Trends in Child Sexual Abuse Media Reports over Five Years

Sahil Statistics 2002 - 2006

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Preface

Wrong and improper use of power or authority or to treat someone in a harmful, injurious, or offensive way is called abuse.

The four major types of abuse are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.

Sexual Abuse of children has been defined as inappropriate sexual contact by an adult with a child, where the abused child is used as an object of sexual gratification.

The following actions constitute sexual abuse:

- Touching (in a way that feels uncomfortable)
- Fondling
- Kissing (in a way that feels uncomfortable)
- Voyeurism
- Exhibition
- Pornography
- Prostitution
- Verbal sexual abuse
- Frottage
- Oral sex
- Rape/Sodomy

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children can be defined as a paid sexual activity or any other consideration through the power or influence by any adult, syndicate or group. The profit may go either to the victim, his/her family, or to any third party involved in the transaction.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), both forms of sexual abuse, are a world wide phenomena.

According to the Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development, 53% of the surveyed children reported one or more forms of sexual abuse. Abuse of children, particularly sexual abuse, is rarely admitted in India[1]

[1] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6539027.stm

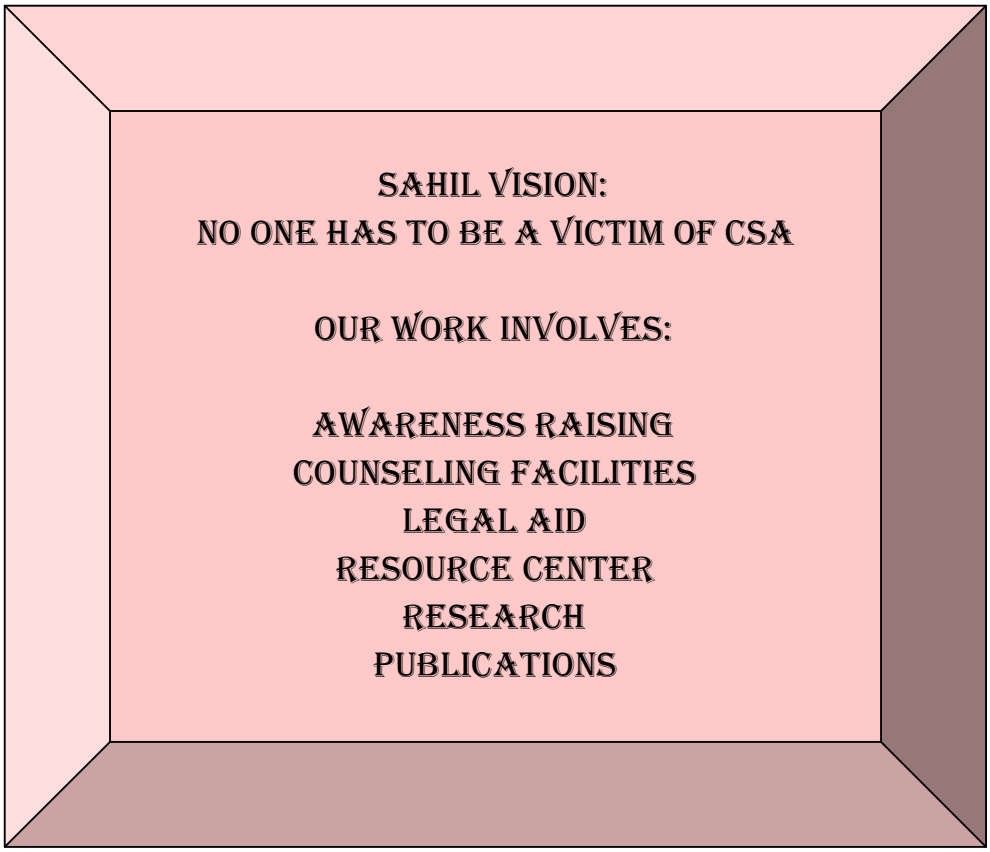
In South Africa, the police reported more than 22,000 cases of child rape in 2005. [2]

In England and Wales, 13,300 cases of rape of women and girls in the most recent 12-month period of 2006.

In Saudi Arabia 217 cases of children who were physically or sexually abused have been reported since 2002 in the western region of the Kingdom alone. [3]

In Pakistan, the issue of Child Sexual Abuse is reported nation wide. In the year 2006, a total number of 2447 cases of child sexual abuse cases have been reported.

This report is a situational analysis of the trend of CSA in Pakistan over five years.



[2] www.unicef.org
[3] www.childwelfare.gov

Introduction

Sahil is the only the organization in the Pakistan exclusively working against child sexual abuse (CSA). Established in 1996, Sahil developed a monitoring system of cases reported in newspapers, so as to be able to have a database for developing intervention strategies.

Sahil's vision statement is "No one has to be a victim of CSA".
Its programs include, awareness raising through mass media, teacher training, research and publications.

Services provided are free legal aid and free counseling for victims of CSA.
Sahil services extend to all four provinces of Pakistan.

This report is based on CSA cases reported in newspapers from the year 2002-2006. Sahil monitored 17 newspapers in 2002, whereas 27 dailies were being monitored in 2003-2005. In the year 2006, a total of 53 local, regional and national dailies are monitored.

This report also includes data received by the organizations who are dealing directly with children. These cases are not reported in the newspapers. The data shows all the other forms of sexual abuse that have been experienced by the children which are not reported in the newspapers.

Newspapers mainly report cases of rape, sodomy, abduction and some cases of molestation (As an attempt of rape/sodomy) and child prostitution.

The purpose of this report is to equip general public and the policy makers on the facts of CSA in Pakistan. Although this report is not the complete picture of CSA cases, it reflects on and provides an estimation of the situation in our country over the last five years.

We hope that this report may contribute to the knowledge of all citizens and especially those stakeholders concerned with child protection issues.

SAHIL REFERRAL UNITS

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD
ABBOTABAD
SUKKUR
JAFFARABAD
SWAT

Data Analysis

Total Number of Cases

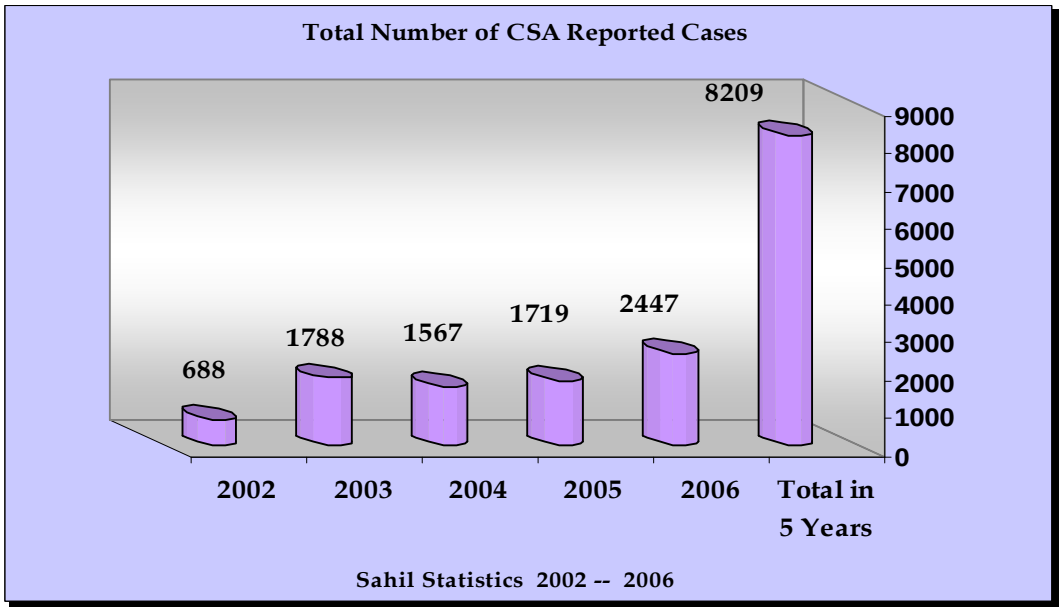
The reported cases of CSA monitored by Sahil from 2002 to 2006 shows that sexual crimes against children have continued to rise. Over the five years, more than a 50% increase can be seen in reported cases in newspapers.

The reasons of this increase may be reflective of the increase in the number of newspapers monitored, i.e. 17 newspapers in 2002 to 53 newspapers in 2006.

It could also be a commitment of responsible journalism to report such cases.

It may show that awareness of the issue of CSA as a crime has encouraged people to report.

Graph # 1



Over the years, excluding abduction cases, the figure of sexually abused children has been recorded at 1.2 children per day in 2002 and 4 children per day in 2006.

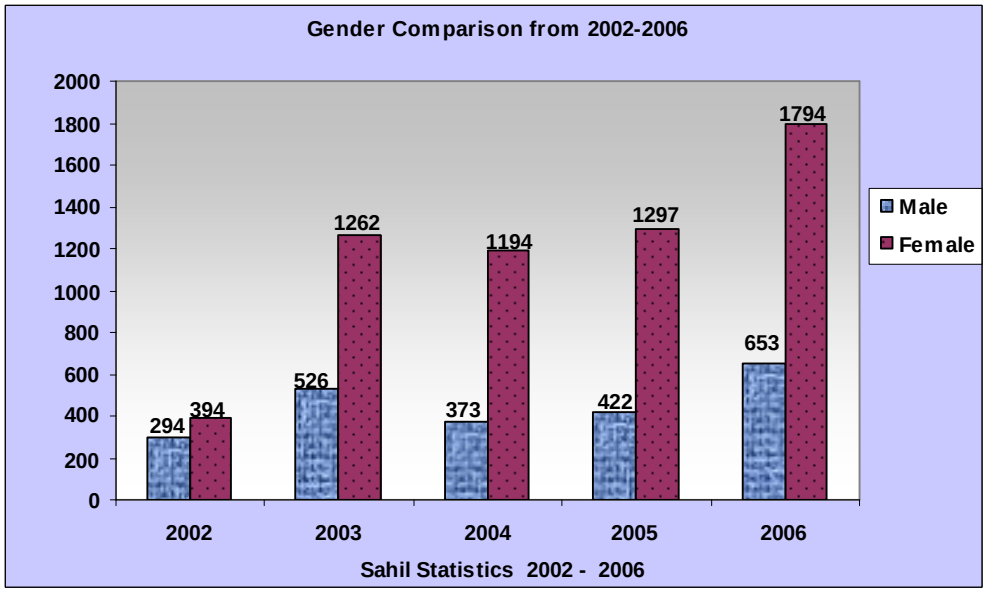
It has been observed that abduction of children usually implies sexual abuse. If abduction cases are included, then the number of sexually abused children increases from 1.88 children per day in the year 2002, to 6.7 children per day in the year 2006.

Gender Comparison

The gender trends of sexual abuse against children remain much the same over the last 5 years.

A comparison of the differences in gender over the years shows that out of a total of 8209 cases, the maximum percentage of sexual abuse of boys is recorded at 26 % (2268) whereas it is 74%(5941) for girls.

Graph # 2



Some of the causes that contribute to the greater victimization of girls may be:
Girls are seen as sex objects.
The family honor lies in the female gender.
It may be an act of revenge.
Girls are more easily accessible within homes where the majority of abuse occurs.
Girls are also more vulnerable as they may be more naïve about potentially dangerous situations.

It may be noted here that there is a significant continuous decrease over the years in the reported cases of sexual abuse of boys.

Percentage of Gender Divide (Table #1)

Year	Girls	Boys
2002	57%	43%
2003	70%	30%
2004	76%	24%
2005	75%	25%
2006	73%	27%

Sahil Statistics 2002 – 2006

According to the organizations, who are dealing directly with children, cases of boys are almost at par with girls.[4]

A major concern here is to understand why fewer cases of boys are being reported in the newspapers.

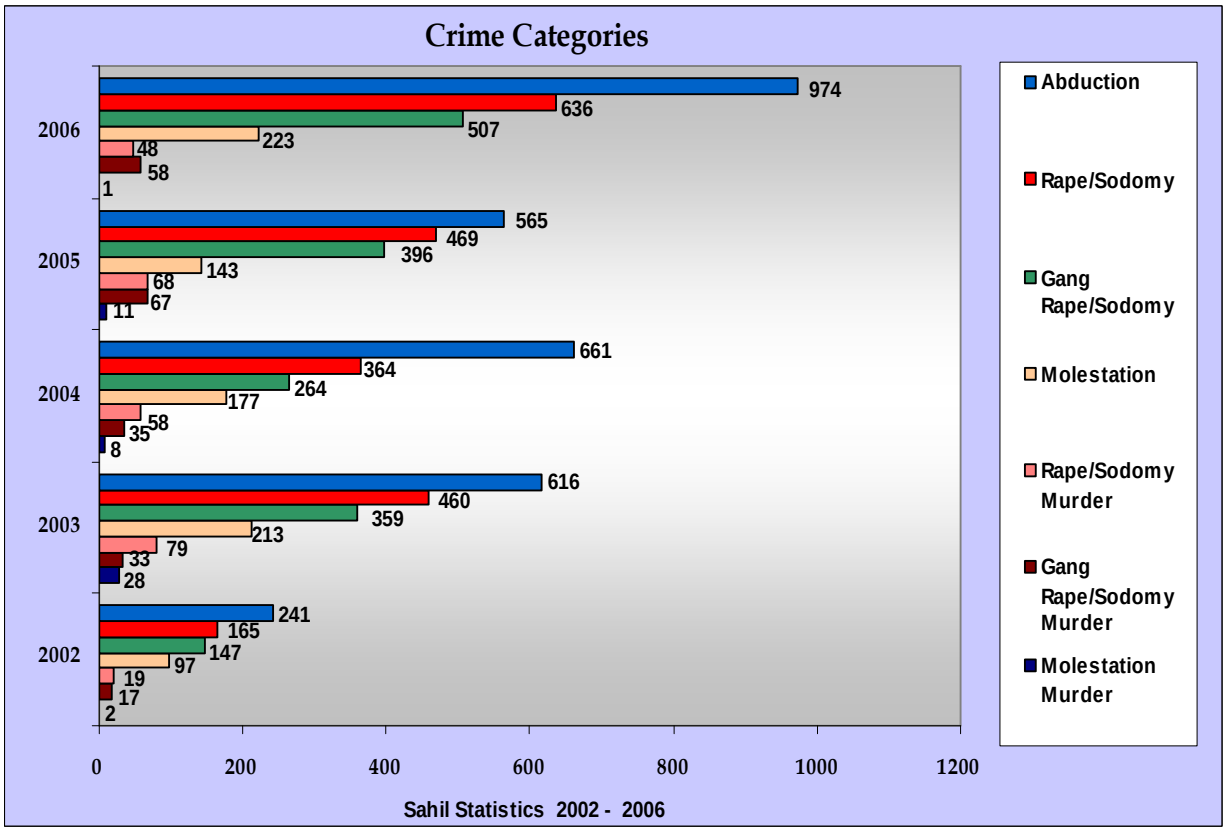
The possible reasons could be:
Boys may accept abuse as sexual experimentation.
They may think that it is not masculine to publicly admit to CSA.
There is a cultural acceptance of sexual abuse of boys.

[4] Organizational Data is given on page 25 ***

Crime Categories

Apart from molestation, which is the record of attempted rape or sodomy, all crime categories have shown an increase over the years. The reason of fewer cases reported of molestation may lie in the fact that it is difficult to prove.

Graph#3



Abduction consistently shows the highest numbers of crimes against children.

CHILDREN ARE MORE VULNERABLE IF PARENTS ARE VERY CRITICAL OF THEIR CHILD.

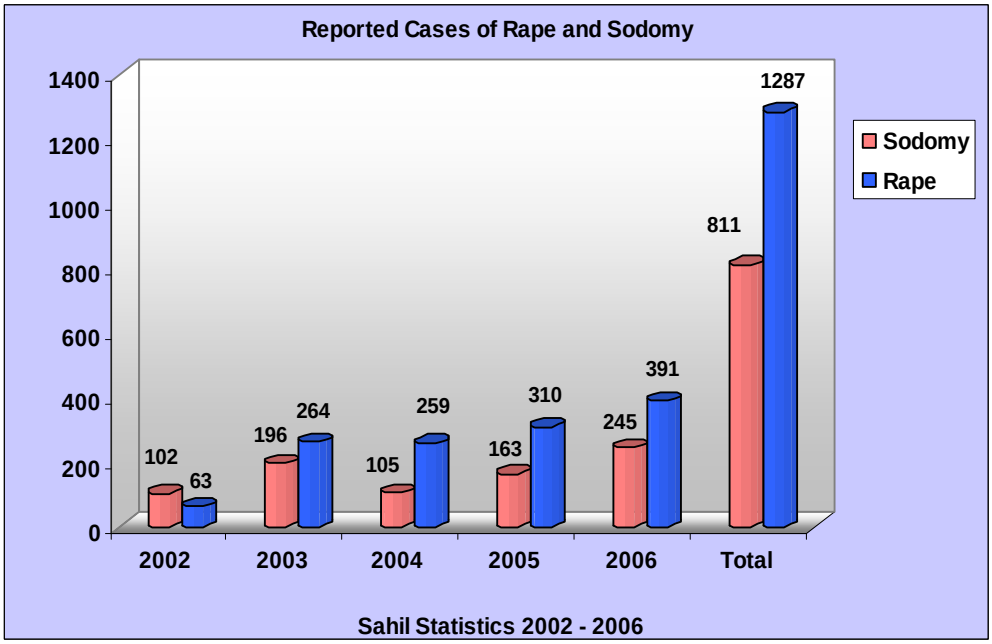
Rape/Sodomy Cases

After abduction, the second most consistent increase in crimes is in rape/sodomy, cases which are a total of 2089 cases in five years.

Rape cases are 61 % whereas sodomy cases are 39 % of the total number.

Once again girls are the major target.

Graph # 4



Case Study 1

The victim aged about 10 years, was a student of a Madrassa. The mother of the victim called the Madrassa to ask about the child. She was told that the child has left for home. She said that he hasn't reached yet. She got worried and starting searching for him .In the evening she found him at a near by stream in a terrible condition. Upon the inquiry by the mother, he told that he had been sexually abused by their neighbor.

The mother of the victim contacted SAHIL office. She brought a copy of FIR and the Medical Report .The accused had still not been arrested.

Sahil corresponded with the police officials to arrest the accused as the accused party was threatening the victim party of dire consequences.

Police took action and arrested the accused .The bail application was pursued by Sahil. Bail was not granted to the accused.

The victim party started receiving threats from seven other persons who were supporting the accused. Another FIR was registered against the 7 accused. Out of these seven, three were bailed out and four accused were kept in police custody.

The victim party continued to receive threats.Sahil sent a letter to I.G Punjab for the protection of the victim party on the behalf of complainant.

Then the accused party also moved an application to the police stating that the victim party is threatening them.

On the request of the complainant an application was submitted to S.P Saddar Rawalpindi on behalf of the victim, stating that there is a malafide intention lying behind the moved application.

Sahil contacted the relevant police officials requesting them to stop the accused from harassing the victim party. The investigating officer assured that victim party that they will not be called for any inquiry on any application moved by the accused party.

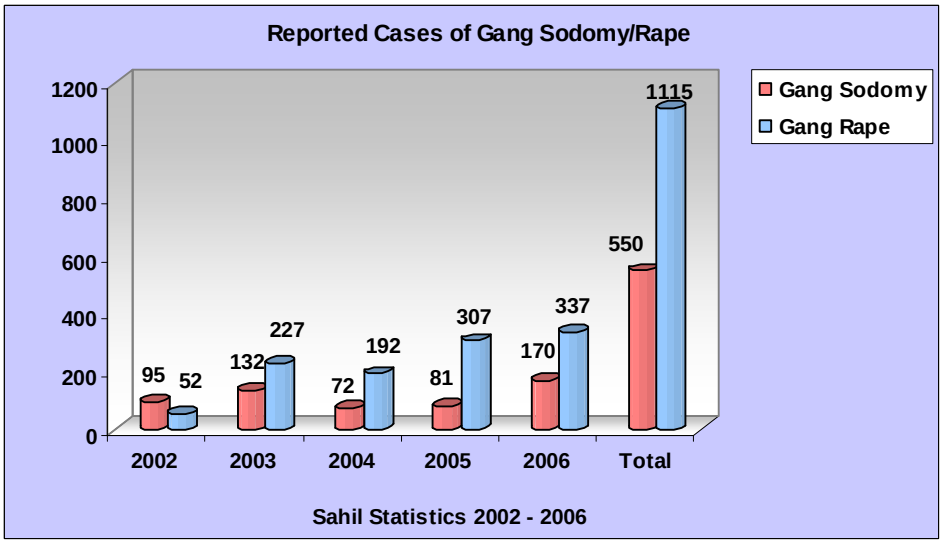
The trial started after the submission of challan. Within one year of the trial, the accused was awarded rigorous imprisonment for 10 years and 20,000 rupees fine.

The victim and his parents availed Sahil counseling facilities.

Gang Rape/Sodomy Cases

The third highest number of reported cases is of gang rape/ sodomy. There has been consistent rise in the number of these cases.

Graph # 5



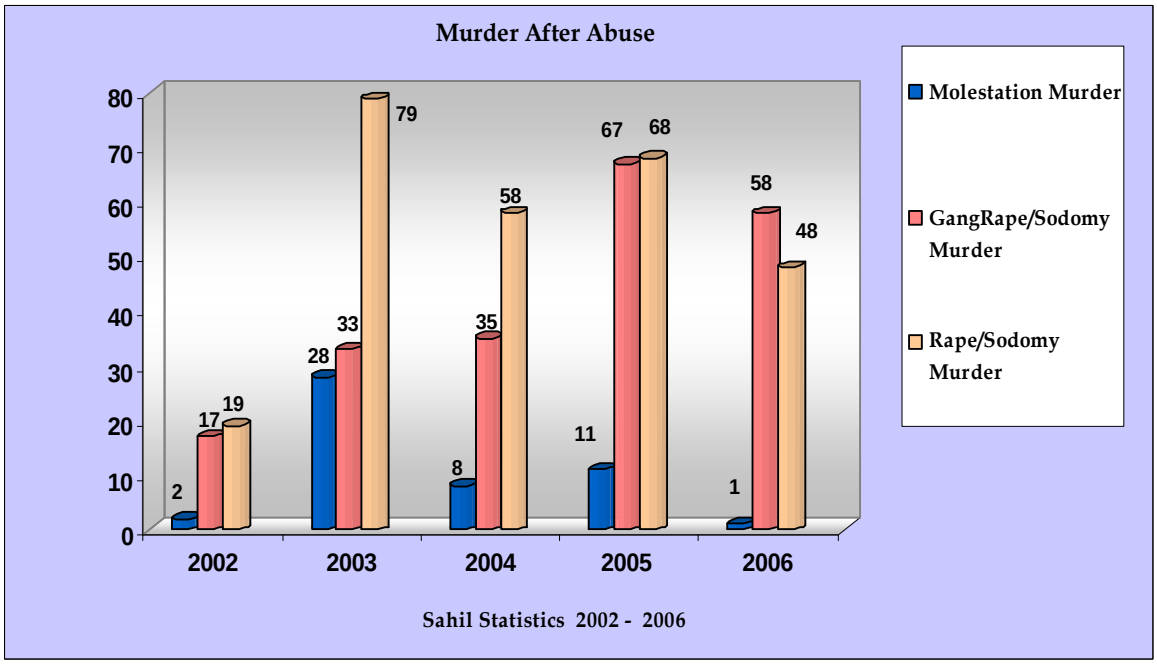
Out of a total of 1665 gang rape and sodomy cases, 67 % girls and 33 % boys have been victims over this five years period.

Murder after Abuse

Murder after rape /sodomy, and gang rape / sodomy, shows an upward trend.

Murder after molestation is the only form of crime that has seen a decrease after the year 2003.

Graph # 6



These are often crimes of revenge or to settle disputes as it is considered a way of dishonoring families.

Abusers have also stated that they murdered the victim to prevent identification.

Case Study 2

A case was reported of a 6 year old girl raped and murdered by a 17 year old cousin. The father of the victim was a very poor and illiterate person and the mother of the victim was blind.
The parents of the victim were sleeping when the accused kidnapped the child and raped her. She started crying. On the hue and cry of the child, the father woke up, and saw the accused fleeing from the scene .He found his daughter murdered. .

The father registered an FIR against the accused and the dead body of the victim was sent for a post mortem.

Sahil contacted the victim party after identifying the case through the monitoring of newspaper reporting. Free legal aid and counseling for the family was offered.

A week later, the father of the victim contacted Sahil and requested for free legal aid and counseling services. Sahil team visited the complainant's home.

Vakalatnama was signed by the father of the victim for the perusal of the case.

Through out the trial, the father of the victim was being pressurized by the accused party to make a compromise.

The complainant was not receiving the summons to appear in the court due to a delay in the submission of the challan.

Sahil corresponded with the police officials requesting them to expedite the case. Summons were served on the complainant for evidence.

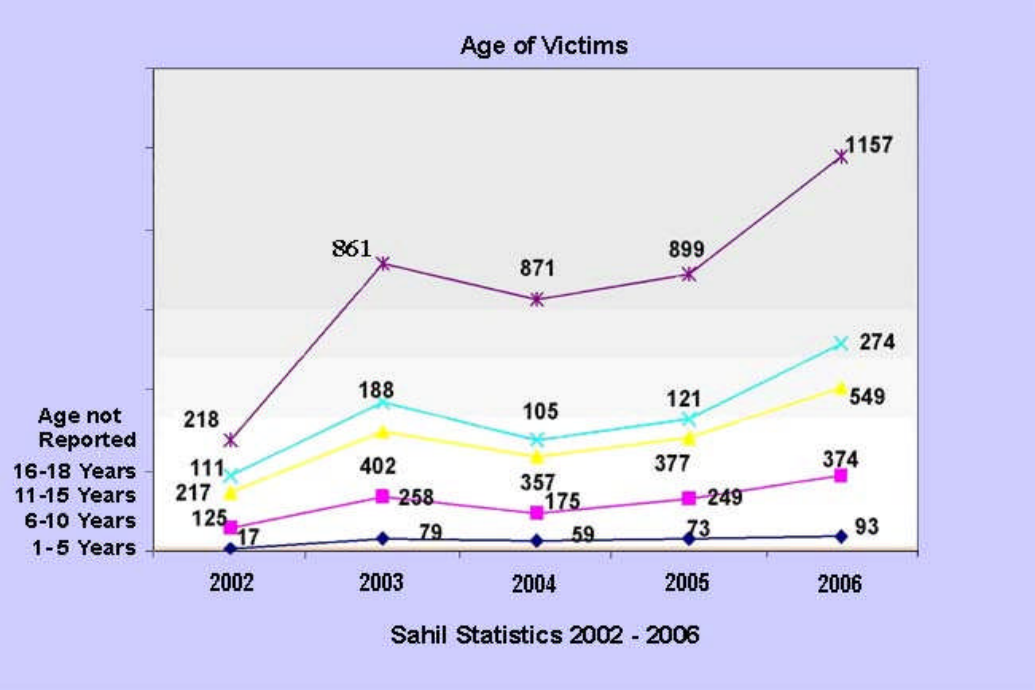
The whole trial was completed in eleven months. The judgment awarded 25 years imprisonment for raping the victim and 25 years imprisonment for the murder.

OUR WORK AIMS TO PROTECT THE INNOCENCE OF CHILDREN BY PROVIDING AN AMBIANCE FREE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE.

Age of Victims

The age of victims is often not reported, but an increase of cases in each age group can be seen.

Graph # 7



Children between the ages of 11 years to 15 years remain the most targeted.

This age group is vulnerable because:

All children at this age of puberty have to deal with changing physical and sexual needs.

Lack of information and the taboo on the subject can lead them to seek other willing adults.

They may also be looking for reaffirmation of their self worth at this adolescent age.

Age of Victims (Table # 2)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1-5 Years	17	79	59	73	93
6-10 Years	125	258	175	249	374
11-15 Years	217	402	357	377	549
16-18 Years	111	188	105	121	274
Age not Reported	218	861	871	899	1157
Total	688	1788	1567	1719	2447
	Grand Total	8290			

Sahil Statistics 2002 - 2006

The second most vulnerable age group is of children between the ages of 6 to 10 years.

The reasons for their vulnerability may be that children are expected to take on a number of adult activities and may therefore be exposed to a variety of situations that make them more accessible.

A lack of parental interaction and understanding may also lead children to accept affection and favors from others, an approach often used by abusers.

سنجاوی: شراب کے نشے میں دھت درندہ صفت نوجوان کی بہن کیساتھ زیادتی

ملزم دومرتبہ پہلے بھی اپنی ہوس کا نشانہ بنا چکا ہے پولیس نے گرفتار کرلیا عوامی وسماجی حلقوں کا واقعہ پر اظہار افسوس

سنجاوی (نامہ نگار) شراب کے نشے میں دھت درندہ صفت نوجوان نے اپنی 11 سالہ بہن سے منہ کالا کرلیا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق سنجاوی سے ایک کلومیٹر دور کلی پاسرہ کے رہائشی افغان مہاجر نذر محمد ولد یار خان نے اپنی 11 سالہ بہن (ز) کو جان سے مارڈالنے کی دھمکی دی اور اسے اپنی ہوس کا نشانہ بنایا اسی اثناء میں اس کا چھوٹا بھائی محمد اکبر موقع پر پہنچ گیا جس پر ملزم بھاگ گیا۔ 11 سالہ بچی نے بتایا کہ دومرتبہ پہلے بھی بھائی نے اس کے ساتھ زیادتی کی لیکن اس نے خوف کی بناء پر کسی کو نہیں بتایا۔ پولیس نے ملزم کو گرفتار کر کے اس کا طبی معائنہ کرایا مزید تفتیش جاری ہے علاقے کے عوامی وسماجی حلقوں نے واقعہ پر سخت غم و غصے کا اظہار کیا ہے اور اپیل کی ہے کہ علاقے میں منشیات فروش کے اڈوں کو ختم کیا جائے تاکہ نوجوان نسل بے راہ روی سے بچ سکے اور آئندہ ایسے واقعات کا تدارک ہو سکے۔

Abuser Category

The following table shows the three main categories of abusers.

Abuser Categories that have been recorded from 2002 – 2006 (Table # 3)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Acquaintance	539	2338	1961	1336	3357	9531
Male Strangers	116	490	568	324	764	2262
Female Abettors	5	132	199	123	351	810

Sahil Statistics 2002 – 2006

Acquaintances continue to be the largest group of abusers throughout the years.

The second largest category of abusers is male strangers. These abusers are clearly defined as unknown to the victim. This category also includes those people who are involved with the main accused in gang rapes / sodomy and abductions.

The third category of female abettors shows a phenomenal increase over this five year period. Newspapers reports identified only five female abettors in 2002 whereas in the year 2006 this number has risen to 351 female abettors.
In reported cases, female abettors are further identified as relatives, neighbors, or friends.

This increase needs to be further researched to understand the dynamics that have caused this change as women are traditionally seen as protectors rather than abusers.

We are striving to sensitize adults so they can work like an ozone layer for the children.

Abuser Categories that have been recorded from 2002 – 2006 (Table # 4)

Immediate Family	**17**	**36**	**48**	**39**	**58**	**198**
Police	**8**	**31**	**31**	**47**	**45**	**162**
Maulvi	**2**	**45**	**25**	**17**	**28**	**117**
Teacher	**3**	**14**	**44**	**8**	**32**	**101**

Sahil Statistics 2002 - 2006

Four other categories of abusers have also been identified during the five year period.

The steady increase in the identification of incest cases shows courage on the part of the victim and the non abusive family members in registering these cases.

The remaining three categories of police, maulvi and teachers may be less reported as they are powerful figures of the society.

Precise and detailed reporting has lead to the identification of 15 new categories of abusers in the year of 2005 and 2006.

Two new categories of abusers were identified in 2005, i.e. neighbors and relatives. Whereas, 13 new categories of abusers have been identified for the first time in 2006.

ABUSERS HAVE AUTHORITY AND POWER OVER THE CHILDREN.
THEY ARE OFTEN YOUR TRUSTWORTHY PERSONS.

New Abuser categories identified in 2005 – 2006 (Table # 5)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Neighbor	0	0	0	55	118	173
Relative	0	0	0	40	131	171
Robber	0	0	0	0	18	18
Roommate/Friend	0	0	0	0	13	13
Landlord	0	0	0	0	7	7
Shopkeeper	0	0	0	0	7	7
Doctor	0	0	0	0	4	4
Guard	0	0	0	0	4	4
Prisoner	0	0	0	0	3	3
Servant	0	0	0	0	3	3
Spiritual Healer	0	0	0	0	3	3
Female Strangers	0	0	0	0	3	3
Peer	0	0	0	0	1	1
Soldier	0	0	0	0	1	1
Child Trafficker	0	0	0	0	1	1

For the first time, gangs of robbers have been reported as committing sexual abuse along with robbery.

Although a total of 3 females have been reported throughout the year but it still is an important finding to note and invalidate the myth that only males commit this crime. This is the first time that females have also been identified and reported as abusers of children.

It is encouraging to see that over the years more detailed report are being given regarding the abusers.

Case Study 3 (Shading and border on the sides) **

An 11 year old boy was sexually abused by his teacher. The incident was reported to the Head master of the school.

On the complaint, head master held departmental inquiry against the abuser. The inquiry proved the commission of offence by the abuser.

As per the rules and regulations of department, the abuser got dismissed from his service.

The abuser tried to be re-instated by using his influential contacts.

Victim family contacted Sahil for legal aid. Sahil advised the party to lodge an FIR against the abuser and to initiate criminal proceedings in the court against him.

But the complainant was not willing to go to court. They wanted Sahil intervention to hold the re-instatement of the abuser.

Sahil informed that one department or organization can not interfere into the rules and regulations of another department. Without the registration of FIR Sahil would not be able to provide legal aid to the victim.

But the complainant did not agree to lodge an FIR and to got to courts .

Places of Abuse

In spite of the large number of places not being identified, the main places of abuse occur mainly in the homes of the abusers or the victims. These places have continued to dominate identified places of abuse over these years.

This reflects a highly dangerous situation as the four walls of the home have sanctity and are considered safe places.

Places of Abuse (Table #6)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Not Reported	440	849	587	685	481
Acquaintance's place	99	469	514	415	231
Victims' place	60	127	224	366	210
Field	53	197	105	104	95
Jungle	16	49	32	37	48
Street	15	52	43	67	42
Mosque		16	26	9	13
Hotel	2	13	4	22	12
Workshop	3	16	16	7	9
Jail			15	7	3

Sahil Statistics 2002 – 2006

The next most frequent place of abuse is in the fields. Often this happens because of lack of toilet facilities. This is an easily correctible condition which should be given high priority in all communities.

The addition of jails as a place of abuse in 2004 should raise major questions about safety of prisoners under high security.

A further 14 new places have been recorded in the first 6 months of the year 2006.

New Places of Abuse Identified in 2006 (Table # 7)

Shop	5
Under Construction House	3
Market	
Deserted House	3
Internet café	1
Inside a car	1
Graveyard	1
Madrassa	1
Clinic	1
School	1
Church	1

Sahil Statistics 2002 – 2006

All these places add new dimensions to the lack of safety that children face in their daily lives

Girl 'abused' for over one year

By Our Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI, Jan 25: A 14-year-old girl allegedly confined in a house in Defence Housing Society where five persons raped her for more than one year.

Akbar Farash, Islamabad, lodged an FIR with the Civil Lines police stating that a man, whom she identified as Sarwar, used to come to her house as he had arranged a job for her brother.

She said Sarwar convinced her that he could also arrange a job for her as housemaid at the house of his friend, Zafar, situated in the Defence Housing Scheme. She said Zafar lived in his house with his wife and five children. Saleem, also lived in the same house. She said one night, when she was asleep, Saleem sneaked into her room and allegedly raped her.

She said the following day she told her employer, Zafar, about the incident, but he assured her and asked her to keep quiet.

After the incident, she was barred from going into the neighbourhood. She said that Saleem, Zafar, Anwar and Iqbal from time to time, the victim said that she was kept in the house and raped. Meanwhile, Akbar Shifred, lodged the FIR in the Nathiagali where she came to know that Zafar was involved in flesh trade.

The girl further alleged that Zafar brought her back from Nathiagali where she came to know that she was pregnant. Zafar's wife took her to a lady doctor for abortion.

The girl said that a few days back she managed to escape and reached the house of her father however, Zafar reached there and started beating her. On hearing the hue and cry, people from the neighboring house rushed to her help.

The girl said she was rescued by her aunt and other relatives who gave her shelter and provided her medical aid. She said Zafar had allegedly confined her for 14 months. She also alleged that her health had deteriorated a lot. The accused are yet to be arrested.

Time Period of Abuse

There is a steady rise in the number of cases that show a one time assault.

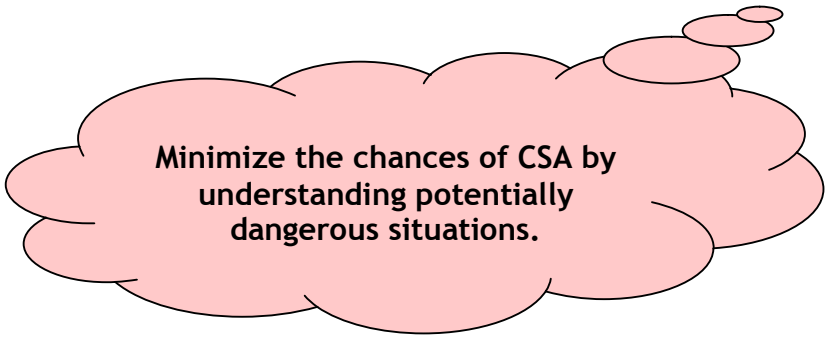
Time Period of Abuse (Table# 8)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
One Attempt	608	1369	1426	1548	1981
Unknown [5]	0	0	0	0	268
One day	58	233	36	67	55
One week or Less	6	103	46	49	36
One month or Less	7	34	30	25	47
6 Months or less	5	44	29	30	40
6 months or More	4	5			20
Total	688	1788	1567	1719	2447

Sahil Statistics 2002 – 2006

Long term abuse is usually based on the following components.

- The abuser is an immediate family member or close relative of the victim.
- Abuser moves the victim to different place of residence.
- The family of the missing victim does not report the case to the police. They may have had to comply with threats and blackmail or succumbed to the concept of protecting their 'Honor or Izzat'.



[5] Unknown means such cases in which time period of abuse is difficult to determine. (Example: The involvement of the immediate family or relatives who may have been abusing the victim for a long time.)

Geographical Area of Crimes

This report is based on the monitoring of 17 national, regional, and local newspapers of Sindh province, 15 national, regional, and local newspapers of Federal area, 12 national, regional, and local newspapers of the Punjab, 8 national, regional, and local newspapers of Balochistan and 4 national, regional, and local newspapers of N.W.F.P.

The province of Punjab continues to report the highest number of cases.

Mostly cases are reported from rural areas of the Punjab making the population more vulnerable due to the frequent mobility of people in the fields.

Another reason for these high numbers may be national, regional and local newspapers have more reporting coverage in the Punjab.

Geographical Area of Crimes (Table #8)

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Punjab	**105**	**1282**	**1234**	**1127**	**1712**
Sindh	**302**	**379**	**292**	**458**	**507**
Federal	**185**	**92**	**25**	**87**	**142**
NWFP	**69**	**26**	**9**	**32**	**67**
Balochistan	**27**	**9**	**7**	**15**	**19**
Total	**688**	**1788**	**1567**	**1719**	**2447**

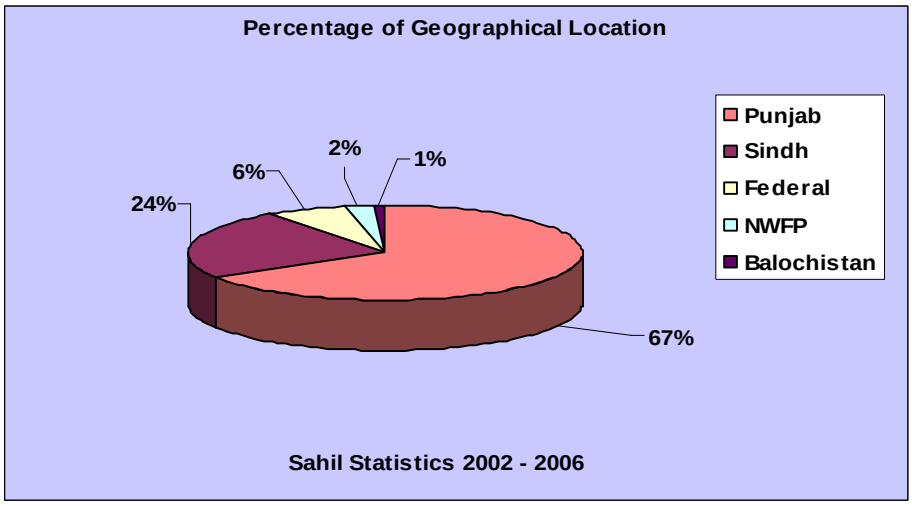
Sahil Statistics 2002 – 2006

However, inversely, the reason for fewer reported cases in NWFP and Balochistan could be the lack of facilities for a scattered population to access justice.

Cases may also not be reported as they may be settled by the tribal Jirga.

There may be more reported cases which are in regional newspapers that are not monitored.

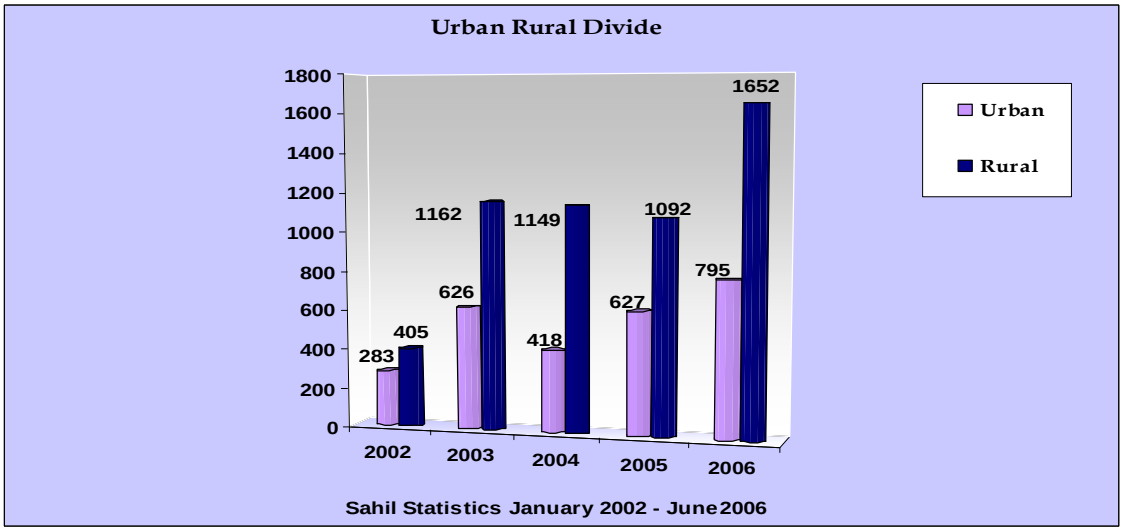
Graph # 8



Rural - Urban Divide

Rural cases are still reported more frequently. It may be because it is difficult to hide the crime in small communities.
It is also a common form of revenge in rural settings to settle issues.

Graph # 9 (Change)



Urban reported cases show a marked increase from the year 2003 onwards. It is important to mention here that the documentation of urban cases is based on the by line reporting.

Case Status

It is encouraging to see that more and more reported cases are registered with the police.

Case Status (Table # 9)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Registered With Police	547	1434	1224	1421	1958
Status Not Mentioned[6]	78	224	247	245	187
Not Registered With Police	63	130	96	53	302
Total	688	1788	1567	1719	2447

Sahil Statistics 2002 - 2006

There has been a steady increase in registered cases over the last five years.

The reasons for a higher number of cases being register could be:

- Media's commitment to give details of crimes and highlight human rights issues.
- Awareness to communities about their rights.
- An active role of the government, NGOs and Human Rights based organizations in supporting victims.

Sahil's legal records show that police efficiency has increased in registering and taking prompt action on CSA cases.

We are striving to create a safe environment for children through the elimination of sexual abuse and exploitation.

[6] In reported cases, where it is not clearly mentioned whether the case has been registered or not with the police.

Victim's Identification in the Print Media

The affects of media are two fold. On the one hand, it can help to highlight the issue, but on the other hand, it can hurt the victim.

The best form of reporting is if no identification details of the victim is given, such as a name or picture. Permission of the victim and his/her family is necessary before publishing any personal information.

Over the years, media has shown a positive change in their reporting methods.

Victim's Identification (Table # 10)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Name Printed	429	1181	845	972	1510
No Identification	226	531	638	657	763
Name+ Picture Printed	19	48	66	90	170
Picture Printed	14	28	18	0	4

Sahil Statistics 2002 – 2006

An increase can be seen in the 'no identification' category.

The sharpest fall is in the printing of pictures.

All these are positive steps taken by the print media to protect the victims from further exploitation.

CSA cases directly received by organizations 2002-2006

Organizations that offer help lines and counseling services also have data of child sexual abuse.

These cases are not reported in the media or registered with the police.
These cases have been directly reported by the child victims.
These cases are mainly from urban areas.
All these cases are of children 18 years and below.

This data covers CSA cases from the year 2002-2006.

Gender Divide

Table # 1

Gender of Victims of Abuse		
Male	Female	Total
92	109	201

The above table shows that both genders are equally vulnerable to sexual abuse.

In contrast to the reported cases in newspapers, where girls are far larger in numbers, it can be seen here that cases of sexual abuse of boys are almost equal to the numbers of the girls.

The assumption that boys don't openly report sexual abuse is validated by this data.

Child sexual abuse is unacceptable and all children have the right to a protective and a carefree childhood.

Crime Categories

These statistics show many categories of sexual abuse unlike those reported in the newspapers where only molestation, rape, sodomy and kidnapping for sexual purposes are mentioned.

Table # 2

Crime Categories			
	Males	Females	Total
Exhibitionism	01	02	3
Voyeurism	01	04	5
Pornography	03	02	5
Verbal Abuse	-	05	5
Inappropriate Touching / Fondling	46	65	111
Frottage	03	-	3
Molestation	02	03	5
Masturbate	11	05	16
Oral sex	06	07	13
Sodomy/ Rape	19	16	35

In order of the severity of the crimes

Expect for rape and sodomy, all of the other forms of abuse recorded creates a difficult situation for children.

They may be black mailed by the abusers and accused of being accomplices in the crimes.
Also as there is no visible evidence of these forms of abuse, children, are often not believed if they do disclose it.

It can be seen that only females have reported verbal sexual abuse. Boys may be accepting sexual verbal abuse as a part of routine social behaviors.

Abuser Category

Relatives are the main group of abusers reported by the child victims and are the second largest group, although newspapers report acquaintances as the largest groups.

Table # 3

Abuser Category			
	Males	Females	Total
Relatives	19	40	59
Acquaintance	20	34	54
Immediate Family	14	15	29
Domestic Helper	8	11	19
Male Neighbor	5	9	13
Tutor	5	1	6
Female Neighbor	1	3	4
Driver	4	-	4
Shopkeeper	3	-	3
Teacher	3	-	3
Stranger	2	1	3
Hakim/ Pir	2	-	2
Maulvi	2	-	2
Postman	1	-	1
Tailor	1	-	1
Doctor	1	-	1
Guard	1	-	1

An important finding in this data is that abusers in the category of immediate family members are 14.4 %, whereas in newspaper reported cases only 2.4 % are identified as immediate family.

Abusers like tutors, postman, tailors and domestic helpers are frequent visitors to the houses or are working in the homes respectively. This would mean that the abuse took place within the homes.

In these statistics, female abusers have been clearly identified as older cousins, aunties, neighbors, and mother's friends.

A new factor reported is that females are abusing girls. In these cases the female abusers have committed sexual abuse. Whereas, in newspaper reported cases females involved in the crime have so far only been identified as female abettors.

Case Study 4

Three girls of the age of 4, 6 and 8 years passed through seven years of severe and prolonged trauma of sexual abuse by their father and paternal grand father.

The father of the girls divorced their mother and took legal custody of children.
The mother of the victims re married under family pressure.
After some years, her second husband died leaving her with two more children.
She tried to maintain contact with her daughters, but her ex-husband never allowed her to see her girls.
She got a 'stay order' for the custody of her daughters from the court. Now the girls are living with the mother and two step siblings.

An advocate referred this case to Sahil's Jeet Healing Center for psychological counseling of the survivors. During the counseling, it was assessed that two of the victims were severely distressed and are having poor self esteem, high levels of guilt and also displaced anger. Under therapeutic process their emotions were processed while using different psychological techniques.

During the interaction with them, it has been observed that they are living beneath the poverty line. The mother is uneducated, unskilled with poor health and a lot of financial constraints.

Sahil also provided monitory support to the family for three months to help them rehabilitate themselves. Further assistance was going to be arranged by the advocate who referred the case.

Now the elder girl is working and the younger ones are going to school.

Age of Victims

The age of the victims at the time of sexual abuse recorded by the organizations mainly follows the same pattern to those that are reported in the newspapers.

Table # 5

Age of Victims		
	Male	Female
Age not mentioned	06	03
0-5	20	13
6-10	33	41
11-15	28	45
16-18	05	07
Total	92	109

The only difference is that there are more boys in the 6-10 years age group.

Conclusion:

- Children are the most vulnerable section of our society, because of their dependence on elders.
- Child sexual abuse occurs in all classes of society.
- Children are being sexually molestated in their own homes and in the homes of the abusers.
- In a prominent number of cases, the abuser is an acquaintance and has the trust of children and their families giving access to the children in their homes.
- The issue of CSA is complicated due to social norms which perpetuate practices.
- Children need to know the strategies for self -protection

Adolescent Health depends on establishing good interaction with children through dialogues.

Talk to your children openly about all issues to enhance their ability to inform you in case of sexual abuse.

Recommendations:

To reduce the crimes of CSA the following actions need to be taken:

- The Government, NGOs, Media and community at the grass root levels should give awareness on CSA as it is a serious issue and needs to be addressed at a national level.

- To address the widespread issue of CSA in Pakistan, the challenge is to seriously review and address societal values and norms, which allow the perpetuation of and even promote social crimes like sexual abuse.

- The role of community, parents, religious leaders and school teachers is a key to counter sexual abuse. There is a need to mobilize them to form networks to protect children.

- There should be schools and community based training programs to promote protective behaviors among children.

- To eliminate the vulnerability of the children, a great deal of education and information is needed at all educational levels.

- Police need to be sensitized on dealing with the victims of CSA. For this purpose awareness trainings should be conducted with police officials.

- It can be seen that in rural areas, the incident of CSA take places mostly in fields. To prevent this crime, it is necessary to provide a sanitary system to all communities.

Teach your children self protection and make your children confident

Read
"Meri Hifazat"
A coloring cum story book

Service providers in Pakistan dealing with Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) legal aid, counseling and shelter are:

- **Sahil** **051-2260636**
- **Rozan** **051-2215364 & 051-0800-22-444**
- **LHRLA** **021-111-911-922**
- **NCCWD** **051-9263324**
- **Amal** **051-2827774**
- **Sehar** **081-2826745**
- **Sach** **051-4446178**
- **Vision** **042-5853740**
- **Pehchan** **042-5762612**
- **WESS** **0812-824741**
- **AZAD** **021-5470179**
- **Save the Children UK** **051-22113324 – 8**