

# Media Engagement Guidelines

*Preventing & Combating Child Sexual Abuse*



# **Media Engagement Guidelines**

## **Preventing & Combating Child Sexual Abuse**

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## Topic 1

### Type: Knowledge Building

## Child Rights in India UNCRC (United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child) & SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) was ratified in 1991 as the most accepted international instrument in context of child rights & protection. India became a signatory in 1992 and subsequently legislated laws and formulated policies in alignment to an extent (AGE being a controversial compliance element in many of the laws); for ensuring children's rights and protection.

While indicators suggest that India has made incredible progress in child rights, a lot still needs to be achieved in order to attain India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strong child protection systems. Manifestations from income insecurity, food crisis and unemployment have an adverse impact on vulnerable groups, particularly children and specifically their protection which requires a robust preventive as well as responsive approach.

Towards attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to children and alignment with the UNCRC, India has made appropriate changes in the existing laws and initiated various policies and programs to implement and address issues related to rights of children. Over the years, many individuals and public interest groups have approached the apex court for restitution of fundamental rights, including child rights. The Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution of India, articulate social and economic rights that have been declared to be "fundamental rights in the governance of the country".

Apart from the National Policy for Children which serves as a directive for formulation of programs and policies in congruence with the UNCRC, the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act is the umbrella Act for protection of children. There are more than 15 supporting laws which target at strengthening rights of children and their protection enacted by the Government of India.

India has a fairly comprehensive policy and legal framework for addressing rights and protection of children and providing opportunities to ensure that all children have equal access to quality protection services. However, the most vulnerable, excluded and deprived sections of society do not gain access to these services and benefits due to gaps in implementation, weak enforcement of Acts and schemes, poor capacities of role holders, inadequate infrastructure, financial resources and low accountability. Despite of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act serving as the holistic legislation for strengthening child protection in the country and Integrated Child Protection Scheme as the implementing vehicle; protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation, including corporal punishment, sexual abuse, gender-based violence, child marriage, child labor and child trafficking remains a huge concern. The data reveals that the country is in a sorry state of affairs as children continue to be at risk of various forms of abuse, violence, and exploitation.



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There are different triggering factors responsible for contributing to child protection risks including diverse cultural contexts and socio-economic factors which act as the “Push” leading to manifestations and risks of abuse, violence and exploitation. Violence against Children is a subservient phenomenon in India, which is not only limited to communities, but also in institutions & families. National data on crime against children released every year by Government of India and other sources of data that reveal a significant number of children are subject to different forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. However, the data on crimes against children only captures formally registered cases with the police, which implies that the actual scenario can be way too stark. Further, lack of awareness and knowledge about child protection, protective systems and services including referral pathways for reporting concerns/incidences of violations of rights of children, contributes to less number of cases reported and hence indicates only the tip of the iceberg.

### **Child Protection & Sustainable Development Goals**

The protection of children from all forms of violence is a fundamental right enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The inclusion of a specific target (SDG 16.2) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end all forms of violence against children gives renewed impetus towards the realisation of the right of every child to live free from fear, neglect, abuse and exploitation.

One billion children globally experience some form of emotional, physical or sexual violence every year; and one child dies as a result of violence every five minutes. Although of epidemic proportions, violence against children often remains hidden and socially condoned.

Violence against children knows no boundaries of culture, class, education, income or ethnic origin. It takes place in institutions designed for their care and protection, in schools, online, and also within the home. Most girls and boys who are exposed to violence live in isolation, loneliness, and fear and do not know where to turn for help, especially when the perpetrator is someone close and on whom they depend for their protection and well-being. Younger children are especially at risk from violence as they are less able to speak up and seek support and it can cause irreversible damage to their development. Gender, disability, poverty, or national or ethnic origin are some of the risk factors that can place children at high risk of violence.

In support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda targets, new partnerships and alliances are forming; new international standards on children's protection from violence, including trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation have been adopted; a large number of states have adopted a national comprehensive policy agenda on violence prevention and response, and enacted legislation to prohibit physical, mental and sexual violence and to safeguard the rights of child victims; information campaigns have raised awareness of the negative impact of violence on child development and of positive practices to prevent its occurrence; and children's protection from bullying, domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices are being tackled through new global initiatives. There is also increased investment in generating sound evidence on the scale and nature of violence against children, and on effective strategies to prevent it, and in promoting and monitoring progress towards its elimination.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents us with an historic opportunity to place the protection of children at the heart of the policy actions of every nation and to build a world where all children everywhere enjoy freedom from fear and from violence in all its forms.

## Topic 2

### Type: Knowledge Building/Sensitisation

## Child Sexual Abuse - Definition & Dynamics

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) as “the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society. CSA includes an array of sexual activities like fondling, inviting a child to touch or be touched sexually, intercourse, exhibitionism, involving a child in prostitution or pornography, or online child luring by cyber-predators.



CSA has profound consequences for the child. It is known to interfere with growth and development. CSA has also been linked to numerous maladaptive health behaviors, and poor social, mental and physical health outcomes throughout the lifespan. Other common sequelae for adult survivors of CSA may include relational challenges (e.g., increased risk for domestic violence), violent behaviors, and increased risk of perpetration of CSA as adults.

Children, under the age of 18, contribute to 37% of India's population with large proportions experiencing great deprivations such as lack of access to basic education, nutrition or health care . In addition, they are susceptible to different forms of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) including various forms of abuse, neglect, and maltreatment with child protection remaining largely unaddressed [16–18]. A large-scale national study conducted in 2007 by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), to assess the extent and nature of child abuse in India, uncovered some alarming statistics; that among the 12,447 children interviewed, more than half (53 percent) reported experience of sexual abuse, defined as “sexual assault, making the child fondle private parts, making the child exhibit private body parts and being photographed in the nude” and over 20 percent reported severe sexual abuse. While these statistics need to be interpreted with caution as it was conducted in a convenience rather than nationally representative sample, the numbers speak to the significance of the problem and highlight particularly high-risk groups.

Only 3% of CSA offences uncovered by national level study in 2007 were reported to the authorities. Renuka Chowdhury, the then minister of women and child development, in her introduction to this national survey report of MoWCD referred CSA as “...shrouded in secrecy with a conspiracy of silence around the entire subject”.

A systematic review of prevalence estimates, determinants, and impact of CSA are important for the development of prevention programs and the provision of support. Even though some literature on CSA, from India, has been published as an epidemiological overview and narrative reviews, and some empirical studies have been included in the international literature, there is no systematic review of the literature on CSA in India. This paper presents a systematic review of a wide range of studies, both quantitative and qualitative, conducted over the past decade on CSA in India. It aims to examine the distribution of the prevalence of CSA estimates for both genders, improve understanding of the determinants and consequences of CSA, and identify gaps in the current state of research.

### Topic 3

#### Type: Basic Recap

## What is Media - Definition & Interpretations

*Media is the communication outlets or tools used to store and deliver information or data. The term refers to components of the mass media communications industry, such as print media, publishing, the news media, photography, cinema, broadcasting (radio and television), and advertising.*

## Forms of Media - Electronic, Print, Web Based

### Media forms

Media products are designed and produced in a wide variety of media forms. The construction of a media product is dependent on the style and genre of the product and the intended audience, location, context and time in which the product was created, produced, distributed, consumed and read by audiences. Media forms refer to technological means and channels by which the media is created, produced, distributed, consumed and read.



### Media forms include:

- Moving image, for example film, television, video, animation
- Still image, for example photography
- Audio, for example radio, podcast
- Print, for example magazine, zine, comic, graphic novel, newspaper, poster
- Digital, for example online video and audio, streaming video and audio, podcast, magazine, comic, graphic novel, newspaper, video game, blog, website, app
- Convergent or hybridised media: the combination or joining of two or more media forms, such as photography and animation, print productions and a digital game, augmented and virtual reality products.

Media is generally referred as a mode which stirs in "Breaking News", "Sensitisation", "Political activities", "Criminal Offences" etc.

Media in true spirit holds a larger accountability of amplifying social causes and raising the voice for the voiceless. Hidden and stark issues such as child sexual abuse have hardly been surfaced, this carries a pattern, long term impact for a child, the family and the community.

The power and potential of media also encompasses raising awareness on key outreach services and basic legal compliance to be followed; for which media can play a very instrumental role, in terms of awareness and knowledge building.

With innovative and new forms of media modes, it becomes very important as to how do we use them, when do we use them and what should be the child protection guidelines.

Topic 4

Legal Frameworks of Child Protection & Media Engagement in context of Child

Sexual Abuse Type

Knowledge Building

Framework	Excerpt
<p>The UN Convention on Rights of the Child</p>	<p>Article 16</p> <p>No Child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation</p> <p>The child has the right to protection of the law against such interferences or attacks.</p> <p>Article 40 of the Convention states that the privacy of a child accused of infringing penal law should be protected at all stages of the proceedings.</p>
<p><b>Domestic Laws &amp; Excerpt's</b></p>	
<p>Juvenile Justice (Care &amp; Protection of children) Act 2015</p>	<p><b>74. (1)</b> No report in any newspaper, magazine, news-sheet or audio-visual media or other forms of communication regarding any inquiry or investigation or judicial procedure, shall disclose the name, address or school or any other particular, which may lead to the identification of a child in conflict with law or a child in need of care and protection or a child victim or witness of a crime, involved in such matter, under any other law for the time being in force, nor shall the picture of any such child be published:</p> <p>Provided that for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Board or Committee, as the case may be, holding the inquiry may permit such disclosure, if in its opinion such disclosure is in the best interest of the child.</p> <p>(2) The Police shall not disclose any record of the child for the purpose of character certificate or otherwise in cases where the case has been closed or disposed of.</p> <p>(3) Any person contravening the provisions of sub-section (1) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to two lakh rupees or both.</p>
<p>Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act</p>	<p>20. Obligation of media, studio and photographic facilities to report cases.—Any personnel of the media or hotel or lodge or hospital or club or studio or 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.</p> <p>23. 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.</p>



	<p>(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:</p> <p>(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. Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be liable to be punished with imprisonment of either description for a period which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.</p>
<p>Press Council of India Act 1978</p>	<p>The Press council of India under the mandate of section 13(2) (b) of the Act has THE NORMS OF JOURNALISTIC CONDUCT - 2010</p> <p>The 2010 edition of “Norms of Journalistic conduct” updates the norms evolved in 1996 on the basis adjudications and other pronouncements and covers to a large extent almost every aspect of compulsions and communications in journalistic practice.</p> <p>6(i) The press shall not intrude or invade the privacy of an individual, unless outweighed by genuine overriding public interest, not being a prurient or morbid curiosity. So, however that once a matter becomes a matter of public record, the right to privacy no longer subsists and it becomes a legitimate subject for comment by the press and the media, amongst others.</p> <p>Explanation: Things concerning a person's home, family, religion, health, sexuality, personal life and private affairs are covered by the concept of PRIVACY excepting where any of these impinges upon the public or public interest.</p> <p>6(ii) Caution against Identification : While reporting crimes involving rape, abduction or kidnap of women/females or sexual assault on children, or raising doubts and questions touching the chastity, personal character and privacy of women, the names, photographs of the victims or other particulars leading to their identity shall not be published.</p> <p>6(iii) Minor children and infants who are the offspring of sexual abuse of “forcible marriage” or illicit sexual union shall not be identified or photographed.</p> <p>Ensure Sensitivity on child related stories</p> <p>The identity of children infected by HIV should not be revealed Nor should their photographs be shown. This includes orphans and children living in orphanages, juvenile homes etc.</p> <p>Press Council (Procedure for inquiry) Regulations 1979</p> <p>Complaint procedure against a newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist under Section 14(1) of the Act for professional misconduct.</p>

<p>Indian Penal Code, 1860 &amp; Criminal procedure code, 1973.</p>	<p>Section 228 - A of the Indian penal code makes disclosure of identity of victim of certain offences punishable with upto 2 years imprisonment or fine or both. The restrictions does not relate to printing or publication of judgement of High court or Supreme Court. But keeping in view the social object of preventing social victimisation or ostracism of the fiction of a sexual offence for which Sec 228 A has been enacted, it would be appropriate that in judgements, be it by Supreme Court, High court or Lower court, the name of the victim should not be indicated.</p> <p>Section 228 A IPC and Section 327(3) Code of criminal procedure also specifies similar bars on publication of court proceedings dealing with sexual exploitation of the child.</p>
<p>The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and its rules.</p>	<p>The programming and advertising codes as per rule 6 and 7 provide that no program or advertisement which denigrates children should be carried in cable service.</p>

*The Excerpts from various legislations related to protection of children as well as legal protocols for media clearly express the concern for dignity, safety and protection of children. This is evident that legal aspects compliment each other and aim at striving towards ensuring protection of children; particularly who have faced abuse and exploitation, and are more vulnerable and exposed to risks.*

*Recent Repeals and Amendments in POCSO Act and Juvenile Justice Act 2015 clearly indicate the alarming gravity of combating child sexual abuse at a much stronger front as we all have witnessed unfortunate and cruel acts where children have fallen prey to abuse and exploitation.*

*A very important facet of these legal framework's emphasises on post trauma situations which range from social exclusion of the child and his/her family, chances of facing post traumatic disorders, impacting other rights such as education and participation and also enhancing risks of being prone to abuse and exploitation again. Limits of witness protection is another vital area which needs to be factored in by the media so that legal proceedings do not garner a negative prospect.*

*Refer 6(1) of the Press Council of India Act 1978, which mentions "Public Interest" as an exception in cases which might lead to macro level reforms in the legal framework or operating procedures; it becomes a very sensitive and grave situation and has to be understood with utmost sensitivity and maturity; keeping in mind the best interest of the child, dignity as well as calls to action for a macro level change. This is hence suggested that any such calls should not be taken at a district or state level, and should have formal and proper vetting from authorised bodies and the state.*

*With increasing use of social media plajorms and modes; the risk of revelation of identity which impacts the dignity of a child has certainly increased to a very high level. As media professionals, it becomes very key that ethical conducts also encompass reporting and sorting out such incidences by connecting with people who might have unintentionally done so due to lack of sensitivity, understanding on long term implications and respect and dignity of children who are positioned as victims.*

### Ethical Standards/Guidelines

*Do's & Don'ts for the Media when creating programmes on Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation*

#### DO's

- Keep in mind the best interests of the child
- Promote a positive attitude towards the victim
- Make programmes relevant to various target segments
- Focus your progress - emphasise on one or two messages
- Before filing a story, consult resource persons and organisations in the area.
- Treat the subject with understanding and sensitivity
- Be positive in the portrayal of the child, he/she is a victim and not a party to the crime.
- Be aware of various legal provisions, laws and regulations with regard to child rights.
- Remember, though the child is vulnerable and voiceless, he/she has the same human dignity, rights and worth as any adult.
- Meticulously verify your stories and sources
- Identify ways to deal with problem situations
- Provide clear action points for viewers
- Promote gender equity and rights of the girl child
- Create awareness and demand for support services
- Focus attention on the gravity of the crime
- Make programmes to encourage a wider discussion of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Ensure that these are broadcast/televised/published in a sustained manner.



#### Don't's

- Don't disclose the identity of the victim or the victim's family
- Don't sensationalise or glorify acts of sexual abuse or exploitation of children.
- Don't make the child re-live the abuse by asking him/her to recount the abuse/ exploitation.
- Don't re-victimise the child by repeated or incessant questioning
- Don't depict the child as insignificant
- Don't treat the child as a sexual object
- Don't glorify the crime or the offender
- Don't project the child as powerless or without legal support
- Don't stigmatise the child, family or the community.



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## Principles

- Respect the dignity and rights of every child in every circumstance.
- In interviewing (and reporting on) children, pay special attention to each child's right to privacy and confidentiality, to have their opinions heard, to participate in decisions affecting them and to be protected from harm and retribution.
- Protect the best interests of each child over any other consideration, including advocacy for children's issues and the promotion of child rights.
- When trying to determine the best interests of a child, give due weight to the child's right to have their views taken into account in accordance with their age and maturity.
- Consult those closest to the child's situation and best able to assess it about the political, social and cultural ramifications of any reportage.
- Do not publish a story or an image that might put the child, their siblings or peers at risk, even when their identities are changed, obscured or not used.

## Guidelines for interviewing children

- Do no harm to any child; avoid questions, attitudes or comments that are judgemental, insensitive to cultural values, that place a child in danger or expose a child to humiliation, or that reactivate the pain of traumatic events.
- Do not discriminate in choosing children to interview because of their sex, race, age, religion, status, educational background or physical abilities.
- No staging: do not ask children to tell a story or take an action that is not part of their own history.
- Ensure that the child or guardian knows they are talking to a reporter. Explain the purpose of the interview and its intended use.
- Obtain permission from the child and his or her guardian for all interviews, videotaping and, when possible, for documentary photographs. When possible and appropriate, this permission should be in writing. Permission must be obtained in circumstances that ensure that the child and guardian are not coerced in any way and that they understand that they are part of a story that might be disseminated locally and globally. This is usually only ensured if the permission is obtained in the child's language and if the decision is made in consultation with an adult the child trusts.
- Pay attention to where and how the child is interviewed. Limit the number of interviewers and photographers. Try to make certain that children are comfortable and able to tell their story without outside pressure, including from the interviewer. In film, video and radio interviews, consider what the choice of visual or audio background might imply about the child and her or his life and story. Ensure that the child would not be endangered or adversely affected by showing their home, community or general whereabouts.

## Guidelines for reporting on children

- Do not further stigmatize any child; avoid categorizations or descriptions that expose a child to negative reprisals - including additional physical or psychological harm, or to lifelong abuse, discrimination or rejection by their local communities.
- Always provide an accurate context for the child's story or image.

- Always change the name and obscure the visual identity of any child who is identified as:
  - *a victim of sexual abuse or exploitation*
  - *perpetrator of physical or sexual abuse*
  - *positive, or living with AIDS, unless the child a parent or a guardian gives fully informed on sent*
  - *charged or convicted of Crime.*

In certain circumstances of risk or potential risk of harm or retribution, change the name and obscure the visual identity of any child who is identified as:

- *a current or former child combatant*
- *an asylum seeker, refugee or an internally displaced person.*
- In certain cases, using a child's identity (their name and/or recognisable image) is in the child's best interests. However, when the child's identity stigmatisation or reprisals. For example:
  - *when a child initiates contact with a reporter, anting to exercise their right to freedom of expression and their right to have their opinion.*
  - *when a child is part of a sustained programme of activism or social mobilisation and wants to be identified as such*
  - *when a child is engaged in a psychosocial programme and claiming their name and identity is part of their healthy development.*
- Confirm the accuracy of what the child has to say, either with other children or an adult, preferably with both.

When in doubt about whether a child is at risk, report on the general situation for children rather than on an individual child, no matter how news worthy the story.

### ***Interpretation***

It stands at utmost attention that media derives in-depth details of the case and identifies 2-3 key story peg's. The key coverage points should target at strengthening the case, establishing trends and creating a larger voice for redress and prevention of such cases in the concerned geography or the community. The overall story should integrate protection of the child's dignity, risk of the child and family and any scope of exclusion or neglect which can be a result of media reporting. The focus should be concentrated more on the cause (if there is a pattern or trend) rather than an individual case. Should target at strengthening the case, establishing trends and creating a larger voice for redress and prevention of such cases in the concerned geography or the community. The overall story should integrate protection of the child's dignity, risk of the child and family and any scope of exclusion or neglect which can be a result of media reporting.



"Kalpur" is a remote village in Odisha which is open stuck by floods during rain's and stays disconnected from the mainstream for 4-5 months. People are generally dependent on minimal agricultural produce and seafood for most of the months. Due to distance from the mainstream and difficulty in supplies of basic essentials; the village faces food insecurity most of the times.

Families from Kalpur are mostly daily bread earners who earn from working as domestic helps in urban cities. They generally seek these channels through a local person whom they trust and bank upon. "Anita" is a 13 year old girl who was studying in grade 7th in Kalpur. A Local, "Babbu", convinced his parents that's Anita can earn upto Rs 10000 a month if she can go to Delhi as a Househelp and shall be secured and well cared.

The family agreed with high hopes and Anita went away with "Kamal", to Bhuwaneshwar. As they reached Bhuwaneshwar, Kamal took Anita to "Amit", who was running a placement agency for deploying house helps. Amit had a casual chat with Kamal on telling him that he had placed more than 100 girls in different cities (mostly in metros) for working as domestic helps in the past year. Amit also paid a sum of Rs 50000 to Kamal for his pending work, where he linked him with girls for domestic help.

It was a year that Anita was out of touch with her family, they knew nothing about her whereabouts and Kamal was not available; they couldn't connect with him. After 2 years when the parents had no clue about her, they approached the police station and shared their story. The police said that they have received similar complaints from adjacent villages as well and Kamal was always out of contact.

#### Tasks

1. *Develop a media story for print media*
2. *Identify key social issues which led to the unfortunate incident.*
3. *What would be the key aspects for a broadcast in Television*

#### Panel Discussion

1. *Analyse where Anita's "Dignity" has been compromised*
2. *Analyse the risk and vulnerability factors for Anita in future*
3. *Is your story capturing a pattern?*
4. *Is this leading to capturing the cycle of crime?*
5. *How is your story leveraging access to Justice for Anita?*
6. *How is it contributing towards a larger impact?*
7. *Who are the stakeholders you should engage with for amplifying the voice of Anita?*

### Case Details (3) - Institutional Arrangement

A Govt. run care & protection home in "Kalpur" is accommodating 50% more the capacity due to insufficient infrastructural facilities; the children of various age groups have to stay together and there have been incidences of bullying many times.

Non Profit organisations tried to visit the facility many times but the warden was hesitant and asked for formal permissions to entering the home. Some of the organisations could receive a formal permission from the dept. of women & child development and undertook a rapid assessment of facilities. In the meantime while interviewing some children, they could sense a stark pattern of physical abuse by some of the staff including sexual abuse.

The children were reluctant to express freely but the social development organisations also had fraternity from the media with them. Now interviewing children and establishing a pattern, building a genuine case for protection of children becomes a priority. There is an active Child Welfare Committee, a District Child Protection Unit and in fact a very active High Court's committee on Juvenile Justice and SCPCR (State Commission for protection of child rights).

#### Tasks

1. *Develop a media story for print media*
2. *Develop a footage on visual media (Story on Capturing the Reporting)*
3. *Who would be the key personnel to be interviewed?*

#### Panel Discussion

1. *Has the process captured engagement with key stakeholders?*
2. *What shall be the role of role holders responsible for protection of children in this case?*
3. *What is the larger voice? What are the key loopholes identified?*
4. *Has the "continuum" taken care of in the story?*



#### Case Details (4) - Incest

"Anita" is a 14 year old girl who lives with her parents in "Kalpur", her Uncle also lives in the adjacent house with his family. Her parents go out for work for selling vegetables in the nearby market; she hauls at her Uncle's place after she returns from school by the afternoon.

One day when she returned from school; her uncle was at home and he told her to cook some food for him. Anita cooked some rice and served him, while he told her to join for the meal. Anita was shocked to experience that her uncle was caressing her in a very uncomfortable way to which she reacted and expressed that she was not comfortable. Her uncle, "Gulshan", physically forced her and tried to take physical advantage of her. She somehow could just escape and ran from his house and reached the market to her parents. Anita narrated the whole incidence to her parents; who discussed and kept thinking of the repercussions and social stigmatisation that could follow. Anita also told her parents that this was not the first time that she felt uncomfortable in her Uncle's place and there was a repeated pattern of feeling uneasy touching and talks which her uncle used to engage in.

Anita's father, "Devlal" approaches the panchayat Pradhan and narrates him the whole incidence. The Pradhan, asks him to reach out to the local police station and file a compliant; Ito which "Devlal" agrees and moves to the police station. The police now, has to record the statement of "Anita", on the basis of the charges against her uncle.

#### Tasks

1. *Develop a media story for print media*
2. *Develop a footage on visual media (Story on Capturing the Reporting)*
3. *What would be the key highlights to be captured?*

#### Panel Discussion

1. *Has the process captured engagement with key stakeholders?*
2. *Does the story protect "dignity" of Anita?*
3. *Is the story conveying a generic message to the society? If yes, "what"?*

## Topic 7

### Type: Sub Group Discussions & Counter Discussions

#### Media Reporting's - Deep Dive

##### Story 1

#### ***Class 4 girl survives rape, strangulation in UP, hospital denied bed for 4 days***

The daughter of a farmer, the 11-year-old girl was found in a field in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district on January 7 by family members.

Negligence on the part of the district hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly left an 11-year-old rape survivor to fend for herself. The girl, a student of Class IV, was admitted to a hospital in Shahjahanpur only after intervention by a child helpline team and the local MLA.

The daughter of a farmer, the 11-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 20-year-old boy in a field on January 7. She was found by family members soaked in blood and with severe injury marks on her neck.

After he allegedly raped her, the boy strangled the child in an attempt to kill her till she passed out, according to a report by the Times of India. The report goes on to add that the girl's father rushed her to the district hospital on January 8. She was sent back home after a preliminary medical examination and had to suffer in pain at home for four days before a child-line team was able to reach her. It was only then that three-term MLA from Tilhar, Roshanlal Verma intervened and managed to get the girl admitted for further treatment at the district hospital.

The girl is under constant observation and her health is now improving, one of the doctors treating her told the national daily. Earlier this week, a similar case was reported from Bareilly where a minor girl was allegedly blackmailed and gang-raped by five boys. The culprits even recorded the crime and posted a video of the same on social media.



##### Story 2

#### ***Shocking! Chennai woman let boyfriend rape, impregnate 15-year-old daughter; minor delivers child***

**Chennai:** In a shocking case of sexual abuse reported from Chennai, a 36-year-old woman allegedly let her 32-year-old boyfriend rape her 15-year-old daughter on multiple occasions. The two lovebirds were taken into custody by the Madipakkam all-women police on Wednesday.

#### ***Woman asks daughter to 'cooperate'***

Police said Nandini (name changed), after separating from her husband some years back, got into a relationship with one Sekar, a resident of Sholinganallur and a house painter by profession. Sekar, who made frequent visits to her house, began sexually exploiting Nandini's elder daughter, aged 15 years. When the girl narrated her ordeal before her mother, she, instead of taking action against Sekar, asked her to silently "cooperate".

### ***Woman leaves pregnant daughter at brother's house***

The sexual exploitation of the teenager resulted in pregnancy. In September, her mother left her at the house of her brother without informing him she was pregnant. The girl told her maternal uncle about her pregnancy, following which the latter made efforts to contact her mother, but in vain, according to a report by XXXXX.

### ***Girl delivers child at rehabilitation centre***

The girl's uncle then approached the Madipakkam all-women police and filed a complaint. Police, based on the complaint, registered a case against under relevant charges of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and initiated efforts to nab the accused. The teenage survivor was shifted to a rehabilitation centre, where she gave birth to a child in the month of October. Police efforts resulted in the arrest of the accused on Wednesday (December 30).

## **Story 3**

### ***Pari Murder And Rape Case: Victim's Mother Moves Supreme Court, Seeks CBI Investigation***

Expressing a lack of faith in the Odisha police's investigation, the mother has requested the apex court to direct a CBI probe into the matter. In the latest development in the Pari rape and murder case, the mother of the victim has moved the Supreme Court demanding a CBI investigation in the matter. As per the mother of the 5-year-old victim, the accused has refused to undergo a narco test before the Juvenile Justice Board. Expressing a lack of faith in the Odisha police's investigation, she has requested the apex court to direct a CBI probe into the matter.

The Odisha Police's probe into the death of the minor girl had previously drawn criticism from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) last month. Condemning the police probe, the apex child rights body has called it "severely flawed" with "glaring defects". The Commission had, in turn, issued letters to the superintendent of police (SP) and district magistrate (DM) of Nayagarh asking for certain documents such as the age proof of the victim and a copy of the FIR.

The case pertains to the mysterious death of a five-year-old girl who went missing while playing in front of her house at Jadupur village of Nayagarh district on July 14. Her skeletal remains were found on July 23. The mother has alleged that her daughter was a victim to an organ racket. After the parents tried to self-immolate themselves in front of the Assembly in Bhubaneswar alleging a lack of investigation into their daughter's death, the state constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in November 2020 to look into the matter.

So far, SIT Chief Arun Bothra has arrested an 18-year-old as the main accused, stating that he had raped the 5-year-old aier strangling her to death. However, the entire probe into the matter has drawn severe criticism from the Opposition which has raised questions over the alleged involvement of Babuli Nayak, a loyalist of the State's Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo who has been named as the main accused in the complaint lodged by the parents.

#### **Tasks**

1. Identify the risk areas which breach the legal guidelines in the story
2. Identify the "Extra Mile" which the story offers and contributes to a larger cause
3. Identify the risk elements "for the child" or his/her family basis publication of the story
4. What is missing in the story?
5. What are the details furnished which could have been avoided in the story?

Topic 8 Media Engagement in context of Child Sexual Abuse

Type Group Discussion (Mode Wise)



Media has played a pivotal role in garnering public opinion, stances and portraying grave and unfortunate incidences of abuse of children, particularly child sexual abuse across the nation. Sensitive issues like child sexual abuse require a very cautious approach and the same should be compiled by the media modes considering its potential impact on the victim and the family.

The role of media carries a strong potential on various aspects of sensitisation, awareness, public opinion and also influencing mindsets of people.

This session is to bring in together all our thoughts, energies and commitments as a media fraternity; as to what we can do for fighting and eradicating such social evils and crime for protecting each and every child; let us place our commitments and promises for the responsibility as a fraternity and role holder.

### Tasks

1. What should be the role of print and electronic media in raising awareness on outreach facilities which can be directly accessed by children or the families?
2. What are the key statutory requirements to be followed on reporting?
3. What is that "MILE AHEAD" that Media can factor in for ensuring dignity of children?
4. How can media establish itself as a medium of Advocacy for protection of child rights?

Topic 9

Type: Individual Reflections & Feedback

My Takeaway & Commitments



1. What are three "New things that you Learned"?
2. One key takeaway from the training
3. Will this help you in covering cases of child sexual abuse?
4. According to you is the media fraternity sensitised and aware about the subject?
5. What can be a good way to expand the horizon and coverage so that more friends from the media can join?
6. What are two commitments that you make as a change agent in context of child sexual abuse?



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**NACG EVAC India:**

National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACG EVAC), India, is the Country level Civil Society Forum of South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children SAIEVAC), an Inter-Governmental apex body of SAARC. It brings together NGOs, Networks, Coalitions, Media, Children Forums, Academia and other civil society bodies to promote interaction, networking, advocacy, sharing of good practices, and experience. NACG EVAC India is a country forum for collecting learning and sharing, advocacy and actions. It links country's action with wider effort of UN and international bodies. It has its operational areas at local, state & country level focusing on 5 critical thematic issues, i.e. Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Child Trafficking, Child Labour, Child Marriage and Corporal Punishment, and 2 cross cutting issues i.e., Child participation and Children with Disability. It's strength and effectiveness lies in nationwide membership and active community engagement.

**BMZ:**

The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, abbreviated as BMZ, is a cabinet-level ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany. Founded in 1961, the Ministry works to encourage economic development within Germany and in other countries through international cooperation and partnerships. It cooperates with German international organizations involved in development including the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the United Nations.

**World Vision Germany:**

World Vision Germany was founded in 1979 as a child-focused humanitarian organisation working in the fields of development, relief and advocacy. More than 160,000 German sponsors currently support long-term programs benefiting the sponsored children as well as their families and communities. Through private donations and public funds WV Germany implements more than 300 projects in 50 countries in different sectors, such as Child Protection, Education, Livelihood, Health, Nutrition, WASH.

**World Vision India:**

World Vision India is one of the country's largest child-focused humanitarian organisations working through development, relief and advocacy, to create lasting change in the lives of children, their families, and communities living in poverty and injustice. With over six decades of experience at the grassroots, we employ proven, effective development, public engagement and relief practices empowering vulnerable children and communities living in contexts of poverty and injustice to become self-sufficient and bring lasting change. We serve children regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. World Vision India works in 143 districts impacting around 26 lakh children and their families in over 6200 communities spread across 24 states and 2 union territories to address issues affecting children in partnership with governments, civil societies, donors and corporates.

**PECUC:**

Peoples' Cultural Centre (PECUC) is a child rights focused organization founded in 1990. Since last three decades, PECUC has been continuously working for children, their parents, Grandparents, families & communities to empower & enable them for leading a life of dignity. PECUC has implemented more than 135 projects and programmes in 30 districts of Odisha, 4 districts of Delhi and facilitated various campaigns at country level under different themes. PECUC has prioritised on different thematic issues i.e. Child Rights, Women Empowerment, Livelihood, Health, Hygiene and Sanitation, Rights of the Older Persons, Emergency Management & Climate Change Adaptation, Governance & Democracy, Youth Empowerment and Persons with Disabilities; implemented projects & programmes directly and in partnership with civil society organisations, communities, Government, and National, International organisations.



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