

Sexual abuse in children under 18 referred to Tehran Legal Medical Centers during 9 months from March to December2005.

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Abstract:

1) Background and Aim:

Nowadays, according to the views of WHO and UNICEF, one of the internationally recognized indexes of development is the situation and condition of children therein.

According to the definition of WHO, each individual less than 18 years old is regarded as a child. In the light of this fact, we have embarked on a study, with regard to the cases concerning children sexual abuses usually referred to the Tehran Legal Medical centers.

2) Materials AND METHODS:

This study has been done via all cases concerning children sexual-abuses during 9 months which have been referred to five medical centers in Tehran by order of Judicial Authorities as by well as claimant parents.

This study has been done in the form of cross sectional via medical examination and fill up questionnaire's and then analyzed statistically with SPSS software.

3) Findings:

The collected information indicates that within 9 months 144 cases referred to Tehran Legal Medical centers with the most frequency related to central Tehran Legal Medical Centre (41%) and the least frequency related to North Tehran Legal Medical Centre (2.8%) while according to a retrospective study in 1993 the most frequency was related to South Tehran Legal Medical Centre. ⁽¹⁾

In this connection 96.5% of referred case were on behalf of Judicial Authorities and just 3.5% were private requests. Concerning the gender of the victims 61.8% were female and 38.2% were male and most frequency of age was between 14 to 18 years old (79.2%). All of the sexual abuses were committed by men and the most frequency of number of times for each case turned out to be once (60%).

From the total number of anal examinations 4 cases had anal laceration 2 cases had anal dilatation and 8 cases had bruise or abrasion and the rest were normal (130 cases).

Totally 89 vaginal examination were performed which in 46 cases no sign of intercourse was observed and in 43 cases signs of intercourse was observed.

The most frequency of sexual abuses were committed by non relatives known to the child (51.6%). As far as the education of parents is concerned the most frequency turned out to be under diploma.

4) **Conclusion:**

The real number of child abuse probably has been higher than the number mentioned above, because the great number of children whom are victims of sexual abuse, are not recognized and many of the families related to those cases are not interested in reporting it to corresponding authorities. In this survey a meaningful relation has been observed between the number of commition and the gender of child but there was no relation between the level of Parents' education and occurrence of child abuse.

Social, cultural and physiological factors all contribute to the breakdown of the incest Taboo. Incestuous behavior has been associated with alcohol abuse.⁴

Incest is described in most cultures, and is seen in all socioeconomic levels to a greater degree than are physical abuse and neglect.³

The abuse of daughters by fathers and stepfathers is the most common form of reported incest.³

Because sexual abuse is more frequent in children between 14 to 18 years old, it is highly suggested that society and families to be more attentive with children in these ages.

5) **Key Words :**

Sexual abuse – child – child abuse

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