



## Sexual Abuse is not Sexy :( Morality is Mandatory :)

*“My neighbour friend suddenly started showing me porn clips on his phone.”*

*“A language teacher, who came home to teach me, started doing things to me that were very uncomfortable. My parents are not at home and I am alone.”*

*“My brother’s friend started sending me vulgar text messages and I am very uncomfortable.”*

I have been hearing very difficult stories in the last few weeks.

**For me personally, it is really sad to see morality and hard kept foundations being compromised in many lives. People who once strongly believed in keeping high moral standards are slowly accepting that morality is relative.**

A teenager once wrote, ‘Morality needs freedom in reality’. It is an interesting statement.

**IF we make morality relative**, it will cause numerous problems. For instance, if I believe killing is not wrong and you believe killing is wrong (making morality relative) then co-existence of the two of us could get short-circuited. Why? Since I believe killing is not wrong, and you agree and accept my relative view of morality, I could at any time come over and kill you.

Did you see that? Apply this to other instances. Other moral issues.

**ahhhhh.... ahhhh... I know you are saying one moral issue is wrong and another moral issue may not be wrong. Possibly you are saying, one moral issue is severely wrong and another is not as severe. But consider this, ‘Wrong is wrong’.**

**There is nothing called blue wrong, red wrong, yellow wrong or white wrong, a little wrong or grossly wrong. The very nature of wrong has the tendency to infect and affect. Some of those issues or wrongs that seem less severe may not immediately infect and affect, but it will surely do so on a longer run. It will catch up.**

That is why I believe in God's standards of absolute morality, not our standards. God's standards have foundations that were laid years and years before. For example, I see Teens debating with me that family can be replaced with other alternative structures.

Well, I think this could be dangerous. **Family is a foundational structure**, if it is compromised, slowly but steadily, consequences will catch up. Then this person who debated so much on the right of that issue, may not even have a voice or even life to stand for it, because consequences have hit this person hard.

I wanted to be very sensitive and hence I have chosen statements very carefully. If you are offended, I am sorry. But please give yourself time to think of all this, in an objective way. Not from your emotional subjective position. Just for the sake of good logic and reason, just for sometime get out into the objective place and think.

### **SO, WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?**

Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse that includes sexual activity with a minor. When a perpetrator engages with a child in this manner, they are committing a crime that can have lasting effects on the victim for years. Such a person is also known as a '*Paedophile*'. The manner of abuse could vary:

- Obscene phone calls
- Text messages
- Digital interaction
- Fondling
- Exhibitionism, or exposing oneself to a minor
- Masturbation in the presence of a minor or forcing the minor to masturbate
- Intercourse
- Sex of any kind with a minor, including vaginal, oral, or anal
- Producing, owning, or sharing pornographic images or movies of children
- Sex trafficking – promising a job or favour and then forcing you to do something
- Any other sexual conduct that is harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare

### **WHO COULD BE THE ABUSER?**

The majority of perpetrators are *someone the child or family knows*. As many as 93% of victims under the age of 18, know their abuser.

A perpetrator does not have to be an adult to harm a child. They could be anyone the child interacts with, such as an older sibling or a playmate, family member, a teacher, a coach or instructor, a caretaker, or the parent of another child.

### **A CHILD CANNOT CONSENT TO ANY FORM OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY, PERIOD.**

According to 1 in 6, "[Child] sexual abuse is the result of abusive behavior that takes advantage of a child's vulnerability and is in no way related to the sexual orientation of the abusive person."

Abusers can manipulate victims to stay quiet about the sexual abuse using a number of different tactics. ***Remember, you cannot be quiet.***



### **BRING IT TO THE LIGHT. WHY?????**

1. Because the abuser has to change and get corrected.
2. Because if the abuser is not exposed and caught then he/she could play around with someone else just like you.
3. Because if you keep quiet, it can affect you on the long-run and you need to deal and face it, straight head on.

### **WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS????**

#### **Physical signs:**

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Bloody, torn, or stained underclothes
- Bleeding, bruises or swelling in genital area
- Pain, itching or burning in genital area
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections

#### **Behavioural signs**

- Shrinks away or seems threatened by physical contact
- Exhibits signs of depression or post-traumatic stress disorder
- Expresses suicidal thoughts, especially seen in adolescents
- Self-harm
- Develops phobias
- Has trouble in school, such as absences or drops in grades
- Changes in hygiene, such as refusing to bathe or bathing excessively
- Returns to regressive behaviours, such as thumb sucking
- Runs away from home or school
- Overly protective and concerned for siblings, or assumes a caretaker role
- Nightmares or bed-wetting
- Inappropriate sexual knowledge or behaviour

#### **Long term effects of abuse and neglect**

- Emotional difficulties such as anger, anxiety, sadness or low self-esteem
- Mental health issues such as depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), self-harm, suicidal thoughts
- Problems with drugs or alcohol
- Disturbing thoughts, emotions and memories that cause distress or confusion
- Poor physical health such as obesity, aches and pains
- Struggling with parenting or relationships
- Worrying that their abuser is still a threat to themselves or others
- Learning difficulties, lower educational attainment, difficulty in communicating

- Behavioural problems including anti-social behaviour, criminal behaviour.

#### **Behaviour you may see in a child or adolescent**

- Has unexplained nightmares or other sleep problems
- Seems distracted or distant at odd times
- Has a sudden change in eating habits
- Refuses to eat
- Loses or drastically increases appetite
- Has trouble swallowing
- Sudden mood swings: rage, fear, insecurity, or withdrawal
- Leaves “clues” that seem likely to provoke a discussion about sexual issues
- Develops new or unusual fear of certain people or places
- Refuses to talk about a secret shared with an adult or older child
- Writes, draws, plays, or dreams of sexual or frightening images

All of the warning signs listed above are general indicators of sexual abuse in children. In some cases, some of these symptoms might take place and in some cases other symptoms. It is quite complicated and depends much on each child’s personality and temperament.

It would be fitting for me to quote the great Mahatma Gandhi as I close, *“Wealth without work, Pleasure without conscience, Knowledge without character, Commerce without morality, Science without humanity, Worship without sacrifice, Politics without principles.”*

Mahatma Gandhi (*Young India*, 22 October 1925)”