

TALES OF ABUSE

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Abstract: This paper narrates the stories of victims to prove that how a culture of shame perpetuates abuse. The real stories of the victims will encourage the girls to dare to come out of their sufferings and report to the police and the media. Nowadays media coverage has given importance on how men of Asian descent have preyed on defenseless young victims. The facts of this abuse are terrible. But Report findings has been ignored that sexual abuse has been under-reported among Asian girls because of deeply entrenched cultural taboos. In reality, there are similar problems among minority girls who are abused by the members of their own communities. It should be an opportunity for the leaders stand up and protest the sexual and physical abuse in their midst. Even though there are some policies, they are not implemented everywhere. This problem is not about religion race. It is due to the culture where notions of shame are the result in the blaming the victims rather than perpetrators. Hence, we need a leader in each community who should take the responsibility for the taboos that avert others from identifying perpetrators and support the victims from further abuse.

Key word: Sexual Abuse, Unheard voices, Taboo, Victims.

I. INTRODUCTION

US –based Human Rights Watch says that child victims of sexual abuse are mistreated and humiliated by Police in India. Sexual abuse as per the report is “disturbingly common” in Indian schools, homes and care homes. According to a government study in 2007, in India two out of three children were physically abused, 53% of 12,300 children suffered in one or more forms of sexual abuse as per the survey report. Sex is a taboo subject in India. Sexual abuse is hardly discussed or admitted. Campaigners report that in Indian traditional patriarchal society, often family members are the abusers who include parents, grandparents, uncles and siblings. To avoid scandals, parents and other authorities are reluctant to report abuse and to protect child victims from insensitive police force, invasive medical examinations and judiciary. Today India needs “Zero tolerance approach” to the cases of sexual abuse of children. Yet most of the cases are unreported. More than 7200 children are raped every year, according to some reports of child rights activists.

The story of Ruzwana Bashir

Ruzwana, the Oxford-educated entrepreneur was brought up in a British-Pakistani community. She has shared her own story, the wall of silence about the exploitation of Asian girls. When she read about the awful cases of abuse revealed in Rotherham report. She had faced this problem and wanted to come forward to publicly share her story to encourage others too, and help to tear down the wall of silence which perpetuates further abuse.

She grew up in a small community of a few British- Pakistanis in Skipton, when she was 10 a neighbor started sexually abusing her. She was paralyzed by shame and said nothing. At 18 she was fortunate enough to receive an offer to study at Oxford University. She was fascinated with the exciting new world around her and tried desperately to fit in. She adapted to the new environment. She had cut her hair and replaced traditional Shalwar Kameez with jeans. She socialized and had become the president of the Oxford Union. Then she moved to US to pursue MBA from Harvard Business School. But she knew that the girls of her community didn't have the same opportunities and still her abuser preying on other children. After a decade away from Skipton she finally made up her mind to garner the courage to return and testify against her abuser. She first told her mother about the abuse that how she had suffered and absolutely devastated. She was more eager to bring the perpetrator to justice. Even though she ensured her parents that she could try stopping him from exploiting more children who would be ostracized her mother begged her not to go to the police station. She still lives in such a community who would either blame her for the abuse or label her a liar. Then the police began the investigation another victim named Sohail came forward

and described how he too had been abused almost 20 years. Both Ruzwana and Sohail with their combined testimony, the perpetrator was jailed for eight years.

In the Novel, 'Child's Play' is based on pedophilia and sexually deviant habits. Even though it has a few harrowing scenes there is of no for shock value. It raises some interesting questions such as what would be the root of sexually deviant habits. Whether it is nature or nurture? If it's nature, to what extent could we blame one who practices those habits? The novel also examines the psyche behind female sexuality. (Kia Abdullah 2009)

In the novel, "The Life I Lead" by Keith Banner (1999) narrates a story of David Brewer, who is married to Tara and has an infant daughter Brittany. David is a pedophile who is attracted to young boys over the years and molested them. He uses to escape without being caught. David would always tell the boys that he loves them and blackmails them that if they reveal he would kill himself. In his early life Dave's childhood neighbor Troy Wetzel, Dave is abused and threatened by Troy. When Dave's mother discovers the molestation Wetzel moves away. After that Dave likes a boy Nathan Marcum, who is without adult supervision. One day Dave drives Nathan in a bus out into the country. He abuses the boy. Nathan escapes and runs away. Dave finally is arrested and enters the world of convicted child molester.

The true story of child abuse. (Women's web 2011)

The author had heard this incidence of child sex abuse that happened 25 years back from the school authorities and through reliable sources. She narrated the story. She didn't want to name the characters. Hence child was called as X who was mere a child. X use to play with toys and dolls as usual. In fact, all was well till Uncle N moved into the house next door. Uncle N was a good person, though. He was allowing girls to play in his garden. He wishes to give them chocolates and snacks. X was his favorite among the girls. He would tell her stories from fairy tales, making her sit on his lap. He would call her his Cinderella and ask her to let him be her Prince charming. Aunt T did not like her staying back after her friends left. She would be bent on sending her home sometimes in the middle of a story. When aunt T had to go to attend to her ailing mother. Aunt T however, informed X's mother of her trip and hinted that it was not advisable to let X waste her time listening to stories since her final exams were approaching. But she didn't listen. She used to spend a lot of time with Uncle N. After a few days, when she was promoted to the next class, something seemed very wrong. She felt tired and sick. The class teacher asked her to bring her parents. But it was confusing for her that Uncle N was not the same as before. He didn't allow them to play in the garden. Finally, Principal informed her parents to consult a doctor. Her mother did not know how to react. Wondering how could a little girl of thirteen years be a victim of sexual abuse? Who would be the abuser? Was it medically possible a girl being pregnant before puberty? Her mother was shattered. They had to have an abortion done. The counselor managed to get the story from her in bits and pieces. Uncle N was the culprit. He somehow managed a slip and left the place before he is confronted. But the school was good for the child. She continued to study there till the 12th standard. Parents should always have a watch on their children.

India's code of silence over sexual abuse

Today Indians are discussing on how to make cities safer for women. A verdict from the court that the four men are sentenced to death for gang-raping and murdering a student in Delhi. But people remain silent about the topic 'sexual abuse in the home'. From my memory, I could recollect a story about a girl who had vivid memories of her childhood, but the images of sexual abuse never go away. When she was barely seven years old, living in a large middle class family with five siblings and other relatives sharing a two bedroom flat with a terrace. Her mother, a housewife, always busy with running such a big family. And her father had to do so much just to feed all of them. Being the youngest girl in the family, she was loved by them. And also made her an easy prey for sexual abuse. Cousins and some distant relative kept on visiting the family home. These love sessions would happen only she was alone with one of them. Even though she hated she was too petrified to talk about it. These regular assaults were till she has been around 10 years old. One day she broke down and started howling, sitting on the floor. My parents immediately asked him to leave the family home. He was not punished or reported to the police. Why was he allowed to go Scot free? Was modern family worried about honor? When will our families begin debating the roots and causes of sexual abuse of young girls - and boys - and women?

Investigation on sexual exploitation of Asian and Muslim girls in Britain.

Farhah had been just 12 when her older boyfriend raped her. He took photographs of Farhah, and began to blackmail her to have sex with his friends. This happened continuously, when she was at 13, she was given drugs and alcohol so that many men could force upon her. Even sometimes for money. Sexual exploitation of a child in this case would be an awful news to the society. The impact of the story of Farhah (not her real name) who has a Pakistani background, took place in the UK. Reports of her story and other girls became a ground breaking lid on a major taboo among minorities in the UK. This report exposes that authorities fail to notice the most vulnerable sectors of society, particularly Asian and Muslim girls. The problem may have been identified by the authors. Hence report proves that girls are being sexually exploited. Shaista Gohir opined that this report challenges the child exploitation is a racial crime in which Asian offenders aims white girls and Asian girls not the Muslim girls, according to the report published by the Muslim Women's Network UK (MWNUK).

Unheard Voices

British media reports and official responses of organized groups of Asian male offenders preying on White females has been steered the sexual exploitation of Asian girls and Young Women aged 13 to14 recounts a litany of crimes by pedophiles. Sue Berelowitz is a Britain's Deputy Children's Commissioner who stated that MWNUK report confronted these myths is an extraordinarily courageous and important. According to the report in November 2011, Imaan's father was an offender who uses to abuse her and then her Quran teacher. Aisha at the age of six was sexually abused and then groomed for sex through the internet. Nazia's boyfriend hooked her by heroin and prostituted her. Safa was raped by her uncle at the age of 14 and handed her to his friends. Parveen's stepfather's brother and his friend blackmailed her to have sex with them and their friends when she was 12 years. Hasina was only 10, who was sexually abused by an older boyfriend the made her to have sex with a network of youths. This report highlights that the women turn a blind eye to this crime for bringing shame and dishonor on the family. In an article, the author narrates a story of Jeremy, who is an assistant director of a summer camp. He is 28

years old. Early in his childhood, he used to spend his summer in the same place where he felt a true sense of family after the death of his father. While working in the camp, Jeremy is infatuated with a 14-year-old boy named Max. One day Max confides to him that he has been a victim of sexually abused by the previous camp director. Then Jeremy realizes that how he was very close to commit the same mistake (Michael Lowenthal 2002).

Some of the victims include Imaan, abused from a young age by her father and then her Quran teacher; Aisha, sexually abused at six then later groomed for sex through the internet; Safa, raped by an uncle at the age of 14 then handed around his friends; Nazia, hooked on heroin by her boyfriend then prostituted by him; Hasina, who was 10 when she was sexually abused by an older boy then lured into having sex with a network of youths; Parveen, who was 12 when her stepfather's brother and his friend blackmailed her into having sex with them and their friends.

The report highlights the occasional complicity among other women who turn a blind eye to this crime for fear of bringing shame and dishonor on the family.

Conclusion

The greatest risk of this terrible situation is a shock hearing the tales which dissipates. Then it will be swept under the rug, just like we read the newspapers about the abuse. We cannot let that happen. We need a system with a wide change that approach fighting sexual abuse against children of all backgrounds. It is not only a problem in India or any other country. I believe it's a universal problem. We need to tackle in such a way that one should get frightened to abuse anyone.

In 2015, India's parliament passed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act for the first time ever in the country. It made all forms of child sexual abuse a criminal offense. In this law an abuser will be prosecuted for molestation and non-penetrative sex, including rape. It is one's responsibility to behave like a human being.

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