

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN INDIA

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Abstract

The everyday lives of children will matter their future. It's the right of every child to live in a healthy and safe environment. Protection of our children is our duty and we are liable for the hardships they are facing. There have been punishments imposed for the offenses committed under the protection of children from sexual offenses act. The provisions of the act provide measures to make it more comfortable for the victims. This paper also aims to propose measures to prevent sexual abuse in children.

Keywords: Children, abuse, Protection, offence, punishment, sexual

I. Introduction

"Kerala Teacher arrested for sexually abusing minor students."³⁶ A teacher of a higher secondary school in Kannur was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting students, said police. After 20 students accused the 52 year old teacher of allegedly sexually assaulting them, the school informed child line and the police. Police have registered five cases on the basis of statements from five students of class 6th and 7th. A case base been registered under Indian Penal Code and the POSCO Act.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of child sexual abuse over the past years in our country. It's important to safeguard our children and to protect them. There are various legislations enacted in our country for the protection of children from sexual abuse. There are various measures to prevent sexual exploitation in children.

II. Protection of children

Child means any person below the age of eighteen years. It's the childhood that determines the future of a child. It's the duty of the parents to give their children a protective

and safe environment. Most of the children will be given love and affection and it'll be new for the children to face any kind of abusive nature. Children are not capable to analyze and react to many situations. A child victim's mental health gets affected very badly due to the trauma faced by them. In many of the children the pain will be lifelong and the consequences of the trauma they are having is unpredictable.

Before the commencement of the POSCO Act, sex crimes against children were protected under Indian Penal Code, 1860. The offenses under Indian Penal Code, 1860 are mention below³⁷-

Section	Offence
Section 354	Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty
Section 375	Rape
Section 377	Unnatural offenses
Section 509	Word, gesture or act intended to insult the

³⁶ NDTV January 13, 2023 11.48 PM

³⁷ Indian Penal Code with the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018

	modesty of a woman
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The protection of children against sexual offenses Act (POSCO) was passed by the parliament of India in the year 2012 for the victims of child sexual abuse below 18 years of age.

III. The Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012

The state has the power to make special provisions for children under Article 15(3)³⁸ of the Indian Constitution. On the 11th December 1992 the government of India has acceded to the Convention on the rights of the child, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly which has prescribed a set of standards securing in the best interest of the child which has to be followed by all state parties. Throughout the stages of a judicial process it's mandatory to protect the child's privacy and confidentiality by all by all means. The law operates only in favor of the child

This act aims to protect the children from Sexual abuses. The various provisions of the act deals with punishments for offenses committed under this act. This act takes measures to prevent³⁹

- A. The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity
- B. Use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices
- C. Use of children in pornographic performances and materials

Any person can give information or complaint to Special Juvenile Police Unit formed in all police stations and to the local police. In such case anyone can contact the toll free number 1098 or 100. There are various organizations working with victims of child sexual abuse like child line India, Aarambh India, Tulir NGO, HAQ Center for child rights, Arpan etc.

IV. Offences and Punishment under the POSCO Act 2012⁴⁰

³⁸ Durgadas Bash, Introduction to the constitution of India

³⁹ Komal Rastogi, What Are The Laws Related To Child Sexual Abuse in India, ipleaders

⁴⁰ Anshita Surana, POSCO Act Punishments, Getlegalindia



Offences	Punishment
Penetrative sexual assault	Imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than ten years
Penetrative sexual assault on a child below sixteen years of age	Imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than twenty years, which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine.
<p>Aggravated Penetrative Sexual assault</p> <p>(a) Being a police officer, commits</p> <p>(i) within the limits of the appointed police station or premises</p> <p>(ii) in the premises of any station house, whether or not situated in the appointed police station</p> <p>(iii) in the course of his duties or otherwise; or</p> <p>(iv) where he is identified as, a police officer; or</p> <p>(b) whoever being a member of the armed forces or security forces</p> <p>(i) within the area to which the person is deployed; or</p> <p>(ii) in any areas under the command of the forces or armed forces; or</p> <p>(iii) in the course of his duties or otherwise; or</p> <p>(iv) where the person is identified as a member of the security or armed forces; or</p> <p>(c) Being a public servant commits penetrative sexual assault on a child; or</p> <p>(d) Being on the management or on the staff of a jail, remand home, protection home, observation home, or other place of custody or care and protection established by or under any law for the time being in force, commits penetrative</p>	<p>Rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than twenty years, which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine, or with death.</p>

remand home, protection home,
observation home, or other place of custody or care
and protection; or

(e) Being on the management or staff of a hospital,
whether Government or
private, commits in that hospital; or

(f) Being on the management or staff of an
educational institution or
religious institution commits in that institution;
or

(g) Gang penetrative sexual assault on a child.

(h) Using deadly weapons, fire,
heated substance or corrosive substance; or

(i) Causing grievous hurt or causing
bodily harm and injury or injury to the sexual organs
of the child; or

(j) whoever commits penetrative sexual assault on a
child, which--

(i) physically incapacitates the child or causes the
child to become mentally ill as
defined under clause (b) of section 2 of the Mental
Health Act, 1987(14 of 1987)
or causes impairment of any kind so as to render the
child unable to perform
regular tasks, temporarily or permanently;

(ii) Makes the child pregnant as a consequence of
sexual assault;

(iii) inflicts the child with Human Immunodeficiency
Virus or any other life
threatening disease or infection which may either
temporarily or permanently
impair the child by rendering him physically
incapacitated, or mentally ill to
perform regular tasks;

(iv) causes death of the child; or

(k) Commits by taking advantage of a child's mental or physical disability, or

(l) Commits penetrative sexual assault on the child more than once or repeatedly; or

(m) Commits on a child below twelve years; or

(n) Being a relative of the child through blood or adoption or marriage or guardianship or in foster care/ having a domestic relationship with a parent of the child/who is living in the same or shared household with the child, commits penetrative sexual assault on such child; or

(o) Being, in the ownership, or management, or staff, of any institution providing services to the child, commits penetrative sexual assault on the child; or

(p) Being in a position of trust or authority of a child commits penetrative sexual assault on the child in an institution or home of the child or anywhere else; or

(q) Commits on a child knowing the child is pregnant; or

(r) whoever commits penetrative sexual assault on a child and attempts to murder the child; or

(s) In the course of communal or sectarian violence or during any natural calamity or in similar situations]; or

(t) who has been previously convicted of having committed any offence under this Act or any sexual offence punishable under any other law for the time



<p>being in force; or</p> <p>(u) Making the child to strip or parade naked in public.</p>	
<p>Sexual assault</p>	<p>Imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.</p>
<p>Aggravated sexual assault</p> <p>(a) Whoever, being a police officer, commits sexual assault on a child--</p> <p>(i) within the limits of the police station or premises where he is appointed; or</p> <p>(ii) in the premises of any station house whether or not situated in the police station to which he is appointed; or</p> <p>(iii) in the course of his duties or otherwise; or</p> <p>(iv) where he is known as, or identified as a police officer; or</p> <p>(b) whoever, being a member of the armed forces or security forces, commits sexual assault on a child--</p> <p>(i) within the limits of the area to which the person is deployed; or</p> <p>(ii) in any areas under the command of the security or armed forces; or</p> <p>(iii) in the course of his duties or otherwise; or</p> <p>(iv) where he is known or identified as a member of the security or armed forces; or</p> <p>(c) whoever being a public servant commits sexual assault on a child; or</p> <p>(d) whoever being on the management or on the staff of a jail, or remand home or protection home or observation home, or other place of custody or care and protection established by or</p>	<p>Imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.</p>

under any law for the time being in force commits sexual assault on a child being inmate of such jail or remand home or protection home or observation home or other place of custody or care and protection; or

(e) whoever being on the management or staff of a hospital, whether Government or private, commits sexual assault on a child in that hospital; or

(f) whoever being on the management or staff of an educational institution or religious institution, commits sexual assault on a child in that institution; or

(g) whoever commits gang sexual assault on a child.

(h) whoever commits sexual assault on a child using deadly weapons, fire, heated substance or corrosive substance; or

(i) whoever commits sexual assault causing grievous hurt or causing bodily harm and injury or injury to the sexual organs of the child; or

(j) whoever commits sexual assault on a child, which-

(i) physically incapacitates the child or causes the child to become mentally ill as defined under clause (l) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987(14 of 1987) or causes impairment of any kind so as to render the child unable to perform regular tasks, temporarily or permanently; or

(ii) inflicts the child with Human Immunodeficiency Virus or any other life threatening disease or infection which may either temporarily or permanently impair the child by rendering him physically incapacitated, or mentally ill to

perform regular tasks; or

(k) whoever, taking advantage of a child's mental or physical disability, commits

sexual assault on the child; or

(l) whoever commits sexual assault on the child more than once or repeatedly; or

(m) whoever commits sexual assault on a child below twelve years; or

(n) whoever, being a relative of the child through blood or adoption or marriage or

guardianship or in foster care, or having domestic relationship with a parent of the

child, or who is living in the same or shared household with the child, commits sexual

assault on such child; or

(o) whoever, being in the ownership or management or staff, of any institution

providing services to the child, commits sexual assault on the child in such institution;

or

(p) whoever, being in a position of trust or authority of a child, commits sexual

assault on the child in an institution or home of the child or anywhere else; or

(q) whoever commits sexual assault on a child knowing the child is pregnant; or

(r) whoever commits sexual assault on a child and attempts to murder the child; or

(s) whoever commits sexual assault on a child in the course of 1

[communal or

sectarian violence or during any natural calamity or in any similar situations] ; or

(t) whoever commits sexual assault on a child and who has been previously convicted

of having committed any offence under this Act or

<p>any sexual offence punishable under any other law for the time being in force; or</p> <p>(u) whoever commits sexual assault on a child and makes the child to strip or parade naked in public, is said to commit aggravated sexual assault.</p> <p>(v) whoever persuades, induces, entices or coerces a child to get administered or administers or direct anyone to administer, help in getting administered any drug or hormone or any chemical substance, to a child with the intent that such child attains early sexual maturity;]</p>	
<p>Sexual Harassment</p> <p>(i) utters any word or makes any sound, or makes any gesture or exhibits any object or part of body with the intention that such word or sound shall be heard, or such gesture or object or part of body shall be seen by the child; or</p> <p>(ii) makes a child exhibit his body or any part of his body so as it is seen by such person or any other person; or</p> <p>(iii) shows any object to a child in any form or media for pornographic purposes;</p> <p>or</p> <p>(iv) repeatedly or constantly follows or watches or contacts a child either directly or through electronic, digital or any other means; or</p> <p>(v) threatens to use, in any form of media, a real or fabricated depiction through electronic, film or digital or any other mode, of any part of the body of the child or the involvement of the child in a sexual act; or</p>	<p>Imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.</p>

<p>(vi) entices a child for pornographic purposes or gives gratification therefore.</p>	
<p>Use of Child for Pornographic purposes</p> <p>(a) representation of the sexual organs of a child;</p> <p>(b) usage of a child engaged in real or simulated sexual acts (with or without penetration);</p> <p>(c) the indecent or obscene representation of a child, shall be guilty of the offence of using a child for pornographic purposes.</p>	<p>Imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than five years and shall also be liable to fine and in the event of second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment</p> <p>for a term which shall not be less than seven years and also be liable to fine.</p> <p>(2) Whoever using a child or children for pornographic purposes under sub-section (1), commits an offence referred to in section 3 or section 5 or section 7 or section 9 by directly participating in such pornographic acts, shall be punished for the said offences also under section 4, section 6, section 8 and section 10, respectively, in addition to the punishment provided in sub-section (1).</p>
<p>Storage for pornographic material involving child</p>	<p>(1) Any person, who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child, but fails to delete or destroy or report the same to the designated authority, as may be prescribed, with an intention to share or transmit child pornography, shall be liable to fine not less than five thousand rupees and in the event of second or subsequent offence, with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees.</p> <p>(2) Any person, who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child for transmitting or propagating or</p>



	<p>displaying or distributing in any manner at any time except for the purpose of reporting, as may be prescribed, or for use as evidence in court, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.</p> <p>(3) Any person, who stores or possesses pornographic material in any form involving a child for commercial purpose shall be punished on the first conviction with imprisonment of either description which shall not be less than three years which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both and in the event of second or subsequent conviction, with imprisonment of either description which shall not be less than five years which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.</p>
Abetment of an offence	Punished with punishment provided for that offence.
Punishment for attempt to commit an offence	Imprisonment for a term which may extend to one-half of the imprisonment for life or, as the case may be, one-half of the longest term of imprisonment provided for that offence or with fine or with both.
Any person who fails to report commission of an offence	1) Any person, who fails to report the commission of an offence under subsection (1) of section 19 or section 20 or who fails to record such offence under sub-section (2) of section 19 shall be punished with imprisonment of either description which may extend to six months or with fine or

	<p>with both.</p> <p>(2) Any person, being in-charge of any company or an institution (by whatever name called) who fails to report the commission of an offence under sub-section (1) of section 19 in respect of a subordinate under his control, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and with fine.</p> <p>(3) The provisions, of sub-section (7) shall not apply to a child under this Act.</p>
<p>False complaint/ False information against any person, in respect of an offence committed under sections 3,5,7 & 9 with the intention to humiliate, extort or threaten or defame him.</p>	<p>(1) Imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.</p> <p>(2) When provided by a child, no punishment shall be imposed on such child.</p> <p>(3) Against a child, knowing it to be false, thereby victimising such child in any of the offences under this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.</p>



IV. Provisions of the Act⁴¹

Obligation of media, studio and photographic facilities to report cases

Any person (of the media/hotel/ lodge/ hospital/ club/ studio/ photographic Facilities) by whatever name called, irrespective of the number of persons employed therein, shall, on coming across any material or object which is sexually exploitative of the child (including pornographic, sexually-related or making obscene representation of a child or children) through the use of any medium, shall provide such information to the Special Juvenile Police Unit, or to the local police, as the case may be.

Procedure for media

(1) No person shall make any report or present comments on any child from any form of media or studio or photographic facilities without having complete and authentic information, which may have the effect of lowering his reputation or infringing upon his privacy.

(2) No reports in any media shall disclose, the identity of a child including his name, address, photograph, family details, school, neighbourhood or any other particulars which may lead to disclosure of identity of the child: Provided that for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Special Court, competent to try the case under the Act, may permit such disclosure, if in its interest of the child.

(3) The publisher or owner of the media or studio or photographic facilities shall be jointly and severally liable for the acts and omissions of his employee.

(4) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be liable to be punished with imprisonment for a period which shall not be less than six months

but which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Recording of statement of a child (Section 24)

(1) The statement of the child shall be recorded at the residence of the child or at a place where he usually resides or at the place of his choice and as far as practicable by a woman police officer not below the rank of sub-inspector.

(2) The police officer while recording the statement of the child shall not be in uniform.

(3) The police officer making the investigation, shall, while examining the child, ensure that at no point of time the child come in the contact in any way with the accused.

(4) No child shall be detained in the police station in the night for any reason.

(5) The police officer shall ensure that the identity of the child is protected from the public media, unless otherwise directed by the Special Court in the interest of the child.

Recording of statement of a child by Magistrate (Section 25)

(1) If the statement of the child is being recorded under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Magistrate recording such statement shall, notwithstanding anything contained therein, record the statement as spoken by the child: Provided that the provisions contained in the first proviso to sub-section (1) of section 164 of the Code shall, so far it permits the presence of the advocate of the accused shall not apply in this case.

(2) The Magistrate shall provide to the child and his parents or his representative, a copy of the document specified under section 207 of the Code, upon the final report being filed by the police under section 173 of that Code.

⁴¹ Ritika Sharma, POSCO Act: everything you need to know, ipleader, <https://blog.ipleaders.in/pocso-act-everything-you-need-to-know/> (Last accessed on 17 June 4.02 AM)

Additional provisions regarding statement to be recorded (Section 26.)

(1) The Magistrate or the police officer, as the case may be, shall record the statement as spoken by the child in the presence of the parents of the child or any other person in whom the child has trust or confidence.

(2) Wherever necessary, the Magistrate or the police officer, as the case may be, may take the assistance of a translator or an interpreter, having such qualifications, experience and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, while recording the statement of the child.

(3) The Magistrate or the police officer, as the case may be, may, in the case of a child having a mental or physical disability, seek the assistance of a special educator or any person familiar with the manner of communication of the child or an expert in that field, having such qualifications, experience and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, to record the statement of the child.

(4) Wherever possible, the Magistrate or the police officer, as the case may be, shall ensure that the statement of the child is also recorded by audio-video electronic means.

Medical examination of a child (Section 27)

(1) The medical examination of a child in respect of whom any offence has been committed under this Act, shall, notwithstanding that a First Information Report or complaint has not been registered for the offences under this Act, be conducted in accordance with section 164A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

(2) In case the victim is a girl child, the medical examination shall be conducted by a woman doctor.

(3) The medical examination shall be conducted in the presence of the parent of the child or any other person in whom the child reposes trust or confidence.

(4) Where, in case the parent of the child or other person referred to in sub-section

(3) cannot be present, for any reason, during the medical examination of the child, the medical examination shall be conducted in the presence of a woman nominated by the head of the medical institution.

Designation of Special Courts (Section 28)

(1) For the purposes of providing a speedy trial, the State Government shall in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, by notification in the Official Gazette, designate for each district, a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try the offences under the Act: Provided that if a Court of Session is notified as a children's court under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005(4 of 2006) or a Special Court designated for similar purposes under any other law for the time being in force, then, such court shall be deemed to be a Special Court under this section.

(2) While trying an offence under this Act, a Special Court shall also try an offence with which the accused may, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, be charged at the same trial.

(3) The Special Court constituted under this Act, notwithstanding anything in the Information Technology Act, 2000, shall have jurisdiction to try offences under section 67B of that Act in so far as it relates to publication or transmission of sexually explicit material depicting children in any act, or conduct or manner or facilitates abuse of children online.

Presumption as to certain offences (Section 29)

Where a person is prosecuted for committing or abetting or attempting to commit any offence under sections 3, 5, 7 and section 9 of this Act, the Special Court shall presume, that such person has committed or abetted or attempted to commit the offence, as the case may be unless the contrary is proved.

Presumption of culpable mental state (Section 30)

(1) In any prosecution for any offence under this Act which requires a culpable mental state on the part of the accused, the Special Court shall presume the existence of such mental state but it shall be a defence for the accused to prove the fact that he had no such mental state with respect to the act charged as an offence in that prosecution.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a fact is said to be proved only when the Special Court believes it to exist beyond reasonable doubt and not merely when its existence is established by a preponderance of probability.

Application of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to proceedings before a Special Court (Section 31)

Proceedings before a Special Court and for the purposes of the said provisions, the Special Court shall be deemed to be a Court of Sessions and the person conducting a prosecution before a Special Court, shall be deemed to be a Public Prosecutor.

Special Public Prosecutors (Section 32)

(1) The State Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint a Special Public Prosecutor for every Special Court for conducting cases only under the provisions of this Act.

(2) A person shall be eligible to be appointed as a Special Public Prosecutor under sub-section (1) only if he had been in practice for not less than seven years as an advocate.

(3) Every person appointed as a Special Public Prosecutor under this section shall be deemed to be a Public Prosecutor within the meaning of clause (a) of section 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) and provision of that Code shall have effect accordingly.

Procedure and powers of Special Court (Section 33)

(1) A Special Court may take cognizance of any offence, without the accused being committed to it for trial, upon receiving a complaint of facts which constitute such offence, or upon a police report of such facts.

(2) The Special Public Prosecutor, or as the case may be, the counsel appearing for the accused shall, while recording the examination-in-chief, cross-examination or re-examination of the child, communicate the questions to be put to the child to the Special Court which shall in turn put those questions to the child.

(3) The Special Court may, if it considers necessary, permit frequent breaks for the child during the trial.

(4) The Special Court shall create a child-friendly atmosphere by allowing a family member, a guardian, a friend or a relative, in whom the child has trust or confidence, to be present in the court.

(5) The Special Court shall ensure that the child is not called repeatedly to testify in the court.

(6) The Special Court shall not permit aggressive questioning or character assassination of the child and ensure that dignity of the child is maintained at all times during the trial.

(7) The Special Court shall ensure that the identity of the child is not disclosed at any time during the course of investigation or trial: Provided that for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Special Court may permit such disclosure, if in its opinion such disclosure is in the interest of the child.

(8) In appropriate cases, the Special Court may, in addition to the punishment, direct payment of such compensation as may be prescribed to the child for any physical or mental trauma caused to him or for immediate rehabilitation of such child.

(9) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Special Court shall, for the purpose of the trial of any offence under this Act, have all the powers

of a Court of Session and shall try such offence as if it were a Court of Session, and as far as may be, in accordance with the procedure specified in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973(2 of 1974) for trial before a Court of Session.

Procedure in case of commission of offence by child and determination of age by Special Court (Section 34)

(1) Where any offence under this Act is committed by a child, such child shall be dealt with under the provisions of 1[the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

(2) If any question arises in any proceeding before the Special Court whether a person is a child or not, such question shall be determined by the Special Court after satisfying itself about the age of such person and it shall record in writing its reasons for such determination.

(3) No order made by the Special Court shall be deemed to be invalid merely by any subsequent proof that the age of a person as determined by it under sub-section (2) was not the correct age of that person.

Period for recording of evidence of child and disposal of case (Section 35)

(1) The evidence of the child shall be recorded within a period of thirty days of the Special Court taking cognizance of the offence and reasons for delay, if any, shall be recorded by the Special Court.

(2) The Special Court shall complete the trial, as far as possible, within a period of one year from the date of taking cognizance of the offence.

Child should not see accused at the time of testifying (Section 36)

(1) The Special Court shall ensure that the child is not exposed in any way to the accused at the time of recording of the evidence, while at the same time ensuring that the accused is in a position to hear the statement of the child and communicate with his advocate.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the Special Court may record the statement of a child through video conferencing or by using single visibility mirrors or curtains or any other device.

Trials to be conducted in camera (Section 37)

The Special Court shall try cases in camera and in the presence of the parents of the child or any other person in whom the child has trust. Provided that where the Special Court is of the opinion that the child needs to be examined at a place other than the court, it shall proceed to issue a commission in accordance with the provisions of section 284 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

VI. How to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse?

- Sex education has to be provided along with the basic education from the schools. The motive of introducing sex education in the schools is to create awareness among the children.
- Children are pampered in the childhood and they're not really familiar with many things. Children must be taught how to react when they're abused.
- Teach them the difference between good touch and bad touch safe and unsafe
- Parents should make sure that their children are not watching adult content. There has been a greater access of the technology and children been a regular users these days have access to the digital world. They might get wrong informations from the Internet.
- Parents should give their children the freedom to open up all the problems. A friendly environment will make the children free of their insecurities and fear of being judged.
- Counselling for both the parents and the children should be given by the schools and other educational institutions.
- Have a check on your child's behaviour and help them if you find out changes in

their behaviour. Ask them their problems and listen to them. Be friends with your children.

- Individual counselling and help desks should be provided in the schools by ensuring the privacy of the child. Each child should be given privacy to share their problems without being judged. A friendly atmosphere has to be built.
- If not possible on a daily basis, weekly or monthly counselling or therapy can be given to the children from the school. It'll be easy to bring out the abnormalities faced by the children and help them in such cases.
- Help desks should be provided in every educational institution.
- Introduce self-defence training programmes.

VII. Conclusion

Every child has the right to protection. Children have to live in a healthy environment. The more information we share with them, the more they will be aware about the safety. It has become very hard for the society to protect children. Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children are heinous crimes and needed to be effectively addressed.

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