

News & Views

Kasur Child Sexual Abuse Case

Aliyah Ali

11th August, 2015, Daily Dawn

The Kasur child sexual abuse scandal is horrific. 280 children from 2010 to 2014 were forced to have sex while being filmed and 400 movies were leaked out. In a village of Kasur Hussain Khanwala a gang of 25 men who used the hundreds of videos they produced to blackmail the youngsters' parents, according to Latif Ahmed Sara, a lawyer and activist representing the victims. This also indicates the irresponsibility and carelessness of local police and politicians. According to Human Rights Commission these sex tapes were made for commercial purposes. The tapes that were made then used to blackmail the parents of the victims into keeping quiet and into giving money to the paedophilia ring. These tapes were also being sold to locals in the town for Rs 50 and even, according to one report, were being sold to paedophile websites overseas.

On 9 August 2015, the Chief Minister of Punjab Shehbaz Sharif ordered the Punjab Home Department to request Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court Manzoor Ahmed Malik to constitute a judicial inquiry to look into the matter. The Chief Justice rejected the request, on the grounds that such an inquiry was constituted for fact-finding missions, and that the police had already begun making arrests in this instance.

Children who were abused belong to the age group of 10-14 years. In the late 1990s a similar case was leaked when 100 children were sexually abused and murdered in Lahore, Pakistan by Javed Iqbal Mughal, a serial killer.

Saba Sadiq, head of Punjab's Child Protection Bureau, described the case as “the largest child abuse scandal in Pakistan's history”. Pakistani laws against child sexual abuse are weak and fragile. There is no specific law related to child sexual abuse. These children also need psychological treatment and rehabilitation which can be provided by Gos, Ngos working on child issues and psychological institutes.

Pakistan also needs a social change by the help of media. How can a child be safe if he/she knows that his parents, the culture and societal norms expect him/her to remain silent for the safe of family's 'honour'?”

Negative Effects of Media on Teenagers

Aliyah Ali

2nd September, 2015, Daily Dawn

According to media reports two students named Nauroz Hamidi age sixteen years killed his classmate Saba Fatima Bashir, 15 years and shoot himself dead with the licensed pistol of Saba's father on Tuesday morning 1st September 2015 in a school Gulshan Fatima Government Primary and lower Secondary School Boys & Girls near Guro Mandir, soldier bazaar, Karachi. Police also found letters and drawings written in roman urdu dropped near dead bodies. Police officials stated that they were examining handwritten letters.

The letters also show that they had been planning for this for long time. One of the drawings, made by the boy, shows their funeral prayers. Another letter shows that they started liking each other just last year. Both have decided to end their lives as they thought that their families never allowed them to get married.

This shows the negative effects of dramas and movies on our teenagers. What our teenagers perceive from media is a serious matter of thought. According to reports, Facebook has closed Facebook accounts of both teenage students. The death news of both students went viral on Facebook and people made communities and pages in their memory to admire them. This also indicates the 'Bollywood-inspired love' influence on youth.

Issue of Mal-Nutrition in Pakistan

Aliyah Ali

June 15, 2015, Daily Jung

According to a report by Pakistan Nutrition and Diatic Society fifty eight percent of Pakistan's population is mal nutrient. The report also stated that seventy percent of Sind population is mal nutrient due to which diseases were prevailing in the society. Women and children are suffering more from malnutrition. Malnutrition in pregnant women also affects their babies.

Millennium Development Goals Target

Asma Manzoor

4th May 2015, Daily Jung

Millennium development goals 2015 set for girls education is yet to be achieved in Pakistan. Millennium development also focuses education issues along with the health related issues. Through MDGs head of the states and organizations working for education for all (EFA) not only trying to eradicate the primary level education issues globally but also engaged in different activities for the promotion of education. Apart of all the efforts done for education the issue remains the same. According to UNESCO Pakistan's progress has also been severely lagging in achieving universal primary education, around 10 million students enrolled in primary schools do not complete their education. Pakistan's literacy rate, though having improved marginally over the passage of time remains considerably short of the MDG target of 88% by 2015 at 58%, and analysis also reveals large gender and rural/urban disparities.

Poverty Related Suicides Increasing in Pakistan

Asma Manzoor

24th April, 2015, Daily Jung

Economic disparity and poverty are the main causes of suicides around the world. Suicide linked to poverty is not unique to Pakistan as it has nowhere near the economic power that the other countries of the region like India does, so handling social ills could be more difficult here. In Pakistan the ratio of poverty related suicides is increasing day by day where poverty forced people to sell their children and body organs. According to the data revealed by the regional directorates of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human rights, 50% of the suicides are committed due to poverty and hardships. But this is not the only reason there are other factors also play a vital role which includes unemployment, domestic violence, economic instability, depressive disorders, child abuse, bullying and rising inflation which force a person to end his/her life and get relieved from the pains and suffering they are facing. According to the reports men outnumber women by two to one and within the men, more single people commit suicides than married ones. Despite of the fact that Islam is the only religion that has clear spiritual ban on suicide Pakistan is one of the many countries where suicide rates among youth are increasing because of depression, unemployment, anxiety and day by day increasing poverty. Over the last few years almost more than 3,000 cases of suicides being reported nationally, even

this is considered to be an underestimation as suicides tends to be grossly under-reported.

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