

Child Sexual Abuse

AWARENESS * RESPONSE * PREVENTION

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Quality of Life
FOUNDATION

PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY
of GOA



WHO:

‘ child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society

‘..form of child abuse in which an older person uses a child for sexual stimulation.’





the problem



"Child sexual abuse is rampant, indiscriminate and cuts across class, geography, culture and religion. It happens in cities and villages, by fathers, brothers, relatives, neighbours, teachers and strangers."

- Nishita Jha, Journalist, Tehelka

- ❑ this is a global problem
- ❑ occurs in all cultures, countries, religion, races and societies
- ❑ has been present in historical times
- ❑ global prevalence of CSA in girls is 8-13% and in boys 3-17%
- ❑ India ranks 2nd amongst the top 5 countries with most CSA
- ❑ NCRB : 48,838 children were raped bw 2001-2010



Tulir

CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION &
HEALING OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

**The World Day for the
Prevention of Child Abuse
is not November 19th.
It's every day.**

www.tulir.org www.childsexualabuseindia.blogspot.com Tel. 91 + 44 43531496

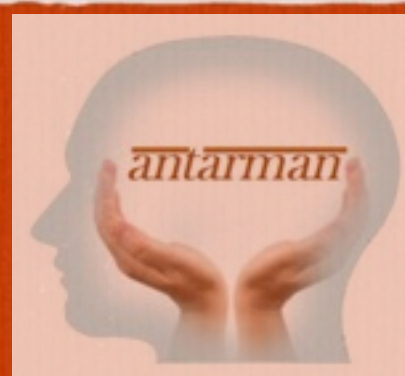
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Save the Children and Tulir in 2006 conducted a study to look at the prevalence and dynamics of child sexual abuse among school going children in Chennai.

Findings of this study include:

1. Out of the total of 2211 respondents, 42% children faced at least one form of sexual abuse or the other.
2. Among respondents, 48% of boys and 39% of the girls faced sexual abuse.
3. The prevalence of sexual abuse in upper and middle class was found to be proportionately higher than in lower or in lower middle class.
4. Sexual abuse was found to be prevalent in both joint and nuclear families.
5. Majority of the abusers were people known to the child and strangers were a minority.
6. Sexual harassment in public places and exhibitionism was higher by strangers.
7. Sexual abuse of children was very often a pre-planned insidious abuse of a relationship by an abuser over the child.

PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN INDIA



12447 children

5 groups: in family environment, in schools, in institutions, at work and Street children.

2 types of sexual abuse: 'Severe' & 'other forms'

Severe

- a) Assault, including rape and sodomy
- b) Touching or Fondling a child
- c) Exhibitionism
- d) Photographing a child in nude

Other forms:

- a) Forcible kissing
- b) Sexual advances towards a child during travel
- c) Sexual advances towards a child during marriage situations
- d) Exhibitionism- exhibiting before a child
- e) Exposing a child to pornographic materials

53.22%

or 'every other' child faced one or more forms of sexual abuse (severe + other).

20.90 %

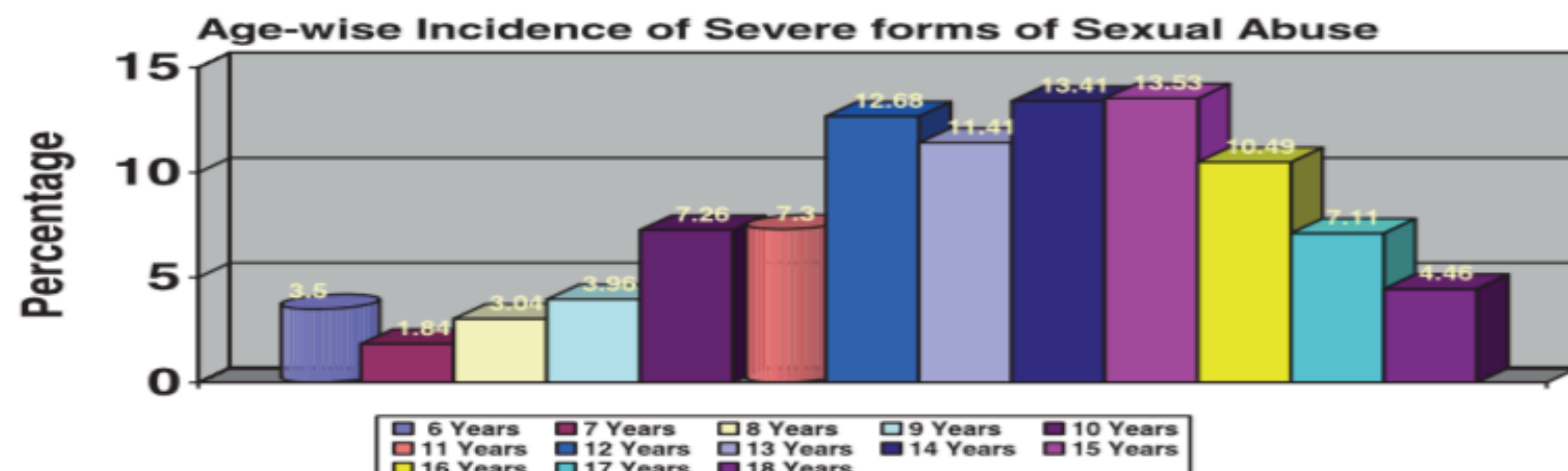
or nearly 1 in every 5 children was subjected to severe form of CSA

50.76%

faced 'other' forms of sexual abuse

Percentage of children among different evidence groups reporting sexual abuse

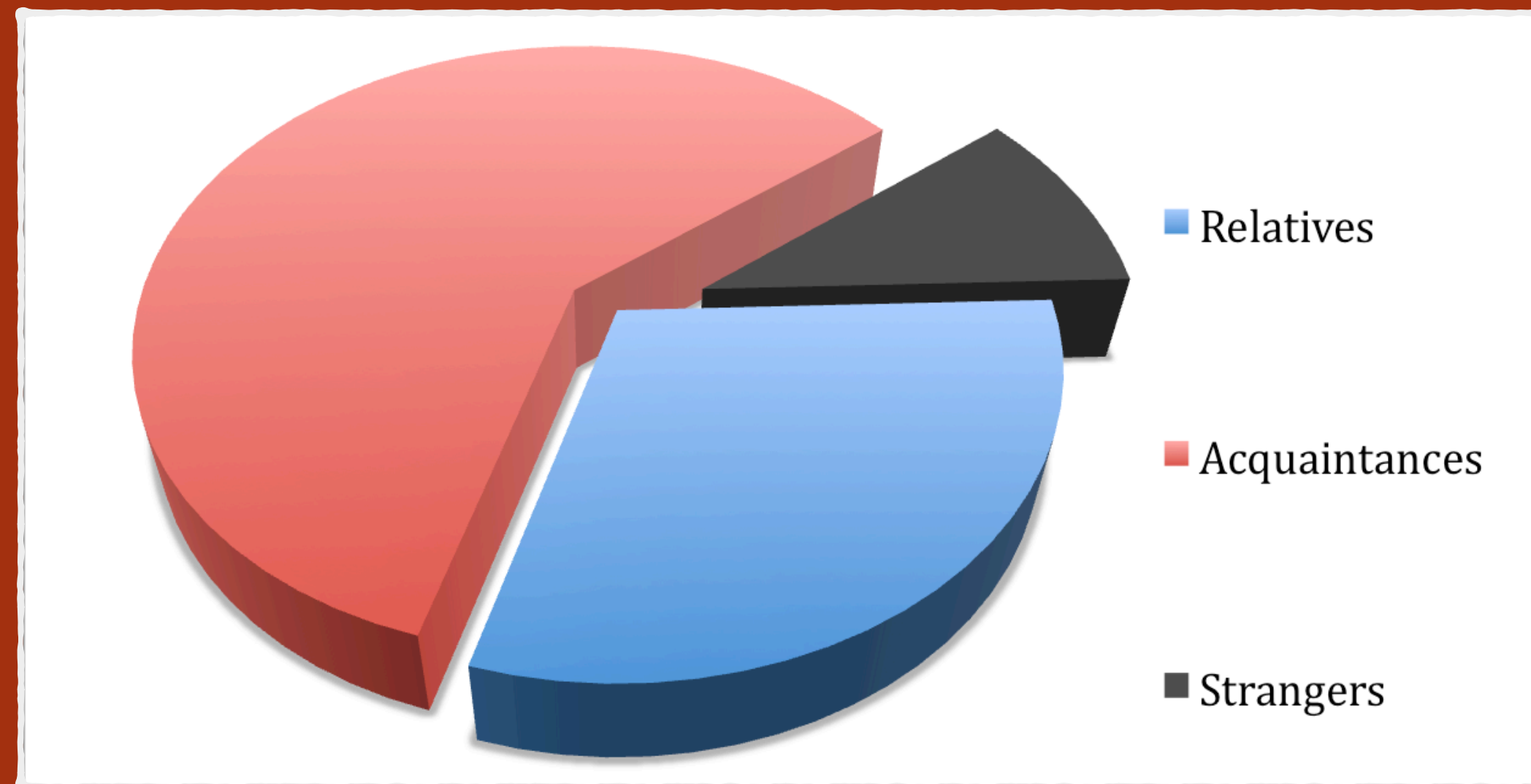
	YES	NO
Child in family environment not going to school	53.18	46.82
Children in schools	49.92	50.08
Children at work (Shop, factory or other places)	61.61	38.39
Children on the streets	54.51	45.49
Children in institutional care	47.08	52.92
Total	53.22	46.78



PREVALENCE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN INDIA



..the offenders



- ☐ these can be male or female, adult or an older child
- ☐ Relatives: brothers, fathers, uncles or cousins
- ☐ acquaintances : neighbours, doctors, priests, teachers, baby sitters, driver or any other person known to the child
- ☐ they can also be strangers

Girls are more likely to be abused at home;
boys are more likely to be assaulted by someone outside the family.



Grooming..

..befriending and establishing an emotional connection with the child and, sometimes with the family with the intention of lowering the child's inhibitions for sexual activity.



STAGES :

1. Targeting the victim

Vulnerable child – less parental supervision, emotional needy, less confident

2. Gaining the victim's trust

Gathers information about the child's needs and how to fulfill them, groom the parents

3. Filling a need:

Assumes importance, provides affection, extra attention, gifts

4. Isolating the Child

Develops special relationship and creates situations to be alone together with the child

5. Sexualising the relationship

Desensitisation , nascent sexual acts, normalisation, use of child porn

6.Control

secrecy, threats and blame.



..the grooming games

- ☐ **'special relationship'**
- ☐ **testing the secrets**
- ☐ **bribes and threats**
- ☐ **desensitisation**
- ☐ **deception**
- ☐ **intrafamilial CSA: driving a wedge bw non abusing parent and siblings, dependence, distortion of perception and 'normalisation'.**

INTERNET AS A TOOL FOR GROOMING..
it is easy to impersonate as another person on the internet.
children are naturally trusting and willing to make friends.
initial niceties lead to exchange of pics, contact data, meeting up AND blackmail and threats.





videos see next 2 slides

disclosure by child..



Why a child may not disclose sexual abuse..

Embarrassment

Does not know if what is happening to them is normal or not.

Does not have the words to speak out

Abuser is a known person and the child does not want to get the abuser in trouble

Abuser told the child to keep it a secret

Child is afraid that no one will believe him/ her

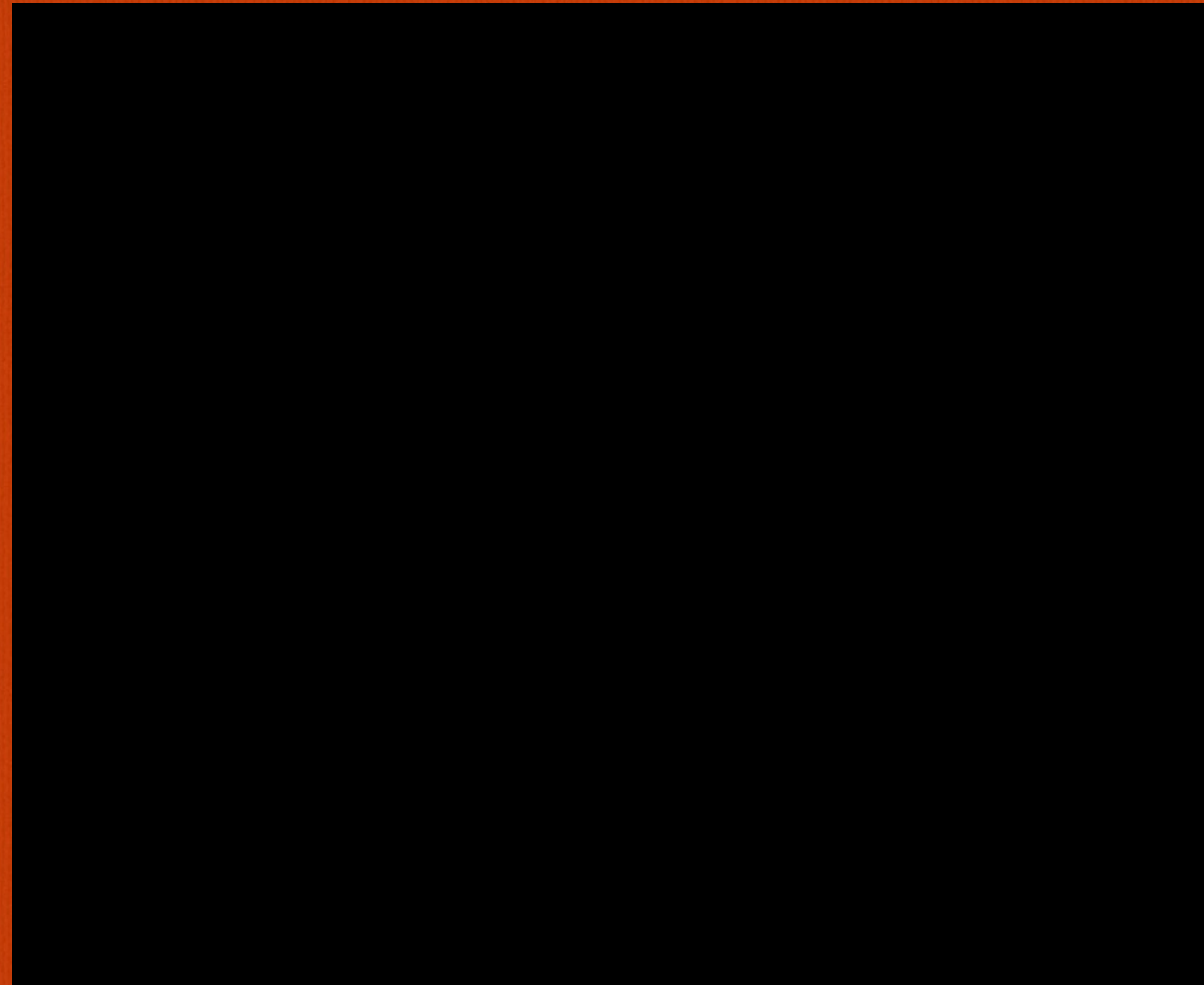
Abuser has bribed or threatened the child

Child thinks you already know



Kindly find the video on :

<http://antarman.goadoctor.co.in/csa-awareness.html>





Kindly find the video on :
<http://antarman.goadoctor.co.in/csa-awareness.html>

DUMB CHARADES
85 SEC
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indicators of sexual abuse

physical signs

- ☐ difficulty in walking or sitting
- ☐ pain during elimination
- ☐ repeated unusual injuries
- ☐ frequent yeast infections
- ☐ complaints of pain or itch or soreness of genital or anal areas
- ☐ torn, bloody , stained underwear
- ☐ sexually transmitted diseases
- ☐ preganancy



behavioural indicators of CSA-1

- ☐ Regression to more infantile behaviour like bed-wetting, thumb-sucking or excessive clinginess
- ☐ Recurrent nightmares or disturbed sleep patterns and fear of the dark.
- ☐ Wearing many layers of clothing regardless of the weather.
- ☐ Reluctance to go home.
- ☐ Abrupt changes in behaviour such as self harm, suicidal behaviour, poor impulse control, eating disturbances , substance abuse etc
- ☐ Low self-esteem, crying, increase in irritability or temper tantrums, poor peer relationships, aggression towards others
- ☐ Poor school performance.
- ☐ Fears of a particular person or object.





behavioural indicators of CSA - 2

- ☐ Sexualised behaviour or acting out sexually or knowing more about sexual behaviour than is expected of a child of that age:
- ☐ child may think of all relationships in a sexual manner.
- ☐ child may dislike being his/her own gender
- ☐ child may hate own genitals or demand privacy in an aggressive manner.
- ☐ child may use inappropriate language continuously in his or her vocabulary or may use socially unacceptable slang.
- ☐ child may carry out sexualised play (simulating sex with other children).
- ☐ Unwarranted curiosity towards sexual act like visiting adult sites or watching adult images or content.



evaluation of child sexual abuse -1

do's and don'ts for assessment

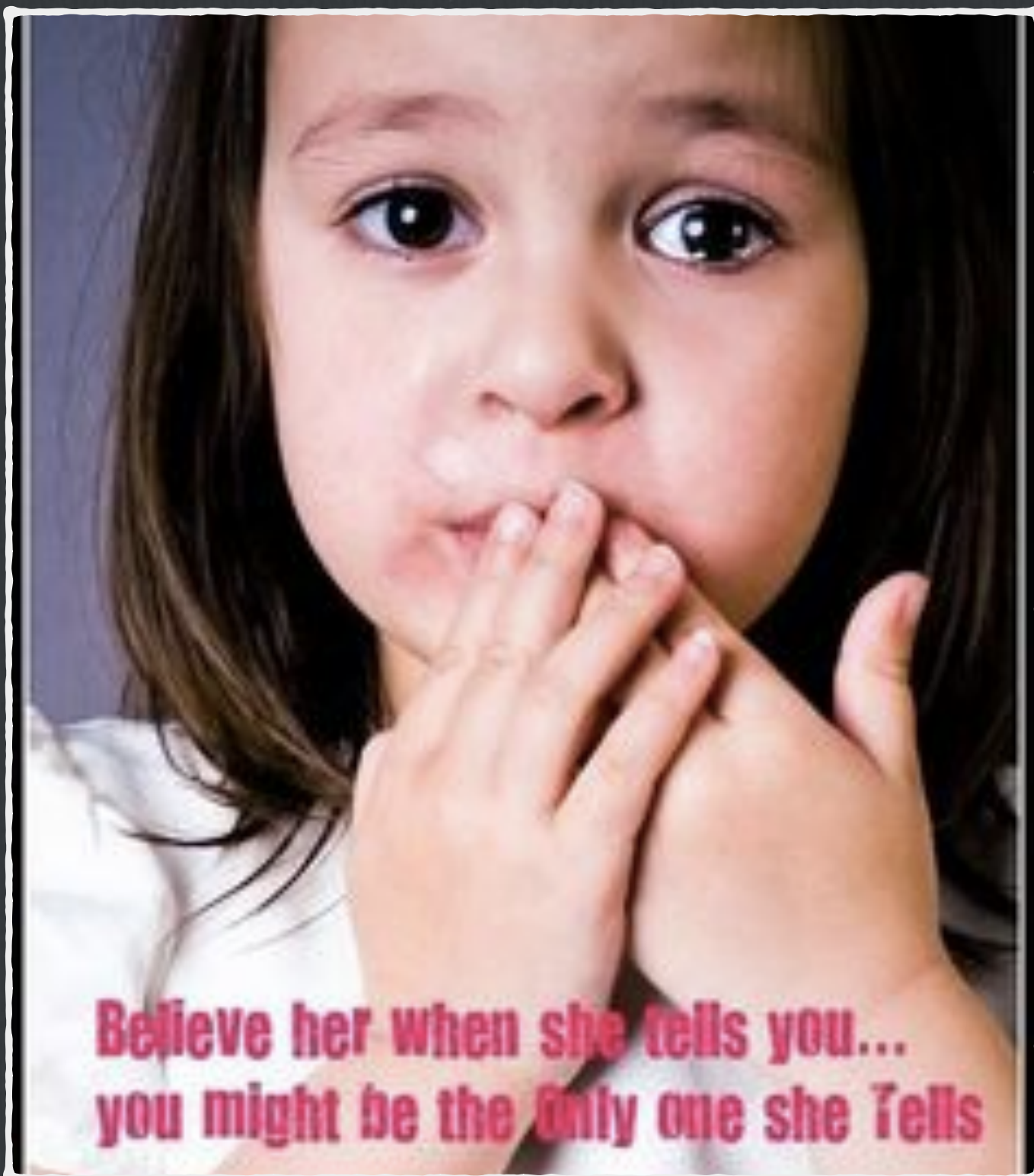
- ☐ Establish a trusting relationship with the child
- ☐ Speak to the child in his own language
- ☐ Explain the purpose of the interview
- ☐ Do not ask too many questions: allow for free talk
- ☐ Don't control the conversation: follow the child's lead.
- ☐ Don't be intimidating, authoritarian or too patronizing
- ☐ Be aware that the child may not have the adequate vocabulary to discuss sexual acts
- ☐ Counsellor may be involved after the disclosure already made to investigative agency, but the child's session with the counsellor may reveal new incidents.





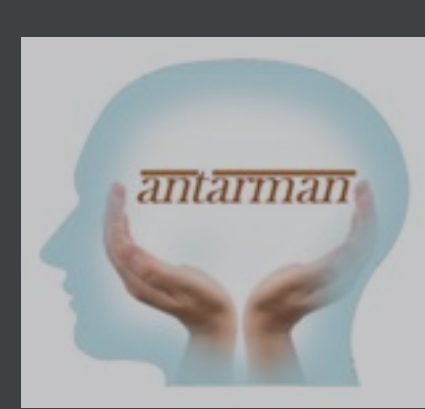
evaluation of child sexual abuse -2

do's and don'ts for assessment



Believe her when she tells you...
you might be the only one she tells

- ☐ **Believe in the child**, they rarely lie about abuse
- ☐ Remain composed, don't be emotionally overwhelmed
- ☐ Do not interrogate the child
- ☐ Reassure the child that the abuse is not their fault esp. in case intra-familial abuse.
- ☐ Do not make promises you can't keep
- ☐ Supportive statements:
 - "I am glad you told me, thank you for trusting me"*
 - "You are very brave and did the right thing"*
 - "It wasn't your fault."*



Effect of CSA on the parents of the child.



- ☐ **Experience varying emotions: confusion, shock, anger, despair, guilt, betrayal, denial**
- ☐ **Blame themselves for failing to identify the signs and/or feel angry with themselves or their partner**
- ☐ **May on rebound overly restrict their child's activities which may appear to the child as punishment**
- ☐ **May totally immerse themselves in the care of the child and impact their own health; may suffer from depression, anxiety, insomnia etc**
- ☐ **If the abuser is a parent: the non abusing parent will have to deal with the conflict b/w the loyalty towards their partner vs standing up for their abused child.**
- ☐ **May have to make decisions about the continuation of marriage.**



Prevent further harm !

- ☐ Prevent contact bw offender and the child
- ☐ Do not talk to the offender in front of the child
- ☐ Continue to believe in the child and do not blame the child for what happened.
- ☐ Respond to the concerns or feelings expressed by the child calmly.
- ☐ Respect the child's privacy by not telling a lot of people
- ☐ Let the child know that he/she is safe now
- ☐ Help the child regain or develop their self confidence



Prevention

- ☐ education about good touch and bad touch
- ☐ Sex education
- ☐ help children learn appropriate (intimacy linked) vocabulary
- ☐ encourage appropriate social behaviour
- ☐ be vigilant

