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Avinash Kumar



Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC – NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR – Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.

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EXPLORING LEGAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

AUTHORED BY: SWATHIKA KADIESWARAN & VIDHYA SRI L

ABSTRACT:

“The stopgap of a nation lies in the youth.”

- Nelson Mandela”

The children of today will shape the India of tomorrow. Universally, children are seen as seeds needing proper nourishment and care. Tragically, children suffer multifaceted forms of violence from home to their external surroundings, including sexual harassment, bullying, cyber threats, exploitation, and trafficking. Every 10 minutes, an adolescent girl somewhere in the world loses her life to violence. Protecting children from all forms of violence is a fundamental right enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and various international human rights treaties. Despite these legal frameworks, the number of child victims has gradually increased. This research paper provides a comprehensive understanding of violence against children, exploring its various forms, underlying causes, and far-reaching consequences. It underscores the pressing need for legal frameworks, effective child protection systems, awareness-raising, education, and accessible support services to protect children and provide timely assistance to survivors.

KEYWORDS: Child abuse, violence, exploitation, vulnerability, Child pornography, special protection.

INTRODUCTION:

Childhood should be a time of innocence and joy, but for millions of children around the world, it is blemished by violence. Violence against children incorporates all forms of violence against people who are under the age of 18. It is a critical global issue with devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities. Though violence poses a threat to all individuals, women and children are vulnerable to victimization since they have limitations in their rights and access to adequate protection. The definition of violence according to the **WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)** is, “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in

or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation”. Violence against children takes many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, and neglect, and can occur in various settings, such as homes, schools, institutions, and online. In spite of taking multiples efforts to address this issue, it continues to leave lasting scars on the lives of millions of children. In recent times, technological advancements have facilitated the rise in number of white-collar crimes i.e., cybercrimes. Among all demographics, younger populations are active users of Internet, rendering them vulnerable to becoming victims of such offenses. Cybercrimes confines various forms such as cyber bullying, child pornography, stalking, and more. The underlining source for increase in the case of violence against children is underreporting of cases by victims, fueled by social stigma that cheers offenders to perpetrate further crimes.

MULTIFACETED SPECTRUM OF VIOLENCE AND ITS ASSOCIATED STATISTICS:

PHYSICAL ABUSE:

Physical abuse is the planned application of violence and threats towards a child with the intention of causing harm. This might have long term effect on the physical of the children. Physically abusive acts encompass a spectrum of actions such as beating, kicking, slapping, assault, biting, pulling hair and so on.

CASE LAWS:

K.A. Abbas vs. State of Uttar Pradesh (2019): The Supreme Court upheld the conviction of a teacher who physically abused a student, highlighting the right to protection from corporal punishment in schools.

Ghanshyam Misra vs. The State (1956): The Orissa High Court enhanced the sentence of a school teacher who raped a 10-year-old girl on school premises, emphasizing the vulnerability of children in institutional settings

SEXUAL ABUSE:

Sexual abuse is using a child for the purpose of sexual activities without their consent. It is coercing the child for personal gratification. This type of violence inflicts lasting physical and psychological harm on their well-being. Sexual abuse incorporates rape, sexual harassment, bullying, torture and so on.

CASE LAW:

State of Karnataka vs. Krishnappa alias Annappa (2009): The Supreme Court set aside the acquittal of a stepfather accused of sexually assaulting his minor stepdaughter, emphasizing the importance of considering child testimonies sensitively.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE:

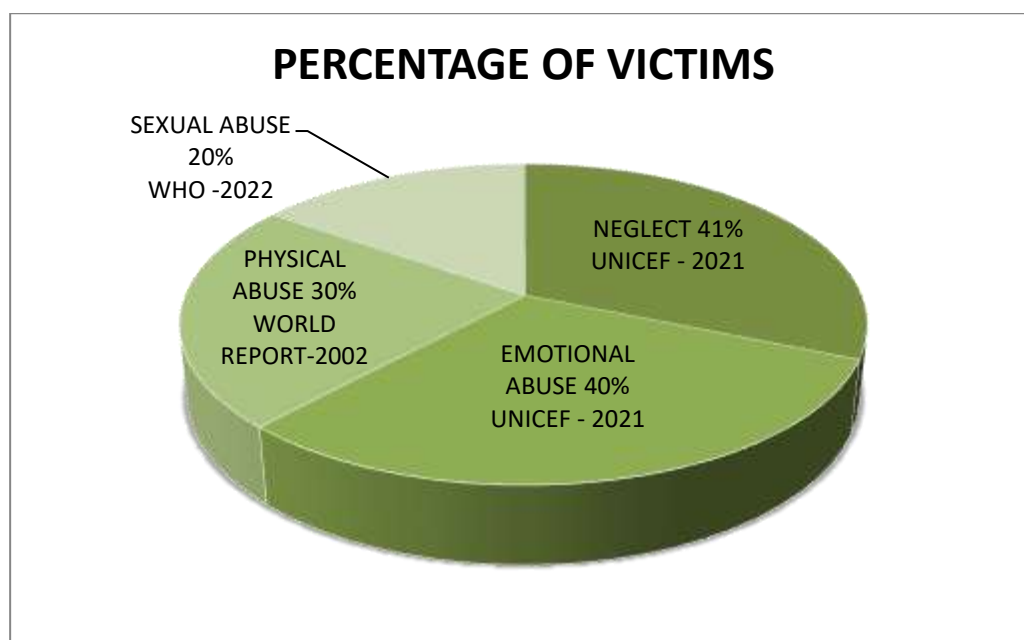
Emotional abuse is commanding and controlling a child emotionally or psychologically. Emotional abuse does not include physical violence instead it incorporates verbal threats, intimidation, insults, criticism and so on. Victims of emotional abuse often experience enduring psychological scars.

CASE LAW:

Reena Kumari vs. State of NCT of Delhi (2016): The Delhi High Court ruled that neglecting a child's emotional needs by leaving them alone at night without proper care constitutes abuse.

CYBER CRIME:

As society progresses towards an increasingly technologically advanced world, we encounter both benefits and drawbacks, one such downside is the cyber-crime. Statistics reveals that a significant portion of cyber-crime victim is children who are below the age of 18. This is because young generations are the active users of internet and their heightened vulnerability. Cyber-crime is also called as white-collar crime wherein no physical attacks or violence is noticed. However, it includes child pornography, cyber bullying, cyber stalking etc...



CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN:

The causes of violence against children are complex and multifaceted; the main contributing risk factors are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS:

- ***Age and gender:*** Younger children are often more vulnerable due to their smaller size, lower physical strength, and limited ability to defend themselves in short, they are categorized as biologically weak.
- ***Socio-economic status:*** Lower income ultimately causes poverty which imposes stress on families, leading to increased risk of abuse and neglect.
- ***Trauma:*** Children who have witnessed violence in the home or community are more likely to experience violence themselves.

FAMILY FACTORS:

- ***Poor parenting skills:*** Some parents may lack the knowledge or skills to manage challenging behaviors in children, resorting to violence as a form of discipline.
- ***Domestic violence:*** Children living in homes with domestic violence are at high risk of experiencing physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIETAL FACTORS:

- ***Harmful social norms:*** Certain cultures or communities may have norms that accept or even encourage violence against children, such as corporal punishment or female genital mutilation.
- ***Gender inequality:*** Discrimination and harmful practices against girls and women can increase their vulnerability
- ***Armed conflict and displacement:*** Children in conflict zones are especially vulnerable to violence, including being used as child soldiers or experiencing sexual violence.
- ***Human trafficking:*** Children are often targeted for trafficking and forced labor, which can involve physical and sexual violence.
- ***Weak legal systems and enforcement:*** Lack of effective laws and enforcement mechanisms can embolden perpetrators and make it difficult for children to access justice.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN:

The inherent quality of immaturity and innocence has increased the children's risk of violence. The violence faced by children in any form is unacceptable and can have devastating consequences to children which are listed underneath,

- ❖ ***Injuries***: Violence can lead to immediate physical injuries, ranging from minor bruises to severe and even life-threatening trauma.
- ❖ ***Chronic health problems***: Studies suggest that exposure to violence in childhood can increase the risk of developing chronic health problems later in life, such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.
- ❖ ***Drop in academic performance***: Children who experience violence often struggle in school due to difficulty concentrating, emotional problems, and absenteeism.
- ❖ ***Depression, anxiety and low self-esteem***: Violence can also lead to depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems. Children who are exposed to violence often develop low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness.
- ❖ ***Psychological distress***: Children who experience violence are at increased risk for anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health problems.
- ❖ ***Victims becoming perpetrators***: Children who experience violence are more likely to become perpetrators of violence themselves, either towards others or themselves, continuing the cycle of abuse.
- ❖ ***Limited opportunities***: The long-term effects of violence can limit a child's opportunities in terms of employment, relationships, overall well-being and development of the child.
- ❖ ***Increase in juvenile crimes***: Often a child's innocence and immaturity are been misused and they have been guided to a wrong path by motivating them to indulge in various forms of crime, this has enabled an increase in the number of crimes committed by juveniles.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY¹ AND ITS RELEVANCE IN INDIAN LEGAL SCENERIO:

1. Child pornography refers to broadcasting and transferring obscene, vulgar clips of children through digital media. Child pornography causes significant harm to children who are exploited and victimized in the production of such material. It can lead to severe psychological and emotional trauma, including feelings of shame, guilt, and worthlessness. Additionally, it perpetuates the cycle of abuse and can have long-lasting effects on the

¹ P.K. Pandey, Children's Rights laws, Policies and Practice (2013)

victims' mental health, relationships, and overall well-being. Moreover, it is illegal and contributes to the demand for further exploitation of children.

2. In India, there is no explicit definition in any of the laws dealing with child pornography. However, it is regarded as a serious crime under various laws of the country including the Constitution. Article 23 of the Constitution which generally prohibits traffic in human beings and other forms of forced labor, is normally employed in arresting the criminals against child pornography. The Directive Principles of State Policy explicitly directs the state to protect the tender age of children and to provide a healthy environment where children can grow without any kind of exploitation that affects the dignity of childhood. The Information Technology Act, 2008 is the only law, which makes it an offence of production, transmission, and browsing of obscene materials. According to the provisions of the Act any first time offender is punishable with an imprisonment of three years and a fine up to three lakh rupees and for a subsequent offence it may extend to five years of imprisonment and a fine up to five lakh rupees. As the national context is concerned, the Government of India needs to adopt a uniform definition of child. The different definitional perspectives of child in various laws, lead to confusion in with the issues dealing with of children. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 be amended to suitably define child pornography and empowering the national and state child rights commission to deal with the issue of child pornography in a strict perspective. As a party to child rights convention, and optional protocol on prevention of sexual exploitation of children and other human rights instruments, the Government needs to compulsorily introduce human rights education in all types of education coupled with moral and value-based principles.

State of Maharashtra v. Vijay Prakashbarve:² In this case, the accused was charged under the Information Technology Act, 2000, and POCSO Act, 2012, for sharing child sexual abuse material online. The Bombay High Court upheld the conviction, highlighting the seriousness of the offence and the need for strict punishment.

Shalu Nigam v. Union of India:³ This case, heard by the Delhi High Court in 2015, addressed the issue of blocking websites hosting child sexual abuse material. The court directed the government to take necessary measures to block access to such websites and to enhance

² State of Maharashtra v. Vijay Prakashbarve, AIR 1992 SC 1275 (India)

³ Shalu Nigam v. Union of India, AIR 2016 DELHI 130.

cooperation with international agencies to combat child pornography.

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES:

Technological advancements make it difficult for law enforcement to keep up with evolving methods of producing, distributing, and accessing child pornography.

- ✓ **Trauma to Victims:** The victims of child pornography suffer severe psychological and emotional trauma, and addressing their needs requires specialized support services and rehabilitation programs.
- ✓ **Cultural and social norms:** The ancient societal taboos may hinder efforts to raise awareness and educate communities about the dangers of child pornography.
- ✓ **Guilt and humiliation:** Victims may feel ashamed or stigmatized, which can prevent them from coming forward and seeking help in legal institutions.
- ✓ **Online Platforms:** Child pornography is often distributed through online platforms and social media, posing challenges in monitoring and regulating content due to the sheer volume of data and the speed at which it spreads.
- ✓ **Inadequate Access to support services:** Inadequate access to support services, such as counselling, legal advocacy, and medical care, can further deter children from reporting abuse, particularly if they feel that there will be no meaningful assistance or protection available to them. Overall, the decision to report abuse is complex and influenced by a multitude of factors. It is essential to create safe and supportive environments where children feel empowered to disclose their experiences and receive the help and support, they need.

VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRL CHILDREN:

“A daughter is someone to be cherished and protected, not a burden to be hidden.”

– Desmond Tutu

The population of India is young, with nearly 37 percent consisting of children below 15, thus two out of every five persons are below 15 years. Most of the cases of violence against children are reported only against girl child because of their vulnerable condition in our society. Though the term ‘Violence against children’ incorporates the cruelty taking place against both boys and girls, a bulk of victims are only girls. Children are the future pillars of our nation and the concern of violence happening against girl child needs immediate attention. This dates back to ancient times where girls were not given permission to access education, and were not permitted to move out with a male dependent. Child marriage was more prevalent at classical times where girls after

attaining adolescence were coerced to marry a man many years with senior. During their early childhood days, they encounter a wide range of problems from their husband such as female genital mutilation, early pregnancy and so on. It also encompasses various other violence such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect etc.... The victims of such violence often encounter long term psychological and bodily consequences which in turn have negative effects on both educational and social. Female feticide and infanticide are another significant issue wherein girl children were murdered either in the womb itself by using prenatal sex detection or after the birth. This is because girls are considered as burden because of the practice of dowry system and superstitious belief that the birth of a boy baby extends the lineage provides protection, safety and security to the family. Downfall of sex ratio also affects the growth of nation. Though this practice has reduced over a period of time, it is still common in some parts of society. The Constitution, the Supreme Law of land contains certain articles ensuring the protection of girl children and there are various subordinate legislations enacted for the sole purpose of regulating violence against girl child. In 1974, the Government of India wholeheartedly embraced a National Policy for Children, affirming the nation's children as "paramount assets" deserving of utmost care and protection. This policy lays down that the State shall provide adequate services to all children both before and after birth and during the growing stages for their full physical, mental and social development. Despite having laws, policies and conventions for decreasing the rate of violence against girls, the state should be more conscious on this issue.

CASE LAWS:

- 1) In the landmark case of *Vishakha v. State of Rajasthan*,⁴ a group of social activists petitioned the Supreme Court following the gang rape of Bhanwari Devi while performing her duties as a social worker. The Court held that sexual harassment violates the fundamental rights of women under Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution. It established guidelines known as the Vishakha Guidelines, outlining preventive, protective, and remedial measures to combat sexual harassment in the workplace until legislation was enacted. This case set a precedent for addressing workplace sexual harassment and promoting a safe environment for women employees.
- 2) In *Sakshi v. Union of India (2004)*,⁵ Sakshi, a women's rights organization, petitioned the Supreme Court seeking directions to address sexual harassment in educational institutions. The Court observed the prevalence of sexual harassment and issued guidelines

⁴ Vishakha v. state of Rajasthan, AIR 1997 SC 3011 (India).

⁵ Sakshi v. Union of India (2004) Writ petition crl.no.33, 1997 (India).

to prevent and address such incidents, emphasizing the duty of educational institutions to provide a safe environment for students. It mandated the formation of complaints committees and the implementation of awareness programs. The Court held that the right to education encompasses the right to be free from sexual harassment, underscoring the importance of creating conducive learning environments for all students, particularly girls.

- 3) In the case of *State of Maharashtra v. Madhukar Narayan Mardikar (1991)*,⁶ the accused was charged with raping a minor girl. The incident occurred when the victim, a 13-year-old girl, was returning home from school. The trial court convicted the accused, which was later upheld by the Bombay High Court. The case reached the Supreme Court, where it emphasized the gravity of crimes against women and children, stressing the need for stringent punishment. The Supreme Court affirmed the conviction, highlighting the societal impact of such offenses and the imperative to safeguard the rights and dignity of girl children from sexual violence.

SIGNIFICANCE OF GOOD PARENTING:

“Parenting is not about being perfect. Its about being informed, responsive, and aware.”

– Janet Lansbury

Goodparenting is instrumental in preventing violence against children as it cultivates a nurturing and supportive environment that prioritizes their safety, well-being, and emotional development. Parents who practice positive discipline techniques, such as communication, setting boundaries, and teaching empathy, enable children with the skills to resolve conflicts peacefully and assert their boundaries effectively. Additionally, strong parent-child relationships built on trust, respect, and open communication create a safe space for children to disclose instances of abuse or violence. Moreover, good parenting fosters emotional intelligence in children, enabling them to recognize and manage their emotions appropriately, reducing the likelihood of engaging in aggressive behavior or becoming victims of violence.

LEGISLATIONS IN INDIA DEALING WITH THE REGULATION OF PROTECTION OF CHILDREN:

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, 1950:

The Indian Constitution being the Supreme Law of Land incorporates certain articles for the protection of children rights. All other subordinate laws are framed in line with the provisions of

⁶ State of Maharashtra v. Madhukar Narayan Mardikar AIR 1991 SC 207.

the Constitution.

ARTICLE 14: RIGHT TO EQUALITY:

Article 14 states that all are equal before law and equal protection of law. Children also have equal rights as the adults' citizens of the country enjoy. It states that all are equal before the law of land and provides for equal protection of law irrespective of their gender, religion, race, sex, caste.

ARTICLE 21A: RIGHT TO FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION:

This article mandates the state to provide free and compulsory education for all the children who fall under the age category of 6-14.

ARTICLE 24a: RIGHT AGAINST EXPLOITATION:

This article states that no children below the age of 14 shall be employed in hazardous activities and it also protects children from forced labor.

ARTICLE 39(f): This article states that the younger generation should be protected from exploitation and violence and that they should progress in a healthy manner.

ARTICLE 15(3): Clause 3 of Article 15 empowers the State to enact legislations and provision for women and children. The Constitution feels that women and children are the vulnerable sections of people in society, it delegates the authority to state for enacting special provisions for the upliftment of women and children.

INDIAN PENAL CODE, 1860:

The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 is the supreme criminal code in India dealing with criminal activities. It encompasses provisions and sections for violence against children. They are,

SEC 75: This section mentions the punishment for cruelty caused to a child. Cruelty is any act or omission which imposes physical or mental harm to a child. An offender accused under this section is punishable with imprisonment with the description of 3 years or upwards. Online grooming: Predators use social media and messaging apps to build trust and exploit children.

SEC 66A: This section penalizes the act of influencing a minor girl to have sexual intercourse

with another person. The punishment for violating this section includes imprisonment upto 10 years along with a fine.

SEC 372 & 373: This section states that buying or selling of minor girls for prostitution and illegal intercourse for immoral purpose is punishable under section with the imprisonment of 10 years and a fine.

SEC 375: Sec 375 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 gives the definition for rape. It states that rape is said to have committed when there is a sexual intercourse with a girl against her will, coercing, misrepresentation or fraud, or when she is intoxicated, if she is in unsound mind and if she is a minor i.e., less than 18 years of age.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENSES ACT **(POCSO), 2012:**

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offense Act (POCSO), 2012 is enacted solely for addressing the issues of violence against children. One of the notable features of this Act is it doesn't make any discrimination on the basis of gender i.e.; it includes both boys and girls. This legislation provides definition of various sexual offenses happening against children and incorporates stringent punishment to offenders.

FEATURES OF THIS ACT:

- a) This Act defines “**child**” as individuals under the age of 18, and it is gender neutral
- b) It also holds provision for sustaining the secrecy of the victim's identities. It states that no media or press should reveal the name, photos, name of the educational institutions etc. of the victims unless the court allows for such disclosure.
- c) POCSO also embodies a theory which is called the ‘**LAST SEEN THEORY**’, wherein it is presumed that the person who is last seen with the victim would be the offender of such crime, provided that the time gap is only to a smaller extent.
- d) It incorporates all kinds of sexual violence such as pornography, penetrative & non penetrative sexual assault without limiting to sexual harassment
- e) This Act mandates and allocates a police officer to take care of the victim during the investigation process to avoid re-victimization of the child
- f) It mandates for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of such offenses

- g) This Act provides rigorous punishment for the offenders of sexual abuse. An offender under the act of sexual assault on a child under 12 years of age is punishable with the imprisonment for a minimum of 20 years which may extend to life and an offense of sexual abuse between the age categories of 12-18 is punishable with the imprisonment of minimum 10 years which may extend to life.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POCSO), 2012 also lays down 12 key principles which are to be followed by the government, general public, Children welfare organizations etc...

CASE LAW:

Tukaram & Ors. Vs. State of Maharashtra (2014): The Bombay High Court convicted a father for raping his 13-year-old daughter, reiterating that penetration isn't necessary to prove rape under POCSO Act.

OTHER LEGISLATIONS:

In addition to these legislations, we also have several other legislations for the protection of children such as,

- I. ***Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (CLA):*** This Act aims to prevent all kind of child abuse in employment and also restricts the employment of children in hazardous occupation who fall under the age of 14 years. Children are prohibited from engaging in such occupations which are listed under Part A of the Schedule of this Act.
- II. ***The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1987 (ITPA):*** This legislation penalizes the trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation. While this Act legalizes prostitution, it is still illegal to run a brothel. This Act provides for fines and punishments for the aforesaid illegal activities.
- III. ***Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (POCMA):*** The aim of this Act is to prevent young children from child marriage. This Act states that the legal age of marriage for boys is 21 and for girls are 18. It also provides penalties and punishments for those who solemnize marriages below the legal age.
- IV. ***Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE):*** The objective of this Act is to provide free education. It says that it is the duty of the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children who fall under the age category of 6-14.

According to this Act, right to education was inserted as a fundamental right and it was removed from the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 86th Amendment Act (2002).

LACUNAE IN THE INDIAN LEGISLATIONS:

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENSES ACT, (POCSO);

- The implementation of the POCSO Act, 2012 brings significant benefits to victims of sexual harassment, facilitating justice for those affected. However, it also harbors certain loopholes and shortcomings which could potentially empower offenders and that requires attention to elevate this legislation to a masterpiece
- Section 3 of POCSO Act provides the definition and essentials of penetrative sexual assault. This section contains a pronoun 'He' which is used for accused. Thus, it clearly portrays that only a male can be suspected and accused under this section. One of the notable features of this Act is it is Gender Bias. The victim under this legislation can be any person irrespective of their gender. There are many instances of a male being abused but they are rendered helpless because of this discrimination.
- Section 11 of this Act provides provisions and punishment for sexual harassment. This section states 'sexual intent' will be a question of fact in the court of law. But there are criticisms that sexual intention is difficult to prove in the court of law which might lead to acquittal of the offenders.
- Section 27(2) of this Legislation states that if the victim is a female child or adolescent then the medical examination should be done only by a female doctor. On the other hand, Sec 166A of IPC, 1860 mandates a government medical officer to examine the victim irrespective of their gender. These provisions raise questions in the absence of a female doctor.
- POCSO fails to deal with issue such as, violence against an adolescent child of mental instability whose IQ age is below 18, in such instance it is difficult for the advocates and judges to render justice to the victims.
- This legislation is also capable of manipulating and misusing by the so-called victims. A child below the age of 18 can be influenced by family or friends and give a false complaint by using this Act for degrading the reputation of the accused and their family. Thus, provisions should also be made on the aforesaid issue.

RECOMMENDED SUGGESTIONS:

- **PROPER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:** Education and awareness plays a pivotal role in combating any form of issue in society. Thus, there should be adequate education and awareness regarding the impact encountered by the victims of such violence.

- **EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:** Despite having counseling and support services, it is still not effective. Due to such bureaucratic red tape, the victims and the families of victims are rendered helpless. Thus, all the counseling and support services should be supervised by the state to function effectively.

- **GENDER NEUTRAL LEGISLATION:** In spite of existence of gender-neutral legislations and policies, yet only girls are given significance when it comes to violence. The term Violence against children encompasses the violence taking place against both boys and girls.

- **GOOD PARENTING:** Children suffer from such violence from their home to the external society. Thus, it is the home where children spend lot of time after schooling. The parents should create a friendly and harmonious environment with their children which help to identify the victims encountered by children. Good parenting helps in combating the complex issue of violence.

CONCLUSION:

Violence against children is one of the complex issues in the contemporary world. Children are often targeted as victims since they are the vulnerable group of people in the society. Younger generation are the future pillars of our nation, but the concern is they get affected by such violence which has long term ill effects affecting their education, livelihood etc. Young people become the victims of such offense due to wide array of factors such as individual, family, societal factors and so on. Moreover, understanding the long-term consequences of violence against children is essential for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. Despite having number of legislations and regulatory frameworks, there has been a concerning rise in crime rates against minor. This is because of the offender who employs various modus operandi for various crimes which is challenging for the investigation officers to detect. One of the main sources of violence is underreporting of cases by the victims largely influenced by the societal perspective. There is a general view in society that violence against children happens only against girls, but the reality is

boys also become the victims of such violence. Thus, most of the legislations and policies are framed in such a way that it only addresses the issue of girls rejecting the needs and experiences of boys in these matters. The penalty imposed for violent activities occurring against children should be made more stringent which prevents the offenders from doing further violations. This research paper concludes that violence happening against children is a very serious issue which needs immediate attention. There is also an indispensable need to draft comprehensive gender-neutral legislation with stringent punishments.

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