



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Forensic Psychology: Assessing The Probability Rate Of Rape And Sexual

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ABSTRACT

The use of psychological concepts and techniques to assist in resolving court disputes and influencing public policy is known as forensic psychology. It has to do with the meeting point of law and psychology. Forensic psychologists assist in addressing legal questions by applying their understanding of human behavior, cognition, and emotion. In India, sexual abuse is a serious issue that affects a large percentage of both adults and children. With an emphasis on attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge, this study explores how the Indian population views sexual abuse. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining surveys and qualitative interviews to gather comprehensive data. Approximately one hundred samples, both male and female, of varying ages, were gathered for a survey through prepared questionnaire at the AVS college of arts and science, Salem with their consent. The samples were examined and compared properly according to the respective criteria. This study found that, of the 100 samples taken from various individuals, all the individuals are aware of sexual abuse and have known about the causes of committing sexual abuse and rape. Analyzing the rate of sexual abuse has significant forensic implications in various aspects, including criminal investigations, legal proceedings, victim support, and policy development. It helps law enforcement identify trends, hotspots, and demographic patterns in sexual abuse cases. Assists in predicting potential future crimes and targeting preventive measures.

Keywords: Psychology, Sexual abuse, Rape, Survey, Children, Adults.

INTRODUCTION

The use of scientific concepts, procedures, and methods in crime scene investigations is the focus of forensic science. In order to learn more about criminal activity, evidence such as blood, DNA, semen, hair, fingerprints, and other materials are analyzed. This area contributes significantly to the resolution of legal disputes by offering trustworthy and unbiased evidence. Experts in forensics analyze the physical, chemical, and biological evidence found at crime scenes using sophisticated instruments and techniques. Their efforts serve justice in both criminal and civil cases by identifying suspects and creating timelines. Many consider Edmond Locard to be the founder of contemporary forensic science. He significantly advanced the field of forensic science during the beginning of the 20th century. The main goal of Locard's work was to improve crime scene investigative techniques. Locard's work concentrated on improving crime scene investigation techniques and using scientific concepts to solve crimes. His creation of the "Locard Exchange Principle," which holds that materials are constantly exchanged whenever two objects come into touch, is what made him most famous. This idea transformed the methods of gathering and evaluating evidence and became a pillar of forensic science. Locard's work is an essential aspect of the history of forensics because it established the groundwork for contemporary methods. Science that studies the mind and behavior is called psychology. It covers a range of subjects, such as Mental processes that aid in our comprehension of human behaviour development and how individuals feel, think, and see the world Personality includes distinct thought, emotion, and behaviour tendencies. Mental health tells us how diseases and disorders affect mental health, whereas social interactions explain how people relate to one another.

The wide study of psychology has many subfields and points of view. Clinical psychology, which focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues, is one of psychology's main subfields. Social psychology and developmental psychology study how people change throughout the course of their lives. examines how people are impacted by the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of others. Cognitive psychology examines how people process information and make judgments. Psychologists use a variety of methods, including as surveys, experiments, and observations, to look into these topics. They also use brain imaging technologies to gain a better understanding of how the brain works. Forensic psychology is the application of psychological ideas and methods to the understanding and functioning of the legal and criminal justice systems. This area of psychology serves as a link between psychology and law. Using their expertise, forensic psychologists assess individuals' mental health, provide expert testimony in court, research various psychology-law topics, and assist in the development of legal laws and regulations. Criminal psychology, which entails analyzing criminal activities, defining criminal profiles, and estimating the possibility of violence, is one of the many specializations that forensic psychologists commonly hold. Legal psychology is the study of issues related to jury selection, eyewitness testimony, and the impact of psychological factors on legal judgment. Forensic psychology is a subfield of psychology. This area of psychology serves as a link between psychology and law.. Using their expertise, forensic psychologists assess individuals' mental health, provide expert testimony in court, research various psychology- law topics, and assist in the development of legal laws and regulations. Criminal psychology, which entails analyzing criminal activities,

defining criminal profiles, and estimating the possibility of violence, is one of the many specializations that forensic psychologists commonly hold.

The study of jury selection, eyewitness testimony, and the influence of psychological variables on legal judgement is known as legal psychology. "A branch of psychology known as "forensic psychology" applies psychological theories, concepts, and practices to the legal and criminal justice systems.. Criminal profiling entails assisting law enforcement in using behavioral evidence to identify characteristics of offenders. Assessing a person's mental capacity to stand trial or make decisions is known as competency evaluation. Professional Testimonies, providing psychological analysis in court, often as an expert witness on issues such as criminal behavior, trauma, or mental health. Evaluation of Risk assessing a person's threat level or estimating the probability that they will commit crimes again. Handling of Criminals, providing rehabilitation or therapy to people who are incarcerated or have come into contact with the judicial system. Selection of the Jury, advising lawyers on jury selection psychological techniques. Research entails Working in a range of environments, such as courts, prisons, law enforcement organizations, and private practice, forensic psychologists examine topics such as criminal conduct, eyewitness testimony, or the consequences of legal regulations. They often serve as a link between legal procedures and psychological knowledge, guaranteeing justice and equitable treatment for all.

It is never simple to answer the question of where to begin when narrating the history of psychology. Others might draw a line in the late 19th century with the formal proposal and formation of psychology as a discipline, while others would start with ancient Greece. Both of these perspectives, as well as all points in between, can be used to define the history of psychology. Students who are interested can easily access a wealth of information on each of these eras and points of view (Goodwin, 2011; Leahey, 2012; Schultz & Schultz, 2007). For the purposes of this topic, we will start our analysis of the development of psychology in America in the middle of the 19th century.

The American mindset has always been one of progress and expansion. In the latter part of the 20th century, fields including social psychology, developmental psychology, and personality psychology made tremendous strides in our understanding of what it means to be human. These days, neuroscience is growing and receiving a lot of attention. As stated at the start of the module, it is challenging to cover the whole history of psychology in such a short period of time. Every study module in the Noba psychology series expands on the foundation set by our shared past. It is anticipated that you will be able to identify these connections and have a deeper understanding and admiration of psychology's unity and diversity.

In order to support legal decisions, forensic psychologists assess people's mental health, cognitive abilities, and behavioral patterns. This is known as evaluation and assessment. Forensic psychologists would also provide objective, fact-based evaluations of psychological issues relevant to the case as part of expert testimony. Forensic psychologists consult with judges, attorneys, and other legal professionals to provide guidance on the psychological aspects of cases. Forensic psychologists work with courts, law enforcement, and correctional facilities to assess and treat criminals. A violent crime, rape entails non-consensual sexual contact or penetration,

usually via the use of force, compulsion, or abuse of authority. Rape is defined under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Section 376 of the IPC outlines the punishment for rape and specifies several sanctions according to the seriousness and specifics of the offense. The Latin verb "rapere" (meaning "to snatch, to grab, to carry off") is where the word "rape" comes from. According to Roman law, "raptus" refers to the forcible removal of a woman, whether or not sexual relations are involved. In medieval English law, the word "sexual violation" might be used to describe either rape or kidnapping.

Three essential components make up the legal definition of rape: non-consensual sexual contact, the use of force or compulsion, and the abuse of authority. Most countries define rape as sexual contact or other sexual penetration when a perpetrator engages in sexual activity with a victim without the victim's permission. Governmental health agencies, law enforcement, medical professionals, and the legal profession all have different definitions of what constitutes rape. Rape can take many forms, including statutory rape, acquaintance rape, date rape, marital rape, and stranger rape. Rape by an unknown individual is referred to as stranger rape. Rape perpetrated by a person the victim knows, such as a friend, relative, or romantic partner, is referred to as acquaintance rape. Date rape is defined as rape perpetrated by a person the victim is romantically involved with or dating. Marital rape is defined as rape that takes place within a marriage or intimate relationship and is perpetrated by a spouse or partner. Statutory rape, on the other hand, is defined as rape against a minor, even if the juvenile gives consent for the sexual activity.

How often the crime is in a certain community or area is known as the prevalence of rape. It is difficult to determine the prevalence because of shame, underreporting, and varying legal and cultural definitions of rape. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one in three women worldwide may at some point in their lives be the victim of physical or sexual assault, with rape accounting for a sizable fraction of these incidents. Although men and boys are also impacted, particularly in specific settings like prisons or times of conflict, women and girls are the most frequently raped. Detailed crime statistics give some indication of prevalence in many wealthy countries. According to the United States' rape case statistics, approximately 376,038 women and 104,979 men were raped or sexually assaulted in 2023. The United States had 38 forcible rapes for per 100,000 individuals in 2023. Compared to 1990, when the rate was 41.2 per 100,000, this represents a minor decline.

Although it is on the decline, Australia's recorded rape rate per 100,000 is still extremely high, having dropped from 91.6 in 2003 to 28.6 in 2010. An estimated 51,200 (0.3%) Australians who were 18 years of age or older experienced sexual **assault in 2011–12**. Nearly one-third (30%) of sexual assault victims reported their most recent experience to the police. The US Department of State reports that 31,833 rape incidents occurred in China in 2007. Twelve percent of women in Europe have been the victims of rape or attempted rape. 18.3% of women in North America have been the victims of rape or attempted rape. In South Africa, 45% of women report having been the victim of sexual violence, including rape.

The National Crime Record Bureau reports that 31,677 rapes—or around 87 rapes every day—were reported in India in 2020. In 2020, there were 5.7 recorded rapes for every 100,000 people in India. In 2020, India's rape

conviction rate was approximately 27.2%. In 2020, minors, or those under the age of 18, accounted for 43.4% of all reported rape victims. In Delhi, 94.9% of rape incidents that were reported included a perpetrator the victim knew. In India, rape is frequently underreported because of things like embarrassment, fear, and a lack of faith in the government. It might be difficult to identify trends and patterns in India's rape data because of its variable completeness and accuracy.

Rape can have a serious and enduring effect on a person, impacting many facets of their life. The effects of rape can be classified as either psychological or physical. Vaginal or genital bleeding or infection, hypoactive sexual drive disorder, vaginal inflammation, dyspareunia, a painful sexual experience, chronic pelvic pain, urinary tract infections, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS are among the frequent physical effects of rape. Rape-related pregnancy is a delicate and complicated topic. Pregnancy occurs in 1% to 5% of rapes. Every year, about 32,000 pregnancies in the US are the result of rape. The survivor's possible unwillingness to seek prenatal treatment may increase the health concerns associated with rape pregnancies. The first few days following an assault are the most psychologically taxing for the majority of rape survivors. Many survivors, though, can suffer from chronic psychological damage. Rape frequently has the following psychological effects: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which manifests as anxiety, nightmares, and flashbacks, can strike rape survivors. Rape survivors frequently experience depression, despair, and hopelessness. Long after the attack, people may continue to experience fear, worry, and hypervigilance. Survivors could have feelings of guilt, shame, or responsibility for the attack. Rape can result in low self-esteem, self-blame, and a negative self-image.

METHODOLOGY

1. SAMPLE SIZE:

The Sample has been collected by using questionnaire using google forms filled from 100 peoples in Salem, Tamil Nadu, India.

2. SAMPLE COLLECTION:

The sample is collected from different areas of Salem, Tamil Nadu. 91.3% of 18-25 years old and 8.7% of 25 – 30 years old people are being participated in this survey. A proper informed consent is been obtained from the people and their data are kept confidential. The time required to fill those google forms is approximately 5- 10 minutes. The samples collected from 18–25-year-old people are from AVS college of arts and science, Salem, Tamil Nadu.

3. DURATION:

The survey has been conducted for a span of 10 days.

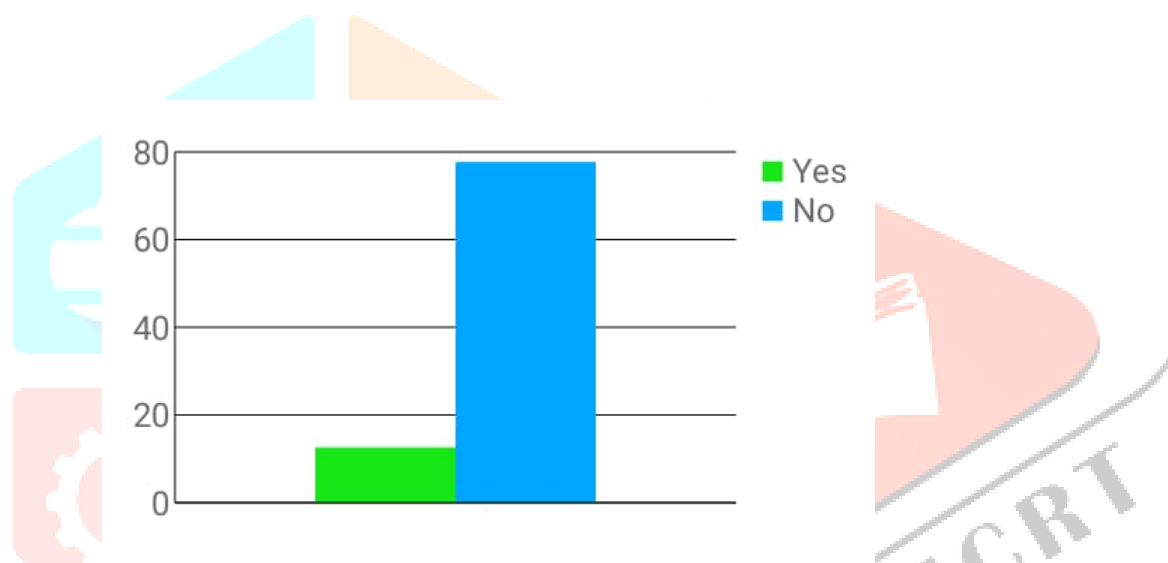
4. METHOD USED:

The analysis has been done using Excel software.

RESULT:

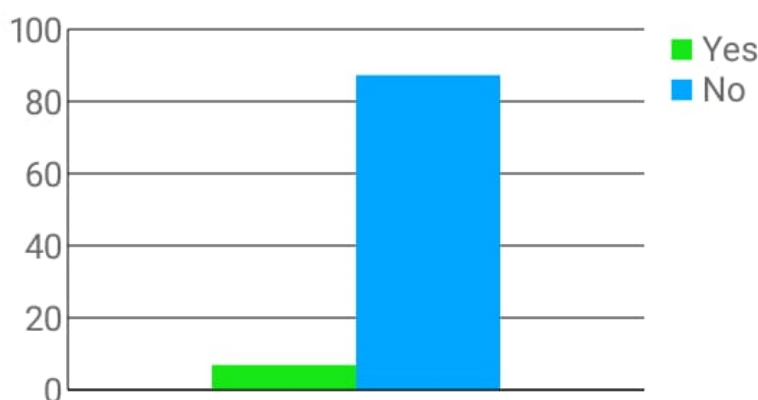
The survey's foundation was the critical role that forensic psychology plays in determining the prevalence of rape and sexual abuse. People's opinions about sexual abuse cases and the factors that lead those offenders to commit such crimes were gathered and analyzed through my survey. Participants of all ages were asked about their experiences with sexual abuse. Approximately 91.3% of respondents were in the 18–25 age group, while 8.7% were in the 25–30 age group. Approximately 100 samples were collected and examined.

1. People who have experienced sexual abuse are among the samples that are being examined using my survey.



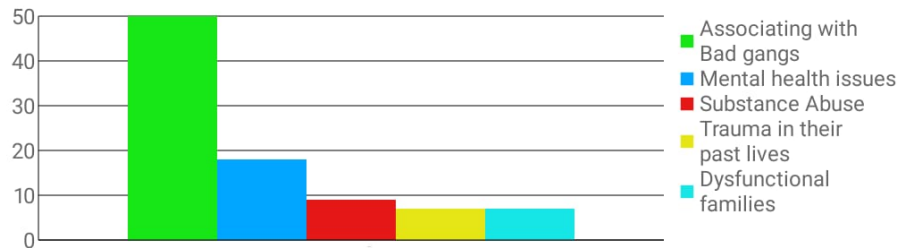
(fig:1 Graph depicting the people who are suffered from sexual abuse)

2. People who are threatened with sexual abuse on social media are among the samples that are being examined by my survey.



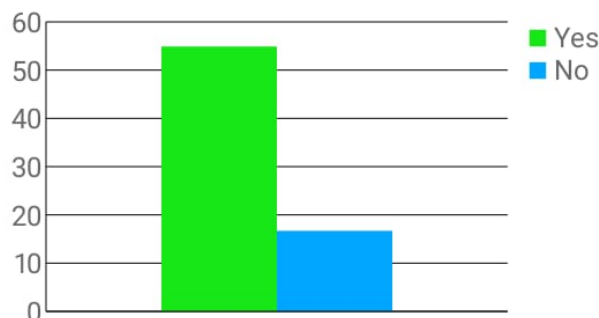
(fig:2 Graph depicting the people who are threatened sexual abuse through social media)

3. Among the samples collected, the factor which played an important role in committing sexual abuse are being collected through my survey.



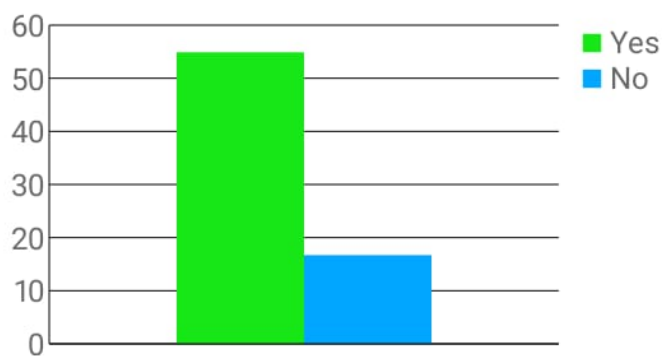
(fig:3 Graph depicting the factors of committing sexual abuse)

4. With reference to the factor of watching porn videos that makes those criminals to commit sexual abuse. The people perception towards it are being collected through my survey.



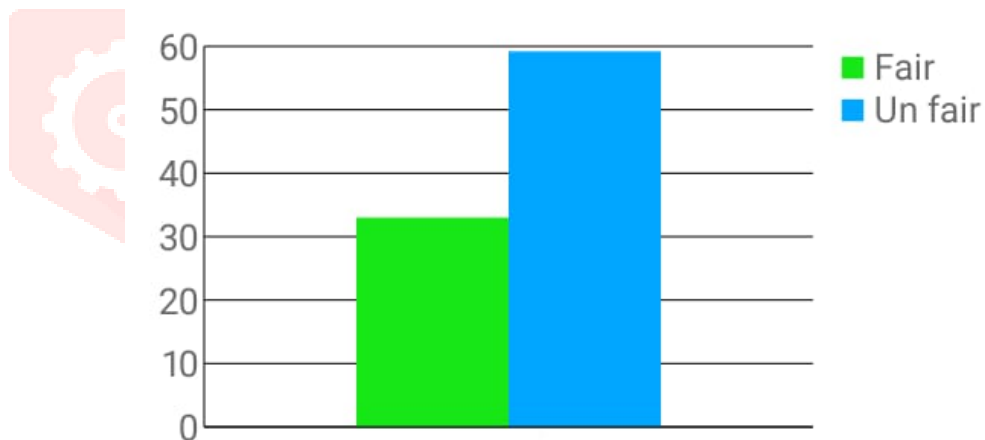
(Fig: 4 Graph depicting watching porn videos makes them to commit crime)

5. With reference to survey, people are more aware of sexual abuse



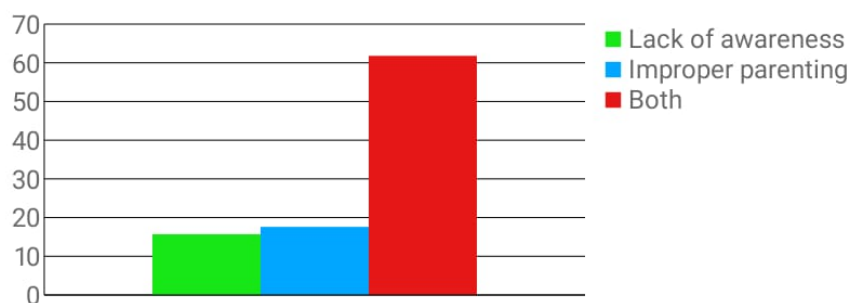
(Fig:5 Graph depicting people are more of sexual abuse)

6. With reference to the survey, Maximum people's perception is that the punishment given by the Indian law to the sexual abuse is unfair



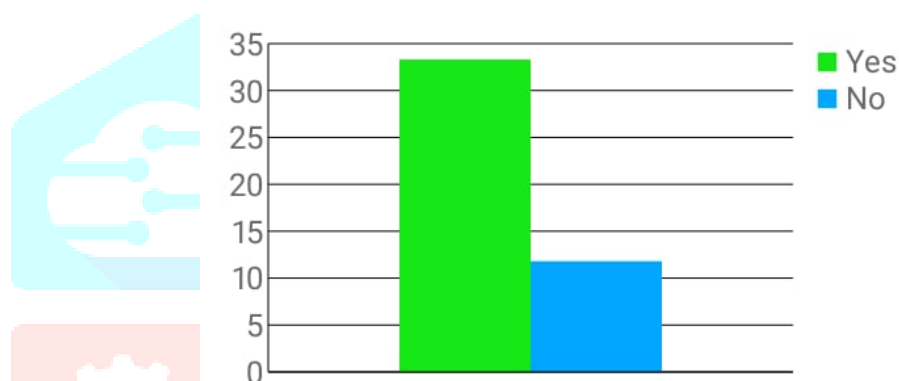
(Fig:6 Graph depicting people's perception of Indian law 's punishment to the sexual abusers)

7. With reference to the survey, the factor of committing sexual abuse in children is being analysed



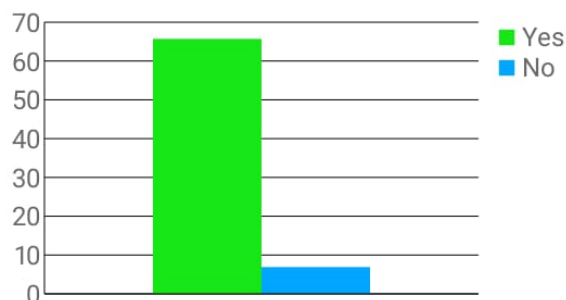
(Fig:7 Graph depicting the factors of committing sexual abuse in children)

8. Concerning about the mental health issues factors of sexual abusers are being analysed



(Fig:8 Graph depicting about the factor of mental health)

9. Concerning about the substance abuse factor which makes the criminals to commit sexual abuse



(Fig:9 Graph depicting about the factor of substance abuse)

DISCUSSION:

With concerning rates of child sexual abuse documented in recent years, sexual abuse is still a major worry in India. A 2023 report found that the amount of child sexual abuse content on social media in India has increased by 250–300%. Approximately 12.6% of people have experienced sexual abuse in their lives, while 77.7% have not. According to my survey, conducted using Google forms, 50% of respondents believe that being a member of a bad gang causes people to commit sexual abuse, and 18% believe that a criminal's mental health issues cause them to commit sexual abuse. It is evident that 54.9% of respondents believe that watching porn videos causes those criminals to commit rape and sexual abuse. About 61.8% of respondents believe that inadequate parenting and ignorance are major factors in child sexual abuse, while 33.8% believe that criminals' mental health issues lead them to commit sexual abuse, and 65.7% believe that drug or substance abuse leads those criminals to commit sexual abuse. 70.9% of individuals are aware of sexual abuse and the implications of the victim's lives. 59.2% of the people claims that the punishment offered by the Indian legislation to the sexual abusers and rapists are unfair and 33% of the people thinks that it is fair. The report emphasizes the importance of raising awareness and educating people about the many variables that contribute to sexual abuse. Addressing mental health concerns should be a top priority since they should be seen as a major contributing factor to sexual abuse. More research should be done on the possible behavioral effects of substance addiction and pornography. The idea that sexual abuse punishment is unjust raises the possibility that laws need to be reviewed and updated to make sure they are successful in stopping and dealing with sexual abuse.

CONCLUSION:

The survey's findings point to a big chance for sexual abuse education and awareness, which can help people comprehend this complicated problem. We can endeavor to create a society that is safer and more helpful by dispelling myths and encouraging a more sophisticated understanding of the elements that contribute to sexual assault. Positive change can be sparked by the survey's findings that there is a great demand for appropriate laws and penalties for sexual abuse. All things considered, the survey's findings provide a positive outlook on the possibility of development, consciousness, and advancement in the fight against sexual abuse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, thanks to almighty God for complete our work smoothly. And thanks to my dear faculties for helping us and thanking so much to all my co-authors for cooperate with me and support to complete this research work.

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