

# Situation Analysis of Child Care, Neglect & Abuse in India



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# Presentation Outline

- Background
- Methods
- Findings
- Policy
- Lesson learned

# Children in India: Critical concerns

- 42% (440 million) of India's total population are aged below eighteen.
- Every fifth child in the world lives in India
- Every third malnourished child in the world lives in India
- Every second Indian child is underweight.
- Three out of four children in India are anaemic
- Children born with low birth weight are 46%
- Immunization coverage is very low
- Girls' enrolment in schools at primary level is 48 %

# High Risk Groups of Children

- Street & working children
- Children of sex workers
- Abused, tortured and exploited children
- Children indulging in substance abuse
- Children affected by natural calamities, emergencies and man made disasters
- Children with disabilities
- Child beggars
- Children suffering from terminal/incurable disease
- Orphans, abandoned & destitute children
- Missing or run-away children
- Children with STI / HIV/ AIDS infection

# Traditional Practices and Vulnerability of Children

Harmful traditional practices like

- child marriage,
- caste system,
- discrimination against the girl child,
- child labour and Devadasi tradition

impact negatively on children and increase their vulnerability to abuse and neglect.

# For overall progress

- Need to address
  - Child care, abuse and neglect
  - Female foeticide and infanticide
  - Gender discrimination
  - Child marriage
  - Trafficking of children

# Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

- A universal definition of child abuse in the Indian context does not exist
- Largely follows WHO definition.
- Four major categories of abuse
  - physical abuse
  - sexual abuse
  - neglect and
  - emotional abuse



# METHODS



# Desk review

- Literature search
  - Internet
  - In house library/ reports
- Materials include
  - Published reports
  - Articles
  - News items
  - Unpublished report
- Limitation includes mainly lack of complete information in the report



# RESEARCH EVIDENCE

# Reported Incidence of Crimes Against Children

Crime Head	Years		% Variation in 2005 Over 2004
	2004	2005	
Rape	3542	4026	13.7
Kidnapping & Abduction	3196	3518	10.1
Procurement of Minor Girls	205	145	29.3
Selling /buying of Girls for Prostitution	40	70	95.0
Abetment of Suicide	33	43	30.3
Exposure and Abandonment	715	933	30.5
Infanticide	102	108	5.9
Foeticide	86	86	0
Child Marriage	93	122	31.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14423</b>	<b>14975</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India (2005): Crime in India			



Study on  
**Child Abuse:**  
**INDIA 2007**



Ministry of Women and Child Development  
Government of India



# Child Abuse: India - 2007

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India

- Conducted in 13 states (2007)
- **Sexual Abuse among Children**
- 53 percent of children reported having faced sexual abuse
  - 53 percent were boys
  - 47 percent were girls
- Children on the street, at work and in institutional care reported the highest incidence of sexual assault.
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Delhi had highest percentage of sexual abuse and assault

# Child Abuse: India - 2007

(contd.)

- **Physical abuse among children**
- 69 percent of children were physically abused  
55 percent were boys
- 89 percent were physically abused by parents
- Most children did not report the matter to anyone
- States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Delhi have reported higher rates of abuse in all forms

# Child Abuse: India - 2007

(Contd.)

## Emotional Abuse and Girl Child Neglect

- Every second child reported facing emotional abuse
- Equal percentage from both girls and boys
- 83 percent abusers were parents
- Nearly half of girls wished they were boys



# Trafficking in Women and Children in India, 2005

- 44,500 children were reported to be missing
- India is major source as well as destination for trafficked children
- Around 500,000 girl children are in commercial sex and organised prostitution.



## OTHER EMPIRICAL RESEARCH EVIDENCES

- **Among street girls**
  - 39 percent were raped before they were 10 years old (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai - 1999)
- **Among School Children**
- 63 per cent of girls abused by family member
  - 25 per cent raped
  - in 30 per cent it was done male friend of family and other family members

(Delhi-based Sakshi Violation Intervention Centre, 1997)

# Among College Students

- 1,000 upper and higher-middle class college students interviewed,
  - 76 per cent had been abused as children,
  - 31 per cent known to that family
  - 40 per cent by family member, and
- 50 per cent of them before the age of 12
- RAHI, Delhi-based organisation

## Among Boys

- Families do not protect boys as much as girls
- Sexual abuse of boys in school settings, particularly in residential schools, by teachers, school attendants
- Many sexually abused boys develop fear that they are homosexuals themselves
- Migrant boys are doubly disadvantage

# Profile of Boys Working in Prostitution

- Most were first sexually abused at age 10 -13
- Half of them were illiterate
- Nearly half had bad relationships with their family
- Had left home because of physical abuse, poverty, alcoholism of father, broken family
- Pathways: odd jobs, initiation to sexual abuse led them to enter prostitution
- Boys were initiated into this at ages 15-16
- Boys were mostly working in prostitution for women clients

## Street children

- Eight percent acknowledged that sexual coercion was a very common or common feature
- Case study of Four children
  - reported sexual harassment during 3 months period prior to the survey
  - Were forced into activity by co-workers, friends
  - Multiple times coerced sexual relation occurred
  - Exploitation included individual and group activity

# Children in Tourist Destinations

- Studies conducted in tourist destinations Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal, Goa, Kerala shows
- Child sexual abuse is common and extensive
- Children ranged from 8 to 18 years.
- Primary offenders were local tourists(from same state)
- Majority of children belonged to
  - families affected by poverty, fishing community
  - absence of primary caregivers and debt bondage

# New Forms of Exploitation

- Using children in making pornography
- Internet facility widely used by abusers to reach and abuse children sexually
- Ready availability through photographs , videos

# Abusers

- Over 85 per cent of the offenders are those whom the children know and trust
- Blackmail was found to be the most popular tool used by abusers



# Contributing Factors

- Children are the most vulnerable section of society
  - Emotionally and physically
  - Conditioned to trust people they see
  - Easily molded with what's suggested to them
  - Abuser counts on the relationship of trust and gain access to children
  - Abusers count on the familial relationship
  - Drill fear into the child's head-to keep their misdeeds a secret
  - Could be easily blackmailed

## Contributing factors (contd.)

- Children taught to obey adults implicitly are abused by adults family members
- "Silence about sex" culture
  - forbids parents from talking to their children about sexuality
  - frowns upon any non-sexual intimate relationship with the opposite gender
  - Even when children report abuses by family elders parent tend to reject and advises them to keep quiet

# Response to sexual abuse: NGOs

- A number of active NGOs
- Prerana, an NGO in Mumbai
- Childline India Foundation in Mumbai
- Child Helpline International
- NGO Butterflies in Delhi
- Sangath Centre for Child Development and Family Guidance in Goa
- Socio-Legal Aid Research and Training Centre in Kolkata
- NGO NetSafety

# Response to sexual abuse: Institution

- National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience in Bangalore
- Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse in Chennai
- Saarthak, a counselling centre aligned with the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals in Delhi

# Response to Sexual Abuse: Indian legislation

- Constitution of India recognizes the vulnerable position of children and accordingly makes provision for their right to protection (in Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 19(1) (a), 21, 21(A), 23, 24, 39(e) 39(f))
- Ministry of Women and Child Development
- India is signatory to three international conventions on child rights

(contd.)

- In legislation 'Sexual abuse' *per se* is not defined
  - Does not directly address child sexual abuse
  - Cases of child sexual abuse are addressed under adult laws
  - Addresses some forms of sexual abuse through diverse provisions found in Indian Penal Code 1860.
  - Many of these provisions exclude boys
  - IPC outlaws forcing or seducing a minor girl under 18 into 'illicit intercourse' but it does not protect boys.
  - IPC provides stringent measures to protect girl rape victims its protections for boy victims are insufficient

## Contd.

- Andhra Pradesh State made the offence cognisable, non-bailable with a minimum punishment of seven years' imprisonment and a fine
- Goa Children Act 2003 has made abuse a non-bailable offence under Section 2 (a) of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. Fines and jail terms are also severe
- No other state has taken any initiative
- Bill is awaited in Parliament

# Policy

- National Plan of Action for Children 2005 (NPAC)
  - more comprehensive against CSA
  - Less discriminatory against boys
  - Has limited goals, objectives and strategies for child pornography
  - Intended to be administered through state plans of action.
    - Maharashtra, has developed state action plan to address trafficking,
  - Action plans to address child sexual abuse have not been formed in any state.



# To Sum Up

- Empirical evidence suggest high prevalence of child sexual abuse
- Efforts are being made by Government in line with international conventions
- NGO's are trying to complement in efforts
- Strong networking required among government, civil society, communities and concerned stakeholders to complement each other effort to fight against CSA

## Contd.

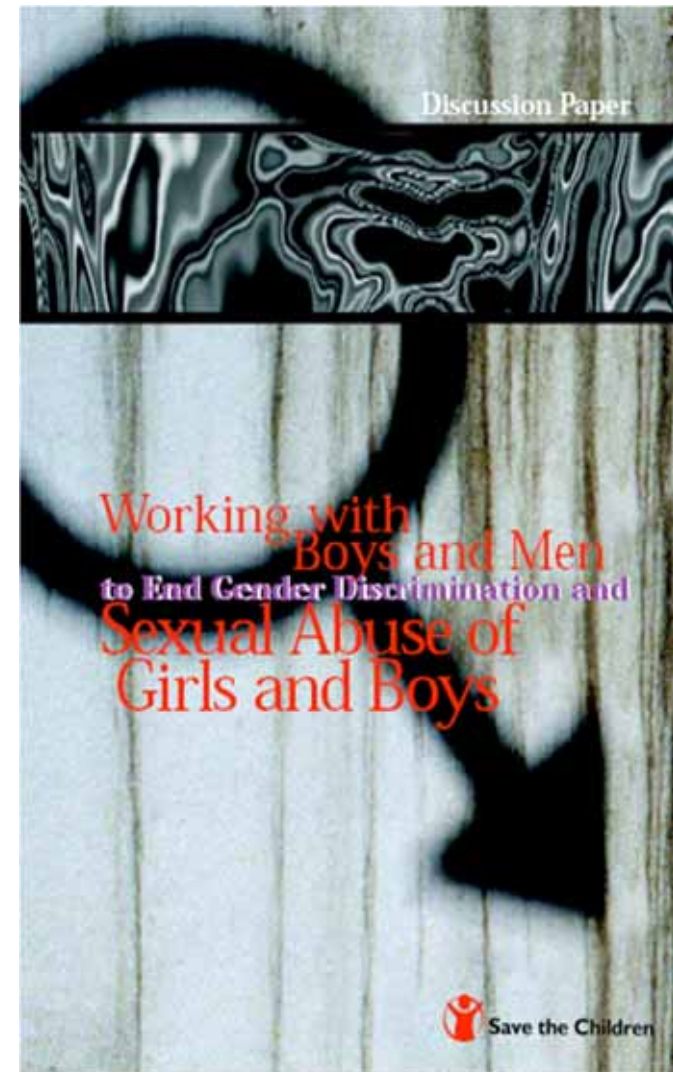
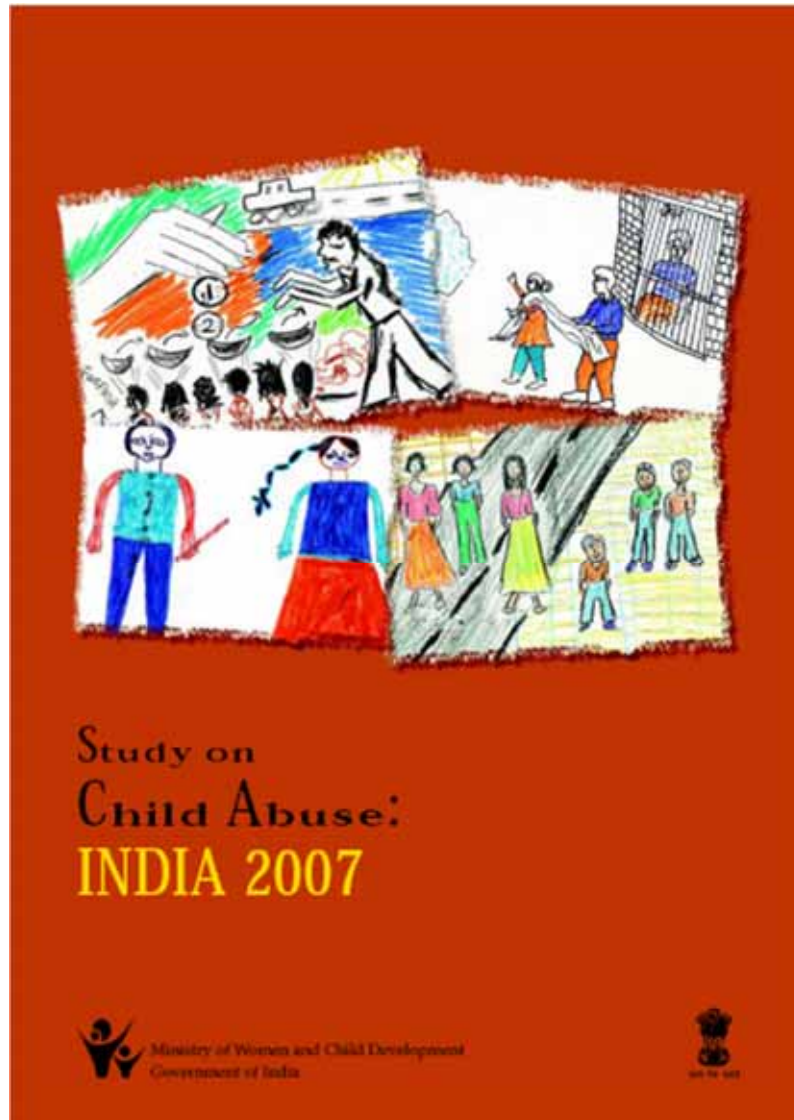
All children have the right to live in safety and dignity in a protective and nurturing environment, both at home and in the community.

This could be achieved only by

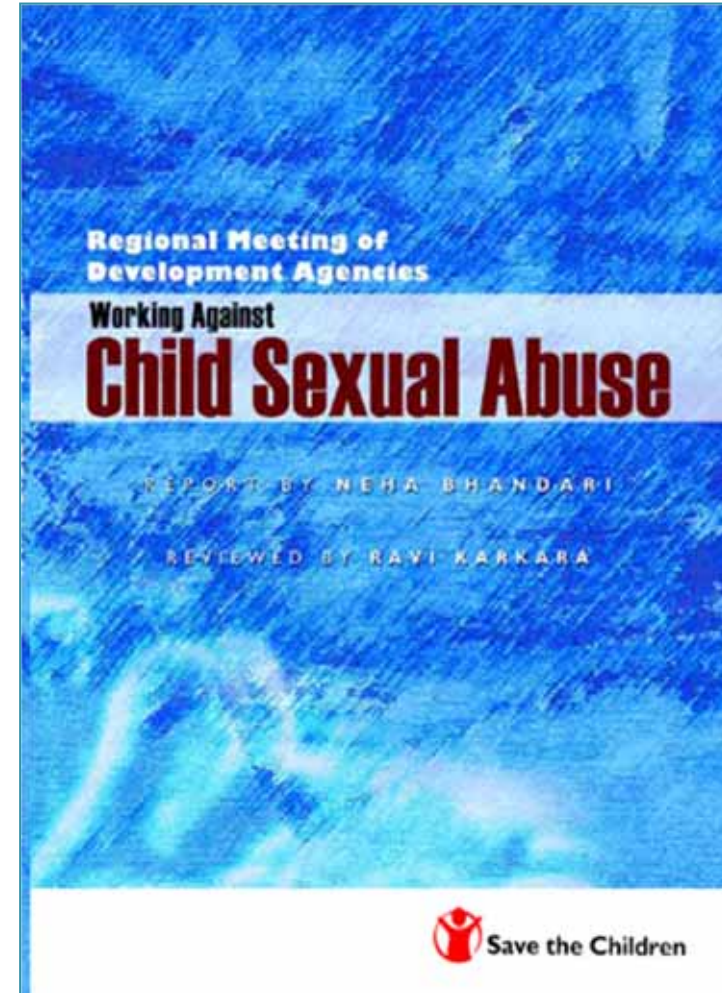
- creating awareness of their rights, especially their right to protection, among parents and other stakeholders,
- putting in place laws to punish those who abuse /exploit children
- Taking action to strengthen accountability on the part of government , NGOs and the civil society.



# Publications



# Publications



# Publications

