

reached statistical significance (χ2=432.163, p<.000), indicating that our data were suitable for factor analysis. The results of the initial analysis revealed three factors with Eigen values over 1, explaining 25.775%, 20.238%, and 18.748% of the variance, respectively. However, the Scree plot suggests a clear break after the second factor (Figure 19), suggesting a potential two-factor analysis for impact of sexual violence on children. Following the best practices of item retention outlined at the outset, 3 items were retained for the factors of violence with ten latent factors.

Table 4.21: Descriptive Statistics for Sexual Impact Analysis

Items	Mean	Std. Deviation	Communalities	Priority of Rank
Item-1	1.69	1.110	.672	4
Item-2	1.93	1.159	.529	3
Item-3	1.41	1.222	.731	9
Item-4	1.61	1.254	.721	6
Item-5	1.53	1.139	.604	8
Item-6	2.04	1.135	.623	2
Item-7	1.16	1.223	.454	12
Item-8	1.61	1.107	.671	7
Item-9	1.66	1.178	.660	5
Item-10	1.29	1.181	.773	10
Item-11	1.27	1.128	.626	11
Item-12	2.14	1.081	.625	1
Item-13	0.76	1.122	.730	13

The first priority to become alert and watchful even when there is no obvious need to after the occurrence should increase the level of fear of crime. Communality for the item is .672; that

is, it can only share a 68% variation on victim's behaviour. In addition, communality for 'item 13' is .730, which is explaining that, it can share 73.0% variation in victim's not getting proper sleep option.
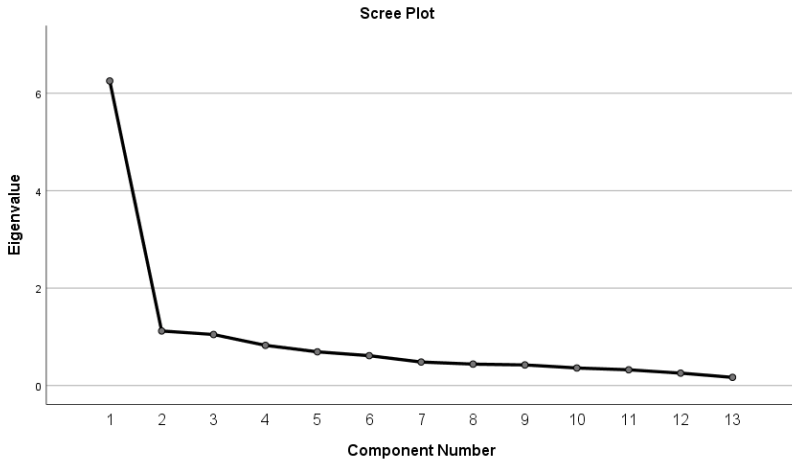
Figure 4.7: Scree Plot Impact of Trauma

4.7 Chargesheet Data Analysis

4.7.1 Coded Analysis of information collected from 25 Chargesheets:

The summary of the victims, offenders and police are presented below:

1. **Victim**
    - **Complain Period**: The cases collected and analysed for section covered a period of two years approximately: 2020-22.
    - **Complainant**: Mother: 14, Father: 5, Self: 3, Sister: 2
    - **Age**: Minimum: 3 years, Maximum: 16 years and Average: 11 years
    - **Gender**: 28 girls and one boy

- **Area of Residence**: Dhaka Metropolitan Area
- **Permanent Residence**: Bhola 5, Barisal 3, Shariatpur 2, Naraynganj, Cumilla, Chadpur, Noakhali, Sylhet, Mymensingh 2, Sherpur 2, Panchogorh, Netrokona, Madaripur, Tangail, Kishorgonj and Magura.
- **Economic Condition**: 10 Victims were identified to be of lower socio-economic conditions where their parents' occupations include house maid, rickshaw puller, day labourer, garments worker etc.
- **Type of Residence**: According to the descriptions given in the charge-sheet of the cases, the type of residences was squatter settlement or rented house in the semi-residential areas with a higher density of population and low space conditions in a slum like construction.
- **Victim-offender relation**: Unknown 6, Relative 7, Neighbour 10, Colleague of father 1, and Father 1.
- **Motive**: Mostly Rape: sexual gratification (the sexually motivated rapist is one sort of rapist, according to Shannon M. Barton-Bellessa. This rapist's primary goal is to have sex. Due to their failure at marriage, such an offender might otherwise be lonely and struggle to find another way to satisfy their sexual needs). Power rapist and sadistic rapist are in category in these cases. (Nicholas Groth has described three types of rape based on the goal of the rapist: power, anger and sadist rapist.)
- **Number of offenders in rape**: three offenders in 7 cases (Section 9.3), single offender in 17 cases (Section 9.1), two offenders in one case.
- **Time/ Period of rape**: In all 25 cases the victims were raped just after being kidnapped or taken from their

residence. In at least 8 cases the victims were repeatedly raped which last for few hours to few days.

- **Location of crime incidents**: Victim's own residence 10, Neighbour's residence 4, Offender's House (close to own residence) 3, Close to place of residence 5, remote location 3.
- **Types of injury**: Except one case <u>all victims were found conscious and alive after the rape.</u> Only in 6 of the cases the victims were taken to hospital for treatment where one victim was found unconscious, and another was severely injured.
- **Medical examination**: The victims were found late for medical examinations while 16 victims were examined, and the rest is not specified in the charge-sheet.
- **Evidence of rape**: For 15 victims "Sign of forceful sexual intercourse" were observed by forensic examiner, for 3 cases "No sign of forceful sexual intercourse" and for the rest it was unspecified.
- **Victim's orientation to the crime scene**: <u>The places of occurrence were known to at least 21</u> of the victims and the rests were unknown.
- **Presence of guardians**: The victims were found alone either playing or resting in her own place. Guardians were absent.
- **Rape at the Hour**: About 18 instances occurred from 7 pm to 3 am where 5 cases mentioned it occurred near about 12:30 to 1:30 am. The rest of the rape occurred at day time starting from 11 am to 5 pm.

2. **Offender**
   - **Age:** Minimum 12 years, Maximum 55 years and Average About 31 years
   - **Permanent residence:** Five offenders found to be from Bhola, Two from Cumilla, Two from Patuakhali and the remaining are from different districts.
   - **Location of residence:** Except three the rest of the offenders are from Dhaka metropolitan area.
   - **Number of victimizations:** Only three offenders found to take multiple rape attempt and the rest of the offender did one time.
   - **Relationship with the victim:**
   - Eight offenders were found to be relative of the victim,
   - out of 39 offenders 31 were known to their victims.
   - **Arrest:** 37 offenders were arrest immediately after complaint and two offenders were not arrested or found.
   - **Time required to arrest offender:**
     - In 19 cases the average time required to arrest was one day,
     - in two cases the average time for arrest was 12 days, and
     - in four cases the arrest time is not mentioned
   - **Nature of confession:** Only 4 offenders confessed for their crimes in two cases
   - **DNA Test:** For two cases four (3+1) offenders' DNA were found positive and matched with the crime scene samples. In three cases semen were found but DNA could not be matched. The rest of the cases did not mention about DNA tests.

3. **Police**
    - **Time taken for FIR:** Police took initiative by making an FIR right after filing the complaint (Ejahar) by the victim or their families.
    - **Investigating Agency:** Only in one case the investigation was conducted jointly with RAB and Women Support and Investigation team. The rest of the cases dealt by the Police alone where three cases came through Women Help Desk.
    - **Information about offender:** As 19 offenders were found acquainted to the victim thus, they were known and arrested. While 6 of the offenders were later identified and verified by their address.
    - **Time taken for investigation:** Minimum 3 Months, Maximum 36 Months, Average 9 Months.
    - **Victim support service:** Only in 5 cases the victims too support from the One Stop Crisis Centre and the rest were not specified.
    - **Investigative complexity:** In five instances the investigator had to consult and took aid from other agencies in order to complete the investigations.

4.7.2 Interpretation of the Chargesheet Data

Victims Case Analysis

The summarized data provides insights into various aspects of the sexual abuse cases occurred over a two-year period. Here are some interpretations based on the information provided:

Age and Gender: The victims of sexual abuse ranged from as young as 3 years to 16 years, with an average age of 11 years. The majority of the victims were girls (28), highlighting the vulnerability of young girls to such crimes.

Area of Residence: The cases primarily originated from the Dhaka Metropolitan Area, indicating that urban areas are not immune to sexual abuse incidents. Victims' permanent residences were spread across different regions, emphasizing that this issue is not limited to a specific geographic location.

Economic Condition: A significant number of victims came from lower socio-economic backgrounds, with parents working in low-income occupations such as housemaids, rickshaw pullers, and day laborers. This suggests that socio-economic factors can contribute to the vulnerability of children to sexual abuse.

Victim-Offender Relationship: The presence of unknown individuals, relatives, neighbours, and even fathers as offenders indicates that sexual abuse can occur within various relationships and contexts. It emphasizes the importance of trust and vigilance in all settings, including family, neighbourhoods, and communities.

Motive: The primary motive behind most cases was rape for sexual gratification. The involvement of power rapists and sadistic rapists suggests a range of psychological factors influencing the offenders' behaviour, including a desire for control, dominance, and inflicting pain.

Period and Location of Incidents: The majority of the victims were raped shortly after being kidnapped or taken from their residences. This indicates that perpetrators often exploit vulnerable situations and take advantage of the victims' immediate surroundings. The incidents occurred in a range of locations, including victims' own residences, neighbours' residences, and remote areas, highlighting the need for safety measures in various settings.

Medical Examination and Evidence: The data suggests that in some cases, victims were not immediately examined, which could potentially impact the collection of evidence. The presence or absence of signs of forceful sexual intercourse varied, indicating the importance of timely medical examinations to document evidence of abuse.

Guardianship and Time of Incidents: The absence of guardians during the incidents and the occurrence of rape during late evening and night-time hours indicate the significance of supervision and safety measures, particularly during vulnerable periods.

These interpretations highlight the complex nature of sexual abuse cases and underscore the need for comprehensive efforts to prevent and address such incidents. They also emphasize the importance of awareness, education, support services, and effective legal frameworks to protect and empower victims while holding offenders accountable.

4.7.3 Offenders' Data Analysis from Chargesheet

Based on the offender data provided, we can make the following interpretations connecting with the victims' experiences:

Age and Permanent Residence: The offenders' ages ranged from 12 to 55 years, with an average age of around 31 years. They were predominantly from various districts, including Bhola, Cumilla, and Patuakhali. However, the majority of the offenders were from the Dhaka metropolitan area, indicating that the crimes were not limited to a specific geographic location.

Number of Victimization and Relationship with the Victim:
Most offenders committed the crime against the victims only
once. However, three offenders were found to had multiple
rape attempts. In terms of the relationship with the victims,
eight offenders were relatives of the victims, while the
majority (31 out of 39) were known to their victims. This
highlights the significance of trust and familiarity as factors
contributing to the perpetration of sexual abuse.

Table 4.22: Number of Offender by Age Group

Age Group	Number of Offender
12-19	05
20-27	15
28-35	09
36-43	06
44-51	03
52-59	01

Arrest and Time Required for Arrest: The data shows that the
majority of offenders (37 out of 39) were immediately
arrested after the complaint was filed. However, two
offenders were not arrested or found. The average time
required for arrest varied, with 19 cases being resolved within
one day, two cases taking an average of 12 days, and four
cases not mentioning the arrest time. Prompt arrest is crucial
in ensuring the safety of victims and holding offenders
accountable.

Confession and DNA Test: Only four offenders confessed to
their crimes in two cases, indicating a relatively low rate of
voluntary admission. DNA tests were conducted in some
cases, with positive matches found in four offenders' DNA

samples. However, in three cases, semen was found but the DNA could not be matched. The availability and use of forensic evidence, including DNA testing, can play a crucial role in corroborating victims' testimonies and building strong cases against offenders.

4.8 Police Investigative Process

Time Taken for FIR and Investigative Complexity: The police took prompt action by filing FIRs immediately after the complaints were lodged. The investigative process varied in terms of complexity, with five instances requiring consultation and assistance from other agencies to complete the investigations effectively.

Investigative Time and Victim Support Services: The investigations took a minimum of 3 months, a maximum of 36 months, and an average of 9 months to be completed. This highlights the need for thorough and timely investigations to ensure justice for the victims. Only five cases mentioned the victims receiving support from One Stop Crisis Centres, while the support services provided to the rest of the victims were not specified.

These interpretations underscore the importance of a swift and comprehensive response from law enforcement agencies, including timely arrests, effective investigations, and access to victim support services. They also highlight the need for collaboration between different agencies to address the complexity of sexual abuse cases. Overall, the data emphasizes the challenges and responsibilities involved in handling cases of sexual abuse, with a focus on victim-centred approaches, evidence collection, and timely legal processes.

4.9 In-depth Interviews

This analysis examines four transcripts of victim interviews, focusing on the themes that emerge from their narratives. To ensure the privacy of the victims, their names have been replaced with pseudonyms. These interviews shed light on the traumatic experiences these individuals endured, the impact on their lives, and the challenges they faced in seeking justice and recovery. The names provided for the cases are not real, pseudo names are used for ethical reasons.

Analysis of the Case Studies

Analysing the transcripts thematically while ensuring the victims' privacy, it is evident that all the cases involve sexual abuse or assault. Each case highlights the traumatic experiences faced by the victims and the challenges they encountered in seeking justice. Despite the disturbing nature of these incidents, it is essential to maintain the victims' privacy and respect their confidentiality. The following analysis will focus on the themes that emerge from these transcripts, without revealing any identifying information about the victims.

Manipulation and Exploitation

In Case 1, the victim was manipulated and exploited by her neighbours, who took advantage of her vulnerability and her mother's absence. They gradually gained her trust by portraying themselves as caring individuals, while undermining her relationship with her mother. Eventually, they facilitated her sexual assault by allowing a stranger into her house. This highlights the perpetrators' ability to manipulate victims and exploit their vulnerabilities for their own gain.

Fear and Threats

Fear played a significant role in preventing the victims from disclosing the abuse. In Case 1, the victim was threatened with the circulation of explicit photos if she revealed the incident. Similarly, in Case 2 the young victim was threatened by the criminal with a chopper blade, creating a fear of life-threatening consequences. These threats instilled fear in the victims, making them reluctant to report the abuse and seek help.

Lack of Support and Repercussions

The victims faced various challenges when seeking justice. In Case 1, the victim and her mother were mistreated and accused of filing a false case by the police. They were also detained overnight, and the police initially refused to take the case seriously due to the influence of the criminals. In Case 3 the victim's family faced physical assaults and threats from the offender's family after reporting the incident. These incidents highlight the lack of support from the authorities and the potential repercussions faced by victims and their families when pursuing legal action.

Psychological Impact

All the victims experienced significant psychological trauma as a result of the abuse. Case 1 describes how the victim's mental state deteriorated, leading to difficulties concentrating on her studies, anger issues, and social withdrawal. In Case 2 the young victim became fearful of strangers and had trouble interacting with people. In Case 3 the victim expressed feelings of trauma, fear, and instability. These cases emphasize the long-lasting psychological impact that sexual abuse can have on survivors.

Support and Resilience

Despite the challenges, there were instances of support and resilience in these cases. In Case 2, the victim's family received social support, enabling her to return to a relatively normal life. In Case 3, the victim sought support from her sister and neighbours, who stood by her side during the ordeal. Additionally, the victims' decision to report the abuse demonstrates their courage and resilience in seeking justice and preventing further harm.

Reporting and Legal Processes

The cases varied in terms of the victims' experiences with reporting the abuse and navigating the legal processes. Some faced resistance, while others received immediate support. The involvement of law enforcement and legal authorities was crucial in investigating the incidents, gathering evidence, and initiating legal action against the perpetrators.

Long-term Effects

The long-term effects of sexual abuse were evident in the cases. The victims continued to struggle with various aspects of their lives, such as education, relationships, self-esteem, and trust. Rebuilding their lives and reclaiming a sense of normalcy required extensive support, therapy, and advocacy.

In conclusion, the analysis of the transcripts reveals common themes of manipulation, fear, lack of support, psychological impact, and resilience. It is crucial to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the victims to ensure their well-being and prevent any further harm. These cases shed light on the importance of providing support, creating a safe environment for victims to come forward, and addressing the systemic issues that hinder their access to justice.

4.10 Thematic Analysis of Key Informant Interviews

Nature and Forms

According to the interviews of the stakeholders, Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) cases range from incidents of molestation to rape. The victims, predominantly female children, often live in slum areas where they lack care and affection, coming from impoverished and broken families. Perpetrators, typically middle-aged males, are commonly involved in these cases. The cases reported are either rape or "Shlilota hani" with the intention of rape. The perpetrators are, most of the time, known to the victim and they are either the victim's neighbour or relative. The perpetrator usually lures the child by promising or offering chocolate. Occasionally, more serious cases such as rape also get reported. Another type of case frequently observed involves consensual relationships, where underage female children engage in sexual relationships with other children or adults.

Factors

The main reason for child sexual abuse is the lack of awareness, particularly among families from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Parents in these circumstances often fail to adequately care for and protect their children. They may be busy with earning a livelihood, leaving little time to devote to their children. Moreover, broken family structures are not uncommon, exacerbating the vulnerability of children to abuse. Additionally, the primary reason for such cases is the deviant and twisted mentality of certain adults. Factors such as poverty, lack of care, and the vulnerability of children contribute to the occurrence of these incidents. Furthermore, the number of sexually frustrated individuals with no moral boundaries lurking around society is alarmingly high, and they are prone to

victimizing vulnerable targets who appear incapable of defending themselves such as children.

Senior personnel of Bangladesh police have discussed few issues. The discussion highlights several key points related to child sexual abuse.

Firstly, the rate of occurrence of child sexual abuse is difficult to determine precisely, but it has become increasingly prevalent in society, with reports frequently appearing in daily newspapers.

Secondly, the causes of child sexual abuse vary depending on factors such as socio-economic class. In lower-class settings, factors such as living in slum areas, addiction, norm valueless upbringing, habitual offenders, and absence of a working mother at home contribute to the occurrence of such crimes. In upper-class settings, factors such as depression, isolation, unemployment, drug addiction, and unrestricted internet access play a role. Additionally, the physical and behavioural changes of boys above the age of eighteen are identified as significant causes across all social classes.

Thirdly, the consequences of child sexual abuse on the victims are severe. They suffer from mental illness, disturbed sleep patterns, loss of expression, fear of male family members, and trauma. The families of victims also face challenges, as they often face social stigmatization and may choose to remain silent instead of seeking legal action.

Fourthly, the police in Bangladesh play a crucial role in combating child sexual abuse. They have specialized rescue teams and one-stop crisis centres that provide various services to victims. However, there are challenges for the police, such as

convincing victim families to pursue legal action due to societal norms and cultural barriers. Police also face difficulties in handling the immediate needs of victims who may be panicked or mentally disturbed, as they may lack specialized psychological training. Additionally, the cooperation of victim families is essential for successful prosecution.

Overall, the discussion sheds light on the rate of occurrence, causality, consequences, and challenges faced by the police in addressing child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

Present and Probable Consequences of CSA

The main consequence of CSA is often the lasting mental trauma experienced by the victims. Severe mental trauma can be observed among children who are below the age of 10. Many of them get socially stigmatized as well. In serious cases, the victim suffers from mental trauma. Victims often experience mental trauma unless it is a consensual case. If there were follow-up activities for the investigation officer, such as connecting with the victims after some months from the report, it would have allowed for a better understanding of their situation. Victims in consensual cases who attempt to run away with their romantic interests do not go through any form of suffering at all. They are victims according to the law, not in the true sense.

Obstacles/ Opportunities/ Prospects that are Available for Law Enforcement Agencies in Handling these Cases

Law enforcement agencies face a number of obstacles in handling cases of child sexual abuse. Some of these obstacles include the lack of witnesses, insufficient evidence, and delays in preparing medical reports in rape cases. In instances of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), the scarcity of evidence, particularly

physical evidence, poses a significant challenge. False testimonies, delays in the preparation of medical reports, and lack of eyewitnesses are also common obstacles. Corruption at different stages of the justice system poses a significant challenge in accessing justice. However, effective dispute resolution programs and encouraging witnesses to come forward and provide their testimonies in court proceedings can help address these challenges. In terms of opportunities and prospects, DNA technology is helping law enforcement agencies a lot in rape cases. The government has ensured everything necessary to deal with cases of any form of sexual abuse and will continue to do so. Private organizations can also play a crucial role in implementing measures to support and protect children. Additionally, establishing a dedicated unit or desk specifically for handling cases of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and improving the accommodation and facilities for these victims would further enhance their well-being and encourage their participation in the justice system.

Effective Child Protection Mechanism for Bangladesh

Effective child protection mechanisms for Bangladesh require a collaborative and comprehensive approach. One of the most important steps is to cultivate a progressive and modern mindset that does not shift any of the blame towards the female victims of sexual abuse. The media should prioritize highlighting cases of any form of child abuse with increased emphasis. It is also important to establish a societal system that supports and empowers females, without shifting blame onto female victims of abuse. Creating an environment where victims are not stigmatized and are instead supported and believed is crucial in addressing and preventing CSA. Moreover, establishing more day-care

centres in Bangladesh can contribute to the safety and security of children while their parents are at work. These initiatives can be undertaken through collaborative efforts involving both public and private entities, ensuring a comprehensive approach to child protection. Additionally, street children require the utmost protection, as they lack parental or legal guardian support that other children typically have. In my opinion, there should be a place like Bhashan Char established for street children where they can be relocated and provided with necessary education and training. Such an initiative would not only ensure their safety and security but also empower them to develop valuable skills, transforming them into capable citizens who can contribute significantly to our economy.

Reducing child sexual abuse in Bangladesh requires a comprehensive approach involving various stakeholders, including families, communities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. While the provided data does not specifically focus on child sexual abuse, some of the mentioned family responsibilities can contribute to creating a protective environment for children and raising awareness about this issue.

Be Supportive: Being supportive within the family context can involve providing emotional support, listening to children, and creating an open and trusting environment where they feel comfortable discussing sensitive topics like sexual abuse.

Friendly Relations: Building friendly relations within the family can help establish strong bonds and open lines of communication. This can create a safe space for children to share their concerns and experiences, including any instances of abuse.

Table 4.23: Responses on Family Responsibilities

Family Responsibilities	Frequency	Percent
Be supportive	12	28.6
Family company	01	02.4
Friendly Relation	08	19.0
Give more time to their children	06	14.3
Keeping Distance	01	02.4
No misunderstanding	01	02.4
Not allowing strangers at home	01	02.4
Not forcing to leave the house	01	02.4
Raising awareness	05	11.9
Perform Responsible	02	04.8
Stay with family	01	02.4
Teach self defence	03	07.1
Total	**42**	**100.0**

Give more Time to their Children: Spending quality time with children allows parents to better understand their needs, concerns, and behaviour. This connection can help parents identify signs of potential abuse and take appropriate actions to protect their children.

Raising Awareness: Raising awareness about child sexual abuse is crucial for prevention. Parents should be educated about the signs, risks, and consequences of abuse, as well as strategies to protect their children. Awareness campaigns can also target communities, schools, and local authorities to promote a collective responsibility in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse.

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Teach Self-Defence: Teaching children self-defence can empower them and provide them with skills to protect themselves in potentially dangerous situations. Self-defence classes or programs can help children build confidence, assertiveness, and awareness of personal boundaries.

In addition to these family responsibilities, it is important to emphasize the role of the government and relevant organizations in implementing effective child protection policies, improving access to education and healthcare, strengthening child welfare systems, and ensuring swift and just legal actions against perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

Addressing child sexual abuse requires a multi-faceted approach that combines preventive measures, early detection, and appropriate response mechanisms. It is essential to create a society where children are valued, protected, and supported to grow and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

Table 4.24: Responses on Teachers' Responsibilities

Teachers' Responsibilities	Frequency	Percent
Discuss about sexual harassment	03	07.1
Raise awareness	12	28.6
Sex Education	09	21.4
Supportive	05	11.9
Surveillance	01	02.4
Teacher's mentality development	02	04.8
Teaching ethics	10	23.8
Total	**42**	**100.0**

Analysing the provided table on teacher's responsibilities, we can observe the following:

Discuss about Sexual Harassment: This responsibility is mentioned 3 times, accounting for 7.1% of the responses. It suggests that teachers should engage in open discussions with students about sexual harassment, creating awareness and promoting a safe learning environment.

Raise Awareness: This responsibility is mentioned 12 times, representing 28.6% of the responses. It indicates that teachers should play a significant role in raising awareness about various issues, including child sexual abuse, within the school setting.

Sex Education: This responsibility is mentioned 9 times, making up 21.4% of the responses. It suggests that teachers should provide comprehensive sex education to students, ensuring they have the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and protect themselves from abuse.

Supportive: This responsibility is mentioned 5 times, accounting for 11.9% of the responses. It implies that teachers should be supportive of their students, creating a safe and trusting environment where students can seek guidance and assistance if they experience any form of abuse.

Surveillance: This responsibility is mentioned only once, representing 2.4% of the responses. It implies that teachers should be vigilant and observant, actively monitoring for any signs or behaviours that may indicate child sexual abuse.

Teacher's Mentality Development: This responsibility is mentioned 2 times, making up 4.8% of the responses. It suggests that teachers should undergo training and development programs aimed at enhancing their understanding, empathy, and appropriate response towards child sexual abuse cases.

Teaching Ethics: This responsibility is mentioned 10 times, representing 23.8% of the responses. It implies that teachers should instil ethical values and behaviours in students, promoting respect, consent, and the understanding of boundaries.

Overall, the data suggests that teachers have a significant role in addressing child sexual abuse through various responsibilities such as discussing sexual harassment, raising awareness, providing sex education, being supportive, practicing surveillance, developing the right mentality, and teaching ethics. By fulfilling these responsibilities, teachers can contribute to creating a safe and protective learning environment for students.

Table 4.25: Responses on Society's Responsibilities

Society's Responsibilities	Frequency	Percent
Awareness	05	11.9
Changing outlooks	08	19.0
Control drug supply	02	04.8
Develop Youths as good citizen	02	04.8
Stand against injustice	06	14.3
Stop victim blaming	05	11.9
Supportive behaviour	14	33.3
Total	**42**	**100.0**

Interpreting the provided data on society's responsibilities, we can observe the following:

Awareness: This responsibility is mentioned 5 times, accounting for 11.9% of the responses. It suggests that society should focus on creating awareness about various social issues, including but not limited to child sexual abuse. This can involve

educating the public, organizing awareness campaigns, and promoting a better understanding of the issue.

Changing Outlooks: This responsibility is mentioned 8 times, representing 19.0% of the responses. It implies that society needs to work on changing its outlooks and attitudes towards child sexual abuse. This may involve challenging societal norms, stereotypes, and biases that perpetuate victim-blaming or enable abuse.

Control Drug Supply: This responsibility is mentioned 2 times, making up 4.8% of the responses. It suggests that society should address the issue of drug supply, as substance abuse can often be associated with increased vulnerability to sexual abuse. Controlling drug supply can help reduce the risks faced by children.

Develop Youths as Good Citizens: This responsibility is mentioned 2 times, accounting for 4.8% of the responses. It implies that society should invest in the development of young individuals, fostering qualities and values that contribute to becoming responsible and engaged citizens. This can help create a supportive environment where children are protected and empowered.

Stand against Injustice: This responsibility is mentioned 6 times, representing 14.3% of the responses. It suggests that society should take a firm stance against injustice, including child sexual abuse. This involves supporting survivors, advocating for their rights, and holding perpetrators accountable.

Stop Victim Blaming: This responsibility is mentioned 5 times, making up 11.9% of the responses. It implies that society should stop victim-blaming attitudes and behaviours that often perpetuate a culture of silence and enable the continuation of

abuse. It is important to support and believe survivors when they come forward.

Supportive Behaviour: This responsibility is mentioned 14 times, accounting for 33.3% of the responses. It suggests that society should exhibit supportive behaviour towards survivors of child sexual abuse. This includes providing emotional support, access to necessary resources, and creating a safe environment where survivors can heal and seek justice.

Overall, the data highlights various responsibilities that society should undertake to address child sexual abuse effectively. These responsibilities include raising awareness, changing societal attitudes, controlling drug supply, developing youth as good citizens, standing against injustice, stopping victim-blaming, and promoting supportive behaviour. By fulfilling these responsibilities, society can work towards creating a safer and more protective environment for children.

Table 4.26: Responses on Police's Responsibilities in Reducing CSA in Bangladesh

Society's Responsibilities	Frequency	Percent
Being accessible	07	16.7
Increase patrolling	08	19.0
Police presence in school	02	04.8
Properly investigate cases	06	14.3
Support the victim	01	02.4
To punish	09	21.4
To warn	09	21.4
Total	**42**	**100.0**

Interpreting the provided table on the responsibilities of the police, we can observe the following:

Being Accessible: This responsibility is mentioned 7 times, accounting for 16.7% of the responses. It suggests that the police should be accessible to the public, ensuring that people can easily reach out to them when they need assistance or report incidents of child sexual abuse.

Increase Patrolling: This responsibility is mentioned 8 times, representing 19.0% of the responses. It implies that the police should increase patrolling in neighbourhoods and public areas to deter criminal activities, including child sexual abuse, and provide a sense of security to the community.

Police Presence in School: This responsibility is mentioned 2 times, making up 4.8% of the responses. It suggests that the police should have a visible presence in schools, fostering a safe and secure environment for students and deterring potential perpetrators.

Properly Investigate Cases: This responsibility is mentioned 6 times, accounting for 14.3% of the responses. It implies that the police should conduct thorough and proper investigations when cases of child sexual abuse are reported. This includes collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, and ensuring a fair and impartial investigation process.

Support the Victim: This responsibility is mentioned 1 time, representing 2.4% of the responses. It suggests that the police should provide support to the victims of child sexual abuse, including emotional support, access to resources, and guidance throughout the legal process.

To Punish: This responsibility is mentioned 9 times, making up 21.4% of the responses. It implies that the police should work towards bringing perpetrators of child sexual abuse to justice, ensuring that they are appropriately punished for their crimes.

To Warn: This responsibility is mentioned 9 times, accounting for 21.4% of the responses. It suggests that the police should actively engage in warning the public about the risks and consequences of child sexual abuse, as well as educating them about preventive measures.

Overall, the data highlights various responsibilities that the police should undertake to address child sexual abuse effectively. These responsibilities include being accessible, increasing patrolling, having a presence in schools, properly investigating cases, supporting victims, punishing perpetrators, and warning the public. By fulfilling these responsibilities, the police can play a crucial role in preventing child sexual abuse, responding to incidents, and ensuring justice for the survivors.

The Challenges for Child Protection in Bangladesh

Two of the main challenges for child protection in Bangladesh are overpopulation and poverty. With such a significant population, there is a shortage of police personnel to effectively ensure safety and security of children throughout the country. The police face difficulties in effectively accommodating such a large number of people. In addition, due to poverty, many families struggle to provide their children with optimal protection. Ensuring child protection does not really present significant challenges. With goodwill and the implementation of necessary initiatives, it is possible to work towards ensuring child protection from all forms of abuse with a collaborative and comprehensive

approach. However, poverty remains a significant challenge. If the parents were able to provide their children with all the necessities of life, they would not fall into the individuals to prevent CSA.

The Effectiveness of National and Legal Policies

The effectiveness of national and legal policies in addressing child sexual abuse in Bangladesh is a matter of debate. While some believe that the existing national and legal policies are good and adequate, others argue that the main reason for the failure to protect children from various forms of abuse lies in the inadequate implementation and enforcement of these policies. Corruption at different stages of the justice system poses a significant challenge in accessing justice. While there is a common perception that corruption is prevalent mainly among police officers, the reality is that corruption exists across various sectors in Bangladesh. It is essential to recognize that addressing this pervasive issue is crucial for ensuring a smoother path to justice. By effectively tackling corruption, we can significantly improve the prospects of achieving proper justice. This requires comprehensive efforts. In my opinion, some provisions that empower the investigation authority a bit more would be beneficial. As we know, the judiciary does not put so much trust in law enforcement agencies.

The Constraint or Challenges in Access to Justice in Bangladesh

Corruption at different stages of the justice system poses a significant challenge in accessing justice in Bangladesh. While there is a common perception that corruption is prevalent mainly among police officers, the reality is that corruption exists across various sectors in Bangladesh. Delay in every stage of the

criminal justice system is also a big constraint. Additionally, there may be delays in acquiring the necessary medical report to confirm the incident of rape. In some cases, local politicians have the tendency to interrupt police work if the perpetrator is somehow related to or acquainted with them. While complainants may not face significant constraints in accessing justice, they may perceive such constraints due to the poor relationship between the public and the police. Initiatives should be taken to improve this relationship.

The Public-Private Initiatives to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse in Bangladesh

According to the stakeholders, there are several public-private initiatives that can be undertaken to prevent child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

♦ *Firstly*, the government should take initiatives to identify hot areas of CSA cases and concentrate police efforts in those areas. Special attention should be given to places such as garment factories, as many parents of CSA victims work there.

♦ *Secondly,* awareness programs organized by both public and private sectors in cooperation with Bangladesh Police can be beneficial in educating and empowering individuals to prevent CSA. Police and educators can work jointly specially at the primary and secondary level institution. Starting from 'bad touch- good touch', sexual education, 'say no' as well as how to contact different units of Police who work with the issue need to be introduced to the students and demonstrated in front of the police personnel and educators of those institutions.

♦ *Thirdly,* establishing more day-care centres equipped with surveillance technology and monitored by police personnel in Bangladesh can contribute to the safety and security of children while their parents are at work.

♦ *Fourthly,* various GOs and NGOs in association with Bangladesh Police should come forward to arrange social awareness programs to make people realize the grievousness and deep impact of CSA.

In addition, the government should establish more victim support centres that can effectively accommodate child victims of sexual abuse. DMP and Bangladesh Police should at the same time arrange various counselling programs for the victims of CSA.

Suggestions for the Children/ the Police/ the Court Lawyer/ Judge/ Others

According to the stakeholders, there are several suggestions for different stakeholders to resolve the matter of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

For children, they should be encouraged to be more cautious when going outside and to inform their parents whenever someone, whether known or unknown, touches them inappropriately.

For the police department, it would be beneficial to establish a dedicated unit or desk specifically for handling cases of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). This specialized unit could provide better support and assistance to the victims. Additionally, a comprehensive surveillance system should be implemented all across the country.

For court lawyers and judges, every person, regardless of their respective positions, should uphold respect for the law and

strive for its prompt and consistent application. Complainants should not face any significant constraints in accessing justice. Initiatives should be taken to improve the relationship between the public and the police.

For others, such as guardians and teachers, they must look after their children and take the necessary measures to protect them. The law enforcement agencies must deal with the children in conflict with the law with humanity and sensitivity. Additionally, various GOs and NGOs should come forward to arrange social awareness programs to make people realize the grievousness and deep impact of CSA.

Table 4.27: Suggestion from Survey for Children

Suggestions	Frequency	Percent
Stay away from unknown people	08	19.0
Moral education	06	14.3
Be cautious in public place	04	09.5
Increase personal safety education	04	09.5
Modest dress and behaviour	04	09.5
Take immediate action	04	09.5
Don't Know	03	07.1
Building trust with family members	02	04.8
Surveillance	02	04.8
Death Penalty increase	01	02.4
Learn to say NO	01	02.4
Not being alone	01	02.4
Not making Online Girlfriend	01	02.4
Not trusting strangers	01	02.4
Total	**42**	**100.0**

The table 4.27 presents the suggestions derived from a survey on ways to prevent sexual abuse. The most common suggestion, mentioned by 19% of respondents, was to stay away from unknown people. Other suggestions included moral education, being cautious in public places, increasing personal safety education, modest dress and behaviour, taking immediate action, and building trust with family members. The table also shows the frequency and percentage of respondents who mentioned each suggestion. A total of 42 responses were collected for the survey.

Key Recommendations from Workshop

Recommendations for Police:

1. Increase resource and monetary allocation for investigation officers on a per-case basis.

2. Ensure smooth and secure court access for victims, with enhanced police presence and safety measures in place.

3. Launch awareness campaigns in schools to educate children about distinguishing between good touch and bad touch, and conduct similar campaigns for parents and communities to encourage open conversations about such sensitive matters and inform them about the legal consequences of such crimes.

4. Enhance patrolling in residential areas (slum areas) or improve police availability to promptly respond to incidents.

5. Establish a dedicated helpline to enable victims to contact the police directly, allowing them to report incidents without

parental involvement, considering the sensitivity of the situations.

6. If these functions are already in place within the police force, disseminate detailed information at the grassroots level, outlining protocols and available resources to ensure that the public is well-informed about the support they can access.

4.11 Discussion

Summary of key findings

The analysis of the victim, offender, and police segments provides valuable insights into the dynamics of sexual abuse cases in Bangladesh. The data highlights the vulnerability of young girls from lower socio-economic backgrounds, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions and support for these at-risk populations. The presence of known offenders, including relatives and neighbours, highlights the importance of building trust and vigilance within communities to prevent such abuse.

The motives behind the crimes, primarily rape for sexual gratification, shed light on the psychological factors that drive offenders. This underscores the need for comprehensive awareness programs and initiatives to address the root causes of deviant behaviour and promote healthy relationships and attitudes.

The data also reveals challenges within the investigative process, such as delays in medical examinations and the collection of evidence. These delays can significantly impact the outcome of cases and the provision of justice for victims. Timely and efficient investigations, along with access to victim support services, are crucial to ensuring a victim-cantered approach and facilitating the healing process.

The analysis of offender data further highlights the diverse range of perpetrators, both in terms of age and geographic distribution. This emphasizes the need for comprehensive preventive measures and law enforcement strategies that address the issue across different regions. The low rate of voluntary confession underscores the importance of forensic evidence, such as DNA testing, in establishing guilt and strengthening legal cases against offenders.

The findings related to the police investigative process highlight the promptness of filing First Information Reports (FIR) and the complexity involved in some cases. Collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders can contribute to more effective investigations and improved outcomes.

Overall, the analysis underscores the complex nature of sexual abuse cases and the multi-faceted approach required to address this issue. It highlights the importance of comprehensive awareness programs, preventive measures, victim support services, and efficient investigative processes. To combat sexual abuse effectively, collaborative efforts between government agencies, NGOs, communities, and individuals are crucial. By working together, it is possible to create a safer environment for children and ensure their protection from all forms of abuse.

Implications for Policy and Practices

The analysis provided by key informants and stakeholders sheds light on various aspects of child sexual abuse (CSA) in Bangladesh. It outlines the nature and forms of CSA, highlighting the prevalence of incidents ranging from molestation to rape, with perpetrators commonly being middle-aged males known to the victims. Factors contributing to CSA include the lack of

awareness among families, broken family structures, poverty, and the deviant mentality of certain individuals. The consequences of CSA are often lasting mental trauma and social stigma for the victims, with severe cases leading to significant psychological distress.

Law enforcement agencies face obstacles in handling CSA cases, such as lack of witnesses, insufficient evidence, and delays in preparing medical reports. Corruption within the justice system poses a significant challenge to accessing justice. However, opportunities exist, including the use of DNA technology and the establishment of dedicated units for handling CSA cases. Collaboration between public and private entities is crucial in implementing effective child protection mechanisms. These mechanisms should include a progressive mindset that supports victims and empowers females, as well as the establishment of day-care centres and specialized facilities for victims.

Challenges for child protection in Bangladesh include overpopulation and poverty, leading to a shortage of police personnel and difficulties in providing optimal protection for children. The effectiveness of national and legal policies in addressing CSA is debated, with concerns raised about the enforcement and implementation of these policies. Corruption within the justice system hinders access to justice, and efforts to combat corruption are necessary for ensuring proper justice for victims.

Limitations of the Study

The limitations of the study are evident due to the constraints of time, budget, and manpower. The three-month timeframe and limited resources may have resulted in a smaller sample size, which could affect the generalizability of the findings. With a

smaller sample, it may be challenging to draw comprehensive conclusions about the prevalence and characteristics of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh. Additionally, the data collection methods may have been limited, potentially relying on existing records or reports rather than conducting in-depth interviews or surveys with victims, offenders, and law enforcement personnel. This limitation may hinder the ability to gather nuanced and comprehensive information about the cases.

Potential biases could arise due to the limited resources and time available for data collection and analysis. For example, there may have been a bias in selecting the cases to analyse or in interpreting the data. The study may also be subject to reporting biases, as not all cases of child sexual abuse may have been reported or documented, leading to an underrepresentation of the issue.

To address the limitations of the current study, future research should focus on expanding the sample size to include a more diverse and representative population. This could involve collaborations with multiple organizations, agencies, and institutions to gather data from different regions and socio-economic backgrounds. In-depth interviews or surveys with victims, offenders, and law enforcement personnel can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of child sexual abuse. Longitudinal studies can be conducted to track the long-term consequences and outcomes for victims. Additionally, allocating sufficient resources, including funding and manpower, will allow for a more robust and rigorous research design, enhancing the quality and reliability of the findings.

Furthermore, qualitative research methods such as focus groups or ethnographic studies can provide deeper insights into

the social and cultural factors contributing to child sexual abuse. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders, such as NGOs, legal authorities, and community leaders, can also help gather more accurate and comprehensive data. By addressing these limitations and conducting further research, a more nuanced understanding of child sexual abuse in Bangladesh can be achieved, leading to more effective prevention strategies, victim support services, and legal interventions.

Final Thoughts

Child sexual abuse is a deeply concerning issue that requires a collective effort from various stakeholders to effectively address and prevent it. The analysis of the provided data on family responsibilities, teacher responsibilities, society's responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the police highlights key areas of focus and actions that can contribute to reducing child sexual abuse.

Within the family context, being supportive, fostering friendly relations, and dedicating more time to children can create an environment where children feel safe, heard, and supported. Additionally, raising awareness about child sexual abuse within families is crucial to ensure that parents and guardians are equipped with the knowledge and understanding to protect their children.

Teachers play a vital role in preventing child sexual abuse through responsibilities such as discussing sexual harassment, raising awareness, providing sex education, and teaching ethics. By fulfilling these responsibilities, teachers can create a safe learning environment and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to protect themselves.

Society, as a whole, carries the responsibility of creating awareness, changing outlooks, controlling drug supply, standing against injustice, stopping victim blaming, and exhibiting supportive behaviour. These responsibilities require collective action, involving communities, institutions, and individuals working together to create a society that values and protects its children.

The police have a crucial role in addressing child sexual abuse by being accessible, increasing patrolling, investigating cases properly, supporting victims, punishing perpetrators, and warning the public. By fulfilling these responsibilities, the police can provide a sense of security, ensure justice for survivors, and act as a deterrent to potential offenders.

In conclusion, addressing child sexual abuse necessitates a multi-faceted approach that involves families, teachers, society, and the police working together. It requires raising awareness, fostering supportive environments, providing comprehensive education, implementing effective prevention strategies, and ensuring swift and just actions against offenders. By collectively fulfilling these responsibilities, we can strive towards creating a society where children are protected, their voices are heard, and their rights are respected. It is imperative that all stakeholders remain committed to these responsibilities and collaborate to make a meaningful and lasting impact in the fight against child sexual abuse.

Chapter Five

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The government of Bangladesh has implemented various measures to tackle the issue of child sexual abuse. In 2018, the Child Protection Act was passed, which offers legal protection to children, safeguarding them against abuse, exploitation, and neglect. As part of this act, a national child protection authority was established to ensure the effective enforcement of child protection laws.

Several civil society organizations in Bangladesh are actively engaged in combating child sexual abuse. Among these organizations, the Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) plays a vital role in advocating for child rights and he victims and their families. Through legal aid, counseling support services, BSAF aims to address the immediate needs of abuse survivors. Additionally, Plan International, Save the Children, and UNICEF are also actively involved in raising awareness about child sexual abuse and providing resources and support to victims.

Effectively preventing and intervening in child sexual abuse in Bangladesh requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the underlying causes of the problem. It is crucial to conduct education and awareness campaigns targeting parents, caregivers, and children, in order to enhance their understanding of abuse indicators, prevention strategies, and reporting procedures. Furthermore, there is a pressing need to strengthen the child

protection system in Bangladesh, ensuring that victims have access to the necessary support and services they require.

Recognizing the urgency of the issue, the Bangladesh government amended the Child Marriage Restraint Act in 2017, raising the minimum age of marriage. However, child sexual abuse remains a pervasive problem in the country, often perpetuated by factors such as poverty, illiteracy, and cultural norms. Therefore, concerted efforts are essential to combat this issue and create a safer environment for children throughout Bangladesh. In conclusion, the issue of child sexual abuse in educational institutions is a significant concern that requires urgent attention. The lack of accountability for teachers involved in such acts, along with the absence of a standardized code of conduct in many countries, perpetuates a culture of abuse and erodes children's trust in adults and law enforcement. The consequences are far-reaching, as children often drop out of school, hindering their education and impacting their ability to contribute to the economy.

Bangladesh has witnessed a rise in child abuse cases, with a substantial number going unreported. The abuse affects both genders but disproportionately targets girls. Inconsistent global definitions of violence, harassment, and abuse further complicate addressing the problem.

Preventing violence against children and ensuring a safe learning environment should be a priority. Training programs like "Stewards of Children" by Darkness to Light provide crucial knowledge and skills to recognize and report child abuse. Creating a safe environment, open discussion about the issue, recognizing signs of abuse, and appropriate reactions are essential steps in protecting children.

However, very few schools in Bangladesh have comprehensive child protection policies and training in place. It is crucial for schools to prioritize child protection by implementing policies, conducting regular training for all staff members, and fostering an environment where children feel safe to disclose any instances of abuse.

By taking proactive measures, schools can significantly reduce child abuse and provide a secure environment for children to learn and grow. It is our collective responsibility as adults to address this issue and prevent child abuse wherever it may occur.

5.2 Recommendations

To improve access to justice, it is essential to address corruption at all levels of the justice system and reduce delays in the criminal justice process. Enhancing the relationship between the public and the police is crucial to build trust and facilitate reporting of CSA cases. Comprehensive efforts are required to strengthen child protection mechanisms, empower victims, and address the underlying factors contributing to CSA.

Child sexual abuse is a significant problem in Bangladesh, and it requires interventions at various levels to address it. The document suggests several interventions that can be proposed for society and community, police, court, and correctional levels to address child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

Society and Community

At the societal and community level, several interventions can be proposed to address child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

- *Firstly,* personal interventions to public programs can be proposed. This can involve community leaders, religious

leaders, and other influential figures in the community to speak out against child sexual abuse and promote awareness of the issue.

- *Secondly,* providing proper messages to the public about the crimes and its bad effects can be proposed. This can involve using various media platforms such as television, radio, and social media to spread awareness about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives.
- *Thirdly,* awareness-raising practices can be proposed. This can involve organizing community-based programs such as workshops, seminars, and training sessions to educate parents, caregivers, and children about the issue of child sexual abuse and how to prevent it.
- *Fourthly,* community-based programs can be proposed. This can involve setting up community-based organizations that work to prevent child sexual abuse and provide support to victims and their families.
- *Lastly,* compulsory sex education can be proposed. This can involve incorporating sex education into the school curriculum to educate children about their bodies, boundaries, and how to protect themselves from sexual abuse.

These interventions can help to create awareness among the public about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives. It can also help to break the social taboos and perceptions that often prevent victims from coming forward and reporting the abuse. By involving the community in the prevention and response to child sexual abuse, it can help to create a safe and supportive environment for victims to report the abuse and seek justice.

For society and community, personal interventions to public programs, providing proper messages to the public about the crimes and its bad effects, awareness-raising practices, community-based programs, and compulsory sex education can be proposed. These interventions can help to create awareness among the public about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives. It can also help to break the social taboos and perceptions that often prevent victims from coming forward and reporting the abuse.

Police

For police level, interventions such as victim-friendly medical examination procedures, strengthening and effective policing procedures through public-private partnerships, and involving teachers and police in establishing existing programs can be proposed. These interventions can help to create a safe and supportive environment for victims to report the abuse and seek justice. It can also help to improve the quality of investigations and prosecutions of child sexual abuse cases. By involving teachers and police in establishing existing programs, it can help to create awareness among the public about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives. This can also help to break the social taboos and perceptions that often prevent victims from coming forward and reporting the abuse. Several stakeholders have shared to introduce and maintain police visits to schools for providing knowledge to the children to aware them about child abuse and proactive practices to take necessary actions before and after an event of child abuse.

Court

At the court level, several interventions can be proposed to address child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

♦ *Firstly,* publicizing judgments to let society know about the impact of law violations can be proposed. This can involve making judgments available to the public and media to create awareness about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives.

♦ *Secondly,* involving female judges can be proposed. This can help to create a safe and supportive environment for victims to report the abuse and seek justice. It can also help to ensure that the justice system is responsive to the needs of child sexual abuse victims.

♦ *Thirdly,* giving special liabilities to hear only child abuse cases can be proposed. This can help to ensure that the justice system is equipped to handle child sexual abuse cases and that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

♦ *Lastly,* the simplification of the justice system, ensuring justice, and proper punishment can be proposed. It is essential to ensure that the justice system is accessible, efficient, and effective in addressing child sexual abuse. By providing a fair and just system, it can help to create a safe and supportive environment for victims to report the abuse and seek justice.

These interventions can help to ensure that the justice system is responsive to the needs of child sexual abuse victims and that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. It can also help to create awareness among the public about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives.

Correction

At the reintegration/correction level, several interventions can be proposed to address child sexual abuse in Bangladesh.

- *Firstly,* providing professional psychologists while travelling through the process can be proposed. This can help to ensure that victims receive the necessary support and care to recover from the trauma of abuse.
- *Secondly,* open communication with family and friends can be proposed. This can help to create a supportive environment for victims to reintegrate into society and prevent re-victimization.
- *Thirdly,* social and media-based programs to spread awareness can be proposed. This can involve using various media platforms such as television, radio, and social media to spread awareness about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives.
- *Lastly,* simplification of the justice system, ensuring justice, and proper punishment can be proposed. It is essential to ensure that the justice system is accessible, efficient, and effective in addressing child sexual abuse. By providing a fair and just system, it can help to create a safe and supportive environment for victims to reintegrate into society.

These interventions can help to ensure that victims receive the necessary support and care to recover from the trauma of abuse. It can also help to prevent re-victimization and promote the reintegration of victims into society. By creating awareness among the public about the issue of child sexual abuse and its impact on children's lives, it can help to break the social taboos

and perceptions that often prevent victims from coming forward and reporting the abuse.

In addition to these interventions, simplification of the justice system, ensuring justice, and proper punishment can be proposed at all levels. It is essential to ensure that the justice system is accessible, efficient, and effective in addressing child.

Students and victims have also shared their concerns with specific suggestions which are summarized here:

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1. To address child sexual abuse effectively, families need to be supportive, create friendly relations, give more time to their children, and raise awareness about the issue.

2. Teachers have responsibilities such as discussing sexual harassment, raising awareness, providing sex education, being supportive, practicing surveillance, developing the right mentality, and teaching ethics to contribute to reducing child sexual abuse.

3. Society has responsibilities to raise awareness, change outlooks, control drug supply, develop youths as good citizens, stand against injustice, stop victim blaming, and exhibit supportive behaviour towards survivors of child sexual abuse.

4. The police play a crucial role in addressing child sexual abuse by being accessible, increasing patrolling, having a presence in schools, properly investigating cases, supporting victims, punishing perpetrators, and warning the public about the risks and consequences.

   Police can effectively help to raise public awareness about the problem of child sexual abuse and its effects on children's

lives by including teachers and families in the establishment of current programmes. Additionally, this can aid in shattering social taboos and preconceived notions that frequently discourage victims from coming forward and reporting the abuse. It has been suggested by a number of stakeholders to start and continue police visits to schools for the purpose of educating kids about child abuse and teaching them preventative measures to take both before and after an incident of child abuse.

5. Collective efforts from families, teachers, society, and the police are necessary to create a protective environment, raise awareness, provide support, and ensure justice for survivors of child sexual abuse.

In conclusion, addressing child sexual abuse in Bangladesh requires a multi-dimensional approach that includes raising awareness, implementing effective policies, improving access to justice, and providing comprehensive support to victims. It is imperative for stakeholders to work collaboratively, considering the perspectives of key informants and stakeholders, to create a safer environment for children and prevent future incidents of child sexual abuse.

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Appendix

Annex-01: Survey Questionnaire

Child Sexual Abuse in Dhaka City: A Study on DMP Area

This is a study conducted by the Department of Criminology and Police Science of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, funded by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. This survey is part of a study, and similar surveys have been conducted in different countries around the world. The results of this study will contribute to the development of strategies or policies to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh. I would like to request you to participate in this work. The interview may take 25-30 minutes to complete. Rest assured, there is absolutely no risk to your participation. The information provided by you will be used only for research purposes with due confidentiality. We will not include any information in any public report or analysis that could cause harm to you or your family. Your name and personal information will not be used in the study and no analytics will be linked specifically to you. Collected data will be stored on a computer protected by a password. Only researchers associated with this study can view this data. You may also keep a copy of this consent form with you if you wish.

Participation in this study is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, you can withdraw your consent during the survey. If you have any questions, you can ask me now. Later, if you have any questions, comments, or statements, you can contact the researcher of this study (Dr. Md. Omar Faruk, 01712-955690).

A. Socio-demographic Information

1. Age: _____years.

2. Who is the household head (breadwinner and decision maker) of your family?

   [1] Father [2] Mother [3] Others (Specify)_____

3. Occupation of your household head: _____

4. Sex: [1] Boy [2] Girl

5. Religion: [1] Muslim [2] Hindu [3] Christian [4] Buddhist
    [5] Other _____

6. Present Residence Location:

    [1] Residential area [2] Non-residential buildings [3] Slum [4]
    Hostel [5] Shelter House [6] Mess [7] Others (specify) _____

7. Where does he/she work/involved?

    [1] Home -house maid [2] Street worker [3] Canteen boy [4]
    Workshop [5] Students [6] Others_____

8. Family Structure: (Number of family Members)
         Men_____ Women_____

9. Whom do you live with?

    [1] With family at home [2] With family Outside [3] Peer group
    [4] Open/ Public place [5] Others _____

10. Monthly income of your family: _____

11. How much money does your family spend in a month for you?

12. Where are you studying?

    [1] Government Schools/ Colleges [2] Private Schools/ Colleges
    [3] Government Madrasas [4] Private Madrasas [5] Others
    (Specify) _____

13. In which class are you reading? _____

14. Duration of the study (every day)? _____ hour(s).

B. Information relating to Sexual Abuse

15. Have you ever been abused? [1] Yes [2] No

15.1 If yes, Type of abuse:

15.1.1 Psychological (form_____)

15.1.2 Physical (form_____)

15.1.3 Sexual Harassment (Answer 15.2)

15.2 Which type of sexual abuse you faced?

Types	Response	What was your age during the event?	What is your relationship with the offender? (offender's age)	Where did you face it?	When did you become victim of such offence?	How many times did you face it?
1. Tried to show you or do something which you do not want to	[1] Yes [2] No					
2. Unwanted sexual touch	[1] Yes [2] No					
3. Touched your genitalia	[1] Yes [2] No					
4. Forced you to touch the offender's genitalia	[1] Yes [2] No					
5. made you watch others' sexual activities	[1] Yes [2] No					
6. forced you to have intercourse with the offender	[1] Yes [2] No					
7. Oral-genital contact	[1] Yes [2] No					
8. Forceful entry through anal or vaginal area	[1] Yes [2] No					
9. Intercourse through Vagina/Anus	[1] Yes [2] No					
10. Pornographic photography, filming, or activity	[1] Yes [2] No					
11. Prostitution of child/teenager	[1] Yes [2] No					

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12. Rape	[1] Yes [2] No					
13. Attempt to rape	[1] Yes [2] No					
14. Other (specify)	[1] Yes [2] No					

15.3 Why do you think, you become victim of sexual abuse?

Factors	Highly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Highly Disagree
1. Relationship with peer group					
2. Uncontrolled life leading					
3. Refusal in love affair					
4. Physical beauty					
5. Manhood psyche (Sex drive)					
6. Sex pleasure					
7. Due to state of living area condition					
8. Lower income group area					
9. Family conflict					
10. Enmity attitude					
11. Religion, caste					
12. Other (specify)					

C. Information Relating to Access to Justice
[Answer for whom it is applicable]

16 Did you share about the sexual abuse event to anyone?
[1] Yes [2] No

16.1 If yes, with whom did you share about?
[1] Father [2] Mother [3] Siblings [4] Relative [5] Friend [6] Other (Specify) _____

17 Did you ever go to police station for the event? [1] Yes [2] No

17.1 What was the response from the police station?
[1] Friendly [2] Unfriendly [3] Others_____

17.2 Did you get any assistance from women and child desk?
    [1] Yes [2] No
17.2.1 If yes, which type of assistance you got: _____
17.2.2 If no, why did not you got help from them?
17.3 Did the police officer offer for psychologist assistance?
    [1] Yes [2] No
17.4 What types of challenges you faced while visiting the police station for a case?

Items	Highly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Highly Disagree
1. Problems relating to living (residence) area					
2. Socio-economic status					
3. Gender disparity					
4. Powerful offender/ abuse of power					
5. Political Influence					
6. Susceptive attitude of police					
7. Threat from the offender					
8. Others					

17.4.1 Did police arrest the offender? [1] Yes [2] No
17.4.2 If no, then, why police failed to arrest the offenders? _____
17.4.3 How satisfied were you with the service of police? _____
    [1] Very Unsatisfied [2] Unsatisfied [3] Unsure [4] Satisfied [5] Very Satisfied
17.4.4 Was your case transferred to court from police station?
    [1] Yes [2] No
17.4.5 If 17.4.4 is yes, how was the court procedure to you? _____
17.4.6 What do you think about the court procedure? _____
17.4.7 How many days did it take to complete the court procedure?
17.4.8 Did you take any assistance from advocate or any NGO?
    [1] Yes [2] No.

D. Impact on the Children
(Only for those who are sexually abused)

18. Information relating to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD):

Items	Highly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Highly Disagree
1. Fear					
2. Frustration					
3. Inferiority					
4. Anxiety					
5. Dietary changes					
6. Insomnia					
7. Shamefulness					
8. Not being able to move freely					
9. Family Dishonored					
10. Self-blaming					
11. Other:					

19. Below is a list of comments made by people after stressful life Event. Please tick each item showing how frequently these comments were true for you. If they did not occur during that time please tick the 'not at all' box.

No.	Questions	Response			
		Not at all, 0	Rarely, 1	Some-times, 3	Often, 4
1.	Do you think about it even when you don't mean to?				
2.	Do you try to remove it from your memory				
3.	Do you have difficulties paying attention or concentrating				

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4.	Do you have waves of strong feelings about it				
5.	Do you startle more easily or feel more nervous than you did before it happened?				
6.	Do you stay away from reminders of it (e.g. places or situations)				
7.	Do you try not talk about it				
8.	Do pictures about it pop into your mind?				
9.	Do other things keep making you think about it?				
10.	Do you try not to think about it?				
11.	Do you get easily irritable				
12.	Are you alert and watchful even when there is no obvious need to be?				
13.	Do you have sleep problems?				

E. Recommendations

20. Do you have any suggestion regarding the problem you faced:

    ....

    ....

20.1 What do you think can be the way out of this situation? ....

20.2 What can be family responsibilities? ....

20.3 What can be the responsibilities of teachers? ....

20.4 What can be the responsibilities of society? ....

20.5 What can be the responsibilities of your neighbour? ....

20.6 What can be the responsibilities of police? ....

(Thank You very much for Participating in the Survey)

Annex-02: In-depth Interview (IDI) Tool: Victim

Child Sexual Abuse: A Study on the Cases of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

[Collected Information will be used only for the research purpose and privacy will be ensured all the way]

1. This is a research on children specifically who are victims of sexual abuse. We want to identify the root causes as well as the solution to prevent it from the very beginning of such an event. Therefore, we want to hear from you about your sufferings which have led you to be here. Could you please tell us about yourself first?
2. Tell us something about your education.
3. Family condition:
4. Your relationship with your peer group:
5. Describe the event you have suffered recently:
   a. What was the crime you victimized?
   b. When did it happen?
   c. How did you meet with the offender?
   d. Describe the offender:
   e. What exactly happened?
   f. Whom did you share with first about the offense?
   g. What was the response from the person you shared?
   h. When did you decide to go to the police?
   i. What was the response from the police when you first visited them?
   j. Did you get any special help from the women's desk/ police/ medical officer/ NGO worker/ else?
   k. Who else got involved in this case?
   l. How are you coping with (holding up) the situation after your victimization?
   m. What are you thinking about the case?
6. What kind of impact (physical, mental and social) do you think this event has had on you?
7. What steps do you think can be taken to prevent this incident?

Annex-03: Key Informant Interview (KII) Checklist

Child Sexual Abuse: A Study on the Cases of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

(Key Informant Interview (KII) Checklist)

1. Tell us about your observation of the nature and patterns of CSA cases in the last few years.

2. What are the factors involved in child sexual abuse?

3. What are the present and probable consequences of CSA?

4. What obstacles/ opportunities/ prospects are available for law enforcement agencies in handling these cases?

5. What should be an effective child protection mechanism for Bangladesh?

6. What are the challenges for child protection in Bangladesh?

7. What sort of national and legal policies can we take?

8. How can we identify and eliminate the constraints or challenges in access to justice?

9. What are the ways to bring public-private initiatives to prevent Child Sexual Abuse?

10. What suggestions do you have for the children/ the police/ the court lawyer/ judge/ others?

(Thank you for your kind patience and cooperation)

Annex 04: Some Pictorials of Survey and Workshop

PICTURES: ENUMERATORS ARE CONDUCTING SURVEY AT SCHOOLS

PICTURE: WORKSHOP AT DMP HEADQUARTERS

PICTURE: BRAINSTORMING SESSION AT WORKSHOP AT DMP HEADQUARTERS

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PICTURE: BRAINSTORMING SESSION AT WORKSHOP AT DMP HEADQUARTERS

PICTURE: WORKSHOP AT DMP HEADQUARTERS

PICTURE: WORKSHOP PRESENTATION AT DMP HEADQUARTERS

PICTURES: DISCUSSION ON WORKSHOP AT DMP HEADQUARTERS

TEAM COMPOSITION AND TASK ASSIGNMENTS

Name of Staff	Organisation	Area of Expertise	Position Assigned
Professor Dr. Md. Omar Faruk	CPS, MBSTU	Criminology and Victimology	Principal Investigator
Dr. Md. Ishtiaq Ahmed Talukder	CPS, MBSTU	Criminology, Non-traditional Security, Fear of Crime, Migration	Co- Principal Investigator and Gender Expert
Mahmuda Akter	CPS, MBSTU	Criminology	Research Associate
Kazi Aminul Islam	CPS, MBSTU	Criminology	Research Coordinator
Tomalika Paul	CPS, MBSTU	Criminology	Research Assistant
Police Officer	PHQ	Law Enforcement	Subject Mater Expert
Police Officer	PHQ	Law Enforcement	Field Liaison Officer cum Supervisor
Students of CPS Department	CPS, MBSTU	Data Collection	Field Enumerators
Students of CPS Department	CPS, MBSTU	Data Analysis	Data Entry Operator
Students of CPS Department	CPS, MBSTU	Data Analysis	Data Editor

Department of Criminology and Police Science
Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University