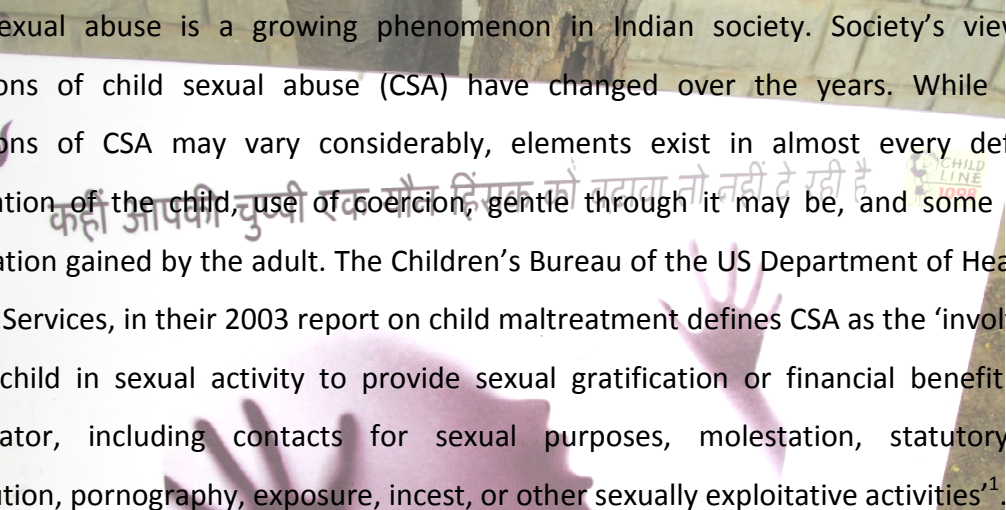


# REPORT

## GBU Department of Social Work-SADRAG partnership to spread social consciousness on Child sexual abuse

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### Introduction



Child sexual abuse is a growing phenomenon in Indian society. Society's views and definitions of child sexual abuse (CSA) have changed over the years. While specific definitions of CSA may vary considerably, elements exist in almost every definition: exploitation of the child, use of coercion, gentle through it may be, and some kind of gratification gained by the adult. The Children's Bureau of the US Department of Health and Human Services, in their 2003 report on child maltreatment defines CSA as the 'involvement of the child in sexual activity to provide sexual gratification or financial benefit to the perpetrator, including contacts for sexual purposes, molestation, statutory rape, prostitution, pornography, exposure, incest, or other sexually exploitative activities'<sup>1</sup>.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that one in every 10 children is sexually abused in India. Statistics have varied depending on the type of sample chosen and the definitions of sexual abuse, but the now widely accepted view is that by far the most abuse against girls with one in four girls having been abused as children<sup>2</sup>.

### The Cause

These days several reports of horrific incidences of kidnapping, brutal gang rape, torture or murder of children are pouring from different parts of the country which reveals the horrible reality of Child Sexual Abuse existing in our society and increased brutality in committing such crime against children. These incidences have drawn widespread response from common people demanding a safer, secure and protected environment for children in the country and ensure justice to those who have been brutalised and victimised.

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<sup>1</sup> Kinnear, Karen L. (2007). *Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Reference Handbook (Second Edition)*. USA: ABC-CLIO Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Stanley, Selwyn (Ed.) (2004). *Social Problems in India: Perspectives for Intervention*. New Delhi: Allied Publishers Pvt. Ltd.

## The Activity

To address this issue, SADRAG in collaboration with Department of Social Work, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida intends to collaborate in order to voice our concern and express our collective solidarity with other stakeholders, allied systems and people in general. *DSW believes that such mobilisation will help build stronger fieldwork network and also help in engaging organisations in positive and fruitful manner and reinstate their confidence in the functioning of the department in particular and the university in general.*

There are certain activities which were planned for to sensitise the people of the area:

### Candle-light March

Candle Light March was organised on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 outside the office of Greater Noida Authority at Gamma I. The participants which included students, faculty members and members from Sadrag and other NGOs assembled at the Authority gate at around 6PM. The march started at 6:30PM and the march was conducted till the Jagat Farm which wrapped up by 8PM.



## Multi stakeholder Meeting

A multi stakeholder meeting was organised on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 on the Theme: Child Sexual Abuse-Prevention, Reporting and Effective Intervention. The meeting was attended by local NGO representatives, students, government officials, faculty members and volunteers. The issues discussed in the meeting were:

- Scale and Magnitude of the problem. Data from different sources are enclosed for use in the discussion.
- Briefing on preventive measures to protect children from sexual abuse.
- Roles and responsibilities of child protection systems.



The **objectives** of the activities were:

- All citizen recognise that protection of children and prevention of child abuse is collective responsibility every individual;
- Cases of Child Sexual Abuse are reported to 1098;
- There are fully functional response system and mechanisms (SJPU, Children's Court, CWC, Homes **etc.**) are set up in place to deal with cases of Child Sexual Abuse as per provisions in the existing legislations, and
- Appropriate Procedures and Protocols are followed in recording, investigation and disposal of Child Sexual Abuse cases.

## About Sadrag

SADRAG (Social and Development Action Group) is a non-profit organisation started in 2004, working in Gautum Budh Nagar district for the last six years in the areas of child rights, basic education, child protection and capacity building of migrant women. They have now partnered with CHILDLINE in Greater Noida and Dadri district to provide help and support to several children in distress through education, counselling and awareness.



## Media clippings

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The events got media coverage as follows:

*The following clip was featured on The Hindustan Times, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2013*



*The following clip was featured on The Hindustan Times, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013*