

ABSTRACT

Child sexual abuse remains one of the gravest and most pervasive issues in India, causing irrevocable harm to young lives and the societal fabric. This research, titled "Sexual Abuse of Children in India: A Study of Child Protection Laws with Special Reference to Southern Rajasthan," aims to delve deep into this pressing problem, focusing particularly on the legislative measures and their effectiveness in combating child sexual abuse in Southern Rajasthan. This doctoral research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of child sexual abuse in Southern Rajasthan and evaluate the sufficiency of the current legal framework in safeguarding children. By identifying the strengths and weaknesses of existing laws and practices, the study aspires to contribute to the development of more effective protective measures and promote a safer environment for children in India.

The chapters are as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction sets the background of this research, outlining its essential components such as the title, scope, importance, objectives, hypothesis, research question, gaps, literature review, and tentative chapterisation. **Chapter 2:** Child Sexual Abuse in India, Its Causes and Effects focuses on the meaning, causes, and increasing prevalence of child sexual abuse in southern Rajasthan, even after the implementation of the POSCO Act 2012. **Chapter 3:** Legislations and Laws Related to Child Sexual Abuse examines the existing legislative framework on child sexual abuse in southern Rajasthan, analysing whether it is adequate to address the issue. **Chapter 4:** Role of Family Factors in Child Abuse: Reflecting the Personality of Children explores the intricate family dynamics contributing to child abuse and their impact on children's personalities, discussing various forms of abuse and neglect, individual parent factors, family and environmental factors, and personality determinants, culminating in an analysis of personality maladjustments. **Chapter 5:** Review of Literature provides an overview of previous research in the same field and area of study. **Chapter 6:** Field Study and Methodology details the research design and methods employed to investigate child victims in Southern Rajasthan, covering the study's objectives, hypotheses, problem statement, data collection methods, pilot study, research outline, data analysis techniques, and limitations. **Chapter 7:** Analysis and Interpretation of Data describes the tools used for data collection and analysis, presenting a thorough analysis of the collected data, testing hypotheses, and suggesting future enhancements.

Finally, **Chapter 8: Finding, Conclusion, and Suggestions** presents the research outcomes, reiterates the objectives, explores the consequences of abuse, acknowledges study limitations, and provides suggestions for addressing identified issues and areas for future research.

In conclusion, this thesis represents a significant effort to delve into the complexities of child sexual abuse in southern Rajasthan, exploring its causes, legislative framework, and the critical role of family dynamics. The research findings aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the issue, offering insights and recommendations that can inform future policies and interventions. I hope that this work will inspire further research and action to protect vulnerable children and support their development in a safe and nurturing environment.