

## Child Sexual Abuse and the Justice System in Pakistan

Muhammad Sohail Asghar

*Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Okara*

Hafsa Naz

*Visiting Lecturer, School of Law, University of Okara*

### Abstract

Child sexual abuse is a prevalent issue in developing countries, including Pakistan and its ubiquity has risen steadily over the years. Children, the most vulnerable segment of our society, must be educated and empowered to defend themselves against victimization by strangers, their family members, and teachers, especially in this age of globalization. In developed countries, the government is responsible to protect its citizens from such physical assault. Children who have suffered such abuse cannot develop normally on mental and psychological scale. This paper analyses the psychological implications of child sexual abuse in Pakistan with a special emphasis on the need for augmented legal and legislative procedures to expedite the administration of justice in such cases.

**Key words:** child abuse, sexual assault, globalization, legal system of Pakistan

### Introduction

Child abuse is one of the most persistent and worldwide concerns. It has devastating effects on the children's lives. The deliberate infliction of physical, sexual, or emotional harm on children is known as child abuse. The term "child abuse" was originally used to refer exclusively to physical mistreatment until the 1970s. Since then, however, it has come to refer to a wider range of situations, including excessive physical violence, unjustified



verbal abuse, neglecting to provide adequate housing, food, medical care, or emotional support, incest and other instances of sexual abuse, molestation, or rape, and the use of minors in prostitution or pornography. Child abuse victims suffer significant and long-lasting psychological effects as a result of this horrific and highly traumatic incident. The nature of the child support and affective system are just a few of the many factors that can affect child's psychological well-being. Therefore, the existence of these variables affects the trauma that child rape victims endure over time. This emphasizes the critical nature of exhibiting compassion and offering assistance as a means to tackle this widespread global problem.<sup>1</sup>

Typically, it is challenging to identify child abuse unless circumstances are established that might motivate the abused youngster to come forward. However, a thorough medical and social background might be useful in identifying such cases. Signs and symptoms of child abuse typically include the child's abnormal development, unexplained head and dental injuries, burns, and soft-tissue injuries like bruising and bite marks. Kemoli & Manvindu have detailed the abuse of a child by a close relative who left him with physical and mental damage.<sup>2</sup> It is of prime importance to understand the relationship between child abuse and child neglect, child abuse frequently results from the child neglect. When children are denied, basic necessities including food, shelter, education, medical attention, and a safe environment, it is considered child neglect. If such neglect is not addressed, the effects may last a lifetime. Ensuring that children's needs are addressed is the duty of parents and caregivers. Children who are neglected are more likely to experience abuse or to fight for their lives.<sup>3</sup> In actuality, despite the warnings issued by survivors, child rights advocates, and medical professionals, the state and society still choose to ignore the horrifying facts of sexual assault. It is confirmed by both qualitative and quantitative evidence that the victims know the attackers in the vast majority of incidents of sexual assault. Children can be silenced about predators when they are the people who are near to them such as neighbors, family friends, teachers, and even close relatives. When

exposing their own family members might result in the loss of the little support system they may have, what motivation do victims have to pursue justice?<sup>4</sup> The issue of child sexual assault cannot be prevented without good legal mechanism which is the reason that why developed nations have emphasized on it.

Child sexual abuse is a worldwide issue and its number is also high in Pakistan. In developing countries such as Pakistan, there has been a noticeable rise in the incidence of child sexual assault in recent years. In Kasur, Punjab, in 2018, six-year-old Zainab was sexually assaulted and killed by her neighbor, Imran Ali. After going missing on January 4, Zainab's body was discovered in a trash dump five days later.<sup>5</sup> Predators choose such children who are completely single, have broken homes, are in foster care, are adopted, are physically or mentally handicapped, are living in poverty, have socially isolated families, or suffer from loneliness. They first try to win the child's trust, then give them time, subsequently subject them to their sexual desire. Research, conducted by Sahil, a non-profit organization working for children's safety, stated that on average, 12 youngsters in the nation endured sexual assault every day from January to June of the year 2023. It was discovered that 1,020 boys and 1,207 girls had experienced sexual abuse during this time.<sup>6</sup> Child abuse measures are also being taken to prevent abuse, but at the same time, the number is increasing rapidly. In addition to the sharp increase in cases, child abuse has become a taboo topic in the nation. The victim remains silent, and the situation has been referred to as an honor case, such silence encourages the perpetrators. The studies over the years have demonstrated the negative effects that adverse childhood experiences such as abuse or neglect have on an individual's long-term physical and mental health. Early mortality, chronic illnesses, and even accelerated ageing have all been associated with it. Children must be protected from many types of abuse and neglect in order to defend their rights and overall wellbeing. Pakistan is committed to achieve this objective through national and international accords.<sup>7</sup> In recent years, Pakistan has enacted important laws and a

framework to prevent child sexual abuse cases but despite these legislations, we are incapable to mitigate such instances.

### **The psychological ramifications of child abuse**

Children are some of the most defenseless people in our society. This is true for everyone, regardless of their background, race, or religion. Our young people are a precious asset that must be protected at all costs.<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, many children are being mistreated right now or are at risk of being abused. Cuts and bruises are not always a sign of child abuse, despite what some people may believe. Abuse can take many different forms, besides physical violence. Neglect, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse are among the additional types. PTSD, depression, anxiety, drug abuse, eating disorders, and dissociative identity disorder all fall under this category. are just a few of the major mental health issues that can result from child abuse.<sup>9</sup> Abuse can hinder a child's brain from developing normally since it puts them under a lot of stress. The World Health Organization claims that such stress might harm a child's immune and nervous system development. As a result, those who experienced abuse as children are more likely to experience issues with their physical and mental health.<sup>10</sup> Children who encounter abuse run the danger of dying or suffering severe physical harm, among other things. Obesity, risky behavior, and having children at a young age are all examples of this. The ripple effects of child abuse extend far beyond the victim. Abuse is painful for the whole family and may prevent the formation of healthy bonds within the family. Children may have a pessimistic outlook on family life as a result, an attitude they may take into their own homes as adults.<sup>11</sup> Not all mistreated children will exhibit maladaptive behaviors; it is crucial to remember this. Many people can still develop reliable coping skills with the assistance of at least one dependable caregiver. Some young people benefit from an inherent optimism. Many people can still develop reliable coping skills with the assistance of at least one dependable caregiver.<sup>12</sup> Some young people benefit from an inherent optimism. Abuse, however, has been linked to a variety of unhealthy behaviours and effects, according to a study. Briere and Elliot

described the immense impacts of child sexual abuse on mental health. The authors noted that such abuse creates a bunch of problems and emerges as a major risk factor for various social issues. Moreover, the authors stressed in their debate of psychological problems that most of the times such issues stem from instances of child sexual abuse. The severity of these traumatic effects varies according to the level of abuse a child experiences.<sup>13</sup> A monograph published by The Society for Research in Child Development discussed the traumatizing impacts of the legal system on victims. The authors who have contributed to the study noted that the courts can harm an already abused child with problems in the criminal justice system. By taking a sample of 218 children, the study explored that after the prosecution comes to an end, the effects on mental health also reduce. The biggest trauma the children faced was facing the accused or defendant in the case. The study found that the victim child had traumatic experiences while testifying in court.<sup>14</sup> Notwithstanding the gravity of the matter, the occurrence of child maltreatment remains persistent and can't be defined universally. It is a buzzword that has no specific definition.<sup>15</sup> Some people relate physical violence as the only determinant of the phenomenon of child abuse. While some others suggest that mental trauma and bullying are also part of child abuse, Meanwhile, World Health Organization has drafted some of the definitions of child abuse after several consultations with stakeholders in 1999. Whenever a person in a position of trust or authority over a child intentionally or recklessly causes physical pain, humiliation, or death to a child, or if they fail to protect a child from harm, they are committing child abuse or maltreatment.<sup>16</sup>

The word maltreatment refers to the two points further, which include 'commission and omission'. The former is related to the practical abuse of a child through means of action. While the latter is related to the 'inattention' provided by the guardians and parents, such as neglect and not providing proper health, care, nutrition, education, etc.<sup>17</sup> On the basis of the kind of abuse children in society face, there are certain types of child abuse, as

follows: Physical abuse of a child refers to any kind of injury done to the child's body.<sup>18</sup> This might take the form of the caretaker not engaging with the child at all, if doing so would put the youngster in danger. Severe injuries from hitting, shaking, burning, breaking, suffocation, strangling, or drug abuse may happen to a child or teen.<sup>19</sup> Sexual Abuse, the practice of involving children in sexual activities because they are too young to thoroughly comprehend it due to their ongoing development and lack of readiness is known as sexual abuse.<sup>20</sup> There are no ethical or legal ramifications for the child's permission. In cases of child sexual abuse, children are exposed to sexual acts that are unsuitable given their age and stage of psychological development.<sup>21</sup> Physical contact is not a requirement for sexual abuse to occur. The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines violence as the use of physical force to achieve an end" without being given permission.<sup>22</sup> The World Health Organization defines it as the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, a group of people, or a community. The risk of physical damage, emotional distress, stunted growth, and/or material lack are all highly likely outcomes of this. Some scholars provide yet another definition of violence as aggressive behaviour in which the offender utilizes an object, such as one's own body or a weapon, with the intent to inflict pain or injury on another individual.<sup>23</sup>

Negative effects on the brain and the heart are the result of childhood abuse. Abused children are considered to be at increased risk for anxiety, sadness, and memory issues. Children may try to forget traumatic experiences. Sometimes this leads to issues unrelated to the abuse, such as memory loss or other diseases. Unfortunately, feelings of guilt and humiliation often follow, and some children internalise the blame or believe they are defective as a result.<sup>24</sup> They might feel bad for not saying "no" or for enjoying a sexual encounter they didn't want to have. They may avoid social situations and find it hard to establish friends if they are trying to keep the abuse a secret from others around them. PTSD symptoms, including intrusive thoughts, flashbacks, and nightmares, can occur in people who have experienced abuse

as child. Additionally, emotional numbing, social isolation, and terror can be brought on by abuse. Physical responses may disrupt normal bodily activities, including the mind and the body. Adolescents must develop effective coping mechanisms to manage the negative effects of abuse. Ideally, they can do this while being attended to by a mental health specialist.<sup>25</sup> Avoidance and numbing are two coping methods that children may adopt and take into adulthood when grief goes unresolved. Parents and other professionals should become familiar with the warning indicators of mental health issues in youngsters. However, abuse is frequently a contributing factor in emotional distress, low self-esteem, or shame. Assault and antisocial behaviour are the two most often reported outcomes of childhood physical abuse. Most studies rely on teacher or parent assessments as well as other methods, including child narrative or observational measures, to record physical aggressiveness and antisocial behaviour in a variety of contexts, including nursery and summer camp settings. Some researchers suggest that children who are neglected are more dysfunctional, while other research shows that physically abused youngsters are more hostile.<sup>26</sup> Children who have experienced abuse may also perform less well in their social relationships. This may appear as withdrawal, avoidance, or fear, rage, and aggressiveness in some physically abused children. A child's cognitive and brain development may be stunted by abuse, which in turn can cause communication problems. Victims may suffer from either developmental regression or learning impairments. In addition, children who have experienced maltreatment or neglect frequently endure anxiety and low self-esteem. It may be difficult for them to form meaningful bonds.<sup>27</sup> They may be possessive, anxious, irritable, furious, or insecure. Abuse of children may lead to behavioral issues in children and adolescents. Emotional and behavioral symptoms such as depression, irritability, aggression, hyperactivity, bedwetting, poor self-esteem, etc. may be experienced by victims. It is possible that some of these patterns will follow people into adulthood. Sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect are all types of child exploitation and may all cause lasting mental health problems

in children. They may cause behavioral problems, cognitive impairments, and mental health problems. Additionally, it can hurt society as a whole and interfere with family relationships. To lessen the long-term effects of child abuse and foster resilient people, prompt intervention, support, and mental health care are essential. For Pakistan and its children to have a brighter future, it is crucial to prioritize child empowerment and safety.

### **Pakistan's perspective on child abuse**

Official figures on the frequency of child abuse are crucial, since they are not available for Pakistan, a country whose situation is neither better nor worse than that of any other developing country.<sup>28</sup> A UNICEF survey regarding developing countries concludes that 81 percent of newborns do not survive their first month of life, 63 percent of children aged 6 months to 3 years old suffer from stunted development, anemia, and underweight, and 40 percent of all children under the age of 5 are malnourished. Pakistan has a deteriorating education system, with 21% of Pakistani youngsters marrying before the age of 18, and 23 million never having gone to school. Only one-third of Pakistani children under five are enrolled in birth registration.<sup>29</sup> Child Protection The term "child protection" refers to efforts made to shield children from harmful situations, including being exploited for cash, being beat up, being exposed to the horrors of war, being ignored, abandoned, mistreated, and discriminated against.<sup>30</sup> The United Nations General Assembly ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, making it the most comprehensive text to date addressing children's basic freedoms and protections. The primary objective of National Vision 2025 is Putting People First: Development of Human and Social Capital.<sup>31</sup> The easiest method to achieve this is to make sure empowerment and human resource development practices are applied from birth and sustained through "childhood and adolescence." It is essentially the responsibility of the state to provide a protective and preventative setting for children through law, policy, and institutional change.<sup>32</sup> Pakistan must place a high priority on empowering children through social, medical, and educational services if it wants to

effectively address child abuse. The establishment of laws, policies, and institutional changes is essential to provide children with a safe environment. By thoroughly addressing these problems, Pakistan may endeavor to protect the health, development, and dignity of its children, providing a better future for the country.

In 1979, the government of Pakistan formed the "National Commission for the Welfare and Development of Children (NCCWD).<sup>33</sup> It functioned under a number of different structures before coming under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Human Rights. The National Centre on Children and the Law (NCCWD) monitors and assesses the efficacy of laws and policies that protect children's constitutional, statutory, and administrative rights, and it also recommends amendments to these laws.<sup>34</sup> Although a few national laws have already included some of the NCCWD's proposed revisions and enhancements, much more needs to be implemented. The World Health Organization defines a child as "any human being below the age of eighteen years," unless the child reaches legal adulthood at an earlier age under the legislation applicable to the child.<sup>35</sup> Children are defined differently under the PPC and some other laws. This suggests that there is not enough consistency across divisions, which is a problem for NCCWD and other organizations. As a continuation of the previous point, it also gets challenging to put certain laws into practice at the provincial level. As an illustration, the Pakistani Constitution mandates that between the ages of 5 and 16, all children are entitled to free and mandatory education, and child labour and marriage are prohibited. Nevertheless, many state and non-state groups are working towards this goal, yet despite these orders and their efforts, they have not yet succeeded. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was ratified by the government of Pakistan, marking the next major milestone in the advancement of child welfare. The CRC is a piece of legislation that guarantees certain rights to children, including access to medical care, schooling, protection from harm, and other civil and social services.<sup>36</sup> Since then, there has been a growing movement in support of children's rights. In

order to address child sexual abuse, exploitation, child pornography, and prostitution, as well as health, housing, poverty, child labour, education, and child mortality, the National Action Plan (NPA) for Child Protection was developed. In 2006, legislators developed a child protection statute to serve as a legislative foundation for keeping children safe and assisting abused children in making a full recovery. There has been no vote on this legislation so far. Children who are destitute or neglected in the province of Punjab must be brought before the Child Protection Courts (CPC). One or more such courts may be established under this Act at the discretion of the provincial government. There are certain laws in Pakistan that ensure children's safety against abuse. For example, Section 364 A and 377 of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), which deal with offences against people under the age of fourteen and unnatural offences against men, women, and animals, respectively.<sup>37</sup> Similarly, the procurement of a minor is covered by Section 366A of PPC and Section 375(v) relates to rape with or without the consent of a female child under the age of sixteen. Moreover, Section 377A of PPC deals with the offence against a person less than eighteen years old.<sup>38</sup> The serious problems of child abuse in Pakistan were addressed in April 2017 by the Criminal Law Second Amendment Act, 2016. In an attempt to dissuade criminals from committing crimes against children, the punishments for such offences have been increased under the Pakistan Penal Code. "Section 82 of the Pakistani Penal Code raises the minimum age from seven to ten." The new chapters 292A, 292B, and 292C were added. The offence of sexual abuse of a child and the penalty for it are described in Sections 377A and 377B. The PPC now includes Section 328A, which describes the offence of cruelty to children and its punishment.<sup>39</sup> The offence related to child molestation was embedded later into PPC. The law states that anyone who, for sexual reasons, engages in acts of fondling, stroking, caressing, pornography, exhibitionism, or coerces or threatens to coerce another person into performing such an act, with or without that person's knowledge, must be punished by either imprisonment for a period not to exceed seven years, a fine, or both. The other bill, The

Child Protection System Bill, 2014 provides legal cover for any activities made as a result of this law. The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018 is intended to safeguard children in the capital territory of Islamabad from any and all sorts of damage, abuse, neglect, maltreatment, exploitation, and related difficulties, whether physical or mental.<sup>40</sup> We need revise legislation, concentrate on police reforms, and streamline the judicial system to provide prompt justice in order to address crimes against children. Though is challenging to prevent the commission of such crimes, the authorities can and ought to take necessary steps to make sure that swift actions are taken against such criminals who are involved in crimes against children.

### **Conclusion**

Over the years, Pakistan has seen considerable legislative advancements and activities related to child protection. In 1979, Congress created the National Commission on Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD), which was a critical step in securing and monitoring children's rights. However, issues still exist, such as differences in how a child is defined by various legislations and issues with how provincial directives are put into practice. The ratification of the CRC by Pakistan further shows its dedication to protecting children's rights. Both the National Action Plan (NPA) for Child Protection and the proposed Child Protection Bill aimed to tackle a multitude of issues pertaining to child abuse, from child labor to sexual exploitation. Stronger punishments for crimes against minors have been added to pertinent statutes. Even though these legal changes are crucial, their effectiveness depends on their continuous and successful implementation. Simultaneously, it is of the utmost importance to prioritize police reforms, integrate child protection education into school curricula, conduct regular workshops and trainings for community leaders, parents, and teachers on recognizing and preventing child abuse, provide victims and their families with free and easily accessible support and counselling services, encourage existing community-based child protection committees to raise awareness and identify offenders, and establish

a comprehensive and updated database on child abuse cases, causes, and outcomes in order to support research on the prevalence and root causes of child abuse to develop evidence-based policy and programs in order to streamline and strengthen the national legal mechanism, and reduce the prevalence of child abuse in Pakistan.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Jenkins, J. Philip. "Child abuse." Encyclopedia Britannica, January 13, 2024. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/child-abuse>.
- <sup>2</sup> Kemoli AM, Mavindu M. Child abuse: A classic case report with literature review. *Contemp Clin Dent*. 2014 Apr;5(2):256-9. doi: 10.4103/0976-237X.132380. PMID: 24963259; PMCID: PMC4067796.
- <sup>3</sup> Junejo, Iqra. "Unveiling Child Abuse." DAWN.COM, August 31, 2023. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1773214>.
- <sup>4</sup> DAWN.COM. "Child Abuse," April 12, 2021. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1617776>.
- <sup>5</sup> Tribune. "Media Silence on Rampant Child Abuse." The Express Tribune, June 3, 2023. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2419948/media-silence-on-rampant-child-abuse>.
- <sup>6</sup> Tribune. "2,227 Kids Suffered Sexual Abuse in First Half of 2023." The Express Tribune, August 24, 2023. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2432272/2227-children-suffered-sexual-abuse-in-first-half-of-2023>.
- <sup>7</sup> Bendixen M, Muus KM, Schei B. The impact of child sexual abuse--a study of a random sample of Norwegian students. *Child Abuse Negl*. 1994 Oct;18(10):837-47. doi: 10.1016/0145-2134(94)90063-9. PMID: 7804891.
- <sup>8</sup> Ali Lakhdir MP, Parpio Y, Farooq S. Surveillance system for child abuse: Bridging the gap between actual and hidden cases. *J Pak Med Assoc*. 2017 Jan;67(1):126-127. PMID: 28065969.
- <sup>9</sup> "Street Children: An Overlooked Issue in Pakistan | Office of Justice Programs," n.d. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/street-children-overlooked-issue-pakistan>.
- <sup>10</sup> Wolfe, D. A., Jaffe, P. G., Jetté, J. L., & Poisson, S. E. The impact of child abuse in community institutions and organizations: Advancing professional and scientific understanding. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, 2003; 10(2), 179–191. <https://doi.org/10.1093/clipsy.bpg021>
- <sup>11</sup> Wolfe DA, Francis KJ, Straatman AL. Child abuse in religiously-affiliated institutions: long-term impact on men's mental health. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2006 Feb;30(2):205-12. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2005.08.015. Epub 2006 Feb 7. PMID: 16464495.
- <sup>12</sup> Wolfe DA, Francis KJ, Straatman AL. Child abuse in religiously-affiliated institutions: long-term impact on men's mental health. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2006 Feb;30(2):205-12. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2005.08.015. Epub 2006 Feb 7. PMID: 16464495.
- <sup>13</sup> Briere JN, Elliott DM. Immediate and long-term impacts of child sexual abuse. *Future Child*. 1994 Summer-Fall;4(2):54-69. PMID: 7804770.

- <sup>14</sup> Goodman GS, Taub EP, Jones DP, England P, Port LK, Rudy L, Prado L. Testifying in criminal court: emotional effects on child sexual assault victims. *Monogr Soc Res Child Dev.* 1992;57(5):I-142; discussion I43-61. PMID: 1470193.
- <sup>15</sup> Ross A, Dion J, Cantinotti M, Collin-Vézina D, Paquette L. Impact of residential schooling and of child abuse on substance use problem in Indigenous Peoples. *Addict Behav.* 2015 Dec; 51:184-92. doi: 10.1016/j.addbeh.2015.07.014. Epub 2015 Jul 31. PMID: 26280378.
- <sup>16</sup> Rahim S, Bourgaize C, Khan M, Matthew L, Barron I. Child Sexual Abuse in Pakistan Schools: A Non-Systematic Narrative Literature Review. *J Child Sex Abus.* 2021 Jul;30(5):546-562. doi: 10.1080/10538712.2021.1901168. Epub 2021 Mar 17. PMID: 33729101.
- <sup>17</sup> Avais MA, Narijo H, Parker M. A Review of Child Sexual Abuse in Pakistan Based on Data from “Sahil” Organization. *J Islamabad Med Dental Coll.* 2020; 9(3): 212-218
- <sup>18</sup> Abbas SS, Jabeen T. Prevalence of Child Abuse Among the University Students: A Retrospective Cross-Sectional Study in University of the Punjab, Pakistan. *Int Q Community Health Educ.* 2020 Jan;40(2):125-134. doi: 10.1177/0272684X19861578. Epub 2019 Jul 5. PMID: 31274371.
- <sup>19</sup> Malik, F., & Farwa. Domestic Violence a Risk Factor to Child Abuse in Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Psychological Research* 2009; 24 (1-2), 1-25.
- <sup>20</sup> Briere J, Runtz M. Differential adult symptomatology associated with three types of child abuse histories. *Child Abuse Negl.* 1990;14(3):357-64. doi: 10.1016/0145-2134(90)90007-g. PMID: 2207804.
- <sup>21</sup> Schmidt BD. Types of child abuse and neglect: an overview for dentists. *Pediatr Dent.* 1986 May;8(1 Spec No):67-71. PMID: 3460035.
- <sup>22</sup> Martin, Michael J. and James Walters. “Familial Correlates of Selected Types of Child Abuse and Neglect.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 44 (1982): 267.
- <sup>23</sup> Schneider R, Baumrind N, Kimerling R. Exposure to child abuse and risk for mental health problems in women. *Violence Vict.* 2007;22(5):620-31. doi: 10.1891/088667007782312140. PMID: 18064973.
- <sup>24</sup> McGuigan WM, Pratt CC. The predictive impact of domestic violence on three types of child maltreatment. *Child Abuse Negl.* 2001 Jul;25(7):869-83. doi: 10.1016/s0145-2134(01)00244-7. PMID: 11523866.
- <sup>25</sup> Silbert, M. H., & Pines, A. M. Sexual child abuse as an antecedent to prostitution. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 1981; 5(4), 407–411.* [https://doi.org/10.1016/0145-2134\(81\)90050-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/0145-2134(81)90050-8)
- <sup>26</sup> Schellenbache, C. J., Monroe, L. E., & Merluzzi, T. V. The impact of stress on cognitive components of child abuse potential. *Journal of Family Violence*, 1991; (6) 61-80. “Impact of Stress on Cognitive Components of Child Abuse Potential | Office of Justice Programs,” n.d. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/impact-stress-cognitive-components-child-abuse-potential>.
- <sup>27</sup> Fujiwara T, Okuyama M, Izumi M, Osada Y. The impact of childhood abuse history and domestic violence on the mental health of women in Japan. *Child Abuse Negl.* 2010 Apr;34(4):267-74. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2009.07.007. Epub 2010 Mar 20. PMID: 20304493.

- <sup>28</sup> Ahmed, Fasih, and Asim Khan. "Topic Modeling as a Tool to Analyze Child Abuse from the Corpus of English Newspapers in Pakistan." *Social Science Computer Review*, October 7, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393221132637>.
- <sup>29</sup> Ali NS Mbbs Fcps, Ali FN Mbbs, Khuwaja AK Mbbs Fcps, Nanji K BScN BScN. Magnitude and factors associated with child abuse in a mega city of developing country Pakistan. *Iran J Pediatr*. 2014 Apr;24(2):140-6. PMID: 25535531; PMCID: PMC4268832.
- <sup>30</sup> Miles, M. Walking Delicately Around Mental Handicap, Sex Education and Abuse in Pakistan. *Child Abuse Review*, 1996; 5 (4), 263-274.
- <sup>31</sup> ranich, S., Jabeen, T., & Arshad, M. Addressing the issue of child sexual abuse in Pakistan: A conceptual analysis. *International Social Work*, 2021; 3 (66).
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid, 4
- <sup>33</sup> Mehnaz, Aisha. "Child Abuse in Pakistan-Current Perspective," 2018. <https://ojs.njhsociences.com/index.php/njhs/article/view/67>.
- <sup>34</sup> Khaliq, Jamshed, and Rumman I. Khattak. "Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse - Pakistan's Context." *Technium Social Sciences Journal*, vol. 9, 2020, pp. 671-677, doi:[10.47577/tssj.v9i1.1056](https://doi.org/10.47577/tssj.v9i1.1056).
- <sup>35</sup> Akhtar, Shahbaz. "Child Abuse in Pakistan: A Study of Prevailing Laws." *Social Science Research Network*, January 1, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4115639>.
- <sup>36</sup> Ahmed, F., & Khan, A. Modeling as a Tool to Analyze Child Abuse from the Corpus of English Newspapers in Pakistan. *Social Science Computer Review*, 2023; 41(6), 2073-2089. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393221132637>
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid, 4
- <sup>38</sup> Salman, Muhammad, and Shaukat Hussain Bhatti. "Implicative Analysis of Child Protection Laws and U.N Convention on the Rights of Child (A Case Study of Pakistan from an International Perspective)." *Review of education, administration and law*, December 31, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.47067/real.v5i4.295>.
- <sup>39</sup> Rafiq, Khushboo. "Child Sexual Abuse - A Study of Flaws in the System in Pakistan with Special Reference to Sindh\* | Request PDF." *Pakistan Research Database*, n.d. <https://www.prdb.pk/article/child-sexual-abuse-a-study-of-flaws-in-the-system-in-pakis-332>.
- <sup>40</sup> *The Gazette of Pakistan* Part-I. F. No. 2 (5)/2018-E-3 (Police). Government of Pakistan.