



# CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN INDIA

2017



# **Awareness and Perceptions about Child Sexual Abuse among Young Adults in India**

## **A Research Study**

**Supported by**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Global communities would like to believe that we live in an ultra-civilised and avant-garde world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, modern and progressive in every possible way. But violence against children, especially Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), is a persistent human tragedy that is still too rampant in these same communities. As for India, CSA is one of the country's most grave and disconcerting challenges. Despite several efforts including legislations and legal provisions formulated and implemented to control this abhorrent crime, CSA remains widespread across the country. It has to be acknowledged that human knowledge and perceptions are as critical and significant as legal provisions in curbing or eliminating CSA. In fact, these perceptions often become so entrenched in communities as human behaviour that they can seriously hinder progress towards reducing and eliminating CSA. This report shares evidence from a research study - ***Awareness and Perceptions about Child Sexual Abuse among Young Adults in India*** by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF). This study was conceptualised in order to initiate an exploration of the awareness and perceptions of young adults in India as regards CSA. The evidence from this study can be effectively used in multiple ways to tackle CSA.

In September 2017, KSCF launched a country-wide march, the *Bharat Yatra*, as a clarion call to make India safe again for children. The *Yatra*, covering 11,000 kilometres through 22 States and Union Territories, has initiated a strident mass movement, calling upon each citizen to take urgent action to break the unacceptable silence about the sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children every day. This study was conducted in alignment with the *Bharat Yatra*.

KSCF, under the leadership and guidance of Nobel Peace Laureate Mr Kailash Satyarthi, envisions a world where every child can live freely with dignity, is able to exercise the fundamental right to be free, safe, healthy and educated, and to realise his or her fullest potential. The Foundation seeks to end all violence against children and has been focusing on CSA through its research and public engagement efforts. The present study maps what young adults in India think about CSA, both in terms of their levels of awareness and factual knowledge, and the kind of perceptions they carry. The knowledge generated from this study is seen as critical to strengthening the overall response in the country to CSA, and its prevention and control. The systems and services that are designed, implemented and available to curb CSA can become effective only if there is sufficient demand for them. This demand can grow only if there is adequate behaviour change and attitudinal shift, destigmatisation and openness to address CSA. Youth are a critical agency for such change, and improved knowledge is therefore fundamental for them.

The study was conducted in collaboration with 10 Universities/Colleges spread across 10 states of India (Uttar Pradesh, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Maharashtra). In order to be geographically uniform, two Universities/Colleges each from the Central, North, South, West and East Zones were selected. In total, 987 young adults, of which 571 were females and 416 were males, participated from across the country as respondents.

# Topline Findings

## Awareness about CSA

While general awareness about CSA as a problem in India is very high, it is observed that three out of every four young adults do not possess a basic understanding<sup>i</sup> about CSA. This is certainly a matter of concern as the respondents surveyed were highly educated young adults. Knowledge about what actually constitutes CSA is also poor. For example, very few are aware that even eve-teasing is a crime. Also, the respondents have varied opinions/perceptions about different aspects of CSA. The level of knowledge varies widely across zones. The most popular sources of knowledge are mass media (electronic and print), but teachers are also an important channel.

## Awareness about Response and Support Mechanisms

Though 90% of the young adults surveyed are aware that the sexual abuse of children is a punishable offence, only 72% know about the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), the five-year old law against CSA. However, it is satisfying to note that 96% respondents who are aware that children are subjected to various forms of sexual abuse are also aware either of POCSO or at least that CSA is a punishable offence. Majority (84%) of the respondents are also ready to take the initiative to inform the police if they come across any incident of CSA, but many of them express that they would try several other means of redressal before doing so. Overall, there are serious lacunae in the legal literacy levels of young adults.

## Survivors of Sexual Abuse

A little over one-third (35%) of the female respondents and one-fourth males (25%) have experienced any severe/extreme form of sexual abuse when they were children. The experience of sexual abuse is as high as 41% in the West Zone, followed by 31% in the North and South Zones, and 26% in the east and 28% in the central zones.

## Reporting Sexual Abuse

The chances of reporting sexual abuse experience increases with age and education. In three-fifths (62%) of the cases of those who reported, no legal nor non-legal action was taken. Legal action was taken in only seven percent cases of sexual abuse that were reported

## The Extent of Vulnerability of Children

A substantial proportion (65%) of young adults feel that all children are vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse, irrespective of their place of stay and working status. This perception is more common among female respondents.

## Educating Children on CSA

The young adult respondents of this study, who were themselves children just a couple of years ago are not in a position to take a decisive call on whether children should be educated on CSA or not. A higher proportion (49%) of females seems to be in favour of educating children on CSA as compared to males (37%). There is a very typical apprehension that too much information would expose children to too much detail about sex and sexuality.

<sup>i</sup> Respondents who are aware of POCSO or that CSA is a punishable offence, did not agree to four negative statements on CSA and are in favour of educating children on sexual abuse to prevent CSA (Refer Section2, Sub-section 2.6)



The respondents who participated in the study were young adults aged 18 and above. The respondents' pool had a mixture of undergraduate, graduate and post graduate students. Data collection was carried out during August–September, 2017, with the help of a self-administered questionnaire. Students interested in participating in the study were briefed about the objective, purpose and the ethical standards followed, before the questionnaire was handed over for administration. The study was designed carefully to maintain complete anonymity of the response. Students could drop the filled-in questionnaires in a 'Drop-Box' placed within the University/College premises.

If India is to strengthen its overall response to CSA as an unacceptable crime against children, enormous efforts still need to be made in the area of awareness, sensitisation, information provision, behaviour change, speaking about sex and sexuality, sharing with parents, destigmatisation and legal literacy among young adults. As it is, children are vulnerable to all types of abuse because of their lack of knowledge about the risks and their self-protection. Prevention of CSA and teaching children about it is the responsibility of adults and young adults can play a significant role in this activity. Also, today's young adults will be tomorrow's parental generation, so for lasting change and the elimination of CSA, this target group has to be better informed, more progressive in its thinking, and far more bold in speaking out. Hence, immediate efforts should be made to make all young adults across the country fully aware and sensitised about CSA in all its dimensions. The use of educational institutions for spreading awareness needs to be explored and encouraged for an impactful and quick response to CSA. India's preparedness to respond with alacrity and rapidity to all CSA crimes and bring justice for child survivors in an effective and supportive manner is the need of the hour, and an aware youth are a key component of this response.





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SECTION 1

# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Background

Violence against children, especially Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), is one of India's most grave and disconcerting challenges. Despite several efforts including legislations and legal provisions formulated and implemented to control this abhorrent crime, CSA remains widespread across the country. It is well-established that positive change to address any sociological or developmental challenge cannot ride on such systemic and procedural tools alone, and preventing or eliminating CSA is no exception. Human knowledge and perceptions are as critical and significant as legal provisions in curbing or ending CSA. In fact, these perceptions often become so entrenched in communities as human behaviour that they can seriously hinder progress towards reducing and eliminating CSA. Furthermore, perceptions and knowledge levels among youth are even more important. This is because young adults can help accelerate any transformational agenda.

In September 2017, KSCF initiated a country-wide march, the *Bharat Yatra*, as a clarion call to make India safe again for children. The *Yatra*, setting out to cover 11,000 kilometres through the length and breadth of India by moving through 22 states and Union Territories, initiated a rousing, strident mass movement, calling upon each citizen to take urgent action to break the unacceptable silence about the sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children every day. If there has to be lasting and impactful change in the way our children lead their childhoods in the 21st century, then a transformative agenda leading to the full protection of our children is essential. However, one of the most important pre-requisites for such a change agenda is a deeper understanding of people's perceptions and knowledge related to CSA. This study was conducted in alignment with the *Bharat Yatra*.

## 1.2 Context

Thousands of girls and boys in India are being sexually abused in homes, playgrounds, schools, public spaces and in so called "safe spaces". They are not safe in their homes, around their families, known persons and communities. Although there is a considerable rise in registration of crimes, the disposal of such cases by the courts is inadequate. With delays in creating child-friendly police stations, slow trials, violation of child-friendly court procedures, inadequate victim-witness protection, and the lack of stringent punishment against the accused, the response to sexual abuse and violence against children in India remains fragmented, and grossly inadequate.

### ***Extent of the Problem***

Protecting children is an imperative. All action to ensure this protection is therefore exigent, which is why it is prominent in public discourse. Enshrined in international covenants and national policies and

addressed through legal and other supportive policy frameworks, the criminalisation of CSA is a strong legal remedy. However, serious gaps remain for India, even though every fifth child of the world lives here, making up 37% of the country's population.

The sexual abuse of children often occurs in places considered to be the safest for them, such as the school, the family/home/community or in residential institutions or public places. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), within the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India states in its Crime in India 2016 report that the number of crimes against children in India has increased from 58,224 in 2013 to 1,06,958 in 2016. In just three years, crimes against children have increased by 84%. National crime statistics also highlight that a substantial proportion (34%) of the total crimes against children is related to sexual abuse. The form of abuse varies from penetrative assault to non-penetrative assault, besides forms that do not necessarily have physical contact, such as grooming over the internet, forcing a child to watch pornography, or conversations with sexual innuendos for the benefit of the abuser.

As per NCRB records, the different types of sex-related crimes against children have increased significantly during 2012-16. The table below indicates the increasing trend of different types of sex-related crimes against children.

**Table 1.1 Crimes against children in the country during 2012-16**

Type of Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Rape	8,541	12,363	13,766	10,854	19,765
Assault on women (girl children) with intent to outrage their modesty	-	-	11,335	8,390	-
Insult to the modesty of women (girl children)	-	-	444	348	-
Kidnapping & Abduction	18,266	28,167	37,854	41,893	54,723
Buying of girls for prostitution	15	6	14	11	7
Selling of girls for prostitution	108	100	82	111	122
Procurance of minor girls	809	1,224	2,020	3,087	2,465
Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act			8,904	14,913	12,226

CSA is an offence that has been reportedly rising over time, affecting a child's safety, psychological state, health, level of independence, self-respect and social relationships. Such acts can have devastating and often irreversible impact on young victims, and recent trends in India have revealed an urgent need to improve and strengthen the response (at societal, government and judicial levels) to the sexual victimization of children in all respects.



A study (*Study on Child Abuse: India 2007*) conducted in 2007 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India covering 12,447 children across 13 states reported that 53% of children were exposed to one or more forms of sexual abuse. Among the children who reported being abused, 53% were boys and 47% were girls. The study also highlighted that abuse starts at an age as low as five years and the severity increases from the age of 10, peaking at 12 to 15 years.

## ***Response to the Crime***

CSA has begun receiving greater attention in India in the last few years in terms of legislation and legal provisions. Various legal and policy reforms have been initiated in response to the increasing rate of crime in general and sexual violence in particular against women and children. The POCSO Act is one such significant and positive development in an effort to address the problem. It is a critical legal instrument for the protection of children in India and criminalises a range of abuse against them including rape, assault, exploitation for pornography, and the sexual harassment of persons under the age of 18.

## ***Policy and Legal Instruments and Frameworks***

POCSO stipulates procedures that aim to make reporting and evidence provision more child-friendly in order to reduce the impact it may have on the child, such as recording her/his statement in a one-on-one setting outside the courtroom so that the child does not have to be present at the trial and/or face the alleged abuser. It stipulates punishments for sexual offences against children, the establishment of special courts and the appointment of Special Public Prosecutors, and lays down stringent timelines for the entire case to be completed as fast-track procedure. Several care and protection measures for children are also laid out. In the past few years, the formulation of other laws on the protection and safety of children like The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act), The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Information Technology Act, 2000, also have made the policy framework for the protection of children much more formidable in India. Despite all this, the response to CSA as well as other crimes against children is grossly inadequate. This is manifested in the fractured way in which laws are implemented in India, the delay in disposal of cases by the courts, the lack of child-friendly procedures, and a systemic lethargy in prioritizing the protection of children.

## ***Human Behaviour, Sensitivity and Attitudes***

Besides legal instruments, it is amply clear that social norms and the behaviour and attitude of people are also such that there is a quiet acceptance of CSA in communities, a fear around speaking about it publicly and a tendency to discriminate against victims of CSA while perpetrators roam free.

## ***Gender Inequity***

Gender inequity, a focus on sex and sexuality without the openness and transparency to discuss issues related to it, mindsets of patriarchy and male dominance, and the association of the female with being a sex object – all these factors strongly influence the persistence of CSA.

## ***Perceptions and Mindsets towards Child Protection***

The sheer vulnerability of a child and the very low priority accorded to children in policy and programme decision-making arenas makes the situation even more complicated. It is these norms that need to be challenged through behavioural and attitudinal changes in communities if we have to achieve long-term and sustainable solutions.

### **1.3 Desk Review**

Globally, various studies and consistent media coverage have highlighted the many challenges in addressing CSA over the years. In India, the general lack of protection of children, gross inadequacies and inefficiencies of the public system in responding to CSA incidents and crippling stigma at community level present the biggest challenge (Human Rights Watch, 2012). Lack of awareness about the gravity of the issue and measures to deal with the problem among children, parents and communities makes the situation worse. Most children are too ashamed or afraid to report incidents and do not disclose abuse to a parent or any other trusted person. Children who have not been educated or sensitized about the existence of such a risk, or about action that needs to be taken to protect themselves and who they can turn to in case of such an event, cannot be expected to have the requisite skill-set to recognise the offence or possess the vocabulary needed to communicate or talk about the incidence of abuse.

Despite legal and judicial reform and actions by the government in both identifying the problem and formulating POCSO in 2012 to counter it, there are still many CSA survivors whose awful experiences remain unrecorded as a crime. In failing to protect a child who is being abused, there is an increased risk of further and more severe abuse (Leenarts et.al., 2013)

Another research study exploring the nature and incidence of CSA in India found that social support for children and families, along with capacity building and community efficacy, are important factors that can contribute to the reduction and prevention of CSA (Carson et.al., 2013).

## ***The perpetrator is often a Known Person***

Some alarming facts and figures reveal that the perpetrator is often known to the survivor. The idea that homes, families and known people are sources of risk for children is well-known but for obvious reasons, it remains wrapped in an insidious silence and for the same reason, it is difficult to tackle.

## ***A Conspiracy of Silence and Its impact on Discourse***

CSA in India is characterised by a conspiracy of silence. It is the biggest kept secret in India due to social denial, ignorance and silence generated out of lack of acknowledgement (Save the Children, Sweden and

Tulir, 2006). The most unfortunate part of the social dynamics concerning CSA is the stigma that society attaches to the victim who has been sexually abused, with little or no lasting stigma affecting the perpetrator. It is almost as though there is a certain social tolerance and acceptance of CSA. Stigma associated with the issue and a lack of trust in authorities further adds to the conspiracy of silence.

## ***Readiness within our Society to talk about Sexual Abuse***

The environment of openness and transparency that is so essential in family settings for discussions about sex and sexuality is almost non-existent in typical Indian families. This opacity is leading to a complete lack of knowledge, and can also confuse a child regarding what is right or wrong, about CSA and particularly about situations where the abuser is a known individual. In such claustrophobic and conventional settings, it is almost preposterous to expect that children would disclose anything at all about CSA experiences they may have undergone. In fact, children may not disclose anything also because they feel no one will believe them, as the offender maintains a good social status and is a trusted member of the family or known to the family (The Alternative, 2012).

Readiness to talk about sexual assault and disclosure of a first-hand experience is a very grave concern and it has to be addressed if sustained solutions are to be found. A couple of research studies indicate that non-disclosure and delayed disclosure of assault ranges between 60% to 80% among CSA survivors. Further, delayed disclosure (more than five years after the first episode) is as high as 58%. It is well-known that such non-disclosure or delayed disclosure of the assault by survivors makes them vulnerable towards prolonged victimisation and distances them even more from justice (Hebert et.al., 2009; Paine and Hansen, 2002; Jones, 2000).

There are other challenges of full disclosure. The age of the child survivor and her/his ability or inability to fully process and comprehend the gravity of all such experiences are reasons that can affect disclosure. It may be that they are unaware that what has happened to them is a wrongful act, even a crime (Human Rights Watch, 2013). A study by Arpan Foundation where adult survivors of CSA were interviewed, revealed how comprehension about the incident, finding the right words and vocabulary to describe it and gathering the courage while dealing with the shame and guilt led to a belief that forgetting about it would be the best way to develop a coping strategy in the long-run (Arpan Foundation, 2014). Shame and stigma is a serious problem for survivors and they may experience mixed reactions from their local communities and society at large (Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2007).

The need to change this status-quo in family environment and social patterns of silence around CSA is urgent and it is clear that shifting cultural norms would need the liberated intelligence of youth and their energy and motivation to change the world.

## **Youth Awareness of CSA**

The awareness levels and perceptions among youth as regards CSA have a fundamental connection with the subject of controlling this terrible crime. A US-based research study aimed at identifying college students' perceptions of the sexual abuse of children found that the majority of students lacked knowledge and awareness about this issue. The study recommended that the incorporation of information about CSA into the curriculum for undergraduate students and campus educational campaigns on the subject could be useful in enhancing the level of awareness among college students (Muse, 2013).

In yet another survey named *"Students' Knowledge about Child Sexual Abuse and Perceived Readiness to Provide Counseling Services"*, 304 Master's level students in counselor education and counseling psychology were surveyed to explore their knowledge about CSA and perceived readiness to provide related counseling services. While students demonstrated general knowledge about CSA, preparedness to counsel was rated much lower at 69%, indicating low levels of competency (Foster, 2017).

Interestingly, there is paucity of credible published research on the critical issue of youth education, awareness and sensitisation as related to CSA. This is despite the fact that it is established that such education at all levels of youth development (school, college and general exposure) can be very valuable in shaping mindsets for the prevention and control of CSA.

## **1.4 Rationale and Objective of the Study**

KSCF, under the leadership and guidance of Nobel Peace Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi envisions a world where every child can live freely with dignity, exercise the fundamental right to be free, safe, healthy and educated, and realise his or her fullest potential. The Foundation has the mission to end all violence against children. In this context, KSCF has been focusing on CSA within its research and public engagement efforts.

This study was undertaken with the specific objective of understanding the levels of awareness and perceptions about CSA among young adults in India. With the agency of youth being critical to any transformative agenda that can lead to the complete prevention of CSA, KSCF considers it important to map how and what they know and think about this crime. This information would contribute towards designing future strategies and programmes to address the information and knowledge requirements of youth. The prevention and control of CSA hinges strongly on these knowledge and awareness levels.

## **1.5 Methodology**

The present study is exploratory in nature and is a rapid assessment. The universe of its respondents consists of young adults who are University and College-going students. KSCF has carried out this study in collaboration with 10 universities/colleges across the country. As mentioned earlier in this report, the

study was aligned to the *Bharat Yatra* conducted by KSCF. In order to ensure complete geographical representation of the country, two universities/colleges each were selected from Central, North, South, West, and East India. Table 1.2 presents the Zone, State and Universities/Colleges where the study has been conducted. The Universities/Colleges were selected purposively and their detailed list is provided on page-ii.

**Table 1.2 Participating Universities/Colleges by state and zone**

Zone	State	University/College
North	Uttar Pradesh	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
	Delhi	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
South	Karnataka	Christ University, Bangalore
	Kerala	Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram
East	Odisha	Utkal University, Bhubaneswar
	Jharkhand	Ranchi College, Ranchi
West	Maharashtra	Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune
	Gujarat	Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar
Central	Madhya Pradesh	Dr H S Gour University, Sagar
	Chhattisgarh	Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur

The study used quantitative data collected with the help of a self-administered questionnaire. Students interested in participating in the study were provided with the questionnaire that they were to fill out for the survey.

The questionnaire used for data collection was short and simple, designed for self-administration by the respondent. In all study states except the South Zone states, a bilingual (English & regional language) questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire covered aspects related to the profile of the respondents, awareness and perceptions on CSA and response to CSA. Besides these, the questionnaire also captured any experience(s) of sexual abuse faced by the respondents during childhood.

Depending on the student strength on the date of the visit made by the KSCF research team, one to five Departments were selected in consultation with the University/College officials or faculty. Concerned faculty members convened the student body for the administration of the survey. An effort was made to capture the opinion of students from various streams of study. Students from Arts & Humanities, the Sciences, Commerce, Business Administration and Computer Science streams have participated in the study. Altogether, students from 25 streams have participated in the study and shared their views and levels of knowledge, and experience(s) related to CSA.

**Table 1.3 List of departments from where students participated in the study**

Arts & Humanities	The Sciences	Others
1. Communication	1. Biology	1. Business Administration
2. Economics	2. Chemistry	2. Commerce
3. Education	3. Demography	3. Computer Science
4. English	4. Geology	
5. Geography	5. Mathematics	
6. History	6. Physics	
7. Philosophy	7. Public Health	
8. Political science	8. Statistics	
9. Psychology	9. Zoology	
10. Rural Development		
11. Social Science		
12. Social Work		
13. Sociology		

In the selected department/s, all students were given equal opportunity to participate in the study. Interested students were briefed about the study and the research guidelines followed by KSCF, before the questionnaire was handed over to them for recording their responses. Students were given sufficient time to fill up the questionnaire, after which they were to drop it in a Drop-Box placed separately within the Department. The questionnaires dropped in the box were collected by the researchers either the same evening or on the next day.

## **Sample Size and Coverage**

From each University/College 100 young adults were targeted as respondents with an effort to achieve equal representation of males and females. In order to deal with non-response and refusal to participate in the study, 10% over-sampling was done. Based on previous research experience, the KSCF research team expected a response rate of 75-80% in this study. Keeping this in view, a decision was taken to approach a maximum of 135 students per University/College to participate in the study (estimated on the basis of the need to achieve a minimum response rate of 75%). Hence, depending on student strength, a minimum of 110 to a maximum of 135 questionnaires were distributed among students.

Sufficient care was taken at each University/College to achieve desired sample size. Table 1.4 presents the zone-wise number of students who participated in the study and valid responses. The valid response rate was found to be 79%. In total, 987 young adults participated in the present study, of which 571 (58% of the total respondents) were females and 416 (42% of the total respondents) were males.

**Table 1.4 Student participation and response rate**

Sl.No	Zone	No. of students who participated in the study	Valid Response received*
1	North	243	218
2	South	257	176
3	East	262	231
4	West	235	140
5	Central	257	222
Total		1254	987
Response Rate		79%	

Note: A Valid Response is when all the questions in the questionnaire are responded to by the respondent

## 1.6 Ethical Standards

Acknowledging the sensitivity and importance of the subject, the following ethical standards were adhered in the present study:

- Research protocol and tools were developed by the KSCF research team after careful consideration to sensitivity of the issue
- Informed and/or written consent was obtained from the respondents to participate in the study. Respondents were briefed as regards the survey and questionnaire in terms of its purpose, how the information sought would be used, and that each respondent was totally at liberty to decide whether to participate in the study or not
- All respondents were allowed and encouraged to ask questions related to the survey and their doubts were clarified before handing over the questionnaire for administration
- Complete anonymity of the responses has been ensured by adopting the Drop-Box approach for submission of the filled-out questionnaire
- The confidentiality of all information collected from the respondents has been and will be maintained at all stages

## 1.7 Limitations of the study

Every research study has its own limitations. The present study also had challenges and limitations, and these were:

- In terms of geographies, Universities/Colleges in North Eastern states were not covered in this study owing to paucity of time. However, a few students belonging to these states and pursuing their studies in the Universities/Colleges surveyed have participated in the study
- Larger sample size and coverage of many more institutions in each state would have provided the opportunity to generate state-level estimates to understand the views of young adults at state-level
- Along with young adults pursuing their education, young adults in the work force also need to be covered for a better understanding of youth awareness and perceptions about CSA

The Foundation will try to address these limitations in future phases of study on the issue of CSA. It is relevant to mention that this was a preliminary step for larger-scale research and evidence generation that can eventually lead to total prevention and control of CSA.





## SECTION 2

# FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS OF YOUNG ADULTS



# FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS OF YOUNG ADULTS

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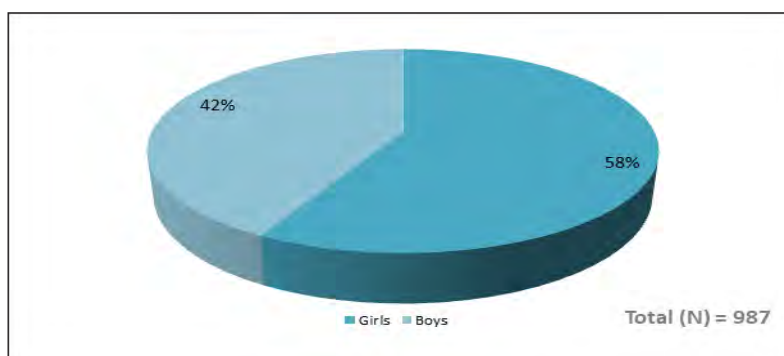
This section presents findings from the study on awareness and perceptions about CSA among young adults in India. The findings have emerged from data collected from young adults surveyed across the country during August-September, 2017. The findings have been presented in seven sub-sections, each related to awareness, perceptions and experiences of CSA among young adults. The sub-sections are as follows:

- Respondent Profile
- Awareness about CSA
- Awareness about Response and Support Mechanisms
- Perceptions related to CSA
- Experience of Sexual Abuse during Childhood and Action Taken
- Basic Understanding on CSA
- Vulnerable Children and Knowledge about How to Respond to CSA

## 2.1 Respondent Profile

As detailed in the previous section, the total number of young adults who participated in the present study is 987, of which 571 (58% of the total respondents) are females and 416 (42% of the total respondents) are males. Table 2.1 presents demographic characteristics of the respondents. The age distribution suggests that two-thirds of the respondents are in the 20-23 years age group. Another 15% are below the age of 20 years. However, bifurcation by sex suggests that a greater number of younger males (below 20 years of age) than females have participated in the survey. Almost 25% of the males who participated are below 20 years of age as compared to only seven percent females who are in the same age bracket. With regard to marital status, 91% of the respondents were unmarried at the time of the survey. About 53 respondents out of the total sample did not reveal their age and marital status.

**Figure 2.1 Distribution of the Respondents by Sex (in %)**



Half of the respondents were reported to be graduates and about one-fourth (24%) as undergraduates. Among females, the number of graduates and post graduates who participated in the study is relatively more as compared to males. One-third of the males surveyed were undergraduates.

At the time of the survey, 48% of the females and 56% of the males were staying in University/College hostels. Another one-third females (34%) and a little over two-fifths (22%) males were staying at home with their families. The remaining respondents reported that they were staying in shared flats with friends or private hostels. The profile of respondents who participated in the study indicates a diversified sample surveyed across the country.

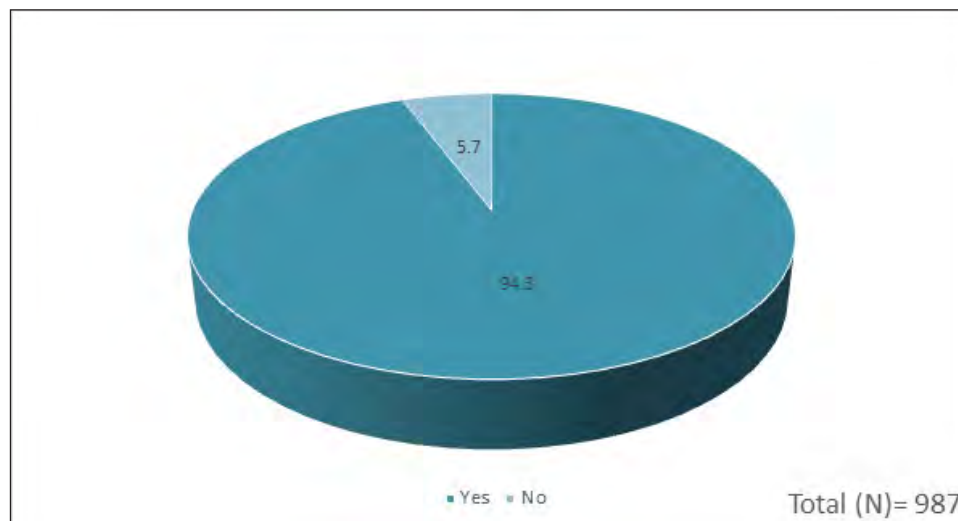
**Table 2.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents (in %)**

	Female	Male	Combined
<b>Age</b>			
Below 20 Years	7.4	24.5	14.6
20-21 Years	40.1	22.6	32.7
22-23 Years	35.7	27.9	32.4
24 Years and above	14.0	16.1	14.9
Age not stated	2.8	8.9	5.4
<b>Marital status</b>			
Unmarried	91.6	89.4	90.7
Married	4.0	3.8	4.0
Marital Status Undisclosed	4.4	6.7	5.4
<b>Educational qualification</b>			
Undergraduate (12 <sup>th</sup> Standard Completed)	17.2	32.7	23.7
Graduate (Three-Five Year degree course completed)	53.8	44.0	49.6
Post Graduate	29.1	23.3	26.6
<b>Place of stay</b>			
University/College hostel	47.8	55.5	51.1
At Home	33.6	22.1	28.8
In shared flat with friends	7.7	15.9	11.1
Private hostel	10.9	6.5	9.0
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>987</b>

## 2.2 Awareness about CSA

During the survey respondents were asked whether they are aware that children are subjected to various forms of sexual abuse. Findings suggest that the majority of respondents (94%) possess overall awareness as related to CSA. The level of awareness is relatively higher among females (97%) as compared to their male counterparts (91%).

**Figure 2.2 Awareness of Various Forms of CSA**



Those who reported being aware that children are subjected to various forms of sexual abuse were probed further to list out the different forms of CSA that they know about. Surprisingly, only 39% (95% Confidence Interval<sup>1</sup> = 36%, 42%) respondents were able to list down various forms of CSA (363 respondents out of 931). It can be inferred that while broad awareness is high, specific knowledge is lacking. Among these, 363 respondents 242 are females and 121 are males. This could be because of existing mindsets in society that girls are more vulnerable and need to be more aware of these issues. It is possible that the sensitisation of girls on the issue of CSA is also more because of this perception of greater vulnerability. However, lack of awareness about different forms of CSA even among educated adults at University level is a serious issue that cannot be ignored.

The various forms of CSA described by respondents are presented in Table 2.2, and were clubbed under 12 different categories. The five forms of CSA that are most reported are:

- 1) Rape (50%)
- 2) Molestation/touching private parts of the child (38%)
- 3) Bad touch with sexual advances (28%)
- 4) Children photographed in the nude/child pornography (12%)
- 5) Forcing the child to touch private parts and commenting or communicating sexually through text/phone/internet (10%)

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<sup>1</sup> Confidence Interval (CI) is an important statistical tool. In sample surveys, it is advisable to provide CI for critical indicators as it reflects the likely true population value. A 95% CI is an interval that is correct 95% of the time.

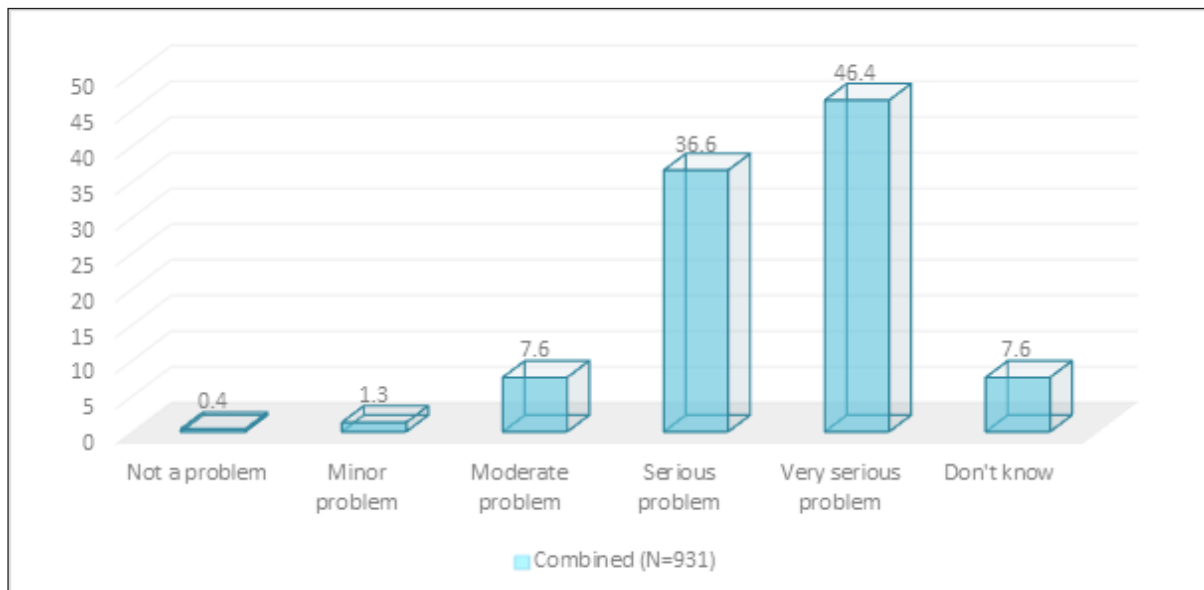
Awareness about the most common forms of abuse like eve-teasing (7%) and staring (4%) is insignificant. Since these are the most common forms of abuse it is hard to believe that respondents are not aware of them. There is a greater likelihood that respondents must be aware of these forms of abuse but they do not consider these acts as being serious enough as offences, let alone their being known as forms of sexual abuse.

**Table 2.2 Youth Perception about Various forms of CSA (in %)**

	Female	Male	Combined
Rape	50.8	49.6	50.4
Molestation/Touching private parts of the child	38.8	35.5	37.7
Bad touch with sexual advances	28.5	26.4	27.8
Children photographed in the nude/child pornography	14.5	7.4	12.1
Commenting or communicating sexually through text/phone/internet	9.9	9.9	9.9
Force the child to touch private parts	12.0	5.8	9.9
Encouraging children to behave sexually or asking for sexual favours	7.9	12.4	9.4
Eve-Teasing	7.0	7.4	7.2
Force to exhibit/see private parts	6.2	4.1	5.5
Forcing the child to watch sexual activities/erotic images and videos	3.7	5.8	4.4
Staring	4.5	3.3	4.1
Grooming a child in preparation for abuse	3.7	2.5	3.3
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>363</b>
Note: Total may not add up to 100% due to multiple choice response			

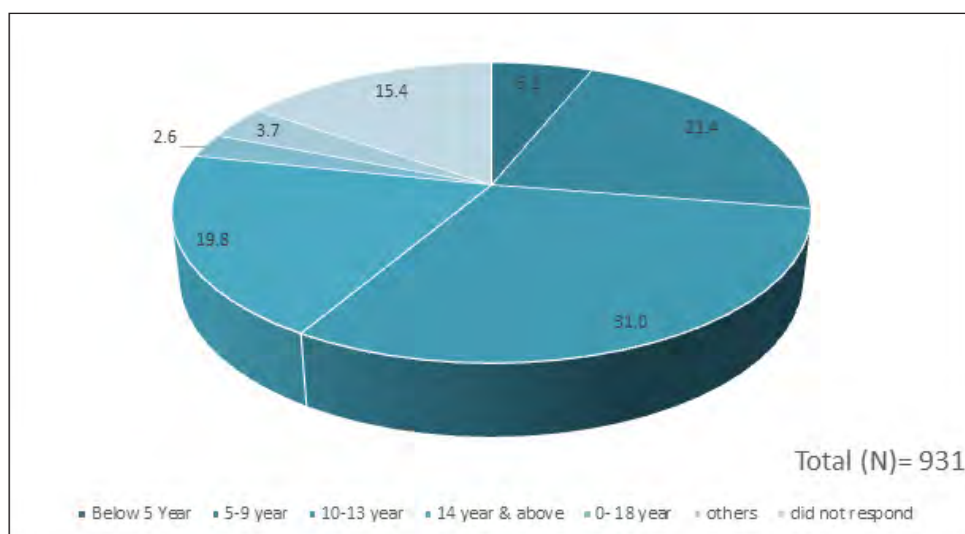
From the above discussion it is evident that though respondents are aware of the fact that children are subjected to various forms of abuse, they are not aware of the exact forms of CSA. Those who reported awareness about these various forms have knowledge only of the severe forms of CSA. This is an important finding that reflects the social conditioning of youth – as to how the seemingly harmless attention they receive is not really abuse, making it almost acceptable/normal behaviour that young girls/women in particular learn to live with. However, the data also highlight the extent of worry and concern that young adults have regarding the issue of CSA. More than four-fifths (83%) of the respondents feel that the issue of CSA is a very serious (46%) or a serious (37%) problem in India. Both males and females have a similar kind of opinion regarding the seriousness of the problem, as 85% of females and 80% of the males reported so. About eight percent of the respondents reported their inability to comment on the seriousness of the issue.

**Figure 2.3 Respondent opinion on seriousness of the problem of CSA (in %)**



Difference of opinion was found when respondents shared their views regarding the age at which a child is most likely to be sexually abused. Figure 2.4 depicts how less than one-third (31%) respondents are of the opinion that children are most likely to be abused at the age of 10-13 years. More than 21% respondents feel children at the age of 5-9 years are most vulnerable. One-fifth of them also reported that children are most likely to be sexually abused at the age of 14 years and above. Interestingly, 15% of the respondents chose not to answer the question. Out of all the 143 respondents who chose not to answer the question, 81 are males (21% of all male respondents) and 62 females (11% of all female respondents). Not answering the question indicates doubt or confusion related to the issue of CSA. Besides this, no major difference can be observed in the responses of males and females.

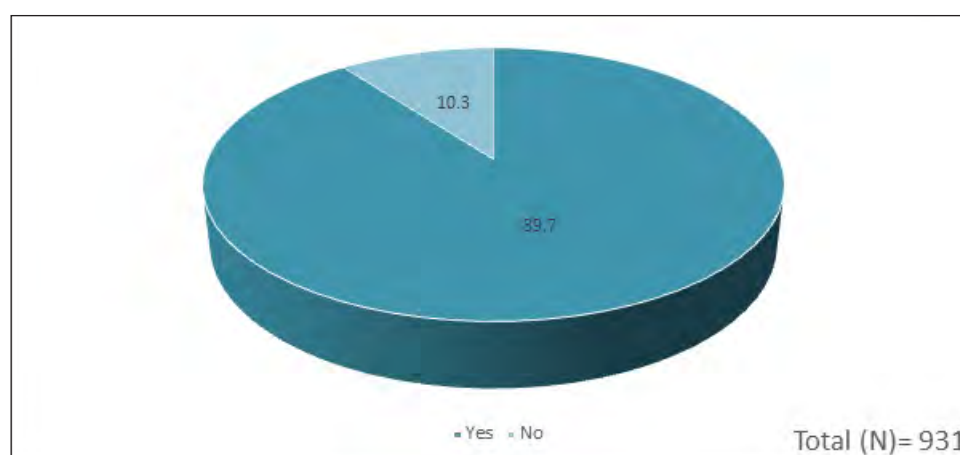
**Figure 2.4 Age at which child is most likely to be sexually abused (in %)**



## 2.3 Awareness about Response and Support Mechanisms to Tackle CSA

An attempt was made to assess the level of awareness among young adults about the kind of response mechanism that is available in the country to respond to CSA as a crime. It is encouraging to note that 90% of the respondents are aware that the sexual abuse of children is a punishable offence, and there was no difference of opinion between male and female respondents. Zone-wise analysis indicates that this awareness is not very different across zones. It varies from a high of 97% in the South Zone to a low of 86% in the Central Zone.

**Figure 2.5 Awareness that CSA is a Punishable Offence (in %)**



**Table 2.3 Awareness about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act by background characteristics (in %)**

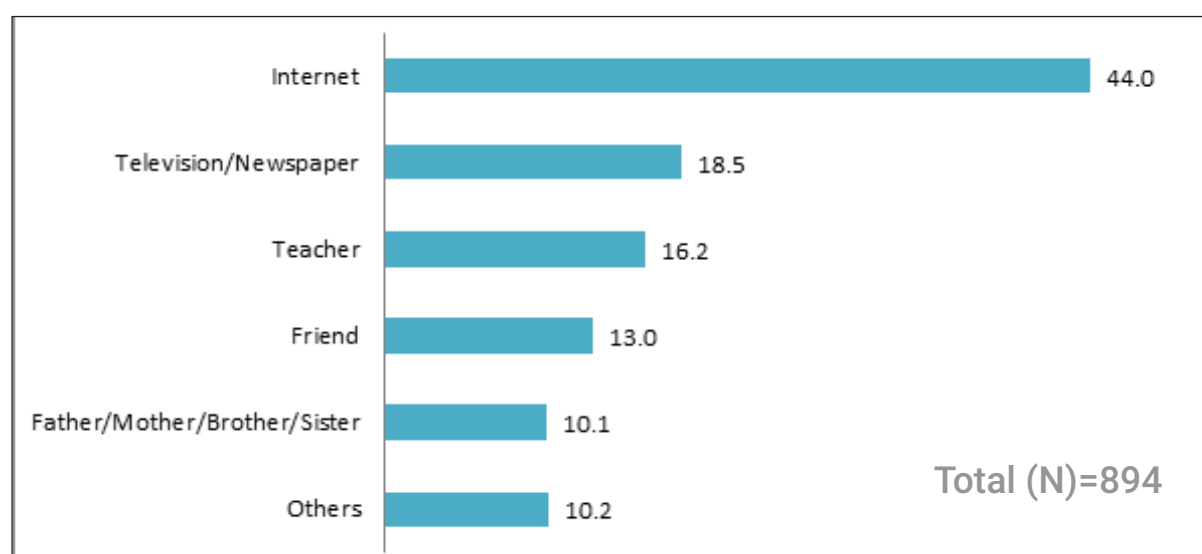
	%	Total (n)
<b>Age of the respondent</b>		
Below 20 Years	63.6	132
20-21 Years	69.4	307
22-23 Years	75.2	307
24 Years and above	78.0	141
Age not stated	70.5	44
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	73.4	552
Male	69.7	379
<b>Zone</b>		
North	69.9	206
South	91.5	176
East	64.1	217
West	71.0	131
Central	65.7	201
Combined	71.9	931

In this regard, another question that was asked was whether respondents are aware that there is a specific law for the protection of children from sexual abuse. Table 2.3 depicts that almost three-fourths of the respondents (72%) are aware of POCSO. There is a difference in levels of awareness about POCSO across zones. Awareness is found to be the highest at 92% in the South Zone and the lowest at just 64% in the East Zone. The analysis also reveals that the likelihood of awareness about POCSO increases with the age. In other words, younger respondents are less aware of POCSO than their older counterparts.

Out of the 931 respondents who reported being aware of CSA, 894 (96%) are aware either of POCSO or at least that CSA is a punishable offence. The trend is certainly admirable. Awareness of these two aspects among young adults can definitely play a crucial role in eliminating CSA from India.

During the survey, an attempt was also made to understand the source of knowledge about POCSO. For this purpose, all 894 respondents who reported awareness of POCSO or that CSA is a punishable offence were asked to also mention the source of their knowledge. Figure 2.6 reveals that the main source of knowledge is the Internet (44%) followed by more traditional mass media, Newspaper/Television (19%). Besides these, sources of information reported by respondents are Teachers (16%), Friends (13%) and Family Members (10%). From this it is evident that electronic and print media are the two most preferred sources of information, and can be used to spread awareness among young people.

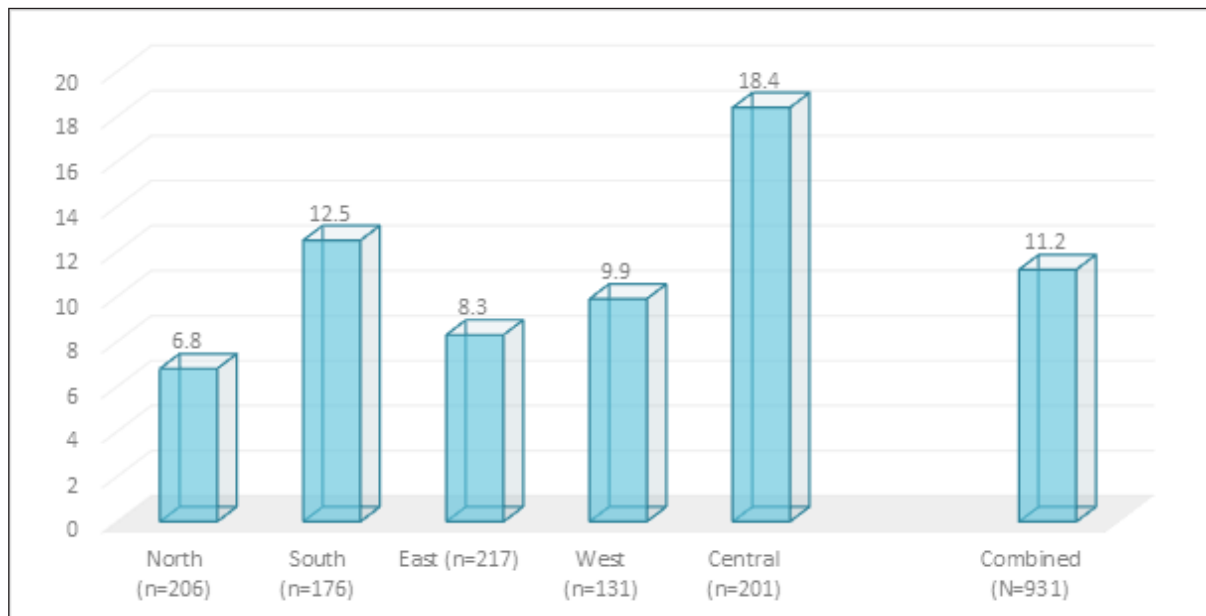
**Figure 2.6 Sources of Information on POCSO and that CSA is a punishable offence (in %)**



The third major source of information is mentioned as Teachers which indicates that educational institutions also can be used as an effective medium for communication. However, while responding to the question whether schools teach enough about CSA and its prevention, only 11% responded in the affirmative. About one-fifth (18%) from the Central Zone seem to be convinced that schools teach enough about CSA and its prevention, followed by 13% in the South Zone. In the North, East and West Zones, less than 10% reported so (Figure 2.7). The results clearly highlight that educational institutions are a potential medium for spreading awareness about CSA but are either not used adequately, or are not doing enough for the issue. This needs to be explored and used for an impactful and quick response to CSA.

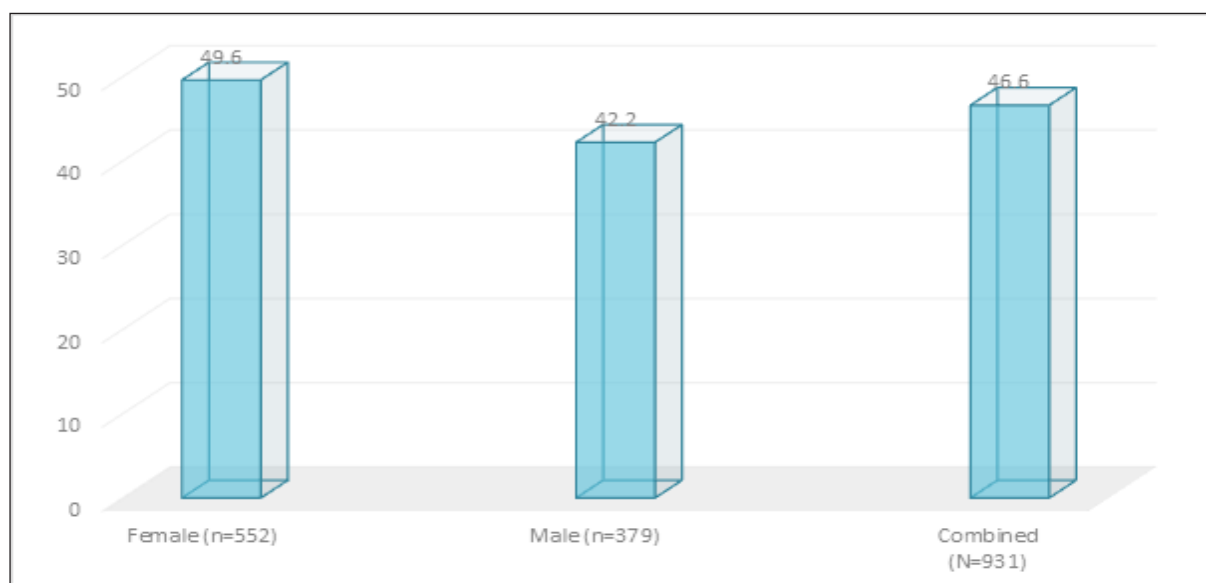


**Figure 2.7 Respondent opinions whether schools teach enough about CSA(in %)**



Almost two decades ago, the Government of India, under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, established Childline-1098 across India in 1998-99, as an umbrella organisation to support and monitor services related to the protection of children across India. This emergency number (1098) is the first 24-hour, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. In order to assess levels of awareness, respondents were asked whether they are aware of a helpline number in the country specifically meant for children. Figure 2.8 depicts that less than half (47%) of the respondents are aware of the child helpline number. The level of awareness is slightly higher among females (50%) as compared to males (42%).

**Figure 2.8 Awareness about helpline (in %)**



A huge difference was found across zones. The level of awareness about the child helpline number is highest in the South Zone (76%) followed by the North Zone (45%). In the other four zones awareness levels vary from a high of 41% in the Central Zone to a low of 35% in the East Zone. Further, analysing awareness about the helpline by age, as it was in the case of awareness about POCSO, awareness here again increases with age.

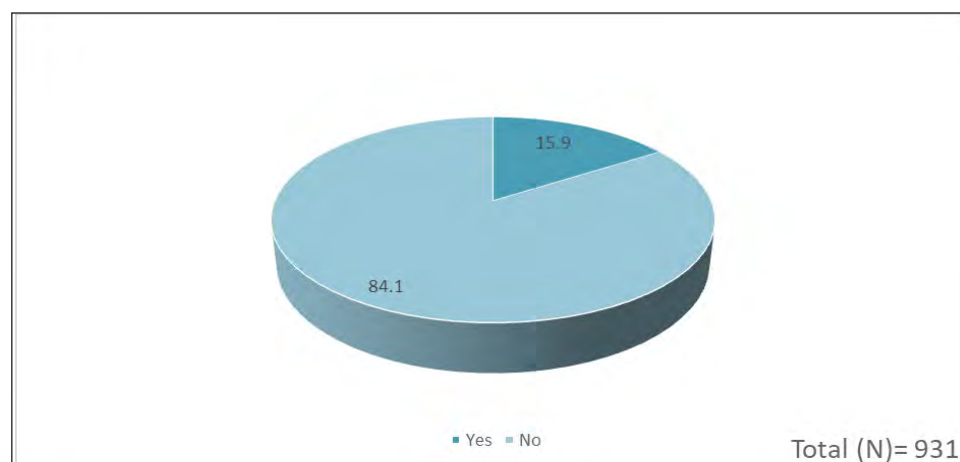
## 2.4 Perceptions related to CSA

One of the prime objectives of the study was to understand the perceptions that young adults hold about CSA. In order to collect this information a few statements were framed in the questionnaire, and respondents were asked to share their opinion about each of these statements. The statements were framed by carefully including both positive and negative dimensions of CSA. The findings are presented in this sub-section.

### PERCEPTION | *Only girls are victims of sexual abuse*

Figure 2.9 shows that a massive 84% of the respondents have rejected the statement that '*only girls are victims of sexual abuse*'. This can also be interpreted as 84% of the respondents believing that both boys and girls suffer/are victims of sexual abuse<sup>2</sup>. There is almost no difference of opinion between male (86%) and female (83%) respondents on this issue.

**Figure 2.9 Respondent perception that only girls are victims of CSA (in %)**



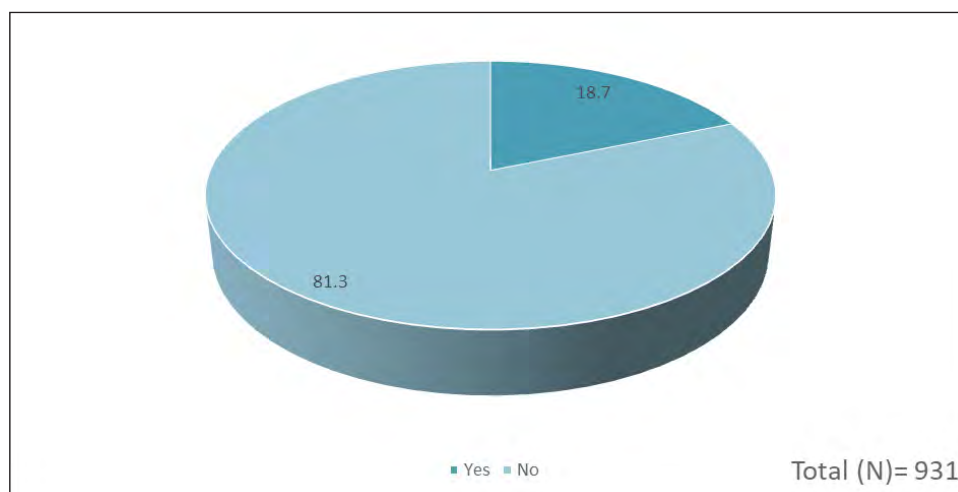
Analysis of this data by zones reveals that in the East Zone 30% respondents feel that only girls are victims of sexual abuse. In the Central Zone, about one-fifth respondents feel the same way. However, in the South Zone, 93% feel that both boys and girls are victims of sexual abuse, followed by 92% in the West Zone and 89% in the North Zone.

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that when boys are abused, the perpetrator could be women

## PERCEPTION | *Very few children face sexual abuse in our country*

Another perception that was assessed is that 'very few children face sexual abuse in our country'. The per cent respondents who rejected this statement is 81%. The opinion that CSA is rampant in India is substantially higher among females (87%) as compared to males (74%).

**Figure 2.10 Respondent perception that very few children in India face sexual abuse (in %)**



**Table 2.4 Respondent perception that very few children in India face sexual abuse by background characteristics (in %)**

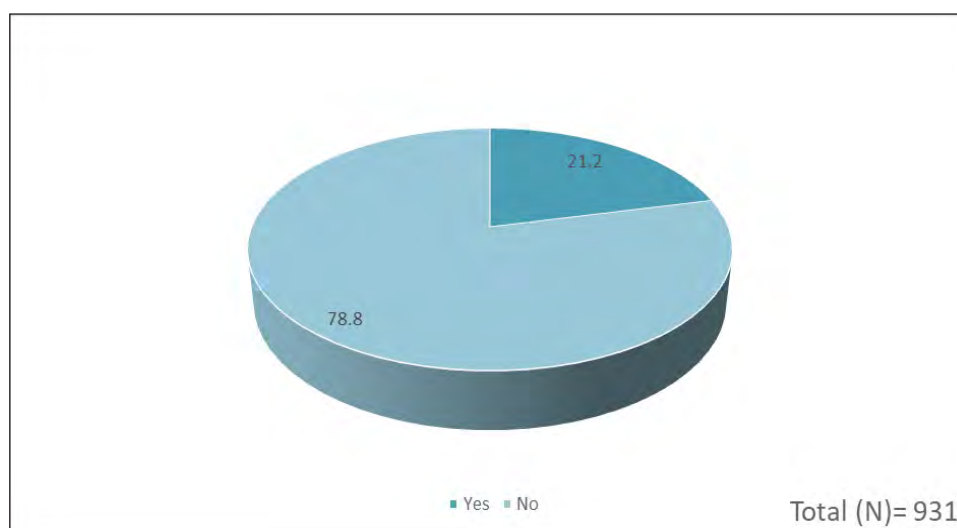
	Yes	No	Total (n)
<b>Age of the respondent</b>			
Below 20 Years	33.3	66.7	132
20-21 Years	15.3	84.7	307
22-23 Years	17.9	82.1	307
24 Years and above	15.6	84.4	141
Age not stated	13.6	86.4	44
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	13.4	86.6	552
Male	26.4	73.6	379
<b>Zone</b>			
North	19.4	80.6	206
South	8.0	92.0	176
East	14.7	85.3	217
West	15.3	84.7	131
Central	33.8	66.2	201
Combined	18.7	81.3	931

It is evident from Table 2.4 that 92% of the respondents from the South Zone are of the opinion that many children face sexual abuse in our country whereas only 66% from the Central Zone hold this perception. In the remaining three zones, the percent respondents feeling the same way is 81% in the North Zone, and 85% each in the East and West Zones. Difference in opinion by age group indicates that one-third of the respondents below 20 years of age feel that very few children in India face sexual abuse. On the contrary, in all other age groups, it is less than 18%.

## PERCEPTION | **CSA occurs only in lower socio-economic classes**

Around four-fifths (79%) of the respondents feel that children are being sexually abused irrespective of their socio-economic class. A huge difference is observed in the opinion held by males and females, as 86% of the females expressed their perception that children from all socio-economic classes are equally vulnerable to sexual abuse as compared to 67% among males. Little less than one-third (31%) males feel that CSA happens only among the lower socio-economic classes. Findings by zone highlight that the majority (89%) of respondents from the South Zone feel that children from all socio-economic classes are equally vulnerable to sexual abuse, followed by 82% from the North Zone.

**Figure 2.11 Respondent perceptions of whether CSA occurs only among lower socio-economic classes (in %)**



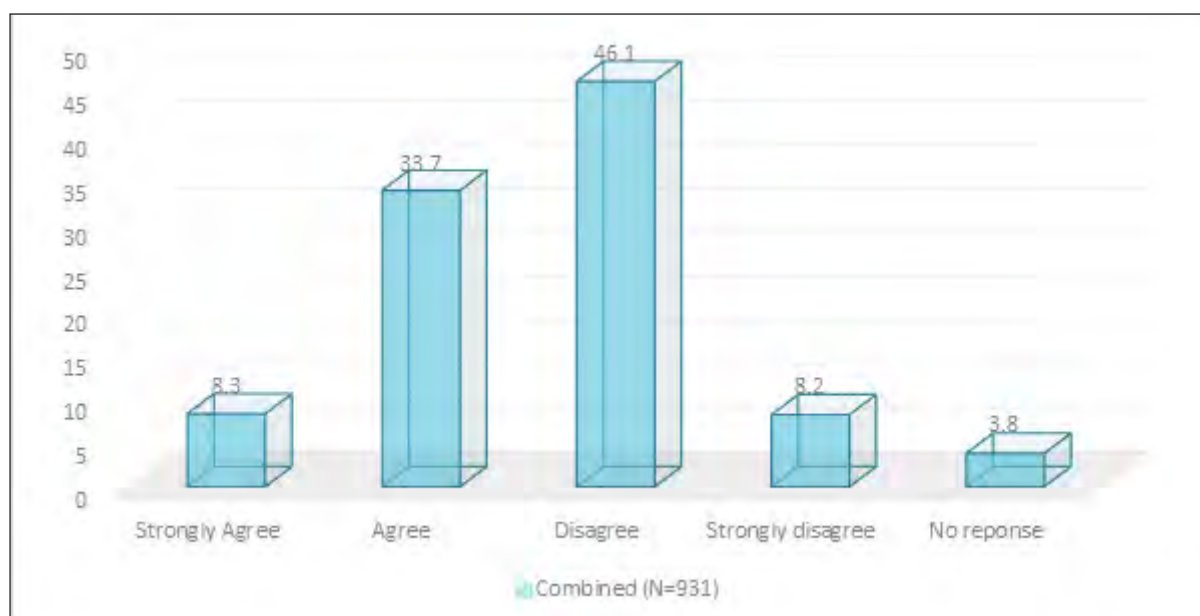
## PERCEPTION | **CSA occurs most when the child is alone or outside her/ his home or at night**

The perceptions of young adults regarding the place(s) and situation(s) in which most children are vulnerable/exposed to sexual abuse shows that more than three-fourths (76%) of the respondents across the country feel that most children are sexually abused when they are alone or outside their homes and during the night. Only 22% have recorded an opinion that is contradictory to it, by stating their disagreement to the statement which reads '*most of the time children are sexually abused when they are alone, at night and outside their home*'. Analysis of data by gender reveals that 26% females stated their disagreement with the statement as compared to 17% among males. The disagreement with the statement is found to be highest in the North Zone (28%) followed by the South Zone (27%). The same is lowest in the West Zone at just 15%. As compared to the West Zone, almost double the respondents in the North and South Zones feel that children are vulnerable/exposed to sexual abuse all the time.

## PERCEPTION | *The perpetrator is not from the child's family*

Covering another important aspect of CSA, a statement was made in the questionnaire that '*most perpetrators of CSA do not belong to the child's family*'. The respondents were asked to record their opinion on a four point-scale (Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree). More than 54% of the respondents disagree or strongly disagree. They have the perception that family members also sexually abuse children, and there is no difference between males and females. Across zones, the opinion that family members also sexually abuse children varies from a high of 63% in the West Zone to a low of 50% in the South and East Zones.

**Figure 2.12 Respondent perception that most perpetrators of CSA are not from the child's family (in %)**



Perceptions that are held regarding CSA can influence a person's behaviour in life processes. Hence, in order to assess and understand the views of young adults, a few other questions were asked in the form of statements and the respondents were instructed to record their opinion whether they agreed or disagreed with the same. Both positive and negative statements were made to assess perceptions. The ordering of the statements was meticulously planned in order to assess the exact perception.

## PERCEPTION | *How much CSA prevention education is optimal?*

The perception of young adults on the relationship between CSA and education is presented in Table 2.5. Almost all respondents feel that educating and sensitising children about sexual abuse is necessary to prevent CSA (97%) and CSA prevention education should be a part of school curriculums (96%). A majority of them (91%) also feel that CSA prevention education should be a part of college curriculums. In all these three aspects there is hardly any difference of opinion between males and females.

Although it is evident from the data presented in the table that young adults feel that CSA should be a part of course curriculums both in schools and colleges, it is equally clear that they have the fear that educating children on prevention of CSA may expose them to too much information about sex. The overall value indicates that half of the respondents reported so whereas another 44% did not agree with this statement. It indicates that young adults who were children themselves just a couple of years back are not in a position to take a decisive call on the aspect of whether children should be educated on CSA. Sex-wise differentials indicate that a higher proportion of females is in favour of educating children on CSA, as 49% of females disagree that educating children on CSA may expose them to too much information about sex. The same perception is held by just 37% of males.

**Table 2.5 Perception related to the issue of CSA and education (in %)**

	Agree	Disagree	No response	Total (N)
Educating children about sexual abuse is necessary to prevent CSA	96.9	1.7	1.4	931
CSA prevention education should be a part of School curriculum	95.5	3.0	1.5	931
CSA prevention education should be a part of College curriculum	90.7	5.6	3.8	931
CSA prevention education may expose children to too much information about sex	49.6	43.9	6.4	931

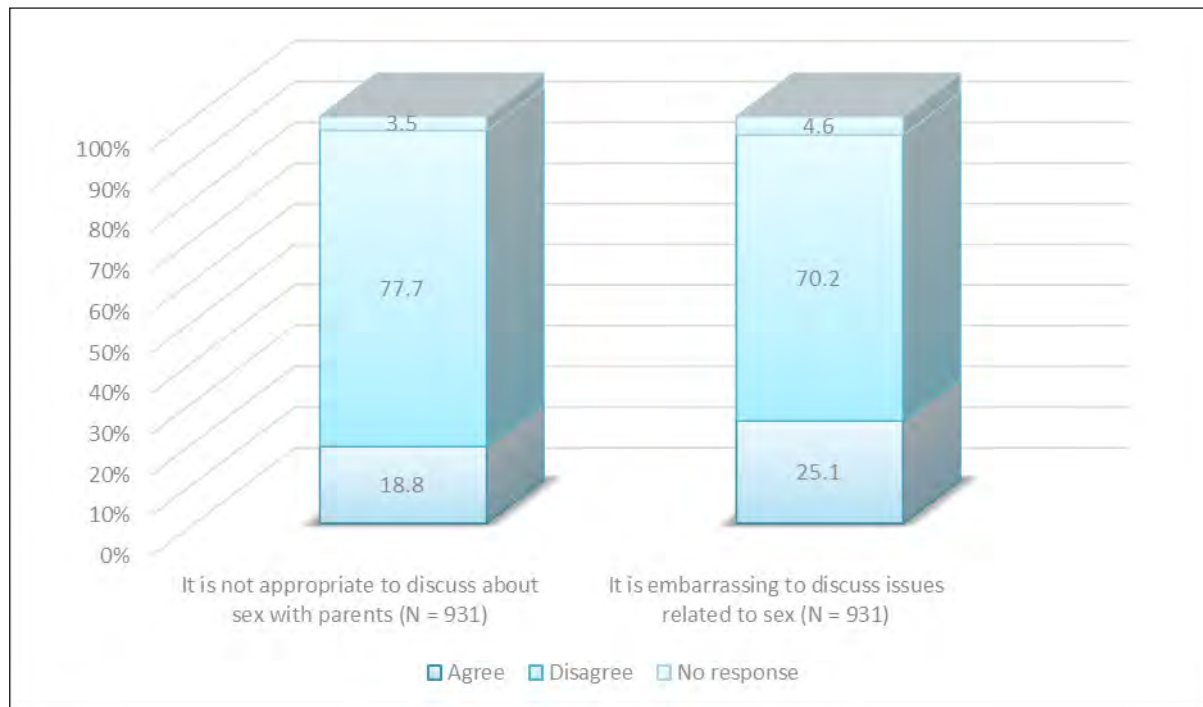
## PERCEPTION | ***It is not appropriate to discuss sex with parents***

In a similar fashion an attempt was also made during the survey to understand the comfort level among young adults as regards discussing the issue of CSA. Findings suggest that overall, young adults are of the opinion that it is appropriate to discuss sex with parents as more than three-fourths (77%) reported their disagreement with the statement which reads: '*It is not appropriate to discuss sex with parents*'. However, about one-sixth (16%) females and one-fourth (24%) males feel that it is not appropriate to discuss sex with parents.

More than two-thirds of the respondents (70%) are also of the opinion that it is not embarrassing to discuss issues related to sex. Comparison of the opinion of females and males about the statements '*it is not appropriate to discuss sex with parents*' and '*it is embarrassing to discuss issues related to sex*' clearly indicates that females are more open about discussing matters related to sex as compared to males.

Such attitudes could be a great support in the prevention of CSA, as young people, especially females, are ready to talk about the issue in India, where most families are patriarchal in nature and dominated by males. A challenge of course is that a significant number of males are still of the view that they consider such conversations inappropriate.

**Figure 2.13 Social Acceptability of Discussions on Sex and CSA (in %)**



## 2.5 Experience of Sexual Abuse during Childhood and Action Taken

During the survey, apart from understanding awareness and perceptions about CSA, an attempt was also made to map any direct experiences of sexual abuse faced by the respondents themselves during childhood and action taken if any. Table 2.6 reveals that 31% (95% Confidence Interval<sup>3</sup> = 28%, 33%) of the respondents faced any form of sexual abuse during their childhood.

From the discussion detailed in Subsection 2.2 on awareness about CSA it is clear that most of the respondents are aware only about the severe/extreme forms of sexual abuse like rape, molestation/ touching private parts of the child, bad touch with sexual advances, children photographed in the nude/ child pornography and forcing the child to touch private parts and commenting or communicating sexually through text/phone/ internet. Since respondents consider only the severe/extreme forms as sexual abuse, it will not be incorrect to say here that most of the 31% who reported experiencing any form of sexual abuse during their childhood, may have very likely experienced severe/extreme forms of sexual abuse.

<sup>3</sup> Confidence Interval (CI) is an important statistical tool. In sample surveys, it is advisable to provide CI for critical indicators as it reflects the likely true population value. A 95% CI is an interval that's right 95% of the time.

**Table 2.6 Experiencing CSA by background characteristics**

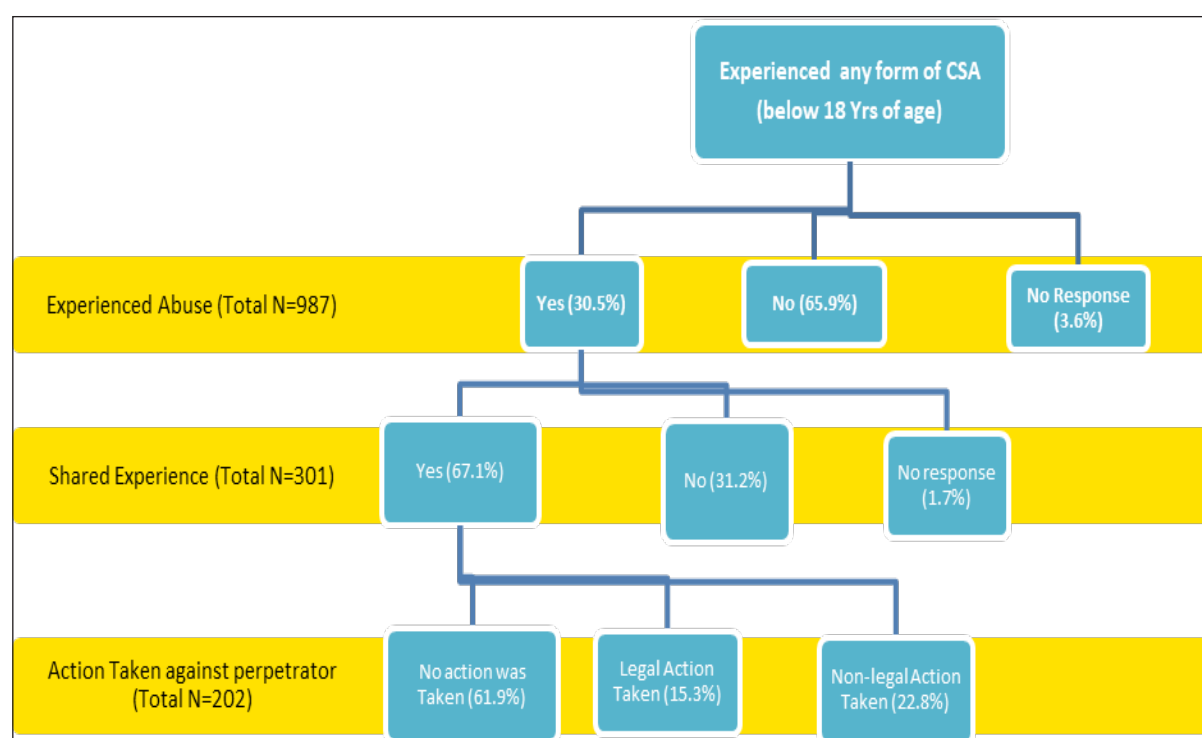
	%	Total (N)
<b>Age</b>		
Below 20 Years	20.1	144
20-21 Years	30.3	323
22-23 Years	34.4	320
24 Years and above	33.3	147
Age not stated*	28.3	53
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	34.7	571
Male	24.8	416
<b>Marital status</b>		
Unmarried	29.8	895
Married*	38.5	39
Respondent did not disclose Marital status disclose Marital status	35.8	53
<b>Educational qualification</b>		
Graduate (3 Year degree course completed)	31.8	490
Post Graduate	32.7	263
Under Graduate (12th Completed)	25.2	234
<b>Zone</b>		
North	31.2	218
South	31.3	176
East	26.0	231
West	40.7	140
Central	27.5	222
Combined	30.5	987
*Percentages with smaller sample size to be interpreted with caution		

The sex-wise differential reveals that 35% of females and 25% of males reported experiencing any form of sexual abuse during their childhood. Across zones, the experience varied from a high of 41% in the West Zone to a low of 26% in the East Zone. Table 2.7 also indicates that the likelihood of reporting any experience of sexual abuse, even in surveys maintaining complete anonymity and confidentiality, increases with age and education. The reporting is also found to be high among married as compared to unmarried respondents.



Figure 2.14 reveals that out of 301 respondents who faced any form of sexual abuse during childhood, about one-third (31%) did not share the experience of having been sexually abused with anyone, not even with their parents, any family member or any friend. Across zones, substantial differences were found with regard to sharing the experience of sexual abuse with someone. In the Central Zone more than four-fifths (82%) of respondents who faced any form of sexual abuse during their childhood have shared their experience with someone, followed by the South Zone (75%). The sharing of experience of sexual abuse is lowest in the West Zone at 46%.

**Figure 2.14 Experiencing CSA and Action Taken**



The findings also depict that it is only in one-fourth (77 out of 301 respondents) of the cases where the respondent experienced CSA that any legal or non-legal action was taken. Legal action was taken in seven percent cases and any non-legal action was taken in 10% of cases. In the remaining three-fourths of the cases (excluding the respondents who did not respond to the question), either the respondent did not share the experience with any one or no action was taken even after sharing the experience with someone. In more than three-fifths (62%) of the cases of those who shared the experience of sexual abuse with someone, no action, either legal or non-legal, was taken.

Those who reported having shared the experience of sexual abuse with someone were further probed to understand their relationship with the person with whom they felt comfortable to share such a serious experience. Friends seemed to be the most preferred/trusted persons to share the experience of sexual abuse, as 57% of the respondents reported sharing their experience with friends. The second-most preferred/trusted persons are parents (30%), followed by brother/sister (15%).

**Table 2.7 Person with whom the experience of sexual abuse was shared (in %)**

	Female	Male	Combined
Friends	51.4	70.0	56.9
Father / Mother	36.6	13.3	29.7
Brother / Sister	19.7	3.3	14.9
Teacher	5.6	6.7	5.9
Total (N)	142	60	202
Note: Total may not add up to 100% due to multiple choice response			

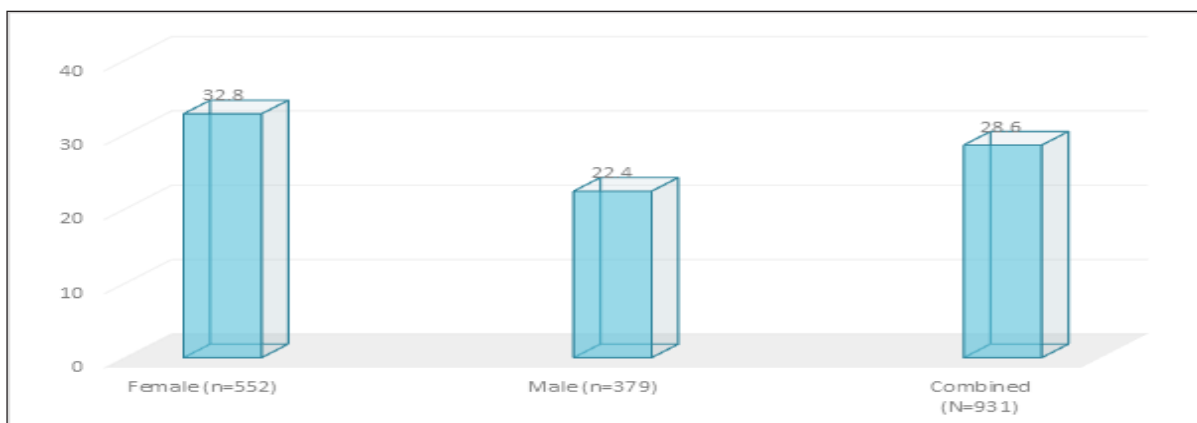
## 2.6 Basic Understanding of CSA

From the findings of this study, it is evident that respondents have varied opinions/perceptions about different aspects of CSA. Hence, it is essential to find out how many respondents have a basic understanding of CSA that could contribute to useful working knowledge about the crime. Based on the responses obtained from respondents, basic understanding about CSA has been computed. The working definition of a basic understanding of CSA adopted in the present study is as under:

“Respondents who are aware of POCSO or that CSA is a punishable offence and did not agree to four negative statements. 1) Only girls are victims of sexual abuse, 2) Sexual abuse of children happens only in low socio-economic classes, 3) Most perpetrators of CSA do not belong to the child’s family, and, 4) It is not appropriate to discuss sex with parents, and responded in favour of how educating children on sexual abuse is necessary to prevent CSA.”

Figure 2.15 reveals that only 29% (95% Confidence Interval<sup>4</sup> = 26%, 32%) of the respondents possess such an understanding about CSA. Percent females with such understanding is substantially higher than males. There is a difference of ten percentage points in the levels of basic understanding of females and males.

**Figure 2.15 Basic Understanding of CSA (in %)**



<sup>4</sup> Confidence Interval (CI) is an important statistical tool. In sample surveys, it is advisable to provide CI for critical indicators as it reflects the likely true population value. A 95% CI is an interval that's right 95% of the time.

Table 2.8 presents the levels of basic understanding about CSA among respondents by background characteristics. Percent respondents having such understanding about CSA is the highest among respondents in the 22-23 years age group. It is evident that the level of knowledge about CSA increases with age and education. The level of basic understanding about CSA is comparatively higher among respondents who reported experience of any form of sexual abuse (33%) as compared to those who did not experience of any form of sexual abuse during their childhood (27%). Analysis by zone reveals that levels of knowledge vary widely across zones. Respondents from the East Zone have poor knowledge of CSA (17%) as compared to their counterparts from the North, South (36% each) and West (34%) Zones. Little less than one-fourth respondents (24%) from the Central Zone were found to have a basic understanding about CSA.

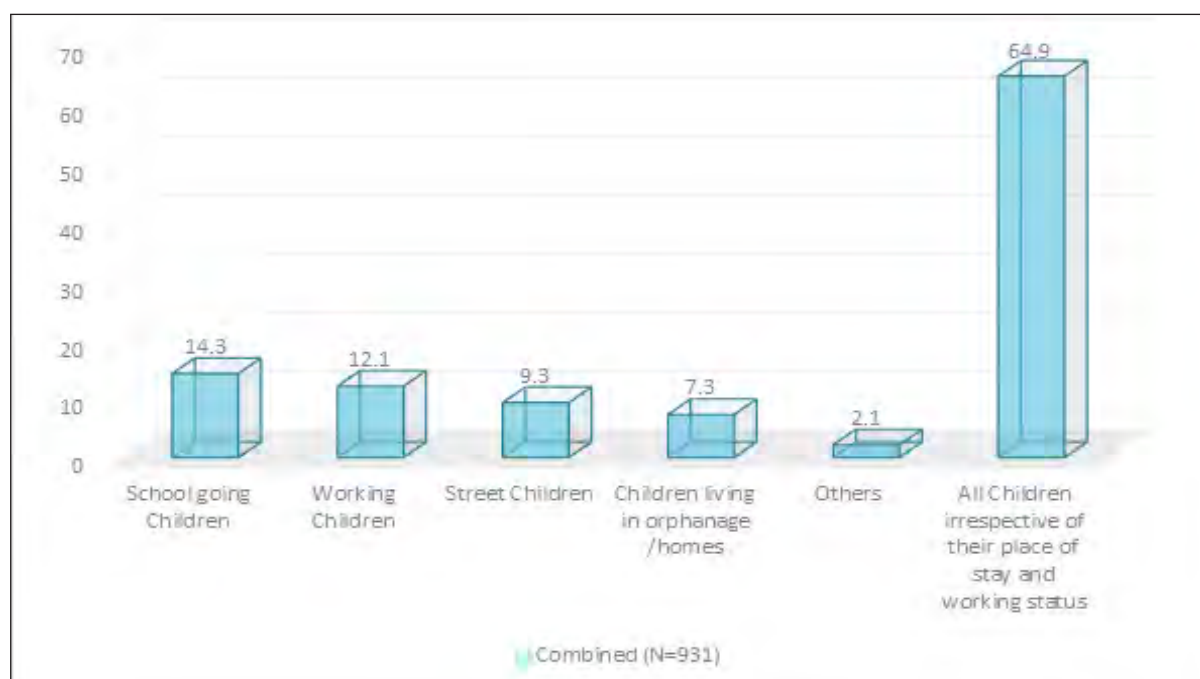
**Table 2.8 Basic understanding of CSA by background characteristics (in %)**

	%	Total (N)
<b>Age</b>		
Below 20 Years	19.7	132
20-21 Years	28.3	307
22-23 Years	32.6	307
24 Years and above	29.8	141
Age not stated*	25.0	44
<b>Educational qualification</b>		
Graduate (Three-Five year degree course completed)	30.9	466
Post Graduate	31.5	248
Undergraduate (XII Std Completed)	20.3	217
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Unmarried	28.7	846
Married*	18.4	38
Respondent did not disclose Marital status*	34.0	47
<b>Experiencing any kind of sexual abuse in childhood</b>		
Yes	32.4	290
No	26.9	616
No response*	24.0	25
<b>Zone</b>		
North	35.9	206
South	35.8	176
East	16.6	217
West	33.6	131
Central	24.4	201
Combined	28.6	931
*Percentages with smaller sample size to be interpreted with caution		

## 2.7 Vulnerable Children and Knowledge about How to Respond to CSA

One of the most vital aspects of this study has been to understand the perception of young adults about the most sexually abused group among children. Interestingly, about two-thirds of the respondents feel that all children are vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse, irrespective of their place of stay and working status. However, a significant difference of opinion has been observed among males and females. About 57% of the males feel that all children are vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse irrespective of their place of stay and working status whereas 71% of females feel so. More than one-tenth respondents also feel that school-going children (14%) and working children (12%) are also vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse. Percent respondents who feel that working children are among the most sexually abused groups is substantially higher among males (18%) as compared to females (8%).

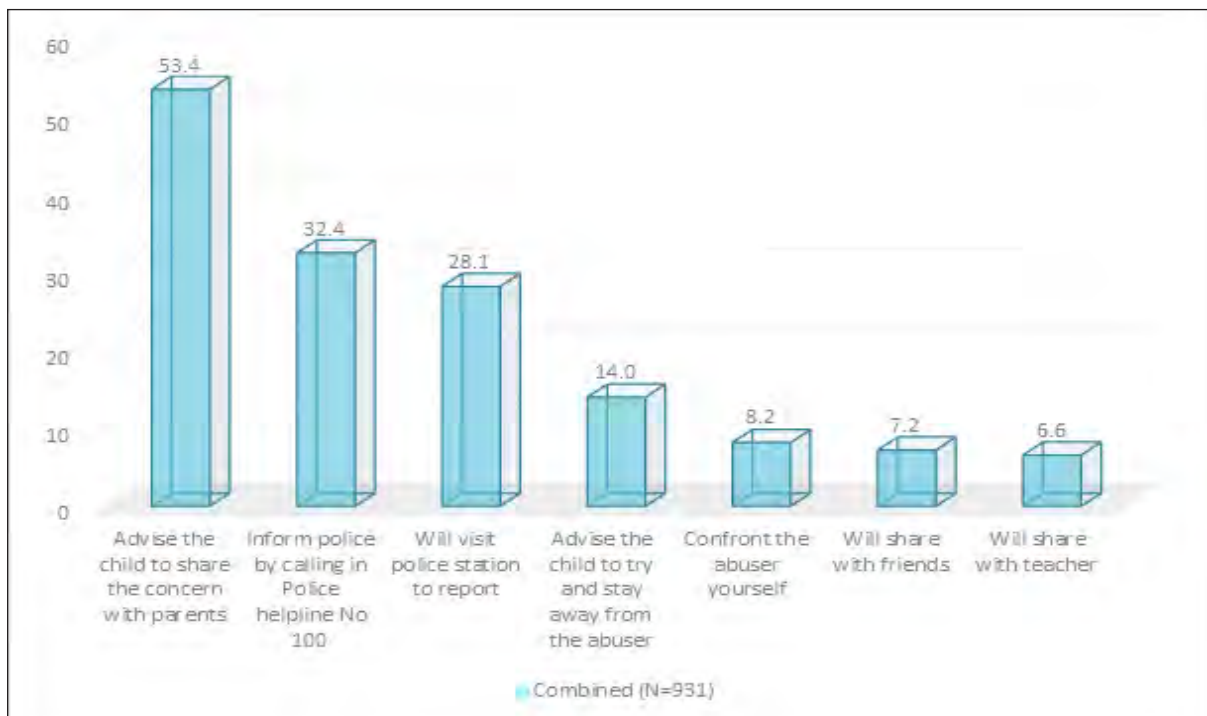
**Figure 2.16 The most sexually abused group among children (in %)**



Note: Total may not add up to 100% due to multiple choice response

In order to understand the response process to CSA, the respondents were asked what they would do if a child known to them informed them about the sexual abuse that she/he has experienced. The findings indicate that the majority of respondents do not know what to do, as more than half reported that they will advise the child to share the concern with her/his parents. Fourteen percent also reported that they will advise the child to try and stay away from the abuser. Only one-third reported that they would inform the police by calling the Police helpline No. 100. More than one-fourth (28%) of the respondents also reported that they would visit the Police Station to report the incident. Almost no difference of opinion exists between males and females.

**Figure 2.17 Immediate Response to CSA (in %)**



Note: Total may not add up to 100% due to multiple choice response

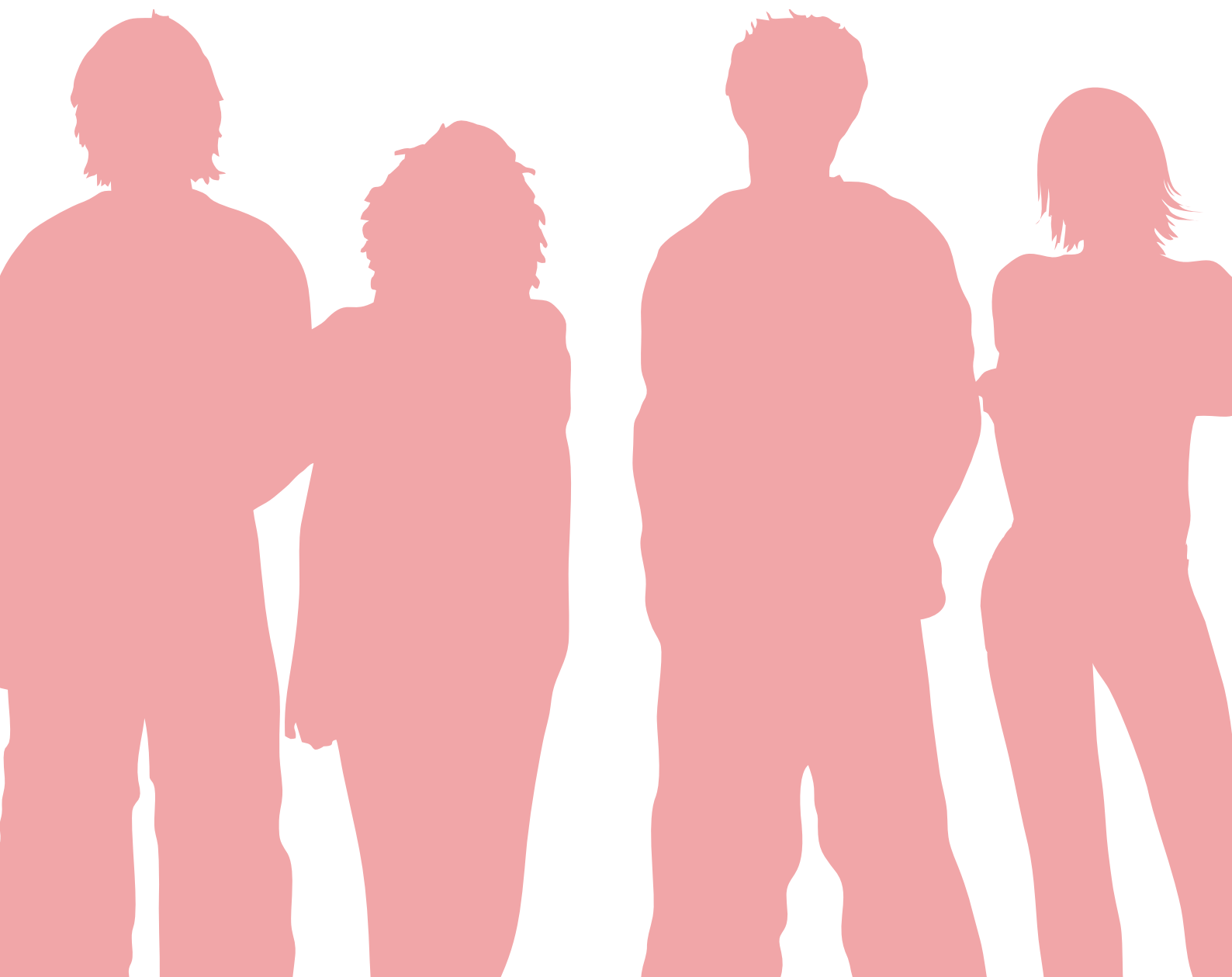
Since the response to the question discussed above is multiple in nature, data were further analysed to find out how many respondents did not even think of reporting the incident of sexual abuse to the Police. Out of 931 respondents 433, almost half, did not even consider informing the Police if a child known to them informed them about the sexual abuse that she/he has experienced.

These respondents were further asked as to what they would do if the person to whom they reported or suggested to report the incident kept quiet. The results were encouraging, as 65% of them reported that they will approach the Police. Hence, it is evident from the data that 84% of respondents will take the initiative to bring the incident of CSA that they are aware of to the notice of the Police, but only after exploring other avenues.



## SECTION 3

# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS



# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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## 3.1 Summary Analysis of Findings

This study has been undertaken to understand the levels of awareness and kinds of perceptions that young adults in India have as regards CSA. This assessment of knowledge can be very useful in helping youth become more knowledgeable and sensitised about one of modern society's most serious challenges. It can also contribute to strengthen programmes and initiatives to prevent and eliminate CSA. The study was carefully designed to ensure diverse geographical representation from across India by selecting two Universities/Colleges each from the Central, North, South, West, and East Zones. Altogether, 987 young adults from 10 Universities/Colleges spread across 10 states participated in the present study. Data collection was carried with the help of a self-administered questionnaire during August–September, 2017. The KSCF team was supported by administration and senior faculty at each of the Universities/Colleges

### 1 About the Respondents

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**The majority of respondents were aged 20-23 years, and more than half were females. Half of them were graduates and most were unmarried.**

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- Females constituted 58% of the total respondents who participated in the study and shared their opinion on the issue of CSA.
- Respondents aged 18 to 27 years have participated in the study. However, majority (65%) are from the 20-23 years age group. Another 15% are below the age of 20 years.
- Ninety-one percent of the respondents surveyed were unmarried at the time of survey.
- Half of the respondents were reported to be graduates and about one-fourth (24%) as undergraduates.

### 2 Awareness about CSA

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**General awareness about CSA is very high and this is a positive sign. However, youth need to be far more aware of the specific facts such as the different forms of CSA and its many other nuances and characteristics. Young people depend mostly on mass media (electronic and print) as their source of knowledge on the issue. Other than these mediums, they also rely on teachers, making educational institutions critical stakeholders in the process of change.**

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- Almost all young adults (94%) are aware that children are subjected to various forms of sexual abuse and 83% of them feel that this is a serious or even a very serious problem.
- However, only 39% of them have a clear understanding in terms of awareness about the different forms of CSA. Those who were aware listed only the extreme/severe forms of CSA like rape, molestation/touching private parts of the child, bad touch with sexual advances, children photographed in the nude/child pornography and forcing the child to touch private parts and commenting or communicating sexually through text/phone/internet.
- Many respondents do not even think that eve-teasing is a sexual offence.
- Only 29% of the respondents have a basic understanding about CSA. Percent females with basic understanding is substantially higher than males. Basic understanding about CSA increases with age and education. Respondents from the East Zone have poor knowledge (17%) as compared to their counterparts from other zones.
- Electronic and print media are the two most preferred sources of information for awareness about POCSO or that CSA is a punishable offence. The third major source of information is mentioned as Teachers.

### 3 Awareness about Response and Support Mechanisms to Counter CSA

**That CSA is a punishable offence is known to many more young people than those who possess specific knowledge about POCSO as a specialised legal tool to bring justice to children who have been sexually abused. This legal literacy among young people, as regards POCSO, is far greater in the South Zone than the others. As for dedicated helplines (such as 1098), very few young people know about their existence, and how they can be used to report CSA. Legal literacy and information about the details of CSA as a crime are clear gaps in knowledge among young adults.**

- Though 90% of young adults are aware that sexual abuse of children is a punishable offence, only 72% know about the law against CSA, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Viewed a bit differently, almost two-thirds know about POCSO.
- While general awareness as regards CSA as a criminal offence differs marginally across zones (86%-97%), specific awareness about POCSO differs quite significantly across zones. Awareness is highest in the South Zone (92%) and lowest in the East Zone (64%). This clearly points to strong legal literacy in the South Zone
- About half (47%) of the young adults are aware of a helpline in the country specifically meant for children to report such abuse. The level of awareness is relatively higher among females (50%) than males (42%).



## 4

## Experience of Sexual Abuse during Childhood & Action Taken

A significant number of respondents reported having gone through CSA as first-hand, experiences and considering their levels of awareness about what exactly constitutes CSA, these are in all likelihood, experiences of grave magnitude. About one-third of these youth have never shared this information with anybody. It is also sad and shocking that in a large number of such cases, no action was taken, either legal or non-legal. The perceptions of young adults as regards the law enforcement system, and the access to justice, are clearly influenced by a pessimistic view of the system.

- Slightly more than one-third (35%) of females and one-fourth, males have reported experience of severe/extreme forms of sexual abuse during their childhood i.e. when they were below 18 years of age. Across zones, the experience varied from a high of 41% in the West Zone to a low of 26% in the East Zone.
- The likelihood of reporting any experience of sexual abuse, even in surveys maintaining complete anonymity and confidentiality, increases with age and education. The reporting is also found to be higher among married as compared to unmarried respondents.
- Of those who reported an experience of sexual abuse in their childhood, about one-third (31%) did not share the experience with anyone, not even with their parents, any family member or even a friend.
- It is shocking that in three-fifths (62%) of the cases of those who reported, no action, either legal or non-legal, was taken. Legal action was taken in only seven percent cases of sexual abuse.

## 5

## Perceptions related to CSA

Perceptions related to CSA are complex and nuanced, as is only to be expected. Almost all respondents believe that CSA is widespread in India, but many also feel that children are sexually abused when they are alone, at night, or outside their homes. Interestingly, more than half the respondents also feel that family members may abuse children sexually. As regards the openness with which young people are able to discuss sex with their parents, the majority feel that it is appropriate to do so. But only 24% of the males feel this way, making it clear that males need substantial sensitisation in order to open up and talk.

- About three-fourths (76%) of the young adults across the country feel that children are sexually abused when they are alone, at night, or outside their home. From the analysis it is also evident that about four-fifths (79%) of the young adults are of the opinion that children are vulnerable to sexual abuse irrespective of their socio-economic class. A huge difference is observed in the opinion held by males (67%) and females (86%).
- Almost all (92%) respondents from the South Zone perceive that many children face sexual abuse in our country whereas only 66% from the Central Zone hold this perception.

- More than 54% of the respondents have the perception that family members also sexually abuse children, and there is no difference between males and females. Across zones the opinion varies from a high of 63% in the West Zone to a low of 50% in the South and East Zones.
- Majority (78%) of young adults across the country feel it is appropriate to discuss sex with parents. However, about one-fourth (24%) males feel that it is not appropriate to discuss sex with parents.
- Females across the zones are more open about discussing matters related to sex as compared to males.
- About one-third (31%) respondents feel that children are most likely to be sexually abused at the age of 10-13 years. One-fifth of them also reported that children are most likely to be sexually abused at the age of 14 years and above.

## 6 Vulnerable Children and Knowledge about How to Respond to CSA

**Although the majority of respondents believe that all children are vulnerable to CSA, irrespective of place of stay and working status, the female respondents feel this far more strongly than males. In responding to direct information about a CSA incident, almost half the respondents did not even consider informing the police. But the great majority is ready to take such an initiative. As perceptions about sexual abuse go, it is intriguing that even in the 21st century, several youth believe that too much information about sex can expose children unnecessarily. At the same time, most of them agree that CSA knowledge should be included in school and college curriculums.**

- About two-thirds of the respondents feel that all children are vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse, irrespective of their place of stay and working status. However, a significant difference of opinion has been observed among males (57%) and females (71%).
- Young adults feel that CSA should be a part of course curriculums both at school (96%) and college (91%) level. However, more than half of them have the fear that educating children on prevention of CSA may expose them to too much information about sex.
- Almost half of the respondents did not even consider informing the Police as an immediate action if a child known to them informed them about the sexual abuse that she/he has experienced.
- However, it is also evident that majority (84%) of the respondents are ready to take the initiative to bring the incident of CSA that they are aware of to the notice of the Police, but with a variation in the timing of reporting.

## Summary of Findings - Key Indicators

Sl.No	Parameter	Differentials			Overall
		Age	Sex	Zone	
1	Basic understanding on CSA*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of knowledge on CSA increases with age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Females (33%) have better comprehension of CSA as compared to males (22%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of knowledge on CSA varies widely across zones.</li> <li>Respondents from the East Zone (17%) have poor comprehension of CSA as compared to others (North-36%; South-36%; West-34% &amp; Central-24%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 29% have basic understanding on CSA</li> </ul>
2	School-based education on CSA and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major difference observed across different age groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major difference observed in response of females &amp; males</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major differences observed across zones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>89% feel that school does not teach enough about CSA</li> </ul>
3	CSA prevention education may expose children to too much information about sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major difference observed across different age Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More Females (49%) do not agree to this theory as compared to males (37%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of knowledge on CSA varies widely across zones.</li> <li>Varies from 62% in Central to 35% in South</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% of the respondents agree that CSA prevention education may expose children to too much information about sex</li> </ul>
4	Children facing sexual abuse in our country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The knowledge that children face sexual abuse increases with age. Lowest among respondents aged below 20 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher proportion of females (87%) feel that many children face sexual abuse in our country as compared to males (74%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opinion varies widely across zones</li> <li>92% respondents from the South Zone opined that many children face sexual abuse as compared to 66% in the Central Zone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>81% feel that many children face sexual abuse in our country</li> </ul>
5	Experience of severe/ extreme forms of sexual abuse during childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting of experience increases with the increase in age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35% females &amp; 25% of Males were sexually abused during their childhood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience varies from 41% in the West Zone to 26% in the East Zone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31% experienced a severe/extreme form of sexual abuse during their childhood</li> </ul>

Sl.No	Parameter	Differentials			Overall
		Age	Sex	Zone	
6	Sharing the experience of sexual abuse with someone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major difference observed across different age groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>72% females &amp; 58% males shared their experience with someone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of experience varies widely across zones</li> <li>Substantially higher proportion of respondents from the Central Zone (82%) shared their experience with someone as compared to the West Zone (46%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>67% shared the experience with someone.</li> </ul>
7	Action was taken against the perpetrator/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively higher among the respondents aged 20-23 years as compared to others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major difference observed in response of females &amp; males</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action taken varies widely from 68% in the South zone to 49% in the East Zone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only in 26% of the cases of sexual abuse any kind of legal or non-legal action was taken</li> </ul>

\* Basic understanding on CSA has been computed using 7 indicators on knowledge and perception on CSA. For details please refer Sub section 2.6 of Section 2

## 3.2 Conclusions and Way Forward

This research study and its findings have generated a clear body of evidence as regards the awareness levels and perceptions of young adults on the issue of CSA. This evidence is very important for developing a clear and robust understanding of how young people think, especially if one were to consider how critical the agency of youth is to any transformative agenda that can lead to the complete prevention of CSA. The study has resulted in a preliminary mapping of how and what young adults think about CSA, and the same could contribute towards designing future strategies and programmes to control this unacceptable crime against children.

There are varied opinions/perceptions about different aspects of CSA, as would be expected. General awareness is high, but a basic understanding of the many facets of CSA is poor-only one in four young adults. The study defines basic understanding on CSA as "Respondents who are aware about POCSO or that CSA is a punishable offence, disagreed with four negative statements [i.e. 1) Only girls are victims of sexual abuse, 2) Sexual abuse of children happens only in low socio-economic classes, 3) Most perpetrators of CSA do not belong to the child's family, and, 4) It is not appropriate to discuss sex with parents] and responded in favour of educating children on sexual abuse is necessary to prevent CSA." It is also evident from the study that level of knowledge about CSA increases with age and education of the person – a clear indication of the importance of education.

This understanding and knowledge of the crime is substantially higher among female respondents, as compared to the males. This could be because of existing mindsets in society that girls are more vulnerable and they should therefore be/need to be more aware of these issues. It is possible that the sensitisation of girls on the issue of CSA is also more because of this perception of greater vulnerability. This finding could also indicate a greater ability among females to grasp information and use knowledge that is imparted more effectively. There is a great need to understand zonal diversity and act accordingly.

The study also noted certain zonal differences. Respondents from the East Zone have poor basic understanding about CSA (17%) as compared to their counterparts from the zones. In North and South Zone the knowledge is highest at 36%.

In the domain of legal literacy and awareness, almost all the young adults who reported being aware of CSA are aware of either POCSO or at least that the sexual abuse of children is a punishable offence (96%). Almost half of the respondents gave barely any thought to the idea that they could go to the police and file a complaint, if a child were to inform them about a CSA experience. This trend of awareness among young adults about response and support mechanisms to counter CSA will be an important influencer in eliminating CSA from India. However, specific and more detailed legal literacy and knowledge of systems and services that can actually help control and prevent CSA is still a gap. For instance, not even half the respondents were aware of the helpline meant for children in case they want to report such abuse.

The study has also highlighted how mass media and educational institutions are major mediums for spreading awareness about CSA. Teachers appeared to be the third major source of knowledge on CSA/POCSO after electronic and print media but are either not used adequately, or need to be encouraged and supported to do more about the issue. This evidence needs to be carefully noted, and the need for examining all knowledge-based content on the Internet is paramount.

As regards their own experience of having faced CSA, a third of female respondents, and a fourth of males, shared having been sexually abused as children. A third of these did not share the experience with anybody, not even their own parents. This clearly points to the pain and complexity of disclosure, which is burdened by the stigma that is bound to follow. In more than 60% of those cases where the crime was reported, no action (legal or non-legal) was taken, and this is indeed an alarming finding. It is clear that the lack of legal education and outreach is a great gap.

Some of the perceptions held by young adults about CSA include how many of them feel that children are sexually abused most when they are alone, out at night, or outside the house, although more than half of them also feel that family members are often the abusers. Most young adults feel it is appropriate to discuss sex with their parents, and a large number feel that CSA as a topic should be a part of school and college curriculums (96% and 91% respectively).

## ***Recommendations for Future Action***

### **1. Intensive Programmes and Campaigns for Awareness, Education and Behaviour Change**

- (i) Immediate efforts should be made to make young adults aware and sensitised about CSA in all its dimensions. Awareness has to shift towards deeper knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of what is CSA, and what can be done about it. This would include detailed legal literacy about child rights and entitlements, and the exact availability of legal instruments in order to access justice since CSA is an unacceptable crime
- (ii) The use of local government bodies for spreading awareness needs to be explored and used to a much greater extent than it is now.
- (iii) Sensitising the institutions on Positive Masculinity
- (iv) The respondents of this study are today's youth, and would form the parental generation in years going forward. Their own sensitisation and progressive attitudes towards their future offspring can bring transformative change to the way India views CSA and the way children are being violated each day

## 2. Education

- (i) Mandatory inclusion of legal rights/child rights/education related to CSA in all curriculums of Primary, Secondary and Senior secondary education, and college curriculums
- (ii) Mandatory training and sensitisation of teachers engaged in Primary, Secondary and Senior secondary education on the issue of CSA with refresher courses at regular intervals.
- (iii) Inclusion of CSA in the National Education Policy

## 3. Support Systems and Services

- (i) Directives to popularise Childline 1098 through mention at the back of every text book with a message on 'How to report the incidence of sexual abuse'
- (ii) It should be mandatory for every school to have a 'Drop-box' where students can drop their complaints. It is also to be ensured that the Drop-box is locked properly and to be opened by an authorised Child Welfare Police Officer at regular intervals.
- (iii) All trains and railway stations, buses and bus stands, airports, and port authorities should display a message on CSA in public interest.
- (iv) Mandatory airtime on CSA on all digital platforms and on all Government websites.
- (v) Ensure greater number of psychologists and counsellors to make children aware and sensitised about CSA, besides supporting children
- (vi) Introducing a system of public alarms/alerts on all forms of transport
- (vii) Strengthen duty-bearers
- (viii) Closer tie-ups of schools with local Police and mandatory orientation by the Police for children on their legal rights/education. Orientation to be at least once in a quarter.
- (ix) District Magistrates and other officials from district administration also need to be involved in spreading awareness on CSA among children. It should be done in a systematic way so that each and every school is covered at least once in an academic year
- (x) Enforcement of Section 166A (Public servant disobeying direction under law) must be ensured in implementation of POCSO or any other law protecting children from sexual abuse.

#### **4. Strengthening the Knowledge Base**

- (i) Strengthen the knowledge base to promote data-driven decision making
- (ii) Strengthen knowledge about new and emerging forms of sexual abuse/violence
- (iii) Targeted interventions to prevent and control both online and offline CSA
- (iv) Conduct a Nation-wide National Study on CSA to understand the extent, magnitude, forms and experience of the crime.
- (v) National helpline for filing of complaints regarding abuse of children.

It is time to push for an explicitly transformative agenda to reduce and eliminate the incidence, prevalence and danger of CSA. This change agenda hinges very heavily on the power of knowledge, awareness, sensitivity, behavioural and attitudinal changes among all sections of society. Through such awareness will emerge the ability to act, the courage to speak up and the creation of an environment where each child is totally safe. The first step towards such safety would be a society where a survivor of CSA is not the one who must hide in shame – this can be achieved through behaviour change and the empowered and enlightened usage of all instruments, systems and services for the control and prevention of this crime against children.





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# Annexure

## DATA COLLECTION TOOL

**Confidential  
For Research Purpose Only**

### Consent

Dear Friend,

Greetings from the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation!

The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) under the leadership and guidance of Nobel Peace Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi envisions a world where every child can live freely with dignity, where every child has the fundamental right to be free, safe, healthy and educated, and to realise his or her potential. The Foundation has the mission to end all violence against children. In this context, KSCF has been focusing on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) within its research and advocacy efforts.

In this regard, the Foundation has undertaken a study in which young and educated adults like you across the country are being surveyed to understand the levels of awareness and perceptions about CSA. We would appreciate your participation in this study. We request you to fill up the small questionnaire appended below and drop the filled-in questionnaire in the 'Drop-Box' placed separately within the Department.

We assure you that whatever information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. Your response will be completely anonymous since we do not require your name and other identification particulars. The results of the study may be published but we assure that the anonymity will be maintained. Participation in this survey is voluntary and you can choose not to answer any question or all of the questions. However, we hope that you will participate in this study since your participation is important for this study and India's overall response to CSA.

**By filling this questionnaire and dropping it in the 'Drop-Box', you are consenting to participate in this study.**

Department / Stream:.....

Place:.....

Date: .....

Signature (Optional)

In case you have any further questions related to the study please contact *Dr Purujit Praharaaj, Sr. Research Fellow, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, A-23, Friends Colony (West), New Delhi -110065. T: +91 11 4751 1111 (Ext 145); E: [purujit@satyarthi.org](mailto:purujit@satyarthi.org)*

### Part 1 - Background Characteristics

**Instruction: Please read the questions below and provide following background particulars carefully. Be assured, these particulars are for research purpose only not for identification of the respondent.**

1.1 How old are you? (In completed Years)

**Instruction: Put Tick (✓) mark in appropriate box** ☒

1.2 What is your sex? 1. Male ☐ 2. Female ☐

1.3 What is your marital status? 1. Married ☐ 2. Unmarried ☐

1.4 What is your Educational qualification (Completed):  
1. Under Graduate (12<sup>th</sup> Completed) ☐ 2. Graduate (3 Yr degree course completed) ☐ 3. Post Graduate ☐

1.5 Where do you stay?  
At home ☐ 2. In shared flat with friends ☐ 3. In shared flat with others ☐ 4. University / College hostel ☐ 5. Private hostel ☐

Part 2 - Awareness on Child Sexual Abuse	
2.1	Are you aware that children are subjected to various forms of sexual abuse? 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Instruction: if your response is 'No' at Q 2.1 skip to Part 5</i>	
2.2	What according to you are the different forms of child sexual abuse? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
2.3	In your opinion, in India, how serious is the problem of child sexual abuse? 1. Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Minor problem <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Moderate problem <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Serious problem <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Very serious problem <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
2.4	At what age do you think a child is most likely to be sexually abused? 1. Below 5 years <input type="checkbox"/> 2. 6-9 Years <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 10-13 Years <input type="checkbox"/> 4. 14 Years and Above <input type="checkbox"/>
2.5	Do you think schools teach enough about child sexual abuse and it's prevention? 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.6	In your opinion, is talking about sexual abuse in the Indian social set up acceptable? 1. Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Somewhat acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Not acceptable <input type="checkbox"/>
2.7	Are you aware that there is a law on protection of children from sexual offenses? 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.8	Are you aware that sexual abuse of children is a punishable offence? 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Instruction: if your response is 'No' at Q 2.7 &amp; Q 2.8 skip to Q 2.10</i>	
2.9	If yes, how did you come to know about this? 1. Internet <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Friend <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Father/mother <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Brother/sister <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Any other source (Specify) _____
2.10	Are you aware of a helpline in the country specifically meant for children? 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.11	How do you describe your awareness of child sexual abuse? 1. A Little <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Very much <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Undecided <input type="checkbox"/>

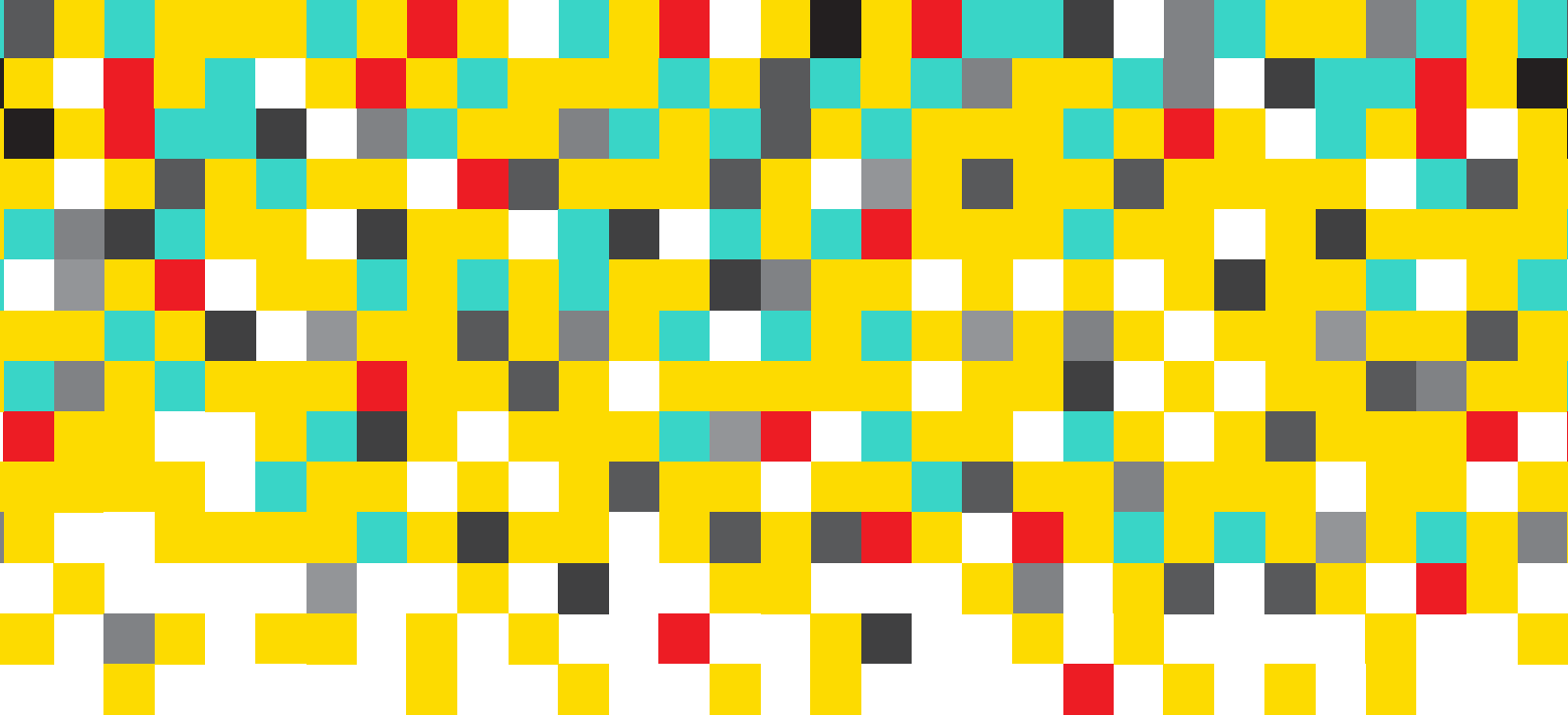
Part 3 - Perception on Child Sexual Abuse	
<i>Instruction: Please choose the appropriate code that reflects your response to each statement. Put Tick (✓) mark in appropriate box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>. Please select only one response</i>	
3.1	Only girls are victims of sexual abuse. 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Very few children face sexual abuse in our country. 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Sexual abuse of children only happens in low socio-economic class. 1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Most of the time children are sexually abused when they are alone, at night, and outside their home. 1. Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Most perpetrators of child sexual abuse do not belong to the child's family 1. Strongly Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Strongly Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Who are the most common/frequent perpetrators of child sexual abuse? 1. Close family members <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Extended family members <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Family friends <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Peer group members <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Security guard <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Any male adults <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Any females adult <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Any male irrespective of age <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Any female irrespective of age <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Strangers <input type="checkbox"/>
3.7	In your opinion, which is the most sexually abused group among children? 1. Street children <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Working children <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Children living in orphanage <input type="checkbox"/> 4. School going children <input type="checkbox"/> 5. All children irrespective of their place of stay and working status <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Others (Specify) _____

<b>Part 4 - Response to Child Sexual Abuse</b>	
<b>Instruction:</b> Please choose the appropriate code that reflects your response to each statement. Put Tick (✓) mark in appropriate boxes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>MULTIPLE RESPONSE POSSIBLE</b>	
4.1	What would you do if a child you know confides in you about experiencing sexual abuse? 1. Advise the child to try and stay away from the abuser <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Advise the child to share the concern with parents <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Will share with friends <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Will share with teacher <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Confront the abuser yourself <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Inform police by calling in Police helpline No '100' <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Will visit police station to report <input type="checkbox"/>
4.2	What would you do if the person other than police to whom you reported the incident keeps quiet? 1. Will approach the person again <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Confront the abuser yourself <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Inform police <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Keep quiet and forget the matter <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Instruction:</b> Please let us know whether you agree or disagree to the following statements. Put Tick (✓) mark in appropriate boxes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4.3	Educating children on sexual abuse is necessary to prevent CSA <span style="float: right;">1. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></span>
4.4	Child sexual abuse prevention education should be a part of School curriculum <span style="float: right;">1. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></span>
4.5	Child sexual abuse prevention education should be a part of College curriculum <span style="float: right;">1. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></span>
4.6	It is not appropriate to discuss about sex with parents <span style="float: right;">1. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></span>
4.7	CSA prevention education may expose children to too much information about sex <span style="float: right;">1. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></span>
4.8	It is embarrassing to discuss issues related to sex <span style="float: right;">1. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></span>
4.9	Youth can play a big role preventing CSA in their locality <span style="float: right;">1. Agree <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disagree <input type="checkbox"/></span>

<b>Part 5 - Experience of Sexual Abuse During Childhood</b>	
5.1	Have you ever experienced any form of sexual abuse when you were below the age of 18? <span style="float: right;">1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/></span>
<b>Instruction:</b> if your response is 'No' at Q 5.1, skip rest of the questions below	
5.2	Did you share the experience with someone? <span style="float: right;">1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/></span>
<b>Instruction:</b> if your response is 'No' at Q 5.2, skip rest of the questions below	
5.3	With whom did you share the experience? 1. Father/mother <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Friend <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Brother/sister <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Others (specify) _____
5.4	Was any action taken against the perpetrator/s? 1. Yes Legal action was taken <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Yes Non-legal action was taken <input type="checkbox"/> 3. No action was taken <input type="checkbox"/>

**Thank you very much for your time and co-operation**





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