

Recognition Of Minor Sexual Abuse And Social Media: An Analysis Of Social Media In Pakistan

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Abstract

World is more distress about Child sexual abuse now a days in comparison of past. The term Child abuse incorporates bodily, emotional and sexual abuse of children. This research is conducted to investigate function of social media (Facebook, WhatsApp) of Pakistan with address to the child sexual abuse. The researchers have used qualitative method of Intensive interviews to collect data for the research. The sample of 50 heads of families of victimized children who had been sexually molested was collected. The collection of data states clearly that social media of Pakistan is not spreading awareness and information about child sexual abuse. The findings revealed that social issues give less coverage in comparison of political and entertainment content in Pakistani social media. Outcomes shown that social media are not accomplishing its obligation for being socially responsible about minor sexual abuse. It is not fulfilling its role of educating the Pakistani people about any prevention techniques. Pakistani social media must expose and educate Pakistani society about the unbearable crime.

Keywords: Minor sexual abuse, Awareness, Pakistani social media.

Introduction:

Child sexual abuse is a global matter. One can define it as abuse and misuse of rights of child due to which minor is suffered devastatingly. It is such a dreadful matter that creates horrible affects on people of different kinds of culture, societies and religions (Putnam, 2003). World health organization (2003) defined it as physical and emotional exploitation, voluptuous manipulation, ignoring actions that causes in quantifiable or potential damage to the minor's health.

Maltz (2002) described child sexual abuse as an unacceptable conduct of grown person from touch to sexual intercourse towards minor. For it, a grown person dominates and abuse a minor in terms of sexual doings. Child sexual abuse includes harassment, rape and child pornography. This is disastrous for the children. As in many cases victim

died due to this cruelty. It is also seen victims faced gloominess, guiltiness, self-blame, intake disorders, fretfulness, oppression, sexual and affiliation troubles. Minor's life probably destabilized by this malice (Hall & Hall, 2011). Eighty five percent cases have shown that wrongdoers are mostly victim's family members; teaching instructors, father, people living to next door and friends. (Kisanga, 2012). Furthermore, most wrongdoers are juvenile (Fieldsman & Crespi, 2000).

The question how to solve this issue is by only way to spread awareness in society about the safety tactics. To keep away from the potential danger, minor has to be educated about the protection methods. It is the need of time that minors should know how to handle this kind of situation. But the important point is which society body has the

capability to spread awareness about minor sexual abuse. Undoubtedly in present era of social media bang, social media has developed into a vital element of society. Due to its utility and capacity, it has the capacity to cooperate in spreading awareness among public (Babatsikos 2010).

Pakistan is a developing nation and fighting with numerous problems like other third world countries Pakistani population is mostly illiterate and greatly get influenced by the content spreading on social media. The research is constrained to social media content as most Pakistanis are users of social media. Social media is a central vehicle of any society from which can spread awareness about the issue of child sexual abuse in society. There are many researches which declared that matter of media has altered the conduct of minors (Babatsikos, 2010).

This research has investigated minor sexual exploitation and function of Pakistani Social media i.e.

WhatsApp and Facebook in spreading consciousness.

Research Questions

The research investigated that

Is Pakistani Social media spreading awareness on the issue of minor sexual abuse?

To what degree Pakistani social media is spreading knowledge among Pakistanis about the minor sexual abuse?

Does the content on minor sexual exploitation is being portrayed in suitable way?

Literature Review

It has been stated in the study of Tyler (2002), there are numerous communal and emotional outcomes of sexual abuse of a minor. Child sexual abuse has one or multiple effects on the child including gestation, absconding, numbness and lack of involvement with reality are on top. The influences on children can be vary according to gender, race, and age. It is supposed that guardians and parents help the victims but on the other

hand they barely support the suffering ones.

An American research exposed child sexual abuse as overwhelming problem of US. This study concluded that disorder appeared in childhood brought relentless effects for upcoming years. Researchers have spotted that a number of psychoneurosis can be happened in future life, subsequent to this misfortune. Desperation, lack of involvement in reality, borderline trait disorder, quintessence, suicide rate, sexual deeds problems, dissociative disorders, and learning disorders are linked with early traumatic experiences. Additionally, in rare happenings sufferers got addiction of the illicit activities and suffered from some health harms. They lose their focus on different routine works. They are emotionally distorted people (Van der Kolk, Hopper, & Crozier, 2001).

Every society has different social norms and values, due to them child sexual abuse becomes more and more problematic. Sahil organization (2014) stated that this vicious act is not limited to a specific class of society, it can happen in all kind of sections of a society. This issue can not be associated to a specific section or to a specific faction of people of a society. It is seen, in mostly happenings the wrongdoer is the person who is wildly believed by the victim's parents. This is the reason, abuser without difficulty gain access to minor. It is suggested that minor should learn all tactics of safety because minor can easily be sexually abused inside the walls or outside the walls. Without it, protection would be difficult. Executive and other pillars of government should forge new laws and pass bills for child safety. Social media have to highlight the such happenings of minor sexual exploitation according to code of ethics.

Social media is now a communal organization. Users of this medium have to highlight the safety tactics. In an other study it is explored that the portrayal of minor sexual abuse is on case based

coverage. Media as well as social mediums do not spotlight the means and approaches to restraint minor sexual abuse; instead mostly stuffs of social media are build on incidents which are on air in media announcements, periodical and in news dailies stories stated by Kitzinger and Skidmore (1995).

There are various aspects are linked with CSB, even no one can express the heights of its overwhelming impacts. Native role models and opinion leaders can perform their contribution about minor safety, but in contrast it looks as these people are not interested in doing so. This is such a great menace that there is a need to start huge campaign on national level to nip the bud. In any society, some factors contribute to enhance child abuse among of them can be traditional masculine character, confined feminal character, authority, savage conduct and reclusion stated by Lyles, Cohen and Brown (2009)

Another researcher Daro (1994) contributed further by saying CSA safety is the supplementary phrase of prevention guidenace to minors on the social evil. Researcher also expressed his fear of minor's negligence that they probably not mold their perspective after imparting knowledge about the issue. There are many advantages to get information on personal safety.

In a longitudinal study, researcher Weatherred (2013) claimed that social media often do not give proper coverage to child sexual abuse. There are only 25 percent news items on child sexual abuse among all news articles. Secondly social media always inclined towards the scandalous issues of minor sexual abuse. It is always happened that social media gave less importance to safety tactics of minor. This research also gave suggestion to involve law experts and decision makers to make useful policies for the depiction of MSA on media. In another research , it is asserted, social media have strong effect on the current happenings of MSA; it is also observed that cases procedure in courts are influenced by the way media highlights the issue. This research stated that it is unfortunate that MSA is not getting proper coverage in

comparison of other crimes. This study claimed that CSA reportinggets not the media advocacy. This kind of slanted reporting left audience partly uninformed about vital CSA related issues. With the help of child sexual abuse specialists, one can highlight individual stories in a broader prospect, and it makes useful for viewers to comprehend the menace. Cheit (2010)

While emphasizing the same problem, Dryden(2009) argues children naturally depend on their guardians and parents for their safety. Minors believe in whatever they guide and go along with them. This is the major reason that parents can perform a critical part in safety of minors from sexual wrongdoings. If parents handle this issue carelessly neglect it may result in critical situations and even a child's death can be expected. The need of hour is to train children instructors how to handle and give care to victims when they have suffered from sexual abused. Teachers after parents are the second strong institution to assist them in this need of hour.

London, Bruck, Ceci, & Shuman (2005) explained in their study that after this kind of sexual abuse usually kids do not trust on anyone but can share this havoc tragedy, to share their feelings and experience victims needed a friendly and trusted environment. It is possible that a minor can evoke the incident if he is given with a friendly environment. Asnormally a child feels easier withhis parents, teachers, guardians and professional. Usually, it has seen that minor shared his or her bad experience after two or three sessions. MSA incidents normally are not reported by parents due to society pressure. A number of specialists struggled to dig out causes beyond the factor. Two scholars Jones and Trotman (2009) explored in their study, normally parents do not report the cases because they are not prepared to face the society. Child pornography is rigorously prohibited in almost all countries, but the sad incidents again happen in different parts of globe as well as in Pakistan. Criminals use these videos as business for making cash. A further study exposed that child

pornography has become an internet business all over the world. It is declared crime in many countries, but people still indulged in the vicious act hold pictures and short reels of minors for pleasure, profit and business purposes. The addicted wrongdoers edit and make videos with soundeffects and sensual music. These things made video attractive and after seeing these videos one attracts for this activity. This kind of stuff is uploaded and shared on different social media platforms. As soon as victim knows that this stuff will disseminate in society, the victim will face serious mind sufferings stated by Mitchell, Wolak, and Finkelhor (2005). Above all discussions highlighted the need of education on MSA, this research tried to examine the role of social media in spreading information on MSA in Pakistan.

Social Responsibility Theory and Minor Sexual Abuse

This theory believes that media has power to spread awareness about a specific matter and it is liable to the society. McQuail has a strong voice for media working in structured frame. In any free society, it is duty of media to self regulate its duties. That is why media and its workers observe self-regulated, during reporting a subject matter. If media fails to achieve its responsibility than it can be imposed by some additional means stated by Siebert et al.(1956).

Social media also gets privilege from social responsibility theory, added with subject matter of social media should be in favor of public issues and by accepting its duties to serve the public good. It is also its duty to do not twist facts. Additionally, if it remains unsuccessful for achieving its obligation, social media has to suffer from some curbs.

The researcher finds a link between this research and Social responsibility theory, but in a developing country like Pakistan, the function of social media is not only limited to spread information, but it also has to educate people on different matters.

This theory argues that media has to address social evils which are prevailing in the society. This study is conducted with the motive to figure out to see to

which limit social media of Pakistan can tackle with CSA. The theory is interlinked as it is function of social mediato educate the masses ongoing social issues. This is the function of social media to do efforts for the progress of the nation. The research has been performed to see that if social media is accomplishing its duty of spreading information in society on minor sexual abuse or not.

On one side, the selected theory supports freedom of social media, and on the other hand, social media must protect people rights, similarly this research is an effort to encourage Pakistani social media to toil for extermination of minor sexual abuse from Pakistani society. This research has also observed that media observed the rule of self regulation or not during the coverage of cases of minor sexual abuses.

Research Methodology

Researcher used qualitative method of intensive interview for digging out the role of social media in spreading information on minor sexual exploitations among masses.

Intensive interview is a technique used to assemble important data and information for all types of qualitative research.. “It can be categorized into structured, semi-structured and unstructured interviews” (Myers, 2009).

Skopec (1991) stated that intensive interviews technique is used usually when sample size is normally small. With the help of it one can get both verbal information and non-verbal information at a same time. Normally its handful to write the gestures of interviewee during the process of conducting interview. This technique is used when researcher needs comprehensive detailed information from participant. For it, researcher asked semi-structured and open-ended question from the participants. Interviews usually done for a specific motive and normally it is conducted face to face.

Data Collection Tools

Researcher has developed semi structured questionnaire to gather information from the contributors. For it questions and sub-questions were developed to achieve the study aims. In this process, interviewee gave briefing about their experiences and attitudes associated with social media and towards MSA. This whole process is supervised by a psychologist. The names of participants who are being interviewed are not mentioned.

Sample

Parents of sexually abused minors of big cities of Pakistan are chosen as sample for this study.

Rationale for Selecting Minor’s Parents

Due to the sensitivity of the issue, victim child cannot be selected as sample. Moreover, it is natural that minors naturally look for their needs and seek protection from parents. It is also an obligation of

parents to enlighten their children on the sensitive issue in a meaningful way. This is the reason, the minor’s parents are chosen for studying the role of the social media.

Findings

Do Pakistani social media give awareness to people on minor sexual abuse?

From the details collected from participants, 50 % participants had listened the term minor sexual abuse on social media. While 20% parents had not learned the phrase on social media. Remaining 13.33 % of the intervieweesaid that whenever ascandal appears on social media or this kind of case proceed in Pakistani courts, they heard this term. Among all the participants, 16.67 % interviewers told that they have heard slightly the term on media.

Table1: Showing averages of parents who have learned the term of MSA on social media.

Choices	Freq.	Percentage
Agree	15	50
Disagree	6	20
With news	4	13.33
Slightly	5	16.67
Total	30	100.0

Did parents watch any informative media segment on MSA?

From all data collected from interviews, 23.33 % of the participants shared that they viewed media segments on given topic MSA. While 63.33 %

interviewee shared, they never watched any single media content on given topic MSA. Remaining 13.33 % of the participants rarely seen such kind of segment on social media.

Table2: Table showing averages of parents who have watched informative media segment on MSA.

Choices	Freq.	Percentage
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Agree	7	23.33
Disagree	19	63.33
Often	4	13.33
Total	30	100.0

Have learned any safety tactics to avoid MSA from social media?

From the data collected from interviews, 16.67% of

the participants shared that they had seen prevention tactics on social media, while 83.33 % shared that they remained drive to learn safety tactics from social media.

Table3: Table showing average of parents who learned safety tactics against MSA from social media.

Choices	Freq.	Percentage
Agree	5	16.67
Disagree	25	83.33
Total	30	100.0

If any fragment is learnt from social media to inform minors about menace of MSA.

From the data collected from interviews, 100% of

the participants claimed that they have not seen any fragment on social media to inform minors about MSA.

Table4: Table is showing percentage of parents who seek alert to educate minors about MSA.

Choices	Freq.	Percentage
Disagree	30	100.0
Total	30	100.0

Do the segments of media on minor sexual abuse are appropriate to be watched by minors?

20 participants (66.67 %) had not seen any segment on CSA. Remaining10 (33.33 %) participants

shared that they had watch such programs but they claimed that media segments on child sexual abuse are not developed in such a manner that child alone can watch andunderstand the threat aspects.

Table5: Table showing the frequency of parents who think that media segments on MSA are ethical.

Choices	Freq.	Percentage
Disagree	10	33.33
Not seen any segment	20	66.67
Total	30	100.0

Suggestions and Conclusion

Researcher conducted this research to explore, if social media (Facebook, WhatsApp) is spreading awareness on minor sexual abuse or not among masses of Pakistan. The outcomes revealed that social media paid not any attention to spread awareness on minor sexual abuse. Social media is forgetting to enlighten its viewers on safety tactics which are important for a minor against sexual abuse. Among 30 participants, 3 participants shared that they had watched drama serial “udari”, it was a good step to draw attention to the problem of MSA. Majority of the participants (parents of victims) shared their inability to guide their children on MSA while being under the stimulus of social media. A lot number of participants claimed that social media should not show programs, drama serials or any kind of segment on MSA because due to incompetency of production team and mishandling of the issue it can seriously damage this issue through an inappropriate coverage. It is mandatory to observe ethical boundaries while reporting the sexual assault cases.

These results indicated that social media remain fail in Pakistan to spread information and create awareness regarding MSA. Social media faced failure to do its duty of making Pakistanis aware of the issue of minor sexual abuse. Social media failed to emphasize the reality that a close family member could also be an abuser. In Pakistan, social media should educate the society; how to handle an emergency and how to cope with abuser. Children should be educated about the sanctity of their private body parts through suitable words. The power of sharing should be developed in children to break the silence and express their feelings and experiences without any hesitation and fear.

Participants showed their concern that social media is not exposing social evil of child sexual abuse. It is a society issue that should be crushed by given more time and space. The users of social media in Pakistan are in a large number; it could be a handy tool of learning for the children as well as their parents. But this medium is not playing its role according to social responsibility theory regarding to disseminate awareness of MSA. The experts of social media should develop such content that create awareness as well as make capable the viewers to curb this evil. All media programs should be produced with the help of subject specialists in such a way that helps in educating and informing general public instead depicting the issue without any aim is merely a wastage of time. Results exposed that social media of Pakistan is not educating the general public about safety tactics against the evil minor sexual abuse.

Social media established its effectiveness like all other modern mediums of communication and it is its duty to inform and educate the masses about an issue. So, social media has to educate different safety tactics against MSA to general public. Government of Pakistan with the help of NGOs and religious institutions must take solid steps to curb this evil. Children are future of any society. So they need to be educated in a appropriate manner. Pakistan is a democratic country and media should play proactive role towards MSA rather than reactive role.

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