

Children in India: Harassment, Status and Rights**Abstract**

Child harassment is a very popular topic of entertainment in the realm of media. No pun intended but it is the reality. Child harassment is now a global concern as we are already familiar with it. The meaning of child is usually ignored as there are many issues to be taken care of. Let's dive deep into this bemused concept of child harassment. I will sound obnoxious, but forgive me as reality is, a harsh truth.

Keyword: Child- abuse, Harassment, Misogyny, Bullying, Trafficking.

Introduction**What is Child Harassment?**

Child harassment is a well-known topic as it is always showcased on visual media. We will talk about the statistical data in a while, but let us first understand, what actually is child-harassment and our myths about this topic. Keep your phones on silent.

Any sort of sexual, physical, mental or emotional abuse is termed as, 'child harassment'. We are not looking at this issue through the lens of media but rather, as a holistic topic of concern. We come across a lot of cases, almost one column, per day. We think that child harassment is just a terminology used to showcase, rape and other abuses and then our mind makes, the perfect image of the incident, 'negative news on a "good morning"'. I would begin my hypothesis by considering a situation, are men safe and girls happily independent? Most of you will take a while to think over this topic but let me tell you that, it is not just that the world is changing but so is the evil of the society.

**Meenu Walter**

Associate Professor
Deptt Of Sociology
S.P.C Government
College, Ajmer,
Rajasthan, India

Aim of Study

1. To Study about the various aspects about of Child Harassment
2. To Study the Role of Parents in Child Harassment

Review of Literature

We have reviewed various Journals, books and other Study material as part of the Literature Review. We had gone through several literatures and tried to understand the recent changes or development in the media.

Types of Child Abuse

Be it human trafficking or child labor or any sort of bad touch, or a threatening voice, includes child harassment. I am not going to quote the perfect, 'Wikipedia' or dial 100, because most of the children, don't even know and nor do their parents care, as to what is child harassment. Talking of the cases, that data of rape is and everyone is familiar with '#me too' movement that was once prevalent on social media and many such examples objectify our male-driven thinking. Sorry for sounding misogynistic here but the truth is that they all act as a 'clarion-call'.

Child Abuse in the Modern Times

I am not dividing your mental ability to think about male perspective and female perspective, but rather trying to show you the replica of what's actually happening. For example, there are many cases now reported as that neither male nor female, especially kids are not safe in today's world. We see cases of your housemaid, exploiting the dignity of your child, or threatening them to beg and bring them money. We see cases of 6 months or 4 months child, being harassed, even when their genitalia are not yet developed, what do we expect from them to understand child harassment when they can't even see, it is not orgasm or short clothes that infatuate men or some gay couple, making out in public but rather a concern, as children are now afraid of even telling their parents. Your closest relative can be threat for your child.

It is a matter of concern now, because with the advancement of technology, we can see, that parents are not having enough time, for their children, therefore making it difficult to come to a conclusion to this topic.

Children as well as Teachers should be made aware about the growing concern towards the status of children in India. It is a saddening fact, that we have time to update our social media status, but never have time to understand the psychological status of our own children.

Role of Parents

Parents should ask and become more permissive in order to understand their child, as there many cases which involve lack of communication with their own child/children, irrespective

of their gender or sexual identity. Students should be made aware of such causes of concern. Nowadays, we will find a child psychologist in schools, which play a very important role as after pandemic, many have lost their family members, and has a great impact on the children's thinking and mental health. I would ask you a simple question, we can understand the essence and read every sort of book, but what does it takes to understand our own child, or helping someone who is in need? The answer is simple, to bring awareness to children, making them learn the difference between bad-touch and good-touch, asking them, what are their fears or whether someone is abusing them, even calling names, have a huge impact on children but that includes emotional aspect. We cannot fully say that it is child harassment but what if the child, later on develop a tendency or being in a close room, not talking to anyone, not having meals. Do we ever take time to understand, what has affected our own child? We are so much engrossed in our own lives that we usually forget, that styles of parenting often impact our children's lives.

Parents, nowadays, should be more friendly with their child, because they cannot trust easily on everyone. I read it somewhere and the quote goes like, 'children are like wet cement, whatever falls on them makes an impression'. Let us not be harsh on these kids, who contain a scar from a very early age, by someone whose own interests, drag them away from leading a life of joy. We understand that most of the suicide rates are because of peer pressure or studies, but there can be a lot of factors involved, if our child is not in a good mood or not.

Don't be overly conscious but keep a friendly nature with your child. The upcoming generation will know have the knowledge, but will they have words to tell their parents about their lives? Maybe they might try to escape or commit suicide or can even do much more harmful things. We are now moving, not towards a cruelty-free environment but rather towards a more dangerous situation. It time to awaken our senses, the very famous add, where the girl says, 'can you help me?'. It's high time that we realize the importance of being open with our children because they can be harassed in multiple ways. Bullying can be a good example or someone trying to touch your child's, genital, the way his or her teacher looks at them, their way of interacting with them, the amount of times, they have cried and told you about changing school but you ignore, thinking that your child just doesn't want to study.

Change your mentality so that the student's mindset can be optimistic in nature. Learn to teach them the difference between, a good touch and a bad touch, instead if keeping an eye on your children, understand their tendencies and their response towards certain actions, gestures etc. The world is out there to help but that just doesn't mean that we will ignore the importance of understanding our child.

Rights against Child Abuse in our constitution:-

Our Indian constitution gives us many rights in case a child feels a threat there are many ways of reporting , if your child has experienced any sort of harassment.

1. The following rights are:
2. The juvenile justice (care and protection) Act (2000 amended in 2015)
3. The prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006),
4. The protection of children from sexual offences act (2012),
5. The child labor (prohibition and regulation) Act (1986, amended in 2016).

Conclusion

It is now the necessity to understand these emotional aspects, for a better future for children. As we often ignore the emotional context of the child's development stages and therefore tend to hurt them. Be your child's friends because the world is a lesser place to live.

References

1. *Ram Ahuja; Indian Social Problems*
2. *C.N Shankar Rao; Indian Social Problems: A Sociological Perspective*
3. *G.R Madan; Indian Social Problem*
4. *Moirangthem S, Kumar NC, Math SB. Child sexual abuse: Issues & concerns*
5. *Murali P, Prabhakar M. Mantle of forensics in child sexual abuse*
6. *Veena AS, Chandra PS. A review of the ethics in research on child abuse*
7. *Choudhry V, Dayal R, Pillai D, Kalokhe AS, Beier K, Patel V. Child sexual abuse in India: A systematic review*