

# Child Sexual Abuse

Awareness talk by

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Quality of Life  
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# What is child abuse?

- Child abuse is the physical, sexual or emotional maltreatment of a child or children.

Types:

1. Physical abuse
2. Emotional abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Neglect



# Physical abuse

- Any non accidental trauma or physical injury caused by punching, biting, beating, kicking, or otherwise harming a child.

# Neglect

- It is a form of child maltreatment, a deficit in meeting child's basic needs including the failure to provide basic physical, health care, supervision, nutrition, emotional, education and/or safe housing needs.

# Emotional abuse

- It is a pattern of behaviour by parents or care givers that can seriously interfere with the child's cognitive emotional psychological or social development.

# What is child sexual abuse?

- Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent uses a child for sexual stimulation.
- At the extreme end of the spectrum, sexual abuse includes sexual intercourse or its deviations



# Myths about child sexual abuse

1. He looks normal and acts normal, so he can't be a child molester.
2. Only men sexually abuse children.
3. Child molesters target any and all children nearby.
4. Abused children always tell.
5. The victim is always a Girl
6. Child victims of sexual abuse will have physical signs of the abuse.



# Myths about child sexual abuse

7. Stranger danger
8. Sexual victimization as a child will inevitably result in the child growing up to become a sex offender
9. Child sexual abuse is a cultural or socioeconomic problem.





# Who are the victims of child sexual abuse?

- Children and adolescents, regardless of their race, culture or economic status, appear to be at approximately equal risk for sexual victimization.
- Female cases of sexual abuse higher than male cases.
- However male sexual abuse does exist but is hardly reported which brings in less evidence.



# Who are the perpetrators of child sexual abuse?

- Children are most often sexually abused by someone they know and trust.
- The offender may be an upstanding and helpful person in the community.
- The offender may establish peer relationships with people much younger than themselves.
- Studies revealed that majority of sexual offenders are family members or are otherwise known to the child.
- Sexual abuse by strangers not very common.
- Females can also be sexual offenders.
- Homosexual men are not more likely to sexually abuse children than heterosexual men are.



# Different types of child sexual abuse

- **Touching sexual offenses include:**
- Fondling;
- Making a child touch an adult's sexual organs; and
- Penetrating a child's vagina or anus no matter how slight with a penis or any object that doesn't have a valid medical purpose.
- **Non-touching sexual offenses include:**
- Engaging in indecent exposure or exhibitionism;
- Exposing children to pornographic material;
- Deliberately exposing a child to the act of sexual intercourse; and
- Masturbating in front of a child.
- **Sexual exploitation can include:**
- Engaging a child or soliciting a child for the purposes of prostitution; and
- Using a child to film, photograph or model pornography



cycle

# What are the effects of child sexual abuse?

- Range of psychological and behavioral problems, from mild to severe, in both short and long term.
- Depression, anxiety, guilt, fear, sexual dysfunction, withdrawal and acting out.



# Physical effects

- Infections
- Injury
- Neurological damages



# Psychological Effects

- Fear
- Helplessness/powerlessness
- Guilt and shame
- Responsibility-(self harm)
- Isolation
- Betrayal
- Anger
- Flashbacks
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Change in regular behavior habits.
- Low self esteem
- Hallucinations
- Paranoid ideations
- Somatization
- Suicide tendencies
- Split personality



# Social effects

- Social isolation
- Decrease in school participation
- Run away
- day dreaming
- Extremely out going
- Getting into vices
- Lack of trust in family and friends.



# Can children recover from sexual abuse?

Factors that affect the amount of harm done to the victim:

1. Age of the child
2. The duration
3. The frequency
4. Intrusiveness of the abuse
5. Degree of force used
6. The relationship of the abuser to the child

- Children's interpretation of the abuse, whether or not they disclose the experience and how quickly they report it also affects the short and long term consequences.
- Family support, extra-familial support, high self-esteem and spirituality are useful in recovering from, the abuse.
- To deal with guilt- attending conferences and workshops on child sexual abuse, reading about it and undergoing psychotherapy helps.

# Sources to go to

- Parents
- Trusted relatives
- Teachers/principal
- School counsellors
- Private counsellors
- Doctors
- CHILDLINE 1098
- Police

