

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

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DOES IT REALLY HAPPEN ?

- People with intellectual disabilities are more often the victims than those who do not have a disability.
- Any type of disability contributes to high risk, but intellectual disability, communication disorders & behavioural disorders contributes to very high risk.
- More than 90 % of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives.
- 49 % will experience 10 or more sexually abusive incidents
- 39- 68 % of girls and 16- 30% of boys will be sexually abused before their eighteenth birthday.

Valenti-Hein & Schwartz, 1995).



WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?

- At home
- Outside the home – school, care centers, playground
- Transport systems
- Virtually everywhere



WHO DOES IT ?.. THE ABUSERS..

- Often those who are known to the victim
- Family members
- Family friends
- Residential care/support staff
- Personal care attendants
- Transportation providers
- House maids/ helps



WHY INCREASED RISK ?

- These pple may not understand what is happening or may not know how to communicate about the assault to 'trusted people'.
- They may not know that it is wrong & illegal
- They may 'not question' the authority figure
- Believe the threats
- Are rarely educated about sexual issues



FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED RISK..

- Communications skill deficits
- Feelings of powerlessness in over-controlled surroundings
- Inability to protect oneself due to lack of instruction/ resources
- Lack of training or instruction about 'good touch-bad touch'.
- Parents' failure to check the background of pple involved in the care of the child
- Parents' failure to detect the signs or ignorance of complaints..
Allowing the abuse to continue.



EFFECTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE ?

- Biological
- Psychological/psychosomatic
- Behavioural difficulties



PREVENTION

- Knowledge- awareness
- Be alert
- Report the assault
- Teach the children about good touch & bad touch
- Backgrounds checks of each employee
- Sex education
- How to protect themselves